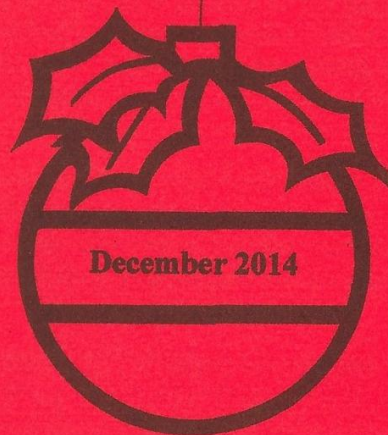


Gayton *News*



No.126

EDITORIAL

Don't the years fly by? It hardly seems any time since I was writing this editorial last December. But then when we consider everything that has happened during the year, it becomes obvious that it has been a very busy one for the village

The first great occasion was, of course, our visit from 'The King'. The church was packed and the excitement was palpable as Elvis stepped out into the spotlight, and we weren't disappointed as he belted out some of his most popular numbers. After that, the rest of the year's programme was slightly lower key (it could hardly be anything else!) but quite active. The Walkers walked, the Choir sang, Jazz men blew, gardens were opened, the clever people did quizzes, the Dog Show happened, and the Evergreens were very busy doing a variety of different things.

And now, as Christmas lights appear on houses in every corner of the village and things begin to take on a festive appearance, it's THAT TIME OF YEAR again, and everybody is very busy. One product of the village for which we can be very proud, is the Gayton Festival Singers, who have given several performances this year, and finished, together with the school, giving Christmas a truly wonderful start at the annual Carol Service.

This year, when eventually summer arrived after a rather late start, it was lovely, gardens and allotments flourished, and we didn't have the threat of water restrictions. However, we may yet have to suffer for our good summer and long autumn as warnings of snow and ice and a cold winter have been issued.

We hear much on the news about 'expansion of villages', 'desecration of the countryside', 'building on Greenfield sites', as well as about the numbers of homeless etc.. We have been very lucky here in Gayton. Next spring we are to be questioned on our views on a number of issues related to the environment and development, and hopefully everyone will give these matters some thought.

Two little reminders for the immediate future:

On Christmas Eve, why not really get into the Christmas spirit by joining in the carol singing round the brazier on the village green at 6pm: and on New Years Day, join the Walkers to blow the cobwebs away, for a *short* stroll – 11a.m. Fiveways.

Throughout this issue you will find pages with paddy jokes filling the odd spaces. Thank you Manja for sending me these.

And now for the thank yous. Over the 27 years that I have edited the Gayton News, the first 15 in partnership with Lois Shaw, so many people have been involved that I cannot possibly mention names, so I won't. An enormous thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way, and to all who have delivered to your door in all weathers (including to all the outlying farms). You all know who you are and hopefully you will all continue under the new editorship.

Merry Christmas and very best wishes for 2015 to you all.

Vive le Gayton News!!

Wendy Steer

And now I am happy to hand you over to your new editors - - -

New editors for the Gayton News!

Ann Addison and Karen Cooper at The Paddocks, Baker Street, are very excited to be taking on the publication of the quarterly Gayton News in the New Year. On behalf of everyone in Gayton we congratulate and very much thank Wendy Steer for her dedicated hard work putting the Gayton News together enabling the village to be kept informed and in touch. A big thank you to Wendy. If you wish to contact us, our details are: 'Ann' telephone 858226, e-mail a_addison@btinternet.com, 'Karen' telephone 859684 / 07753 638 180, e-mail karencooper@mortimers.uk.com. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Since the last edition of the Gayton News the Parish Council has met once, in November. The agenda was heavy including numerous planning applications and not enough time to properly consider and agree our Village Vision Consultation document. The Parish Council does not usually meet in December however, given its importance, an extraordinary meeting was called with a single agenda item to discuss and agree the final draft of the Village Vision Consultation document.

This document includes a number of issues that the Parish Council seeks your views upon, including:

- The future of the church as a village asset,
- The village confines,
- Gayton land owners response to the Government's call for potential development sites and,
- Resolution of traffic issues in and around the village.

The results of the consultation will inform the village vision and resulting village plan. In addition, it will provide the basis for the villages response to South Northamptonshire Council should they receive any proposals for development in the village. Should this be the case there would always be further specific consultation with the village by South Northamptonshire Council. However, the Village Vision Consultation will capture the appetite of the village as a whole to its future and how we view its potential development.

