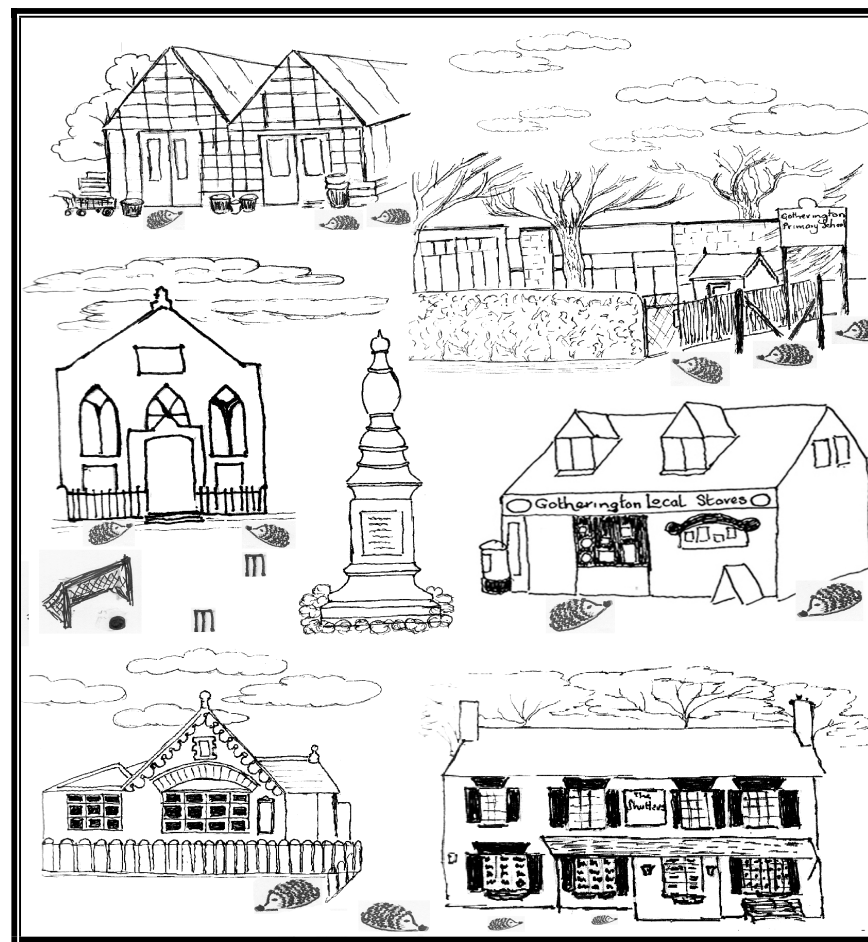


Contacts – Village Organisations

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS		Contact
Baby and Toddler Group Village Hall Tue 10:00–11:30		childrenandfamilies@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk
Brownies Mon 6.00pm		Amy Sieger gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
Cricket Club		Rob Sharp (678057) / Brian Cosgrove (676216)
C of E 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 Tony Pawley (361539) Secretary Cathy Thompson (676708)
Gotherington Men's Shed		gotheringtonmensshed25@gmail.com
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 Art and Craft Club		Diane Coules, 01242 67503 di.coules@hotmail.com
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:		Chris Bambridge (07713 775241) Linda Howard (07710 224368) Lorraine Dodd (07419 770401)
Oxenton Village Bookings:		
Parish Council RRB 2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm Parish Council Clerk		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) Beverley Joyner (07361912951)
Gotherington Events		gotheringtonevents@gmail.com
Tennis Club		Ian Donnelly (674404)
Village Hall (Gotherington) Chair 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 3rd Tue 8pm		Chairperson Howard Samuels (672492) Secretary hsamuels@btinternet.com Jane Nicolson on 07421831022 jane.nicolson598@btinternet.com
W.I. 4th Wed 7.30pm		President Christine Sharpe (07756855238) Secretary Gilly Ivory email: gillianne.ivory@gmail.com

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS

Autumn 2025 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 2026 is due out by the end of March 2026.

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 2025

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Beverly Osborne	(Chair)	01242675741 07974101659	chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Steve Neighbour	(V-chair)	07881339813	cllr.neighbour@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Tim Fawke		07968548627	Cllr.fawke@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Howard Samuels			cllr.samuels@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Tony Lidington		07749933301	Cllr.lidington@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Hannah Fry		07818405937	Cllr.fry@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
David Rees			Cllr.rees@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Jane Nicolson			cllr.nicolson@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Clive Webber			cllr.webber@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
GPC bookings			bookings@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Clerk	Clerk/RF	07943478893	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)
Cleavelands 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 Cllr.Nigel Adcock	councillor.adcock@teewkesbury.gov.uk
Borough Councillor Cllr. Cheryl Agg	councillor.agg@teewkesbury.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)

Dear Friends

Well, Summer was hot, wasn't it? And now we move towards a season of shorter days and longer, darker nights, when the cold and damp set in, flooding is possible, and road closures abound.

