

Gretton Village

NEWSLETTER

Produced by Gretton Parish Council

March 2026

A Vision for Gretton

In the last newsletter, I said that the Parish Council is looking for input and ideas from the village to shape our future actions and priorities for Gretton. Thank you to those of you who came to The Royal Oak in January to provide input and feedback to us on what is important and how we should prioritise future actions.

However with a relatively small turnout we might interpret this as the village being content with what the Council is doing and that there are no ideas out there for what we could do better, or it might mean that "Dry January" scared everyone away from the pub.

We are looking to develop a simple strategy and set of priorities for the Parish Council which identifies where our efforts are targeted over the next few years and would genuinely welcome input and ideas from village residents to help us in that aim.

Please feel free to contact any of the councillors directly with your thoughts as we work on developing a plan. Thanks, **Steve Hawkins**



Horse & Rider Safety - see contributing article on Page 3

Gretton Heritage and History Walks

The most recent walk in a series that focus on local heritage took place on New Year's Eve. On a very bright and clear morning. The route climbed Gretton Hill with views across Greet, Winchcombe and Alderton.



Villages often began where there was a reasonable water supply. Gretton is no different and a number of houses are named after the initial wells and later the water fountain. The walk discussed the history and the old reservoir halfway up the hill.

The next heritage walk takes place on Saturday 14 March. Meet at the Coronation Seat on the Village Green at 10am for a couple of hours walk out to Stanley Pontlarge - weather dependent. Please check the Noticeboard for further details.

Parish Council News

Council Meetings

A reminder that the Gretton Parish Council (GPC) meets 6 times a year and minutes from our previous meeting (January) are available on the GPC website . Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18th March, in the Village Hall. We start at 6:30 pm to give some time for an informal coffee and chat, ahead of the usual 7:00 pm start.

New Year and a new budget

The Parish Council is funded by an allocation of Council Tax (the precept) which is about 2% of the total bill. Most of the tax is divided between Gloucestershire County Council (91%) and Tewkesbury Borough Council (7%). This year Council Tax is expected to increase by approximately 5%. After our obligatory costs, we'll be focusing our spend on the following:

- Extending the 30mph zone on Gotherington Road (we are required to pay the administrative costs for this)
- A 2nd defibrillator in the vicinity of the Church
- Contracts for grass-cutting (Village & verges) - we now having to pay for some of this
- Continued support for GVA (events & projects)
- War Memorial refurbishment
- Gateway signage
- New speed camera (see below)

Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC)

The new Strategic & Local Plan continues to gather evidence on where and when to build new housing and commercial developments in Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury's towns and villages. Currently Gretton does not feature, and we hope it stays that way. If you want to get an update or have your say, visit the TBC website, it's really very good.

Local Government Reorganisation. TBC are having to support this major government initiative to establish new unitary authorities. For us, this is likely to be a single Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), which will subsume all of TBC's current activities and those of the other Gloucestershire borough councils. A government decision on the final structure is expected mid 2026. If you want an update or to have your say, visit the TBC or GCC websites.

Speed

Traffic speed through the village remains a key concern for many residents. Narrow pavements mean that parents with children and dog walkers often feel exposed.

With the lighter mornings the Community Speedwatch (CSW) Team will recommence the regular monitoring and reporting. The data shows that the visible presence is a deterrent to those who may unconsciously be traveling a little too fast.

In addition to the CSW team the Parish Council are assessing the installation of a CSWPlus device. This is a small unit attached to an existing post at a location(s) approved by the Police. The camera automates collection of licence details for those passing at excess speed. This system allows continuous monitoring and gathers data to enable repeat offenders to be identified and can highlight the time of day where the greatest problems occur.

The Parish Council have formally requested Gloucestershire County Council to extend the 30mph speed limit beyond White Cottage on the Gotherington Road. This was requested as part of the Planning approval for the Croft Development but was never implemented.

The Parish Council has also expressed an interested in the new Gloucestershire wide **Community 20's** and **Safer Roads** scheme which is assessing the merits of implementing formal 20mph limits and other measures through communities such as Gretton.

