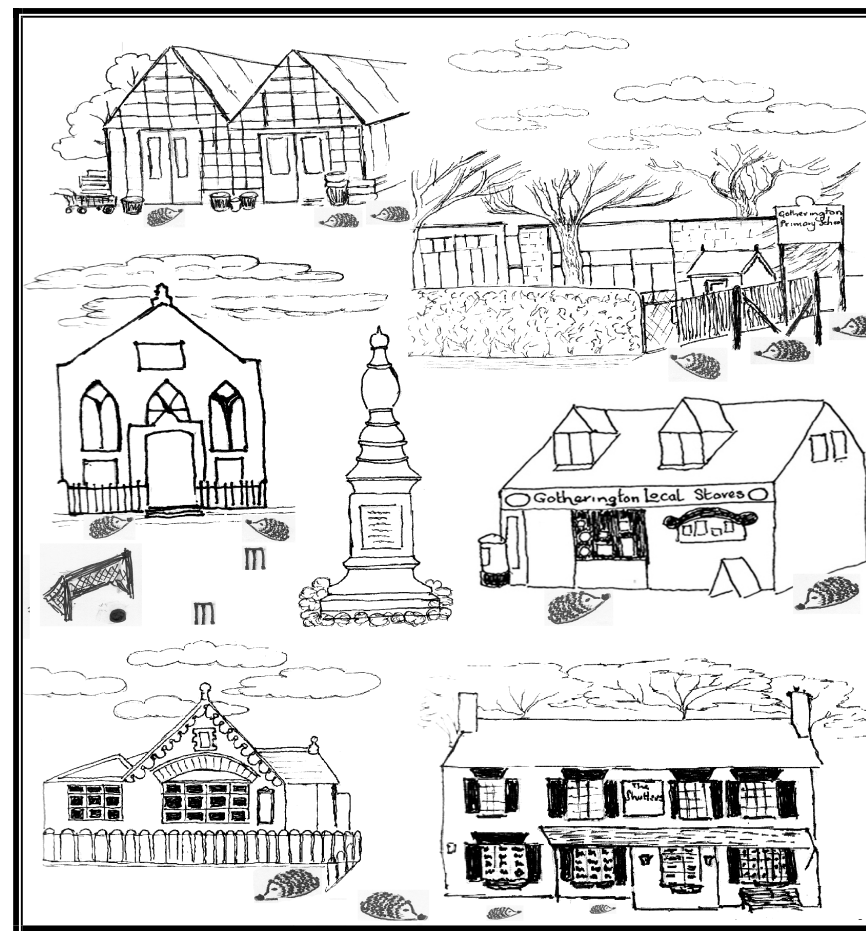


Contacts – Village Organisations

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 Chair Secretary	Tony Pawley (361539) Cathy Thompson (676708)
Gotherington Singers	Mondays 7:45 - 9:45pm	Chair Catherine Newbury Secretary: Sally Newbury (317276) sally.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	RRB 2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm	Bev Osborne 675741 chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk Clerk clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Freeman Field/Rex Rhodes/JW Pavilion Bookings		gotherington.org.uk/bookings/
Petanque Club	Sun 10am, Wed 2pm,	Mary Manders-Trett (674592)/ Christine 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 Jane Nicolson on 07421831022 jane.nicolson598@btinternet.com
W.I. 4th Wed 7.30pm	President Secretary	Christine Sharpe (07756855238) Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sally.newbury@gmail.com

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS

Spring 2024 Edition



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GOTHERINGTON TOPICS SPRING 2024 INDEX

