Contacts – Village Organisations

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS	Contact
1st Gotherington Beaver Scout) Fri 1st Gotherington Cub Scouts Thu 1st Gotherington Cub Scouts Fri 1st Gotherington Scout Troop Fri Membership/waiting list enquiries	Ady Joy – (07795 097704) Sarah Phillips – (07899 885294) Michelle Rails – (07748 536510 Craig Sprigmore – (678423 membership@1stgotherington.org.uk
1st Gotherington Brownies Mon 6.00pm 1st Gotherington Rainbows Mon 3.30pm	Kirsten Stillman (673218) Kirsten Stillman (673218)
Cricket Club	Colin Ralph (673046) / Brian Cosgrove (676216)
Church of England Churchwardens (Woolstone) Gotherington Church Centre	Richard Reakes (675559) richard.vicarage@gmail.com Sarah Whitehead (674489) / Michael. Bower (672900) Ellen Cooke (673170) ellen@thecookes.me.uk
Football Club (Junior)	Rob Sharp (678057)
Gardening Club 3rd Wed 8pm	Joy Bradley (675223) / Pam Howell (673015)
Gotherington Singers 1st,3rd&5th Mon 8pm	Sue Adamson (676087) sueada@icloud.com
Local History Society 4th Tue 8pm	Caroline Meller (677489) / Jill Collins (672848)
Parent and Toddler Group Tue, Fri 9.30am	Katie Tuffery 07793 885847)
Neighbourhood Watch	John Hicks (676848) / Mary Manders-Trett (674592) Howard Samuels (672492) / Phil Smith (672970) Les Howard 677949 / Berian Thomas 674397
Oxenton Village Hall Oxenton Village Bookings	Chairman: Simon Doble (678179) / Secretary: Linda Howard Valerie Martin (673233)
Parish Council 2nd Tue 7.30pm Parish Council Clerk	David Hearn (674408) david@hearn.demon.co.uk Jules Owen (07850 505058) gotheringtonpc@gmail.com
Parochial Church Council Secretary	Sarah Whitehead (674489)
Playing Field/Rex Rhodes Building Bookings	Bev Osborne (675741)
Petanque Club Sun, Wed, Fri	David Ward on (675080)/Christine Godsell (672821)
Rec. Club (For Nov 5th Bonfire)	Gary Thompson (676708) / Robert Swinson (675693)
Tennis Club	Andrew Harrington (677039) /Ian Donnelly (674404)
Village Hall (Gotherington) Committee Secretary Bookings co-ordinator Treasurer	Peter Price-Thomas / Bev Osborne (675741) Christine Godsell (672821) Bev Osborne (675741) Howard Samuels (672492)
Village Hall Coffee Mornings. 1st Sat excl Jan & Aug	Christine Godsell (672821)/ Bev Osborne (675741)
Wine Club Chairperson 3rd Tue 8pm Secretary	Les Howard (677949) les.linhoward@gmail.com Christine Godsell (672821) candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk
W.I. 4th Wed 7.30pm President Secretary Treasurer	Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com Sue Freeman (01242 679518) - kingslea@fsmail.net Mary Green - g.g.12@btinternet.com

Gotherington Topics

Summer 2016

Incredible Times!

The previous edition carried the headline "Interesting Times" and mentioned the then future June Referendum. It also commented that it is an old Chinese curse to say "may you live in interesting times". Well, the vote is over and it now seems a more appropriate heading would have been "Incredible Times" - although I must point out that, while "incredible" can informally be taken to mean "very good, or wonderful", the Oxford English Dictionary definition is more correctly given as "impossible to believe".

In a similar sense and very much closer to home, it is equally incredible that so many developers seem to think they can ask permission to build new houses in our village. Please read the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Development Plan items on this subject and take every opportunity to protest against any development that is not in the proposed village plan.

But if all this leaves you feeling upset and anxious, there is much more of a calmer and uplifting nature to read inside and the thoughtful item from Reverend Richard Reakes should help us all to keep a sense of perspective. And if all else fails, perhaps we simply need to keep calm and carry on!

