



Gretton News

'What's Happening in Your Village

Published on behalf of Gretton Parish Council

Summer 2009

From the Editor : Will this summer be an improvement on last? I recall only using my then bright and shiny new barbecue twice during the year so I have great hopes for this. We are told to be careful of the sun. Those UV rays can be dangerous so I even obtained one of these portable gazebos just to make sure. I've certainly not had the practice in erecting it (and I haven't been on the university course which the makers seem to assume all of us have when attempting to assemble such things). Maybe this year?

Talking of complicated instructions for large objects that come "Ready for *convenient* assembly", in very small boxes. Does your jaw hit the ground and the heart sink like mine with the thud of the thick instruction book as it falls from the packaging? I acknowledge I'm not the brightest person in the world but not only am I regularly flummoxed (and ladies, I do try to read the instructions) but I get really angry too. I guess the supplier's argument is that it saves money for you, the customer. I wonder.

With summer comes lots of activity in our village. The coming Flower Festival is but one with proceeds that go toward the structural maintenance of our wonderful church, always there to welcome us home when we've been away. Whether you are religious or not, this edifice is an icon for Gretton and a major part of our heritage. Please give the flower festival your support and the other village events being organised.

When obtaining information for the Parish News and speaking with the many villagers I am fortunate to know, I marvel at how cosmopolitan we are becoming. You will see later in this edition that you can now learn French, here in the village. And, besides all the voluntary efforts by many and our farmers locally, there is a thriving business community beavering away behind many façades throughout the village. Accountancy, all the building trades, computer consultancy, marketing, copywriting and publicity, web site development, golf or amateur radio equipment and no doubt a great deal more are all been practised right here in Gretton.

GROWL (see later) is a growing group of villagers intent on making a decent living in these grim times who meet informally to have a chat and network. Good luck to them and to their endeavours that help with the vibrancy of our village life.

Love it or loath it, the Welland Valley Beer Festival held recently is reported later. It was after all only one weekend and frankly, I'm no beer drinker, but it is fitting that a publican from the village is ensuring this festival, which I am told is unique in the UK, continues especially if we are to see those wonderful vintage buses trundling down the lanes. Good luck Alan.

Mel Jarvis – Editor Tel : 772109

Email : mel.norma@btinternet.com

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month. Residents are welcome to attend and speak on any matters. Please contact the Clerk a few days before the Meeting, which starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. As the Hall is at undergoing refurbishment our meetings are being held in the Baptist Church School-room. Please see the monthly Agenda for details of venue. This is posted on the Notice Board by the Post Office one week prior to the event.

The Telephone box by the Talbot has been officially adopted by the Parish Council for heritage purposes. It will be used as an advertising centre to appraise villagers and visitors of all the organisations available in the village. It will not be used to publicise events as there are already other outlets for this purpose. Please see our monthly minutes for the full proposals as they are decided.

As you are probably all aware the planning permission to create the MUGA on the Recreation Ground was refused by Corby BC. The committee is currently seeking alternatives following the recent Open Day. We will keep you informed as details unfold.

As the warmer weather is (hopefully) upon us residents are asked to be mindful of neighbours when lighting bonfires. As we are all aware the smoke can be a nuisance during daylight hours and fires should be started at times when minimal disturbance will be caused.

Please take time to view our Agendas and Minutes and inform councillors of your concerns.

John Hindle – Parish Clerk Tel: 770580

VILLAGE HALL

Work started on the building of the new toilets at the beginning of April. Work has progressed well and the toilets should be handed over ready for use on June 24th.

The second stage of the refurbishment will be to put in new windows and doors and a suspended ceiling which will also provide much better insulation. For this stage the hall will be closed for 2 weeks from Monday July 20th. Letters have been sent to all regular users about this and the installation has been timed to start after the school finishes its summer term. This is the slackest time of the year for bookings of the Hall. The Committee Room is also being enlarged and will be able to be let separately and will have its own tea/coffee making facilities.

We have been grateful for the help we have received from the Baptist Church in accommodating meetings normally held in the Committee Room.

The annual Fun Run was held at the beginning of April and raised over £400 for the refurbishment and we are very grateful to Daniel Doody for organising this third run with a new route combining the best features of the previous two years. It is hoped this event will continue for future years.

We have managed to have two performances from Northants Touring Arts during the period and we have started also with two film shows. The refurbished hall should be warmer and more comfortable for these activities.

The Management Committee has been very grateful for the patience of users during the refurbishment. The finished hall should be ready for use from the beginning of September at the latest.

Ailsa Dempster - Tel : 770995 Email : ailsadempster@aol.com

VILLAGE HALL ENTERTAINMENTS

Despite the ongoing building works, which should come to completion in September- see elsewhere in this issue, we have held two musical events in April and May. The first of these was a 'stonking' gig by the Tannahill Weavers, upholding their reputation as one of Scotland's finest traditional bands. Outstanding in a talented line up was the piper, Colin Melville, whose playing was especially appreciated by many visitors from Corby!