I don't blame anyone for settling in; getting cosy and putting on their favourite telly show or film at this time of year – I get it. I love, 'Strictly' too. But, in reality, these are the months when we actually need each other more than ever. Isolation, loneliness, stress, illness, and all sorts of challenges tend to occur more often during this season – or at the very least, we become more aware of them and their effects on us.

Jesus told a story about a man who was robbed, beaten, and left half-dead on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. A priest and a Levite both saw him but passed by without helping, while a Samaritan stopped, cared for his wounds, and paid for his continued care at an inn. Jesus then explained that the true neighbour was the one who showed mercy, urging others to do the same. (You can read the full story in Luke 10 of the Bible.)

In this story, those who should have helped didn't – and the person no-one expected to help stepped up to serve. Those who might have stopped may have felt they had somewhere better to be, or perhaps they just needed to get home for, 'Strictly', too.

We all have a choice. I don't want to be someone who walks by a neighbour in need this season.

My prayer, inspired by Christ's words, is that our compassion will abound and our love increase as we take the time to notice our neighbours over these next few months.

Rev'd Ben Williams, Team Vicar

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## CLEEVE REPAIR CAFE

Contacts: (email) [transition.cleeve@gmail.com](mailto:transition.cleeve@gmail.com)

*October was the one-year anniversary of the opening of Cleeve Repair Café. It is held on the second Saturday of each month, from 2pm to 4pm in the Cleeve Community Building (next to the Library). If you haven't yet been along, please do pop in. Forthcoming dates: 8 November, 13 December, 10 January, 14 February, 14 March.*

*When a household item stops working or an item of clothing has a tear, do your bit for the environment by bringing it along to the Repair Café, where our skilled repairers will do their best to fix it for you. There is no charge, but we appreciate a donation if you are happy with the work. Each month the team looks at around 30 items and most of these can be repaired. You can enjoy a hot drink and slice of cake while you wait.*

*We are always keen for new volunteers who are prepared to give up an afternoon each month, when they can. As well as people with repair skills (mechanical, sewing, electrical, bikes etc) we welcome volunteers to help on the day with our reception desk, serving drinks and cakes, and welcoming visitors - or behind the scenes with publicity, admin and baking. We are a happy and dedicated team!*

*Can't wait until the 2nd Saturday of the month? There are also regular repair cafés in Cheltenham, Charlton Kings, Tewkesbury, Churchdown and Prestbury.*

*More details on Gloucestershire County Council's webpage: <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/repair-cafes/find-your-nearest-repair-cafe/>*

*Email [transition.cleeve@gmail.com](mailto:transition.cleeve@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook for more up to date information*

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CRICKET CLUB

www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk

Contact: Rob Sharp at rob_sharp100@hotmail.com

The 2025 cricket season was one of the driest on record, with some saying it was consistently drier than 1976. This meant that pitch preparation was much harder but Brian Cosgrove and a team of helpers did a great job.

Cricket is facing some challenges as the game seeks to maintain a foothold in communities where priorities and time constraints mean it's harder to devote the amount of time to the sport that was the norm a generation ago.

We had an enjoyable season with nearly 40 players playing at least one game. Our record of 5 wins and 5 losses was respectable.

A big highlight was the game between current and ex players to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Club being reformed and playing at Freeman Field. It was a wonderful occasion and well supported by the village. Both Jon and Nick Freeman were in attendance, which was a lovely nod towards David Freeman after whom the field is named. We had players from the 1960's in attendance and the standard of play was very good. Brian Gardiner our president, aged 82 faced the first over from Club Treasurer Brian Cosgrove (70) and the younger generation carried on from there.

Another highlight was hosting the Royal Household Cricket Club, a fixture we first played in 2015 to mark our 50th Anniversary. We will be playing at Windsor Castle in the return fixture in 2026.

Our u15 players merged with Winchcombe to play in a combined team which ensured some ongoing youth cricket, but now that Brian and Yvonne are no longer running Junior sides we will need somebody to step forward if we are to re establish a youth section.

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

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## GOTHERINGTON EVENTS TEAM

Email: [gotheringtonevents@gmail.com](mailto:gotheringtonevents@gmail.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonEvents>

Our annual GFEST took place on Saturday, 12th July at Freeman Field. We were fortunate with the weather which, while hot, made for a pleasant day overall, though some may have found the heat a little much at times.

The festivities began with a lively performance from “The Music Man.” David Lloyd. His engaging and interactive show proved a highlight for children, as he delighted them by composing songs using their names. The atmosphere throughout the afternoon was filled with joy and laughter, as both children and adults cheered and enjoyed the entertainment.

The ever-popular hog roast provided by Outback Hog Roasts was a real crowd-pleaser and sold out quickly.

