

Contacts – Village Organisations

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS		Contact	
1 st Gotherington Beaver Scout)	Fri	Ady Joy –	(07795 097704)
1 st Gotherington Cub Scouts	Thu	Sarah Phillips –	(07899 885294)
1 st Gotherington Cub Scouts	Fri	Michelle Rails –	(07748 536510)
1 st Gotherington Scout Troop	Fri	Craig Sprigmore –	(678423)
Baby and Toddler Group	Tue, Fri 9.30am	Clair	gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk
Brownies	Mon 6.00pm	Kirsten Stillman	(673218)
Cricket Club		Rob Sharp (678057) / Brian Cosgrove	(676216)
Church of England Churchwardens (Woolstone/Oxenton) Parochial Church Council Secretary		Bob Wickens (679345) / Michael Bower (672900) Pauline Bower (672900)	
Football Club (Junior)		Rob Sharp	(678057)
Gardening Club	3rd Wed 7:30pm Secretary:	Kirsty Buxcey (675175) Cathy Thompson (676708)	
Gotherington Singers	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Mon 8pm	Chair Sally Newbury (317276). Secretary: Lesley Nicholls (222853)	
Local History Society	4th Tue 7:30pm	Caroline Meller (677489) / Ken Ascroft (673192)	
Neighbourhood Watch		John Hicks (676848) / Mary Manders-Trett (674592) Howard Samuels (672492) Les Howard 677949 / Berian Thomas 674397	
Old Chapel Book Club		Linda Pawley (0124236153)	linda@thepawleys.co.uk
Old Chapel Bookings		Emily (07855279778)	oldchapelbookings@gmail.com
Oxenton Village Hall	Chairman: Secretary: Oxenton Village Bookings:	Jenny Lockwood (07789 818361) Linda Howard Lorraine Dodd (352258)	
Parish Council Parish Council Clerk	2nd Wednesday 7.30pm	Howard Samuels (672492) chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk clerk	clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Freeman Field/Rex Rhodes Building Bookings		gotherington.org.uk/bookings/	
Petanque Club	Sun, Wed, Fri	Mary Manders-Trett (674592) / Christine Godsell (672821)	
Gotherington Events		gotheringtonevents@gmail.com	
Tennis Club		Ian Donnelly (674404)	
Village Hall (Gotherington)	Committee Secretary Bookings Treasurer	Rotating Chairman Caroline Meller Howard Samuels (672492)	gotheringtonvhsecretary@gmail.com gotherington.org.uk/bookings/
Village Hall Coffee Mornings. 1st Sat excl Jan & Aug		Christine Godsell (672821)	
Wine Club 3rd Tue 8pm	Chairperson Secretary	Howard Samuels (672492) Christine Godsell (672821)	hsamuels@btinternet.com cgodsell1967@gmail.com
W.I. 4th Wed 7.30pm	President Secretary	Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com Rosemary Bishton (01242 677290)	

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS

Spring 2022 Edition



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TOPICS OF INTEREST

Topics is distributed to everyone in our three villages in Spring, Summer, and Winter.

The next edition Summer 2022 is due out during the week starting 18th July 2022.

You can find the most recent edition of Topics on the village website at www.gotherington.org.uk

Contributions for Topics should be emailed to the Editor at gotherington.topics@gmail.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

As at Spring 2022

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>Jessica Beddows</i>		<i>07435963269</i>	<i>cldr.beddows@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk</i>
<i>Matt Dean</i>			<i>cldr.dean@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk</i>
<i>Steve Neighbour</i>		<i>07881339813</i>	<i>cldr.neighbour@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk</i>
<i>Beverly Osborne</i>		<i>675741 07974101659</i>	<i>cldr.osborne@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk</i>
<i>Mavis Rear</i>	<i>(Vice Chair)</i>	<i>674470</i>	<i>mavis.rear@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk</i>
<i>Howard Samuels</i>	<i>(Chair)</i>	<i>672492 07707467736</i>	<i>chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk</i>

Contacts – General

<i>Police</i>	<i>(01452 726920)</i>
<i>Gotherington P.O. & Stores</i>	<i>(672249)</i>
<i>Gotherington Nurseries</i>	<i>(676722) www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk</i>
<i>The Shutters</i>	<i>(01242 300100)</i>
<i>Gotherington Primary School</i>	<i>(675454)</i>
<i>Doctor’s Stoke Road</i>	<i>(674676)</i>
<i>Cleavelands Medical Centre</i>	<i>(672669)</i>
<i>Hospital Transport (Gill Lofts)</i>	<i>(674129)</i>
<i>GOWNS</i>	<i>(07752 152485)</i>
<i>Village Agent</i>	<i>(07810 630244) or 01452 426868</i>
<i>County Councillor Alex Hegenbarth</i>	<i>(07872533228) alex.hegenbarth@gloucestershire.gov.uk</i>
<i>Borough Councillor Mike Dean</i>	<i>councillor.dean@teWKesbury.gov.uk</i>
<i>Borough Councillor Keja Berlina</i>	<i>councillor.berliner@teWKesbury.gov.uk</i>
<i>Garden House Nursery School</i>	<i>(07913256364/01386 81886)</i>
<i>Yoga [Tuesdays] Sarah Martin</i>	<i>(269765) sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk</i>