Village Hall Entertainments (continued) -

Then in May we enjoyed the superb 'jazz' vocalist Helen Barratt with piano accompaniment. She charmed and delighted a very appreciative audience in Gretton Village Hall. With Adam Bigg at the piano, the first set featured classic jazz numbers by the likes of Cole Porter and Gershwin. Highlights were Ella Fitzgerald's 'Miss Otis Regrets' and 'Over the Rainbow' from the Wizard of Oz. After the interval Adam entertained with his own arrangement of the theme from The Fabulous Baker Boys then Helen sang her interpretation of more modern songs by Nina Simone, Eva Cassidy, Nora Jones, KD Laing and Katie Melua. "This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening" So wrote S.M, an appreciative member of the audience!

Helen has only returned from New Zealand to this country within the last year so watch out for the name. You saw her first in Gretton Village Hall.

These performance are supported by and arranged in conjunction with the Northamptonshire Touring Arts Scheme.

Future bookings are :-

Saturday 24th October 2009

Isla St Clair and Patrick King with a show entitled 'Eyes Front'. Isla will be singing and telling the stories behind well-known popular songs, whilst Patrick will show film clips to illustrate how songs and music played an important part in people's lives, particularly during wartime.

Saturday 6th February 2010

Chris Garrick and John Etheridge playing guitar and violin interpret jazz/folk/world/ roots music by composers as diverse as Duke Ellington, Paul McCartney, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Pat Metheny, and Richard Thompson.

Saturday 13th March 2010

Those Magnificent Men!. This is a production by New Perspectives Theatre Company turning the story of the race to conquer the skies over the Atlantic into a fast and furious comic tour- de- force.

So note these dates in your diary now and watch out for future notices.

Andy Butterworth (Village Hall committee) Tel : 770619

Stop Press : Villager Caroline Knight will be taking part in the **Great North** run, 1/2 marathon on the 20th of September running for Breast Cancer Care. Sponsor her at the Post Office or call her : 770660 or visit www.justgiving.com/carolineknight4

GRETTON SCHOOL

With the summer finally here, the PSA at Gretton School are looking forward to many fun-filled events in the last few weeks of term. Children will learn all the benefits of starting the day with a nutritional meal at the Smoothie Breakfast morning which is to be held on June 16th from 8am. The aim is to educate the children and at the same time raise funds for the Feed The Children charity and the school. Tickets are £3 each. Plans are also underway to set up a before-school Breakfast Club on a permanent basis and information for this will be available on the day.

Just a few days later, on the 19th of June, parents will be invited to the school in the afternoon to see the annual crowning of the May King and Queen and the ever-popular Maypole dancing. Refreshments will be available and cakes and plants will be for sale. As a special treat, the PSA will also be providing a slap-up lunch for the children which will be enjoyed with our very welcome guests - the children from Chirpy Chicks.

The fun continues the following day with a Mid-Summer Party in the school orchard held in conjunction with Chirpy Chicks pre-school who are celebrating their ten-year anniversary. The party starts at 2pm and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the fun which includes live music, a barbecue, plant stalls, games, wonderful raffle prizes, a disco, children's entertainment and a delicious array of puddings to try.

As always, the PSA are so grateful for all the support they receive and would like to thank, in particular, Travis Perkins for all their donations which have greatly contributed to the success of our fund-raising over the last year. Thank you!

For any more information about the PSA, please contact Jackie Kay Tel : 771728 or Michele Britt Tel : 771970.

Sarah Lockett – Secretary, Gretton PSA Tel : 771546

ST JAMES CHURCH

Flower Festival – 26-28 June 2009

This June sees St James Church 35th Annual Flower Festival. The church will be open from **Friday 26th June, 2-5pm, Saturday 27th 10am – 5pm and Sunday 28th June 10am – 5pm**, so please come along to see the many truly beautiful flower displays. This years theme being "Literally Flowers". Much time, effort, pride and patience put into making these wonderful displays.

St James Church (continued)

There will be lots taking place over the weekend with home-made lunches and teas plus a barbecue and beer tent on the village green. There will be many stalls including cakes, books, plants and tombola, along with a raffle, treasure hunt and children's games.

"An Aria in your Area"

On Saturday evening we are very privileged to have a concert of popular Opera Scenes sung by soloists from The National Opera Companies. This will take place in the church at 7.30pm, tickets can be obtained from Julie and Mike Powell at the Post Office or from Lydia's coffee Shop. Be sure to come along as this will certainly be a superb performance and not to be missed.

Gretton Silver Band will be playing on the village green on Sunday from 2pm.

There will be a Songs of Praise Service at 6.30pm on Sunday, in which children from Gretton School will be playing their instruments.

Anyone who would like to help run stalls or are able to give towards the stalls then please contact -Cinzia Serena Tel : 770728. Any help is very gratefully appreciated.

St James' Church Services—As always everyone is most welcome to come along

- 1st Sunday** 9am said Holy Communion
- 2nd Sunday** 9am Family Service
- 3rd Sunday** 9am Family Service 6pm Evensong
- 4th Sunday** 9am Family Service 10.30am Holy Communion
- 5th Sunday** 9.am Family Service and a Joint Benefice Service, which is always advertised.

Each Monday – Pre-School singing and story time 2-3pm

Each Wednesday – 10am Holy Communion

GRETTON BAPTIST CHURCH

We had a wonderful Easter with many of our services being well attended. We also had another great day of tag rugby with twelve children from the village enjoying some great rugby and a talk on the first Easter.

The Easter crafts day for parents and children was also a great success with families learning about the Easter story through a variety of activities.

Since then we have had a youth service which was organised and led by "The Shed" - the young people from Oakham Baptist Church. It was great to be sharing a service with so many teenagers, all celebrating the love of Jesus.