Local talent was showcased with live performances from 18 Strings (from Gotherington) and Connections from Bishops Cleeve. Their music contributed to the vibrant and festive ambience, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy.

This year, we were especially pleased to introduce our new purpose-built bar, expertly constructed by members of the Gotherington Men’s Shed. Their work and craftsmanship added a fantastic new element to the event.

With the success of this year’s festival, we are now turning our attention to organising a proper Village Fete in 2026. To start, we have invited representatives from various village groups to join us at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 4th November for discussions on how best to move forward with this exciting idea. Everyone is welcome to attend and share their thoughts.

We’d also like your suggestions — contact us via email or speak to a team member: Howard Samuels, Jane Nicolson, Ray Chase, Linda George, Julie Brown, Jan Hampshire. And remember, all funds raised benefit the village—thank you for your ongoing support.

## WINE CLUB

Contact: Jane Nicolson on 07421831022 or [jane.nicolson598@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.nicolson598@btinternet.com)  
[www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club](http://www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club) [www.facebook.com/GotheringtonWineClub](https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonWineClub)

The Gotherington Wine Club welcomes our members and their guests to our meetings in Gotherington Village Hall on the third Tuesday of each month with our next scheduled meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm.

This year we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with our August outing to Deer Park Vineyard, a beautiful Cotswolds Vineyard located on Bredon Hill with breath-taking views on a perfect summers day. The location truly was a very fitting place for this great occasion. We have much to thank our founder, previous and current members for the success of our Club.

All our planned meetings for 2026 can be found on the Village Website and our Wine Club Website <https://gotherington.org.uk/wine-club/>. Our first meeting of 2026 will be our AGM, with the Chairman’s choice of wines & a classic light ploughman’s supper on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 8 pm

The annual membership remains at £25, and entrance fees of £5 for members and £10 for guests. All are welcome to our meetings and we look forward to seeing you soon.

**Jane Nicolson**, Wine Club Secretary

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Contact Churchwardens: Woolstone - Bob Wickens (679345)  
Oxenton - Michael. Bower (672900)

|             |          |                           |              |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 14 December | 10:30 am | Carols For Christmas      | Village Hall |
| 14 December | 3:00 pm  | Christmas Extravaganza    | Village Hall |
| 21 December | 4:00 pm  | Traditional Carol Service | Oxenton      |
| 24 December | 3:00 pm  | Crib Service              | Woolstone    |
| 24 December | 11:00 pm | Midnight Communion        | St Michael’s |
| 25 December | 10:00 am | Christmas Communion       | Oxenton      |
| 28 December |          | NO SERVICE                |              |

## GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

Contacts President - Christine Sharpe (07756855238)  
Secretary – Gilly Ivory email: gillianme.ivory@gmail.com

*Our Summer Garden Party in June was a very happy evening, enjoying the lovely views accompanied by Pimm's, strawberries and cream and musical entertainment from Duncan Ivory. Colin Terrell in July talked to us about brain health. The brain needs a good steady supply of blood pumped from the heart muscle so general health supported by exercise is important (plus eat less sugar!).*

*Few of us had heard of Mercy Ships until Caroline Casterton spoke to us in August. Two of these huge hospital ships are generally based on the African coast and provide the only available medical care for 9 out of 10 people. They are mostly manned by volunteers and we heard some very moving stories about how simple treatments had changed people's lives.*

*We were pleased to see Andrew Mellor back in Gotherington in September when he spoke to us very enthusiastically about Blue Plaques – Poets, Pioneers and Performers. He had researched some really interesting facts about several people from Gloucestershire.*

*Future talks include the History of Pantomime, a session of gift wrapping, poetry, energy advice and the history of Sudeley Castle. Pick up a flier from the Village Hall or the Old Chapel for information or visit our website, [www.gtwowi.org.uk](http://www.gtwowi.org.uk). We enjoy monthly lunches at the Shutters and an evening Dine Out Club. Do come and join us, just bring £1 for the raffle and a cup of coffee. We meet in Gotherington Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.*

**Jill Parsons**

## GARDENING CLUB

**Contact:** Contact - ggcsecretary01@gmail.co.uk  
[www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club](http://www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club)

*We have had some excellent talks on trees and fascinating plants and flowers, including ornamental grasses, and a very sociable evening with contributions from members on anything gardening-related.*

*We visited Ashwood Nurseries & the very beautiful and captivating John's Garden near Stourbridge in July - ideas for next year welcome.*

*We hosted the Village Hall Coffee Morning in June, with a successful plant sale – and bacon baps and cakes! The annual members' garden party was as enjoyable as ever, thanks to our garden host and many members and friends who worked really hard.*

*The War Memorial flowerbeds have been exceptionally colourful, thanks to Mark and Liz at Gotherington Nurseries and keen members. Best wishes to the Nurseries - they've suffered a lot from road closures.*

