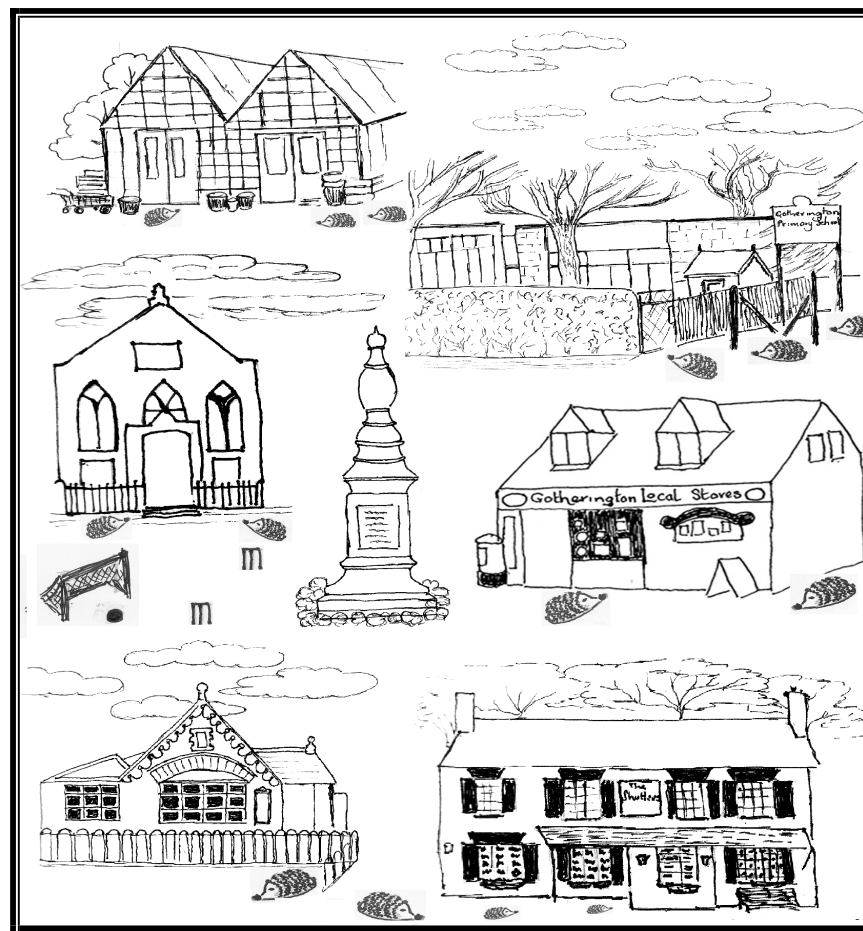


Contacts – Village Organisations

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS		Contact
Baby and Toddler Group	Tue, Fri 9.30am	Clair gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk
Brownies	Mon 6.00pm	Amy Steger gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
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	Cathy Thompson (676708)
Gotherington Singers	Mondays 7.45 - 9.45pm	Chair Catherine Newbury Secretary: Sally Newbury (317276) sall.newbury@gmail.com
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 (01242 361539) linda@thepawleys.co.uk
Old Chapel Bookings		Emily (07855279778) oldchapelbookings@gmail.com
Oxenton Village Hall	Chairman: Secretary: Oxenton Village Bookings:	Chris Bambridge (07713 775241) Linda Howard (07710 224368) Lorraine Dodd (07419 770401)
Parish Council Parish Council Clerk	2nd Wednesday 7.30pm	Bev Osborne 675741 chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk Clerk clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Freeman Field/Rex Rhodes Building Bookings		gotherington.org.uk/bookings/
Petanque Club	Sun 10am, Wed 2pm, Fri Winter 2 pm, Fri Summer 6pm	Mary Manders-Trett (674592)/ hristine Godsell (672821) / cgodsell1967@gmail.com
Gotherington Events		gotheringtonevents@gmail.com
Tennis Club		Ian Donnelly (674404)
Village Hall (Gotherington)	Chair Secretary Bookings Treasurer	Rotating Chairman gotherington.org.uk/bookings/ Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com
Village Hall Coffee Mornings. 1st Sat excl Jan & Aug 10:30 am - noon		Christine Godsell (672821) / cgodsell1967@gmail.com
Wine Club	Chairperson Secretary	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com Christine Godsell (672821) cgodsell1967@gmail.com
W.I. 4th Wed 7.30pm	President Secretary	Christine Sharpe (07756855238) Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS

Autumn 2023 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 Spring 2024 is due out during the fortnight starting 11th March 2024

