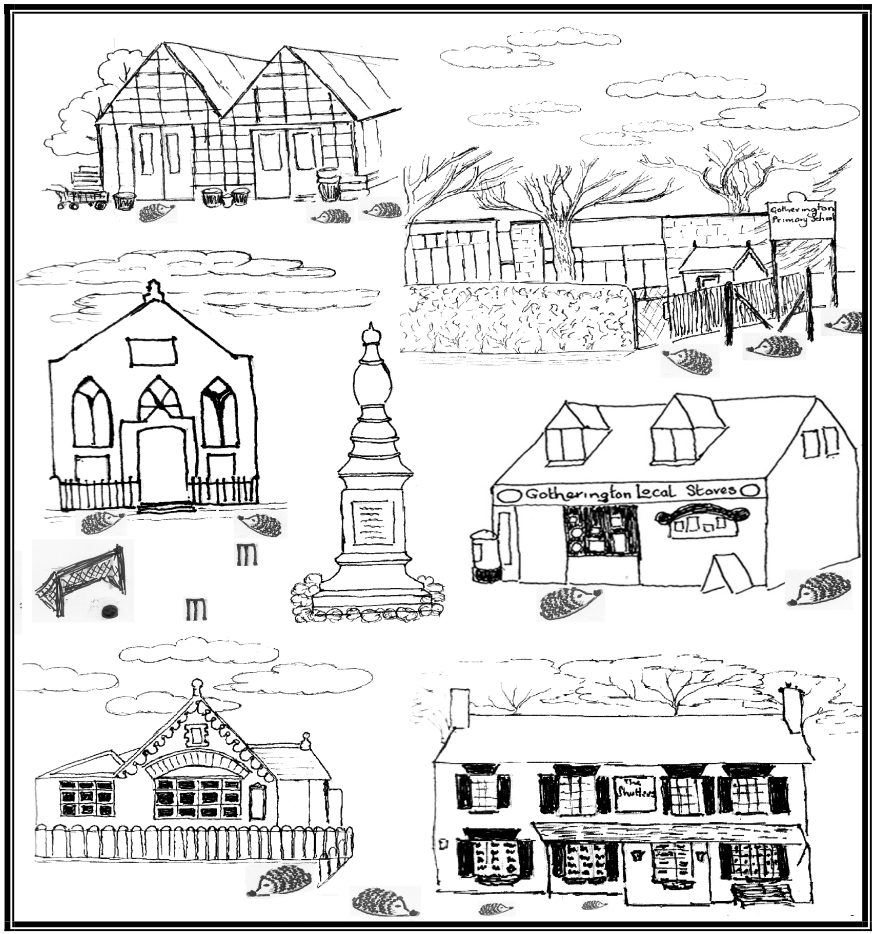
Contacts – Village Organisations

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS	Contact
Baby and Toddler Group Village Hall Tue 10:00–11:30	childrenandfamilies@stmichaelsbishopscleeve.co.uk
Brownies Mon 6.00pm	Kirsten Stillman 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 675035 di.coules@hotmail.com
Old Chapel Book Club	Linda Pawley (01242 361539) l inda@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	David Atkinson (chair) david5atkinson101@gmail.com Val Hayward (Secretary) dvhaycroft@gmail.com
Gotherington Events	gotheringtonevents@gmail.com
Tennis Club	Ian Donnelly (674404)
Village Hall (Gotherington) Chair Bookings Treasurer Secretary	Mary Manders-Trett https://v2.hallmaster.co.uk/Diary/ViewWeeklyDiary/7883 Howard Samuels 07707 467736 hsamuels@btinternet.com Jane Nicolson
Village Hall Coffee Mornings. 1st Sat excl Jan & Aug 10:30 am - noon	Christine Godsell (672821) / cgodsell1967@gmail.com
Wine Club Chairperson 3rd Tue 8pm Secretary	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com Jane Nicolson on 07421831022 jane.nicolson598@btinternet.com

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS

Autumn 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 Spring 2027 is due out during the fortnight starting 22nd March 2027.

