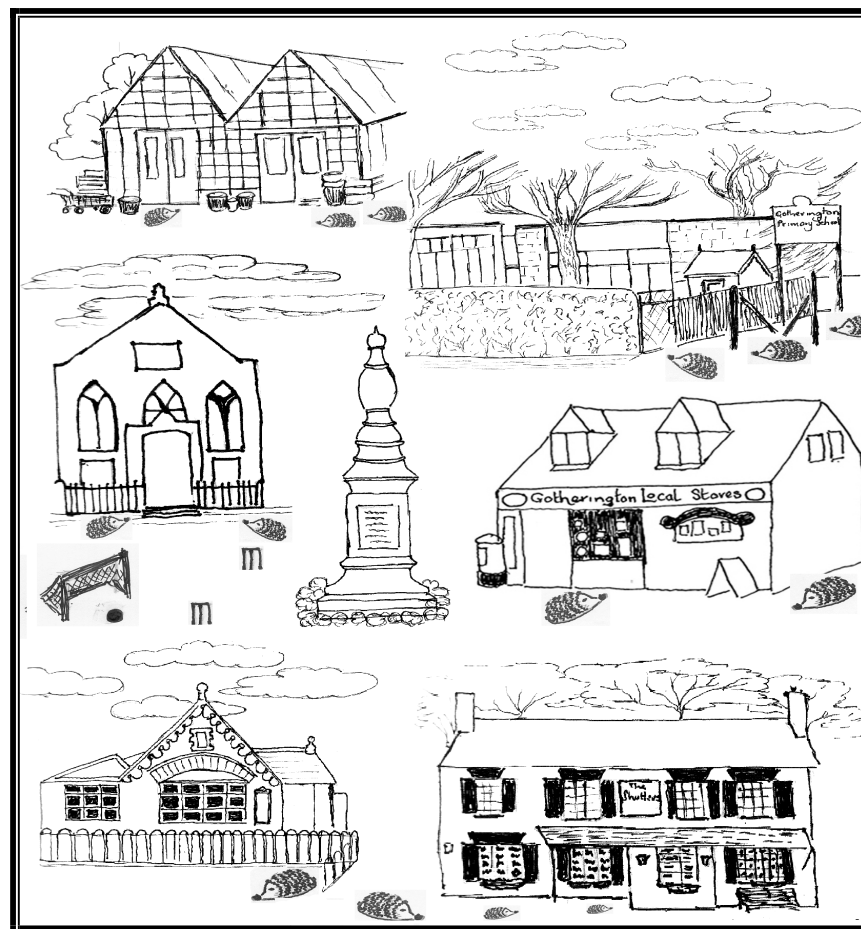


Contacts – Village Organisations

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS	Contact
Baby and Toddler Group Village Hall Tue 10:00–11:30	childrenandfamilies@stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk
Brownies Mon 6.00pm	Amy Steger gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
Cricket Club	Rob Sharp (678057) / Brian Cosgrove (676216)
C of E Churchwardens (Woolstone/Oxenton) Parochial Church Council Secretary	B. Wickens (679345)/ M. Bower (672900)/ L. Dodd (07419770401) Pauline Bower (672900)
Football Club (Junior)	Rob Sharp (678057)
Gardening Club 3rd Wed 7:30pm Chair Secretary	Tony Pawley (361539) 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	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) l.indaa@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 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 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) Gilly Ivory email: gillianme.ivory@gmail.com

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS

Spring 2026 Edition



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TOPICS OF INTEREST

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

The next edition (Summer 2025) is scheduled to be delivered from the end of June 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 Spring 2026

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Beverly Osborne	(Chair)	07974101659	chair@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Steve Neighbour	(V-chair)	07881339813	cldr.neighbour@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Tim Fawke		07968548627	Cllr.fawke@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Howard Samuels			cldr.samuels@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Tony Lidington		07749933301	Cllr.lidington@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Olly Paton			cldr.paton@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
David Rees			Cllr.rees@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Jane Nicolson			cldr.nicolson@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Clive Webber			cldr.webber@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
GPC bookings			bookings@gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Clerk	Clerk/RF		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)
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@tewkesbury.gov.uk
Borough Councillor Cllr. Cheryl Agg	councillor.agg@tewkesbury.gov.uk
Garden House Nursery School	(07913256364/01386 81886)
Yoga [Tuesdays] Sarah Martin	(269765) sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk

GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

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

Sara Grey was our speaker in October with a lively talk on the history of pantomime from its start in late 16th century Italy and the later addition of stories, clowns and the panto dame. Interestingly, Cinderella proved to be the most popular pantomime in Britain during the 20th century. November saw us taking part in an eco-friendly and sustainable gift-wrapping session with “Gift-wrapped by Eve”. At our Christmas party in December, we enjoyed a lovely selection of buffet food from The Shutters with mulled wine and other drinks. There were Christmas crackers and quizzes on the tables and Duncan Ivory played and sang Christmas songs throughout.