Our all age services are on the first Sunday of the month and these tend to be a little shorter than our usual Sunday morning meetings. Our next is on the 6th July and, weather permitting, we are hoping to hold it outside in the paddock with a barbeque afterwards.

Other activities coming up are :-

Saturday 18th July "It's a Knockout" family afternoon.

Saturday 26th September First of our monthly afternoon activities for children and parents

Sunday 27th September Harvest Festival

Card making Date and time to be announced

You are warmly invited to all of these events.

We are a church which genuinely desires to know and share the love of Jesus. We welcome anyone at any time and to any of the services. It does not matter what your reasons are, just come as you are. It will always be good to see you. Our morning services begin at 10.45am and the evening services begin at 6pm. Tea and cakes served beforehand at 5.15pm during June, July and August.

Peter Lloyd - Pastor Tel: 772155

GRETTON FELLOWSHIP

We are delighted that the Gretton Fellowship continues to grow with new people joining us each month, some who are already Christians and others who are discovering Jesus for the first time.

It is always great to work closely with other Churches and we continue to do so where possible. In April we joined the Baptist Chapel for their Youth Service, with very enthusiastic youngsters from Oakham Baptist Church. We also went as a whole Fellowship to Hope Church, a new Elim church in Corby one Sunday as we were unable to use the Village Hall. It was great to worship and minister together. We are still enjoying meeting at the Village Hall on Sunday afternoons with the extra space, as this gives room for the larger worship/music group and we even have space for dancing and using flags in the worship. We also have more room for the youngsters. We are looking forward to the new revamped hall.

Fellowship (continued)

It is great to be in the Village Hall as it is a place where most people in the village have used and therefore feel more comfortable coming into. We hope many more people from the village and nearby will feel free to join us for worship and to discover whether Jesus is real or not.

We continue to run the Men's Breakfast on Saturday morning. The Breakfast is a great informal way to learn more of God and how to be the men God wants us to be. We have a whole mix of folks coming and all seem to get on well and enjoy the teaching as well as the full breakfast. Plenty more space, so come along and join us.

We are also delighted that the teenagers, who meet on Wednesday evenings for fellowship and to worship and pray together are growing in numbers and spiritually. It is great to see young people so alive for Jesus and longing for others to know the joy they have found. The young people will be leading a youth service at 5pm on Sunday July 5th at the village hall. This promises to be a great time and all are welcome, both young and old(er). Please put it in your diaries and come along.

A whole group of us tend to meet at the Sports Ground at 11am on Sunday for an hour of informal football. All are welcome as we have anyone from 5 years old to granddads playing. We had our first "official" match on 23 March when we played Hope Church, Corby at Lodge Park. We were squarely thrashed, although we put up a good fight with our mixed group including 8 year olds and girls compared with Hope's full team of strapping men!

Our main fellowship meeting is on Thursdays, but what do we do? We try to live as the early Christian Church lived and enjoy meeting together each week. Our worship is informal, but also powerful as God leads us and reveals Himself to us. Our meetings also include fellowship – praying for each other, sharing what God has been doing in our lives and chatting over a cup of coffee or tea. We also pray for others, sometimes as requested by people and also for what is happening around the world. There is preaching and teaching on the Bible, revealing what God is saying to us through His word and applying this to our lives. And we also share in communion, where we eat bread and drink some wine (grape juice actually) to remember that Jesus Christ died for us on the Cross, in our place, to pay the penalty for our sin, because it is this sin which separates us from God. This is a real celebration as we give thanks that we are able to have a personal relationship with the Creator God.

If you want something real, refreshing, non-religious and life changing, then come along or get in touch. Above all we want to share what we have discovered!!

Everyone is welcome to join us at 30 High Street – Lydia’s, unless indicated otherwise

Women’s Meeting	Tuesday 9am – 11am
Youth Meeting	Wednesday 8pm – 9.30pm
Fellowship (worship & teaching)	Thursday 6.45pm (worship starting at 7pm)
Men’s Breakfast	Saturday 8.45am – 10am
Worship Service (Gretton Village Hall)	Sunday 5pm

For more details contact :
Giles and Sue Arnold Tel : 772209 Email : giles.arnold@btinternet.com)
Web site: www.acts2-42.org

GRETTON PADDOCK PARK

Human Sundial

Last year the Parish Council announced that they would like to create a memorial recognising the hundredth birthday of Mrs Ivy Woolston. They approached the Paddock Park Management Committee and it was agreed that the construction of a human sundial would be an appropriate memorial to have in the Paddock Park. Unlike the usual sundial that we may have in our gardens a human sundial uses a person’s own shadow to show the correct time.

If you would like to help with the work would you please let me know by either ringing me or perhaps attending one of our monthly meetings.

Usual Work Mornings and Our Monthly Meetings

If you are able to help please remember that our work mornings take place on the first Saturday of each month starting at 9.30 am. We also meet once a month at 8.00 pm in the Hatton Arms on the third Wednesday. Why not join us for a drink and a chat? If you would like to help but the work mornings are not convenient please give me a ring and we can arrange a more suitable time for you.

Bob Dobson - Paddock Park Secretary Tel : 770734

1st GRETTON SCOUT GROUP

All young people are welcome to join the village Scout Groups. All sections meet in the Village Hall although they meet outside when possible in the summer. Please note Scouts has moved to Monday.