The Village Vision Consultation document is due to be circulated in the New Year and it will include dates for an open day in the village hall and further ways in which people can have their say.

We look forwards to receiving your views and hope that you can find time to tell us what you think.

Simone Wade, Chairman.

19 paddies go to the cinema and the ticket lady asks "Why so many of you?" Mick replies. "The film said 18 or over."

From the Priest-in-charge

A young boy was rehearsing for the nativity play in his school in a rather rough part of a large English town. The teacher asked the class what was the name of the baby in the manger. Immediately the boy put his hand up and said “Wayne, miss”. “No dear” said the rather taken aback teacher. “Yes it was miss” the boy insisted. “No dear” said the now perplexed and somewhat exasperated teacher. “But it was miss, it says so in the song we sing” said the boy. “What song?” asked the by now very confused teacher as all the class started fidgeting and whispering. “A wayne in a manger” sang the boy triumphantly (I leave you to sing it in a suitable accent!)

That story just goes to show how confusing and misunderstood the whole Christmas message can be to some people. It is frightening for Christians to think of the number of adults and children for whom the only message of Christmas is that you must spend, spend, spend – on the latest must have gadget (preferably electronic), on rich food, on quantities of alcohol (I’m not saying that there is anything wrong with enjoying a good meal with a drink – in fact it is one of the ways our family like to relax together). It is the excess that causes concern. And what about all those families who just cannot afford such a Christmas? What about all those people alone who will feel anything but festive when they believe that no-one cares at all for them? What about all those who have been made homeless/stateless and are in constant fear of their lives from the violence of extremists who are determined to wipe out anyone and everyone who doesn’t conform to their hard-line, narrow, bigoted view of religion?

It can be very hard to think on and believe in the message of the angels “peace on earth and goodwill to all men” can’t it in the face of so much that appears to be so contrary to that message in our newspapers, on our TVs and in our communities. But it is just at such time when we, as Christians, need to rejoice in and declare our belief in that message. John 3:16 “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him will have eternal life”. That is the real message of Christmas – we have a God who cares so much about each and every one of us that He lent us his Son in the person of Jesus, born of Mary in the most meagre of circumstances. And if God loves us so much, isn’t it the least that we can do to respond to that love? As it says in the carol: “what can I him, poor [*relatively speaking*

give] that I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb... **what can I give Him? Give my heart”**.

May you know the love and peace of God in your heart this Christmas and always.

Mission

Carols on the Green

Join your friends and neighbours on the 24th December at 6.00pm on the village green to sing Carols. Afterwards soothe the vocal chords and raise the energy levels with mulled wine and ‘bring and share’ mince pies.

There will be a collection for the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

Further information can be obtained from Jan Leeding (859275) or Sharon Crossley (858863).



CAROL SERVICE

The Christmas Carol Service on Sunday December 14th was, as usual, a big draw for all villagers. In fact, it was almost standing room only as families, the schoolchildren and the Gayton Festival Singers came together to celebrate this Festive Season.

The schoolchildren came dressed as either angels or shepherds, or else they were members of the school choir. They sang two carols, 'Unto us a Child is born', and 'Midnight', both of which were real footappers with a modern jazzy rhythm, while joining in with the Gayton Festival Singers in a number of others. Notable among these was 'Like a Candle Flame' where beautiful harmonies were accompanied by a solo violin.

The angels and shepherds, together with Mary and Joseph, formed an ever changing tableau in front of the altar, increasing in number as the service progressed, giving a seasonal background atmosphere to the meaning of the service.

The Gayton Festival Singers, as we have come to expect, gave a most polished performance, and it was a great joy to hear such beautiful singing in such a lovely setting.. I am sure that everyone would like to thank the conductor, Clare Pearce, for training them so well.

And when the congregation got going, together with choir and school, with some old family favourite carols, the result was truly magnificent, and our precious church roof was in danger!

After the service, hot mulled wine and mince pies were served to all, which ensured that everybody went home happy and contented – a great start to Christmas!



A selection of the photographs taken during the Carol Service can be seen on pages 28 and 29.

