

Gretton Village

NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Gretton Village Fete

Saturday 5th July saw the second edition of the Summer Fete. The theme was to mark 25 years since the Millennium with a recreation of the village celebrations from 2000.

The event started with the children parading behind a tractor to the field using the same tractor and driver from 2000! With the tractor leading the Winchcombe Fire Engine followed the parade to give a splendid start to the event.

The School and a number of villagers hosted stalls and we were also supported by the Cotswold Wardens, the Tower Trust, the Police and the Fire Brigade.

The raffle had thirty prizes kindly donated by local business and residents. The bouncy castles and axe throwing entertained the children and the family races were very well supported.

'Kickback' provided excellent live music and the record turnout were fueled by the BBQ, pizzas, tea tent, bar and Pimms bar. So many people came along that all food and drink sold out! All profits from the event will be used within the Gretton Community.

To mark the event a Time Capsule was put together including various records of the day and the school children's view of life in another 25 years' time. The capsule will be planted for the village to open in 2050.

The GVA would like to thank the Parish Council, *Martins Meats* and *Centaur Homes* for their support along with all who helped out as without this the Fete wouldn't happen.



(More images from the Fete on Page 3)



Cameron Thomas visits Gretton

The MP for Tewkesbury made a quick visit to Gretton, for an open meeting on 6th Aug, at the Royal Oak, as part of a summer 'constituency tour'. A number of village residents and Parish Council members attended to say hello and ensure that Gretton stays on his agenda.

See his official website and Facebook page for more information.



Parish Council News

Council Meetings

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 10th September, 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 and maybe join us? Previous minutes, the agenda and other good stuff, including an updated planning database, are on the GPC website.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Most new housing attracts this one-off financial contribution to the locality impacted by the development. It is calculated based on the total area of all the houses. Gretton is now benefitting from CIL monies from 'The Croft' on Gotherington Rd. Most of the money goes to Tewkesbury Borough Council, but Gretton receives 15%, paid in instalments this year and totalling £20,638. It's not urgent, but we do need to ensure that this money is used for the best and widest village benefit. Whilst we have the village survey results, it's better still to have some fresh ideas. So please tell us what you think.

Currently the Parish Council's 'To-Do' list, this year includes:

- Major prune of the hornbeam tree on the Green
- A 2nd defibrillator
- Continued support of the Village Hall & Field improvement projects
- Moving the 30 mph zone on the Gotherington & Alderton approaches



Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – latest

Gloucestershire's LGR aims to replace the current county and district council structure with fewer, larger unitary authorities. All six local councils in Gloucestershire are collaborating to submit a joint proposal to the government by the end of Nov 2025. The government is due to make a final decision by mid-2026.

Three potential models for the new council structure in Gloucestershire are being considered:

1. One council - A single unitary authority covering the entire country.
2. Two councils (East/West split) - Two authorities, with an Eastern division (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Cotswold) and a Western division (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, and Stroud).
3. Two councils (Greater Gloucester) - Two authorities, with one being an enlarged Gloucester city and the other covering the rest of the county.



There is much more information on the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) website.

<https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

Local Government Reorganisation (Continued)

It is argued that LGR will enable greater devolved power from government, whilst saving costs and simplifying service delivery, however in the short-term, it has created some uncertainty and confusion.

One such example is here in Gretton where the grass at Barn Close is normally cut a few times a year by Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC). This year the responsibility has passed from TBC to GCC - the problem being that while TBC is good at passing, GCC has not been so good at catching it would seem! Your Parish Council has been chasing both authorities and we have been assured it will be better next year.

Thanks to everyone who plays their part, keeping the grass and hedges outside their houses trimmed.



Housing Needs Survey

Thank you to all those that completed the survey. This is being managed by Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council (GRCC) on behalf of TBC. Whilst the survey is now complete, the initial report is still being written. Hopefully it will help us and TBC be better informed when considering Planning Applications.