Gretton Scouts (continued)

Beavers	Tues 6pm – 7pm	(5 yrs 9 months to 8 years)
Cubs	Mon 6pm – 7.30pm	(8 yrs to 10 yrs 6 months)
Scouts	Mon 7.30pm-9pm	(10 yrs 6 months to 14 years)

Young people 14 plus are also very welcome – the nearest Explorer Unit is in Corby.

We are always looking for adults with either youth or experience on their side to assist either on a regular, semi-regular or occasional basis; and we are particularly keen to recruit parent representatives from all sections to join our executive committee to provide ideas and a parents' point of view.

The group trip to Duxford Air Museum proved to be a great day out for all who went (nearly 50 of us). The Beavers have had a sleepover and worked towards lots of badges; they have had a visit from hearing dogs for the deaf and held a fundraising night to raise money for the dogs to be trained. Cubs have had a camp at Woodcroft and are off to county cub camp in June. They have also worked towards many badges including the fitness and creative challenges. Scouts are going back to basics, learning first aid, pioneering and cooking on an open fire amongst many other things. We would also like to thank the villagers who supported the Beaver Scouts by attending a coffee evening for hearing dogs for deaf people. They raised £64.00 towards training a new dog. The Beavers also saved their pennies and raised an amazing £23.00 for the children in the orphanage in Goa. We have just held our Annual General Meeting which was a great success and celebrated the achievements of the group over the past year. Numbers in the different sections remain steady, and there are exciting plans for the future.

The clothing collection is ongoing to help subsidise the summer camps – your contributions are most welcome (clothes/bedding/linen/curtains/shoes) – either drop off at 52 Kirby Road/29 Latimer Close/68 Kirby Road or ring 07766 555060 and a Scout will collect.

Please contact Catriona on 07766 555060 for further information, or the group secretary—Caroline Parkes Tel : 770619

LYDIA'S COFFEE SHOP

We have been blessed over the last few months with a regular flow of customers, both new and old. We have also been blessed by the teenagers, as well as our older volunteers, who have given up their time to work free of charge at Lydia's. It is so

good to see them serving our community and being prepared to share their faith with customers. Many of you will have met Monika, a lady from Switzerland who worked in Lydia's for three months. We were delighted to have had her with us and so grateful for all she was able to offer – such a committed and joyful worker. We thank God for her and pray that she will be able to come back again in the near future.

Here are a few of the things we would like you to enjoy:

Late Night Opening On Tuesdays : to 8pm – Why not drop in after a hard day at work or bring the family.

Men's' Breakfast : 8.45am – 10am on Saturdays – we are delighted to host the Men's' breakfast each week. There is still plenty of room, so come along for short talks and a full breakfast.

Gift Vouchers : £5 or £10 vouchers make excellent gifts. You don't have to use them all up at once.

Books & Cards : We now offer a borrowing service – only 50p to borrow one of the second hand books. We also offer a whole range of new books, including Bibles, biographies, children's books and devotional readings. We also sell cards and can have these framed for you. Why not have a look?

We continue to have a steady stream of people through our doors and are amazed at how far some will travel or take a detour to come in. All are welcome to enjoy the peaceful, warm and friendly atmosphere. We aim not only to serve you with a great cup of coffee (or tea), but also to offer you a high standard of hospitality. Why not come and taste our teacakes, cakes and Panini's? As many already know we offer prayer for anyone who asks and are happy to offer a listening ear and when appropriate share our faith.

Anyone living in the village can ask for a discount card, which gives you 10% off the normal prices. For those of you who already have one please come in so we can give you a new one!

Don't forget our opening times are :-

Tuesdays to Saturdays – 10.00am to 4.30pm. Late night opening - Tuesdays to 8.00pm. Closed Sundays & Mondays

COMMUNITY POLICING

For your information - the monitoring of speeding will increase in the village over the next few weeks.

There has been a re-appearance of Door to Door Household goods sellers in several villages recently. If you receive one of these visits, please notify us in order for these people to be checked. They must have a valid Photo ID on display and Northampton Police have zero tolerance with this kind of cold calling. Please take the time to read the advice on this issue that follows.

For all none urgent telephone calls please take note the new contact number for Northampton Police : **03000 111 222**

And remember, if you have concerns or questions, please do contact the Corby Rural SCT who will be only too pleased to hear from you.

Phil Beckett

PCSO 7022, Corby Rural Safer Community Team Tel : 07710 331863 Police Station

ADVICE WHEN DEALING WITH DOOR TO DOOR TRADESMEN

Cancellation of Contracts made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work, etc, Regulations 2008

These regulations are aimed at protecting consumers who enter into a contract with a trader at their home or workplace. They also cover contracts made at another individual's home or with traders away from their business premises.

The regulations will extend the existing law on cooling-off periods and cancellation rights for consumers and will cover contracts that are made during **both** solicited and unsolicited visits by traders. They will apply to all contracts with a total payment of more than £35 and will set the cooling-off period to a minimum of seven calendar days. The regulations also require specific information detailing the consumer's right to cancel the contract to be provided in any written contract or provided in writing if there is no written contract. Where the contract is wholly or partly in writing, the notice must be incorporated in the same document.