WINE CLUB

Contact: Christine Godsell on 672821 or cgodsell1967@gmail.com

www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club
www.facebook.com/GotheringtonWineClub

The custom of **clinking glasses** originated from apocryphal stories about poisoning. When bumping glasses together some of the liquid would spill over into the other so that both parties would be more confident that they were drinking the same safer fluid.

By the time you read this you will have missed the March meeting when Appellation Nation came and shared some of their favourite wines with lots of interesting facts and figures.

However, the April meeting on the 19th is all about Affordable Alternatives and should be quite intriguing as to the expensive wines you can buy and what tastes just as good for less cash. So please make sure you come along to hear all about alternative options!

Details of all future Wine Meetings are on our website and these include our regular July gathering at the Pavilion where we have a picnic, music and a glass or two of wine.

This years Wine Club outing on August 16th has been arranged to visit Half Penny Green Wine Estate, Bobbington, South Staffordshire. More details to follow but looks set to be a wonderful day out.

Please contact any Committee Member if you would like further details on any meeting or information of any kind. They are Christine Godsell, Cora Patel, Gary Thompson, Jane Nicolson, Linda George, Pam Hemingway, Ray Chase.

We typically meet in the Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month and meetings start at 8pm (doors are open from 7.30pm) and include a wide range of topics lots of wine and laughter and a ploughman's supper.

Howard Samuels, Chairperson

NEWS FROM THE PARISH CHURCH

Contacts: WoolstoneBob Wickens (679345). Oxenton:Michael Bower (672900)

The last report from the Parish Church for 'Topics' said that the process of choosing a new Team Vicar was underway. Since then the Rector, Rev Malc Allen, has also announced his retirement from the Benefice and he will be leaving in September. This means that the Team Vicar appointment process has been put on hold. However, an Assistant Curate has recently joined the clergy team for six months, the Rev Adrian Beere. We also continue to benefit from the help of several retired clergy who have been taking many of our services in the two churches. We are very grateful to them for their support, as we are to Lucy Barbour who has been leading our revived Café Church at The Old Chapel in Gotherington on the fourth Sunday in each month.

Join our friendly churches for weekly worship. All services are at 10:00 am.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| First Sunday each month | - | Holy Communion at Oxenton. |
| Second Sunday each month | - | Holy Communion at Woolstone. |
| Third Sunday each month | - | Morning Worship, May & July at Woolstone; June at Oxenton. |
| Fourth Sunday each month | - | Café Church in The Old Chapel, Gotherington |
| When Fifth Sunday | - | Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer at Oxenton. |

CAFÉ CHURCH – Join us at The Old Chapel, Gotherington, the fourth Sunday of each month. A relaxed, informal setting with a community twist, where all ages can creatively explore faith and life together. For more information: 07821 580995 / lucyannbarbour@gmail.com

ORGANIST – Needed, an organist or competent pianist who can spare one or two hours to play at church services. Please contact Bob Wickens on 679345. This post attracts a small payment.

Michael Bower, Lay Chairman/Churchwarden

CRICKET CLUB

www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk

Contact: Brian Cosgrove on 676216 or info@gotheringtoncc.org

The 2021 Season turned out to be an excellent one. The senior side played 19, winning 16, losing just two games and hosting an incredible tied game against the Royal Household Cricket Club.

There has been considerable interest from new players and our fixture Secretary, Edward Gillespie, has done an excellent job again to make sure there are plenty of opportunities for the senior and junior players with several stepping up from u15 to play for the senior side.

Brian and Yvonne continue to oversee the ongoing development of youth cricket, with their unstinting enthusiasm and have a full programme of League and Friendly fixtures in place, as well as coaching sessions every Saturday morning that are extremely well attended.

The u11 side won their league and cup, and the u15 side also won their league.

Brian and Yvonne were nominated for a lifetime achievement award with 27 years of service to the Club (and counting) and were invited along with the other nominees to an International game. They were then subsequently nominated and won the county award for Outstanding Contributions to Coaching and will be going to the National awards in Derbyshire along with the other County winners.