*Meetings are in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the third Wednesday of most months, with a hot drink and biscuits after the talk. Membership is currently just £20 for 12 months; we charge £3 for non-members each meeting. Visitors and new members are always welcome.*

*Please look out for posters and posts on the village Facebook page or contact ggcsecretary01@gmail.com for more information.*

Coming up: November 19th: Gardens of Japan;  
December 17th: Members' Christmas Party;  
January 21<sup>st</sup>: Secret Lives of Trees(part2);  
February 18th: AGM and talk

**Tony Pawley**

## NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

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

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

*Our glasshouses are bursting with home-grown winter bedding plants and tub & basket plants. The team have planted up colourful, seasonal hanging baskets & containers, which make great gifts too. We have hellebores, heathers, hedging plants, shrubs, trees and soft fruit plants available now.*

*The shop has been transformed with beautiful Christmas decorations, lights, Christmas tree holders, candles, gift-wrapping and cards. Also, Amaryllis gift packs and seasonal houseplants are available now. Our freshly cut and potted Christmas trees will arrive mid- November.*

*Have a look at the Nurseries for great gift ideas, from hand-tools to propagation equipment and bird care products to shrubs and trees. Can't decide? Why not buy a National Garden Gift card, redeemable at many 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 sell habitats for bugs, bees & hedgehogs too. We have logs, kindling wood and winter car care products available now.*

*January sees the arrival of our seed potatoes, onion sets, our full collection of seeds and spring flowering bulb plants. Summer flowering bulbs will be on sale in February.*

*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 2026. Real Christmas trees can be recycled at the Nurseries in early January.*

*Happy gardening!*

**Mark and Liz, Gotherington Nurseries**

## VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

Contact: Christine Godsell [cgodsell1967@gmail.com](mailto:cgodsell1967@gmail.com) / tel 672821

*Good Morning...Afternoon....Evening....Whatever time of day you are reading this!!!*

*I'm going to sneak in a quiet 'thank you' to all those who make Topics available – those who diligently put in their entries, the Editor, the printers and the delivery team. It is such a good resource for our village.*

*Now...I hate to say it but we are nevertheless gearing up for Christmas. I know...it seems like only a couple of months since the last one, but there is no avoiding it I'm afraid. We will have some crafts at the November and December Coffee Mornings – so you may pick up a unique or unusual present. And the hall will be decked out in all it's glory for December – so you must come along and enjoy the atmosphere.*

*The village old-timers already know what a good morning we have. So – if you are new to the village – young, old or enviably in-between, please bring yourselves, your children (we have colouring and a few toys) and your parents and neighbours along for a very inexpensive treat. Hot drinks of course, home-made cakes, delicious bacon rolls with Andy Hill's excellent bacon. And for December only.....drum roll here.....add some Brie and Cranberry to your bacon roll. Mmmmmmm! Is that tempting or what.*

*And remember.....all the profits go towards the upkeep of the hall and help enormously in keeping the rental costs so low. Our hall is a resource we cannot do without so you will be supporting it as well as having a lovely chatty relaxed time.*

*I really hope to see some newcomers....but as you know, everyone is welcome and you will all be greeted with a smile. Enjoy!!!!*

*The team look forward to seeing you on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.*

**Christine Godsell**

## 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 Reading Room, now Gotherington Village Hall, marks its 120th anniversary on Sunday, 16th November 2025. We look forward to welcoming our Hall users and affiliated groups and details will follow with official invitations; tea and scones with jam and cream will be served.*

*The Hall's kitchen will undergo a major renovation, including new appliances and cabinetry, targeted for completion by August 2026 which is normally a quiet month and opportunity to undertake these significant improvements,*

*Effective 1st September, PayPal is no longer accepted for Hall hire due to rising costs; please use bank transfer or cheque. +New hire rates from 1st September: £10/hour for residents, £15/hour for non-residents and businesses. All fees include access to facilities and kitchen items.*

*The Hall hosts various groups such as WI, History Society, Scouts, and fitness classes. We would like to encourage representatives from all user groups to attend our bi-monthly meetings. Whether you wish to join the committee or simply observe proceedings and contribute feedback regarding the Hall's operations, your participation is most welcome.*

*Bookings must be made through our online system on the village website [gotherington.org.uk/bookings](http://gotherington.org.uk/bookings), where further information and contacts are available.*

*Since its inception, Gotherington Village Hall has continued to serve an expanding community, reflecting the growth in residential development and population. The Hall remains a popular venue for a wide range of activities, including fitness sessions, birthday parties, dance rehearsals, and regular meetings of various clubs and societies.*

**Howard Samuels**, GVH Treasurer

(email [hsamuels@btinternet.com](mailto:hsamuels@btinternet.com) or phone 07707 467736)

## 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 completed a very busy year with our Summer event - our annual Songs & Scones afternoon - which was held in St. Michael & All Angels' Church on Saturday 28 June. We were pleased to see so many people there and to be able to donate £75 to the Alzheimer's Society from donations and the raffle. In September, we resumed practices and are now working on a wide range of lovely pieces, which we will be singing at our future concerts and events.*

**Future events:** Our Christmas concert will be held again in St. Michael's on Saturday 6 December at 2 p.m. We are delighted that Duncan Ivory will be joining us again for this concert. On 28 February we are holding another Come and Sing Day in Gotherington Village Hall starting at 10 a.m. – all welcome. We will complete our year with a Summer concert on Saturday 4 July at 3 p.m. at St. Michael's. Contact Sally for more information on all of our events.