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

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Contacts – General

Police	*(01452 726920)*	
Gotherington P.O. & Stores	*(672249)*	
Gotherington Nurseries	*(676722)*	*www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk*
The Shutters	*(01242 300100)*	
Gotherington Primary School	*(675454)*	
Doctor's Stoke Road	*(674676)*	
Cleevelands Medical Centre	*(672669)*	
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*

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GOTHERINGTON BROWNIES

Contacts: Kirsten Stillman gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk

Gotherington Brownies meet in the Village Hall on Mondays during term time from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Girls aged between 7 and 10 years old are very welcome to join and we do have spaces available at the moment.

The girls work together to earn badges and this term we are working towards "Skills for the Future" and "Be Well" , have made relaxing "mindfullness jars", been thinking about how to help with sleep, our body language, nutrition and road safety as well as playing lots of games and generally having fun. Also, we are looking forward to our trip to the Panto.

Please get in touch if you'd like to your daughter to join.

Kirsten

GOWNS

Contact: 07752 152485

Struggling with the handset?
Want to compare your energy charges to find the best rate?
Need someone to do that little job that you can't manage yourself?
Can we help?
Or have you got some spare time to become one of our volunteers?

If you'd like some help or offer to help, just call us on 07752 152485

We always welcome new members to add to our pool of available help. Many of the tasks don't need special skills but any that you do have will add to the support that we can offer to our residents. Finally, on a practical note – we are often asked for a contact name but this is difficult for us to provide. As you may know, we operate by passing round a mobile phone on a weekly basis between seven households. If we give a name in Topics, there is a strong chance that this person will then get called by every user, which obviously would not be what we want to happen. However, if you wish to raise any issue regarding GOWNS or the way it operates, you can contact the Parish Council.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH NEWS

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

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Genesis 8:22)

It's been a hard, dry year for the land. The drought this summer has left its mark, and many of us have noticed the leaves turning early and falling fast; the hedgerows stripped bare ahead of their time as trees responded to the lack of water. Now, with the frosts settling in and the days growing short, God's promise after the flood, as Noah steps onto dry land, feels worth holding on to: that the rhythm of the earth, seedtime and harvest, summer and winter, will not fail. But more than that, that God's care for the earth, and for us, will never cease..

It's a quiet but steady kind of promise. Not a grand statement about the future, but a faithfulness written into the ordinary pattern of the year, even when that pattern feels disrupted or out of step. The fields will lie resting under frost and the evenings draw in early, yet beneath the cold ground the work of the earth goes on unseen. Whatever uncertainty we carry, including for the land itself, the Seasons keep turning, and God's care keeps pace with them, Winter is not the end of the story, but part of the rhythm that carries us towards spring.

Living among these fields, we see that rhythm daily, even in a difficult year. As we look ahead to the coming term, with highlights such as our Harvest services and the gathering darkness of Advent drawing near, I hope we can carry that same quiet gratitude with us: not only for the harvest gathered in, but for the faithfulness beneath it all, which keeps us warm even on the coldest days,

Revd Ben Williams, *Team Vicar*

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ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICES

1st Sunday in month	*Holy Communion*	*Oxenton*
2nd Sunday in month	*Morning Praise*	*Old Chapel, Gotherington*
3rd Sunday in Month	*Holy Communion*	*Woolstone*
4th Sunday in Month	* *Morning Praise*	*Old Chapel, Gotherington*
5th Sunday in Month	*Holy Communion (BCP)*	*Oxenton*

*Note 1 * No longer Café Church*

Note 2 Note that all these services now start at 9:30 am.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sun 13th November	*10:40 am Remembrance Parade*	*Village Hall*
	10:55 am Act of Remembrance	*War Memorial*
Mon 14th November	*10:55 am Short Service*	*War Memorial*