The 2022 Season promises plenty more good cricket, and we will once again be using Gecko to help with senior and Junior coaching and nets.

Anybody who is keen to get involved as player, administrator, umpire, scorer, groundsman, fundraiser, coach or supporter is more than welcome as any additional help is always appreciated and it can be a lot of fun. You can email me on rob_sharp100@hotmail.com.

Rob Sharp, Chairman GCC

GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

Contacts President - Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com

Secretary - Rosemary Bishton (01242 677290) - rosemary.bishton1@btinternet.com

We are pleased to be able to meet again in the Village Hall and catch up with our friends.

In November, we held our AGM and, despite all the covid restrictions, our membership remains strong and we have welcomed some new members too. One of our members, Carol, gave us a demonstration on making greetings cards, since when a small group has been meeting to do more. Our Christmas Party was lovely with savouries and cakes provided by local caterer, Cheryl at Homeflair Catering, and hot mulled wine. Corrine Frost, a cellist entertained us with Carols, songs, poems and cracker jokes! In January we had a zoom meeting – to avoid a cold hall – where Stephen Rowley, an excellent speaker, had us enthralled with local folk stories. Back in the hall in February, Simon Trapnel, from Nature in Art was another excellent speaker. He gave us an insight into how the museum was set up and continues to run and came with pictures, which showed the wide range of artwork, ceramics and glass to be found at Nature in Art. We are looking forward to visiting the museum now that it is fully open.

We've recently put a Rowan tree at the side of the Freeman Field in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Many thanks to Mark from Gotherington Nurseries, who sourced the tree and kindly planted it for us. The birds will enjoy the berries in the Autumn!

We still enjoy our monthly lunches at the Shutter and have expanded our Art Group to include any type of craft that members care to bring along. Later in the Summer, we have arranged an Indian Block Printing course at the Village Hall. Other craft sessions are planned.

We meet in Gotherington Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month and new members and visitors are always very welcome. Do go to our website to find out more – www.gwowi.org.uk.

Jill Parsons

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

Contact: Christine Godsell cgodsell1967@gmail.com / tel 672821

The monthly Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall – on the first Saturday of each month – are a brilliant place to meet old friends and to make new ones. We re-opened our doors a few months ago and we are so encouraged to see more of you coming in.

These mornings truly are a Village Event. We cater for the little ones – they have their own table with colouring books and cars to play with. Their parents can sit and chat while keeping an eye on them, and indulge themselves in home-made cake, succulent bacon rolls, teas and coffees – all at bite-your-hand-off prices! Our older visitors can be certain to find friends and we are only too happy to help you to meet new people, assist you where you need it, make you feel special.....aahhh....blissss! And of course – it's a great opportunity to stock up on your Summer reading with our paperbacks at only 50p.

Now...make a note for June 4th. Yes – it will be the Jubilee celebrations on our field, but we are still holding our Coffee Morning. What a lovely way to begin such a special weekend. For the more active among you, please come and help set everything up in the field and pop in for a bacon roll and coffee while you are there. Bring the teenagers too – many hands make light work – let them earn their bacon roll or chocolate cake.

We do take-away too - perfect for June.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Christine Godsell (for The Gotherington Village Hall Coffee Mornings Team)

GARDENING CLUB

Contact: Kirsty Buxcey (675175)
www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club

We celebrate no less than our 60th birthday in October and are very pleased to share with you our 2022 programme of special talks, demonstrations and events this spring and into early summer. We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 19.30 in the village hall where guests are always welcome and the kettle is usually on. Please check our website above and village Facebook for updates.

March 16: Plants for Awkward Corners, Julie Ritchie, Hoo House Nursery, Coombe Hill. Plants also for sale.

April 20: Beyond the Garden Gate, 12 gardens and the stories behind their creation, Mandy Bradshaw Cotswold based journalist

May 10: Members' Spring Garden Trail: invitation by ticket

May 18: How to Plant a Hanging Basket, talk and demonstration Mark Tsakarisianos Gotherington Nurseries

May 25: Trip to Winterbourne House & Gardens, Birmingham

June 4: 10.30-12.00: Village Hall Coffee Morning & Plant Sale

June 15: Garden Party courtesy of a Gotherington Gardener

We are a very sociable club and despite the challenges of the pandemic we have stayed very much in touch by adapting our programmes accordingly.

It's time now for a full on Gardening Club year so do join us!

Kirsty Buxcey

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

Well, the beautiful weather in March saw people turn their thoughts to gardening, particularly "grow your own". We have a great range of seeds, seed potatoes, onion sets, garlic, vegetable plants and herbs in stock as well as propagation products. We have a new range of wooden products available including cold frames, planters, obelisks and potting tables.