*We are a very friendly and sociable female voice choir. 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. Just come along to any of our practices. You can come along for 3 weeks before committing to joining us. The social side is important to us too! Each rehearsal includes a break for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat, and we get together for a meal at the end of each term.*

*Why not give us a try?*

*We rehearse in Gotherington Village Hall on Mondays in term time between 7.45 pm and 9.30 pm.*

*To find out more about us you can email [sall.newbury@gmail.com](mailto:sall.newbury@gmail.com), see our website, [www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk](http://www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk), or phone 317276*

**Julie Devereux**

## GOWNS

*Gotherington, Oxenton and Woolstone Neighbourhood Scheme*

*Contacts: 07752 152485  
<https://gotherington.org.uk/gowns/>*

*Do you need help occasionally? Then call GOWNS. We are a neighbourhood initiative to provide help to any resident of the three villages, whatever their age and circumstances.*

*We can help with*

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

*If you need help or know someone who does please call us on*

**07752 152485**

*The phone is monitored daily - just leave a message and a GOWNS volunteer will call you back to discuss the issue 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 07752 152485.*

*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 and fuel costs.*

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis)*

*As the nights start to draw in and the season starts to wind down, it's time to reflect on what has been a very successful season for the Club.*

*Starting with the leagues, congratulations to our lady's team on gaining promotion after the disappointment of last season. This was secured on the very last match of the season with a 4-0 victory over Twynning. While very much a team effort, special mention must go to Bev Thomas who went through the entire season unbeaten with a league leading record of 14-0. The men initially struggled in the higher league and were not helped by injuries and unavailability. But form improved and they secured their place in the league with a final match 4-0 victory over Minchinhampton!*

*Membership numbers are up and the courts being regularly full on both Monday and Wednesday evenings. The free coaching sessions run on Wednesday evenings have also helped, so many thanks must go to Club Coach Liam Gough for his coaching skills and infinite patience!!*

*During Wimbledon week we hosted our fifth Great Tennis Weekend, opening doors for everyone to enjoy a wide raft of tennis related activities irrespective of age and ability. We also ran several socials over the season, the last of which took place at the end of September. Congratulations to our winners Lynda and Andrew and many thanks to James for organising. Also huge thanks to Dave and Sarah at the Shutters for hosting us all and indeed for all the support they provide to the clubs in the village.*

*Finally, tennis is a great fun game to enjoy for all ages and it's been really encouraging to see an increase in bookings for the courts. We keep the courts clean and in the best possible condition all the year round for the community to enjoy, so why not join in? Dust off that old Dunlop Maxfli racket and book a court over the winter months. Enjoy!*

**Ian Donnelly**

## **GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB**

**Contacts:** Mary Manders-Trett/ mmanderstrett@gmail.com  
Beverley Joyner (07361912951)

*We have had another good season as the weather has been fine on most playing days, but rather too hot for some. Some of our events were actually curtailed because of the heat but that was better than being washed out.*

*It has been a special year as it is our 30<sup>th</sup> year in existence. All those years ago, several members of the newly formed Club dug out and laid a piste on which to play the game which was then something of a novelty for us. With help and advice from 'those in the know', rules of the game were established and we never looked back.*

*We soon formed a team to take part in the Cotswold League and very much enjoyed travelling to different pistes and meeting new people, many of whom we still occasionally see at tournaments or matches and now regard as old friends. The team did well this time, finishing top of the division so we should be promoted next season.*

*We held an Anniversary Lunch at the end of July at the Shutters which was most enjoyable. This was attended by a good number of current members and a few former players who helped us celebrate.*

*Our last social event took place at the beginning of September when we played our Men v Ladies match which the men won again! (I think that they intimidate us ladies).*

*We followed that with supper in the RR Building with a celebratory Anniversary Cake and the annual World Soft Boule Championship.*

*We are always glad to welcome possible new members so come and join us on a Wednesday afternoon or Sunday Morning if you would like to give it a try.*

**Mary Manders-Trett**

## **JUNIOR FOOTBALL**

**Contact:** Rob Sharp on 01242 678057 or rob\_sharp100@hotmail.com

*The 2025/26 season is up and running and we once again have well over 200 children enjoying their sporting activities. We have 9 girls sides and 5 boys teams this year, one of which is a new u6 side for the boys - we hope they will enjoy their first year, and it would be great if they can carry on all the way through to u18, which many of our teams do.*