In January, Daziel Ellis entertained us with her poetry, starting with a serious poem she wrote to help herself and others through a period of depression. She then continued with a series of highly amusing poems and limericks, ending with us all joining in with a rendition of “You are my Sunshine” which she played on her grandfather’s 100-year-old banjo. In February, we will receive advice on energy from Shelly Mole and in March hear the History of Sudeley Castle from Phil Collins.

Sadly, March will be our final meeting as, after 72 years in the village, GWOWI will close, as no one feels able to take over the roles of President and Secretary. We have many happy memories and will not lose touch with each other. Our monthly lunches at The Shutters and the Dine Out Club evening meals out will continue.

Jill Parsons

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH NEWS

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

Dear Friends

“Why are you so anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin.” – Gospel of Matthew 6:28.

At this time of year, you start to notice small signs that winter won’t last forever – a few shoots pushing through and the sense that the world is slowly waking up again,

In this verse, Jesus points to something very ordinary: flowers growing in a field. Lilies don’t worry or strive – they simply grow.

It’s a gentle reminder, because life often feels like a constant effort to keep everything ticking along. Yet the natural world carries on quietly without our help. The Seasons turn; life unfolds; and beauty appears.

And behind it all is God – the one who keeps things moving day by day. As the favourite school hymn says, he really does have the whole world in his hands. The same care that brings flowers into bloom is the care that holds our lives too.

So, as things begin to grow again this Spring, perhaps we can take a moment to notice – and remember that we don’t have to hold everything together ourselves.

Sometimes it is enough just to grow, one day at a time.

With best wishes

Revd. Ben Williams, Team Vicar

CHURCH OF ENGLAND EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday – 29th March 2026

10:00 am BCP Holy Communion, Oxenton

3:00 pm ***Easter Extravaganza***, Gotherington Village Hall

Holy Week Monday to Wednesday (30th March to 1st April)

Compline 6:00 pm at St Michael's, Bishop's Cleeve

Maundy Thursday – 2nd April 2026

7:00 pm 'The Last Supper', a shared meal at St Michael's

Good Friday – 3rd April 2026

2:00 pm Reflective Service of the Word, Woolstone

Easter Day – 5th April 2026

10:00 Holy Communion – Oxenton

NORMAL PATTERN OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES (All at 10:00am)

1 st Sunday Holy Communion	Oxenton
2 nd Sunday Morning Praise	Gotherington Old Chapel
3 rd Sunday Holy Communion	Woolstone
4 th Sunday Café Church	Gotherington Old Chapel
5 th Sunday BCP Holy Communion	Oxenton

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Surprise! It's raining as I write this. That gives no clue whatsoever as to which day or what time I am writing it. Hands up all those who have webbed feet!!!

Well, rain or shine, Coffee Mornings continue. I cannot believe it was November 2008 when we opened our first morning. I had no idea it would still be going strong after all these years. Yes – there have been a few changes. We didn't do bacon rolls at the beginning (Very popular now!). And we used to have a selection of craft tables – sadly I now find it really difficult to find people. But – we still have the same lovely atmosphere, friendly faces, lots of noise and laughter.

The Village Hall user groups do us proud with their delicious cakes and valuable help. However.....sorry there had to be a 'but'.....now the WI is closing, we shall be short of a group to help in December. It's one of the best months...the hall is decorated and we usually do manage some craft tables. Everyone is in a good mood and the joy of sharing is apparent. As there are no new groups (we don't generally ask the commercial groups to help) I may well be looking for some volunteers. But more on that nearer the time.

Meanwhile – please continue to come along on the first Saturday of the month, Your support helps to keep the rental rates for the hall extremely low for everyone. Needless to say – newcomers are most welcome. Spread the news – it's a great place to get to know the people who surround you daily and those who will be there for you if you need help.