Horse & Rider Safety *Article contributed by Rebecca Pawsey*

We live in a beautiful corner of the Cotswolds, and whether it's a morning hack, a bike ride, or a walk, we are incredibly lucky to have these activities on our doorstep. However, a growing concern is threatening our ability to enjoy them safely.

In response to this we are running a petition to slow traffic on the Gretton - Gotherington Road and need your support to make our voices heard.

The road running from Gretton to the Stanley Pontlarge turning has become increasingly hazardous. Drivers often carry too much speed through the blind bend, forcing walkers and cyclists to jump into the hedges to avoid a collision, this is documented in the survey responses received so far. This section of road also serves to connect the village with a number of popular round trip walking routes and no footpath exists along this section of road.

Heartbreakingly, there have been incidents where horses have sustained glancing blows from cars on this section of road. Again, this information came to light via survey responses; it is shocking to hear that cars are coming into contact with horses. We must act before someone is hurt.

Perhaps most importantly, we want our children to feel safe. Our kids use this road on horseback, on their bikes, and on foot. Choosing the fresh air of the Cotswolds shouldn't come with a 'risk to life.' Please join in signing the petition to advocate for a safer, slower Gotherington Road via the QR code on the right.

Together we can make our roads safe for everyone.



Vehicular Courtesy

A number of residents have raised concerns about vehicle related issues in the Village:

School Buses - A number of school buses stop in the Village with these starting around 7am. Noise from the buses, parents parking across and turning in driveways and excessive noise from waiting children have all been raised. Please respect the neighbours close to the bus stops and try and keep noise down particularly in the mornings.

The Council has written to the bus companies, reminding them and asking that they in turn, contact the parents to remind them of this (including those from outside Gretton).

School Parking - parking around the school remains a concern. It is recognised that pick up and drop off will be busy but safety of pedestrians and passing vehicles is important as is maintaining traffic flow to allow larger vehicles and especially emergency services to pass.

The Council plans to meet with the school in an attempt to identify and agree joint actions to improve.

We ask that everyone is considerate and minimises disturbance to surrounding neighbours.

Police

The Parish Council has a regular liaison meeting with the Tewkesbury Neighbourhood policing Inspector. This meeting provides an overview of crime and issues in the area, any changes within the police and an update as to what they are doing in the area. Importantly, it is an opportunity to voice our local concerns.

QUIZ NIGHT at Gretton Village Hall

CASH PRIZE

Friday 20th March

Arrive 7:00pm Start 7:30pm

Cash and card bar!

Teams of six maximum.

£5.00 per person

No team? Join one on the night!

*Proceeds going towards further
Village Hall and Playing Field improvements.*

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Contact: Kathy Tweedie
gvabookings@gmail.com
07968 711 590

Police (Continued)

Recent figures show a reduction in crime in the area but we are very aware of recent vehicle related thefts. It is very important that any incident or anything suspicious is logged with the police as it is used to develop their intelligence picture, identify developing trends early and inform their actions.

There is plenty of crime prevention advice available but one easy and effective step is to ensure that your car keys are stored in a faraday box or bag. These are readily available from Amazon and other outlets. Finally, we are arranging for the Police to visit the Gretton Hub. Details will be communicated through the Village Facebook and WhatsApp channels.

Gretton Village Association News

Events

The **Christmas Quiz** is now a regular feature that kicks off the Gretton Christmas Season. The Hall was full and Peter did a fantastic job as Quizmaster.

The question round on local knowledge was a highlight but indicated many must walk around the village with their eyes closed



The **Christmas Fair** was a new event for 2025 and based on its success will now be a regular feature of the calendar.

Local traders and organisations hosted stalls, the raffle was very popular and Father Christmas made time for a visit.



The **Advent Windows** always ensure a festive feel in the run up to Christmas. This year some new households got involved and as always, the displays were amazing.

It was lovely to see families walking around the village and this year we had quite a few visitors to the village just to see the windows.

A big Thank you to Ange and Rob Hardie for organising and all those who got involved.