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 COUNCIL

As at Autumn 2023

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Eddie Mclarnon			cllr.mclarnon@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Matt Dean			cllr.dean@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Steve Neighbour	(Vice chair)	07881339813	cllr.neighbour@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Beverly Osborne	(Chair)	675741 07974101659	chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Caroline Meller		01242 677489	Cllr.meller@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
GPC bookings			bookings@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
	Clerk		clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Contacts – General

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

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH NEWS

Contact Churchwardens: Woolstone - Bob Wickens (679345)

Oxenton - Michael. Bower (672900)

John Keats famously described the Autumn as “a season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” which wonderfully describes this season that we are moving into. It’s the time to gather in fruits and crops from fields, gardens and hedgerows to preserve them in jams and jellies - or to put things in the freezer, so that we can enjoy them during the winter. The nights may be drawing in and the temperature dropping - but still Autumn can be very good for us. It contains several regular markers in the calendar that help us to live healthily and to acknowledge and celebrate the rhythm of life. These are wonderfully celebrated in our church services in Gotherington and Oxenton and Woolstone and across the wider Cleeve Benefice.

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We have just celebrated the Harvest Festival with an excellent harvest lunch in the Oxenton Village Hall. At Harvest we focus on the beauty of Creation and the joy of the immense variety within the natural world around us. More than that, in 2023, we think about ways in which we can give back to Creation instead of plundering it more and more.

At our All Souls service on 5th November we acknowledge our own mortality and remember those that we have loved and lost. The following Sunday, 12th November, is Remembrance Sunday, as always marked in Gotherington. Here we lament humanity’s failure to treat each other with love and dignity, and pray for the parts of the world, so familiar on the news at the moment, where humans resort to violence and war.

And then very soon, on December 3rd it is Advent Sunday we begin our preparations for Christmas. Week by week we reflect that God has always had a plan to rescue a broken humanity, with God coming to us himself in the person of Jesus Christ.

So, let us now draw together and pause for thought on these significant milestones, helping us all to have a healthier perspective on our lives.

Rev Tim Garrett, Team Rector

CHRISTMAS 2023 SERVICES
WOOLSTONE, GOTHERINGTON AND OXENTON

<i>Sunday 17st Dec</i>	<i>3.30pm</i>	<i>Carols for Christmas</i>	<i>Gotherington Village Hall</i>
<i>Saturday 23rd Dec</i>	<i>4.00 pm</i>	<i>Carols</i>	<i>Oxenton</i>
<i>Sunday 24th Dec</i>	<i>4.00pm</i>	<i>Crib Service</i>	<i>Woolstone</i>
	<i>11.15 pm</i>	<i>Midnight Mass</i>	<i>Oxenton</i>
<i>Monday 25th Dec</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>	<i>Christmas Holy Communion</i>	<i>Woolstone</i>

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**OXENTON VILLAGE HALL**

*Contact: Lorraine Dodd 07419 770401*

*Oxenton Village Hall is a great place for family occasions, children's parties, craft groups, funeral teas, and local meetings of any kind. There is a full range of kitchen facilities and a toilet.*

*It is available to hire for the very reasonable special rate of £6 per hour from Autumn 2023 to the end of Spring 2024.*

*There is an upper limit of 90 people and the hall can comfortably seat 40 people with tables and chairs. Also, it has a full range of kitchen facilities.*

*Please contact me on 07419 770401 to make a reservation.*

## WINE CLUB

Contact: Christine Godsell on 672821 or [cgodsell1967@gmail.com](mailto:cgodsell1967@gmail.com)  
[www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club](http://www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club)  
[www.facebook.com/GotheringtonWineClub](https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonWineClub)

*There are 50 states in the USA and wine is produced in all them. America has been making wine for around 300 years and now produces 800 million gallons of wine per year.*

*We have had a busy 2023 and the August outing was very memorable for not only travelling on a vintage bus around the Cotswolds but braking down on Fish Hill with steam pouring out of the engine.*

*The September meeting was "Members Favourites" and six members brought along their favourite wine explaining the memories behind their choices. It was a lot of fun and we have been asked for a repeat along similar lines for 2024. Watch this space!*

*The October meeting is our Wine Taster of the Year Competition and always fiercely competitive for this coveted honour and to have your name engraved on the Wine Club trophy shield.*

*At the November meeting we welcome an importer of Brazilian wines to talk about the various wines produced in Brazil.*

*The Christmas meal and party is at The Shutter Inn on December 19<sup>th</sup> and everyone looks forward to a lovely evening.*

