

Gretton Village

NEWSLETTER

Produced by Gretton Parish Council

June 2026

Making Gretton Look Great

Gretton Parish Council has launched a new initiative aimed at enhancing the appearance of the village, with the hope of instilling even greater pride in our community. You may recall that last summer, the grassy areas throughout the village appeared quite unkempt. The responsibility for mowing the grass along the roads fell to Gloucestershire County Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council. Unfortunately, it became clear that both authorities believed the other was responsible, resulting in no action being taken.

To address this issue, GPC has taken over the responsibility for maintaining the large grass areas in the village center from GCC. A local contractor has been appointed to mow these areas regularly. In early May, a workgroup led by GPC initiated the mowing of Barn Close to kickstart the process and facilitate ongoing maintenance.



GCC Highways will continue to manage the mowing of the verges outside the village center, which is scheduled to occur twice a year, with the first cut expected shortly. Additionally, many smaller grassy areas along the roads are typically maintained by local residents, which is fantastic. If you need assistance caring for the grass areas near your home, please reach out to a Parish Councillor. We plan to organize volunteer work parties to help with this and potentially tackle other tidying projects around the village.

You may have also noticed improvements at the village green, where volunteers refurbished the fence posts and bench, and the planters that have appeared opposite the school. GPC is exploring further projects to enhance the village's appearance, including the restoration of the War Memorial. We would greatly appreciate any suggestions on additional improvements we could make. Please don't hesitate to reach out!

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who helps around the village; often without recognition. This includes litter-picking, speed-watch, the war memorial and other planting, grass and hedge cutting, and various work-parties.



Parish Council News

Keeping us safe is a priority for the Parish Council and we are actively working in the following areas: traffic speed, parking and traffic flow and crime/anti-social behaviour.

Traffic Speed: Some people travel through the village far too quickly and our narrow pavements mean that parents with children or dog walkers often feel particularly exposed.

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The Parish Council has now approved the installation of a Community Speedwatch Plus Camera. This is an “always on device” recording details and speeds of vehicles passing through the village. The device complements the existing Speedwatch team and follows the same reporting process with the Police. Approvals and installation details are being finalised with the aim of installing the device over the Summer.

We have been campaigning to get the 30 mph zone on the Gotherington Road extended beyond 'White Cottage' for nearly a year; and it's proving to be a challenge. There is no doubt the zone should be moved with addition of new housing, and there are real concerns about horse and rider safety, as demonstrated by Becky Pawsey's petition.

GPC has offered to fund this, with support from Centaur Homes, and we've had active support from Cheryl Agg – our County Cllr. GPC had signed-up for the Glos County Council Community 20s and Safer Roads initiative, but were told that they need to prioritise and are currently focussing on high traffic, high risk areas, mostly in larger towns. We'll keep campaigning.



Potholes: Potholes seem to be a fact of life these days and Gretton is no exception. The Council have recently fixed a number in the village but they do rely very much on reporting, so please log any potholes or other issues with our highways via the online **Fix My Street** system.

Traffic Flow and Parking : This is a particular problem around the school at drop off and pick up times. This is nothing new and many villages have similar situations but in recent months vehicles have been damaged, access to roads and properties blocked and tempers frayed.

The Parish Council has worked with the School, residents, Highways and the Police to develop an action plan to try and mitigate some of the challenges, improve traffic flow and keep everyone safe. The following measures are being implemented:

- Overhanging vegetation has been cut back to improve visibility past the school
- Warning signs are being used by the School to discourage parking where its not allowed
- Communications are being shared with the village and school community
- The Police are doing a school assembly to discuss road safety with the children
- Highways are extending the Zig Zags by one car length towards the Bugatti to prevent parking and allow improved line of sight past the school
- The Parish Council have installed planters opposite the school to stop vehicles parking on the pavement
- The Parish Council are asking local businesses to be aware of the challenges and where possible avoid heavy vehicles passing at key times

As always, residents and parents are asked to be courteous and considerate to help minimise aggravation during key times.

These actions are being trialled and as always we are keen hear views as to effectiveness or further actions that could be taken.



Crime/Ant-Social Behaviour: There have been a few incidents of suspicious individuals and anti-social behaviour over recent weeks. It is important that anything of concern is reported. Potential crime related matters should be reported through the “999” if urgent or the Police website. The Tewkesbury Council Website can be used for Anti-Social Behaviour concerns.

