

Gretton Village

NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Apple Rock 2024 - The Rodeo came to Gretton

Despite the wet weather limiting the scarecrow display the sun came out for Apple Rock. The day was very well supported and the Rodeo Bull was a tremendous success with old and young testing their skills against the clock.

Apples were pressed in readiness for cider making over the winter and last year's brew was sampled. There was food and drink galore and activities for all ages. The Friends of Gretton School put on an array of activities for the children with a year group art display and competition. Congratulations to all the winners!

The inaugural Gretton Apple Cup was awarded to Jordan Diggory for surviving the longest on the bull and Aurora Evans-Eadie had the best under 15 time.



Dougie Steward rides the bull - See Page 3 for more images from Apple Rock

The "Apple Bake" saw some fierce competition but Alice and Darcy Short secured first place with Alice Scott runner up. A number of people asked for the recipe so here it is...

<https://www.onceuponachef.com/recipes/french-apple-cake.html>

Thank you to all who helped and everyone for joining in. A special thank you to the Rev D Penny and the Headmaster for judging the competitions.



Parish Council

The last meeting of the Gretton Parish Council was on 7th Nov, and draft minutes are now available on the website.

We need to ensure that we engage and stay connected with village issues. But, Council meetings can be a bit formal, as they have to follow a set format; so at the last meeting we started 15 mins early, to allow time for a more informal chat.

This seemed to work well, so at the next meeting (Wed 8th Jan), we'll do the same again, starting at 6.30pm, to allow ½ hr for a coffee and conversation. Please come along so we can discuss what's on your mind, and then we'll have the main meeting at 7.00pm - stay for as long or little as you wish. Councillors are also on hand at the Gretton Hubs.

In the meantime, we're looking for new blood please - we have vacancies for new councillors and would benefit from some broader representation. No experience is needed, we're simply well-intentioned volunteers, who meet 6-times a year, but it's a good opportunity to represent and help the community - including with this Newsletter! Come along to the next meeting at 6.30 to see what we do, or talk to any one of us.

M5 Junction 9 and A46 - Ashchurch

Those of us who have encountered congestion passing through Ashchurch on the approach to the M5 will be interested in news of a new junction and access to the A46 being planned by National Highways and Glos County Council.

The M5 Junction 9 and A46 Transport Scheme is a proposal to develop a new M5 junction 9a to the south of Tewkesbury and re-route a section of the A46 between the M5 and Teddington Hands roundabout.

The scheme aims to help solve long standing traffic issues and provide vital infrastructure. The new roads will have to accommodate existing traffic, plus anticipated additional traffic from new housing and commerce.



Potential Route Options for the scheme

Details of the consultation process, and the various route options being considered, can be seen at <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/junction-9> The public engagement phase runs through December 2nd.

Before we all get too excited, the scheme is not expected to be completed and open for traffic until 2034.



In other Borough Council news, as we reported in the June Newsletter, Tewkesbury Borough Council were considering a name change. This change was confirmed in a vote in September during which it was confirmed that the new name is North Gloucestershire Borough Council.

The new name change will be phased in from December 2025. See <https://teiwkesbury.gov.uk/new-name>

Apple Rock 2024 in Pictures



The Croft Development

Residents will have noted that ground has been broken on the 6 house development on land adjacent to Gretton Farm Bungalow on the Prescott / Gotherington Road. The developer, Centaur, are a local company based in Bishops Cleeve who have constructed numerous housing schemes in surrounding Gloucestershire villages. The Gretton scheme is the culmination of detailed collaboration with the Parish to achieve a design that, we hope, will sit in harmony with the existing strong character of Gretton.



The development, know as The Croft, will consist of 4 four bedroom detached homes and 2 semi-detached three bedroom properties. The properties are expected to be available in Spring 2025.



Gretton Village Association News

The Gretton Village Association (GVA) AGM was held on 7th November and included a review of the last year against the GVA's objectives of Facilities Maintenance, Recreation provision, Social events and Community welfare.

The events of the last year have raised approximately £12,000 for the community.

The AGM also appointed the new committee with three new members being elected. Three members stepped down and our thanks go to them for all their hard work over the last year.



The new committee will be meeting before Christmas to begin to plan 2025 so if you want to get involved or have any suggestions please contact Mark Oliver.