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICE TIMES

December

Fri 4 toSun 6 incl	*Christmas Tree Festival* *Christmas Extravaganza* *Come, see and cast your vote for your favourite tree*	*Old Chapel*
Sun 13	*4:00 pm Carols for Christmas*	*Village Hall*
Sun 20	*4:00 pm Carols and Lessons*	*Oxenton*
Christmas Eve	*3:00 pm Crib Service*	*Woolstone*
Christmas Day	*9:30 am Holy Communion*	*Woolstone*

CRICKET CLUB

www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk

Contact: Rob Sharp at rob_sharp100@hotmail.com

Since the last edition of Topics, we have started a number of initiatives that reflect the changing trends within Society as well as helping to maintain the tradition of cricket as played in Gotherington since before 1888. The current location, Freeman field was secured as a Cricket and Football ground by David Freeman 1965 and has hosted cricket continuously since.

During May we ran free introductory Fun Club Nights run by a highly qualified coach who ensured everyone enjoyed themselves even if they have not played before or are new to the village. Look out for similar sessions in 2027. Thank you to Edward Gillespie, the driving force behind this. He's also our fixture secretary and arranged a great set of fixtures for the 2026.

Brian Cosgrove again gave a huge amount time preparing and maintaining the cricket square and also for helping repair the outfield by reseeding and rolling the ground with help from other volunteers.

U15 players merged with Winchcombe to play in a combined team which ensured some ongoing youth cricket, and this is set to continue in 2026. We are hosting coaching sessions for this team, run by a qualified coach to help them progress.

We had our 12th fixture with the Royal Household Cricket Club, hosted this year at Frogmore, in the grounds of Windsor Castle. We enjoyed a notable victory with Tom Charnock playing a key role. Overall it was a great Season with 43 players the senior side including Nick Freeman..
The Annual Dinner will be at the Shutters in November , with a record attendance expected of 60 people reflecting the vibrant nature of the Club.

Anybody might get involved as player, administrator, umpire, scorer, groundsman, fundraiser, coach or supporter is very welcome and it can be a lot of fun, Please email me on rob_sharp100@hotmail.com if interested.

***Rob Sharp,** Chairman GCC*

GOTHERINGTON WINE CLUB

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

The Gotherington Wine Club meet monthly in Gotherington Village Hall on the third Tuesday, with our next scheduled meeting being on 17th November at 8pm one of our much respected members Hugh Woodsend will be presenting & giving a talk on English wine covering the history from Roman times to current vineyards who are producing award winning wines, growing & production processes plus tasting a varied selection of English Wines. We are confident this will be an evening not to be missed.

The Club has been established for 51 years and managed by its members. It has grown into a real community group with over 75 members, many new to the village, there is a great atmosphere with the opportunity to meet people and make friends, whilst tasting a new wine.

We are now working on the planned meetings for our 2027 calendar which will be a mixture of both external wine specialist and club members. Once confirmed they can be found on our Wine Club Website (see top of the page) and the Gotherington Village Website page where you will find our current 2026 calendar.

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*

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Well – hello everyone! Hope you have all enjoyed the summer – despite the incredible heat – and that you are still enjoying a great start to Autumn.

As I write, my washing is drifting in the breeze, the sun is shining and everything is calm. Unlike yesterday morning!!! Coffee Morning!!!! So many of you came that we were kept on the go all morning. The delicious aroma of bacon.....mmmmmm....and the home made cakes looked colourful, tempting and full of lovely calories.....ooooohhh. Added to that – there was a happy buzz of chatter and laughter. It all made for a successful morning from everyone's point of view.

Now, if all that sounds like something you would enjoy – then come along to the next one....and the next one.....and the.....you know how it goes. We will be gearing up for Christmas in November and December so it's always a cosy and cheerful environment.