The Editor

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ANDREWS

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GOTHERINGTON TOPICS SUMMER 2016
INDEX

Brownies	*Page 3*
Church Of England	*Page 4*
Cricket Club	*Page 5*
Gardening Club	*Page 6*
Gotherington Nurseries	*Page 7*
Gotherington Primary School	*Page 8*
Gotherington Singers	*Page 6*
GOWNS	*Page 8*
Junior Football Club	*Page 9*
Village fete	*Page 10*
Parent and Toddler Group	*Page 12*
Parish Council Report	*Page 13*
Parish Council – NDP report	*Page 14*
Petanque Club	*Page 11*
Tennis Club	*Page 15*
Village Hall Coffee Mornings	*Page 16*
Village Hall Committee Report	*Page 17*
W.I.	*Page 18*

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Topics is distributed to everyone in our three villages at Spring, Summer, and Winter.

The next edition (Autumn 2016) is due out during or soon after the week starting 24th October 2016

You can find the most recent edition of Topics on the village website at www.gotherington.org.uk

Contributions for Topics should be emailed to the Editor at gotherington.topics@gmail.com

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Caroline Ryman	*673707*
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Yoga [Tuesdays] Sarah Martin	*(269765) sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk*

GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

Contacts President - Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com
Secretary – Rachel Slater (07884343612) - rachel.slater@btinternet.com
Treasurer - Mary Green - g.g.12@btinternet.com

We have had some interesting meetings this Spring. There was a fun evening in February when Philip Collins, alias 'Professor Collywobbles', told us the history of Punch and Judy and performed an hilarious show for us, especially tailored for his audience. Then in March, Simon Trapnell spoke about Nature in Art and showed us, on screen, examples of paintings, ceramics, glass, sculpture etc., exhibited at the gallery in Twigworth. We also heard an inspirational speaker at the GFWI Annual Council Meeting at the Town Hall - Mandy Hickson - who was one of the few female pilots in the RAF and the only woman in her Tornado Squadron to fly combat missions over Iraq.

More recently, in April we had our birthday party enjoying lovely food and good company and at our May meeting we had a beautiful visitor - a Barn Owl named 'Ghost' who perched on speaker Gary Cope's wrist as he went through the points about the Barn Owl and told us why sadly they are in decline and what is being done to combat this. We also discussed the two resolutions to be presented at the NFWI Annual Meeting in Brighton – one on dementia care and one on food waste and food poverty.

Speakers to come will be Philip Wilkinson 'High Street Histories'; Sue Jennings 'Elizabeth Garrett Anderson'; Margaret and Eugene Schellenberg 'The Ifakara Bakery Project' and Merleen Watson 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month in Gotherington Village Hall and visitors and new members are always very welcome – so do come and give us a try!

Jill Parsons

GOTHERINGTON BROWNIES

Contact Kirsten Stillman tel 673218 or email gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk

RAINBOWS

We have had a lot of girls moving on to Brownies and so have been able to take on lots more girls too. Our theme has been Ladybirds and we've been out hunting for them, making them out of various craft materials, and playing ladybird games – and all of this was topped off by earning a ladybird badge!

Rainbows are aged 5-7 years, and we meet in the village hall from 3.30-4.45pm on Mondays. Our pack is currently full, although we do hold a waiting list, so please give me a call if you would like further information.

GOTHERINGTON RAINBOWS

Contact Kirsten Stillman tel 673218 or email gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk

Our Brownie pack has grown and grown – from 8 girls a few years ago to over 30 now. We have had lots of fun this term, including a messy day during which activities included writing in "alphabetti spaghetti", an egg catching contest and getting covered in ice cream sundae toppings! We had a great Alice in Wonderland pack-holiday at Cowley, have gained our "Friends To Animals" badge, made Rocky Road for Father's Day and had a great sports night on the field.

Also, we have a trip to the Fire station coming up and a "Pudding Night" before the summer break.

With so many girls, we would love some additional help. If anyone would like to help out – either on a regular or ad-hoc basis – please do contact me.