Christine Godsell

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

Plans are in the initial stages to renovate the kitchen with new modern cooking facilities, new worktops and cabinets and splashback. It will all take place in August 2026 as this is a quieter month with school holidays.

Over the years, there has been some uncertainty over the ownership of the Village Hall but just recently it has been confirmed that the Charity Commission shows the Village Hall belonging to the Charity and registered with the Land Registry accordingly. The next step is to move to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The range of photos on the back wall are being replaced with new canvas photo prints of local views which should in place to see by the time you read this and we hope you like the choices we have made.

The Village Hall AGM is held in May and we hope as many representatives as possible of Village groups that use the hall come along to give us feedback and hopefully some will join the Committee at the same time.

Hall bookings are processed exclusively through our online system (gotherington.org.uk/bookings), which provides comprehensive information and contact details should any assistance be required.

The Hall has 80 chairs and 20 tables, and you can relax knowing that there is a well-stocked kitchen with everything available if needed.

Christine Godsell has been a Trustee for many years and has during that time served on the Committee in all the main roles including the Secretary. We wish Christine well and thank her for all she has done.

Howard Samuels

GVH Treasurer (email hsamuels@btinternet.com or phone 07707 467736)

CRICKET CLUB

www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk

Contact: Rob Sharp at rob_sharp100@hotmail.com

The sun has at long last given a few hints that Spring is in the air, so we can now start preparing for the 2026 season with hopes of bit more of better weather to come.

Cricket in general is facing some challenges as the game seeks to maintain a foothold in many Communities where competing priorities and time constraints mean that people find it harder to devote the same amount of time to the sport that was the norm a generation ago.

We had an enjoyable season in 2025 with nearly 40 players playing at least one game. And our record of 5 wins and 5 losses was quite respectable.

Opposition Sides cancelled several games and we have adjusted our approach a little bit this year to try and ensure more people are able to play cricket in a format that suits them.

We start indoor nets, every Sunday 7-8pm at Cheltenham Leisure Centre, and everybody is welcome. We will also be providing Club Nights and taster sessions on an informal basis. We would encourage anybody who has the slightest interest in getting involved with cricket to come along. We will have our coaching partners at Gecko in attendance to structure some fun drills and games. No equipment needed – everything will be provided.

Our fixture list will have a mixture of T20 midweek games and Sunday games, usually 30 or 40 Overs.

Please keep an eye out for updates on social media or around the village.

Rob Sharp, Chairman GCC

GOTHERINGTON EVENTS TEAM

Email: gotheringtonevents@gmail.com

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

The Village is coming together this year to hold a traditional old- fashioned Fete on Saturday 20th June on Freeman Field. Village Clubs and groups are all joining in and we plan to have a diverse range of activities suitable for all ages, such as games, competitions and entertainment.

English Village Fêtes are an English - not British – tradition, originating in medieval marketplaces and has evolved into being Community events that raise funds for charity. They are a celebration of village life - a time to play and enjoy community fun and a lovely family day out. Village Fêtes typically features local crafts, homemade goods and activities that reflect the unique heritage of the Village so if you can help in any of these please let us know. We are also staging traditional games such as “tug-of-war” and “sack races” which we are sure will promote friendly competition!

Each Club or group will be taking responsibility for setting up their pitch and staffing it but we always need an army of willing helpers as well - so we would love to hear from you if you can offer your time and enthusiasm to help on the day. We are a small team and always welcome your support.

We will be posting regular updates on our Facebook page which will be shared on a wider scale as well so hopefully everyone is kept informed and nearer the time we will be promoting the fete with other advertising means.

Funds that are raised benefit local causes, and the local Village groups who are running the stalls and activities.

We look forward to seeing you on June 20th and hopefully before with some suggestions and ideas for making the Village Fete something memorable and special.

Gotherington Events Team (GET)

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Contact: Ian Donnelly on 674404

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/GotheringtonTennisClub/

www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis

Hopefully the rain has finally called time in Gotherington and Spring is just around the corner. The wet winter has made it difficult to keep the courts clean, but they are now ready for the new season ahead.

Last year we welcomed some new members and membership was slightly up on 2024. However, like all our Village Clubs, we regularly need more new members. In addition to “Club Play”, there is competitive tennis with a men’s and lady’s team in the Gloucestershire Summer Leagues.

Annual fees were again held at £50 for all year round play for adults (reduced for seniors) and £10 for juniors offering great value for money and includes: Discounted court booking rates for members on ClubSpark; New Family orientated Membership Packages; Free targeted coaching sessions with Club Coach Liam Gough; Free professional coaching (a perk that few other Clubs offer).