I'm going to take this opportunity to thank all who are consistent helpers without whom the Coffee Mornings could not run. Also the Scout Group who very kindly set up the tables for us each month. A big job that they manage quickly and efficiently. And I want to thank those of you who are there at the close and kindly stack the tables and chairs away again.

Importantly – the Village Groups – who take their turn to make cakes and help man the kitchen. Again – we cannot run without you, so a big thank you and we hope you enjoy your involvement.

Finally – thank you to you all who come along. The team run this Coffee Morning for you and we are more than delighted when we see so many of you arriving to support us. If you ever feel we need to change anything or add anything – you only have to ask and we'll see if it's possible.

Meanwhile – enjoy life and we'll see you again soon.

Christine Godsell

GARDENING CLUB

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

Our popular speaker meetings continued with 'A Flower Farmer's Year', 'Houseplants and Propagation' and, for something fascinatingly different, 'Bugs – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly'.

June was busy, with our annual garden party, hosting a Village Hall coffee morning with plant sale, and manning a Gotherington Nurseries sales table at the Village Fete. Our August meeting was held at the Old Chapel while the Village Hall kitchen was being upgraded.

The War Memorial flower beds continue to flourish, thanks to members and friends, with plants from Mark and Liz at Gotherington Nurseries. Watering was a real challenge this year, as was damage by vehicles.
Our secretary's nephew created a colourful hedgehog for the Gotherington trail. We shall be decorating one of the trees provided by the Old Chapel for the Christmas Tree Festival.

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 email ggcsecretary01@gmail.com for more information.

<u>Coming up:</u>

Oct. 21: Planting pots for winter interest and spring joy;

Nov. 18: A Perennial Year;

Dec 4-6: Christmas Tree Festival at the Old Chapel;

Dec 16: Christmas Party (members only)

Tony Pawley

GOTHERINGTON NATURE AND WILDLIFE GROUP

Contact: Nicola Wilson at gotheringtonnaturegroup@gmail.com

Good news - we are in the process of formalising the Group and are excited to tell you that we are looking for like-minded people, equally as keen as us, to join us. You can join as a General or Committee member. If you have a passion for nature and would like to make a difference in our community and feel that climate change is something you have no power over, then this is the group for you. Together, we as a small community, supporting one another ***can*** *make a big difference. Change happens, starting from grass roots. We have many ambitions including arranging seasonal events, talks, and projects which could include hedgehog surveys, seed collection days, dawn chorus walks, trips out and monthly meetings at the pub. If you would like to take part, please email me on the above email by the 20th December 2026.*

Well, it certainly was a challenging Summer what with the five heat waves and lack of rain - but in spite of that, I think we've managed to keep all the orchard trees alive.

We had a successful Moth Surveying event with John Bromley, resulting in 682 moths of 59 species from two gardens and with so many new and unusual names to contend with. Much as the large Poplar Hawk Moth are always popular, John and I felt the moths of the day were the Toadflax Pug and Latticed Heath both of which have only been recorded 10 times in Gloucestershire in 2025. If you would like a survey carried out in your garden, please email me.

The Nature Photography competition was enjoyed by many and we are pleased to announce that entries from this will be used by the Events Team to produce a 2027 Village Calendar which will be on sale in the Village Shop and also by request. All proceeds will go to the Nature Group, so a big thank you to them.

On Sunday 4th October we had our first "Orchard Juicing Day". Everyone, especially the children, enjoyed the sticky process of washing the apples,

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/GotheringtonTennisClub/
www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis

Well, with the nights drawing in, time to reflect on the season of 2026. Membership was up, some amazing performances from our league teams, some fun socials and a great group of Juniors running around on a Sunday morning. Throw in an exceptional Summer and it all adds up to one of the best seasons we have had for many a year.