Currently, the team is busy with production of the summer bedding plants and planting up hanging baskets and containers. For the keen gardener, we have a range of young summer bedding plants, which need to be kept frost free. We have spring bedding plants, which can be planted now.

The outdoor plant area is well stocked with cottage garden plants, shrubs, roses, conifers and trees. Our expanded tree area has a great range of ornamental and fruit trees including more mature trees. Our specimen shrubs add a focal point to a garden.

In the shop we stock gardening goods including tools, Hozelock products, lawn, plant & garden care products, plant supports, gloves and cloggies. We have houseplants and pot covers too. Visit us for your bird care needs including specialist feeds, feeders and bird tables.

We stock specialist composts, including peat free, Strulch & Carr's special organic compost & soil improver and decorative gravels plus a range of containers including terracotta & glazed pots, barrels and plastic.

Our website is www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk. Our Facebook page has regular updates and follow us on Instagram. We are open Monday to Saturday between 9 a.m. & 5 p.m. and Sundays between 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.

We wish you well for the coming season and thank you for your continued Stay safe. Happy gardening!

Mark and Liz, Gotherington Nurseries

GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Contacts: Caroline Mellor - Secretary: gotheringtonvhsecretary@gmail.com

Trustees: C. Godsell, K. Rhodes, H. Samuels, B. Osborne,
M. Manders-Trett

Bookings: gotherington.org.uk/bookings

Website: www.gotheringtonvillagehall.org.uk

Wi-Fi

The Trustees are pleased to announce that the internet is now available at the Village Hall. These days, this is an essential resource and the installation by Airband will enable hirers to stay connected.

Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. will take place at the Village Hall on Wednesday 29th June, 7.30pm. This is a valuable opportunity to celebrate this much-loved public space and to share ideas about future development.

Ever since the Hall was built in 1904 it has provided facilities for social, recreational and educational use by the people of Gotherington and Woolstone and this continues to be the case.

The rate of hire remains at £8 per hour for residents so if you're planning an event take a look at the bookings diary.

A Short History of the Reading Room & Village Hall

A publication written by Owen Stinchcombe called 'Gotherington Reading Room and Village Club: 1885-1939' has recently been discovered. Permission is being sought so that this can be re-published as it gives an interesting insight into the early years of the Hall and shines a light on the philanthropy of the Malleson family.

Caroline Mellor, Village Hall Secretary

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Contact: Andrew Harrington 677039 or Ian Donnelly on 674404
www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/GotheringtonTennisClub/
www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis

Can I start by saying a huge thank you to everyone who sent on their expressions of support for the tennis court renovation project. The support from the village and our numerous clubs and societies was truly humbling and hopefully will go a long way in securing a successful application for funding. We should know the outcome by the time this edition goes to press, so fingers and everything else crossed.

Our juniors have returned from the winter indoor sessions at Winchcombe and are back on the courts every Sunday morning. There are 2 age brackets with details as follows: Ages 5-7 9:00 – 9:45 Ages 8-12 10:00- 11:00 These sessions, run by Club Coach Liam Gough, have proved extremely popular. However we still have availability for the later session, so please check out the junior section on our website below for more details.

At the recent AGM it was agreed to discount annual fee for a further year. So, 2020 membership remains at £50 for adults, £10 for juniors and reduced fees for veterans. In addition, the Club is now offering:

- Discounted court booking rates for members on ClubSpark
- New Family orientated Membership Packages
- Free targeted coaching sessions. (Our 'Lady's Night' has proved to be by far the most popularso good luck with that one Liam!)

I know of no other Gloucestershire club offering professional coaching as part of its subscription – so our Club offers excellent value for money.

The club caters for all standards of players with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment for all. So if its competition you are looking for, or a slightly less energetic and more a sociable experience in a beautifully scenic backdrop, then the tennis club could be for you.

Ian Donnelly

GOTHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Contact: schooloffice@gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk Tel: 01242 675454
<http://www.gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk>

The spring term has been eventful, full of fun and our incredible staff have worked tirelessly to provide exceptional learning opportunities for all our children.

Curriculum at Gotherington

'Our school family provide a purposeful curriculum for all which is experiential, creative and memorable. We inspire a life-long love of learning by encouraging our children to be independent, resilient and curious. Success for our children means that they are happy, confident and responsible individuals who aspire to be the best that they can be wherever their journey through life may take them.'

In every year group throughout the school, teachers plan a series of theme based approaches to learning which are firmly rooted through skills and knowledge that are progressive. Wherever possible, the theme will be used to link together subjects in a meaningful way. This helps children commit learning to their long term memory.

By linking the separate subjects under the umbrella of a theme we believe the learning becomes more exciting and memorable for our children and our teachers and each theme has a high quality text which is at the very heart of it.

