

Gretton Village

NEWSLETTER

March 2024



Welcome to the first Gretton Village Newsletter of 2024. Despite a dull, wet start to the year the appearance around the village of daffodils in bloom shows that Spring is upon us.

In this edition we provide updates on Parish Council matters - including plans for a village questionnaire - news from the Gretton Village Association, Gretton Primary School and Christ Church. There is also a feature on exciting changes in progress at The Royal Oak (see page 3).

We are always interested in featuring new local content, so if you have a news article related to Gretton that you would like to share please contact us. Additionally, local photos that you would like to see featured, please send them in and we will select one to publish in each edition. Please contact us via the website or by email to any of the councilors - the details of which are provided on the back page.

Playing Field Update

As reported in the last newsletter funding by the Enover Community Trust has enabled the improvement to the play equipment in the Playing Field to go ahead. The design has now been finalized through further engagement sessions and the supplier selected. The work is planned to be complete before mid-year and a Summer Party to celebrate the opening is planned for 13th July.



An artists impression of the finalised design for the new play equipment



Gretton Primary School



Gretton
Tower Trust



The other elements of the Playing Field are progressing albeit slowly:

- **Parking and Activity Space:** Schemes to redesign the existing area at the back of the Hall are being considered and costed. By relocating the shed and relaying the surface more space will be available for cars or siting of a marquee / bouncy castle.
- **Access Paths and Landscaping:** The perimeter path and additional planting are on hold as funding is not yet available. The November “Walk for the Park” was very successful and raised approaching £5,000 and more events are planned to raise the necessary funds.



Finally, as part of the improvement work to the Playing Field the Village Association has opened an opportunity for residents to “sponsor a bench.” Benches are heavy duty and will be professionally installed on a concrete base for a price of £1,500. Please contact Mark Oliver for more information.

Parish Council Matters

The Parish Council have to say goodbye to our Clerk – Jackie Shields who is retiring after 6 years serving in the role. The current Council owe her a huge debt of gratitude and wish her all the best in the future. As Jackie moves on we are fortunate in being able to welcome Cathie Bridges. Cathie lives locally, and also clerks for Alderton PC. The clerk’s role is an important ‘formal’ appointment, guiding the Council through our necessary procedures.

We still have a vacancy for another volunteer to join our team - see back page. It’s an opportunity for anyone who’d like to help make a difference and keep making Gretton a great place to live. It’s not a big commitment, we meet every 2-months, and no experience is necessary - just some enthusiasm. Have a look at the website and our meeting minutes to see what we get up to.

Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning

The Parish Council is pro-actively engaged with TBC Planning, and watch with concern as the pressure to release more housing land continues. The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) 2011-2031 was agreed in 2017, but has proven ineffective for Tewkesbury, who last year published an ‘Interim Housing Position Statement’. This relaxes some of the existing planning constraints further.

Strategic & Local Plan

Cheltenham, Gloucester & Tewkesbury

Area covered by the
Strategic and Local Plan



The three authorities are now progressing a Strategic and Local Plan (SLP), which will “.. provide an overarching planning strategy and cross-boundary strategic policies covering the whole area, and local policies for each local authority..”.

The Issues and Options consultation phase has commenced and includes 6 different housing development scenarios. No. 5 considers development of villages like Gretton. Consultation on the Preferred Options is expected in early 2025 and will include, potential site allocations and draft policies

Further information is available at
<https://strategiclocalplan.org/>

Plans for 2024-25 and a new Village Questionnaire

As we look forward, GPC will continue to do its best to support and drive village improvements. Our village budget (the 'precept' from Tewkesbury) has risen 3.5%, and is aligned with TBC's budget increase, which for a band 'D' household, is £5 more per year. After paying our non-discretionary costs, we will have some funds for projects in 2024. But we need to be sure that we understand what the Village needs and what is important for everyone.

It's been 4 years since our last village questionnaire, so it is proposed to conduct one this summer. Questionnaires are notoriously difficult to get right, this is our 4th in recent years, so we'll do our best. It is proposed to provide a paper copy to every household and we are also looking into making it available to complete online.

It's the Council's opportunity to listen and yours to speak out, so look out for this in the June Newsletter and please do take part.

Parking in the Village

Road congestion in the village continues to be a concern to residents, particularly at school pick-up & drop-off times. Poor parking causes frustration, and if on pavements can force pedestrians into the road. Whilst we try to find ways to help, everyone is asked to please park with consideration for others.

The Royal Oak

Many villagers will have noticed activity at The Royal Oak since the new year. Mark Giblin, whose family have been involved in the ownership of the village landmark for nearly 25 years, provides an overview and update on exciting developments.



The Royal Oak has and always will be an important part of Gretton's community fabric, and we have kept this in mind and at the heart of the decisions we have made throughout this project. So what is happening at the Royal Oak I hear you say... Well here we go!