As well as “Club Nights”, we have social events for members throughout the year, involving a mix of food, drink...oh and tennis!). The last social of the year (hosted by the Shutters) was very well attended and is very much on the agenda again for 2026! We also be running our LTA sponsored open day in early July (mid Wimbledon) and we will be supporting the Village Fete in June with a number of activities down on the courts.

So as you can see lots going on in 2026 but, if you are unsure about joining and would like to come down first and see what we are about, then why not try our taster evenings. You are guaranteed a warm welcome whatever standard you play at! Please email us or check us out on Facebook and Clubspark (details at the top of the page).

Ian Donnelly

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

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

We have managed to play most weeks during the past few months, enjoying some welcome sunshine and fresh air when possible. We are looking forward to the Spring and Summer without wondering which coat to wear.

The Club now has between 30 and; 40 members, most of whom manage to play regularly. Unfortunately, several of our Committee members have resigned recently but existing members have stepped up to cover the vacated posts and help the Club continue. We shall have a new Chairman and Secretary after the March AGM and I am sure that they will have some fresh ideas to keep us interested.

There are also a new Cotswold League Captain and a pool of players wishing to take part in matches. We were placed 2nd in our group last season so have been moved up a division. Hope that this goes well!

We will not undertake so many events as usual this season in order to let the newer Committee members bed in to the routine but will still play regularly on a Wednesday afternoon and Sunday morning as always. We hope that some of the newer arrivals in the Village may be interested in joining us – if so, please come along to one of our sessions to check us out. All are welcome – men and; women – and we do have spare boules that you can use.

SEE YOU ON THE PISTE!

Mary Manders-Trett, retiring Chairman

GARDENING CLUB

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

At our recent AGM, we secured the Club's future with a new Secretary and Treasurer, to follow their excellent predecessors, and new committee members. We'll intend to hold most of the usual activities.

We have had fascinating talks on the gardens of Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka and 'the Secret Lives of Trees'. Our Christmas party was most enjoyable, as always. We created an advent window, the first village Club to do this. It had a flower and tree theme and was revealed on December 10 in the porch windows of the Chairman's house.

The War Memorial flowerbeds have brightened up the area -many thanks to Mark and Liz at Gotherington Nurseries and keen members for their contributions and hard work.

We look forward to supporting the new village Community Orchard on Freeman's Field, a Village Hall coffee morning and the village fete.

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 remains at 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:

March 18: Duncan Coombs on 'Madagascar-unique plants & animals',

April 15: Dahlias for Garden Display,

May 20: A Flower Farmer's Year,

June 6: GVH Coffee morning & Plant Sale,

June 17: Summer Party,

July 22: visit to Forthampton Court Garden.

Tony Pawley

GOTHERINGTON NATURE AND WILDLIFE GROUP

Contacts: Nicola Wilson, gotheringtonnaturegroup@gmail.com

This is a new group for people who are interested in nature and wildlife of the village. It's primarily existing on the Gotherington WhatsApp group but you can also email me for information on any planned activities, gotheringtonnaturegroup@gmail.com

Gotherington has a rich heritage of orchard growing and it is deeply embedded in its cultural identity. We have gained funding for a Community Orchard in Freemans Field. The trees will be heritage varieties, with 40 % local. Orchards are amazing places for wildlife and biodiversity. Orchards offer a great partnership between humans and nature, providing diversity for wildlife, health, meaning and hope for both.

What would be nice is to connect with people who have remnants of the old orchards in their back gardens. I understand there is a rare variety of apple in the village. If we could find and identify it, we could potentially take graft cuttings and propagate a few more. Please email me if you have any details.

There is potential for this group to grow depending on what people want "it" to be. We could set up monthly themes according to seasons, have a "Friends of the Orchard", do hands on citizen science, become a "HabiMapper" (see note below), moth trapping, the ideas are endless. Just let me know.

And finally, remember, its nesting season now and No Mow May is coming, let it grow for nature, look up plantlife.org.uk and listen out for the cuckoo in Gotherington Woods around the 26th April, maybe earlier. The Bluebells will also be a wonderful sight up there too.

Nicola Wilson

Editor's Note - The HabiMap programme is a collaborative effort bringing together citizen scientists and landholders to map and monitor Gloucestershire's wildlife habitats.

