

Gretton Village

NEWSLETTER

March 2025

The first signs of spring are starting to show around the village and we hope that winter is now behind us. As we look forward to activities in 2025 we also take a moment to look back on events over the last few months.

Festivities included the GVA Christmas Quiz Night, where Kev Davis was a superb Quiz Master testing our knowledge across a range of subjects. Some tables were highly competitive and others simply enjoyed the refreshments.

The Advent Windows brightened up the December evenings with a wonderful display. Thanks to Ange and Rob Hardie for organising this once again.

The Christmas Eve carol service at the church was standing room only and was followed by refreshments at the Village Hall. Many took the opportunity to walk around the village to see the windows after the carol service and then warm up with mulled wine and a mince pie.

Postponed by a day, due to the weather, bright skies opened the way for the New Years Day Heritage Walk from Christ Church through the village for a fascinating insight into local history. Gypsy Lane was a challenge but the views from Gretton Hill were worth it. Thanks to Bernard Gill for organising and look out for the Rogation Walk coming up in May.



GVA Christmas Quiz



View from the hill during the Heritage Walk



Gretton Primary School



Parish Council News

Council Meetings

We meet 6 times a year. Minutes from our January meeting are on the website and our next meeting is Wednesday 12th March. We'll start at 6.30pm, to allow time for an informal coffee and chat ahead of a 7pm start. Please come along so we can discuss what's on your mind. Either just for the chat or stay for the main meeting as well.

We will publish an agenda beforehand. This month we will be discussing planning issues, traffic and parking, and fixing the year's budget. We will also be joined by two guests, so we can discuss a new Gretton 'Housing Needs Survey' (offered cost-free by Glos Rural Communities Council - GRCC) and a review of how the Council should support the Gretton Tower Trust charity.

We are looking for new councillors, so this is a chance to see what we do, and whether you'd like to help.

Working with Gloucestershire County Council Highways

We had a useful meeting with our Local Highways Manager on February 20th to review issues in the village related to flooding, potholes, hazards, speeding & parking. We also met Highways Development Management, to talk about the effect on Gretton of recent new developments (30 mph zones etc). The discussions were informative and supportive, although sometimes frustrated by Highways' processes and lack of resource. But we do our best. We'll report back details at our next meeting.

In the meantime you may have noticed a new grit bin. Whilst we may not have anymore snow, the possibility of surface water flooding is ever present; and we now have stocks of sand and sandbags. If you have a need, then please contact the council (details on website).

Highways have also moved the mobile speed pole, on the Alderton approach. Which is good, but we have already agreed that this new position is probably incorrect, so it may need moving again. However, in its new position it has still registered approximately 200 drivers per day exceeding 30 mph.

Highways are also encouraging and funding a new gateway on the Alderton approach. These will be similar to those on the Winchcombe approach and located where the traffic cone is currently and hopefully installed in the next month.



Changes at Tewkesbury Borough Council

We had previously reported Tewkesbury Borough Council's (TBC) name change to North Gloucestershire Borough Council. Well now they have decided not to proceed with this name change. This follows the Government's plans for devolution, which will see the merging of district and county councils. This will see Tewkesbury, and the other boroughs, being subsumed into Gloucestershire County Council.

Ironically, there is also now discussion about whether Gloucestershire County Council should then be split into two authorities. Tewkesbury would then be joined with Cotswold & Cheltenham, to become East Gloucestershire County Council.

Tewkesbury Borough Council webcasting

TBC have now introduced webcasting for all Council and Committee meetings, including Planning. Residents can watch webcasts live or on catch-up, via the TBC website.

Traffic Speed and Parking

This is the number one concern for many residents. Although we have limited scope to help directly, we do our best.

Parking around the school, especially close to road-junctions, on pavements and near the church can be a hazard for both traffic and pedestrians, as it blocks the road and reduces visibility. ***Please be courteous and consider the impact of your parking.***

More volunteers are needed to maintain the Community Speedwatch deterrent and also expand its coverage to Gretton Fields and the Gotherington Road. With the lighter mornings on the horizon a training session will be held on Sunday 16th March 3pm in the Village Hall for an hour to enable more residents to get involved. Please let Mark Oliver know if you will be joining.

Planning

There have been some significant planning applications / consultations recently. Details are available on our database on the website and will be discussed at our next meeting.

Elsewhere in the village ...we have just finished some bus shelter roof repairs, to keep it maintained. We are also considering how we might repair and refurbish the war memorial - possibly in time for our Millennium +25 celebrations.



Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

The Cotswold Wardens keep our local footpaths open so we can all enjoy our the local environment.

The heavy rain in January had caused some issues on the new path from Greenway Lane. In early February a working party cleared the stream of winter debris and ensure that the water could flow. A great community effort and thanks to all involved.

The Gretton Parish Warden is Mark Oliver so please let him know of any issues.



**Cotswolds
National
Landscape**

Gretton Village Association News

GVA Projects

The GVA are progressing a number of projects to improve the facilities on offer to the community. Funding is being sought for the following:

- **New Storage:** The shed at the Hall is getting tired and takes up valuable parking space. We aim to obtain a new building and relocate below the wall to free up space.
- **Activity Space:** With the relocation of the shed the area to the rear of the Hall will be levelled to maximise space for events, bouncy castles and parking.
- **Playing Field Accessibility:** A perimeter path around the field will improve all year accessibility, provide a jogging facility for both the school and residents and improve the utility of the space.



- Solar Panels: We are pursuing options for solar panels to help cut running costs and improve our green credentials.
- Planting: We are looking at options to plant a few trees in the field to break up the space, improve wildlife habitat and add to the interest of the space.

If you would like to hear more or have some skills or contacts that might help please get in touch with the GVA.

GVA Website and Bookings

A new GVA website will be launched shortly including the ability to view Hall availability and book electronically. This will enable us to attract more bookings and be easier to post useful information for the village.



Historical Archive

The GVA are gathering an archive of village history. We have a number of old pictures, some old records and interesting information about the village. If you have anything that may be interest we would love to see it and potentially make available for more people to enjoy. Helen Wilson has volunteered to collate the archive so please get in touch if you have anything to share or want to get involved: helenclairewilson@gmail.com or 07807 277002

2025 - Marking 25 Years since the Millenium

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.

The Gretton 2000 photographic record is held at the Hall and contains a record of every house in the village together with a chronicle of the year and even a record of all the dogs! The albums are held at the Hall if you would like to view them.

We plan to embed the theme of 2000 + 25 into a number of events over the year and in particular discussions are underway as to how the Fete on 5th July can be a key event. A time capsule is being considered along with a recreation of the parade held in 2000. Please get involved and share your ideas.



We would like to recreate the photographic record. If you are interested in getting involved taking pictures of houses, cars or dogs please contact Bernard Gill on 01242 602024.

Watch out on the village Facebook and WhatsApp groups for more information.



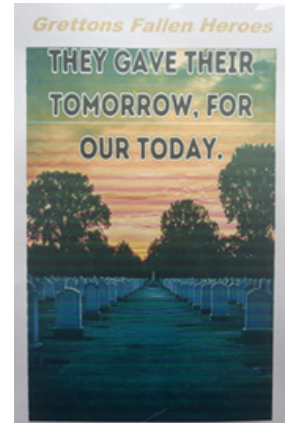
VE Day 80th Anniversary

The 8th May marks the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The 75th Anniversary was during lockdown but still many came out in the gardens for a picnic and chat with their neighbours so this year we are going to mark the event properly.

An afternoon tea is being planned in the Hall. Watch out for more information soon.

Gretton's Fallen Heroes

Carol Harris, an amateur historian from Winchcombe, has produced a very interesting record telling the story behind all those named on the village War Memorial who lost their lives in the First World War. The document is held at the Village Hall and will be shared when the website is up and running.



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

GRETTON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Gretton Hub

The Hub continues to be successful with 52 people attending on the 9th February. Please come along, meet your neighbours and enjoy a free breakfast in a warm and welcoming environment. We aim to continue the Hub through the Summer for watch out for the opening dates when they are confirmed.

We want to build on the success of the Hub and ensure it meets the needs of the community so if you have any suggestions for improvement please contact the GVA.

GVA Support

The Village Association work tirelessly to support our community. We have a great committee and an ambitious agenda. If you feel you have some time to help out with events, maintenance of the Hall or Playing Field we now have a GVA Supporters Group. Contact Mark Oliver to be added.

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

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.

Friends of Gretton School



Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt is being organised by the Friends of Gretton School. It will take place on 6th April and start at 10am. Please meet at the Post Box on the Village Green. Entry is £5 which includes treats at each clue and a full size egg at the end. Refreshments will also be available at the conclusion of the hunt at the Hub in the Village Hall.