- Restoration and improvements to the area outside the pub entrance to create a safer space for Matthew and his team serving - as well as for those entering the pub. This will also create an improved space to enjoy the great food and hospitality that Matthew and his team provide day in day out.
- The Introduction of a second patio / terrace that will allow more people to enjoy a food and drink and take in the stunning view of the Vale of Evesham.
- 3 Shepherds Huts offering accommodation - due to be delivered in March/April
- A Play area that includes woodland play towers, swings, climbing poles, stepping logs and rope bridge. Well under way and due to be completed w/c 18th March.
- Restoration of the tennis court, incorporating pickleball court lines to offer a bit of variety/fun! We know how important fresh air and exercise is to everyone so we want to make sure that the village has every chance to still enjoy the championship sized court with the most spectacular view.

With Spring upon and the weather improving we aim to get The Royal Oak ready for all to enjoy by the end of April / beginning of May in time for the warmer and drier (fingers crossed) months ahead. We look forward to seeing you up at the pub in the very near future and providing an update with more images in the next newsletter.

A huge thank you goes to Tom Clarke from RJ Clarke who has led on the Groundworks for this work - a true gentlemen and a great asset to have in Gretton village. Thank you Tom and your team!

Gretton Village Association News

The GVA had a busy end to the year. The Christmas Quiz Night was a great success with our Quiz Master, Kevin Davis keeping us on our toes. The Advent Windows once again attracted a lot of interest and the Christmas Eve gathering in the Hall after the Carol Service was very well attended.



The GVA has now purchased a Table Tennis table. This is proving popular at the Hub and is now available to hire on a Thursday afternoon and Friday. Contact Kathy at gvabookings@gmail.com

Looking forward the GVA is putting together a full calendar of events for the coming year and the dates can be seen on the back page of the newsletter. The key events in the calendar include:



- The Walk for the Park is back by popular demand and will be held 8th June when hopefully the weather will be better. The event will once again be a fundraiser and we are hoping to introduce more activities for the children.
- A headline Summer event is planned 13th July. This will celebrate the opening of the new play equipment but also bring the community together at the end of the school term. We are currently thinking about the format of the event so all ideas are welcome. Please contact Mark Oliver and the GVA team.
- The Gretton Hub has proven very popular and we plan to open regularly throughout the year. The Hub now includes a book swap and table tennis and we are open to other suggestions to broaden the appeal to all in the community. We are considering opening on a Friday evening for a BBQ etc so will gauge interest as we get nearer the summer.
- Apple Rock is an established Gretton tradition and so this will be held again 5th October along with the scarecrow display that was popular last year.

GVA Continued

In addition to the above we are also planning other events including Quiz Nights, the return of Bishops Cleeve Players on 27th September, a Progressive Supper, a Wine Appreciation Evening, Film Nights etc

Please remember that the Hall is a Village asset for the benefit of the community so please let the GVA know of any events you would like to see. Also, we always need help so if you would like to get involved contact the GVA committee.

The Main Hall and Meeting Room are also available for hire and are popular for children's parties, family celebrations, clubs and meetings. Residents benefit from preferential hire rates. The new 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.

Finally, as part of your New Year wellness regime we wanted to include a reminder of the regular classes/activities at the Hall:

Monday:	Pilates at 6.30am
Tuesday:	Tai Chi at 1.00pm and Yoga at 6.30pm
Wednesday:	Pilates at 8.30am and Dance at 4.00pm
Thursday:	Yoga at 9.30am and Table Tennis in afternoon
Friday:	Table Tennis
Saturday:	Dance at 9.15am



The Gretton Village Association is pleased to announce that the Gretton Hub will continue to open monthly in the Village Hall.

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:

21st April
26th May
9th June
14th July
8th September
13th October
10th November (after Remembrance Service)
8th December
24th December – Christmas Eve gathering

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



Community Speedwatch

Our community speedwatch is an effective deterrent to speeding in the Village. As the days are getting longer the team will be out more regularly to monitor speeds and remind passing motorists that we in Gretton care about our safety.

We urgently need a few more volunteers to join the speedwatch team so if you have a little bit of time please contact any Parish Council member.

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



Over the winter the Wardens focus on “hard works” which includes things like stile replacement, path repairs and clearance of trees damaged by the weather.

As the growing season approaches the priority shifts to keeping our wonderful network of paths open. The local work party is out every Thursday and now has a new pickup so you may see us about the village.

As always if you are aware of any issues with our rights of way please contact the Parish Warden, Mark Oliver.

Greening

You will have noticed many new clumps of daffodils have sprung up throughout the village as spring approaches. These were planted in the autumn by the parish council with the help of a few parishioners. If there are other areas in the village that you would like to see bulbs planted just drop a note to Dick Green at dick@grettonpc-glos.org.uk and he'll organise it for next year.

Litter Pick

Its approaching one year since we last conducted a Litter Pick for the village and its approach roads. With the verges trimmed now is an ideal time, so we have one scheduled for Sunday 7th April. Please meet at 9am at the village green or contact David for further details. david@grettonpc-glos.org.uk

VILLAGE LITTER PICK



Defibrillator Training

The Parish Council maintain a defibrillator that is located at the entrance to the Village Hall, at the rear of the building. A second is located in the office at Guilder's transport yard.

If you have cause to access one, ring 999 and quote the code number at the bottom right of the cabinet, they will give you the door code. Take the defibrillator out of the cabinet and open it up, it will then tell you what to do.

