

# **G** TOPICS **GOTHERINGTON** **TOPICS**

**December 2011 Edition**

*Please keep for reference as this covers December 2011 to March 2012*

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

### **HOMELANDS 2 AND CLEVELANDS**

The Appeal Inquiry into these proposed developments resumes at 10am on Tuesday 29th November at Borough Council offices in Tewkesbury.

This is a public meeting and it is vital that as many people as possible attend in order to impress upon the Inspector the strength of local opposition to the plans.

Make no mistake - this meeting is very important and the Inspector will take into account the scale of opposition shown.

Transport will be available to and from the meeting.

Full details can be found inside on PAGE 9.

**The time and date again**

**29th NOVEMBER AT 10AM**

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## **TEWKESBURY BOROUGH HIGHLIGHTS**

**Homelands Farm** rather dominates my thoughts at the present time. It was great to see so many people at the Public Inquiry evening meeting in Bishops Cleeve. And, thank you to the 47% of households who responded to my survey. Only one household was totally in favour of all development! And, a small number hoped that *Homelands 1* would demonstrate that we had 'done our bit' for new housing needs.

Although the message came through loud and clear (and many good messages there were), at the Bishops Cleeve meeting, to the appeal inspector, that is not the end of how you can impact the result. The hearing is resumed on 29 November and will, depending upon evidence presented, continue until 15 December. The Inspector, Mr Nicolson, has until 25 April 2012 to present his findings and recommendation to the Secretary of State for Local Government, Eric Pickles - for his final decision.

**A request has been made for more time** to be made available for those of you who have not yet spoken at the hearing and wish to do so. The subject matter for the next part of the hearing will include transport and highway issues. As these are VITAL to our villages, I hope that some of you will request permission to speak (on these and any other issues). This should be possible on 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10am with the consent of the Appeal Inspector.

I have again spoken with our MP, Laurence Robertson, who was unfortunately unable to be at the meeting in Bishops Cleeve on 22 Sept. because he was overseas on parliamentary business. He is now expected to speak during the final session.

**Secretary of State Pickles said in a recent judgement** 'the proposal attracted a large number of objections at both application and appeal stage. Reference was made to the Localism bill and the role played by local people in shaping their neighbourhood. The weight of public opinion is a consideration in the determination of this appeal'. I am sure that we can show that we are of the same view and encourage him to similarly reject the Homelands2 and Cleavelands appeals.

Meanwhile, I am of course available to deal with any other problems which you may have. Contact me at: allenkeyte@talktalk.net or ring me on 01242 677767

**Allen Keyte** *Tewkesbury Borough Councillor Oxenton Hill Ward*

## **LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

To celebrate 30 years of Gotherington and Area Local History Society, Philip Watson of Lawrence's Meadow will capture the village as it is in 2012 by photographing every house. He will start, weather permitting, in the new year and produce a CD of the photographs as an historical document of the future!

Philip is also presently building up a bank of old local photographs. During the winter months, if you do decide to have a sort out and find some old photographs of Gotherington then please get in touch with him (PkWatson1@aol.com) - he will scan the pictures and return them to you.

**Caroline Meller** *Chair, Gotherington and Area Local History Society*

## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

### **M5 BRIDGE WORKS - PIFFS ELM JUNCTION 10**

The Highways Agency (HA) is planning a major project in Gloucestershire next year which will significantly affect our county road network. The bridge over the M5 at junction 10 is more than 40 years old and needs replacing urgently. The current proposal is to start work in March 2012 and the A4019 from Cheltenham to Tewkesbury will be closed for approximately one year. We have several issues with this closure, not least of which is the length of time needed to do the work and have written to them to stress our concerns. We have no power to prevent the work going ahead, but have met the HA and asked for the following:

- That the work be carried out 24-hours a day to finish as soon as possible
- Before any work begins, a full traffic plan be produced to take into account local roads and not just the planned diversion routes and this should include management of public transport
- That junctions on the diversion routes (whether official or not) be modified to ensure they can cope with maximum traffic flows
- That a video/condition survey is carried out, before and after the works, so that any damaged caused by diverted traffic, both on the official and unofficial routes, can be determined and corrected by the HA
- That weight and waiting restrictions will be put in place to minimise the impact on affected communities
- That emergency vehicle access to the motorway is available via the site.
- That the M5 southbound slip road is open at all times.
- That the M5 northbound slip road is kept open at all times.