Leagues/Team Update*. The Ladies Team retained their position in division 4, attaining a very creditable 3rd place, giving some of the bigger clubs a real fright. It was a similar story for the Men, coming 4th in League 3. At times the standard of play was exceptional, with a 2-2 draw against David Lloyd being a standout for little old Gotherington and more good news followed with the formation of a new Lady's Over 60 team.*

Summer Play *Club sessions were the best attended they have been for years. It was great to see so many of our new members making new friends and enjoying their tennis. We also held several social events/tournaments throughout the season. September's event ended with a meal down at The Shutters pub. Many thanks to the Shutter for making us so welcome.*

Junior Tennis *If you've ever taken a walk down to Freeman field on a Sunday morning you will have seen the courts full of young children running around having fun. It may look chaotic but it's very organized chaos, all under the watchful eye of our brilliant coach, Liam. We're so lucky to have such a great Coach (and great supportive parents) and it never ceases to amaze me how many kids turn up even in the coldest of weather. Must be doing something right!*

Ian Donnelly

SUNFLOWER CLUB

***Contacts**: coraleepatel@yahoo.co.uk & cgodsell1967@gmail.com*

We are pleased to announce a brand new Club in Gotherington.

A warm welcome, a cup of coffee and a little time together

The Sunflower Club is a friendly, informal group bringing together people living with memory problems and their unpaid carers — family members, friends and loved ones.

We meet simply to enjoy a coffee, a slice of cake and a chat in a relaxed and welcoming environment. There is no pressure and no expectation — just a chance to meet others, share experiences, have a laugh and perhaps find a little support and friendship along the way.

Sometimes it can be difficult for people affected by memory problems, and those who care for them, to feel connected. The Sunflower Club offers an opportunity to spend some time with people who may understand what life can be like, while enjoying the simple pleasure of good company.

When and where?

Gotherington Village Hall
First Monday of every month
10.15am – 11.45am

Come along for a coffee, cake and conversation. You can simply turn up, meet some friendly faces and see what you think.

We'd like to thank all our volunteers and sponsors- especially Gotherington Stores who are helping provide refreshments and Bookworm of Tewkesbury who are helping with rental costs.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Sunflower Club. If you would like to know more, please contact us.

Cora Patel and Christine Godsell

'scratting' (macerating) and then pressing them to see the sweet juices coming out, straight into the waiting cups of the excited participants. Next year, you will be welcome to bring your apples along for juicing which you can either freeze or use it to make cider.

In the New Year we shall be hosting a Mini Pond-making event. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust will provide most of the resources, but we will ask that anyone wanting to make a pond brings their own water-tight container (washing up bowl, plastic storage box etc) so they are easy to carry home. Once home you put the pond in your garden and let them fill up naturally with rainwater. So it is a simple way to make a difference for nature in gardens and small areas.

Winter is coming. It is an opportunity to sit back, leave the frenetic Summer energy behind and take stock. It is a time for rest and recuperation, to reflect on the past Season and plan for future adventures.

I think nature has got it right. Our deciduous trees and perennials do exactly this. They shed their Summer attire and focus on what's happening below the ground. They have two phases of dormancy: Endodormancy (Deep rest) and Ecodormancy (Waiting). This allows the plant to conserve energy and ultimately outlast periods of stress.

A favourite Winter gardening tip of mine is to leave the dying foliage of plants and not be too tidy. These microenvironments provide a safe and cosy home to insects and add an addition layer of warmth for the plants root systems.

Finally, a couple of book recommendations:

The Garden Jungle by Dave Goulson - a compelling book for all gardeners

The Gift of Winter - how to uncover seasonal joy, health and happiness by Dr Stephanie Fitzgerald.

Nicola Wilson

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk
Contact: Phone 01242 676722

Our glasshouses are bursting with colourful home-grown winter bedding plants and tub & basket plants, grown for their lovely foliage. See our beautiful, winter hanging baskets and containers. Visit us for hellebores, heathers, hedging plants, shrubs, trees and soft fruit plants.

We have beautiful Christmas decorations, lights, Christmas tree stands, candles, gift wrapping, cards, Amaryllis gift packs, seasonal houseplants and bowl arrangements in the shop and freshly cut and potted Christmas trees will arrive late November, together with our home-made wreaths.