St Mary the Virgin

What a performance, stamina and youthful enthusiasm in abundance were the words used to open the same column in the September issue and how fitting they are for this one too. Not referring this time to anything as energetic as the Ride and Stride, but a fitting description all the same for those mental athletes, akin to MENSA's elite, who bravely faced the challenge laid down by Hilary Aslett (of Pattishall), quiz master at the Harvest Supper and Quiz held in October. The team that amassed the most correct answers was also from Pattishall (!) but it would be irreligious to suggest anything other than that they were cleverer than the rest of us, actually they were and deservedly took the prize but we shall gloss over that. The true winners though were all those that took part in such a fun and social fund-raising evening. A great many thanks to Alison Foster and Carolyn Estall for doing a fantastic job organising, selling tickets and mustering assistance on the night, you did so well and I think it is safe to assume you can do it again next year if you ask nicely.

Other recent events that were of great success, the Service of Commemoration of the Departed was again well attended and proved to be very relevant and warming to those in the congregation, all washed down with fine beverages and delicious cakes forged by the very talented pastry-smith of Dalscote, Pam Bird. The Service of Remembrance was also a fitting end to the week in which Gaytonians' tales and connections with the Great War were very well described through written and crafted displays, talks and memorabilia/heirlooms exhibitions in the church, much gratitude is due to Anna Fox and Joy Ayre and others for the effort put in. Whomever one spoke to, the feedback was the same – very informative, interesting and thought provoking. Most recently the Northants Touring Arts programme brought Priva to St Mary's, a very entertaining (and educational) musical ensemble giving us an insight into the culture and development of Christmas in Elizabethan times, a wonderful evening.

On the Parochial front, should you need reminding, the regular communion services in Gayton remain at 9.30am on the 1st Sunday of the month and 11.00am on the 3rd Sunday, the latter taking the form of a Family Communion service and is aimed at being more "younger generation" friendly, so please come along to either or both.

The Carol Service was held on the 14th December and this year we host the joint benefice's Christmas Midnight Service, starting at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, as a consequence, please note there is no morning service on Christmas Day in Gayton. Those wishing to attend a Christmas Day service have the choice of Communion Services at 9.30am in Cold Higham or Pattishall or a Family Service in Tiffield at 11.00am.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding church matters by all means please contact the Church Wardens David Coppock (859645) and Andy Hartley (858360) or Rev Marion Reynolds:

The Rectory
Church Street
Pattishall
Northants
NN12 8NB
Tel: 01327 830573

Finally and most importantly the PCC would like to say a very big thank you to all those polishers, sweepers, cleaners, flower doers, mowers and cutters who have done a wonderful job again this year, the church could not survive without you, keep it up...

and of course the PCC would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2015.

Andy Hartley

N.S.P.C.C.

£221.33 was collected for the year 2014. As many long-standing collectors have left the village, some have decided not to continue and two have sadly died, I am not going to continue. If anyone would like to replace me, please let me know. A big thank you to all my regular contributors.

J. McCarthy

Gayton Church Heritage Trust

'Gayton and the Great War' - the Church was open to visitors each afternoon for an exhibition in the week leading up to the Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th September. Carol Coppock and Joy Ayre spent many hours finding out about the men named on the War Memorial and as a result produced a very rich collection of information that was of great interest to the steady stream of visitors who came during the week. Joy found, on a visit to the Records Office, that as well as the fifteen who gave their lives a further thirty men from Gayton went forward to join naval, army and airborne divisions. This discovery has raised another avenue of interest and we have been helped by relatives of these men who came to the exhibition who are happy to provide more information about their relatives.

Very many thanks for the help given by Jenny Wakelin, Alison Huckle, Merryn Robinson, the Hartley and Watterson Families and Gayton School for articles, letters and other WWI memorabilia. There were many very positive comments about the exhibition and high praise for the professional way in which the information was displayed. This was entirely due thanks to David Coppock and David Holland who rigged up the display boards with lighting that would impress even the fussiest exhibition curator. The exhibition was enhanced by Clare Abbatt's poignant sculptures and John Sunderland's talk about the Local pre-war Manoeuvres and Origins of the Great War. The Grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund has left us sufficient funds to be able to put the information collected into booklet form and to complete the wall hanging. We will continue with the project in the New Year and are looking for more helpers - please make contact with any of the above helpers or e-mail: - anna@foxfam.demon.co.uk

The purpose of Gayton Church Heritage Trust is to raise funds to preserve the building for use by the whole village both as a place of prayer and for social events - there have been many of both kinds during the year. GCHT organised the Elizabethan Evening, a performance by PIVA on December 7th. They gave an excellent performance and are one of the many groups engaged by Northants Touring Arts in order to bring professional musicians and actors to rural communities. We are fortunate in this part of the County because South Northants Arts Council underwrite the cost of hosting a group such as PIVA - five musicians who cost £700 for the afternoon's entertainment. Ticket sales amounted to