THE OLD CHAPEL BOOK CLUB

Contact: Linda Pawley, 01242361593, email linda@thepawleys.co.uk

*As we don't meet on the first Tuesday in January - too near all the Christmas and New Year activities - we chose a longer book to read, **Still Life by Sarah Winman.***

This covers the interaction of many characters but begins in Italy in 1944 with the meeting of a young British soldier and a 64-year-old art historian. The historian is there to salvage paintings from the wreckage of war and the soldier's chance encounter with her will transform his life and his family and friends in London. It is full of unforgettable characters and the families we forge and the friendships that make us. It covers the period 1944 to 1979. As always, we had many opinions, but its average rating was 7/10.

*By the time you read this, we will have discussed **A Three Dog Problem by S J Bennett.***

I have no idea what the rest of the group might think about it. However, I first thought it was about dogs but discovered that, although there were dogs in the story, it was actually about a death at Buckingham Palace and whether it was natural or murder.

The author imagines our late Queen Elizabeth as the person who works out what really happened, which I thought was a bit far-fetched as she was such a busy monarch - but I enjoyed the make-believe and look forward to hearing what the others think.

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.

Linda

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 from 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 a warm welcome and please note

you don't need to be an expert!

Please contact me for more details.

Di

OXENTON VILLAGE HALL

Contact Email: Lorraine.Dodd@btopenworld.com

Oxenton Village Hall is a great place for all family occasions including children's parties, funeral teas, art clubs, craft groups, coffee mornings etc.

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.

Its currently available to hire for the very reasonable rate of £8 per hour .

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.

WINE CLUB

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

We meet monthly at 8pm in the Village Hall every third Tuesday. At our next in April, Luca Wines will present a selection of Italian Wines.

Meeting details for 2026 calendar can be found on our Wine Club Website.

The annual membership is £25 per year, and entrance fees are £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

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

This April marks our 35th year in business as a specialist grower of bedding plants and horticultural retailer. Currently, whilst our team is busy with the production of summer bedding plants, our home-grown spring bedding plants and summer flowering bulbs can be planted now.

For Easter, we have cards, beautiful houseplants, planted containers and seasonal hanging baskets. Thinking of growing your own? Browse our shop for seeds, seed potatoes, garlic bulbs, onion sets and shallots. We have a great range of vegetable plants and herbs in stock too. For all your gardening needs, we have a wide range of gardening goods including tools, propagation products, Hozelock products, plant supports, lawn, plant & garden care products, gloves, wellies and cloggies.

The outdoor plant area is well stocked with cottage garden plants, shrubs, roses, conifers, fruit and ornamental trees, soft fruit plants and hedging plants. Our specimen shrubs make an ideal garden focal point.

Visit us for all your bird care needs including specialist feeds and feeders, bird tables and nest boxes. We sell bulk bags of bird feed for added value.

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.

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 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We shall be closed on Easter Day (5th April) only.

We wish you well for the coming season and thank you for your continued support.

Mark and Liz, Gotherington Nurseries

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

Chair: Julie Devereux

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

www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

Gotherington Singers have continued to enjoy singing together and have been pleased to welcome Lesley Day as our new accompanist along with several new members.

Our Christmas concert was held again in St. Michael's on Saturday 6 December and we were delighted that Duncan Ivory joined us again as our special guest.

On 28 February we are holding another Come and Sing Day for female voices in Gotherington Village Hall starting at 10 a.m. – all welcome. Aidan Smith will be leading the day.

Dates for your diary: Our next concert will be held on Saturday 4 July at 3 p.m. at St. Michael's and our Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday 13 December also 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 wellbeing 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, see www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk, or email sall.newbury@gmail.com or phone 01242 317276

Julie Devereux, (Chair, Gotherington Singers)

THE OLD CHAPEL

gotheringtonoldchapel@gmail.com

www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk

Spring is here and the Old Chapel has a full programme of activities. Classes, Clubs, Live Music, there's plenty to choose from this season.

Clubs, Groups & Regular Meet Ups

The Old Chapel hosts a range of community groups each month, offering opportunities to get creative and meet others - see below for a small sample and please visit the Old Chapel website for the full range and details.

Book Club — Meets on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss a wide mix of titles. New readers are always welcome.

Café Church — A monthly, informal gathering for all ages to explore faith and life through conversation and creative activities.

Art & Craft Club — Every Thursday, 10am–12pm. Bring your own materials and enjoy a friendly space to work on your projects.