<i>Church of England</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Easter Church Services</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Community WhatsApp</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Events</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Gardening Club</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Gotherington Nurseries</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Gotherington Singers</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>GOWNS</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
<i>Local History Society</i>	<i>Page 11</i>
<i>Bonfire 2023 - The Results!</i>	<i>Page 12</i>
<i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>	<i>Page 13</i>
<i>Old Chapel</i>	<i>Page 14</i>
<i>Old Chapel Book Club</i>	<i>Page 15</i>
<i>Oxenton Village Hall</i>	<i>Page 12</i>
<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Page 16</i>
<i>Petanque</i>	<i>Page 18</i>
<i>Prescott Speed Hill Climb</i>	<i>Page 19</i>
<i>Tennis Club</i>	<i>Page 20</i>
<i>Village Hall Committee</i>	<i>Page 21</i>
<i>Village Hall Coffee Mornings</i>	<i>Page 22</i>
<i>War Memorial Working Group</i>	<i>Page 23</i>
<i>W.I.</i>	<i>Page 24</i>
<i>Wine Club</i>	<i>Page 25</i>

TOPICS OF INTEREST

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

The next edition Summer 2024 is due out during the fortnight starting 1st July 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)

Following the interviews for a Team Vicar on 31 January, we can say that the person of our choice has been approached and verbally accepted the post.

Bishop Rachel now needs to make a formal offer in writing which, once accepted in writing, will need to be followed by the subsequent DBS process. We will make a full announcement as soon as we are able.

Tentatively, this is wonderful news. So thank you for your prayers, and please continue to pray that the next part of the process goes smoothly.

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With Lent starting early this year (14 February), have you given something up, or are you perhaps taking 10 minutes (or more) to do something different, either for yourself, or to help others?

If you haven't done so already, maybe you could spend 10 minutes every day between now and Easter looking at a bible verse, a poem or just spending time for you just 'being' – and wondering at the many signs of new life springing up around the village and further afield bringing colour back to our world – snowdrops, daffodils, crocuses.

If you would like to sign up to a devotional journey for the remainder of Lent please go to <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/confidence-devotional-journey/>

Finally, a full list of Easter Services can be found on page 4 of Topics.

Rev Tim Garrett, Team Rector

CHURCH OF ENGLAND EASTER SERVICES

On Palm Sunday we will have our usual services, as well as a Palm Sunday Church on the Hill at 9:30 am, culminating at Gotherington Old Chapel for Café Church at 10:00 am.

Palm Sunday – 24 March 2024

- 9:30 Church on the Hill Palm Sunday walk (meeting point tbc)
joining Café Church
- 10:00 Café Church at Gotherington Old Chapel
- 09:30 Breakfast Church at Southam Village Hall
- 09:30 Holy Communion at St Michael's
- 11:15 Contemporary Service at St Michael's

Maundy Thursday – 28 March 2024

- 19:30 Holy Communion BCP – St Michael's

Good Friday – 29 March 2024

- 11:00 Good Friday All Age Service – St Michael's
- 14:00 Good Friday Reflective Service – Woolstone

Easter Day – 31 March 2024

- 09:30 Holy Communion – Southam
- 10:00 Holy Communion – Oxenton
- 11:15 Easter Celebration with Communion – St Michael's

WINE CLUB

Contact: Jane Nicolson on 07421831022 or jane.nicolson598@btinternet.com
www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club
www.facebook.com/GotheringtonWineClub

In Vietnam, if you are in the know and ask your waiter for a glass of cobra wine, you will be served a glass of rice wine with a pickled snake inside. You have been warned!

We held our AGM in January 2024 and the first AGM of the then Gotherington Wine Makers took place on Thursday 11th November 1976.

Christine Godsell stepped down from her role as Secretary after 17 years and in recognition and appreciation of all she has done for the Club she was presented with a certificate giving her free life membership of Gotherington Wine Club. Jane Nicolson, already an active member of the Committee, has taken over the role of Wine Club Secretary. John Key was elected as a new committee member and joins Cora Patel, Pam Hemingway, Linda George, Gary Thompson, and Ray Chase (Treasurer) to complete the Wine Club Committee for 2024.

As we start 2024 we are having presentations from the Southern Hemisphere, France, Bohemia, Greece, east of the Mediterranean and we are including Member's Favourites again as this is always a popular event.

All events are documented in the 2024 programme of events and the Wine Club web site also has full details.

Membership remains at £25.00, entrance fees £5.00 for members and £10.00 for guests.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings at the Village Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, exceptions being our July Picnic in the Park, August outing and Christmas party in December.