Brownies meet on Mondays in the village hall from 6-7.30pm and we welcome all girls between the ages of 7 and 10. We currently have a full pack, but we hold a waiting list so if your daughter would like to join, please contact us on the email address above.

Kirsten

NEWS FROM THE VICAR!

Contact: email: richard.vicarage@gmail.com or phone:01242 675559
Churchwardens (Woolstone): Sarah Whitehead (674489) / Michael. Bower (672900)
Gotherington Church Centre: Ellen Cooke (673170) / ellen@thecookes.me.uk

June this year has been full of bad news. Firstly there was the mass shooting in Orlando where forty-nine people lost their lives, then there was the murder of the French policeman and his wife and after that the horrendous attack on MP Jo Cox in Yorkshire. There has also been the incident of the child who was killed by an alligator in Florida and I have also had news of several people dealing with severe illnesses. I can't think of so many terrible occurrences in such a short space of time.

I'm sure one of the first questions that springs to mind is 'why'? Whatever the answers we may be searching for, if they can be found they often won't provide the comfort, reassurance and peace we hope they will offer. So what is our best sort of response? May I suggest a slightly more positive approach and that we should ask ourselves, 'I know this terrible and horrific thing has happened and I can do nothing about that now, but how can this circumstance motivate me to improve the situation from now on?'

If we take this question to heart and act upon it may lead to a possible change in the law about gun control, it may help us look at how we deal with disaffected people, how we treat one another, how we can prevent such things happening again. And in the event of illness, this may help us get involved in raising money for medical research or support in other ways those who are engaged in such work.

I realise this won't take away the pain of loosing a loved one, but it may go someway to making a slightly better world to live in. I certainly don't have all the answers, only a view on life that evil will never prevail, bad will never overcome good and love will always win in the end, in spite of the fact that hate might be putting up a jolly good fight in the background.

With my warmest regards

Richard Reakes, *The Vicarage, Malleson Road, Gotherington*

VILLAGE HALL

Contact: *Peter Price-Thomas (Chairman) 07740 871987/ Bev Osborne (Bookings) 675741*
gotheringtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk

Gotherington Village Hall continues to enable the village community to thrive - users vary in age from a couple of months old, to those in their nineties, with virtually every age group in between catered for. The Hall provides the venue for so many of the clubs and societies that make Gotherington such a vibrant place to live. It also provides a great location for birthday parties, wedding anniversaries and, of course, monthly coffee mornings.

I was fortunate enough to be elected Chair of the Village Hall Committee at the last AGM. My predecessor, Mark Wreford-Bush, did a sterling job as Chair and I would just like to put on record the committee's thanks for all of the time and hard work that Mark put into the committee. I would also like to thank the other members of the committee, many of whom are very long-standing, for their dedication to making the hall run so effectively.

We are, however, at a point where we do need new personnel to step-up. This might be in the form of being an active representative of one of the many regular users, or it may be by becoming a trustee. Either way, for the committee to be effective in the years to come, we do need a certain amount of renewal. The roles are not particularly onerous and I would be happy to discuss what they entail in detail, should you be interested.

The hall enables Gotherington to flourish. Help us to continue to ensure that it does

Peter Price-Thomas, *Chairman*

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

Contact: Christine Godsell on 01242 672821 or email candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk

I have been thinking lately (I know it comes as a surprise, but occasionally I do!) - . what can we do to refresh your coffee mornings? It seems we have a good format because we are delighted that you keep turning up. In fact – I am not sure who supports who.? Your company supports the Village Hall and it is certainly a generous contribution, thank you. But I would like to think that we are also supporting you. Many of you have said how much you look forward to coming, so thank you for that - but is there anything you would like us to change, to add, or even take away? If you have any ideas, please do speak to one of the team. We are always interested in your suggestions and will do our very best to please. Likewise, if you would like to become a cherished member of our team, your help will be appreciated.

Remember, no Coffee Morning in August, but we'll be back in September.

See you there

Christine Godsell, *Gotherington Village Hall Coffee Mornings*

THE WAR MEMORIAL

During mid-May I finished the summer planting at the War Memorial and I would like to once again say a big thank you to Liz & Mark at Gotherington Nurseries for their generosity in supplying all the top quality plants.