Gretton Village Fete - Continued from Page 1



Community 20s and Safer Roads initiative

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is starting an initiative to consider introducing lower speed limits (including 20mph), where there is public support and where appropriate for the location. At this stage GCC only wants to understand the level of interest, seeking feedback, as an expression of interest by 19th September.

This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting, so if you have a view, please tell us.

With current levels of concern about traffic speed and volume in Gretton, the Parish Council will confirm its interest in this initiative and will stay engaged in the process. Whether we do introduce some reduced speed limits (for example, in the centre of the village and past the school) will be a matter of further consultation.



Speedwatch

The holiday period has been relatively quiet for the village Speedwatch Team but as things return to normal after the holidays activity will be ramped up. Speeding traffic is always a key issue. The vast majority do not exceed the limits but a reminder is always useful. The Community Speedwatch is a great reminder but also serves as a deterrent to those who persistently ignore the limits. If you have the odd hour to get involved in Speedwatch please contact any Parish Councillor and induction will be organised.

The Speed Indicator sign has have been relocated to Gretton Fields and we are waiting on new posts which will provide greater flexibility as we seek to rotate its location.

The Alderton approach gateway has now been correctly re-positioned. Village Gateways are a proven deterrent to speeding motorists as they mark the start of a village. The gates have been positioned to achieve this while not restricting visibility for traffic exiting Redwood Close.

Crime Prevention

The Parish Council have regular meetings with the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Tewkesbury Police team. Over recent months there has been an increase in crime in the area including burglary and car theft. An open meeting was held in Alderton on 8th July, with visiting police representatives and representation from Gretton Parish Council.



Detailed minutes of the meeting are available on the Alderton Parish Council website and Crime Prevention Advice is available on the Gloucestershire website:

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

An important request from the Police, was to ensure that every incident, however small is reported, regardless of the view about likely follow-up or detection. It is important to record what's happening in our area.

War Memorial

A big thanks to Chris Vickery, Jane Roberts and Joy Mitchel for re-planting the War Memorial, and to the Roberts for keeping the plants thriving even during the drought.



Recognition for Gretton

The Gloucestershire Village of the Year 2025 competition is run by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC). The 2025 winners were announced at an awards ceremony at Highnam Court in July and Mark Oliver was recognised with a Highly Commended in the High Sheriff Special Award for Volunteer of the Year.

The award recognised Marks contribution across the Village Association, Cotswold Wardens, Speedwatch and Parish Council but more importantly gives important recognition for Gretton.

In accepting the award from the High Sheriff - Julie Kent MBE, Mark remarked "Its great to be recognised with this award but the real thanks should go to all those who get involved and make Gretton such a strong community and special place to live."

Gretton Village Association News

The Village Association has been struggling a little with some key people having to step back due to other commitments. The GVA have some great ideas and projects lined up so if you feel you can help please get in touch with Mark Oliver.

Despite the above, the team is working hard on events and improvement projects as detailed below.



Walk for The Park

The sun shone for the 3rd Gretton Walk for the Park that took place on 8th June.

This years event was a family friendly day with a shorter walk before activities and refreshments at the Hall. The Hanging Bar competition got rather competitive! Congratulations to Rob Hardie who hung on for 1 min 59 seconds to win the adult competition and Arla Wearn who won the under 16s with a very impressive 1 min 47 seconds!



As it was Father's Day weekend the stocks were very popular with the children taking the opportunity to soak the Dads! A big thanks to everyone who got involved on the day and to those who made some generous donations.

Projects

Tree Planting: The GVA has strived to keep the 8 fruit trees alive over the very dry summer with a rota ensuring that the trees have been watered most days. The majority remain healthy with fruit appearing but two have been lost.