If a business fails to provide a written notice of the consumer's right to cancel the contract, they commit a criminal offence (maximum fine £5000) and the business will not be able to enforce their contract against customers. In addition, you would not be under any obligation to pay for the goods and/or services provided. *If you wish for*

work to start before the end of the seven day cooling off period, you must put this request in writing.

Doorstep Selling : Many traders who call at your door are honest and genuine. However, some are not and can be extremely persuasive. Examples of bad practices associated with cold calling and doorstep selling include pressure selling, unfair contracts, overpriced or substandard home maintenance or improvements, phoney consumer surveys and bogus charity collections.

What reputable callers should do - Reputable callers should : -

- Present personal identification and identify who they represent.
- Make it clear from the outset if they are selling something.
- Provide written information on cooling off periods and cancellation rights.
- Not use pressure to sell goods or services.
- Not expect an on-the-spot decision.

Leave as soon as they are asked to do so.

How to protect yourself : - For example : **Say “No.”**

- Say you do not buy goods or services at the door unless you are genuinely interested.
- Say you want more time to think about it.
- Say you want to compare prices by getting other quotes.

Say you have to discuss it with someone else (e.g. your partner or son/daughter).

Think - For example : -

- Do you feel safe letting the caller into your home?
- Do you feel under any pressure?
- Do you feel your emotions are being used or manipulated (e.g. subjected to scare stories or exaggerated claims)?
- Do you know the full costs (e.g. including estimates, delivery and installation) of the transaction?
- Have you compared prices for the same goods or services?
- Do you understand your rights if you sign a contract?

Do you know the arrangements for after-sales servicing (e.g. guarantees or warranties)?

Question. For example : -

- Has the caller identified themselves and their company satisfactorily? (Make a note of these details.)
- Has the caller engaged your interest by questionable means (e.g. claiming to be conducting a survey or representing a charity)?
- Were you offered you a “once only” price for agreeing to the transaction?

Community Policing (continued)

- on the spot?
- Is the caller offering something you really want or need?
- Has the caller aroused any suspicions about themselves, their methods or their motives?

You must decide. Only if you are satisfied that the transaction is entirely acceptable and that the decision is entirely your own should you agree to make a purchase.

AND REMEMBER TO INFORM THE POLICE ABOUT DOOR TO DOOR SALES PEOPLE

GRETTON POST OFFICE

Whether in the UK or abroad holiday time is upon us but have no concerns regarding currency requirements – in all the senses. Not only do we provide a comprehensive banking service for your normal UK cash, home and business accounting right on your doorstep but foreign currency is available on very advantageous terms. Beside Euros and US Dollars always in stock, because of the increasing popularity of Turkey as a holiday destination, we now also hold Turkish Lire. ALL other currencies can be obtained in just two days, again from your Post Office.

Besides a range of other insurances but again with holidays in mind we have a competitive travel insurance package, which includes failure of a scheduled airline as standard. A major benefit in these uncertain times.

Oh, and don't forget, if you, family or friends are abroad but need money we can send (and receive) money on your behalf worldwide. It is safe, easy and done without fuss.

Postal services, of course, plus telephone and broadband, savings, banking, insurances and much more, we provide a wealth of other services for you here in Gretton. Holiday or business, home or a commercial enterprise, we are your friendly, efficient and convenient Post Office.

Julie & Mike Powell Tel : 770243

MUMS & TOTS

For children up to school age, Mums & Tots runs during school term time in Gretton Village Hall from 2 to 3 pm. Cost is £1.50 per family, which includes tea or coffee, juice and biscuits—All are welcome

Jackie Kay Tel : 771728

WONDERTOURS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

There is a full a varied excursion programme for the rest of this year including :- 28th June to Skegness, 11th July to Lincoln, 29th August to Bury St Edmunds, 5th September to Colchester and 19th September to Skipton and Harrogate. Remember the convenient pick up and return point is at Gretton Village Hall.

Our first ever Wonder Weekend break to Eastbourne from the 9th to 11th of October this year was an instant sell out.

The programme for next year, which will be published in August, will see another 19 day trips arranged covering every month of the year. The programme will be available from the address below, from Gretton Post Office and in future editions of Gretton Parish News. We continue to offer great value because we are a non profit, voluntary organisation. Both regular and new passengers are welcome onboard.

David Fursdon - Organiser Tel : 770784 Mobile : 07790 197220.
9 Southfield Road Gretton NN17 3BX

GRETTON AND DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, WOMEN'S SECTION

Our branch this year celebrates its 85th anniversary making it the oldest branch in Northamptonshire. To mark the occasion a special meal was enjoyed by several members at the Blue Bell here in the village. Gretton Women's Section has been presented with a certificate by the County Secretary, Mary Coleman on achieving this anniversary. The branch was formed on 1st June 1924.

Some members will be attending the annual Purse Presentation at The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton on 5th September.

We were saddened at the closure of the Gretton Royal British Legion Men's Section earlier this year due to a decreasing membership but the work carried out by all former members is greatly appreciated. The Men's Section arranged the Remembrance Day Parade and church service in the village and the Parish Council have been informed.

We were very proud when 100 years old Ivy Woolston, and a lifelong member of the Women's Section, received two certificates recently for her dedicated service. Any new ladies wishing to attend our branch meetings on the third Tuesday of the month are very welcome. Please contact our secretary, Kath Park on Tel : 770628 or myself.