*The Wine Club Website and Facebook are a good source of information as to what is going on and when.*

*The Wine Club holds an event every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month and is a social event normally meeting in the Village Hall starting at 8pm (doors are open from 7.30pm). Six different wines to taste and a ploughman's supper to finish off the evening.*

**Howard Samuels**, Wine Club Chairman

## CRICKET CLUB

[www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk](http://www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk)  
Contact: Brian Cosgrove on 676216 or [info@gotheringtoncc.org](mailto:info@gotheringtoncc.org)

*The 2023 Season was another enjoyable one, with some outstanding highs, and a few too many games lost to rain at the end of the season.*

*The senior team features mainly players who live in the village or have a close connection, so it is pleasing to see this group had 5 wins from the first 6 games, including a memorable "bowl off" win against previous Lords finalists Rockhampton in the National village knockout competition.*

*It was our turn to host the Royal Household Cricket Club in June. It was a nail biter with the Royal Household winning off the very last ball of the match. They included some additional help, one of whom had played at Lords for the Army first eleven a few weeks before. We had our own star in Villager Andrew Shakespeare who scored a 100 in his first, and only appearance of the season.*

*Brian and Yvonne were featured by BBC radio Gloucestershire to mark the 25 years of service they have given the Club, and in particular the amazing work they have done to introduce youngsters to the game. They are standing down after this season and we really do need a few people to step forward if youth cricket is carry on next season.*

*Stop Press Brian will be running the u15 side with support from parents, but we need more volunteers to help with the younger ages.*

*Our Annual Dinner was well attended and on behalf of the Club we would like to say a huge Thank you to the Shutter - the food and service were superb and we are very lucky to have you.*

*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](mailto:rob_sharp100@hotmail.com).*

**Rob Sharp**, Chairman GCC

## GOTHERINGTON EVENTS TEAM

Email: [gotheringtonevents@gmail.com](mailto:gotheringtonevents@gmail.com)

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

*We are excited to tell you that we are organising a one day Village Coronation Celebration for King Charles III. The event will take place on Freeman Field and will feature our famous tasty Hog Roast, Live Music, Children's Tea Party, Bar and lots more.*

*Further details will be available in the coming weeks ahead so please:*

***Save The Date - Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 11pm***

*Tickets are £5 (under 16's Free) at Gotherington Stores from 1st April.*

### **GET Socials**

*Our Taste of India event in January was a sell-out; we sold 54 tickets and had a wonderful evening. The team decorated the hall with an Indian theme, and we all savoured freshly cooked Indian food, some of which we had never tried before. The evening was a joint venture with Gotherington Stores and we have had many requests to stage similar evenings. Look out for our Sixties Evening with music and the infamous "Chicken/Scampi in a basket" and a 1920's Jazz Evening – Charleston anyone?! Keep an eye out for posters and on Social Media for more info.*

### **Our Aims**

*All events are for the villagers of Gotherington to enjoy, and where we find that we have raised money, our aim is to plough it back for the benefit of the Village. So far we have contributed £2,500 to help with the restoration of the War Memorial. We are also donating funds that have been raised from our previous events to pay for a defibrillator that will eventually be installed in the old Telephone box just by the village memorial.*

*We are also looking to donate to other projects in the Village and suggested ideas are a possible 'make over' on Shutter Island to make it look a little more presentable and a water dispenser on Freeman Field. Any other ideas most welcome and volunteers for all our projects will be most appreciated.*

**Gotherington Events Team**

## GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

Contacts President - Christine Sharpe (07756855238)

Secretary - Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - [sall.newbury@gmail.com](mailto:sall.newbury@gmail.com)

*Recent meetings have involved flower arranging, the art of mosaic, herbs and fraud awareness. Rosemary Stammers demonstrated some beautiful flower arrangements in June, talking us through ways to get the best effects. In July, Rachel Shilston explained how she got into making mosaics and giving workshops. She has been on one of Kirstie Allsopp's television shows. She is hopefully coming back to run a course for interested members. Linda Warren came in August to show us how to use herbs in cookery, and health and beauty. She gave us some useful leaflets and, best of all, provided us with breadsticks to taste some of the dips she'd made! In September, Danielle from Glospol talked to us about fraud awareness and gave us some useful advice and literature. One in three people have been victims of fraud and in 2022 £17 million was lost to fraud in Gloucestershire.*