**Gordon Shurmer** County Councillor Ashchurch, Cleeve & Oxenton Hill

Tel: 01684 773934

E-Mail: [gordon.shurmer@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.shurmer@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### **HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND**

With Government support, the Borders Broadband project is working to improve internet services in rural Gloucestershire. The process of finding a supplier is already underway - **but first we have to prove there is enough demand from local people, communities and businesses. This is where you come in.**

In the next few weeks, local Broadband will be out delivering questionnaires. Please take a little time to complete and return your questionnaire.

To complete the survey online - or to find out more about the Borders Broadband campaign - visit the GFirst website [www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband](http://www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband).

Borders Broadband is also conducting a separate online business survey, which is available at the same address. If you live in Gloucestershire and run a local business, you can complete both residential and business surveys.

If you are interested in volunteering as a Broadband Champion for your community, please contact **Chris Cowcher at GRCC on 01452 528491.**

## NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

As the festive season approaches, we hope to remain snow-free in the run up to Christmas - but we have snow shovels, sledges and rock salt in stock just in case.

The first delivery of Christmas trees is due in at the end of November. We shall have three types of freshly cut Christmas trees available - **Nordmans** and **Fraser Firs** that are reduced needle drop trees and traditional **Norway Spruce**. We can wrap the cut trees to make transportation home much easier. We sell potted trees too and a range of Christmas tree holders. We will start to make up our plain and dressed holly wreaths from early December using an array of different materials.

Don't forget the gardener or bird watcher in your family this Christmas. There are some great present ideas as well as stocking fillers in the shop. During December we will have a range of houseplants and planted containers which make beautiful presents too. If you're stuck for an idea why not buy National Garden Gift Vouchers (redeemable at many garden centres nationwide including Gotherington Nurseries and Toddington Garden Centre. We have RHS membership available too.

Home grown winter bedding plants and homemade winter hanging baskets are still available. Bare root hedging and raspberry canes will be available from November. Bulbs, for spring flowering, are ready to plant now. They are an economical way to add colour to your borders and containers.

As the colder weather and frosts arrive, outside pipes and certain plants should be protected. We have fleece and bubble wrap for this purpose. Even though it's winter, do ensure that planters and baskets do not dry out. Keep them moist but do not overwater. Remember the birds too. They require water as well as food. We have a great new selection of specialist feeds and feeders available now.

We have our new season range of Sutton and Mr. Fothergill flower & vegetable seeds in stock now. In January, we will have a great range of seed potatoes and onion sets as well as "grow your own products". Summer flowering bulbs will be on sale from February while baby bedding plants will be available from March.

Don't forget our annual Christmas Evening on **10<sup>th</sup> November 2011**, at **Toddington Garden Centre** between **4 p.m. and 7 p.m.** There will be some delicious seasonal tastings including mulled wine and mince pies. There will be **double reward points** on purchases (except gift vouchers) for Gotherington Nurseries and Toddington Garden Centre cardholders. There's still time to sign up for a card either before or on the night itself. This is a fantastic opportunity to do some Christmas shopping or to treat yourself to something special.

We will be closed from lunchtime Christmas Eve and **re-open 3rd January 2012**.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Happy gardening!

**Mark and Liz**, ☎ (01242) 67 67 22

## **GARDENING CLUB**

Summer has not been particularly hot but in Gotherington it has certainly been very dry even though rain seems to have fallen all around us. Even now in mid October the ground is still cracked and parched but I expect by the time you are reading this we will be complaining about too much rain; nature does have a way of balancing itself out. I have always believed, rightly or wrongly, that watering is counter productive as it makes roots come up to the surface looking for moisture instead of going down for it and so once you start watering you have to keep on doing it. There is also a thought that if things can't survive in our climate we shouldn't be growing them anyway. This approach is probably the reason that some of my established plants and shrubs that survived the last harsh winter have succumbed to the summer drought. I confess that I did make an exception for chrysanthemums and dahlias but they were only watered twice through the whole summer - a really good soaking when I thought they were dying.