£366 so I am most grateful for the support from SNC Arts Council but not sure how long we can rely on this level of help in future from them. However we have made a small profit after all the additional payments such as the licence fee, cost of heating and lighting, refreshments etc. have been accounted for. I am unable to publish the exact figure until I know what NTA's bill will come to. I will announce this through the Village Website in due course
 Anna Fox

Many people had done much research into the histories of local families during the First World War, and all their stories were shown in panels around the church. Much credit must be given to Carol Coppock for this, and also to local historians Margaret Webb and John Sunderland.

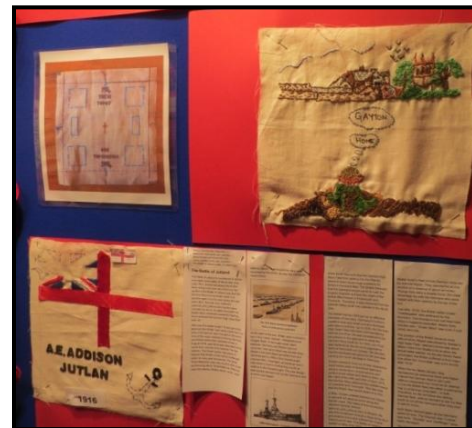


Panels near the altar depicted the story of local families, and of families who returned to the village, and were researched by Joy Ayre.



There were also some letters written by the schoolchildren as if to the soldiers in the trenches, which were very imaginative, and showed that the children understood what was happening. The children provided a decorative and patriotic border of flags along the top of this exhibit.

As part of the exhibition to commemorate the beginning of the First World War, a small group of ladies, 15 to 20, got together to design a wall hanging showing some of their own family memories of this time.



This is part of an on-going project, to continue until 1928, and therefore many of the panels were as yet unfinished.

Ultimately, when complete, all the panels will be sewn together, and a border added, which will depict memories of local people who did not return. This will be hung in the north transept of the church as a permanent memorial.



There were also some letters written by the schoolchildren as if to the soldiers in the trenches, which were very imaginative, and showed that the children understood what was happening. The children provided a decorative and patriotic border of flags along the top of this exhibit.

Gayton Traffic Action Group

Since the last edition of the Gayton News I have received and accepted an invitation from Northamptonshire Police for Gayton to join the Community Speed watch for 2015.

We have a good list of volunteers however, many were not able to attend the speed gun sessions this summer for various reasons, and so having more volunteers to call upon makes filling the speed gun sessions easier, especially as you need three people.

If anyone is interested in joining us please contact me either by phone (07976 854136) or email (simone@pdqcf.co.uk). As you will recall, to use the device you must be trained and a training is to be held on the **7th February 2015**. I will pass on the finer details to volunteers when I receive them.

The Police are planning an additional session with the speed gun in the New Year, and I am pleased to tell you that we applied and have been accepted onto this additional session. This has been pencilled in for February 2015. This is good news especially because, since the results were posted and the start of the autumn speeding through the village has become an issue yet again, particularly along the Blisworth Road and the Bugbrooke Road.

It is a shame that the effects of the scheme are temporary. In creating a permanent solution our options include:

- Fitting a data box to the Speed Indicator Devices to provide continual stream of information about the volume and speed of traffic,
- Approach the County Council with this data and the results of the Community Speed Watch Scheme, and
- Start fund raising to fund any traffic calming measures (designed by the County Council and agreed with residents as appropriate).

Action will start on these options above and I will keep you posted as to progress made.

Lastly, please let me know if you would like to be the Community Speed Watch co-ordinator. It is a small but vital role to liaise with the Police, ensure the sessions are manned and the equipment collected.

If you are interested please contact me either by phone (07976 854136) or email (simone@pdqcf.co.uk).

Simone Wade

Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator

LITTERPICK

Unfortunately the date of the Autumn Litterpick did not suit many of the 'regulars' and our numbers were reduced to seven, plus one very junior toddler complete with his own little picking tool!

Thank you to those who did turn out and a special welcome to the two newcomers. Enough rubbish was amassed to make SNC's special collection on the following Monday worthwhile.

