



NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Apple Rock 2025

The annual Apple Rock was held on Saturday 5th October. Once again the event was a great success with a large turnout enjoying the day despite the cooler temperatures.

The apple press was flat out, the Friends of Gretton School tent was buzzing, the Elemental Mule horsebox bar was a great success and as always the cakes and food were in high demand. The Rodeo Bull and apple cake competition brought out the competitive spirit and the Mashers played us into the night.

Congratulations to Christine Vickery who won the adult apple cake competition and Sarah Hawkswell who won the child's cake competition. Alix Scott was the distinguished runner up.

The Rodeo Ball attracted a competitive crowd with Tim Osborne winning the Gretton Apple Cup for longest adult rider and Lottie Brookes winning the under 14 competition.

Thank you to everyone who helped and to those who joined in.



(More images from Apple Rock on Page 4)



Gretton's own Charlie Steward Conquers Ultramarathon

Charlie Steward, 20, has become the youngest British competitor to enter the Moab 240, a 240-mile Ultramarathon that starts and finishes in Moab, Utah.

This years race took place between October 10th and October 15th and featured difficult desert, canyon, and mountain terrain. Race conditions were described as extremely difficult, featuring storms, flash floods, and heavy mud, with some runners calling it the hardest edition yet.

Huge congratulations to Charlie who completed the race in 105 hours and 51 minutes.



Parish Council News

Where does Gretton Parish Council go from here?

My name is Steve Hawkins and I have recently joined Gretton Parish Council (GPC). My wife Pip and I moved to Gretton four years ago from Winchester and haven't looked back since arriving.

Neither of us had any connection with this area before arriving but have found Gretton to be a place that felt like home almost immediately. There is a feeling of community in the village and a sense of being somewhere that is worth being a part of and worth looking after.

That is the main reason why I allowed myself to be talked into joining GPC by Geoff Hanson, mainly whilst my defenses were down in The Royal Oak on a Friday night, it must be said.

There is a sense amongst the members of GPC that whilst some great things are happening in Gretton, we could and possibly should be doing more, with more ambition.

Looking forward to 2026, we're looking for ideas to help us develop a plan to set out Gretton's future ambitions and to help us defend against upcoming changes to local government structure and ongoing planning pressures.

It's also about getting your ideas regarding how GPC spends your money, which comes to us from council tax and Community Infrastructure Levies generated by property developments in the village. I've reviewed the output from the 2024 Gretton Village Survey and the themes that stand out to me are as follows:

- People generally feel there is a good community spirit in the village
- The classes and activities available in the village hall and the facilities afforded by the hall are widely appreciated
- There is a strong desire for GPC to oversee and challenge where necessary, applications for development of properties in and around Gretton
- Speeding through the village and parking are viewed as priorities for GPC to address
- There is a strong desire to maintain and improve the village environment, whilst keeping Gretton rural. This includes a desire for tree and shrub planting, maintenance of the playing fields, footpaths and ditches.

The honest truth is though, that we are struggling to identify specific aims or strategies that we can work towards as a council and a community, to make Gretton and even better place to be part of than it currently is.

That's where we need your help. If you care about the village and how we can make it an even better place to be, please let us have your ideas by contacting any member of the GPC by email. You can also get in touch via the Gretton Parish Council website www.grettonpc.weebly.com

January's Parish Council meeting is on 14th Jan at 19:00 in the village hall. There will be an open discussion session at 7pm, prior to the formal meeting at 7:30pm. Please feel free to come along and share any ideas you may have. Also, if you can make it, please come along to an ideas session in **The Royal Oak on 21st January 2026 at 7pm**. I'll buy you a drink and we will listen to you.

Thanks
Steve

Council Meetings

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 25th November, in the Village Hall, at 7.00pm. We'll meet 30 min earlier for an informal chat first. Everyone is welcome – come and tell us what's on your mind, see what we do? Previous minutes, the agenda and other good stuff, including an updated planning database, are on the GPC website.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

As reviewed in the last newsletter; Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) is wrestling with different LGR options. A recommendation is due to be submitted to the Government on 28th November. Following more consultation, a decision is expected in early 2027 and a new organisation operational by April 2028. It is a concern, as TBC is likely to be replaced by a 'Neighbourhood Partnership', which is still to be defined. More information on the TBC website and gloucestershire.org.uk

Planning

The new Strategic & Local Plan (SLP), is a new shared development plan that will define the growth and housing strategy for the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury boroughs over the next 20 years. This replaces the previous Joint Core Strategy and should enable TBC to better manage housing development in the borough, whilst meeting tough government housing targets. As this policy develops, we stay engaged with TBC, to ensure we understand its impact and that Gretton's concerns are represented. More info on the TBC website and strategiclocalplan.org

A reminder that we maintain a database of all Gretton planning, on our website, also TBC's planning portal is very accessible.



Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday was marked with a ceremony on 9th November at the village War Memorial. Nearly 100 people were in attendance to pay their respects and lay wreaths, with refreshments served afterwards at Gretton Hub in the Village Hall.