To add the 'wow' factor to these themes, each year group also plans a hands-on experience to introduce the theme or a really exciting visit to bring their learning to life. This may be in the form of a visit from a subject specialist to bring to life the themes or an educational visit.

The success of our creative curriculum has led to very high standards in both the core and foundation subjects and the development of excitement, curiosity, a growth mindset and above all a life-long love for learning.

Katie Langley, Headteacher Gotherington Primary School

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

Secretary: *Sally Newbury* (Tel. 317276)

www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

It was great to return to singing together again in September.

Our new Musical Director, Maddie Kirby, selected some lovely pieces for our Christmas Concert in St. Michaels & All Angels, Bishops Cleeve and ensured we reached the high standards our choir is noted for. We were joined by two young musicians - Alex Fishburn was our accompanist and played a solo on the organ and Judith Scholes, a flautist, performed several pieces and also sang with the choir.

We received many excellent reviews and are now looking forward to our next concert in St. Michaels on Saturday 18 June at 7.30 pm when we will be joined by the renowned Beauregard young people's choir.

We rehearse in Gotherington Village Hall on Mondays between 7.45 pm and 9.45 pm.

We are a very friendly and sociable female voice choir and always welcome new members who enjoy singing. You do not have to be able to read music.

Come and sing with us for a free 3 week trial period!

Please see our website www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk for more information or telephone 317276 to find out how to join the Gotherington Singers.

Catherine Newbury (Chair, Gotherington Singers)

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

Contact: *Christine Godsell* / cgodsell1967@gmail.com / tel 672821

As I write this, the sun is warm, there is a light breeze and everything looks bright and cheerful. Sadly – it is not a scheduled day for playing Petanque – but we shall have many more days like this when playing will be a real pleasure.

Our Club would like to encourage more players and we are wondering how we can do this. Well.....why don't you, on a Wednesday afternoon or Sunday morning, amble up to the piste on Freeman Field and come and see what all the fuss is about. You can sit and watch for a while and any of our members will be happy to come and explain the rules and give you some information. Be warned – it can get noisy!!! But that's only the banter, the fun, the sound of steel ball on steel ball, or groans when it all goes wrong!!!

After two lean years we have a full programme of events for this year. Any excuse we can find to socialise and play, we make the most of it. There will be a copy of our programme on the notice board in the shelter at the piste – along with contact numbers.

So don't be shy, come and try.

We have the boules and we'll explain the rules.

Contact details are on the back of Topics as usual.

SEE YOU ON THE PISTE!

Christine Godsell

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL - VILLAGE SURVEY

There is a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which can be spent on “provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure” and “anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area”. The existing Neighbourhood Development Plan told us that residents wanted to:

- Preserve and enhance green spaces
- Improve and extend community buildings
- Protect footpaths for the enjoyment of walking

In addition, there are costs for the Vehicle Activated Sign (now sited in Malleson Road) to deter speeding through our village and we are working on a project to improve accessibility and maintenance of our footpaths.

We now need your ideas for future CIL projects on the following themes:

1. Community Buildings

Village Hall, Rex Rhodes Building, John Wooley Pavilion, The Old Chapel

For example, how often you use the Hall, what do you do there and do you have to go elsewhere for activities and the reason why.

2. Playing fields and Open spaces

How do you use the playing field or other open space and whether you feel they are adequate. Please let us know how you feel they could be improved or whether new provision is needed.

3. Street Furniture (i.e. Bus Shelters, seats, bins)

Is there enough street furniture provision and where is it lacking?

4. Parking

Is there enough parking /should there be any parking restrictions?

Please send responses to clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk or via the letterbox at Shady Nook Cottage, Shutter Lane. by May 10th 2022

Howard Samuels (GPC Chairman)

GOWNS

Contact: 07752 152485

Struggling with the handset?

Want to compare your energy charges to find the best rate?

Need someone to do that little job that you can't manage yourself?

Can we help?

Or have you got some spare time to become one of our volunteers?

Whether you'd like to ask for some help or offer us some of your time, just call us on 07752 152485

We always welcome new members to add to our pool of available help. Many of the tasks don't need special skills but any that you do have will add to the support that we can offer to our residents.