The recent Parish survey highlighted the need for more events for adults such as wine tasting, fitness classes and speakers so if you would like to help please get involved.

Another focus will be how we mark 2025? For those who remember the 2000 Millennium activities such as the village photographic record, bonfire beacon, rogation walk, summer party, nest boxes and tree planting and a tennis competition were held. We feel that some of these would be great to recreate as it will be 25 years since the millennium. All ideas are welcome.

As a start to 2025 Bernard Gill has offered to host a New years Day walk. Please contact Bernard if you are interested.



Preparations for Christmas

The Gretton Quiz Night on November 29th marks the traditional start to Christmas in the Village. The Advent Windows will keep us engaged throughout the month and on Christmas Eve we have the Carole Service at 5pm followed by Festive refreshments in the Village Hall.

Gretton Village Association - Classes

As a reminder the regular classes held in the Hall are as follows

Monday:	Pilates at 6.30pm
Tuesday:	Yoga at 6.30pm
Wednesday:	Pilates at 9.30am and Dance at 4.00pm
Thursday:	Yoga at 9.30am and Table Tennis available for hire in the afternoon
Friday:	Table Tennis available for hire
Saturday:	Dance at 9.15am

Watch out also for the new Sound Bath experience that is starting to gain momentum. Next session is scheduled for December 5th at 7:30pm - contact Claire Henry on 07930 460359 to book.

Remember that the Main Hall and Meeting Room are available for hire and are popular for children's parties, family celebrations, clubs and meetings. Residents benefit from preferential hire rates. The projector and public address system are also proving popular with local businesses who lack suitable meeting space so please contact Kathy at gvabookings@gmail.com to discuss your needs.

Gretton Hub

The Hub has proven a great success and we are really pleased to confirm that funding from North Gloucestershire Borough Council has been secured to enable us to open over the Winter. Please come along, meet your neighbours and enjoy a free breakfast in a warm and welcoming environment.

Gretton Hub

eat - drink - chat - play

The Gretton Village Association is pleased to announce the Winter dates for the Gretton Hub offered with support from the Tewkesbury Borough Council Warm Space fund.

We offer free food and refreshments for all in a warm friendly environment. Childrens games, a book swap and table tennis are available. Opening dates are as follows:

Sundays 10.00 – 12.30:

10th November (after Remembrance Service)
8th December
Tues 24th December – Christmas Eve opening at 5 pm
12th January
26th January
9th February
23 February
9th March
23rd March
6th April

If you have any questions, please get in touch at
gvabookings@gmail.com



Speeding

Reducing traffic speed through the Village remains a high priority issue for many residents. The Community Speedwatch has proven an effective deterrent with a positive impact on speed awareness of motorists.

In response to a number of requests we will be extending the Speedwatch coverage by expanding the team. Gretton Fields and the Gotherington Road are key priorities but a continued focus through the village is needed.

A training session is being planned to empower more residents to get involved so please contact Mark Oliver to book your place.

Village Environment

A big thank you to Simon who assisted in planting 200 mixed daffodil bulbs along Barn Close and the grass verge opposite Working lane., and to Chris, Jane and Joy for their efforts in planting up the war memorial, which looked splendid for the remembrance service.

Thanks also to hedge clearers around the village, for helping to improve visibility and with it pedestrian and road-safety.

Litter

Gretton Parish Council has organised a number of community litter picks in the past in order to help keep our roads and play areas tidy. Additionally, a number of local residents routinely pick litter and the village has benefited enormously from their efforts.

The Council maintains a number of sets of litter picking equipment; this includes litter grabbers, bag hoops, and recycled & reusable bags,.

If you would like to borrow any of these items please contact David Butcher.



Inclement weather

As winter weather approaches, some of you have expressed concern about snow, ice and flooding. Whilst there is a limit to what GPC can do, we have published some useful (hopefully) guidance and links on the website. We've ensured that we have salt / grit available in bins and also with our gritting & snow-clearing contractor. We are also planning to provide some sandbags to help with any emergency short-term flooding.

Please see the Gretton Parish Council website for more information.

News from Christ Church

It was lovely to see so many people at our recent Songs of Praise as we celebrated the life of Christ Church with favourite hymns, followed by some very yummy cakes and coffee. Keep an eye out for our next special events, everyone is welcome.