Hopefully the Spring Litterpick next year will fall on a more popular date.

Joan Wood

Letter to the Editor:

I am at this present time archiving my family tree in the name of TOMALIN. My father was Earnest Jeffrey Tomalin (known as Jeff), was born in Gayton in 1920. My Grandfather Alfred James was also born in Gayton in 1876 along with his brothers and sisters.

Their main occupation seems to have been agricultural workers, so I am interested to research this as well.

I vaguely remember visiting Gayton in the 1960's or 70's with my father to see a lady called Gladys (who could have been a cousin, and was possibly a Tomalin before she married. I am sure she had a married daughter with 2 children).

I would love to hear from anyone who may have any connections with my family. e-mail annwiddows@hotmail.co.uk

GAYTON ALLOTMENTS

During the autumn all the taps on Gayton allotment site have been replaced to comply with current legislation, and we held our Annual General Meeting where we welcomed several new committee members



On a Sunday morning in mid November a little group of determined plot-holders met on the allotments for a work party. A good three hours were spent removing various items from the edge of a neglected plot, and a vast array of items, mainly rubbish, was uncovered.

We still have some vacant plots of various sizes available. If you would like more details, please contact the treasurer, Rose Metcalfe, on tel 01604 858860 or by email to rosalynandjohn@btinternet.com.

To our Friends in Gayton

Instead of delivering individual Christmas cards to you we are again sending our wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2015 via Gayton News.- We will be making a donation to Gayton Church Heritage Trust.



Jens & Manja, 6 Baker Street

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin. 3 hours later and they're still wasking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The Christmas Quiz this year is about a subject close to all our hearts – **FOOD AND DRINK** – especially at this time of the year!

Questions are of various types – general knowledge, cryptic, a play on words or sound alike (i.e. different spelling, eg stake = steak). Answers include food items and ingredients, brand names of bought confectionery and alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks. Prize money this year will be doubled as this is my last Gayton News – i.e. first prize £15, second prize £10 and 3rd prize £5. A tie at any level will result in a draw by an independent adjudicator. The editor's decision is final.

Closing date will be **Wednesday January 7th 2015**. Please deliver your entries to 12 St. Mary's Court by this date, with your name, address and phone number.

1. To gain favour with
2. Essayist
3. Children's hiding game
4. Cheese from Ure valley
5. From a north German port
6. Earl, coastal town or Pacific archipelago
7. Moneymaker
8. Upside down apple tart
9. Celebration drink
10. Somerset Maugham novel
11. Staffordshire town
12. Arise --- ----
13. Generosity in giving

14. Curtailed Nordic country
15. Heavy stationary traffic
16. River in Guyana
17. Cheek!
18. Sharp tasting
19. Bald head
20. 26 miles
21. Region in mountainous part of France
22. Goodbye Mr -----
23. Crazy
24. Seasonal Euraasian
25. ----- with Rosie
26. Crush, racquet game
27. My boy -----
28. Large stone
29. An appointment
30. 1000 leaves (Fr.)
31. Richard with measles
32. Cake from Atlantic island
33. Insignificant thing
34. Bathroom washing aid
35. Classic BBC sitcom
36. Sauce named after capital of Minorca
37. Inside a cushion
38. Uses axe on wood
39. Where the Scottish kings were crowned
40. Break into small pieces
41. A beheaded captain
42. Chair of The Apprentice
43. Wife of Muslim sovereign
44. Mess up, muddle
45. Flight in the wind
46. Caused by shoes rubbing
47. Seasonal dessert
48. Odd
49. King Edward
50. Piel del Sapo, Water or Honeydew
51. Iceberg
52. Wilfred, Eric -----
53. Smile please, say -----
54. Seen by the hundred in roadworks
55. Island in Dutch Antilles
56. A goat
57. Game bird in pear tree

58. Escalope from Vienna
59. US film producer
60. Brand new dressing
- 61 Moan
62. Found in bones
63. From Melton Mowbray
64. Oh my darling
65. US term of endearment
66. Tell him to leave!
- 67 Lure, enticement
- 68 Salad seen on Nov. 5th
69. Harbour
70. Edible fungus, soft chocolate
71. Opposite to long loaf
72. Eat it all in France
73. A pastry from Derbyshire
74. Grated rind of citrus fruit
75. Amphibian in a pit
76. A breath of wind (Fr.)
77. Cooked US State
78. Many different kinds
79. NaCl
80. Computer manufacturer
81. Leavin' the car
82. Well known from Whitstable
83. Eugene had one of these
84. Ail in France
86. Be idle, hang about
87. The Bringer of War
88. Afternoon refreshment
89. Bend quickly
90. Veg. from Belgium
91. To trim hedges and shrubs
92. As keen as?
93. Bandage
94. Junior Girl Guide
95. After Saturday
96. In several episodes
97. A rose is one, so is a daisy
98. Go away!
99. After all the Aprils
100. Up to date