The Gardening Club programme is now underway after our summer break in August and started with our Member's Night in September. Thanks go to John Greenall, Ken Ascroft and John Flood for an entertaining evening. We are now looking forward to an Autumn outing, our Christmas party and our usual full programme of speakers. Why not come along to one of our monthly meetings and find out some more details. We meet at 8.00pm on 3rd Wednesday of each month in Village Hall.

**David Adamson**

## **GOTHERINGTON SINGERS** ([www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk](http://www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk)).

### **Christmas Concert**

(With guest Dan Holley)

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 pm,  
St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Cheltenham.

Tickets £8 from 01242 523168 and Showcase, Montpellier.

Supporting the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts.

### **Carol Service in support of the RNLI**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm,  
Cheltenham College Chapel

## **VILLAGE HALL**

Traditionally, the late summer months are a little quieter at the Hall, but with the onset of Autumn and the start of the school term, things become busier again. Monthly coffee mornings began again in September and clubs and societies are back in the swing of things.

With advice from Tewkesbury Borough Council and the Parish Council, the management committee has been exploring plans for major refurbishments to parts of the Hall. More detailed news will follow when our plans reach the next stage of their development.

Next year sees the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession to the throne of Her Majesty the Queen. Various events are being planned, and the Village Hall is likely to be central to some of those plans.

In particular, a Children's Art Competition/Exhibition is proposed. Entry will be open to any child resident in Gotherington, Woolstone or Oxenton. There will be seven entry groups covering the ages pre-school to 18 and the subject for the competition is, 'Make me Smile'. Prizes will be awarded for the best entries at each level. Sue Hunt has taken the lead in organising the competition, and further details will follow in the New Year.

**John Hunt**, *Chairman*

## **VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS**

Here we are - creeping up towards Christmas. Coffee mornings have been going well and they have been helped by the lovely weather we have had, that has brought people out to see us. If you have not been before, please come along on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30. Entry is free, you may purchase tea/coffee/cakes/bacon rolls, etc and there are a variety of table-holders selling all sorts of interesting items from jewellery to pickle!! Our regulars tell us how much they enjoy them and we have a wide variety of ages from 2 to 82.

The Village Hall Management Committee are discussing the purchase of an overhead projector and we have decided that, if the purchase goes ahead, we will donate our February and March takings specifically for that purpose. Don't forget to come along and support the village hall as all proceeds go towards the upkeep of the hall.

November and December will have a Christmassy feel to them, so there will be an opportunity to purchase gifts. Don't forget - no coffee morning in January.

**Christine Godsell**

## **GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE STORE**

Unfortunately, we have experienced a considerable drop both in customers and takings throughout this year and particularly over the last few months; we showed a considerable operating loss in our last financial year. This is not just us in particular; we all know that traders across the country are facing difficulties, independent retailers more so than others. We have lost several small suppliers who have had to cease operating and sourcing new ones is becoming more and more difficult. We are very aware that in the current climate, everyone is watching their spending and we have therefore increased our range of price marked goods, buy one get one free etc and in many cases have better prices than those offered by your local high street chain.

Having been here for very nearly three years and having tried many new initiatives, it seems that we have yet to get the balance right and aren't providing the service you want. We therefore ask you to help us help you,; talk to us, email us (gotheringtonvillagestore@yahoo.com) or simply drop a comment into our suggestion box (you don't need to identify yourself if you don't want to) letting us know what it is you would like, what we are doing you don't like, any new services/products that may encourage you to use us more or even use us for the first time (we know that a good proportion of the village haven't been in the Store for years). Please feel free to mention anything, even if it seems impossible. Unfortunately, this only applies to the Shop/tearoom; we have no control over the Post Office opening times. We want to be here next year - please help us to do so.