Kate Button

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

I have been asked to contact you to let you know that there are currently vacancies on Nortenham Allotments, which are managed by Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council. If any residents of Gotherington wish to hire a plot that they are able to do so. All required information is on this Council's website www.bcpc.btck.co.uk, or alternatively you are welcome to contact the office with any queries – 01242 674440.

Amanda Winstone*, Locum Clerk to Bishops Cleeve Parish Council*

CRICKET CLUB

www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk

Contact: Brian Cosgrove on 676216 or info@gotheringtoncc.org

Having celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the re-formed club during 2015, we are now looking to build on that momentum in 2016. Youth cricket is thriving and for the first time we have had some fixtures at u9 level as well as u11, u13 and u15. The Saturday morning coaching, run in conjunction with Gecko coach Bruce Balance, is becoming ever more popular and we really could do with parents stepping forward to help, even if just with setting up and taking down equipment. Craig Sprigmore continues to lead the coaching and whilst several others are involved we could certainly do with more help.

As I write, in mid-June we have enjoyed some excellent cricket, including a good win at Stowell Park, a closely contested defeat at Dumbleton and a wonderful game against the Royal Household Cricket Club played at Freeman Field. A large percentage of the players involved in that match came through the youth system and acquitted themselves very well.

The RHCC were extremely appreciative of the hospitality they received and special thanks must go to Bev and Richard Osborne and Yvonne Cosgrove who, with some additional help, put on a fantastic tea and post match BBQ that players, officials and spectators all enjoyed. Brian Cosgrove worked wonders to get the game on (with his grounds-man's hat on) and we have been invited back to Windsor Castle next year - watch this space for details as we will hopefully be able to make it a village day out again.

New skipper Will Banwell is doing a great job, backed up by the committee that includes Tim Hearn and Edward Gillespie.

We are looking to further enhance the playing surface and practice facilities with much appreciated support from the Parish Council.

Rob Sharpe

GARDENING CLUB

Contact: Joy Bradley 675223/Rachel Ascroft 673192
www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club

We wish David & Sue Adamson our best wishes in their new home wherever they move to and happy gardening there. Also our sincere thanks for the use of their garden for our Garden Parties over the years.

Where has our summer got to? We have had very cold winds since last November with plenty of rain. Our heavy clay soil at the end of May is too wet to work. The wildlife and the garden plants are at a loss to know what to do with the weather so changeable. The grass has continued to grow even faster and needs to be cut every week now. Shallots, onions, broad beans, runner beans, carrots, beetroot and lettuce are all growing well while sweet peas planted at the end of November in the greenhouse last year have been planted out and are now growing well – in fact they need attention every other day and are starting to bloom.

Our plant sale at the Village Hall coffee morning in June did very well and was both an excellent event and an important fundraiser for the club.

Gotherington Gardening Club meets at 8:00 in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month except August. We have a varied and interesting programme of speakers, several special events, and guests and visitors are always welcome.

Graham Teale

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

Contact: Vivien on 01242 523168 or email sueada@icloud.com
www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

We are a ladies choir formed 49 years ago in Gotherington. If you are interested in joining us, please come along to one of our rehearsals and see how you like us! We meet on Mondays 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm in the Village Hall and are a very friendly group performing a wide and varied range of music. Previous experience is not necessary and we will give you a warm welcome. For more information call me or visit our website.

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Contact: Andrew Harrington 677039 or Ian Donnelly on 674404
http://www.gotherington.org.uk/tennis.asp
https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis

The club has attracted several new members over the early summer months, some of whom have already gone on to represent the club in league matches. It's always pleasing to see new faces at the club. We welcome players of all standards and can guarantee both club and match play.

League tennis is now well underway. Both men's teams are performing well, with the Men's A team second in their league and the Men's B improving after a slow start and aided by the influx of new players. The Ladies' teams have had mixed fortunes so far this season, with the A team in mid table and the B locked in a 4 way relegation battle (good luck girls!).