Finally, on a practical note – we are often asked for a contact name but this is difficult for us to provide. As you may know, we operate by passing round a mobile phone on a weekly basis between seven households. If we give a name in Topics, there is a strong chance that this person will then get called by every user, which obviously would not be what we want to happen. However, if you wish to raise any issue regarding GOWNS or the way it operates, you can contact the Parish Council

GOTHERINGTON HEDGEHOG TRAIL

Contact: Jenny Ross 317536 hedgehogtrail@gmail.com
www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk

2021 saw another hugely successful Hedgehog Trail with over 300 families visiting Gotherington to search for our colourful hedgehogs. £3,000 was raised in donations to share between the three charities supported: Vale Wildlife Hospital, Friends of Gotherington School (FOGS) and The Old Chapel Community Project. A huge thank you to last year's event sponsor Adelfi Care Services, and to all the artists who sponsored production of their own hedgehogs. Thank you also to Gotherington Nurseries and The Shutters for selling our Trail Guides!

Gotherington Hedgehog Trail will be back again this Autumn and we need NEW designs and NEW homes for this year's hedgehogs!

If you would like to have a go at designing your very own hedgehog, you can collect a template from Gotherington Stores, or email hedgehogtrail@gmail.com to receive an electronic copy. There will also be templates available at The Old Chapel's Open Day which is being held on Saturday May 14th 11 – 4pm.

All hedgehog design entries must be received by the end of June so that the selected hedgehogs can be scanned and re-produced on our all-weather templates ready for the start of the Trail at the beginning of September. If you would be happy to home a hedgehog for this year's Trail, I'd love to hear from you, whether you want to design your own hedgehog or just look after someone else's "hoggie" in your garden.

Thank you so much to everyone in the village for supporting this event which has become so popular to visitors!

Jenny

PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE - SAFETY CONCERNS.

Spring is here and how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful part of the country. The long walks and crisscross footpaths have been invaluable especially during the lockdowns. They make our community attractive and draw people to live here or even travel in to enjoy them.

Dog fouling has been a recurring issue in the village but recently it has escalated. Dogs running free are not an issue if owners monitor their pets and pick up after them but in recent months dog mess has started to cause new problems. This is a great concern as it carries TOXICARIASIS.

For our farmers who keep livestock in the fields and also cut the hay for winter feed, this is a major issue. If a bale is contaminated with dog mess it has to be destroyed because, if livestock is infected, it is impossible to eradicate and can lead to lower (milk) yield or even death. This is the reason why some landowners have enclosed footpaths or banned access to limit the opportunity for dogs to roam - a shame but understandable.

Unfortunately, we are also seeing dog mess in Freeman Field. The eggs can live in the soil for many months and if a child or adult should fall, they can become infected. The symptoms for humans are: fever, coughing, belly pain, rash and eye problems which can lead to blindness if left untreated.

The symptoms for livestock are much worse and are simply too upsetting for details to be given here – suffice it to say that everyone must surely want to avoid the impact that it can have.

So, what else can be done? Well, the Parish Council are working with landowners to erect new dog bins and we have identified the new Grangefield Development and "Shutter Island" as places that need them. Please help by letting us know about other any other locations by emailing the Parish Council Clerk. And of course, the message to dog walkers is:

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS.

Gotherington Parish Council.

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Facebook: @GPCNoticeboard

Contact: Howard Samuels 672492 / 07707467736 or Contact: Clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

We welcome Steve Neighbour a new Parish Councillor. We wish him well in his new role. We have a new website which has been live for a couple of months and is far easier to navigate. Any questions or queries then please get in touch.

We now have Wi-Fi in the Village Hall and the plans are to get this into the Rex Rhodes Building as soon as we can.

The Tennis Courts renovation documentation has been prepared and is currently under review with Tewkesbury Borough Council for S106 funding. We hope to hear later that it has been successful and work can begin on what will be a major project for the Village. Please contact Gotherington Tennis Club if you would like further information.

The play area in Freeman Field is also another project which the Council are working on and details are still being thrashed out as to the final layout. The entire area surface material will be bonded rubber mulch so no more muddy puddles! Footpath improvements have been documented and plans are ongoing to repair any particularly poor surfaces and replace many of the old stiles with gates of one sort or another. This work often includes liaising with landowners and Public Rights of Way (PROW) department at Gloucester. Other projects in the pipe line include looking at refurbishing the Changing Rooms, replacing the "gazebo", renovating the War Memorial and finding a new use for our BT phone kiosk. One suggestion put forward is to install a defibrillator in the kiosk and this is proving to be a popular choice.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on May 10th at 19.15 at the Village Hall. The Parish Council and other local organisations will be letting residents know what they have been doing over the past year or so and answering any questions from electors of the Parish.

Freeman Field is undergoing a 2 week maintenance program from 19th April when the Field will be out of action and will not be available for any sports.

Howard Samuels, Chair of the Parish Council

GOTHERINGTON JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

4th & 5th June 2022

Email: gotheringtonevents@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonEvents>

Saturday 4th June, Live Music
Hog Roast and Bar

Sunday 5th June, Jubilee Tea Party, fun and game,
Village parade

Plus many exhibitions celebrating 70 years.