On a more positive note, we are pleased to advise that Maddie will be preparing Christmas hampers again this year and Mike is already taking orders for Christmas cakes & mince pies. We will again be taking your Christmas meat orders for Pilcher & Newman Butchers of Winchcombe and have a new range of books in Store provided by The Book People and have a large range of quality Christmas cards.

Also, in addition to our very popular alternative Christmas dinner on 10<sup>th</sup> December, we have developed a Christmas menu for small or large groups throughout December Lunch Times and for larger groups only in the Evenings.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and a big thank you to all of you who continue to support us.

**Maddie and Mike**

**HOMELANDS 2 AND CLEVELANDS  
Planning Appeal Meeting - remember the date & time  
29th NOVEMBER AT 10.00 AM  
YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

## **WINE CLUB**

We were lucky enough to hold our annual outing on one of the few sunny days in August, and over 40 members enjoyed a tour of Broadfield Court Vineyard, followed by a visit to Hampton Court Gardens. Both places were well worth a visit and we had an entertaining talk from the vineyard owner.

In September we held a wine and cheese tasting and it was most interesting to see how the different cheeses changed the taste of the wine.

We held the annual Wine Taster of the Year competition in October. This was a splendid presentation by Wendy Samuels, last year's winner, aided by Howard. The competition was won by Les Chattell.

In November we have a talk and tasting by Laithwaites, the well known wine merchants and in December we hold our Christmas party. We shall be entertained again by Peter Gill so it will be a great evening.

On December 3rd we shall be hosting the Village Hall coffee morning so all contributions of cakes would be very much appreciated.

**Jenny Aplin**

## **W.I.**

'The Dragon Dodger', 'Rugs to Ruins' and 'Maggie's Centres' have been the subject of three recent talks, while in September we had a very convivial Social Evening and Quiz. Several members went to Gloucester Cathedral to see the beautiful Flower Festival and a few went to Buckingham Palace to see 'the' wedding dress. Our Art Group had two fun, if messy, days working from an instructional video by Ann Blockley bought after a visit to one of her exhibitions.

A tea party held by Jill and Mary, in Jill's garden, raised £107 towards a new heating system at the W.I.'s Denman College.

We also had a lovely visit to Batsford where we sat in the sun watching a wonderful display using four different birds of prey. Afterwards we had a guided tour of the birds where some of us were able to have a surprisingly heavy Golden Eagle perched on our arms. After lunch we had walk around the Arboretum.

### **Future Meetings:**

November 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting followed by 'Beatrix Potter and the Tailor of Gloucester' - Philip Moss

December 7<sup>th</sup> Member's Christmas Party

January 25<sup>th</sup> 'Wildlife on my Doorstep' - Philip Mugridge.

We meet at 7.30 p.m. Gotherington in the Village Hall and always welcome visitors.

**Jill Parsons**

## **HOMELANDS 2 AND CLEVELANDS**

### **YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

The appeal inquiry resumes on 29th November at 10am and there is good evidence from other recent inquiries that strong opposition from local residents has swung the final decision against the developers. The best way to demonstrate this opposition is to attend the inquiry in person and demonstrate local feeling by force of numbers.

Many of you attended the evening session on 22nd September, so many in fact that some of you were excluded on health and safety grounds. There is no doubt that this excellent turnout will have made a significant impression on the Inspector.

You now have another chance by attending at Tewkesbury Borough Council offices (Gloucester Road, GL20 5TT) on 29th November for at least an hour or so in the morning (placards optional). Of course this is difficult for those of you who have work or have other commitments but if it is at all possible to be there please do so - your attendance could make all the difference.

A coach has been booked for the event. It will leave the village hall at 9.30am and return by 1.00pm. Seats will be on a first come first served basis.

You can, of course, make your own travel arrangements and ample parking is available at the Tewkesbury Borough Council offices. If you are able to offer seats in your car to others please come to the village hall at 9.15am.

**The time and date again**

**29th NOVEMBER AT 10.00 AM**

***Phil Aplin Vice Chairman Gotherington Parish Council***

Stop Press. We have learned that if you wish to speak at the inquiry you should attend at 10am at the meeting on Tuesday 6th December in the Tewkesbury Borough Council offices .