*On a hot Saturday in September, we held a Jumble Sale to support 'Second Hand September', something not seen in Gotherington for many years. We received many generously donated goods and made money for our funds. Left over items were taken to Charity Shops or sold at a Car Boot Sale. We continue to enjoy monthly lunches at The Shutter and a weekly Art and Craft Group at the Old Chapel. In addition, a range of craft activities and trips and visits are arranged during the year. Recently some members made lovely foxes at a needle felting course and we have a willow weaving course arranged in October. We also enjoyed a silk painting course in Oxenton.*

*We meet in Gotherington Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month and new members and visitors are always very welcome. See our website for details [www.gwowi.org.uk](http://www.gwowi.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you!*

**Jill Parsons**

## VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

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

*Good Morning! Or Good Afternoon! Depending on what time of day you are reading this.*

*It seems you still love coming along for bacon rolls, coffee, tea, cakes and chat .....thank you! The October gathering was almost a record for takings – but close enough to merit a huge WOW! and thank you from the team. It was also the first time the Petanque Group have hosted the morning. Although they are not big users of the Hall, they have stepped in to fill a gap and I hope it will become a regular month for them. I'm pretty sure they enjoyed it – so many cakes and helpers – and a great atmosphere.*

*One thing I have noticed is that we don't have the children coming very much. Please remember you are welcome to bring your children – no matter how small. We have a table for them to colour or play together and biscuits and juice are always available if cake is too much for them. Parents can sit and catch up within easy sight and the children will be safe there. Older ones could play in the field and know where to come if they need you. So – please consider coming to see what we are all about.*

*On a different note – could the person who has borrowed one of our lovely wooden boxes that we use for books, please return it. If you cannot gain access to the hall, you are welcome to leave it with me or one of the other Village Hall trustees. We rely on our boxes to keep the books safe and tidy – so we are now struggling for space and plastic boxes are not really strong enough.*

*That's all for now – have a lovely Autumn and we look forward to seeing you at Coffee Morning. Don't forget – we don't hold one in January – you are too full of Christmas pudding and mince pies to want cake.*

*Be Happy!*

**Christine Godsell**

## GARDENING CLUB

[www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club](http://www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club)

*We've had a busy few months of Club activities. In June we hosted the village hall coffee morning and held our usual plant sale. Members donated a wide range of plants, grown from cuttings or seeds, which we sold for modest prices and raised some useful funds for the Club. We also had a very enjoyable garden party in Mary and Ed Manders-Trett's beautiful garden on a sunny evening.*

*We then had talks on Solitary Bees and Acers and an entertaining demonstration on how to make a garden trug by one of the few practising trug makers in the Country. In late September we made a group visit to Cotswold Garden Flowers, near Badsey, with a talk from the owner, Bob Brown, who writes for 'Gardening Which'.*

*In October, many of our members braved heavy rain to come to a social evening and had fun sampling a range of home-made chutneys, cakes and cider. We're now looking forward to our Christmas party!*

*Meetings are at 7.30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month in the village hall. We have been pleased to welcome a good number of new members this year so please do come along for a free first visit and see what you think.*

*Next meetings are on*

*November 15: The Incredible Dutch Auction at Aalsmeer and the 500 Nurseries of Boskoop, talk by Ian Sadler and*

*January 17: Winter Colour and Interest in the Garden, talk by Duncan Coombs*

**Cathy Thompson**

## NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

[www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk](http://www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk)

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

*Our home-grown winter bedding plants are perfect for planting now. The team have been busy planting up seasonal hanging baskets and containers, which add colour during the winter months. We have a great range of foliage plants, which look lovely in planters and hanging baskets. In the outside plant area, we have hellebores, heathers, hedging plants, shrubs, trees and soft fruit plants.*

*In the shop, we have colourful seasonal houseplants, beautiful Christmas decorations, lights, tree holders, Amaryllis gift packs and cards. Freshly cut and potted Christmas trees are due the end of November.*

*We have great gift ideas for the gardener or bird watcher in the family, from hand tools, propagation equipment and bird care products to shrubs and trees. Otherwise, why not buy National Garden Gift cards, redeemable at garden centres nationwide including Gotherington Nurseries.*

*As the colder weather arrives, we have fleece and bubble wrap to protect outside pipes and plants. Remember the birds too with our great selection of specialist bird feeds, feeders and bird tables. We have logs, kindling wood and winter car care products.*

*January sees the arrival of seed potatoes and onion sets, followed in February by summer flowering bulbs.*

*Our opening hours are 9am – 5pm Monday to Saturday and 10am - 4pm on Sundays. We will close the Nurseries at **2pm** on **Christmas Eve** and **re-open 9am on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**. Real Christmas trees can be recycled at the Nurseries early January.*

*We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year and thank you all for your continued support. Follow us on Instagram and like our Facebook page to get regular updates.*