The neighbourhood policing team are being more visible in the village and try and attend the Hub when possible.

War Memorial

An important village landmark, the memorial is not looking it's best, despite the outstanding efforts of the planting team. It now needs some restoration, to clean the stone, and especially repair the lettering. We would also want to clean the surrounding wall.

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Interestingly, it used to be a water-fountain, and was converted to a memorial, by the addition of the 'obelisk'. See details at www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/103352/

We also have some background material on all those who are named on the memorial - so if you are interested please get in touch.

As we are discovering there are many regulations and recommendations that apply to this type of restoration work, so we are working with specialist contractors. We are currently in the process of getting quotes and applying for some of the limited funds that may be available for this type of effort, and will then fund the remainder of the required works ourselves.

Gretton Village Association News

The GVA team are busy to deliver on our community support and cohesion objectives. Rob Hardie has joined the central team and we now have active groups for “GVA Supporters”, “GVA Projects” and our each of headline social events for people who can offer some time or skill to help out. The support is really appreciated and we couldn't do what we do without you. Finally, the GVA has a vacancy for a Secretary so if you would like to get involved please contact

chair@grettonvillagehall.co.uk



Recreation Opportunities

Since the last newsletter we have added a couple of new classes to our regular list. The current classes are as follows and further details can be found on the website:

Monday:	Pilates at 6.30pm & bi-weekly Spiritualists meeting at 7pm
Tuesday:	Yoga at 6.30pm
Wednesday:	Drama Tots at 9.15am & 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

If there is a class or activity you are interested in please let us know.

In addition to our classes, we have a Reading and French Group that meet regularly.

Finally, we are now making progress on the Village Archive. The historical information held by GVA is being scanned with a view to making it available on-line. We will share more information as this progresses but if you have an interest in village history please get in touch.



Social Opportunities

We trialled a new **Spring Quiz** in March and it was a great success. Our Quiz Master – Pete did a fantastic job and the packed hall had a very enjoyable evening.

The event will likely form part of our plans going forward.



Gretton Fete

The main focus as we go to print is the planning for the Summer Fete on 4th July. The Fete is our headline event and provides an opportunity for the whole community to come together and celebrate Gretton. All local organisations will be represented, we will have some trade stands and plenty of fun and hospitality.

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The event will start at 2pm with a fancy dress parade from opposite the school with activities on the playing field throughout the afternoon.

If you would like to take a stall to sell your wares or would like to get involved please get in touch.

Beyond the Fete, the main events for the remainder of the year are as follows:

- Apple Rock - October 10th
- Christmas Quiz - November 27th
- Christmas Fair - November 28th

Welfare Opportunities



The bi-weekly “Warm Space” Hub completed in March and was well received by the many visitors. The team were honoured to be recognised for our activities with an invitation to tea with the Mayor of Tewkesbury. Unfortunately, Kathy couldn't join on the day.



In April we held a “special” Hub to mark the 90th Birthdays of two valuable members of the community. Gwyneth and Joy are always involved and helping so they thoroughly deserved a special celebration.

The Hub has established itself as a key community asset. It is well attended and brings folks together and we will continue to open monthly over the Summer with the help of the Parish Council.

We are always thinking of how the Hub can offer support:

- We have been pleased to welcome the GRCC Digital Accessibility, Inclusion, Support and Innovation (DAISI) team to recent Hubs and they will continue to join us to help with all your digital challenges
- The neighbourhood Police team have visited the Hub and will join us when they can. They can offer crime prevention advice and listen to any concerns
- Members of the GVA have been trained as “Citizens Advice First Aiders” which means they can help signpost help and advice on a range of topics

Mens Shed

The GVA has been approached a few times about setting up a men's group in the village - “something to get the men together”.

A number of local villages have set up “Men's Sheds” (part of a global scheme), and we are considering if this is something of interest in Gretton.

Men's Sheds encourage people to come together, provide connection/conversation and typically do activities and/or support projects in the community.

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Hub dates can be found on the date section of the newsletter.



Everything from helping less able residents with repairs, running errands, social gatherings, making things (bird boxes, projects), practising hobbies or going on trips. The group decides what they want to do.

