

# GAYTON NEWS

## JUNE 2018

The Gayton News would not be possible without those who give their time to Gayton Village and beyond .....

Be it running a group, a club, caring for our Church, our Church Yard, our Church Wardans, our bell ringers, everyone involved running and looking after our allotments, our Village Hall, those who turn out to pick litter, the walkers group, the cycling group, those who care for our paths and stiles, our Parish Council, our Primary School, our web site, communications & facebook, the volunteers for our mini bus, the Gayton Evergreens, those who fundraise for our Church with annual events such as the Quiz night, Harvest Festival, the Halloween Disco, Christmas entertainment, our fabulous Open gardens, the annual Ride & Stride event, our Inland Waterways Association, Neighbourhood Watch, supporting people within the village, to Rita for her wonderful history ..... and everyone who delivers the Gayton News.

I am at risk of forgetting something and someone, I hope I haven't.

Thank you everyone so very much, long may we continue....

If you have something you would like included in an edition of the Gayton News please do let me know .....

# MOSAIC NATURE TRAIL ON THE NORTHAMPTON ARM CANAL

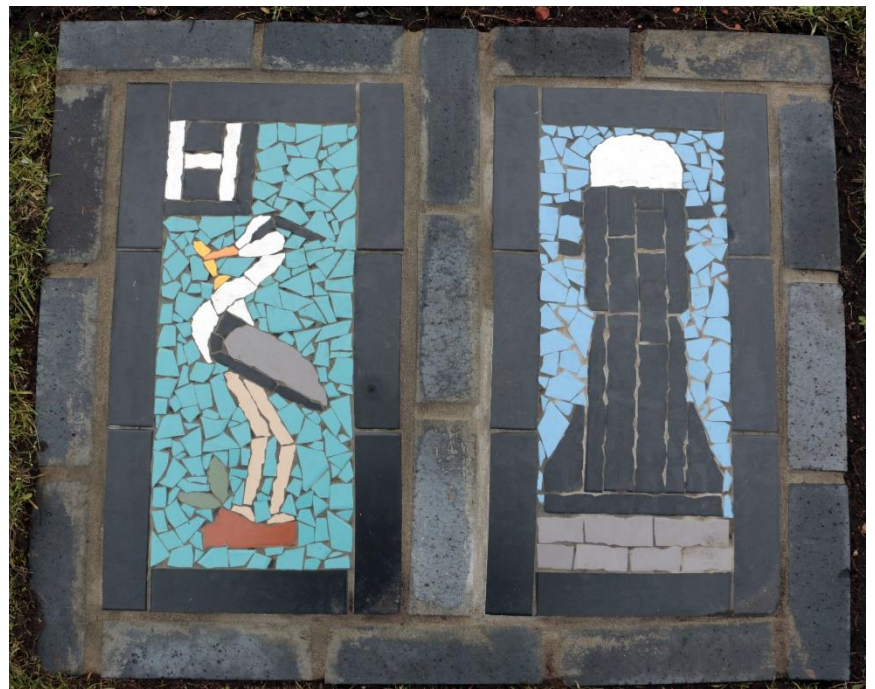
## LINKING GAYTON WITH FAR COTTON



Northampton Branch of the Inland Waterways Association has been busy over autumn and winter installing a mosaic nature trail at each of the 17 locks on the Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal, thus linking Gayton with Far Cotton, Northampton. This project is part of a “grand scheme” to brighten and improve the environment of the Arm, to encourage more people (walkers, cyclists as well as boaters) to visit the canal and to complete our plans to commemorate the Arm’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015.

These plans started with a mosaic mural on the sanitary station wall at Gayton Junction which was unveiled by the CEO of the Canal & River Trust, Richard Parry, in May 2015. This project was followed by the creation of a mosaic bench at Lock 17 at Far Cotton in Northampton which was unveiled, again by Richard Parry, in April 2016. These two works of art are now linked by the mosaic nature trail which has been funded from a generous legacy from former Branch member, John Faulkner. There are two mosaic panels at each lock - one forming part of a nature trail bearing a letter and the other recording an aspect of canal heritage.

The design and construction of all these projects is a collaborative effort involving Branch members, pupils from three primary schools – Gayton C of E, Briar Hill and Delapre - staff from Bellway Homes, the Canal & River Trust, our Task Party volunteers and even two Borough Councillors. Not forgetting David Bowers, from Mosaic Madness, who was key to all three projects and who kept us hard at work to achieve these masterpieces within the agreed timescales and budgets.