**Mark and Liz, Gotherington Nurseries**

## GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Contacts: Chair - Howard Samuels (672492)      [hsamuels@btinternet.com](mailto:hsamuels@btinternet.com)

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

Bookings: [gotherington.org.uk/bookings](http://gotherington.org.uk/bookings)

Website: [www.gotheringtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.gotheringtonvillagehall.org.uk)

*The Village Hall is used extensively by Keep Fit groups the first of which starts at 6am which seems very early but is well supported! Birthday parties are also popular as the Hall is well equipped and available at a very reasonable price (£10/h or £8.00 for residents) To book the, Hall use the online booking system (Hallmaster) which allows you to see all bookings including those days and times that are still available to book.*

*Any problems encountered during the booking process or if advice and help is required then please email [gotherington.halls@gmail.com](mailto:gotherington.halls@gmail.com) .*

*A "Blue Plaque" dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Malleson is to be unveiled by Nancy Farr (Head of Community Nursing for Gloucestershire and a Queen's Nurse), on Sunday 29th October, 2.30pm, at the Village Hall. The plaque will be mounted on the outside near the front door.*

*We have recently seen some minor pilfering taking place in the Hall such as washing up liquid and bin bags which results in the next hirer not having these items available for their use. Whilst on this subject, the Village Hall projector (which is available to anyone to use in the Hall) went missing and was eventually left on a Trustee's doorstep without any note of explanation. The last thing we want to do is keep things under lock and key and hopefully we can find a solution that this will not happen.*

*The Village Hall Committee are still looking to find someone who would take on the role of Secretary and if you can help then please contact us.*

*The Village Hall has always been the meeting hub of the Village and is an important facility for the Village to have but we do need extra hands to keep it that way. If you can help in any way then please get in touch.*

**Howard Samuels, ([hsamuels@btinternet.com](mailto:hsamuels@btinternet.com) or phone 07707467736)**



## GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Contact: Ian Donnelly on 674404  
[www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/GotheringtonTennisClub/](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/GotheringtonTennisClub/)  
[www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis](http://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis)

*In mid-July the Club held its second ever Great Tennis Weekend. The day was really well attended and a great success so huge thanks to Moya, Sue and the team for organising, Club Coach Liam Gough for his expertise (and patience!!) and everyone else who chipped in. The weekend ended with the formal opening of the new courts by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Edward Gillespie OBE. Many old friends/past Committee members were in attendance as well the representatives from the Parish council and Tewkesbury Borough Council who helped make the project such a success.*

*It's been a solid year in the League. After the heady success of last year, our Ladies initially struggled in the higher league, but finished the season strongly and came a creditable third. Whereas the Men began the season with a bang with promotion looking a worrying possibility, but injuries set in and we ended a solid table 4<sup>th</sup> position. A really enjoyable season and thanks go to captains Sue and Steve .*

*Junior tennis goes from strength to strength on a Sunday morning.*

*We run two sessions:*

- 9 – 9:45 ages 4-7 (fully booked)
- 9:45 – 10:30 ages 8 and above (places available)

*For more info, please click on the 'Junior Tennis' tab on our website.*

*Finally just a reminder, these are public courts and are available for everyone to enjoy. Should you wish to book it's as easy as going on our website, clicking on 'booking' and selecting your court/time.*

*Courts fees are as little as £2.50, the best value courts in the area !!*

*See above for the "clubspark" web address or our Facebook page for details.*

**Ian Donnelly**

## GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

Secretary: Sally Newbury (Tel. 317276) / email: [sall.newbury@gmail.com](mailto:sall.newbury@gmail.com)  
[www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk](http://www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk)

*Gotherington Singers is a very friendly and sociable female voice choir and we have been pleased to welcome some new members to the choir since returning from our Summer break. We are also looking forward to having a regular accompanist later this term.*

*Singing is a great, fun way to improve your well-being and you don't have to be able to read music or audition to join us. So, why not give us a try?*

*We are working on some lovely Christmas pieces which we will be performing at an informal afternoon of songs, mulled wine and mince pies for family and friends in December.*

*We are also having another Vocal Workshop led by Aidan Smith from Cheltenham Vocal Academy to help us with our vocal technique – hard work but great fun.*

*The social side is important to us too! Each rehearsal includes a break for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat, and we are planning a Christmas choir meal at the end of the year.*

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

*Why not come and sing with us? You can come along for 3 weeks before committing to joining us.*