Further details will be sent out on a separate flyer to include an event planner, how to buy tickets etc.

Please keep up to date and find out what is being planned by visiting our Facebook page where you'll find displays showing events for each decade over the past 70 years and other displays showing Gotherington over the same period. These will surely bring back memories and some explaining to the youngsters as to what we all got up to in our younger days!

We aim to give all Village children up to 11 a Gotherington Platinum Jubilee water bottle as a memento of this special occasion.

If you would like to get involved with the organising of the Jubilee Celebrations or indeed any Village event then please email us on gotheringtonevents@gmail.com. Everyone will be welcomed to join in to help provide a lovely eventful weekend for us all to enjoy - and as you can imagine there is an awful lot to do, so please get in touch.

On June 2nd, along with many other villages and towns, we hope to have our own beacon on Crane Hill to celebrate the Queens's Platinum Jubilee and further details on this will be available later on.

Gotherington Events Team

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Contact: Rob Sharp on 01242 678057 or rob_sharp100@hotmail.com

“Girls football” in Gotherington continues to thrive, with 80 players now involved across 5 teams. Stewart Peters has done a wonderful job taking this initiative forward, well supported by an ever growing team of coaches.

He has also been offering the older girls the chance to help with the coaching, and we hope that this will lead to more female coaches in the future. In addition to last Season’s success there has been more silverware for the Girls who beat Rodborough 4-1 to secure a cup final win.

The u11 boys side have also won their first medals, winning the u11 mini league that finished in November. The u9 boys side won their mini friendly league, and our u16 side won their league having had an outstanding season with only 1 defeat. Our u14 boys side are also on track to win their league.

Overall, the key objective of the Club is to provide an enjoyable environment for boys and girls to train and play in. Behind the scenes we have a hardworking Committee who do all that they can to deliver this for the 200 players registered this year.

We now have an u6 (year1) side with Greg Ryan taking that side. As it stands, we don’t have u7 or u8 sides - but we know there is interest so please get in touch if you would like to help take one these age groups.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any Club, from marking the pitches to raising funds and from behind the scenes admin to running coaching sessions and match days. If your son or daughter is involved in the club please look for opportunities to help with some of these tasks as it will be greatly appreciated.

Rob Sharp, Chairman and Secretary GJFC

THE OLD CHAPEL

Contact: Andy Stillman 673218 gotheringtonoldchapel@gmail.com
www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk

Trustees of The Old Chapel Community Project (charity no. 1179607) are very pleased to announce that the renovation of The Old Chapel, which was purchased in 2018 for £50k, is now officially complete. The building re-opened in October last year and is now fully operational and available for private hire and for use as a community space for the residents of Gotherington, Oxenton, Woolstone and surrounding areas.

Many of you followed the work carried out over the last two years, but for those new to the village, in summary the renovation involved completely replacing the roof of the building, re-rendering all of the external walls to ensure the inherent problems with damp were resolved and giving the interior and forecourt a full make-over. To pay for the work trustees were very successful in attracting grants from a variety of sources. Residents and friends also sponsored roof tiles in our crowdfunding scheme which yielded valuable additional funds. In all we raised a further £150,000 and are very proud that the entire project has been completely self-funded. We hope that you are as delighted as we are with the results and if you haven’t been inside yet, do please pop in to take a look at our next Open Day!

Our focus now is on getting enough day-to-day bookings to ensure running costs are covered and on setting up an events calendar to appeal to all ages. We would really love new members to join our Events and Community Engagement team and are keen to have more trustees on board too, so if you would like to help us in any way, please drop us an email or come along to our next Open Day on Saturday May 14th, we’d love to see you!

Email oldchapelbookings@gmail.com for any booking enquiries.

Jenny Ross (Events committee) & **Phil Aplin** (Treasurer)

THE OLD CHAPEL BOOK CLUB

Contact: Linda Pawley, 01242 361539, email linda@thepawleys.co.uk

Our group is very much enjoying meeting in the beautifully re-furbished Old Chapel and recently we have read 'The Giver of Stars' by Jojo Moyes, which was well received and given a rating of 8.5 out of ten.

Then we read 'Pompeii' by Robert Harris. We admired the amount of research that must have gone into this book, the descriptions of the engineering required to build the aqueducts and the characterisations which showed the events from a very human point of view. Mostly, it was deemed very good although some were not sure they enjoyed the style.

At present we are reading 'Betty Boothroyd' – her autobiography.

Our next book to read is 'The Venice Sketch Book' by Rhys Bowen and after that we will read 'Mary Robinson – a Voice for Fairness'.

Our regular gatherings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) from 7pm – 8pm at the Old Chapel.