Royal British Legion (continued)

The RBL Womens Section motto is "Service not Self"

Shirley Fursdon – Chairman, Gretton and District RBL, Women’s Section Tel : 770784.

WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

Members of the Women’s Institute have had an eventful spring with an increase in membership and several visitors.

In March we had a members’ participation evening with activities including a summary of the history of the WI Movement, sharing of articles which have particular significance to individual members and a game of bingo! In April, Graham Worrell from The Woodlands Trust gave an interesting illustrated talk about wildlife in our local woods. Two members of the Kettering branch of the Samaritans joined us in May and gave a fascinating and moving account of their work.

In June we will be holding our members’ Summer Party at the Hunting Lodge and on July 14th Tony Boulemier will be talking about ‘My Great Grandmother and Napoleon’. There will be no meeting in August but on September 8th Jayne Osborn and Ted Harrison will be ‘Partners in Rhyme’!

Do come and join us over the next few months, we meet on the second Tuesday of every month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

For more information contact Carol Preston – Secretary Tel : 770188

GROWL - Gretton Residents On Working Lunch

This loosely-defined club meets sporadically (it's been a while...) for lunch locally. It's for those of us who work from home at least some of the time, and since we don't have the dubious pleasure of a standard office water cooler around which to congregate and talk, GROWL offers one. Theoretically there's a chance to see if there's any skills crossover, or work that can be done with each other, but more often than not it's simply a chance to get out of the house and have a real conversation...! If you'd like to come along, why not email me.

Mike Morrison Email : mike_morrison@yahoo.com

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Members have just returned from a very pleasant and informative visit to the Prebendal Manor and recreated Medieval Gardens at Nassington where we were hosted by Jane Baile, the owner and Mike Brown, the gardener. The Manor is one of the oldest continuously inhabited homes in Northamptonshire with archaeological research having shown its origins in Anglo Saxon times.

By the time you read this, ten members will have been on a five day trip to Northumberland staying at Hexham and visiting sites along Hadrian's Wall.

We continue to collect information from villagers and official sources and for those interested in Family History we have recently obtained a copy of the 1911 census after a lot of work all the Gretton names have been listed and collated by Clifford Kerfoot to whom we are extremely grateful.

Forthcoming lectures on Thursday evenings in the Village Hall are :-

July 16th - "The History of the Bow" by Stuart Wright and Ian Preston. Archery has a long history from the Prehistoric to the Present. Stuart and Ian will take us through this history and follow it by allowing members of the audience to "have a go" if they dare!

September 17th - "Rockingham Castle and the Watsons" by Michael Boyce.

By using slides Michael Boyce will take us on a tour of Rockingham Castle with stories of events there including the Civil War, the visits by Charles Dickens and some of the castle ghosts. This meeting will be followed by the Society's Annual General Meeting.

November 19th - "Who Owned Rutland in 1873" by Tim Clough

Our speaker used to be the Curator at Oakham Museum. Since retiring one of his topics for research has been the owners of land in Rutland, one of whom was Gretton's parchment maker, Thomas Myers. Maybe there were others too. Come along and find out.

Other visits in 2009 - Hallaton Museum. To be arranged for this summer.

The membership fee is £6 (£4 concessions). This gives free entry to meetings which are held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm usually on Thursday evenings. Non-members pay £2 per meeting.

Details of meetings are on the village website
www.kellner.eclipse.co.uk/gretton/history/index.html

CHIRPY CHICKS PRE-SCHOOL

In March OFSTED carried out an inspection at the Pre-school and rated us as OUTSTANDING. The report states, "The overall effectiveness of Chirpy Chicks is outstanding. It enables all children to achieve exceptionally well and they blossom in the positive, warm, caring, friendly and stimulating learning environment." We are all delighted with this achievement and wish to thank everyone who has contributed to life at Chirpy Chicks since opening 10 years ago. We are looking forward to a joint 10th Anniversary Celebration combined with the school PSA Garden Party on June 20th. Here, present and past children, staff and parents can have fun together and a 'Memory Book ' will be created on the day to keep for future generations.

Preparations are underway for the transition to 'Big School' for many of our children in September with many visits and our home corner has been converted into a 'school' encouraging role play in a familiar environment. Many joint activities with the school are planned to help with this transition, such as Sports Day and May Fair Lunch. We are all looking forward to our end of year trip where we will be going to Fineshade Woods and 'den-making'. A skill many of our children are experts in!

We have been running smaller sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon aimed mainly at the younger children enabling them to settle in a relatively quieter environment.

At present we have a few limited places available for September for children aged 2 through to school age. Our session is 9 - 11.30 with an optional Lunch Club until 12.30. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons we are currently also open until 3pm.

You are very welcome if you would like to visit the Pre-school with your child for a play visit and to see us 'in action'.

Contact—Linda Downing Tel : 772143 or Kirsty Dellow Tel : 07746 498343

YOUTH CLUB

We have been in existence for just over a year now and continue to meet at the Sports and Social club for anyone in the last year of Primary school up to about 15. We would like to give a BIG thank you to Corby Borough Council, Oxford University Press and the Sports Club itself for donations to the club. We have been able to buy some computer games, a Wii plus guitar Hero. Thanks also to those people who have

donated goods, including a TV to play the games.

The club recently joined NAYC (Northampton Association of Youth Clubs) and look forward to joining in with some of their activities. Their expertise and support will be valuable.