Howard Samuels (Wine Club Chairman)

GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

Contacts President - Christine Sharpe (07756855238)

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

We have enjoyed many excellent speakers and activities recently.

In October, we had a fascinating talk on the Newport Medieval Ship by Toby Jones, who has been working on the restoration project for 20 years. The ship was built in 1449 and used to transport wine. When fully restored, it will be on display in Newport and will be well worth a visit.

Our Annual Meeting was in November when we also made paper crowns ready for our Christmas Party in December. Our party was a lovely event as usual with good food, mulled wine and entertainment by Lizzie Lindsell.

A dark January evening was cheered by Paul Evans, who entertained us with humorous poems, readings and anecdotes.

Future speakers are Ken Brightwell telling us about the Life of a Town Crier and Helen Plumb from Just Gems. And we will be celebrating our 71st Birthday in April with another party!

We have various trips and events planned for the year ahead including two theatre visits booked and a trip on the Steam Railway with fish and chips. There will be more craft activities as well and, of course, we continue to enjoy monthly lunches at The Shutter. On Saturday 27 April, we will be holding an Open Morning at Gotherington Village Hall between 10 and 12 – do come along to find out what the WI has to offer. There will be displays, refreshments and produce and plant stalls. Hope to see you there.

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.

We look forward to seeing you!

Jill Parsons

WHATSAPP COMMUNITY

Contact: Peter Barbour at gotheringtonwhatsapp@gmail.com

Join the Gotherington Community WhatsApp group here



How to scan this QR code:

- Open your smartphone's camera app.
- Point the camera at the QR code.
- An overlay will appear on your screen with the link to join this community chat
- Tap the link and request to join
- If it fails first time, try a second!

Alternatively, open your phone's web browser (Safari or Chrome) and navigate to the following link to join.

<http://bit.ly/3LZn3Jy>

Gotherington's WhatsApp community aims to:

- Foster a stronger sense of community and connection among residents. A place to seek and offer help or advice.
- Provide an organised and efficient way to share information and updates across focussed WhatsApp sub-chats.
- Improve reach and reliability of news and announcement broadcasting, in parallel with Facebook.
- Improve privacy, where needed. Only residents are invited by virtue of receiving Topics.

Current WhatsApp channels within our community include;

- Announcements (Only Admins may post)
- Gotherington Community Chat (General use)
- Gotherington Gaming Afternoons (Old Chapel event)
- Gotherington Safety and Security
- Gotherington Giveaways (Offer free stuff to others)

Admins of this community chat include those supporting our Facebook village page.

For assistance with joining or using these community chats contact the Admins on gotheringtonwhatsapp@gmail.com

This chat is in no way connected with any business or commercial enterprise. While residents may seek recommendations for services, its not to be used to advertise.

GOTHERINGTON EVENTS TEAM

Email: gotheringtonevents@gmail.com

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

We have an exciting line up of Village Events for 2024.

Mamma Mia is coming to Gotherington on Saturday 16th March at the Village Hall from 7pm.

Bar – Food – Fun- Dancing with live music from:

“One of Us” – Female Solo Tribute Act Sarah Hewson

Tickets are £15.00 from GETboxoffice@gmail.com

Annual Village Fete is on Saturday 15th June on Freeman Field and will include dog show, bake off, hog roast, bar, live music, fun and games and lots more.

Details to follow but if you would like to have a stall and or help in any way then please contact us.

Wild Wild West is on September 21st at the Village Hall and will include live music, food, bar and lots more besides.

This is another of our themed evenings and we are looking forward to putting this on as it is bound to be an exhilarating and special occasion.

More details to follow so please make a note of the date in your diary.

When putting on Village events The Events Team realises that sometimes we make a financial surplus and when this happens we contribute funds to the welfare of the Village such as the War Memorial and purchasing a defibrillator. We will continue to do this.

Gotherington Events Team

GOTHERINGTON WAR MEMORIAL

UPDATE FEBRUARY 2024

A Working Group has been formed to agree and implement key improvements to the War Memorial.