We are a group of about eleven at the moment and we would welcome new members. Anyone who might be interested in joining us is very welcome to come along for coffee/tea and biscuits and try us out.

Linda

COBALT CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

Contacts: Abby Punch (abygail.punch@gmail.com)

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Who says we don't send cards anymore! It took three trips this year to take the cards to Cobalt and (while it may not have looked it if you saw the piles of cards) I was collecting from Gotherington Stores every other day to keep up! Massive thanks to Gotherington Stores who were so kind in agreeing to be the main collection point. Finally, another big "thank you" as well for separating the Christmas cards from the other cards - it really helps the volunteer team.

Abby Punch

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contacts: Ken Ascroft (673192) / Caroline Meller (677489)

gotheringtonlhs@gmail.com

galhs.org.uk

Spring Talks

It's been a joy to be able to hold face-to-face meetings again albeit wearing masks and keeping the Hall well ventilated - but at least it's a step in the right direction.

Our programme of talks continues on Tuesday 26th April with two short talks following on from our A.G.M. Cora Patel has been invited to talk about 'Scottish Jewellery – A Victorian Passion'. This will be followed by a talk about how Gotherington's residents of the past could boast of their global connections and links to national events.

In May, Michael Cole of Prestbury LHS will take us on 'An 1879 Excursion to Southam'. This talk will be held on Tuesday 24th May. Non-members are welcome to come along to any particular talk that appeals; admission £3.

All our local history meetings are held at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Our programme of talks for 2022-23 can now be viewed at galhs.org.uk so why not take a look and make a note.

Jubilee History Timeline

Village events that have occurred within each decade of the Queen's reign will be on display during the afternoon of Sunday 5th June at the Freeman Field. These will be illustrated with a selection of photographs that were taken during each of the decades. This is a great opportunity to spark a few memories and to learn more about what has cultivated our community spirit over the past 70 years.

Caroline Meller, Secretary

GHOST PONDS

Contact: Caroline Meller at cmbmeller@gmail.com or phone 677489

On a recent episode of the BBC's 'Countryfile' programme, the resurrection of old 'ghost' ponds was highlighted. These ponds are biological time capsules and are found to contain seeds / eggs of aquatic organisms that are still viable decades or even centuries after a pond was filled in. Restored ponds can attract twice as many bird species to an area and become a wonderful oasis for wildlife.

The programme demonstrated how the First Edition O.S. maps created in the 1880s are being used to identify the location of these ponds. Using 'Know Your Place' at <https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=glos>, I decided to investigate how many of our ponds that still exist now in the Gotherington area date back 140 years, and whether it would be possible for us to resurrect any ponds that have been filled in.

The good news is that within our parish boundary I found 18 ponds in existence during the 1880s compared to 15 ponds today, so not much of a difference. If we were able to restore three 'ghost' ponds we would equal the number existing 140 years ago and would succeed in creating a more biodiverse environment for us all to enjoy. After all, that is why we live where we do; we love the rural nature of our local environment.

The best example of a ghost pond that could be resurrected is located at the south end of the area of grass at Lawrence's Meadow but other publicly owned parcels of land where ponds used to exist include the Shutter Island.

So, instead of tarmac, why not a pond which would look far more attractive? Other ghost ponds lie on private land and I would urge landowners to take a look at information available on the web especially the 'Big 50 Ponds Project'. This could easily be a community initiative that would not only enhance all of our lives but that of local wildlife too.

Caroline Meller, in conjunction with the Parish Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.gotherington.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch

Mary Manders-Trett (Malleon Road) 674592

Howard Samuels (Shutter Lane) 672492

Report a Crime - Contact the Police:

Reporting an emergency 999 or 112 Reporting non-emergencies 101

Bogus Callers 0300 123 2040 **Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111**

Research shows two thirds (67%) of people are worried about their home being broken into - yet there are simple, proven measures we can all take to reduce our chances of becoming a victim of burglary by up to 50%.

More needs to be done to help people be and feel safer, and when it comes to burglary, prevention is always better than cure. We know that by securing your home's windows, interior, doors, exterior and keeping an eye out for neighbours, we can all give ourselves the best chance of not being burgled. If you have been burgled recently, criminals are familiar with your home and may come back once you've had time to purchase new items. Act soon to avoid being retargeted.

At Neighbourhood Watch, we also believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is key to reducing burglary. So, to summarise:

WINDOWS: Keep your windows locked

INTERIOR: Put inside lights on a timer/smart bulb

DOORS: Double or deadlock your doors

EXTERIOR: Put outside lights on a sensor

NEIGHBOURS: Keep an eye out for your neighbours

Thank You and Please Stay Safe

Howard Samuels