Spring Raffle Tickets

It's Raffle Time and we have over 40 AMAZING prizes with a total value of over £1700. Families from the school will have received books of tickets, but others can participate with tickets being available online at the address below. Good luck! <https://fogsfundraising.square.site/>



Christ Church

Services and Events at Gretton Church

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

We meet regularly for a service every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10am - all are welcome. In addition to this there will be an Easter Service on Sunday 20th April at 10am.

Other services during the build up to Easter are held at St. Peter's Winchcombe. These include: Ash Wednesday at 10am and 6.30pm; Maundy Thursday 7.30pm; Good Friday 12 noon, 1pm and 2pm. All are welcome.

Not strictly Gretton, but our neighbouring village and another of the churches in my care, Stanley Pontlarge church is 850 years old this year, so there are a few celebrations that you are invited to. The first is a concert on May 11th - more details to follow, but save the date as we anticipate tickets selling very quickly.

As a church we are here to serve the village and meet your needs. This is a great privilege for us. To help us shape the future of the church's life I would love to hear your thoughts. Please let us know by giving 2 minutes of your time completing this one question questionnaire:

<https://winchcombeparish.churchsuite.com/-/forms/u9r0tvvf>
or just scan the QR code.



Rev'd David Penny

St Peter's Centre,
Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe GL54 5LU

Gretton Tower Trust

It's that time of year again when, along with other village gardeners, we tidy the site of last years growth and prepare a fresh opportunity for the village wilding project.

A small mown path invites visitors to the Tower itself, while the area that was once the nave of the Chapel, is allowed to grow free. Thistles try and dominate so need to be kept under a measure of control while various wildflower species, particularly poppies, columbines, primrose and ox eye daisy and grasses flourish.

Visitors are encouraged to view the changes through the spring and summer months to see what they can identify.

<https://www.grettontower.org.uk/>



Contacts & Communications

Parish Council

Geoff Hanson - Chair

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Mark Oliver

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Richard Green - Vice Chair

01242 602272

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David Butcher

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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

Village News is currently available through the following channels:

The Village Noticeboards

Village Facebook Page: Gretton Village Notices

Village WhatsApp Group Gretton Help Force

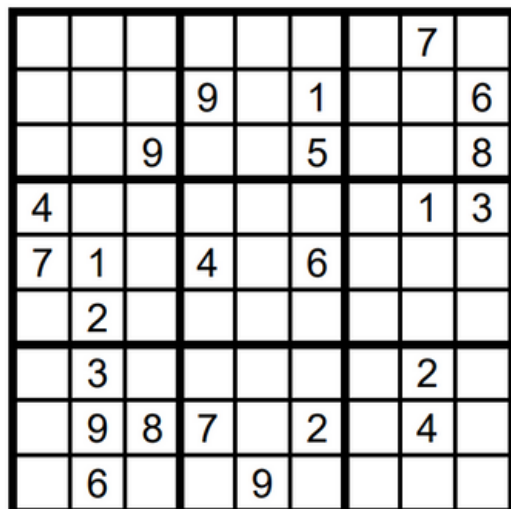
Gretton Parish Council Website: www.grettonnpc.weebly.com

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



GVA Distribution List
sign-up QR code

Puzzle Corner



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 - Easter

Angel	Egg	Lamb	Sin
April	Faith	Lent	Sleep
Bells	Gall	Life	Spear
Bible	Gift	Lord	Thirty
Bonnets	God	Mary	Three
Bunny	Holy	Palm	Tomb
Cross	Hymn	Rise	
Die	Joy	Rite	
Easter	Kiss	Roman	

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

www.grettonpc.weebly.com

Dates for your diary

March 2025

Sunday 9th, 10:00am - 12:30pm
Sunday 23rd 10:00am - 12:30pm

Gretton Hub, Village Hall
Gretton Hub, Village Hall

April 2025

Sunday 6th, 10:00am - 12:30pm
Sunday 6th, 10:00am
Sunday 20th, 10:00am

Gretton Hub, Village Hall
Easter Egg Hunt, starting point Village Green
Easter Service at Christ Church

May 2025

Thursday 8th
Sunday 11th - Save the Date
Sunday 25th

VE Day 80th Anniversary Afternoon Tea
Stanley Pontlarge Church 850 Year Anniversary Concert
Rogation Walk to "Beat the Bounds" of the Parish

June 2025

Saturday 14th - Save the date

Walk for the Park "Fathers Day Special"

July 2025

Saturday 5th

Summer Fete - Note change of date