Now that the summer is here we look forward to making the best use of the recreation ground to play a variety of sports. Consequently, we are still looking for extra volunteers, especially anyone who could support the sporting activities. So if you enjoy cricket, football, rounders/baseball or any other team sport please come along to help. We are only asking for 4 hours a month. It's not a huge commitment but one that is most valuable and would help the children and young people of Gretton.

The times and dates for the next period are :- June 18th, July 16th & 30th then a summer break before starting again on September 10th

The club is open between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. New members are welcome. There is a £10 joining fee which is family membership for the year to all of the events at the Sports and Social Club. Otherwise admission to the youth club is free.

For more information contact Cinzia Tel : 770728 or Sara Tel : 771449.

VILLAGE WEB SITES

Important

For up to date information about what is going on or if you want to make certain villagers know about what you are organising use the village web sites

Access to all village sites is available by going to **www.grettonvillage.org.uk**, where links can be found to Gretton – A Northamptonshire Village, Gretton Local History Society, Gretton Silver Band, 1st Gretton Scouts Group, the Hatton Arms, the Talbot Inn and the Chirpy Chicks Pre-School Group.

The “Gretton – A Northamptonshire Village” site can also be accessed directly at **www.grettvillage.org.uk**. In addition to providing information on the village and its people, other pages cover Village Organisations, Parish Council Minutes, Forthcoming Events, a Gallery of Village Photographs, Useful Information, an E-mail Directory, and the latest edition of Gretton News. To add your information to these pages please contact :- Maurice Kellner Tel : 771680 Email : maurice@mkellner.com
or at 8, Stafford Road, Gretton

WELLAND VALLEY BEER FESTIVAL

The 7th Welland Valley Beer Festival was held over the second weekend in June with a record attendance. The Talbot Inn in Gretton joined another seven pubs along the valley to offer a range of 120 real ales and ciders, live entertainment and varied food menus.

Once again the free heritage bus service was well used. Apologies for the delays to the advertised timetable. This was due to one of the vintage double deckers failing plus a diversion due to a road closure.

This years festival special beer was "Tecket to Ride" named after Karl Tecklengberg the founder of the event who has organised the Welland Valley Beer Festival from 2003 to 2008. Karl was presented with a framed poster promoting the Festival beer by Alan Carr landlord of the Talbot who has stepped in to make sure the Welland Valley Beer Festival, which is the only beer festival of its kind in Britain, continues into the future. Soon a meeting will be arranged to make plans for 2010. Thanks to everyone who supported the event and to Alan for all the time and effort he put in to make it such a success.

David Fursdon - CAMRA (Campaign For Real Ale) Tel : 770784 Mobile : 07790 197220

FABULOUS FRENCH

Our Fabulous French class for Mums, Dads, Carers and Pre-school children takes place every Friday during term time at the Gretton Baptist Chapel Hall from 1400 to 1500. The cost is £1 per child and £2 per adult. Refreshments are provided 'gratuit'. The class caters for all pre-school children and their parents/carers to enjoy learning French in a fun way

What do children and adults learn in a Fabulous French class? The main objective is to introduce French with a relaxed, fun approach so that everyone enjoys the class. We focus on spoken French in an active, enjoyable way involving lots of singing of French songs, listening to stories in French and playing a variety of games with movement and dance.

By repeating songs and rhymes on a regular basis following familiar routines, the children will gain confidence in learning French and parents and carers will also have

more confidence in speaking and singing French.

Fabulous French also runs an after school French Club on Monday afternoons from 1520 – 1630 at the Gretton Baptist Church Hall which is open to all children from reception to Year 6. It's a fabulous opportunity for children to improve their knowledge of French in a fun way with lots of songs, stories and games. The cost per child is £2.

Andrew Hartley Tel: 771940 Email: hartleyfrancais@aol.com

GRETTON GARDENING GROUP

This new group has now had two meetings. The first was in April with talks on composting and pruning. May saw 32 keen amateur gardeners ranging from the complete novice to those whose fingers are turning a distinct shade of green!

We were entertained by Dave Watkins a professional gardener who you may have heard on Radio Northampton. He came to share his wit and wisdom during a question and answer session. He fielded all the questions with great skill and diplomacy and he gave us a very interesting technique for getting rid of moles.

June 24th is a visit to John Lee's garden in Desborough where he holds the world's largest collection of 425 types of Penstemon plus other rare plants. If you would like to join us please just come along or let us know if you would like a lift. John can be found at Froggerly Cottage, 85, Breakleys Road Desborough. Meet at 7.30pm. Entry is free. Plant sales plus tea and coffee are available.

July 22nd is a BBQ fund raiser at 18 Harringworth Road. BBQs will be provided. Guests bring their own food ready to be cooked plus salads etc. £2 per person, £5 for a family.

August 26th Miss Emily Mitchell from Cramden Nurseries at Kingsthorpe, Northampton will talk to us about her work with geraniums. Dave Watkins tells us that this will be a good session so please come and join us. Members £1 guests £3.

All meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday in the month at 8pm in the band room at The Hatton Arms. The room is kindly donated by Sean & Kirsty.

For further information contact Alan & Julie Waterman Tel : 772575 or Hilary Lunt Tel : 770743.