The group comprises representatives of the Parish Council, Local History Society, and other volunteers. Since last Autumn the following progress has been made:

- 1. A draft prioritised specification list of works agreed.*
- 2. Caroe & Partners have been appointed to provide support.*
- 3. Ian Bishop (Stonemason) chosen to undertake the works.*

Caroe & Partners are drafting a Specification to facilitate final pricing. We expect this to be completed by end March.

The working group is keen to share their plans with residents so they will soon be on display at an ‘Open Day’ at The Old Chapel. The date will be confirmed shortly.

The working group has already received several generous donations to help with the project’s costs. We would, though, welcome any additional donations. If you’re able to support, please contact any member of the Working Group – see details below.

Caroline Meller – gotheringtonlhs@gmail.com

Bev Osborne – chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Lisa Spicer – lisa@rjspicer.com

Tony Pawley – tony@thepawleys.co.uk

Brian Cosgrove – brian.1.cosgrove@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Good morning! Good afternoon! Good evening! Goodness me – Spring is popping up everywhere we look. But I am delighted to say – whatever the weather, you are all happy to trundle along to the Village Hall on the first Saturday of each month for your chat, tea, coffee, cake, bacon rolls.

A little bit of history for you: we started Coffee Mornings in November 2008. Here we are now – into our 16th year and still going strong. So far, YOU have contributed nearly £20,000 to Village Hall funds. That has gone a long way to keeping the rental costs so low. Please give yourselves a pat on the back, because without the groups doing their bit and all of you turning up and making it such a success, we could not have done it. So on behalf of the team – thank you, thank you, thank you – cake makers, kitchen helpers and customers. I would also like to thank the team for their continual support. A dependable lot with time cheerfully given.

Many of you will be unaware that we are now also having help from some of our youngsters - the Scouts! So, when possible, on the Friday before Coffee Morning, the Scouts pitch in and set up the tables and chairs. It's a big job, so thank you Scouts! (girls and boys).

And finally, when Coffee Morning ends at noon, we have similar magic happening when YOU help to put the chairs and tables away again. I may not have time to thank you personally, so please know that we appreciate all the help we get.

To those of you who are unable to help, for whatever reason, just keep coming along, smiling and enjoying. It's all we ask. And if you have any suggestions on how we can improve or change anything, please mention it.

So – until the next time – be good, be healthy, be happy.

Christine Godsell

GARDENING CLUB

Contact: Contact - ggcsecretary01@gmail.co.uk
www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club

After finishing 2023 with another very enjoyable Christmas party with delicious food, we started 2024 with an inspiring talk on Winter Colour and Interest in the Garden. For all except the most hardy gardeners amongst us, the winter months we will have been a time for doing indoor gardening tasks, including planning what to plant, which seeds to buy and wondering what the weather will be like this year.

Several of our speakers last year reflected on the need to adjust our gardening for the effects of climate change and also to encourage and support wildlife. So, time spent during the winter considering this could pay dividends this year.

We have a full programme of interesting talks and visits ahead, as well as our usual very sociable summer garden party and Christmas party.

Meetings are at 7.30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month in the village hall. Visitors are always very welcome. We charge £3 for non-members which includes a hot drink and biscuits.

Our next meetings are on as follows:

20 March – talk on **Seeded Perennial Meadows: a new way to garden?** by Sam Taylor-Hunt, a young local garden designer

17 April - talk on **Unusual Fruit and Veg** by Kev Alviti, a carpenter and smallholder with a passion for self-sufficiency

On **June 1** we will be holding our usual **Plant Sale** at the village hall coffee morning, selling plants donated by members at very modest prices.

So please come along and get some bargains.

Cathy Thompson

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

As Easter approaches, we have cards, beautiful houseplants, planted containers and seasonal hanging baskets available.

Whilst the team is busy with the production of summer bedding plants, our spring bedding plants and summer flowering bulbs can be planted now. There is plenty of colour in the glasshouses.