*We are very grateful to the school for allowing us to use their facilities which help promote a really good community spirit. We have taken steps to reduce fixture congestion and traffic, and also purchased a boot scraper for players to use and minimise the amount of mud on the pavements.*

*Our u16 Girls side won the Gloucestershire County League and Cup double and remained unbeaten last season. They have entered an u18 league covering Bristol and Weston-super-Mare as well as Gloucestershire. After five games, quite remarkably our u17 side is top of the Bristol / Somerset / Glos u18 girls league.*

*All of our other sides have made good starts to the season, with our u15 boys topping division one at this early stage. Our u16 boys' side have now finished playing, with many of the players having represented the Club since a very young age. Thank you to Marcus Eperjesi who kept this team going and has contributed over 10 years service as a Volunteer coach.*

*Thank you also to Katie Marasinghe who has stepped down after a valuable stint as Club Welfare officer. This is a key position within the Club and over the last few years she has done an excellent job and devoted a lot of time to the role.*

*Anybody wishing to get involved please make contact as the club relies entirely on volunteers, who appreciate the support from sponsors, parents, the Parish Council, The School and people in the community who step into help such as Brian Herridge who helped repair the goals.*

**Rob Sharp, Chairman and Secretary GJFC**

## LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contacts: Ken Ascroft (673192)

[galhs.org.uk](http://galhs.org.uk)

[treasurer@galhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@galhs.org.uk)

*What a turn out we had in September for our first talk for the 2025/26 programme! Gotherington History Club is all about bringing the past to life, and our presenter, Josh Hargreaves, certainly did that when he talked us through the Archaeological Findings in the Meadow Development.*

*Josh presented evidence of human activity in Gotherington from Neolithic through Bronze Age to middle Iron Age and from Roman to Anglo Saxon.*

*Members and guests were fascinated to see at close hand some Iron Age pottery pieces and beads found in an Anglo-Saxon grave on the site, some of which were quite rare. Full details of the talk can be found on our website.*

*Our October talk was also very enlightening. Who knew there was a RAF camp at Stoke Orchard, which became a hub for aviator training and specialised in the training of glider pilots?!*

*Coming up soon:*

*On 25th November, Angela Dunsby of the John Moore Museum will talk about Schools, Scholars and Scolding – Education in 16th and 17th centuries.*

*On 16th December, Robin Burton will look at what Christmas used to be like with The History of Christmas and Wassailing, illustrated with pictures and songs.*

*We have recently gained two new committee members, Caroline Ryman and Julie Ryan, who have taken on some of the secretarial duties. Their help is much appreciated.*

*Membership of the LHS remains at only £15 for the year. We also welcome guests for only £3 a time. See our website for full details.*

**Ken Ascroft, Treasurer**

*The new Lioncourt development has started. Unfortunately we will all face challenges with that traffic coming through the village, but please let us know if you have any specific concerns so we can deal with them as soon as they arise. We aim to establish a good working relationship with Lioncourt in the same way that we did with Hayfields, in order to present residents' issues in a constructive manner.*

*We also have the other smaller developments coming on stream soon. It's certainly going to be a busy Autumn/Winter.*

*There is an ongoing issue around the lack of any litter bins on the Grange development. We have offered to install a bin in the public open space area which would be emptied by TBC and paid for out of general taxation (so free of charge for the residents of that development) but unfortunately this offer has been refused. We stand ready to help in the future if there can be an agreement reached.*

*We had a very constructive meeting in the Rex Rhodes building this month. It was wonderful to see so many residents taking an interest in our Parish Council and the way it operates. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Rex Rhodes building. These are the dates for the next twelve meetings so please come along and have a say in how your community works:*

|               |               |              |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| November 11th | December 9th  | January 13th |
| February 10th | March 10th    | April 14th   |
| May 12th      | June 9th      | July 14th    |
| August 11th   | September 8th | October 13th |

*The Parish Council will be supporting both the Village Christmas trees again this year to bring festive cheer and light into the darkest months.*

*Merry Christmas to you and yours from GPC*

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

## GOTHERINGTON'S LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

Lucy Barbour, Pioneer Curate, 07821580995,

Contact: (email) [lucyannbarbour@gmail.com](mailto:lucyannbarbour@gmail.com)

Throughout this process, we will be engaging with all other interested parties and stakeholders to make sure it's a symbiotic relationship with no negative impacts on any other users. Once we have an accurate assessment of the costs associated with the project, we have committed to hold a village meeting so you can all have a voice in deciding whether this is a good use of Parish funds. To date, no money has been either committed or spent.

2. The footpaths in the village desperately need resurfacing. We are speaking to the Cotswold wardens to find a suitable contractor to resurface them.