Solar: All approvals are now in place to install the Solar Panels on the Hall and the installation should be completed shortly. This work is very important to reduce our running costs. The GVA is very grateful to the funding from Gretton Solar Farm Ltd through Green Fields Trust.

www.greenfieldstrust.co.uk

Hall Heating: The GVA has secured funding from Gloucestershire County Councils Climate Change Community Fund to install more energy efficient heating in the Hall.

Sports Storage Facility & Activity Space: The shed at the Hall is getting tired and takes up valuable space. Funding has been secured to erect a new building below the wall and buy some more sports equipment for the school. This new facility will enhance our recreation provision and also free up some space for more activities and car parking behind the Hall. With the relocation of the shed the area will be levelled to maximize space for events, bouncy castles and parking. Work is on hold on these two projects due to a lack of resource.

Playing Field Accessibility: A perimeter path around the field will improve all year accessibility, provide a community meeting space, a jogging facility for both the school and residents and improve the utility of the space for the community. Funding from recent events means we have raised c35% of the required funds and we hope to be able to complete this project in 2026.

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

Village Walks

The series of village walks by Bernard Gill continued on 6th July with a “Meet & Greet the Neighbours Walk” around the western cul-de-sacs of Gretton. Gopshill Lane, Apple Orchard Close. Duglynch Lane, Barn Close, Church Row and Redwood Close were explored.

The eastern parts of the village will be covered on Sunday 14th September starting at 2pm with a 90 minute walk exploring heritage and history of the village.

Look out for details from Bernard nearer the time.

Apple Rock

The annual Apple Rock will be held on Saturday 4th October. Please save your apples for pressing on the day and take the opportunity to come along and taste the cider from last years event. Activities will start around 3pm and live music will continue until late.

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 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.



**Cotswolds
National
Landscape**

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

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

The Parish Warden tries to keep aware of any issues in and around the village and performs minor jobs with the Thursday Work Party supporting with larger clearances and infrastructure work.



Thank you to those residents who support by litter picking or carrying secateurs on dog walks to keep our area looking great.

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



Contacts & Communications

Parish Council

Geoff Hanson - Chair

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Mark Oliver

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Richard Green - Vice Chair

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David Butcher

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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

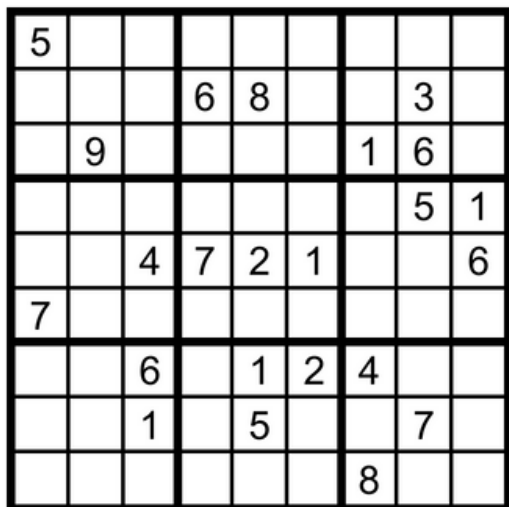
Contacts (Continued)

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

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 - Football Clubs

Boro	Hull	Thistle
Bury	Luton	Torquay
Chelsea	Montrose	Town
City	Owls	United
Clyde	Oxford	Wigan
County	Raith	Wolves
Crewe	Rams	Wrexham
Dons	Reds	York
Exeter	Stoke	

*The Solution to the puzzles are available on the Gretton Parish Council website

www.grettonpc.weebly.com

Dates for your diary

September 2025

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

Sunday 14th, 2:00pm

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

Village Walk

October 2025

Saturday 4th

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

Sunday 26th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Apple Rock, Village Hall & Playing Field

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

November 2025

Sunday 9th, 10:00am, 11:00am

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

Friday 28th, 7:00pm

Saturday 29th

Church, War Memorial, Refreshments at Hub in Village Hall

Gretton Hub, Village Hall

Christmas Quiz Night, Village Hall

Christmas Fair

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