December 2025 - Advent Windows

Tewkesbury Borough Connecting Communities event

In January we were asked to host the Connecting Communities event for Tewkesbury Borough. The event created a space for community groups and agencies to connect, share ideas and build stronger local relationships. With 62 attendees including senior leaders from the Borough the event was a great showcase for our village, our community and the Hall.



Plan for 2026

The Village Association has published the following key event dates for the year:

GRETTON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
2026 PROVISIONAL CALENDAR

Key Events:

- 20 Mar - Spring Quiz
- 4 Jul - Summer Fete
- 10 Oct - Apple Rock
- 27 Nov – Christmas Quiz
- 28 Nov – Christmas Fair

Hub Openings (* Digital Support Available)

• 11 Jan*	• 10 May
• 25 Jan	• 14 Jun
• 8 Feb*	• 12 Jul
• 22 Feb	• 13 Sep
• 8 Mar*	• 11 Oct
• 22 Mar	• 8 Nov
• 12 Apr	• 22 Nov
• 26 April	• 13 Dec
	• 24 Dec



FULL DETAILS FOR EVENTS WILL BE SHARED ON FACEBOOK AND WHATSAPP

We have introduced a Spring Quiz (see advert on Page 3) in response to demand and once again the Summer Fete will be our headline. We are looking for ideas as to how build on last year’s success to make this even more memorable. If you know local traders who may be interested in having a stall please get in touch.

The Gretton Hub continues to be very popular and the monthly visit by the digital support team has people queuing up for help. The new book swap gives much improved visibility of books available and saves the team lugging many boxes out for each event!

Bookings

As discussed in the last newsletter the running costs of the Hall exceed rental income which is not a sustainable situation. We have installed the solar panels and new heaters to reduce costs, and the main focus now is to increase rental income. The Hall is a fantastic facility but we find that not many people are aware of it.

The new website www.grettonvillagehall.co.uk includes a live calendar of Hall availability and is designed to make booking easier. Please take a look and remember that residents benefit from reduced rental rates.

The regular classes held at the Hall are as follows and further details can be found on the website:

Monday:	Pilates at 6.30pm & new bi-weekly Spiritualists meeting at 7pm
Tuesday:	Yoga at 6.30pm
Wednesday:	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.

Please tell your friends about the Hall and also your workplace as we are seeing an increasing use of the upstairs room for business meetings and training courses.

Maintenance and Projects

Adam Wawn has picked up the lead on Hall maintenance and is coordinating completion of a number of overdue items. We are always looking for help and if you have some time or trade skills that may be of use please let Mark or Adam know so you can be added to the “GVA Helpers” WhatsApp Group where we occasionally put a call out for help.

In terms of Projects the focus for 2026 is the erection of our new Sports Storage Facility below the wall in the field and the associated levelling to maximise the utility of the area behind the Hall. These projects will provide more storage for field related activities and increased space for activities behind the Hall.

Finally, as part of our drive for income we plan to update the meeting room to make it more attractive for business rental. This will include decoration, new furniture and audio-visual equipment. If your workplace has any excess furniture or equipment that may be suitable, please get in touch.

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).

‘Think About it - Heating Efficiency’.

We all feel the impact of increased household costs. As discussed earlier the Village Hall is no exception and cost cutting is needed to ensure that the Hall remains viable.

Solar panels have been installed with the support of Gretton Solar Farm Ltd through Greenfields Trust and new energy efficient heaters have been installed with the support of Climate Change Gloucestershire through Gloucestershire County Council. These actions will bring tangible savings and help sustain our Village Hall.

In addition to rising costs we are all aware of the “climate crisis”. Much of the energy we use on a daily basis comes from non-renewable fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas). Burning these pollutes the environment and impacts air quality, which can damage our health. It releases carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes towards global warming and climate change.

The Gretton Village Association is working with Climate Change Gloucestershire to highlight the importance of this topic as there is much we all can do to look after our wallets and the planet. There is a great deal of useful information available to help improve awareness and inform actions we may wish to take.