The shop has taken on a "grow your own" theme with our new range of seeds, seed potatoes, garlic bulbs, onion sets and shallots. Vegetable plants and herbs are in stock too. We have propagation products, cold frames, planters, obelisks and potting tables. See our wide range of gardening goods including tools, Hozelock, plant supports, lawn, plant & garden care products, gloves, wellies and cloggies. Solar lights are available too.

The team have been working hard in the outdoor plant area re-stocking with cottage garden plants, shrubs, roses, conifers and hedging plants. Our specimen shrubs add a focal point to the garden. Our tree area has a great range of ornamental and fruit trees including more mature trees.

We stock specialist composts, including peat free, Strulch and Carr's special organic compost and soil improver as well as decorative gravels. We have a comprehensive range of containers including houseplant pot covers, terracotta and glazed pots, barrels and plastic containers and bird care products including specialist feeds and feeders, bird tables and nest boxes.

*Our website can be found at www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk. Check our Facebook page for regular updates and follow us on Instagram. We are open Monday to Saturday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Sundays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. We shall be **closed on Easter Day** (31st March).*

We wish you well for the coming season and thank you for your continued support and wish you all "Happy Gardening"!

Mark and Liz, Gotherington Nurseries

Gotherington Topics

Spring 2024

Page 8

GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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

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

Bookings: gotherington.org.uk/bookings

Website: www.gotheringtonvillagehall.org.uk

There is something for everyone to take part in at the Hall including Brownies, Cubs and Scouts also use of Freeman Field just behind the Hall. Children's parties are a popular hire as the hall is well equipped and a very reasonable price. Prices per hour remain at £8.00 for local residents and £10.00 for those residing outside of the Village.

To book the Village Hall we have our own online booking system (Hallmaster) and this 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

Our major project in 2024 is to redecorate the Hall and we plan to do this in August which is a relatively quiet month. The long term plan is to extend the Hall but as you can imagine this is not going to be easy and one solution would be extending the back of the building but our options are limited so it is a case of wait and see!

The Village Hall is currently run by a small team and we need to bring in new faces and ideas - for example, we are keen to find someone who would take on the role of Secretary. If you would like to become involved and can help then please contact us for further information

The Village Hall has always been the meeting hub of the Village and is an important facility for the Village and this year all being well it will be the venue for the upcoming general election.

Howard Samuels, (GVH Treasurer)

Gotherington Topics

Spring 2024

Page 21

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

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

At the recent AGM, we discussed the results of the Club survey. As a result there are many new initiatives to look forward to this season. As well as the usual coaching sessions and social and league tennis offerings, we will be running a new tennis ladder throughout the season. Further social evenings and afternoons are also planned, to run alongside our annual Big Tennis Weekend held during the Wimbledon fortnight .

Junior tennis continues down on the courts on a Sunday morning. We cater for 2 age brackets with details as follows:

Ages 5-8: 9:00 – 9:45 and Ages 9-12: 9:45- 10:30

These sessions, run by Club Coach Liam Gough, have proved extremely popular and unfortunately the earlier session is now fully booked up to April, however we still have availability for the later/older session so if you are interested please check out our website under the juniors tab.

We now have some of the best facilities in the County , but for the Club to continue to thrive we need a regular influx of new members. The Club welcomes all standards of players with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment for all. In addition to Club Play, members also have the opportunity to play competitive tennis as the Club runs one men's and one lady's team in the Gloucestershire Summer Leagues. With annual fees held at £50 for all year round play for adults, £10 for juniors and greatly reduced fees for veterans, the Club really does offer excellent value for money. So if you are looking for either competition or a slightly less energetic and more a sociable experience in a beautifully scenic backdrop, then do give the Club a try.

We look forward to another successful and enjoyable season, meeting up with old friends and hopefully making new ones.

Ian Donnelly

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

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

Gotherington Singers is a very friendly and sociable female voice Choir and we have been pleased to welcome several new members and an accompanist to the Choir over the last few months. 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. Why not give us a try?

We are working on some lovely pieces and will be singing a selection at a musical coffee morning on Saturday 11 May between 10 and 11.30 am in Gotherington Village Hall. Do come along and meet us and enjoy some coffee and cake while listening to us singing.