## **GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Hopefully you will have noticed the bright, repainted GPO Telephone Box at the start of Gretton Road. This has now been designated as the "official" home of the notice board for the Parish Council, so please look out for the latest notices inside.

We are now, by arrangement with the Village Hall, having a "table" at each of the monthly Coffee Mornings. This is an opportunity for you to come and discuss issues and problems with your local councillors. It is also becoming a fine opportunity for parishioners and councillors to get to know each other better.

We continue to fight against the proposed developments known as "Homelands 2" and "Cleevelands". An inspector has been appointed by the Secretary of State to hear all arguments relating to these and your council urges you to demonstrate your opposition by every means at your disposal.

As winter approaches, we will be doing our utmost to keep the roads and footpaths clear of snow and ice. The Highways Authority bears some of the responsibility for this, but the rest falls to us all. Please familiarise yourselves with the positions of the salt bins in the village but please note that this is not for private use.

For the second year the Parish Council have funded a Christmas Tree to be placed outside the Village Hall. The tree will be lit up for the first time on Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm. Please come along and sing some carols accompanied by Winchcombe Siver Band. And remember to bring a torch to help see the carol sheet.

**David Hearn** (01242 674408)

## **VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL**

As everyone who passes through the village will be aware, the War Memorial is maintained in a splendid state and of course this does not happen by accident. It is timely therefore to acknowledge that Pearl Jewer has been providing the village with a vibrant display of flowers at the War Memorial for the last 21 years. She has grown the plants from seed, planting them and deadheading them throughout the season. She says that she could not do it without her happy "band of waterers" who keep the flowers going during the dry summers. Now that autumn and its blustery weather is upon us she has removed all the plants in readiness for the wreaths of poppies to be placed round the memorial in November. I am sure would like to join me in thanking her for her years of beautiful displays - long may she continue.

**Jacqui Waine** (On behalf of the Parish Council)

**HOMELANDS 2 AND CLEEVELANDS**  
**Planning Appeal Meeting - remember the date & time**  
**29th NOVEMBER AT 10.00 AM**  
**YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

## NEWS FROM THE VICAR!

Harvest seems a very long time ago as we hurtle towards Christmas! Our Harvest Services were well attended and both churches looked beautiful. Many thanks to Val, Mary and their teams. This year we supported the 'Send a Cow' charity which helps develop small scale farming in Africa, enabling families to support themselves and move on to selling excess yields.

### CHRISTMAS

This year our special services will be:

- 4<sup>th</sup> December, **Christingle**, 4pm, Oxenton
- 18 December, **Village Carol Service**, 4pm, Gotherington Village Hall
- 24 December, **Crib Service**, 3pm, Woolstone  
**Midnight Service**, 11.30pm, Oxenton
- 25 December **Family Communion**, 11am, Woolstone

Full details will be on the Church Christmas card distributed to every household. Everyone is welcome to all our services and events, hope to see you there!

#### **Don't forget:**

*Carols and lighting of Gotherington Christmas Tree*, 6pm, 4 December, Village Hall.  
*Christmas Tree Festival* 9, 10 and 11 December, 10.30am to 4.30pm at Oxenton.

**VILLAGE PRAISE:** Gotherington has no church but most of the parish population. Village Praise is a relatively informal service currently held in Gotherington Village Hall. There are play bags for the smallest children and colouring/drawing for bigger children. After the service we serve refreshments. Why not come along and give it a try - 11am, third Sunday of each month.

**GOTHERINGTON CHURCH CENTRE AND THE FUTURE:** The church has leased the former Free Church building to use for church and community purposes. It is presently undergoing some maintenance and upgrading work, but we hope to begin using the building, renamed 'Gotherington Church Centre' in the new year. We have some ideas for uses but we'd welcome your thoughts too. Contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions.

### WOOLSTONE BELLS

Did you know that Woolstone church has a ring of 6 bells? At the moment the bells are rarely rung as we have no regular bell ringers. We are working with St Michaels to train up some new ringers so that the bells can be rung, perhaps once a month for services, and on special occasions. Interested? contact me for more details.