Traditional Games Club — A welcoming monthly meet up for all ages to enjoy classic board games, cards, and conversation.

Film Club - come and enjoy the latest new releases and family favourites at the OC. Look for details on website.

Special Events

1st April (7.30pm) – Peter Gill: Politically Incorrect

A witty tribute to American song writing satirist Tom Lehrer.

2nd May (7.30pm) – Harp and Monkey: Tall Tales and Truths

Award winning folk trio blending history, humour, and song.

13th June (7.30pm) – R & D Jazz

Join us for a relaxing evening of classic jazz music.

New Date TBC – Jude Simpson: A Noise Annoys

A family friendly show, with a mix of spoken word, song, and playful silliness.

To book or find out more, visit www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk or email oldchapelbookings@gmail.com.

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

Preventing Car and Vehicle Theft

We have witnessed an increase in car crime in our Village, so here are some simple rules to protect your vehicle from thieves.

Lock your vehicle and don't leave windows or the sunroof open.

Keep the keys safe Cars are now more difficult to steal unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone - so keep them out of view when at home and away from your front door.

Cars with Keyless Entry Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car to capture the signal and fool the car into thinking the key is close by. When at home, keep your car key and the spare well away from the car and put the keys in a Faraday pouch to screen it from cloning attacks.

Fit Good In-Car Security Locks Additional physical security can help to prevent your vehicle being driven away even if a thief gains entry. There are a range of security rated products that can help, such as steering wheel locks, pedal boxes and gear stick locks. Installing an immobiliser for your car will prevent a vehicle from starting unless the correct fob, key or activation process is used. They can be personalised so that you're the only one who knows how to unset it.

Double-check electronic locking Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away.

Thank you for reading this and Please Stay Safe

Howard Samuels

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 an occasional or 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 GOWNS 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.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

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

The 2025/26 Season is getting towards the latter stages 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 carry on all the way through to u18, as 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 that is found on the pavements. There have been a couple of weekends where there have been examples of inconsiderate parking or leaving muddy deposits on the pavement and we have taken steps to reduce/eliminate where possible.

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. With a handful of games left, quite remarkably, our u17 side are still top of the Bristol / Somerset / Gloucestershire u18 girls league.

All of our other sides have had good seasons, with our u15 boys topping division one at stages throughout the season.

We continue to encourage and finance coaching development, and create opportunities for older players to take on leadership roles in coaching or refereeing. Players are also able to use their Football activity towards academic qualifications at school.

Anybody wishing to get involved please make contact as the Club relies entirely on volunteers and appreciate support from sponsors, parents, Parish Council, School and people in the Community who also help.

Rob Sharp, Chairman and Secretary GJFC

BONFIRE REPORT 2025

Contact: Gary Thompson

Many thanks to all the helpers, contributors and all of you who came along to make this very popular Village event happen. With spectacular fireworks and an impressive bonfire, we had a great event and made a good profit to cover costs, build a reserve for next year and give the excess to charity.

This year, it looks like we will have successfully raised several thousand pounds to donate to the following 5 charitable causes:

1. British Heart Foundation
2. Cheltenham Samaritans
3. SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association)
4. MIND (Mental Health/Post Suicide Support)
5. Scouts Advanced Bushcraft

In the last few years, we have donated to a good range of local causes: Sue Ryder Hospice, FOGS, REMAP disabled equipment, Alzheimer's Support (Cheltenham), Brain Tumour Support (Gloucester), Lilian Faithfull Daycare & Creative Arts (Cheltenham), Riding for the Disabled (Cheltenham), Air Ambulance Gloucestershire and more...

The combined efforts of the Scouts and individual volunteers from the Village have managed to make the event a must-see, so please think of supporting us next year and into the future.

We need more volunteers with energy and enthusiasm to help with the organising, set-up and running of the event. If you would like to join in the group and the action, please email: gotheringtonbonfire@gmail.com and we would be delighted to include you as we develop next year's event.

See you next yea!

Robert, Mark & Gary, for the Gotherington Bonfire

GOTHERINGTON MEN'S SHED (GMS)

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

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

The Gotherington Men's Shed invites you to join this supportive Community Hub dedicated to improving mental wellbeing and tackling social isolation. This volunteer-led space welcomes men of all ages - especially those who are retired - to share skills and friendship through woodworking and creative projects. The Shed offers a vibrant environment for purposeful activity.