We will also be performing all of our pieces, with audience participation, at our informal afternoon of Songs and Scones for family and friends in July. We are also planning another vocal workshop to be 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'll be getting together for another choir meal at the end of our Summer Term.

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, please either phone 317276, see our website, www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk , or email sall.newbury@gmail.com

Catherine Newbury

GOWNS

Gotherington, Oxenton and Woolstone Neighbourhood Scheme

Contacts: 07752 152485

<https://gotherington.org.uk/gowns/>

Do you need help occasionally? Or do you enjoy helping others and find you have occasional free time in the week? Then call GOWNS - we are a neighbourhood initiative that ensures no-one in our Parish goes without help. Our aim is to provide help to any resident of the three villages, whatever their age and circumstances. We will help with

- *transport to the shops, doctor, hospital or to village social events*
- *small DIY tasks, internet usage, minor household problems*
- *official form filling*
- *emergency childcare or carer illness*
- *recuperation after illness or treatment*
- *or just simply a chat or anything of an occasional or emergency nature.*

If you know someone who may need our help please tell them to call 07752152485. The phone is monitored daily - just leave a message and a GOWNS volunteer will call you back to discuss and offer help if they can.

VOLUNTEERING - *If you have some free time in the week please consider volunteering for GOWNS. As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to help your community, your neighbours and gain the satisfaction of helping others. You won't be inundated with requests, in fact you may only get asked to help a few times per year. We also need volunteers to help with the phone on a weekly basis to listen for messages. For more information about this please call 07752152485.*

Volunteers are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and insured. There is no charge for this service, but clients can be asked to cover expenses incurred and pay for such things as car parking, fuel costs, shopping, etc

PRESCOTT SPEED HILL CLIMB

Contacts: enquiries@bugatti.co.uk

www.prescotthillclimb.co.uk

The 2024 Season at Prescott Speed Hill Climb always starts in early spring and we are looking forward to a busy year on the Hill, with a wide range of events catering for every type of petrol-head!

At Prescott Speed Hill Climb, we are keen to work closer with the local community, and as such we are offering 100 FREE GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS for residents of Gotherington.

To claim your free general admission ticket, please visit our website (www.prescotthillclimb.co.uk), select your ticket and enter the coupon code GOTHERINGTON24 at checkout. The offer is only valid for early bird, single day, general admission tickets at the below events and don't forget, Under 16's are FREE!

We hope to see you on the Hill over the next few months!

6th April – Pre-Season Test Day

7th April – Car Club Day

20th & 21st April – British & Midland Hill Climb Championships

11th May – Prescott Italia

12th May – Classics at Prescott (Winchcombe Rotary)

25th & 26th May – Prescott Historique

8th & 9th June – Mid-Summer Meeting

23rd June – Bike Fest (Severn Freewheelers)

29th June – Members Meeting

Gemma Price – General Manager

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

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

It's raining! Comes as no surprise but at least things are looking up. And, thank goodness it is not a Petanque day – we don't like playing in the rain. But, being British, we play in all other weather and dress accordingly !

Throughout the year, we often get people stop to watch, even ask questions. Was that YOU ?? Was it you who said you fancied having a go? Well, if it was, please come and try. We always have spare boules with us and you would be made very welcome. It doesn't matter that you have never done it before, or you think you might be useless, or that we are all too good. We're not! We might just look it to an outsider!

We all started knowing nothing – our members all remember that and will not judge you. We love to share the enjoyment and simplicity of this game. It can get edgy, tense, close run.....you hold shot and then someone (often your own team player) moves your boule and the shot goes to the opposition! Do we fall out? Stamp our feet? Raise our eyes? Well.....yes....but we always smile with it. We all get it wrong....so you won't be the first.

I suppose what I am trying to say is – it doesn't matter. We just enjoy playing. We are a relaxed, jolly bunch. Petanque is a great leveller – young, old, male, female, tall, short, it makes no difference.