For all matters relating to the church and parish, please contact:

**Rev. Mike Holloway**, The Rectory, Malleon Road, Gotherington.  
Tel: 01242 675559, email: revmike.holloway@btinternet.com

## NEWS FROM VILLAGE AGENT

**Non Emergency Police Number** From 19<sup>th</sup> September, Gloucestershire Constabulary joined the rest of the South West Region with the introduction of 101 - the new national police non-emergency telephone number. The current non-emergency telephone number 0845 090 1234 will be phased out. Calls will still be received by call handlers based at Waterwells, Quedgeley.

**Please Note - Calls to 101 will cost 15p per call, irrespective of how long that call may last. This cost applies to landlines and mobile phones**

**Computer Scam Phone Calls** These are often from India: Criminals who are making old-fashioned phone calls and offering free security scans in order to gain access to people's computers, To run the con, criminals pretend to be PC security experts from legitimate companies. They call their intended victims, warning of a risky security threat and offering to run a free security check-up. If the victims take the bait, the scammers gain access to their PCs and often capture passwords or financial information.

**Claire Manigrasso** 0781 063 0048 / email: [claire@villageagent.grcc.org.uk](mailto:claire@villageagent.grcc.org.uk)

**HOMELANDS 2 AND CLEVELANDS**  
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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Meetings:** 10th Oct - Tewkesbury Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association  
27th Oct : Meeting of Tewkesbury Neighbourhood Watch Association in Cheltenham to judge schoolchildrens` Safety Poster competition.

**Information received** (Police Newsletters - The Local Observer).

Summer 2011 : New Local Policing .  
Retirement of Local Police Officer .  
New national non-emergency tel` number (101)  
Local Crime Statistics.  
Shopping on the Internet.  
Autumn 2011 : New non-emergency tel` number (101)  
Hard Selling Alarm Company  
Chimney Fire Safety.

Happy & Crime Free Christmas and New Year.

## **GOWNS**

The Gotherington Oxenton & Woolstone Neighbour Scheme was launched in June 2009 with 7 co-ordinators & 23 volunteer households with a wide range of talents.

Since the launch, GOWNS has assisted people on over 300 occasions with help like shopping, hospital/doctors/dentist visits, gaining mobility after a major operation, a chat for someone house bound, minor DIY, changing a battery in a wall clock and meal delivery from Gotherington Stores to people unable to get out etc. etc.

You do not have to be elderly and infirm in order to ask GOWNS for help - for example we had one occasion when a young mum needed two children looking after while she took a third to the A& E dept at hospital.

GOWNS also organised a trip to the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury and are happy to arrange one for the "panto" if required.

You can contact GOWNS anytime Monday to Friday between 9am and 7 pm on the help line 07752 152485 for whatever help no matter how small - just phone!

## **CREATIVE WRITING CLASSES**

I'm a writer, living and working in Gotherington and I will soon be running a new Creative Writing Class at The Shutter Inn. The class will be tailored to suit all needs so don't worry if you are a complete beginner or a more experienced writer. All forms of creative writing will be covered from short stories to poems, journalism to novels and even how to get published. Your first class is free so you can come along with no obligation and see if you see if you enjoy it. To find out more details or book a place please contact me.

**Amanda Reynolds** 01242 678174 or email: [amanda.reynolds@talktalk.net](mailto:amanda.reynolds@talktalk.net)

## **BHF COFFEE MORNING**

We are delighted to say that the British Heart Foundation Coffee Morning in May raised a magnificent **£1,200+** - a sincere thank you to everyone who supported and attended our coffee morning. Thank you to our helpers and friends, who gave donations and raffle prizes, baked cakes and contributed in so many ways. It is very much appreciated and very gratefully received by the British Heart Foundation Cheltenham branch.