The aim is to Improve wellbeing, strengthen community, reducing loneliness, do good and have fun. The group decides but the GVA can help with facilities.

If you would like to know more come along to a Hub or get in touch with Mark at chair@grettonvillagehall.co.uk to express an interest and share your views.

Facilities

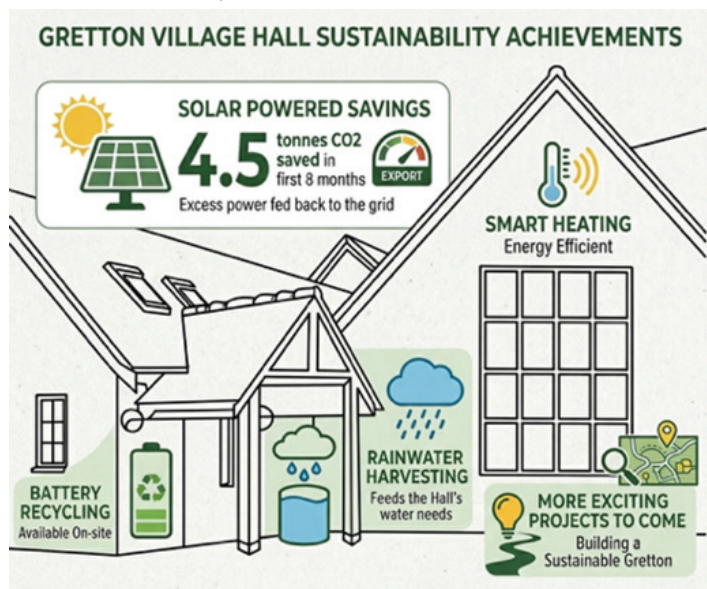
The GVA have increased classes at the Hall but are still looking to improve rental income. Please tell your friends about the Hall and also your workplace as the upstairs room is proving popular for business meetings and training courses. Availability can be checked and bookings made through <https://grettonvillagehall.co.uk>

Remember that residents benefits from reduced rental rates!

Hall running costs have continued to be a challenge but the solar panels are now delivering benefit and our new heaters with zone control are enabling far better control of energy usage.

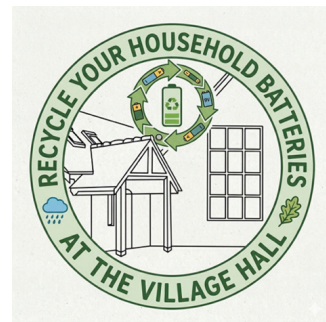
Sustainability

The GVA are committed to building on the solar panels and new heaters to further enhance our sustainability campaign. You will have seen the regular updates on social media and the graphic below summarises work to date. This is an important topic and the GVA have made many connections who can provide help and advice should it be required.



We are currently considering the adoption of LED lighting throughout and are launching the "Spark Change" - battery recycling pilot scheme. Please watch out for the new recycling box at the rear of the Hall.

Household batteries only please - AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, and button cells. We are also introducing a clothing recycling bin to allow unwanted items to go to a new home.



Projects

Good progress has been made on the Projects to improve utility of the Hall and Playing Field.

A new Sports Storage Facility will be erected in the field below the wall to enable secure storage of equipment to make maximum use of our playing pitches. The project will also buy some equipment so we can increase community sports opportunities.

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In conjunction with the above the space at the rear of the Hall will be reworked to provide maximise level, usable space along with an improved ramped access to the field. This new space will maximise usable space for events, fairs, bouncy castles etc and enable easy access to the playing field for all.

Initial design has been completed and affordability confirmed. We are now working with planning and funders in readiness for go-ahead.

Plans for the work will be displayed at the Hub so come along to have your say.

Village of the Year

Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council (GRCC) runs an annual competition for villages to recognise those communities who make the best of local opportunities to sustain or enhance the quality of life for all their residents.

The GVA has worked with all groups in the village to enter and showcase what we do in Gretton. Fingers crossed for the next phase!



**Cotswolds
National
Landscape**

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

The Wardens spend the winter months “fixing things” before the focus shifts to path clearance for the summer months. A number of fallen trees have been cleared and the “stairway” above Warren Farm has been repaired since the last newsletter.

The Wardens are working with the Parish Council to install an information board in the village to showcase our history, environment and walks.