3. The circular path round the playing field has suffered badly this Summer. We are getting quotes to resurface this well loved and much used facility.

4. To cut our energy costs we are investigating if the current layout of Rex Rhodes Building is still fit for purpose for its users, and looking at energy saving alterations that can be made to reduce our bills.

Ultimately, we will present all these options to the village for your input.

If you have any other ideas for things we should consider, please speak to us. But please note that pavements and potholes are outside our remit I'm afraid.

We had hoped to add a shelter on Shutter Island for people catching the service bus and also young people waiting for the school bus but the road safety team at GCC have said that area is not suitable for a structure so I'm afraid that project has been shelved.

This month however, we are very pleased to report we were able to support FOGS (Friends of Gotherington School) plus our school and its Governors by giving them a grant of £27,000 to replace the play equipment in the school playground. Hopefully our village children will have years of enjoyment out of this new installation.

### **Join the Festive Fun: Be a Part of Gotherington's Living Advent Calendar!**

Christmas is around the corner, and Gotherington has a special way to celebrate. Our beloved Living Advent Calendar returns for its 7<sup>th</sup> year.

#### **What is the Living Advent Calendar?**

It's a tradition that brightens neighbourhoods, bringing creative and hospitality into the countdown to Christmas. For 24 days, starting on December 1st, homes in Gotherington transform their windows into festive displays. Each evening at 6 pm, one window is unveiled, revealing a fun and imaginative creation that can be revisited across the season.

#### **Join the Celebration**

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

#### **Get Involved**

There are three ways to get involved:

1. **Decorate Your Window:** If you're feeling festive and creative, then be part of the calendar and decorate your window. We would love to have you take part, but please let us know by using the contact details provided.
2. **Receive a Copy of the Advent Calendar:** If you'd like to know where to visit each night, then we can provide you with a copy of the Advent Calendar or check out our Facebook page.
3. **Connect from home:** For those who want to keep up with images from each night these can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages at [www.facebook.com/gotheringtonadvent](https://www.facebook.com/gotheringtonadvent) and [@living\\_advent\\_gotherington](https://www.instagram.com/living_advent_gotherington).

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

## GOTHERINGTON MEN'S SHED (GMS)

Website: <https://gotherington.org.uk/mens-shed/>

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

Gotherington Men's Shed (GMS) is a community group for residents of Gotherington and nearby areas. It provides a friendly space for people, especially older adults, to meet, share skills, and build friendships outside formal services.

The group launched a WhatsApp chat in March 2025, attracting 40+ members. Meetings began at the Village Hall and now take place weekly at the Sports Pavilion on Freeman Field, giving members regular chances to collaborate and participate in various projects.

The Men's Shed serves as a grassroots movement, offering a safe and supportive environment for everyone in the area. It is a space where individuals can collaborate, share practical skills, and take part in meaningful activities.

GMS helps build community ties and supports local mental health needs.

GMS has completed projects like building a portable bar for events and installing a parish notice board. They are currently renovating community benches, mostly working from a founder's garage.

GMS provides a friendly space to collaborate, learn practical skills, and support each other's mental wellbeing. New members are welcome—join the weekly meetings or connect on WhatsApp:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LGkyswAlkmvHRyupdNgtmX>

For more information or to get in touch directly, please email: [Gotheringtonmensshed25@gmail.com](mailto:Gotheringtonmensshed25@gmail.com)

## 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)

As always, the Summer has been a very busy time for the Parish Council. We have lost 1 councillor and gained three new ones. This brings us to our full complement of nine and happily we also have another resident ready to join when a space becomes vacant.

We have just completed the redevelopment of the north east corner of Freeman Field. We have added a self-weighted rower, laid new safety matting under the exercise equipment, and had the crown of the trees lifted to open up that area. Plus, we have replaced the gazebo. The last one had served us well but was showing its age and this new one has been craftsman designed and built, with a cedar shingle roof and a large overhang to hopefully stop anyone climbing on the roof. We hope you are all happy with this new addition.

We also have other projects in the discussion phase currently. We have Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds and S106 of circa £300,000 available. This money is meant to mitigate the harm caused by new developments and also improve our Community for the benefit of new and existing residents.

Some of the projects being investigated are:

1. Looking into the idea of installing a building for the use of the new Menshed charity that has been formed in the village. We are 100% in support of this group and have allowed them to use the JWP for free for the first 6 months to hold their meetings until a new home is established. We are aware there are many rumours swirling around the village about this, but currently we are at the investigation phase only. We need to understand if it is physically possible to build in the area behind the John Wooley Pavillion and also what the requirements would be. We will then set a specification of works against which contractors to quote. Throughout this process, we will

## THE OLD CHAPEL BOOK CLUB

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

*Over the last three months we have read the following three books:-*

1. *A town called Solace* by Mary Lawson. Set in the freezing north of Canada, it explores the relationship of three people brought together by fate and the mistakes of the past. One is a seven year old girl whose elder sister has gone missing, the next is an elderly woman who's home is next to the child's and the last is a recently divorced man. What is the connection between the three in a book that is a mixture of grief and humour but finishes with showing us that a new, hopefully better, life is possible?