The official opening of the trail was held in April. The children who designed and made the panels were our guests along with their parents, school staff, Richard Parry and other CRT representatives, Deputy Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and Joan Kirkbride. Following the opening, there was an opportunity to enter the Nature Trail Challenge online. One panel at each lock bears a letter which, put together in sequence, will spell out a phrase, starting at Lock 1. Obviously, you don’t have to complete the whole 4 ¾ mile walk in one go – young ones with little legs may need to break it up into manageable sections. We are hoping

that the Nature Trail Challenge will encourage more people, and especially children, to enjoy the unique environment of the Northampton Arm.

Northampton Branch of the IWA “adopted” the 4 ¾ mile stretch of the Northampton Arm in 2013 and carry out two task parties each month working on diverse activities such as litter picking, vegetation clearance, lock painting, and fencing repair work. Future projects planned for the Northampton Arm include a mural depicting the history of Northampton under the M1 bridge to replace graffiti and the resurfacing of a very muddy stretch of the towpath near the Pineham Lock estate between Locks 12 and 14.

If you fancy joining us (we are a friendly bunch!) for some fresh air and gentle exercise, contact Sandie Morton (01604 858294/07917 163869) for more info. No particular skills required ... we have tasks suitable for everyone.

Sandie Morton



**Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert** is the messaging service run by Northamptonshire Police and was formerly known as Community Connect. It has been re-launched under the name Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert and now has greater functionality than previously, allowing our frontline police officers to send alert messages direct from their mobile devices to thousands of

local people. They will be able to do this in real time while they are out and about policing the county. The alert service is free and simple to activate by registering at [northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk) and is available to anyone living or working in Northamptonshire.

After signing up to the messaging system, you will receive regular alerts from Northamptonshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations, keeping you up to date and informed about crime and issues relevant to you and the area where you live or work. Alerts are received either by email, text message or voice message, whichever suits you best. You will also be given the option of what you want to receive alerts about, and how often, therefore you will only receive messages about the topics you have selected. Many of the Neighbourhood officers and Response teams have been trained to use the alert system and are now regularly sending out messages to the public, including crime alerts, missing person alerts, witness appeals and crime prevention advice. This alert tool provides us with a really effective way to keep updated, it improves the flow of information and therefore makes a greater impact in the prevention and detection of crime and the reduction of anti-social behaviour. There are already 10,000 local people registered with Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert. Register now.

## Fundraising for World Challenge Cambodia and Thailand trip



**World  
Challenge**

My name is Lucy Ward and I live in Gayton. In 2019 I will participate in a 3 week World Challenge trip to Cambodia and Thailand. World Challenge is an organisation that supports communities in the developing World and helps students “build the life skills young people need to live a life of courage, kindness and adventure”. The challenge is student-led and over the next 18 months we will participate in: team building/skills development exercises; a training expedition; planning for the trip itinerary (which includes engaging with local communities, conservation work and jungle trekking) and Fundraising!

**My fundraising target is £3500!**

I hope to raise this money by:

Babysitting, Dog walking/pet sitting, running local events eg afternoon tea, giving presentations to local groups eg Rotary, Church, Evergreen Club etc.

Please do get in touch - by supporting me you will also be supporting the local communities of Cambodia and Thailand

Contact Lucy at [twomk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:twomk@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: 07884 480953 please leave a message if I am unable to answer

I am 16 and have been a volunteer swim coach at a local swim club for the past 2 years. I also recently qualified as an ASA Assistant Swim Teacher so I have experience of working with young children, safeguarding procedures and first aid. I love animals and regularly walk my dog around the local fields.

**I can provide references, if required.**

**Thank you - I hope to hear from you!**

**Lucy**

World Challenge builds the life skills young people need to live a life of courage, kindness and adventure. Today World Challenge is 30 years young, proudly travelling to over 40 destinations with over 8,000 students every year. World Challenge leads the way in safety, quality, ethical community engagement and learning outcomes.

## Gayton Open Gardens, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The weather has not been particularly kind to gardeners but the sun certainly did shine for this year's annual Gayton Open Gardens. There were nine gardens, three of them new for this year, as well as plenty of allotments to see. The event raised £1537.95 for the church, about £140 more than last year.

Many thanks go to all those who made this event so successful. The gardeners who worked so hard to get their gardens ready for opening, the organisers of stalls and plant sales, the cake makers, the tea makers, the washers up and the clearers up!



Without your support this event would not happen or be so successful.

Thank you also to the residents of Gayton who supported this event by coming to look around the gardens and enjoying some refreshments afterwards.

Upward and onward to next year! If you would like to open your garden or help in any way please contact Joy Ayre (858837) or Carol Coppock (890365).