*To find out more about us,*

*see our website, [www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk](http://www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk) ,  
email [sall.newbury@gmail.com](mailto:sall.newbury@gmail.com)  
or phone 317276*

**Catherine Newbury** (Chair, Gotherington Singers)

## **JUNIOR FOOTBALL**

Contact: Rob Sharp on 01242 678057 or [rob\\_sharp100@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_sharp100@hotmail.com)

*The 2023/24 season is well underway with matches and training from u6 to u17 and with the Girls now outnumbering the boys.*

*Whilst the focus is on fun, teamwork, and development, many teams are already in contention to win their respective leagues or cup tournaments.*

*We are very grateful to the school for allowing us to use their facilities which helps promote a really good community spirit. We hope that once building work is completed we will be able to use their car park to help ease matchday congestion in the Village.*

*On that note, we are acutely aware of the impact on local residents, particularly on days when several sides are scheduled to play at Freeman field and we are working with the Parish Council to reduce incidents of poor or inconsiderate parking.*

*We have also arranged for a partnership with Evesham FC for some of the girls games to be played there. We have sides playing at Swindon Village, Bredon, and various Astroturf pitches to try and further reduce congestion.*

*Ideally, we'd like to find another area to have a pitch in the village and ideas are always welcome.*

*The Club relies totally on Volunteers and we are lucky to have great people involved on both the coaching and behind the scenes, so many thanks to you all for generously giving your time and enabling around 250 children to benefit from all the positive aspects of playing sport.*

*At the moment we do not have a boys team at u7, so if anybody would like to step forward and find out more about running a side please get in touch.*

*Finally, it will soon be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gotherington Juniors FC, set up in 1999 when mini soccer was introduced. We will be looking at ways to celebrate this landmark, more to follow.*

**Rob Sharp, Chairman and Secretary GJFC**

## **PRESCOTT SPEED HILL CLIMB**

[enquiries@bugatti.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bugatti.co.uk)

[www.prescotthillclimb.co.uk](http://www.prescotthillclimb.co.uk)

*As Prescott Speed Hill Climb looks forward to the winter months, our activity on the Hill ceases and we move towards more social functions within our Clubhouse.*

*December will see The Clubhouse host a series of Christmas Party Nights, offering a three-course meal and entertainment suitable for families, friends, colleagues and Club Members. Booking is available via [www.prescotthillclimb..uk](http://www.prescotthillclimb..uk)*

*During January, we will undertake maintenance jobs on the Hill and host a number of safety training days for our marshals and Rescue Crews, helping them brush up on their skills ready for the start of the 2024 competition season.*

*February and March will be focussed on private hire functions within the Clubhouse and pre-season preparation and planning in readiness for our first scheduled event of 2024 on 6<sup>th</sup> April.*

*Another important element of the Club during the "closed" season is Membership renewals and recruitment. Annual membership of the Bugatti Owners' Club, who own Prescott Speed Hill Climb is only £125 and offers exceptional value for money, providing you with free of charge entry to 28 of the 30 days we run the Hill. It means that you will be able to join us for a wide-range of events, featuring everything from single seater racing cars to pre-war cars and Battle of Britain Flyovers.*

*Finally, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas on behalf of the Bugatti Owners' Club*

**Gemma Price – General Manager**

## **GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB**

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

*Hello! Good to chat again!*

*The Petanque Group are winding down their busy Summer Season – and it has been busy! Lots of socialising, competition, and general happy play. We have had a lovely time.*

*But.....things do not stop just because the weather is getting cooler. We all have coats, hats, scarves and thermal underwear (if we must) to see us through the winter. We play all year round – but not if it is raining! Then it is uncomfortable and depressing and difficult to jolly along. But – other than that -you will always find someone at each session, so if you have not tried Petanque before – come along to one of our regular sessions and see what we get up to. We have spare boules so you can always give it a try. We don't mind how old you are although we do limit the lowest age to 16 for safety reasons. You don't even need to be particularly sporty or strong...you just need to be able to hold a ball, swing your arm and let go at the appropriate moment! Simple!*

*Some of our members have physical limitations – but we work round those – so, again, don't let a wonky leg or twitchy eye stop you coming.*

*We have had a few new members this year – and they are enjoying it. And we have had some interest from passers-by – if that was you, please come back and have a go. You have nothing to lose. Any of our members will chat to you and let you know what is involved and you do not have to make any commitment to be there every session or to book.*