It has been five years since we last ran a training session, so it's probably about time for another. If anybody in your household is interested, either for a first time or as a refresher, please let Dick Green know and he'll organise it. dick@grettonpc-glos.org.uk

Message from Gretton Primary School

The school continues to go from strength to strength and I am so pleased with the strong relationships we are forming between staff and the community. After the whirlwind of last term it finally feels like we are putting ideas into place that already having a positive impact. The atmosphere has been one of constant positivity and I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your continued support.

FOGs once again have proved how amazing they are for the school by investing in new learning materials for Robins and a variety of resources for other classes which all makes such a difference to the children's learning. So a heartfelt thankyou from the staff and children.



Another big thank you goes to Mrs Dodd for the wonderful Mental Health week that goes down as one of my favourite weeks to hear about and celebrate. There was a real enthusiasm around school and I know this was felt by the parents who made some absolutely lovely comments over the course of the week.

We have also had a busy half term with trustees who have completed a number of monitoring visits, these have been an excellent opportunity to share the great work in school. We have also had plenty of support in IT equipment, money saving opportunities, professional discussions and policy writing. The trustees do a great job as volunteers and the enthusiasm they have shown to understanding and supporting the school journey has been much needed and appreciated.

A quick reminder of the visitors we have had in this term – the NSPCC came to talk to us, Trustees came to do subject visits, we welcomed storytellers via Teams, cricket coaches, circus skill coaches, yoga teachers and our regular visit from Rev Penny and Mr Carter. Thank you all for taking the time and your lovely comments about the school.

News from Christ Church

It was wonderful to see the church packed on Christmas Eve as the community came together to mark Christmas. Many went on to view the Advent Windows and enjoy refreshments at the Village Hall.



The village church of Christ Church is part of the parish of Winchcombe.

Parish-wide Holy Week and Easter services will be held at St. Peter's, Winchcombe. Please see social media, our website www.winchcombeparish.org.uk and posters for full details. Highlights to draw your attention to are:

Maundy Thursday - Eucharist at 7.30pm

Good Friday - reflections from the cross and Communion 12 noon ending at 3pm. Please come on the hour for as long as you wish

Holy Saturday - Awesome (Family fun for all - a new style of church for all the family) at Winchcombe Abbey School at 4pm

Easter Day - 9.15am Holy Communion at Stanley Pontlarge; 10.30am Holy Communion at St. Peter's

April 13th - Pet service at Christ Church Gretton at 4pm. Come and bring your pets to this special service as we thank God for the joy they bring to us.

There are services at Christ Church, Gretton on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 10am. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Rev'd Capt David Penny - Priest-in-Charge 01242 468650

Susan Fleck - Deputy Church Warden 07976 295710

Contacts & Communications

Parish Council

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Councillor Vacancy
Could this be you?
Please contact any
of the existing
Council team if you
are interested.

Village News is currently available at:

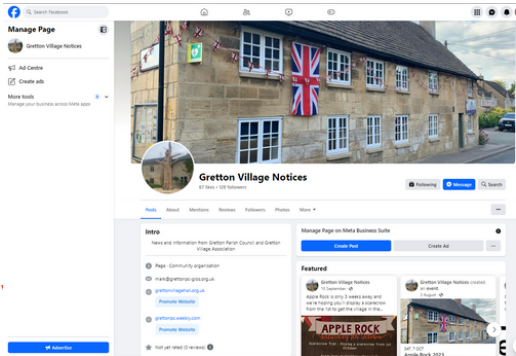
The Village Noticeboards

Village Facebook Page: Gretton Village Notices

Village WhatsApp Group Gretton Help Force

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

Gretton Village Association: www.sites.google.com/site/gretton



SCAN ME

In addition to the tools above an email distribution list would enable key information about village events to be shared. The GVA is now gathering and an email distribution list that will strictly controlled and soley used for sharing news of Village Events. Please use the QR code to the left to sign up or alternatively head to the GVA website to complete the sign up process.

If you have any issues and or require help with access please contact Mark Oliver.

Dates for your diary

March 2024

Sunday 10th, 10:00am - 12:30pm
Wednesday 13th, 7:00pm
Saturday 23rd
Sunday 24th, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Gretton Hub, Village Hall
Gretton Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
Progressive Supper
Playing Field Clean Up, Village Hall

April 2024

Sunday 7th, 9:00am - 10:30
Sunday 21st, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Litter Pick, meet Village Green
Gretton Hub, Village Hall

May 2024

Saturday 4th, 10:00am - 12:00
Wednesday 8th, 7:00 pm
Sunday 12th, 10:00am onwards
Sunday 26th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Church Spring Clean, Christ Church
Village Hall
Classics at Prescott, Prescott Hill Climb
Gretton Hub, Village Hall

June 2024

Saturday 8th
Sunday 9th, 10:00am - 12:30pm
Wednesday 12th
Saturday 15th

Walk for the Park
Gretton Hub, Village Hall
Oak House Garden, open for National Garden Scheme
Oak House Garden, open for National Garden Scheme