GAYTON WALKERS AND QUIZ TEAMS

The Gayton Walkers still stride out on the 2nd Sunday of the month. In October, the Coppocks lead a walk in the Blisworth area for about 2 hours and ended up at the pub in Blisworth. There were only 2-3 people in there so the landlord was pleased to see us.

The November walk was led by the Fosters and kept closer to home by walking to Tiffield via Folly Farm and coming back along the Tiffield Country Park/ Old railway line. We went further along the line into “jungle country” and then clambered up the embankment to join the path that comes out beside Britain Cottages.



Tiffield Country Park, along the disused railway line. Picture Rod Poxon

At the end of the walk I suggested that we might like to exercise our brains later in the month by entering the pub quiz, not expecting much enthusiasm. However, everyone was keen and we put together 3 teams of 6 people. I had persuaded some friends/outside from Pattishall parish to come along so we had 24 people invading the Queen Victoria on 20th November. A team from St. Mary's Court won ON THIS OCCASION. I hope that those who came can be persuaded to enter another time along

with others so that the previous winners can be defeated! It is always on the third Thursday of the month. Curry can be ordered as well as other choices from the menu. I suggest that you arrive soon after 7.30pm to “get in the mood” as the quiz starts at about 9pm. Contact Alex 01604 857511 to book team and pre-order food.

There will also be a short (less than 1 hour) walk on **THURSDAY 1st JANUARY 2015** starting at **11am** from Fiveways to “clear the head”!

The usual January walk will be on Sunday 11th January 2015, meet at 10am.

Robin Kelso

Make it a New Year's Resolution to explore and discover our local footpaths and bridleways:

*Illustrated book of 'Walks around Gayton'
12 walks that begin and end at Fiveways*

*Illustrated book of 'More Walks around Gayton'
12 walks that start in Gayton's neighbouring villages.*

*£1.50 each. All proceeds to Gayton Church. Available from Barry Steer
01604 858886*

LADIES LUNCH

Ladies – you are reminded that we meet at the Queen Vic on the second Wednesday of every month for a spot of lunch and a bit of a chat.

Why not come along and join us – the next meeting will be on Wednesday January 14th – an enjoyable way of spending a wintry afternoon. Just turn up at about 12.30pm.

(Any enquiries phone 858886)

GAYTON EVERGREEN CLUB

At our Christmas Entertainment afternoon at the end of November we were entertained by Richard, Jeremy and Greg. Known as 'We Three', they performed songs from the shows and other popular, well known items. In between Richard and Greg recited amusing stories and poems. Greg played the piano beautifully. The village hall was decorated with festive trimmings, members were offered a glass of sherry on arrival, and at the end of the performance tea and mince pies were served.



'We Three' in full flow

This was a very enjoyable afternoon in the company of three very talented entertainers.

The annual Christmas Lunch was once again held at Whittlebury Park Golf and Country Club. As last year the venue was excellent. The Terrace Room overlooks the golf course. It has its own bar where members received a complimentary drink on arrival. Crackers containing hats, jokes, party poppers, streamers and balloons were provided on the tables which kept members entertained whilst waiting for their first course. The service was friendly and helpful, and the food was good too!

This is the season to remember all the people who make our club so special. Without the support of its members the committee would not be

able to organise such a wide range of activities throughout the year. Our helpers, Dinah, David, Penny, and Sandie are invaluable and deserve special thanks along with Joy and Viv who helped out at short notice at the Fish and Chip Lunch.



**Christmas lunch at Whittlebury Park Golf and Country Club.
Pictures by Manja Ronne**

The committee, on behalf of the members, would also like to thank the Gayton Alms Charity who give financial support enabling costs to be kept affordable for our members.

Our programme of meetings for next year starts on Tuesday 12 January with Bingo at 2.30pm in the village hall. The AGM is on Tuesday 27 January also at 2.30pm in the village hall. Further details of meetings are available on Gayton website.