Visit us for great gift ideas, from hand tools, gardening equipment and bird care products to shrubs, trees and planted containers. Can't decide? Why not buy a National Garden Gift card, redeemable at many garden centres nationwide including Gotherington Nurseries.

We have fleece and bubble wrap to protect outside pipes and plants from the colder weather. Remember the birds too with our great selection of specialist bird feeds, feeders, nest boxes and bird tables. We sell habitats for bugs, bees & hedgehogs too. Our logs, kindling wood and winter car care products are available now.

In January, seed potatoes, onion sets arrive & a full collection of seeds and 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 at 2pm on 24th Dec and re-open 9am on 2nd January 2027. Real Christmas trees can be recycled in early January.

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

Mark and Liz, *Gotherington Nurseries*

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

Contacts*: David Atkinson (chair) - david5atkinson101@gmail.com*
Val Hayward (Secretary) - dvhaycroft@gmail.com

The Club continues to thrive, and we have been enjoying the late summer weather, which makes for ideal playing conditions on the piste! The heat in the afternoons in July meant that it was too hot to play, since there is no shade out there, but the morning sessions were really enjoyable.

After promotion to the top division in the Cotswold league, this year our team battled to several narrow defeats and the occasional victory. So it is likely that a return to the lower division awaits. Nevertheless, the matches were played in good heart by those who took part.

Our main Summer Club Social event was the Limited Ends Melee followed by cream tea, which was well attended, and both the play and the scones were enjoyed by all.

Remarkably, the annual Ladies v Gents match (which had been planned for early June) had to be postponed because of poor weather. We rescheduled and played in October with a win for the Gents, but - more importantly - cake after!

Regular "Club Play" takes place on Sunday mornings at 10am and Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. We meet near the play area in Freemans Field, all year round apart from during extreme weather conditions!!

Our sessions are very friendly and informal; you don't have to come to both Wednesday and Sunday, although some players do. We mix up the teams and decide the formats at each session to ensure everyone gets to play, so come along, on your own or with a friend, and have a go. We have spare boules available, and it's an easy game to pick up. You don't have to live in the village or have any previous experience.

Hope to see you there.

David

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Contact: Contact: Meg Humphries (Parish Clerk)

As Winter approaches and we head towards the end of the year, it's been another busy period for Gotherington Parish Council.

We're pleased to announce the launch of the Neighbourhood CIL Grants scheme for projects that will benefit Gotherington and help improve community facilities and local amenities.

Speeding continues to be one of the concerns most frequently raised with Councillors. Recent traffic surveys provided useful information about vehicle speeds in and around the village, and we're considering what further measures may be available to help improve road safety.

We're also continuing discussions about improvements to mobile phone coverage in Gotherington. Work is underway to identify potential locations.

Looking ahead, we're reviewing how our facilities can continue to meet the needs of residents now and in the future. Alongside the imminent launch of a new online booking system, we're looking at how to improve facilities across the parish and ensure they remain fit for purpose for years to come.

You can keep up to date with us at www.gotherington-pc.gov.uk/news, where you'll find more information on many of the topics mentioned above.

As this will be our last update before Christmas, we'd like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

***Meg Humphries,** for Gotherington Parish Council*

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

Chair:Julie Devereux
Secretary: Sally Newbury (Tel. 317276) / email: sall.newbury@gmail.com
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. The concert was very well received and included songs from the American Songbook as well as some inspirational readings. At the end of the term, we enjoyed a garden party courtesy of one of our members. A super selection of food plus Pimms was enjoyed on a lovely warm sunny evening. We resumed practices in September and are working on our programme for our Christmas Concert which will be held on Saturday 12 December at 2 pm in St. Michael & All Angels' Church in Bishops Cleeve. Contact Sally for more information and tickets.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As well as our Christmas Concert, we will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 20 March at 10 am. An opportunity to enjoy coffee/tea and cake while listening to the choir singing a range of popular pieces. Free entry. Our Summer concert will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the choir. It will be held on Saturday 26 June at 7.30 pm. 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 social evening 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 see above for our website or email or phone 07593 617050