The new coaching initiative has been very well received (indeed over subscribed) and it's great to see the courts so full on a Wednesday night. This has had the positive knock on effect of Monday night social tennis also being well supported.

The shocking summer weather we have been experiencing has meant the courts have required far more TLC than normal to keep them in a clean and playable condition. The club would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and also the parish council for their continued support in this area. The club have also invested in the purchase of new nets for this season.

Finally a big thank you to Tom Vale and Bruce Richardson for organising the Tennis Club event at the Village Fete. It was pleasing to see so many youngsters down at the junior coaching session and hopefully it will encourage them to pick up a racket in the future.

Ian Donnelly

GOTHERINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Steering Group met with Tewkesbury Borough (TBC) and their legal team who have conducted a thorough review of our Neighbourhood Development Plan (GNDP). This will ensure that the plan is protected from any outside challenge, particularly from developers, which is very much for our benefit. As a result, we have updated our GNDP and associated documents (Regulation 16 GNDP) and these were formally accepted by the Parish Council before being handed to TBC on 3rd June. We are now waiting to hear when TBC are ready to start their 6-week consultation period. TBC will then pass all documentation to the Examiner who, if no problems are found, should allow the referendum in Gotherington to proceed.

Pembury Estates and Lioncourt Strategic Land have now applied for planning permission for sites on opposite sides of Gretton Road. The Pembury site is IN our GNDP, but the Lioncourt site is NOT in the GNDP or TBC plans. Matt Tyas of TBC addressed the parish council on these applications and issues. We have received leaflets from Gallagher who wish to develop the Meadow with 90 dwellings. During their recent archaeological surveys various Stone and Iron Age artefacts and ditches were found.
If all the applications for unwanted developments were allowed, Gotherington would be irrevocably changed. Providing TBC support our selection of sites for the agreed minimum of 49 further dwellings, our robust NDP should protect us from any outside challenge, particularly from developers. Once in place, our NDP has specific numbers of dwellings on specified sites and we are determined to reject any major changes to these figures.

REMEMBER! Your response to unwanted planning applications, and to the referendum, is <u>essential</u> to ensure we are not over-burdened with unwanted development.

***David Ward,** Chairman*

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk
Contact: Phone 01242 676722

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who supported us at our 25th anniversary celebrations on 23rd April. We had a great day and were very fortunate with the weather. We raised £200 for Carers Gloucestershire.

With the mixture of sunshine and showers, everything is looking very lush. The glasshouses and the outside plant area are looking beautiful with the array of different colours.

The nursery is full of activity, from seed sowing to potting on, re-stocking the glasshouses to supplying our Garden Centre at Toddington. The glasshouses have been full of many different varieties of bedding plant and a tremendous range of basket and patio plants. At the moment we are busy making up customer orders for planted hanging baskets and containers as well as ensuring there are plenty available for sale in the glasshouse.

In the planteria, the wide variety of cottage garden plants provide instant colour. They offer good value for money and are a great way to fill a space in a border. We have a good choice of shrubs, roses, trees, conifers, climbers, vegetable plants, herbs and soft fruit bushes.

The shop is well stocked with a range of gardening goods including tools, Hozelock products, plant food and products to help with pests, diseases and weeds. We have a range of outdoor leisure products too. And looking to the future, bulbs for autumn planting should be making their way to our shelves during August.

Just a reminder that we are open Monday to Saturday until 5 p.m. each day and 10 am – 4 pm on Sundays.

We wish you well for the season ahead and thank you for your continued support. Happy gardening!

***Mark and Liz,** Gotherington Nurseries*

GOTHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Contact: schooloffice@gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk Tel: 01242 675454
http://www.gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk

Despite the very changeable weather, the term continues to move at a real pace and it comes as quite a shock to see the classes getting ready to move on to the next year group and in some cases, new schools.

In an educational world which is more and more challenging, children across the school have completed tests which have measured the depth of their knowledge, skill and understanding of the new curriculum. On a lighter note, we were blessed by excellent weather for the Year 6 Residential visit to Manor Adventure, Shropshire. The children were a real credit and made the most of the activities available to them, most notably a wonderful high ropes course! This was a welcome distraction from the tests that they had completed prior to going away.