The essence of this "shed" is not the actual building - it represents the concept of a refuge at the bottom of the garden where stuff gets done. It symbolises so many innovative ideas that have come from the shed, even the Wright Brothers built their plane in a cycle shed!

We look forward to seeing you so please come and meet us. You'll find a warm welcome along with a cuppa and biscuits with friendly banter.

We meet at the Sports Pavilion in Freeman Field by the tennis courts on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday on a rotating basis. And remember, the Shed offers a vibrant environment for purposeful activity.

To get involved or for more information, please contact our Treasurer, Howard Samuels, at 07707 467736. Whether you're looking for a new hobby or just a chat, we look forward to seeing you there!

We're building more than just projects; we're building a community.

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

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contacts: Ken Ascroft (673192)

galhs.org.uk

treasurer@galhs.org.uk

Christmas came and went, but not before some hearty communal wassailing at our December meeting, led by Robin Burton. Robin also regaled us with the history of some of our Christmas traditions, some of which are rooted in ancient, pagan winter solstice festivals.

In January, Dr Simon Draper gave a fascinating talk on the origin and meaning of surnames, including those with strong historical roots in Gloucestershire. Who knew that the surname 'Organ' has the highest concentration in Gloucestershire?

And in February, Ian Burkett took us on a journey down memory lane via steam, tram and horse.

At the time of writing, our forthcoming presentations are:

24/3: A Blue Plaque Tour of Gloucestershire; poets, pioneers and performers (Andy Meller)

28/4: AGM followed by Tewkesbury Alleyways (Steve Goodchild)

26/5: 'Cheltenham's Lung' The Long Making of Cleeve Common (David Aldred)

Our April presenter, Steve Goodchild, will also be leading a guided walk round some of Tewkesbury's alleyways during our Summer break. Keep an eye on our FB page and website for further details.

Details of past and upcoming meetings can always be found on our FB page and website: <https://galhs.org.uk/> We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month in Gotherington Village Hall at 7.30pm. Members are free; guests welcome for a fee of just £3.

***Julie Ryan** for Gotherington LHS*

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Facebook: @GPCNoticeboard

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

Now that the dark, wet days are hopefully behind us, the Parish Council is looking forward to Spring and our new projects for 2026. To help us determine these we would like your help.

As you may know, we have been allocated Community Infrastructure Levy monies from Tewkesbury Borough Council. These funds are designed to mitigate the harm or pressure put on our Community by the recent housing developments. We are keen to understand what improvements you would like to see in our Community, what additional services you would like to see us provide, and what you would like us to focus on.

To do this, we will be asking everyone to engage with a Village Survey in the coming months. Listening to feedback from previous village engagements, we will allow plenty of time to complete it and we look forward to seeing your ideas, or any comments you may have, to help shape our Community going forward. Only by engaging can you truly make sure your voice is heard.

Now some great news. We understand that Gotherington was once surrounded by orchards and, thanks to Nicola Wilson and her team, we have been successful in applying for grant funding to plant a Community Orchard in the southeast corner of Freeman Field. The trees will be of local DNA rootstock and be pruned to keep them small to allow residents to pick the fruit. Nicola is hoping to run sessions on pruning and maintenance of fruit trees and, in time, hopes to harvest the fruit. We are grateful to Tewkesbury Borough Council for their generosity and expect that this will become a significant community asset.

Moving to other matters, we are also having a new Wi-Fi system installed in the John Wooley Pavilion and look forward to this making the building more attractive to user groups and casual hirers.

We have received many reports recently of people letting their dogs off the lead on Freeman Field. We must remind everyone, residents and visitors alike, that this is not allowed. We have full CCTV coverage in the field so if you witness any specific instances, please email the Clerk or contact any Councillor, with a time and description, so we can find this on our system. It should be noted that in the past we have prosecuted owners who allow their dogs to mess in Freeman Field.

Speeding continues to be a major concern in the village, with some drivers taking no notice of the speed limits especially around school drop off and pick up time. Please, please, please be careful and if you witness any particularly bad examples, again report this to the Clerk or a Councillor so that we can trace the vehicle using our new CCTV system fitted to the Old Chapel. We are working with "the authorities" to find solutions that work for our residents.

We are entering a busy time in the next few months and look forward to progressing the exciting new projects we can bring forward so that our Community remains strong and vibrant.

Let's all hope for a sunny, and drier spring.

Thanks for all your support.

Bev Osborne, Chair, Gotherington Parish Council.