***Julie Devereux** (Chair, Gotherington Singers)*

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

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

This Season we had over 260 children involved. Our u15 boys side reached the Cup Final, played at Cheltenham Town - a fitting way for the manager Richard Leeson to sign off after 15 years of involvement. He is one of the unsung heroes helping to keep the Club running, marking up our pitches whatever the weather and giving so much of his own time.

Our u18 Girls side have secured runners up spot in the very competitive Bristol and Regional League, a remarkable achievement. Many of our other girls teams from u7 upwards have had excellent seasons and it will a real inspiration for them to know that one of our ex-players is now in the England u16/17 team, as well as having been signed on by Bristol City. She will be back presenting at our annual Fun Day on June 27th.

We had 9 girls and 5 boys teams this year, one of which was a new u6 side for the boys who enjoyed their first year. They are off to great start as an u7 side with several parents stepping in to take on Club Volunteer roles which is essential to the long term health of any club, so a big Thank You to them.

The girls section has achieved incredible things over the last 7 years and the size of the Club became too big to be based in Gotherington, so we decided to "re-badge" as Evesham United, based on access to facilities available. Close links will continue and we may look at Gotherington as an option for Girls football again in due course. More to follow in future updates.

We rely entirely on volunteers and appreciate the support from sponsors, parents, the Parish Council, the School and people in the Community who also help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me.

We base our teams on the age groups in the village school, so if any parent would like to step forward to run a side for an age group that currently doesn't have a team please get in contact and we can get you up and running.

***Rob Sharp**, Chairman and Secretary GJFC*

THE OLD CHAPEL ART CLUB

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

We meet in the Old Chapel on Thursday mornings from 10:00 till 12:00 and do various crafts from painting to card making.

There is a small charge of £3 per session and we ask that you bring your own 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 to hire for all family occasions, children's parties and funeral teas; also, the hall is well suited for regular hire for art clubs, craft groups, coffee mornings, fitness classes and local meetings of any kind. There is on-site free fibre wi-fi.

There is a full range of modern kitchen facilities complete with all amenities. The hall is readily accessible for wheelchair users. There is also a toilet, which is accessible and suitable for disabled.

*The hall is available to hire for the **very reasonable rate of £8 per hour** throughout the Autumn and Winter of 2026.*

There is an upper limit of 90 people, and the hall can comfortably seat 40 people with tables and chairs. There is a marquee available for added capacity. The marquee is also available for hire.

Please contact me by email to make a reservation.

Lorraine

THE OLD CHAPEL BOOK CLUB

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

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.

It is rare that everyone has the same taste in what we read, so we all give each book a rating out of 10 and work out the average. In this period, the books all averaged between 6 and 8 out of 10.

In the Summer 2026 Topics, I mentioned The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams. Unusually, everyone agreed that this was an enjoyable and worthwhile read.

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell had a mixed reception, leading to a midway rating. Although it was a fascinating read, the way children were treated as workers from a very early age was truly shocking!

The Overstory by Richard Powers was about trees and their importance for wildlife and nature. Very well written but some of us liked it more than others, leading again to a midway rating.

The JM Barrie Ladies' Swimming Society by Barbara J Zitwer is set around Stanway House and JM Barrie's connection with the Cotswolds. Descriptions of the area diverged from reality which disturbed us and led to a low rating, but we remembered it is fiction.

Happy Reading

Linda

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contacts: Ken Ascroft (673192)
galhs.org.uk *treasurer@galhs.org.uk*

Our new 2026/27 season kicked off on 22 September, when our members and guests enjoyed a captivating presentation by local author and researcher, David Elder. David uncovered the bizarre, quirky, and unexpected secrets buried deep within Cheltenham's local archives, leaving everyone in attendance looking at our familiar streets through fresh eyes!