Gretton Primary School

School has been very busy since the last newsletter. SATS have just been completed for year 6, a range of school trips have been organised, the children have been on walks to the top of Gretton Hill and have been practicing for sports day, which is to be held on 25th June, and the end of year performances.

The school is actively engaged in the parking campaign discussed earlier in the Newsletter and is involved with the village fete. The school also works closely with the trust to ensure the best outcomes for our children and have lovely fortnightly visits from Gretton church to share and celebrate together.

Finally, if anyone can help restore our historic prize winners board (shown, left) to put on display we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact head@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk.

Friends of Gretton School – A New Chapter for FOGS

The Friends of Gretton School (FOGS) is beginning an exciting new chapter, with a refreshed committee bringing new ideas and renewed enthusiasm. While the team has recently changed, FOGS continues to build on the strong foundations created by previous volunteers. Our new committee members are Emma and Steph as Co-Chairs, Sarah as Treasurer, and Kim as Secretary, supported by a fantastic team of volunteers and staff who help make our fundraising events and activities possible.

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Alongside continuing to provide resources, support school trips, and create exciting opportunities for pupils, FOGS is proud to announce a major new focus for our fundraising efforts – **the refurbishment of the school playground**. This exciting project will help create an improved outdoor space that can be enjoyed by every child, every day.

Every contribution really does make a difference, whether through a donation via our website or by supporting one of our fundraising events, including the Gretton Summer Fete on Saturday 4th July. The fete will feature a variety of stalls, games, and activities, promising a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family.

Visit our Website:

<https://fogsfundraising.square.site>



News from Christ Church

The spring and summer season in the parish is a busy one with lots of things going on.

29th - 31st May there is the Winchcombe music festival most concerts are either £10 or £12, but the Saturday afternoon children's concert is free. Don't miss the opportunity to hear some top class musicians at unbelievable prices.

Tickets available on the door (St. Peter's Winchcombe) or via **parishadministrator@winchcombeparish.org.uk**

St. Peter's are running a book fair from 21st June to 12th July - most genres available, so come at get your next read at a bargain price

Parish Fete is on Saturday 11th July, so if you're still wanting more after the Gretton Fete on the 4th come along and join the fun.

Have your say about Gretton Church. We want to hear how we can serve the community as your church - come and have your say on July 4th, either come to our stall at the fete or have a word with me (Revd David).

If you like a brass band come and listen to the Gloucester Excelsior Brass Band on Saturday 4th July at St. Peter's.

And finally; we have 2 situations vacant in the parish: Parish Administrator and Director of Music. Both will be advertised via Facebook and the parish website, or just email me directly for more information and an application form **revdpenny@winchcombeparish.org.uk**

Prayers and best wishes **Revd David Penny**



Contacts & Communications

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: <https://grettonpc-glos.org.uk>

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

Village Facebook presence:

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

Gretton Village Association:

Mark Oliver, Chairman, 07801 716148

chair@grettonvillagehall.co.uk

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

HIRE GRETTON VILLAGE HALL

If you or your organisation is looking for an affordable venue try the highly versatile Gretton Village Hall!

- Children's Parties
- Clubs
- Seminars
- Training
- Wedding Receptions
- Dance classes



And so much more with very competitive prices!
Cheaper rates for Local Residents, charities and not for profits.

 grettonvillagehall.co.uk
 Kathryn Tweedie 07968 711590
 gvabookings@gmail.com

You can find us at:
Gretton Village Hall, Gretton, Nr Winchcombe, GL54 5EP

The GVA are very proud of our Village Hall ;
refurbished and extended in 2009 its sits firmly at the heart of the Community.
Both the Village Hall and adjoining Playing Field are owned and managed by the
Gretton Village Association (registered Charity 298899).

Dates for your diary

June 2026

Sunday 14th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

July 2026

Saturday 4th, 2:00pm - 5:30pm

Gretton Summer Fete, Playing Field & Village Hall

Wednesday 8th, 7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall

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

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

September 2026

Wednesday 9th, 7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall

Sunday 13th 10:00am - 12:30pm

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

October 2026

Saturday 10th

Apple Rock - Gretton Playing Field & Village Hall

Sunday 11th 10:00am - 12:30pm

Gretton Hub, Village Hall