This Christmas come and kick off your celebrations and get in the festive spirit as we sing carols and hear those timeless readings about the nativity. 4pm on Christmas eve.

From all of us at Christ Church, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Revd Captain David Penny CA

Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Winchcombe with Gretton, Sudeley Manor and Stanley Pontlarge

Gretton Primary School

Gretton Primary School is very much in the midst of preparing for Christmas as we speak. We are in the process of practicing nativity performances and carol services which we will be holding in the village hall and church respectively.

The school and village looked beautiful in the snow and the children had lots of fun making various snow characters. We are looking forward to taking part in the window advent and seeing how the village looks.

In other arrangements we are very excited to be joining a Multi-Academy Trust in Primary Quest who will support us in our ongoing development.

Mr Adam Sallis

Headteacher



GRETTON PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

Saturday March 1st

This amazing social event has been taking place for over 25 years. It comprises an evening of relaxed dining. Changing groups of six people dine together for a course - then move on to meet new friends in a new place for the next course, and so on. You will be asked to provide one course of the three-course meal but will be able to enjoy each course in a different venue and with different guests.

You do not need to make a firm commitment now, but if you are interested in hearing more please contact Jan Taylor on jankingsmead@btinternet.com We will then be in touch nearer the date to confirm your interest and let you have more information.

Contacts & Communications

Parish Council

Geoff Hanson - Chair

01242 603848

geoff@grettonpc-glos.org.uk

Mark Oliver

07801 716148

mark@grettonpc-glos.org.uk

Richard Green - Vice Chair

01242 602272

dick@grettonpc-glos.org.uk

David Butcher

07506 671631

david@grettonpc-glos.org.uk

Village News is currently available through the following channels:

The Village Noticeboards

Village Facebook Page: Gretton Village Notices

Village WhatsApp Group Gretton Help Force - Pls Contact Geoff Hanson or Mark Oliver to be added

Gretton Parish Council Website: www.grettonpc.weebly.com

Gretton Village Association: www.sites.google.com/site/grettonvillagehall/home

Puzzle Corner

6		4		8			7	
		9		7		3		
		2	4	5				
	6	3					2	
4	7				5			
	9					6		
					1			
						4	8	2
5					4	7	1	

R	M	Y	R	A	M	A	S	S	C	J
I	A	L	T	S	D	P	L	H	S	O
F	G	O	R	L	I	L	I	E	L	Y
R	I	H	O	E	O	L	V	B	E	L
A	F	G	P	D	D	L	A	K	O	I
T	T	E	Z	U	E	B	R	X	N	M
S	A	L	E	S	Y	U	L	E	A	A
A	J	C	N	A	T	O	E	H	Y	F
O	P	I	N	E	R	G	R	A	V	Y
T	T	C	E	D	A	R	N	N	I	U
N	O	I	T	A	N	R	A	C	N	I

Sudoku

Fill and complete the grid using the numbers from 1 to 9

- Each row must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions
- Each column must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions
- The digits can only occur once per block (nonet)
- The sum of every single row, column, and nonet must equal 45

Word Search - Christmas

Baby	Gravy	Magi	Sled
Cedar	Ham	Mary	Star
Child	Holy	Mass	Tinsel
Dolls	Icicle	Moel	Toast
Elves	Incarnation	Pie	Turkey
Family	Inn	Pine	Yule
Fir	Ivy	Port	
Gift	Joy	Red	
Gold	Lord	Sales	

*The Solution to the Sudoku puzzle is available on the Gretton Parish Council website

www.grettonpc.weebly.com

Dates for your diary

November 2024

Friday 29th, 7:00pm

Xmas Quiz Night

December 2024

All Month

Thursday 5th, 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Sunday 8th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Tuesday 24th, 4:00pm

Advent Windows

Gong and Singing Bowl Soundbath, Village Hall

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

Carol Service at Christ Church & Refreshments in Village Hall

January 2025

Wednesday 8th, 6:30pm

Sunday 12th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Sunday 26th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Gretton Parish Council Mtg, Village Hall

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

February 2025

Sunday 9th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Sunday 23rd, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

March 2025

Sunday 1st - Save the Date!

Progressive Supper - please contact Jan Taylor

jankingsmead@btinternet.com