Thanks to Barry & Wendy Steer for the photo's

## St Mary the Virgin

Didn't they do well? The gardeners of Gayton again showed us what they can do during the recent Open Gardens day, I shall leave it to others to do the glowing write-up but wow, what an achievement of over £1500 towards church funds, very many thanks from us all to those concerned in the lead up to and on the day, your efforts are much appreciated.

Those eagle-eyed individuals out there will have noticed that all the scaffolding has gone after many months residence, the repairs to the roof are now complete as is re-pointing work to the external north wall, all now safe, sound and dry, we should be set for a few more hundred years!

The brick, stone and mortar are being cared for but what about the rest of it? The grass cutting contractors who look after the village also routinely mow the main areas of grass in the church yard, kindly paid for by the Parish Council. But as you can see, many areas are currently not cut on a routine basis, mainly because they are awkward to get at and it would be time consuming and quite expensive to cut these areas regularly too, but by all means, if you feel inclined, we will never turn down volunteers who wish to put in a bit of graft to help make the place look tidy. Part of the church yard had been left uncut to allow the wild flowers to grow in the spring and early summer as in previous years and what a great show it was again this time but now they are gone, it is hoped the entire area will have a blitz during mid summer.

Also and akin to the above, if any of you are likely to be around on the morning of Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of August we shall be asking as many as possible of you to give us a hand on the *church yard tidy-up morning*, as before, jovial banter and ample refreshments shall be the order of the day. A reminder shall be gifted out closer to the time, don't you worry.

On formal matters, the Annual Vestry Meeting and Parochial Church Council AGM came and went, many thanks to those that attended. The main outcomes being that David Coppock and Andy Hartley are again your Church Wardens for the coming year (this being confirmed by their attendance at the recent Arch-Deacon's Visitation Service at St Mary the Virgin Church, Wellingborough), Carol Coppock shall continue to keep a firm grip of the purse strings as Treasurer and Jenny Hinds shall make sure everything is written down correctly as Secretary, Alison Foster and Sharon Crossley shall continue doing other very useful things for the PCC and the wider community.

Looking at the notable events calendar, two are creeping up. Firstly we shall be holding a *Songs of Praise Service* from 4.30pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of July, primarily as a means of formally marking the completion of the major roof repairs. Incorporating a choice of favourite hymns/songs of us Gaytonians and involving children from the school, it should be a nice evening. Looking further down the calendar to October we have the harvest concert and quiz, further details will be given closer to the time.

On the pastoral front, we continue with a 9.30am service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, this is now a communion service whereas the 11.00am service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month is one of Family Worship without Communion.

The Church is now open every weekend from 9am to 4pm.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding church matters by all means please contact the Church Wardens David Coppock (859645), Andy Hartley (858360) or the Rev'd Karen. Rev'd Canon Karen A Jongman, The Rectory, 17 Church Street, Pattishall, Northampton NN12 8NB. Tel: 01327 830569 / 07980 881252

karenajongman@gmail.com

*Andy Hartley*

## Gayton Village Hall Management Committee – Chairman’s Annual Report

The year started well with Gayton Parish Council acting to try and improve Village Hall use by engaging with the Village Hall Management Committee at the AGM in June 2017. The increased attendance at the AGM (2 committee members and 7 parish residents) resulted in the committee swelling from 4 volunteers to 9:

David Ayre (Chair)                      Joan Adams (Booking Clerk/ Evergreens representative)

Jens Buus (Treasurer)                  David Coppock (PCC Representative)

Leandra Bramham (Gayton School representative)

Village resident reps: Mark Leeding; Carol Coppock; Pip East; Andy Hartley.

Unfortunately we still have no representatives from Gayton Parish Council or the active Table Tennis Clubs.

A questionnaire was circulated during the 2017 Gayton Open Gardens event to try and find out what residents wanted in order to encourage greater use of the village hall. The response was low – with 5 completed questionnaires being received. This does reflect the management committee’s observation that our village hall does not ‘inspire’ users or engagement from residents: Only the minority feel able to donate their time to our community asset (if just to complete a questionnaire to identify their ideas and requirements regarding the future of the village hall).

The 5 respondents identified the following:

‘Fit for purpose but some modifications required’ (4 out of 5)

‘Parties/ fund raisers/ private functions’ were identified as activities for the village hall (but in need of modernisation to attract users)

People generally agreed that current hire charges were acceptable (and perhaps a small increase if hall modernised)

Modifications suggested: improved heating and lighting; new toilets; improved kitchen facilities; bar facilities; redecoration throughout; front entrance exterior repair/redecorate/replace.