We will soon be holding our AGM and kick starting another year of fun, competition, play, interest, social events. If you want to know more, contact us or just come along to one of our sessions. Times are on the back of Topics.

Take care everyone

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 2024

Our programme continues on March 26th with a talk by Barry Simon on the history of Swindon Village. It's hoped that this will be followed in the Summer by a guided walk around that area. In April, 'Old Paths of Gloucestershire' will be the subject of a talk by Alan Pilbeam; perfect timing to then explore some of the Rights of Way he mentions during the summer months. The season of talks finishes in May with a visit by Shepherd's Crook, led by two of our former residents, Phil and Jenny Aplin. They will be sharing songs sung in what was once our local workhouse at Winchcombe.

All talks are held at the Village Hall, on the fourth Tuesday, and begin at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome; admission £3, which includes light refreshments.

Social Media

The LHS uses two socials to encourage interest in our local heritage. Our Facebook page is called 'Gotherington History' and is supported to date by 269 followers. As well as publicising events and project updates by the War Memorial Working Group, the page showcases old photographs of the area.

Our 'X' (Twitter) account has a more modest following of 45 but is another useful platform through which the Society keeps in touch.

Finally, if you subscribe to the Ancestry family history website, which incidentally is also available at our local library, then you can access the village family tree, 'Gotherington Connections.' There are now 3,469 profiles of people who have lived in the area over the centuries. Worth a look.

Caroline Meller, Secretary

BONFIRE 2023 - THE RESULTS!

The Gotherington Bonfire organisers are pleased to announce that, following another successful event in November 2023, we have now been able to cover all our ongoing costs and make significant donations to the following three local Charities:

- *The Secret Garden in Cheltenham for Alzheimer's Support*
- *Creative Arts in Cheltenham, providing Dementia Care*
- *Brain Tumour Support in Gloucestershire*

Gotherington families have been touched by these conditions and these local organisations give valuable help.

You can find full details of the work done by each of these Charities on the following websites:

www.lilianfaithfull.co.uk/our-homes/secret-garden-community-hub/

www.openarmsartists.org.uk

www.braintumoursupport.co.uk

Finally, please put Sunday 3rd November 2024 in your diaries for next year.

Gary Thompson, on behalf of the Gotherington Bonfire organisers

OXENTON VILLAGE HALL

Contact: Lorraine Dodd 01242 352258

Oxenton Village Hall is a great place for family occasions, children's parties, craft groups, and local meetings of any kind. It is available to hire, daytime and evenings, for the very reasonable rate of £6 per hour.

It has a full range of kitchen facilities. The hall has an upper limit of 90 people and can comfortably seat 40 people with tables and chairs.

Please contact me 01242 352258 to make a reservation.

Lorraine Dodd

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

(continuation)

A new initiative for the parish council is to construct a "French Drain" (a trench filled with gravel) around the new tennis courts. This will be 400mm wide strip to stop weeds from encroaching under the new surface and guarantee the longevity of the courts for many years.

Dog mess is a perennial issue in the village especially in the new Grange development. We are looking into a mobile CCTV system which can be installed at specific locations to deal with people who do not pick up after their dogs. In the meantime we must remind all residents that dog mess needs to be PICKED UP into a bag and disposed of, BUT NOT BY BEING FLICKED INTO A HEDGE OR ONTO THE ROAD.

Some residents have yet to alter the sensitivity on their security lights and they are still coming on as people walk along the pavement. Please make sure yours only activate when someone enters your property only.

On a very positive note, we have secured the services of a new clerk, Selina Holder. Selina has many links to the village and is keen to be involved in our community, so we wish her every success in her new role. Her email address is clerk@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk if you need to contact her.

Finally, we are always looking for new member to join us. The wider the range of voices and talents we have, the greater chance we have to represent all parts of our community. If you think you might have some time to contribute to this very valuable cause of working for your community and helping it to thrive, then please contact me on chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk or any other council member, and have a chat.

Enjoy the spring time.