*I'll keep my eyes open for you.....*

**SEE YOU ON THE PISTE!**

**Christine Godsell**

## **LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

galhs.org.uk

gotheringtonlhs@gmail.com

### **Programme of Talks 2023-24**

*Our programme continues this November with a talk by Tony Conder on the 'Secret World of Gloucester Docks.' The meeting in December will be on the third Tuesday (19<sup>th</sup>) and will have a festive theme when Andy Meller looks at the history of cider-making in the county, 'From Foxwhelps to Firkins.' We will then begin the new year with an intriguing talk by Glos. archivist John Putley, called 'The Gloucestershire Mummy', followed in February by a look at 'Place Names in the Landscape,' presented by Dr. Simon Draper.*

*Apart from December, all our meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday in the month, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. If you are not already a member but would like to attend any of these meetings then you would be more than welcome. Admission is £3 which includes light refreshments as well as an opportunity to browse through the library of local history books.*

### **War Memorial Renovation**

*The working party, comprising of Brian Cosgrove, Caroline Meller, Bev Osborne, Tony Pawley and Lisa Spicer, has worked hard over the past few months to establish the best approach to renovating the War Memorial. Three quotes for the work have now been submitted which are being scrutinised before a final decision is reached. The group are very grateful for the donations that have already been received as well as the promises of more to come, thus ensuring the War Memorial will be renovated to a standard that guarantees its long-term future. If you too would like to contribute then please contact the working party via the LHS email address.*

## LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

Contact: Lucy Barbour, Pioneer Curate, 07821580995, [lucyannbarbour@gmail.com](mailto:lucyannbarbour@gmail.com)

*The Christmas Season is fast approaching, and there's no better way to usher in the festive spirit than by being a part of something truly special*

### **Gotherington's Living Advent Calendar**

*The Living Advent Calendar is a tradition that has been brightening neighbourhoods for many years. For 24 days, starting from December 1st to the 24th, homes in Gotherington will transform their windows into festive displays. Each evening at 6 pm, one of these windows is unveiled, revealing a fun and imaginative creation.*

*What makes the Living Advent Calendar truly special is the community spirit that accompanies it. At 6 pm, you can gather to witness the window reveal which are sometimes accompanied with treats like chocolates, mince pies, squash, or even mulled wine.*

*If you'd like to get involved, here are the three ways to do it:*

1. **Decorate Your Window:** *If you're feeling creative and festive, why not decorate your window and be part of the calendar? Contact us using the details above if you would like more information.*
2. **Receive a Copy of the Advent Calendar:** *If you'd like to know where to visit each night, get in touch with us and we'll provide you with a copy of the Advent Calendar or check out our Facebook page for daily information.*
3. **Connect from home:** *For those who want to keep up with images from each night you can find these on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/gotheringtonadvent](https://www.facebook.com/gotheringtonadvent) and on our Instagram page at [@living\\_advent\\_gotherington](https://www.instagram.com/living_advent_gotherington).*

*We look forward to sharing the countdown to Christmas with you!*

**Lucy Barbour**

## GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

[www.gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Facebook: @GPCNoticeboard

Contact: Beverly Osborne 675741 [chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

*on the pavement. This is very important as all residents have the right to not have light shining into their bedrooms. We thank you for your help in this matter.*

*The playing field is popular on weekends and parking is proving to be an issue again. Along with the football club, we are taking steps to ask visitors to not park on pavements and not block residents access to their properties. We have spoken to the local PCSO and asked them to attend during these times to ensure compliance.*

*For many years there was access into the fields which belong to Moat Farm to retrieve footballs but as the riding stable has closed, and the owner now plants crops in the field and keeps livestock, this is no longer possible. As such, we have removed the stiles. Can we remind all residents this is private property. GPC plan to install high ball netting to limit the need as soon as possible but until then please knock at the door to Moat Farm to request return of any balls which go over.*

*Can we also remind residents that in a rural area, if they wish to walk a footpath but there is livestock in the field, especially cows, they could use caution and follow the advice in The Countryside Code which can be found at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and always keep dogs on a lead.*

*As ever, if you spot a pothole please report it on [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/) where you will find a map to mark the exact spot. Also if you would like to complain about the surface please email [highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk)*

*May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2024.*

**Bev Osborne, Chair, Gotherington Parish Council.**

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Since the last edition of Topics it has been a busy time for The Parish Council. We have continued with the project to fit the defibrillator in the telephone box. The unit has now been ordered and with the help of the GET team, we have made the payment and are hoping the installation will be completed in the first few weeks of November. We would like to thank the GET team very much for all their fundraising during village events to help us secure this valuable equipment. We would also thank Nikki Keen for her ongoing support to manage the units. We have received a charity donation of fresh red paint and a contract to get replacement glazing at the top which says DEFIBRILATOR instead of TELEPHONE. If anyone would like to help with the renovation of the unit, just contact me.