2. *Papa Goose* by Michael Quetting is a true story of one man's journey to raise seven goslings in the name of science. It was easy to read, told with humour and was fascinating.

3. *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion. A very intelligent scientist has problems relating to and making friends with other people. He thinks he needs to search for a wife and designs a list of qualities that he thinks would help him find one suitable. He doesn't have many replies and none that he thinks would suit - but he does meet Rosie, not suitable as a wife perhaps but she wants to find out who her father was. This intrigues our hero and he decides to try to help her in her quest.

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**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

Mary Manders-Trett (Malleson 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

### **Some useful advice to keep burglars out of your property:**

*Keep it visible and give them no hiding place*

- Lower fences at the front around one-metre high are preferable to high fences as they allow for a clear view over the top and don't provide cover for anyone wishing to hide.
- At the rear and sides, taller fencing is recommended to prevent easy access.
- Trellis, thorny plants, or a suitable anti-climb topping such as plastic spikes make it difficult for anyone climbing over a fence or gate.
- Planting prickly or barbed shrubbery along boundaries and fence lines acts as an effective natural barrier.
- Gravel driveways and paths will make sure you hear anyone approach.

Other ways to make it difficult for burglars includes CCTV that can be linked to a "smart phone". An accredited burglar alarm system with audible alarm boxes mounted high at the front and rear of your home. Two visible audible alarm boxes are better than one.

External lighting particularly at doors as it also makes it safer for you when coming and going after dark. Internal lighting using an automatic plug in time switch to operate a lamp or light at preset times when you are away.

Thank you for reading this and Please Stay Safe - **Howard Samuels**

## THE OLD CHAPEL

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

*As Autumn settles in, the Old Chapel is buzzing with activity. Whether you're looking to stay active, enjoy live music, or get into the festive spirit, there's something for everyone. Lunchtime Mat Pilates begins Monday 13th October, offering a gentle midday reset to boost flexibility and wellbeing. We also have My Fit 30 with Liz, a ladies-only fitness class every Friday, and Affinity Yoga on Tuesday mornings—perfect for easing into the week with calm and clarity.*

*Alongside these, the Chapel is home to a wide variety of regular Clubs from Traditional Games Club to Art and Craft groups providing a welcoming space to connect, create, and unwind. There's always something happening, so be sure to check the website for the full schedule.*

*On the music front, we're thrilled to welcome 18 Strings on Saturday 1st November. Back by popular demand, they promise another entertaining evening of acoustic tunes and lively energy.*

*Then on Saturday 6th December, the Daisy Chapman Duo takes the stage. Songwriter and pianist Daisy, joined by violinist Sue, perform hauntingly beautiful songs inspired by dark tales from history. With Daisy's expressive vocals and Sue's stirring violin, the music is compelling. But don't expect gloom—each song is introduced with animated storytelling and humour, from forgotten women's stories to eerie Victorian poems.*

*December brings plenty of seasonal cheer to the Old Chapel. Join us for Christmas Wreath-Making workshops—a chance to get creative with all materials and festive refreshments included.*

*For younger visitors, Santa's Grotto returns on the weekend before Christmas, offering a magical opportunity to meet Father Christmas in a festive setting.*

*To book or find out more, see our website or email at top of the page.*

## THE OLD CHAPEL ART AND CRAFT CLUB

Contact: Diane Coules, 01242 675035  
Email: di.coules@hotmail.com

*This is a new Club and we are very eager to welcome new members.*

*We meet in the Old Chapel on Thursday mornings 10:00 till 12:00.*

*There is a small charge of £3 per session and we ask that you bring your materials and coffee.*

*You are guaranteed to receive a warm welcome and please note that*

***you don't need to be an expert!***

*Please contact me for more details.*

**Di**

## OXENTON VILLAGE HALL

Contact Email: Lorraine.Dodd@bopenworld.com

*Oxenton Village Hall is a great place for all family occasions, children's parties and funeral teas; also well suited for regular hire for art clubs, craft groups, coffee mornings and local meetings of any kind. There is a full range of modern kitchen facilities and there is on-site fibre wifi.*

*The hall is readily accessible for wheelchair users. There is also a toilet, which is accessible and suitable for disabled.*

*It is available to hire for the very reasonable special rate of £8 per hour from October 2025 until the Spring of 2026.*

*There is an upper limit of 90 people and the hall can comfortably seat 40 people with tables and chairs. There is also a marquee available for summertime (please contact me for hire details).*

*Please contact me by email to make a reservation.*

**Lorraine**