**Jill & David Ward, Anita & John Flood**

## **WINTER SNOW AND ICE**

As the road through the village is a primary route it will always be salted and gritted however there are not sufficient resources to clear pavements. To this end the Parish Council are acquiring a hand spreader which will be used to ensure that pavements from The Shutter to the school and around The Lawns to the village shop are kept clear where possible. We are therefore looking for volunteers to operate this equipment. Full training will be given. If you are interested in helping out I should be grateful if you would contact me on 674114.

**Phil Aplin** *Snow Warden*

## **GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB**

We have enjoyed another good season of social play and a variety of competitions. In the spring we held the Invitation Doubles Tournament when representatives from other teams in the Cotswold League joined us for the day's competition. Our 2 teams had a good season in the Cotswold League - travelling to Malmesbury, Swindon and Cirencester for matches. The All Stars finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place this time.

The Club singles competition was played through the summer months with the finals being played on Bar B Q day in August. Eddy Godsell won the Shutter Shield again and Les Howard won the Plate competition. Everyone else had a fun days play in the sunshine with no pressure and all enjoyed a tasty barbecued lunch.

A group of us went to France again this year with our friends from Malmesbury and Marlow to stay in S. Brittany. We played every day, enjoying lots of sunshine and had time for some interesting trips out. We enjoyed wonderful hospitality at the Boules Club of La Baule who made us very welcome for an afternoon of competition.

Nearer home, we visited the Ship Inn at Keynsham for a friendly match against some of their members. Lunch at the pub was good and the company excellent.

The Club doubles competition - **The Gotherington Stores Cup** - is now reaching the final stages and we will continue to play through the winter - weather permitting.

**Mary Manders-Trett** *Secretary*

## **GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB**

**Summer Play** Club sessions were well supported on Mondays and Wednesdays. In an effort to free up evening play for the village, Friday evening club sessions are now on Friday afternoons between 1 and 3:30pm.

**League Team Match Update** Overall a very good season. The Ladies Team retained their position in division 2B. The Men's 'A' Team started very encouragingly in 2A but a mixture, of injuries, non-availabilities and hard luck stories prevented promotion!. However, the Men's B team dominated their league and now look forward to the challenge of a higher league next year.

**Winter Play** continues on Fridays from 1 to 3:30pm and Sundays from 2pm to 5pm..

**New Members** We were pleased to welcome four new members to the club this season and we would ask any other prospective members to contact any of the committee members listed above. We welcome players of all standards and can guarantee both club and match play. The annual membership fees for adults are £60 for all year round play and there are greatly reduced rates for juniors and veterans. Tennis balls are provided and they are replaced frequently.

**Winter News** A Xmas skittles night has been organised at the Shutter Inn for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30. Hot food will be provided and everyone is welcome.

**Thank you** To the Parish Council for their support and understanding with regard to the upkeep and maintenance of the courts and their surroundings.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Come and see this historic church filled with Christmas trees decorated by local organisations and individuals on the theme of 'Christmas carols and songs'.



**9, 10 & 11 DECEMBER, 2011**

**10.30AM TO 4.30PM**

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH, OXENTON**

Parking, Refreshments, Activities

Adult £2, (Children free)

**Parish of Woolstone with Gotherington and Oxenton**

### TOPICS OF INTEREST

You will always find the most recent edition of Topics on the village website at [www.gotherington.org.uk](http://www.gotherington.org.uk). Topics should be distributed to everyone in our three villages three times a year in April, December, and December. Contributions for the printed version of Topics should be sent to [gotherington.topics@gmail.com](mailto:gotherington.topics@gmail.com) by the first Friday of March, July or November respectively. [Contacts - General](#)