Join Us for the Season

We meet from September to May on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding December) at 7:30 pm in Gotherington Village Hall.

- *Membership: £15 per year*
- *Visitors: £3 per meeting*
- *To Join: Contact Ken at treasurer@galhs.org.uk*

Every meeting concludes with coffee, biscuits, and a chance to browse the Society's extensive collection of local history books.

Forthcoming presentations:

24th Nov William Tyndale 'One of the greatest Englishmen', A. Pilbeam
8th Dec The Hugely Huggable History of the Teddy Bear, Dr.Gill White
26th Jan Metal Detecting and finds from Gloucestershire, Nicola Potter
23rd February Battle of Tewkesbury, Steve Goodchild
23rd March Tolkien and the Cotswolds- The Shaping of Middle Earth, Andy Meller
27th April A.G.M. followed by The Decline, Fall and Rise of the Honeybourneline, David Aldred
25th May The Quarries and Tramroads of Leckhampton Hill, Dr Ray Wilson

Julie Ryan *for Gotherington LHS*

GOTHERINGTON'S LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

***Contact**: Lucy Barbour, Associate Minister, 07821580995, lucyannbarbour@gmail.com*

As Christmas approaches, we are preparing for a familiar festive tradition. The Living Advent Calendar is returning for its 8th year, offering a simple way to bring creativity and joy to the countdown to Christmas.

What is the Living Advent Calendar?

Starting on 1st December and running for 24 nights, members of our Community transform their windows into festive displays. Each evening at 6 pm, a new window is unveiled, creating a trail of creations that can be enjoyed throughout Advent.

Share in the Community Spirit

A key part of the calendar is the community aspect. You are invited to gather outside the designated home each evening at 6pm for the window reveal. These unveilings are informal gatherings, sometimes accompanied by treats like chocolates, mince pies, or mulled wine.

How to Get Involved?

There are three ways to take part this year:

***Decorate a window:** If you would like to create a display and be a stop on the calendar, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch using the contact details above to book a date.*

***Follow the trail:** If you would like to know where to visit each evening, contact us for a copy of the Advent Calendar address map, or check our Facebook page for daily updates.*

***Follow from home:** If you'd prefer to stay indoors, you can still view the windows online. We post daily photos on our social media pages:*

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gotheringtonadvent
Instagram: @living_advent_gotherington

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

THE OLD CHAPEL

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

We had an exciting Summer with the addition of a new BIGGER screen fitted to the ceiling along with the projector to give us an even slicker looking Film Club which got a big thumbs up at our first screening!! It also makes it a lot easier for others who may want to hire the space and use the equipment. You can visit our website for hire details.

With the Hedgehog Trail in full swing ,look out for the open days at the end of November when you can pop in for a 'hog chocolate' and collect stickers for your Trail Guide.

As the Hedgehog Trail ends we kick start Christmas on the very first weekend in December with the 'Christmas Tree Festival'! Organised in conjunction with Woolstone, Gotherington & Oxenton Churches, do pop in to see the decorated trees and vote for your favourite! You can also see the trees at our Advent Calendar "window reveal" on Friday 4th December.

Nearer Christmas Day on Saturday 19th we have "18 Strings" entertaining us with a Christmas singalong,

and on Tuesday 22nd BINGO is BACK – with a Family Bingo at 3.30pm and Xmas Bingo for grown ups at 7pm.

If you want to find out more about these events or see what else is coming up at The Old Chapel, search under 'upcoming events' on our website or just check our our noticeboard.

We try to offer a range of activities and events at The Old Chapel to reach residents of all ages, but if you have any new ideas for us then we would love to hear from you. Early next year we plan to host an Open Day which is a great opportunity to talk to Trustees and Groups who run activities in The Old Chapel. Hope to see you soon!

Jenny