Would you like to join us in 2015? If so please contact Carol Coppock (859645), Jan Leeding (859275) or Manja Ronne (859253).

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus Report of the AGM - 29th October

Firstly our thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to our annual review of the Charity's activities for the 2013 – 14 year.

The immense contribution made to the Minibus Operation by Geoff Wood since the start of the scheme in 1984 was raised by the chairman at the start of the meeting and the gratitude of the Trustees and members for his contribution was duly acknowledged by all present.

It was also reported that Barry Steer had completed his last drive on the Friday rota on October 10th and following his hip operation had now retired as a volunteer driver. It was noted that Barry had indicated that he would be continuing in his role as a Trustee of the Charity and his contribution to the Minibus scheme both as a volunteer driver and a Trustee of the Charity was duly acknowledged by all present.

Treasurer - Administrator

It was reported that to date there had been no volunteers to take on the role of Treasurer/Administrator performed with distinction by Geoff Wood. The Chairman was continuing to perform this role in an interim capacity but it would be much appreciated if a volunteer could be found to take on the role on a permanent basis.

Election of Trustees

Garry Keal, Barry Steer, Chris Spencer and Rae Spencer were all re-elected as Trustees and Steve Jowers was also nominated and elected to the board of Trustees.

Honorariums

An increase to the current Honorariums paid to the elected Officers was proposed and approved by the Trustees and members. It was noted that the current Honorariums had remained unchanged since the commencement of the Charity in 2009.

Timetable Change

During discussion of the current timetables it was raised by the members present that it would be better to adjust the Tuesday timetable to return

from Northampton at 2pm rather than the existing 2.30pm. Following an extensive discussion it was agreed that this change would be an improvement to the Tuesday service. It was decided to accept the change in principal and that if there were no objections or other input from the Community, that the change would be implemented in early spring. Therefore would all users and members of the Community please contact either the Chairman or a Trustee if they wish to provide input to this proposed change to the existing timetable or to any other issues relevant to the operation of the Minibus service.

Rae Spencer – Chairman

01327 – 353352 - 07784 – 561268 - rae.spencer@btopenworld.com

GAYTON NEWS

Advertising charges

Fundraising events held in the village and organised
by residents for village affairs - FREE

All other advertising: by villagers by others

Whole page	£5	£10
½ page	£2.50	£5
¼ page	£1.50	£2.50
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Murphy says to Paddy, “What ya talkin into an envelope for?” “I’m sending a voice mail ya fool!”

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2.30 am this morning. Can you believe that, 2.30am?! Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.

Paddy says “Mick, I’m thinking of buying a Labrador. “Blow that” says Mick “have you seen how many of their owners go blind?”

Gayton School

It has been yet another extremely busy term at school. One thing I am fast learning in my position as Chair of Governors is how relentless the academic school year is! Teachers and all their support staff are unsung heroes!!

We started the year with a our new teaching team Mrs Lea and Miss Lofts. We did retain Mrs Bounds who worked with Mrs Lea in the junior class, however Mrs Bounds made the decision to resign from her position and we now have Mrs Sidhu working with our Juniors. Mrs Sidu is a very experienced Junior teacher who has worked in schools in Milton Keynes and brings a wealth of experience to the curriculum for years five and six. This experience massively compliments the existing team and the Governing body are extremely proud of the new 'super team' headed up by Mrs Irwin who is without a doubt super human!

One of the most important events to happen this term has been the World War One Centenary. Remembering this terrible war and the people who gave their lives is of utmost importance to all the staff at the school and a very big effort was made to ensure that all the children right down to Reception were engaged in the preparations for Remembrance Day, and were taught what and why we remember. The infant class made individual felt poppies and wore them for Remembrance Day. The junior children all learnt about the war including making posters and models about what they felt was significant to them about the war. These are displayed in the school foyer and you are very welcome to come and see them. The Junior children enhanced their understanding of the impact of war by visiting the Staffordshire Regiment War Museum and the Gayton at War display in the village church. The Staffordshire Regiment War Museum trip had a great affect on the children and really enabled them to understand how the Great War impacted on our country and communities. This amazing trip was organised by Anna Fox who secured Heritage Funding to make it possible, and the school would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Fox for this and her continued support of the school, thank you Anna!!