The last term has also seen some staff changes. Mr Philcox has secured his first headship and has been replaced as Deputy by Mrs Woolston. Mrs Rouse and Mrs Wheatcroft are also leaving at the end of the term and have been replaced by Mrs Turley and Miss Kent. We also welcome Mr Hutchison to our KS2 teaching team.

We all are sad to see staff leave and thank them for their wonderful service to the school. However, we are also all looking forward to welcoming the new members of staff to our school.

***Ben Jordan**, Headteacher Gotherington Primary School*

GOWNS

Contact: 07752 152485

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GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: David Hearn on 674408 or clerk@gotherinton.org.uk

*We move into summer somewhat overwhelmed by real and potential developers looking to ruin our lovely village. Currently we could have over 200 houses in addition to those we are obliged to receive under the Service Village quota. We must all be active to resist these abominations and this has to mean that we **all** aggressively object to the attempted developments, not just leave it to your Parish Council.*

This was one of the key messages made during the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Rex Rhodes Building and was the key interest of the BBC film crew that attended to record the occasion. Let's hope that when the item is broadcast it can reinforce the case against.

In a lighter vein, two important events have taken place in Freeman Field recently. First, the Village Fete held to celebrate the 90th birthday of our Queen. It was very well attended with an estimated over half the village joining in the fun. The Village Tour, held by Caroline Mellor prior to the official opening, was exceptionally well attended. Many thanks Caroline. The weather held off, just, making for a very enjoyable experience.

The second event took place the following weekend with the visit by the Royal Household Cricket Team who played a 40 over game against Gotherington's finest. Unfortunately, the home team lost, but it was a good game enjoyed by all. Again the weather held out.

Now for Council Business. Jules Owen has been appointed RFO and will later take on the duties of Clerk, once she has become more familiar with the village. Also we still have a vacancy for a Councillor and we welcome any applications.

The summer, so far, has been miserable, but we hope that things improve. In any event, the Parish Council wishes you all an enjoyable and rewarding summer.

***David Hearn**, Chairperson*

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Contact: Kim Rhodes on 07931 376588 or Katie Tuffery on 07793 885847

gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

I'm writing this on the eve of our summer outing – we're off to Cattle Country and are looking forward to feeding the animals, giant sand pits and bouncy pillows.
Over the summer we will be arranging a number of park visits instead of our Friday sessions. Like us on Facebook (Gotherington Toddlers) to see where we are heading!

Looking back, it's been another fun term!

We started with our Easter Party – Katy Warwick entertained the children brilliantly with worms at the bottom of the garden, parachute fun and giant bubbles that the children could stand in! They even got to chase the Easter Bunny in the play park!
We had a Frozen themed session to raise money for charity – Elsa turned up with more bubbles, and the children decorated castles and fairy cakes.

The sessions continue to be well attended. A big thank you goes to all our volunteers who help to set up sessions or run art and craft activities! We've had great fun making Gruffalo puppets, woolly sheep, and even just getting the glue and paints out!

This will be my last Topics submission for Toddlers – with the summer it's all change on the committee, and Katie Tuffery will be taking over from me as chairperson.

Toddlers meets every Tuesday and Friday morning from 9.30 - 11.30 in the Village Hall. Babies and toddlers are welcome up to and including pre-schoolers. The cost is £2 per family and your first session is free. We have a large selection of toys and aim to run an activity each session. Snacks and drinks are provided for the toddlers and also a much needed coffee and biscuit for the parents! Please "like" our Facebook page for further updates.

***Kim Rhodes,** Chairperson*

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

***Contact**: Rob Sharp on 01242 678057 or rob_sharp100@hotmail.com*

The 2015/16 season ended with our annual family fun day and presentations. We were extremely lucky that the rain relented and allowed us to have a four hour window of decent weather. Several of our sides between u13 and u18 achieved top 6 finishes in their respective leagues.
We will have teams from u6 to u18 next season. With the youngest age groups based at the school on Saturday mornings, we are grateful for the ongoing support from Mr Jordan.