Those who attended the Remembrance event will have been reminded of the great work done by volunteers in the village in maintaining the site. Chris Vickery, Jane Roberts and Joy Mitchel have worked wonders.

In 2026 GPC are also looking to clean and restore the memorial in order to ensure it remains a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives in conflicts.





Gretton Village Association News

The Village Association held its AGM on 12th November. As a registered charity this is a formal requirement but it also provides an opportunity to review activities from the last year, consider the financial health of the charity and elect the new committee. The meeting was well supported and all material is available on the Village Hall website.

The team said goodbye to retiring members Treasa Cahill, Liz Brazier and Alix Scott and thanked them for their contribution to the village.

The committee for the coming year was confirmed and is captured below. It should be noted that the GVA has now welcomed the Tower Trust to the team.



Elected Members	Representative Members	Co-Opted Members
Mark Oliver – Chair & Trustee	TBD - Gretton School/FoGS	Adam Wawn (Maintenance)
Duncan Johnson – Treasurer and Trustee	Rev D Penny – Christ Church	Dean Sibborn
Hayley Brookes – Secretary	Mark Oliver – Gretton Parish Council	
Kathy Tweedie – Booking	David Tweedie – Social Group	
Rich Wearn – Website/Marketing	Paul White – Gretton Tower Trust	
Sue Hughes - Trustee		

The new team will meet in December and one agenda item will be to confirm the key diary dates for 2026. Reach out to them before this to share your ideas on what should be on offer.

The GVA continues to be successful with securing grant funding for projects and the social events generate a surplus. The key issue is Hall rental where revenue is significantly down and costs have increased considerably. This situation cannot be sustained so the team are progressing a number of actions: the solar panels and new heaters (see later) will reduce costs and the new website and a marketing push are targeted at increasing rentals. It has been necessary to increase rental rates for the first time in many years.

The new website <https://grettonvillagehall.co.uk/> is now in use. The website will be populated with news and events and importantly shows the Hall calendar and enables on line booking. Please take a look.

The Village Hall is there for your use. As residents you can benefit from reduced rental rates and you can join one of the regular classes:

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 bi-weekly Sound Bath at 7.30pm
Friday:	Table Tennis available for hire
Saturday:	Dance at 9.15am

Please tell your friends about the Hall and also your workplace as we are encouraging business rentals. The Hall is a great asset and increasing income ensures its long term viability.

Village Association Projects

Since the last newsletter the GVA has completed two important projects:

- The solar power system has been installed thanks to the support of **Gretton Solar Farm Ltd** through Greenfields Trust www.greenfieldstrust.co.uk
- Energy efficient heating has been installed in the remainder of the building thanks to the support of **Climate Change Gloucestershire** through Gloucestershire County Council

The solar power system is important in reducing the running costs and is forecast to half the energy bill. In addition, the system has batteries allowing cheap rate electricity to be purchased overnight and used during the day.

The heating system is WIFI controlled allowing better management of use. They are also far more efficient which should realise an additional saving of around £300/year along with a 200kg carbon reduction.



Kenneth Roles from Greenfields Trust with the GVA team

With these key projects complete we can start to focus on the remaining items of our improvement agenda as follows:

- Sports Storage Facility- to enhance our recreation provision.
- Activity Space - better use of the space at the rear of the Hall for events and parking.
- Playing Field Accessibility - a perimeter path around the field to improve accessibility, provide a jogging facility and improve the overall utility of the space for the community.

- Refurbishment of the upstairs room - as part of our drive for rental income we plan to update the meeting room to make it more suitable for business rental. If your workplace has any excess furniture or equipment that may be suitable please get in touch!

If you would like to hear more or have some skills or contacts that might help please contact Mark Oliver.



Village Walks

The series of walks in and around the village has continued:

- St Michael's Stanley Pontlarge 850 Year Anniversary Walk and Picnic took place on Saturday 27th September. The walk commenced from St Peter's Church, Winchcombe headed to St Michael's in Stanley Pontlarge, and returned via Christ Church, Gretton where it stopped for a well deserved picnic lunch.



- On 26 October the eastern Gretton cul-de-sacs walk was held exploring the village and meeting the neighbours.

Looking ahead the following walks are planned, all starting from the Village Green:

Stanley Pontlarge Walk following the lower footpaths of Stanley Hill featuring part of the old Pilgrimage trail and the Parish Boundary rogation walk.

10:30am, Sunday 30th November

New Years Eve Walk up Gretton Hill

10:30am, Wednesday 31st December

Gretton Hub

Funding from the Government has been secured for the Winter Hub and the Hall will open ten times on a Sunday throughout the colder months and also on Christmas Eve after the carol service.

The Hub will continue to offer free food and drinks, along with table tennis, a book swap and children's activities.

In addition we have now introduced a Digital Support initiative where the team from Digital Accessibility, Inclusion, Support and Innovation (DAISI) offer support with day to day information technology and digital issues. The scheme is supported by Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council. The first session proved very popular and we hope to offer these on a regular basis.





Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

The Wardens are in discussion with the Parish Council about the installation of display board where walking routes, historical information and points of interest can be presented. Boards have been installed in other villages and have been well received.



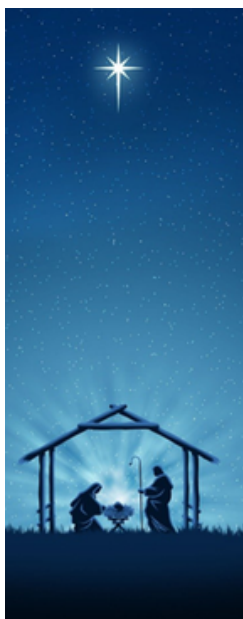
News from Christ Church

We are starting a new style of church on Sunday afternoons aimed particularly at families, but suitable for people of all ages. There will be fun activities, craft, cake, tea, coffee and juice with some relaxed prayer and worship. The first of these will be on Sunday 23rd November at 4pm. Come and see what it's all about.

These new services will be held on a monthly basis from January 2026 on the second Sunday of the month and replace the morning service - we'll let you know more month by month, so keep an eye on our social media for more details of these Second Sunday Specials.

Advent

On Sunday 30th November at 5pm at St. Peter's, we will have an Advent Carol Service - it's a bit like a Christmas Carol Service, but with songs, readings and choir pieces that reflect this special time of year. Come and prepare for Christmas with us.



Christmas Services

At Christ Church Gretton:

- 24th December at 4pm - Christmas Carol Service & Blessing the Crib

Other Christmas Services and Events around the parish:

- 20th December at Winchcombe Abbey School at 4pm - Christmas Awesome
- 20th December at St. Peter's Church at 6pm - The Nativity Play
- 21st December at St. Peter's at 5pm - Parish Carol Service
- 24th December at St. Peter's at 11.30pm - Midnight Mass
- 25th December at Stanley Pontlarge at 9.15am - Family Christmas Service
- 25th December at St. Peter's at 10.30am - Family Christmas Service

From all of us at Christ Church we wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas season.

**GRETTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**FRIENDS OF GRETTON SCHOOL
INVITE YOU TO AN EVENING OF**

**CHRISTMAS WREATH
MAKING**

ALL PROFITS SUPPORT GRETTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
6:30pm to 8:30pm
£35pp - Price includes All
equipment, mince pie and
glass of mulled wine.

**Gretton Village Hall
GL54 5EP**

scan to book

Contacts & Communications

Parish Council

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Steve Hawkins

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Village News is currently available through the following channels:

Village WhatsApp Groups - access can be requested from Mark Oliver :

- Gretton Help Force - general village communications and requests for help
- GVA Helpers - for those who want to help the GVA with small jobs and /or helping with village events

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

Gretton Village Association: <https://grettonvillagehall.co.uk/>

Village Facebook presence:

- Gretton Village Noticeboard (Gloucestershire) - This Group is run by local residents and is used for a broad range of communications.
- Gretton Village Notices - This Page is run by the GVA & Parish Council and is used for sharing local information and village events.
- Gretton Gloucestershire Village Hall - This Page is run by the GVA and is used to advertise the Village Hall facilities.

Gretton Village Association:

Mark Oliver, Chairman, 07801 716148 markp.oliver@btinternet.com

Kathy Tweedie, Bookings, 07968 711590 gvabookings@gmail.com

Cotswold Wardens

Mark Oliver, Gretton Parish Warden, 07801716148 markp.oliver@btinternet.com

Gretton Primary School

Adam Sallis, Headteacher head@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk

Church

Revd Captain David Penny CA, Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Winchcombe with Gretton, Sudeley Manor and Stanley Pontlarge revdpenny@winchcombeparish.org.uk

Dates for your diary

November 2025

Sunday 23rd, 10:00am - 12:30pm	Gretton Hub, Village Hall
Tuesday 25th, 6:30pm	Gretton Parish Council Mtg, Village Hall
Friday 28th, 7:00pm	Christmas Quiz, Village Hall
Saturday 29th, 3:00pm - 6:00pm	Christmas Craft Fair, Village Hall

December 2025

Friday 5th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm	Christmas Wreath Making, Village Hall
Sunday 14th, 10:00am - 12:30pm	Gretton Hub, Village Hall
Wednesday 24th, 4:00pm	Carol Service at Christ Church & Refreshments in Village Hall

January 2026

Sunday 11th, 10:00am, 11:00am	Gretton Hub, Village Hall
Wednesday 14th, 6:30pm	Gretton Parish Council Mtg, Village Hall
Wednesday 21st, 7:00pm	GPC Ideas Meeting, The Royal Oak
Sunday 25th, 10:00am - 12:30pm	Gretton Hub, Village Hall

February 2026

Sunday 8th, 10:00am - 12:30pm	Gretton Hub, Village Hall
Sunday 22nd, 10:00am - 12:30pm	Gretton Hub, Village Hall

***And don't forget, Advent Windows starts 1st December!**