GRETTON RURAL WEEK OF ACTION

The Rural Joint Action Group will deliver this year's Rural Week of Action in Gretton from the 3rd to the 7th of August. Weeks of Action are a borough wide initiative, which provides local communities with information and support on issues important to them, such as crime prevention, health and making their area a cleaner, greener place to live. A week of activities will be planned to appeal to all residents so please mark this week down in your calendar. A number of agencies will be present on different days including the Police, Fire Service, the NHS, local councillors and Corby Borough Council Officers.

One of the projects we are looking to run is a 'Plant a Plant Day' where the local community gets involved in planting up some areas of the village to help it look more attractive and tidier. We need ideas for potential planting sites and also would appreciate any free donations of plants that could be used. We do have some compost and plant containers already but some more would be gratefully received. If you have any suggestions for sites or donations to give please contact me in the first instance.

Please forward this appeal to other residents that may be interested in helping.

We look forward to working with residents to make Gretton a cleaner, greener, safer place to live during the Week of Action!

Suzanne Preston - Rural Pride Officer, Corby Borough Council Tel : 464281
Email : suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk

GRETTON SAFARI SUPPER 2009

Thank you to the 23 couples who took part in this year's event raising £250.00 for village organisations. For the last 8 years the money has been donated to the village hall. We would like to give some to them again this year, but as much of the funding for the refurbishment has been raised it is now time to share the money with other groups. This year we would like any organisation that could use some extra funding (no matter the size of the need) to apply to us for some of the money raised.

The villagers who joined us this year included 4 new pairs/couples. Each couple shared one course with 2 other couples for starter. They then moved on and met two further couples for their main and pudding course. This means that at the end of the evening they have met 6 other couples, enjoyed a tasty few dishes and supped

the odd glass of wine, hic!

Part of the fun is walking around the village and meeting others also moving on to their next course. Each year we find that the more new people who take part makes the event more enjoyable. It gives new villagers and older members of the village an opportunity to meet in an informal friendly way; at the same time raising funds for village organisations.

Next year's Safari Supper will be on Saturday 5th June when we are hoping that other organisations would join us and raise funds for their groups directly. This will also bring in new people to make the 2010 safari supper bigger and better.

Hilary & Jerry Lunt Tel : 770743

WALKING

The Gretton Striders walking group has been on a varied selection of routes over past months though because of weather, including deep snow and ice, a number of walks had to be postponed, memorably around Pickworth, near Stamford, which we achieved on the fourth attempt. We meet every second Monday morning departing the village hall at 09.00 for walks from 5 to 8 miles in the beautiful countryside surrounding our village. We try to organise a lunch stop on the way back.

I have little to report concerning the public footpaths in the Parish except during my last general inspection a couple of months ago everything appeared to be in reasonable condition. Please let me know should you have concerns.

I've received reports from landowners of people, often with dogs, roaming well off path and even across crops. Please buy a copy of Ordnance Survey Explorer map 224, which covers the areas surrounding Gretton plus OS Explorer 234 covering Rutland. There are miles and miles of good footpaths and bridleways that you can walk legally and without upsetting anyone. OS maps can be purchased from Smiths in Corby, Up-pingham Sports and Books in the High Street and cost about £7.99 each. Hardly a fortune for the wealth of detail they provide.

My thanks to everyone who sponsored me on the tough 268 mile Pennine Way trek that I attempted recently in the company of three friends. Sadly, I didn't complete it. At the end of day 14 and after 224 miles I contracted a painful condition named Shin Splints, which is microscopic fractures of the surface of the shin bone that can be caused by many things including long descents of steep slopes. I will finish this walk hopefully later this year in the company of my son, Stephen.

Walking (continued)

Incidentally, information about our walk can be seen on www.aroundcorby.co.uk/blog. Thanks to Julie & Mike at the Post Office for displaying my sponsor forms.

Mel Jarvis Tel : 772109 Email : mel.norma@btinternet.com

WARWICKSHIRE & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE (WNAA)

Local, life saving and lightening fast. Your local air ambulance. Can reach Gretton in just 12 minutes from its base at Coventry airport. You've probably seen our yellow and blue helicopter overhead – it's been involved in a number of life saving rescues in the Corby area over the past few months.

WNAA has no Government or National Lottery funding and rely entirely upon public donations, fundraising activities and sponsorship. We need £1.5 million every year to keep our helicopter flying - and every mission costs us an average of around £1,000, even though most of our pilots, doctors and paramedics give their services free.

I'm the new fund raiser in Gretton and surrounding areas and my aim is to raise awareness of the WNAA and help raise much needed funds to keep our service flying 365 days a year. Please contact me for information and opportunities.

Margaret Wilson : Tel 770851 Email : mew@spiders.co.uk Web : www.wnaa.co.uk

FROM THE EDITOR – THE AUTUMN EDITION

My planned date for publication is the first week of November so copy will be required early in the week commencing November 2nd. Please make an entry in your diary now. I probably do not need to remind you that Christmas will shortly follow so remember to have any activities organised and reported to me so I can circulate them to villagers well before it actually happens.

Should you have any ideas for future editions of our community Parish News please contact me whilst remembering that we do not include items of a commercial nature including advertisements or business news.

Whilst every effort is made to represent what has been received from contributors, no responsibility is accepted by the editor or Gretton Parish Council, its members and officers for content or accuracy, or the need to edit copy from time to time. The editor's decision on content is final.

Mel Jarvis – Editor Tel : 772109 Email : mel.norma@btinternet.com