Gotherington P.O. & Stores (672249) <a href="http://www.gotheringtonvillagestore.co.uk">www.gotheringtonvillagestore.co.uk</a>	Gotherington Primary School (675454) <a href="http://www.gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk">www.gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Gotherington Nurseries (676722) <a href="http://www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk">www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk</a>	The Shutter Inn (673122)
Doctor's Stoke Road (674676)	Doctor's Greyholme Surgery (672669)
Out of Hours Medical Services (08454 220220)	Hospital Transport (Gill Lofts) (674129)
Conservative Association (01452 371630)	Liberal Democrats (Noel Stephens) (673894)
Borough Councillor A .Keyte (677767) <a href="mailto:allenkeyte@talktalk.net">allenkeyte@talktalk.net</a>	County Councillor G Shurmer (01684 773934) <a href="mailto:gordon.shurmer@gloucestershire.gov.uk">gordon.shurmer@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>
Garden House Nursery School 07913256364/01386 81886	GOWNS (07752 152485)
Yoga [Tuesdays] Sarah Martin 01242 269765 <a href="mailto:sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk">sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk</a>	Creative Writing Classes Amanda Reynolds (678174) <a href="mailto:amanda.reynolds@talktalk.net">amanda.reynolds@talktalk.net</a>
Police: -emergencies (999 or 112)	Police: non-emergencies (08450 901234)
Bogus Callers (08081 0900777)	Crime Stoppers (0800 5551111)
Village Agent Claire Manigrasso (07810 630048) <a href="mailto:claire@villageagent.grcc.org.uk">claire@villageagent.grcc.org.uk</a>	Topics Editor <a href="mailto:gotherington.topics@gmail.com">gotherington.topics@gmail.com</a>

**Contacts – Village Organisations**

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS	Contact
1 <sup>st</sup> Gotherington Beaver Scout Woodland Colony Tue 6.00pm Forest Colony Fri 6.00pm	Ric Bagnall / Ady Joy ) Ric Bagnall / Ady Joy ) gsl@1stgotherington.org.uk Sarah Phillips ) )
1 <sup>st</sup> Gotherington Cub Scout Pack Thu 6.00pm	) )
1 <sup>st</sup> Gotherington Scout Troop Fri 7.30pm	Craig Sprigmore )
Brownie Guides Mon 6.00pm	Hayley Riordan (671092) / Emily Parsons(07585508620)
Cricket Club Captain Contacts	David Postlethwaite info@gotheringtoncc.org Colin Ralph ( 673046) / Brian Cosgrove (676216)
Church of England	Rev Mike Holloway (675559)
Football Club (Junior)	Rob Sharp (678057)
Gardening Club 3rd Wed 8pm	R Ascroft (673192) / Pam Howell (673015)
Gotherington Singers 1 <sup>st</sup> ,3 <sup>rd</sup> &5 <sup>th</sup> Mon 8pm	Viv Nicholson (523168) / vivien.nicholson@virgin.net
Local History Society 4th Tue 8pm	Caroline Meller (677489) / Jill Collins (672848)
Parent and Toddler Group Tue, Fri 9.30am	Caroline Ryman (673707) / Lisa Bowley (679920)
Neighbourhood Watch	Phil Smith (672970) / Mary Manders-Trett (674592)
Oxenton Village Hall Oxenton Village Bookings	David Howard (678319) / Graham Ripley (676781) Valerie Martin (673233)
Parish Council 2nd Tue 7.30pm Parish Council Clerk	David Hearn (674408) david@dahconsult.co.uk David Roscoe(07917147627)clerk@gotherinton.org.uk
Parochial Church Council Secretary	John Bishton (677290)
Playing Field/Rex Rhodes Building Bookings	David Roscoe (07917147627) clerk@gotherinton.org.uk
Petanque Club Sun, Wed, Fri	Brenda Thomas(675633)/Mary Manders-Trett(674592)
Rec. Club (For Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> Bonfire)	Gary Thompson (676708) / Robert Swinson (675693)
Tennis Club	Andrew Harrington (677039) /Ian Donnelly (674404)
Village Hall (Gotherington) Committee Secretary Bookings co-ordinator Treasurer	John Hunt (671020) / Bev Osborne (675741) Lucy Donnelly (674404) Karen Laughland (678001) Howard Samuels (672492)
Wine Club 3rd Tue 8pm Chairperson Secretary	Jenny Aplin (674114) Christine Godsell (672821) candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk
W.I. 4th Wed 7.30pm	Diane Coules (675035)
Women's Bible Study Alternate Thu	Christine Davies (673588)
Woolstone Church Bellringers	Caroline Meller (677489) / Penny Ellis (620108)