You will be aware that we have recently lost the fight for Trumans Farm. This is very sad news, and we thank the residents' group who worked so hard to develop the best possible defence. This was based entirely on TBC not being able to demonstrate the required 5-year land supply. We will continue to work with the residents' groups to achieve the best outcome as we move forward into detailed planning.

The new road layout in Bishops Cleeve is causing some concern. We ask residents to be very careful while everyone gets used to the new priority and if you have any specific concerns, please let us know and we can relay these to the highways department.

Recently, we have received several complaints about excessively bright security lights on properties. We are a recognised low light area so we would ask all residents to look at your own lights and ensure they are only as bright as necessary to illuminate your own property. They should not shine onto neighbouring properties. If they are PIR controlled, they should only be activated when someone enters your own property and not when passing by

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

[www.gotherington.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch](http://www.gotherington.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch)

Mary Manders-Trett (Malleeson 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

With Summer drawing to a close and the darker nights creeping in, now is a good time to ensure your home is secure as possible.

Research shows that a set combination of security actions provides up to 50 times more protection for your home versus no security.

Opportunity plays a big role in enabling crimes to be committed, particularly burglaries. Criminals will look for homes that:

- seem unoccupied
- have little or no apparent security
- have doors or windows left open,
- or where they think they will not be seen.

To help protect your home the following is a guide to what can help

- **Windows:** Lock your windows
- **Interior:** Put your interior lights on a timer
- **Doors:** Double or deadlock your door
- **Exterior:** Put your exterior lights on a sensor
- **Neighbours:** Keep an eye out for neighbours

**Make your home look as though someone is home**

**Thank you for reading this and Please Stay Safe**

**Howard Samuels**

## THE OLD CHAPEL

oldchapelbookings@gmail.com  
www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk.

*The Old Chapel has a busy schedule of events and activities for you this Autumn and after a brief summer hiatus, all of our regular Clubs are back up and running.*

*Our Clubs run throughout the month and you are sure to find something for everyone. To give just a few examples, you can catch up with neighbours over a cup of tea and a slice of cake at Chat at the Chapel, challenge friends to Mario Kart battles at our Gaming Club, or relax with a drink and popcorn whilst watching the latest cinematic releases at our Film Club. Look out for posters or Facebook posts advertising upcoming dates, or alternatively check out our new (and improved!) Old Chapel website [www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk](http://www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk) for full details on all clubs.*

*We have plenty of other events scheduled in the run up to Christmas, including a special Bingo evening, with supper provided by the Shutters, in November. And to get you in the Christmas spirit, in December we have Peter Gill back for a wonderful evening of Christmas Music, the Wild Bunch Collective will be running Christmas Wreath making workshops and for the younger residents there will be a special visit from Father Christmas at the Old Chapel grotto. Dates and details on how to book upcoming events will be posted on our website.*

*Finally, a reminder that if you have an upcoming event and are looking for a space to hire, the Old Chapel is available for private hire at £13/hour for Gothington residents and £14/hour for non-residents. Booking enquiries can be sent to [oldchapelbookings@gmail.com](mailto:oldchapelbookings@gmail.com).*

## THE OLD CHAPEL BOOK CLUB

Contact: Linda Pawley, 01242 361539, email [linda@thepawleys.co.uk](mailto:linda@thepawleys.co.uk)

*Our Book Club is growing. We now have 15 members and average 10 at any meeting. But as we meet in the Old Chapel there is still room for more people if you are interested*

*This quarter we read *The Murders at Fleet House* by Lucinda Riley, *The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy L. Sayers and *Orphans of the Storm* by Celia Imrie.*

*The Lucinda Riley book was a book written some years before Lucinda died. It stands on its own as a detective story and was only published after the author's death. It was set in a boarding school in Norfolk and as always the characters were well drawn and the background atmospheric.*

*The Nine Tailors took us to the Fens and combined the mystery of missing emeralds and a death (murder?) with the ringing of Church Bells to bring in the New Year and a flood.*

*Orphans of the Storm tackled the problems of human relationships and gave us an insight of the Titanic Disaster and the problems that arose for survivors.*

*All the books were, on the whole well received with average ratings of 7 to 8 out of 10.*

*Our regular gatherings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) from 7pm – 8pm at the Old Chapel. We welcome prospective new members. If you might be interested in joining us, please come along and try us out. Coffee/tea and biscuits are available. Or give me a call – my phone number and email address are at the top of this article.*

**Linda**