- Gloucestershire County Council has the Greener Gloucestershire initiative and their website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/greener-gloucestershire-climate-dashboard is well worth a read as it contains a host of information.
- Information on how to save energy at home together with details of available grants and support can be found at <https://gloucestershire.gov.uk/saving-energy>.
- Reducing waste is an important part of helping the environment too. Information and resources can be found at <https://www.gloucestershirerecycle.com/reduce>
- Food waste and recycling information can be found at <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>
- Personal energy efficiency and fuel poverty advice is available through Severn Wye Energy Agency who have been engaged for Tewkesbury Borough
- Win Green Town is an environmental action group based in Winchcombe and offers information and projects to tackle climate change and improve our local environment. Website is: winchcombe-greentown.org.

If this topic is of interest please get in touch as the Village Association is considering hosting events such as repair cafes, bicycle repair workshops, excess produce swaps etc. If we see sufficient interest this is something that can be considered

News from Christ Church

Spring is a glorious season with a couple of opportunities for celebration, so come and join us as we celebrate Mother's Day and Easter.

Get ready for Mother's Day at our March Second Sunday Special on March 8th at 4pm. Come and make some gifts to give to your mums and celebrate how special they are to you.

Easter Day on Sunday 5th April is one of the most joyful days in the church's year, and to help us celebrate there will be an Easter Egg hunt in church after the 10am service.

And a Date for your Diary:

On Saturday 25th April we'll be having a spring clean inside and outside of church. If you can spare a bit of time to help spruce up the church and churchyard we'd love to see you. Thank you in advance for helping us keep this community space neat and tidy.

We look forward to seeing you there.

In other news, mid-February saw an intrepid team of residents clear the bird nest debris from the steeple tower bell room floor. Our avian friends manage to find their way in and deposit their twigs which need clearing every couple of years. With Christ Church steeple due its 10 year inspection in 2029, it's on the churchwardens list to see how cost effective it would be to concurrently get the steeplejacks to seal off the gaps at the very top of the steeple

Revd David Penny



Friends of Gritton School
RAFFLE

*** £1 PER TICKET ***

RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN ON THURSDAY 19TH MARCH
(7.30 PM VIA FACEBOOK LIVE)

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT
[HTTPS://WWW.ZEFFY.COM/EN-GB/TICKETING/FOGS-ANNUAL-RAFFLE-2026](https://www.zeffy.com/en-gb/ticketing/fogs-annual-raffle-2026)

PRIZES INCLUDE:

- * 2000 TREES FESTIVAL WEEKEND TICKETS
- * 270 HIGH ROPES VOUCHER
- * BATSFORD ARBORETUM DAY TICKET
- * BROADWAY TOWER VOUCHER
- * BUGATTI OWNERS CLUB VOUCHER
- * COTSWOLD LAVENDER FIELDS DAY PASS
- * COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK FAMILY DAY TICKET
- * CROCODILE WORLD FAMILY TICKET
- * GLOUCESTERSHIRE RAILWAY FAMILY TRAVEL VOUCHER
- * MOTOR MUSEUM BOURTON ON THE WATER FAMILY TICKET
- * ROCOCO GARDENS FAMILY TICKET
- AND MORE!!!!!!!




Gretton Tower Trust

Sharp eyed residents will have noticed the appearance of a small "To The Tower" finger sign appear on the Village Green, adjacent to the gravelled entrance to the Tower and surrounding cottages.

The Tower Trust is very keen to raise awareness of the Tower and encourage visitors and locals alike, to notice and explore this iconic example of village heritage.



It is regularly commented that casual visitors are unsure whether they are allowed to go to the Tower or whether the drive is private property.

It is hoped the discreet signage directing people to the Tower will imply that access is encouraged and visitors welcome. Thanks to Adam Wawn for his work on the project.

Finally, to help better integrate the Tower Trust into village activities the Trust now has a seat on the Village Association committee.

Friends of Gretton School (FOGS)

The FoGS has recently elected a new committee and we look forward to working with the GVA to ensure that the school and village events are closely coordinated.

See details of the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt (this page) & the March Raffle (Page 7).

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: www.grettonpc.weebly.com

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 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