Bev Osborne, Chair, Gotherington Parish Council

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Facebook: @GPCNoticeboard

Contact: Beverly Osborne 675741 chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

What a busy few months we have had as a village. It has been an unsettling time for some residents especially with the start of the Meadow development just after Christmas. The Haul Road is being constructed and that should reduce construction traffic coming through the village. Despite constant complaints from us, a travel plan and much signage to say "No Construction Traffic", it seems some hauliers still ignore it all and drive through anyway. Very frustrating.

By now, the resurfacing of the village roads should be complete. We are fortunate to have secured the funding to do this work and are also grateful to all residents who took the time to send in images and reports of the poor surface which helped highways understand the need for the repairs.

Our next focus is to get the pavement s repaired. Three people have been injured due to trip hazards in the past year so please email the Clerk if you have any specific concerns around the pavement outside your property or report it on the Gloucestershire Highways website.

You will see that we have recently replaced the toddler swings in the playpark. One had been damaged so we took the opportunity to replace both and we hope these new colourful swings will be well used.

We are pleased to be involved with the War Memorial Working Group (see page 24 for full details). This has been on the Parish Council radar for many years without any progress, but this group have now developed a list of the primary needs, engaged a specialist conservation architect to develop the scope of work, tendered for the work and engaged a specialist stone mason to carry out the repairs so we are confident the works will be completed in 2024. This will protect our much-loved asset for the future. We thank the GET team and residents who have made contributions to the fund.

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

***Home security** does not just mean locking your doors and windows - protecting your digital devices with strong passwords is also important to keeping yourself and your personal data safe*

Creating a strong password does not need to be complicated and using three random words is a recommended way of generating passwords such as planegiraffetable.

It is easier to remember and takes trillions of years for a computer algorithm to crack.

There have been reports of Distraction thefts taking place within Tewkesbury and Cheltenham.

***Be Cautious** if someone asks you for directions, the time, or simply about your vehicle while you are unpacking your trolley into the car.*

And please be mindful of your personal belongings, when leaving them in trolleys while out shopping, back pockets, coats etc and ensure you never leave your bag on the back of a chair when in restaurants. These are easy pickings for thieves.

Thank you for reading this and Please Stay Safe

Howard Samuels

THE OLD CHAPEL

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

The Old Chapel hosted lots of festive fun in the run up to Christmas, highlights including a special Bingo evening in November with profits and donations going to the British Heart Foundation and an evening of Christmas music performed by Peter Gill. We were also pleased to finish the year with the installation of the new curtains on the mezzanine.

The New Year has been no less busy, with a full house in attendance for a performance by new Gotherington Band, '18 Strings'. The band played a varied set of rock, folk and jazz numbers, which had the audience swaying and singing along. Look out for future performance dates on the website. In March, Alison Neil will be back by popular demand to perform her new show 'Larks and Magic' which tells the story about the life of E Nesbit. Tickets can be booked via oldchapelbookings@gmail.com.

For all budding or enthusiastic photographers out there, we have now launched our Old Chapel photography competition and are asking entrants to submit their favourite photographs of Gotherington Village. Adult and Child entries are welcome, with the winning photographs featuring in our village 2025 calendar which you will be able to purchase before the end of the year. So, get snapping and we look forward to seeing all your entries.

For more details about the competition, our regular clubs and upcoming events please remember to visit the new Old Chapel website www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk

Remember, you can also hire the Old Chapel for your own parties or events – booking enquiries can be sent to oldchapelbookings@gmail.com.

THE OLD CHAPEL BOOK CLUB

Contact: Linda Pawley, 0124236153, email 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're interested

This quarter we only read two books. This is because we do not meet in January because it would be too near Christmas and New Year activities. We read Managing Expectations by Minnie Driver and The Maid by Nita Prose.

"Managing Expectations" was a book of reminisces not necessarily following on closely one to the next so the time scale was a bit difficult to tell but it was amusing.

"The Maid" was a who-done-it and the main character was the maid who worked at the hotel and saw much of what happened but was hardly noticed as she went about her work.

Our next book to read is "Adventures of a Young Naturalist" by David Attenborough

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