The children's learning about the Great War and the importance of Remembrance Day culminated with them all making a clay poppy which was fired and painted before being planted in the front of the school. We

then held our Remembrance Day service at the front of the school. The service was lead by Reverend Marion and attended by many parents and the local community. During the service a beautiful poppy wreath was placed by the tree and the planted clay poppies. This clay wreath was made by hand by Claire Dunkley the Sight Supervisor at Blisworth School and depicts Gayton School surrounded by clay poppies, lest we forget, and can now be seen in the village Church.



The beautiful Remembrance Day display at Gayton School similar to the Tower of London

The children all took home a clay poppy to ensure that we all never forget those who gave their lives.

Since November 11th so much more has happened as the Christmas season begins. The children have all been learning Christmas songs which they performed at our amazingly successful Christmas Bazaar. The Christmas

Bazaar was massively well attended by children, parents, family members and the local community who all enjoyed the crafts, the stalls the BBQ, mulled wine and the performance of Christmas songs by the children. Thank you all so much for supporting these school events they are so important both as a social event which the children love and also as a fundraiser for the school. The funds raised support the extra curricular 'fun stuff' at school like the annual Theatre trip to the Royal and Derngate to see their Christmas play. This year the children will all be seeing Merlin with the added surprise of ice cream in the interval!

This eventful term will close with our Nativity on December 16th performed by the Junior children, in Gayton tradition the Evergreens have been invited to watch our dress rehearsal. On Sunday night we have the annual Christmas Carol service at the village church where the Junior children will perform a tableau to support readings on the Nativity theme and all the children will be singing.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !

Alison Anderson Chair of Governors

School Tote Winners

Winners of the school tote for the last 4 months were:

Sept.	1st.	6	D Murphy
	2nd.	146	A Goddard
Oct.	1st.	69	J Allen
	2nd.	8	R Wheeler
Nov.	1st.	21.	M Koniwienko
	2nd.	70.	K Pancoust
Dec.	1st.	112	J Wesson
	2nd.	67.	K Cokayne


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Photos by Peter Foster



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And finally.

Back in those almost forgotten days of 1987, the year before the Gayton News in its current form was founded, with Lois Shaw and myself as co-editors, a quick look at events going on shows that many things have changed, while the administrative core remains the main basis of our village today.

The first issue, in January/February 1988, records that along with the Parish Council, the Village Hall Management Committee and the Evergreens, there also existed the Cricket Club, the Conservative Club, the W.I. and the Church Flower Festival Committee. And later comments to this also reminded us that there were the Gardeners and Allotments Society, the Annual Flower and Vegetable Society Committee, the May Day Committee and the Alms Charity.

Some notable events which happened at this time were; Gayton tip (at the bottom of Milton Hill) finally closed for ever; Canon Brown, the Rector, celebrated the golden jubilee of his Ordination; a peacock, with his hen, strolled around the village!

And does anyone remember a 'lovely almost new day nursery school'? And two garden centres? Both were mentioned in the first edition.

Other regular features which continued for many years were items from Dogberry (whoever was he?), Sister Brenda, Children's Corner and stories from Gayton's past, contributed by a number of different people.

The possibility of starting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was discussed, and this was started in 1989. It has since gone on to become a vital part of our local communication.

Concern was expressed about cleanliness and tidiness around the village, and the first 'Clean-up Day' was held. This has evolved into our annual Litterpick, while much work was also done to organise regular cutting of hedges and verges.

For the first 17 years, Lois Shaw was a most able and eloquent co-editor. After her decision to retire in at the end of 2005, I agreed to continue alone. And along the way there has been much kind encouragement, laughter and

tearing the hair, cursing the computer and trying to drag material out of certain recalcitrant correspondents. But I did get to read it all first!

Until summer 1998, after edition no.53, the Gayton News, with much blood sweat and tears, was type-written, and never included pictures, just the occasional cartoon. And then, with the advent of the computer, and Microsoft Word, there was a wonderful transformation, and the whole thing began to look much more professional – that is once we had mastered the technique, and that is still sometimes a problem for me!

And so, having completed 126 issues, I am confident that I am handing the editorship over to someone who will competently continue to keep the Gayton News continuing for many years to come.

Good luck Ann and Karen!!!!

The editor (retiring)
Wendy Steer



The first, typewritten copy (right), and the first Christmas edition. Both had covers produced by a Gayton graphic designer.

Please note: Friday March 6th 2015

Deadline for news and comment

**For all details of address, email and phone of
new editor please see page 2**