The club has maintained FA Charter Club status and continues striving to improve the coaching levels we can provide to our players. We have a coach to run the u6/u7 age group but could do with a coach at u7 and u8 from September - please contact me (rob_sharp100@hotmail.com) if you would like to know more. For the older age groups, we use Winchcombe's excellent "astro turf" facility for training during the season.

We are already busy with registering players for next season, along with sorting kits, sourcing additional playing venues, updating coaching qualifications and a myriad of other behind the scenes tasks that need to be completed before the 2016/7 season kicks off in September.

One final thought – will our Players have been inspired by what they have seen at the European Championships – only time and the new season will tell!

***Rob Sharp**, Chairman and Secretary GJFC*

GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE SUMMER FETE
In Celebration of HM the Queen's 90th Birthday

June 12th 2016 – a celebratory day – were you there? Did we have fun folks? Yes of course you did! The organising team for this fete worked hard since before Christmas, holding regular meetings which eventually almost took over their lives by early June. Nonetheless, it was enjoyable. We have been helped greatly by a generous donation from the Parish Council and the Rec Club. Any profits made on the day – around £500 – will be donated to the Sports Pavilion fund. All who made a small charge on the day have passed on very generous donations from their takings and even, in some case, the whole of their takings. We thank them sincerely.

For those who were unable to be there on the day, it was very wet in the morning when we were setting up but by the official opening time of 1pm, it was dry.....and stayed that way until after 4pm when there was a cloudburst that drove everyone under cover and away home.

For your entertainment the Wine Club bar was selling beer, wine and soft drinks at very competitive prices. Our local shop provided and served delicious home-made cakes and teas. We had strawberries and cream, ice cream, hotdogs. Gloucester Excelsior Band cheered us up with some hearty tunes and the Happenstance Border Morris Dancers delighted us all with their antics. You could try your hand at target practice with the Petanque Club, be coached by the Tennis Club, indulge the adventurer in you by visiting the Scout camp and test your directional skills with a putting game or skittles. For those feeling vengeful, there were stocks and wet sponges. And how many pegs did you remove from a line with one hand? And where was the treasure? – certainly not where I said! For the children there were 3-legged, wheelbarrow and egg & spoon races and pulling on a rope ably assisted by some adults. Any energy left was used up bouncing on the castle. There were books for sale, bric-a-brac, cards, jewellery, garden plants, a tombola stall. Even the Queen herself attended, resplendent in bright blue, just waiting for your face and a photograph

And at 3pm sharp we were privileged to be able to see Bishops Cleeve's flypast of a Spitfire and Bomber. What a magnificent spectacle!

Richard Pasco, our own village professional photographer, has taken some wonderful photos that you may view on the Gotherington Village web site.

Shall we do it all again? Of course we will – so watch for the notices.

Thank you all for coming and thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make it a splendid day.

***The Organising Team**.*

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

Contact: David Ward on 675080 or Christine Godsell on 672821
www.gotherington.org.uk/petanque

It's that time again –another piece to entice you to come and play Petanque (Boules). I have just been looking at some 'interesting facts' and have discovered what a dangerous game it can be! A few years ago, a pensioner was trampled to death by a runaway circus elephant, while he played. Now, I am assuming it was the pensioner playing, not the elephant……

The Gotherington Club is, sadly, reducing in numbers for a variety of reasons - although elephant trampling is not one of them - and we certainly need more players. We need some younger members too to bring the game on as well as protect some of us from marauding beasts. When we started, we could have coped with a herd of the creatures, do the housework and hold down a full time job – where are those players now? Well, it's YOU ! Come and give the game a try – one thing is for sure, we still laugh as much as ever and we still enjoy the game immensely.

We have a busy schedule for the summer – no time to be bored, but more than enough free time to welcome you. So we look forward to seeing you. But be sure to keep half an eye open and check over your shoulder – you never know who or what will come charging across the field.

***Christine Godsell** Secretary*