The above suggestions do form a ‘start’ for any changes to the Village Hall. However 2017/18 was another year of reduced use, with income from hire falling to only £2106 (the lowest income on record - records date back to 1997).

If you do value your village hall then please use it and help us to incorporate changes that will increase usage – by providing feedback and help with respect to any proposed changes/modifications.

David Ayre    May 2018

### Village Hall Hire Charges

The village hall can be hired from as little as £15 (from £11 for the committee room) for a wide range of social activities.

If you require the Hall for a Private Function then charges start at £60 – if alcohol is to be sold an appropriate licence will be required.

Further information is available at [www.gayton-northants.co.uk/services/villagehall.html](http://www.gayton-northants.co.uk/services/villagehall.html)

Or contact Joan Adams 01604 859416 for bookings.

## Gayton & Tiffield Community Minibus

With the impending cut-backs of local scheduled bus services we have been inundated with requests from surrounding villages to incorporate them in our scheduled services and also with requests for help and advice on funding and running their own community minibus schemes.

It may be of interest to local residents that we are also currently involved in the consultancy process for the planning of major roadworks on the A5 in the Towcester town area scheduled to start in late July and to finish in early September!

The planned roadworks are divided into 4 stages with the initial 5-week stage involving **total closure** of the A5 from just below the access roads to Tesco, B & M and Aldi down to the traffic lights by the Saracens Head at the top of Towcester High Street.

Following the completion of this stage there is a scheduled 2 week 'stand-down' period when the roads will all be open as normal. The next stage involves **total closure** of the road through Towcester High Street from the traffic lights down to Richmond Road and is scheduled to last 5 weeks. During this period access to the town centre will only be possible utilising the side streets and walkways adjoining the High Street. The town centre bus stops are being relocated into Banbury Road close to the Saracens Head car park entrance for the duration of phases 1 and 2. Phase 3 road closure area is from Richmond Road up to Vernon Road followed by the final phase from Vernon Road up to Marlow Road close to the racecourse. At the meeting on Wednesday (23<sup>rd</sup> May) Highways informed us they were going to close all the central crossing points on the A43 from the motorway to the A5 roundabout during phases 1 and 2.

We fervently opposed this as it would mean that all the scheduled bus services from Towcester to Northampton would not be able to access Blisworth leaving the residents without public transport for at least 10 weeks. They are therefore re-considering the closure plans for the A43 central crossings and hopefully our input will be considered!

With confirmation of our annual NCC grant funding and the exclusion of our service from the planned transport cut-backs, we can now re-commence actively looking at the replacement of our current minibus with a similar specification new minibus hopefully fitted with an electrically operated side door and a much better electric retracting step.

With 11 volunteer drivers and excellent financial reserves, we continue to be in great shape, **but** we all need to make sure that everyone in our communities are aware of the need to **use the service**. This will ensure that we can continue to operate to Northampton and Towcester on a scheduled basis which provides us with funding for the minibus which is a valuable community resource for local clubs, schools, organisations as well as for our regular passengers.

Our thanks to everyone in our communities, our Parish Councils and of course especially to our brilliant team of 11 drivers and our passengers for your help and support in keeping our village Minibus service going for an amazing 33 years in Gayton and Tiffield.

**Rae Spencer - 01327 353352 - [rae.spencer@btopenworld.com](mailto:rae.spencer@btopenworld.com) - Mobile 07784 – 561268**



**Campion students** continue to enjoy a broad range of special experiences which really do capture the very best of our 'Care. Commit. Contribute' ethos.

Since our previous article, a team of Year 10 students participated in the 'Big Rig Technology Challenge' at Northampton College; Aspiration X, our Year 10 Young Enterprise group won 'Best Trade Stand' at the area final; and our overseas visits continue with a ski trip to Alpendorf in Austria and a Sixth Form visit to

Washington. Our sports teams have enjoyed continued success with highlights including Key Stage 4 girls winning District Hockey and Netball leagues. Links with primary schools continue to flourish with over 1200 students taking part in sporting events with our link primaries. We also continue to support others, with students, parents and staff enjoying a series of music showcases that not only demonstrated the superb musical talents of our students but also helped to raise funds for Cancer Research and Operation Smile.

Each year group has found a special way to celebrate being part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Events included students forming the number 50 for a bird's eye view, walking or jogging for 50 minutes and donating 50 items for the local food bank. It remains our desire to provide a covered outdoor sitting area next to our astroturf pitch for students and community users. If you are able to help in any way with our fund-raising programme, please do get in touch via [csoffice@campion.northants.sch.uk](mailto:csoffice@campion.northants.sch.uk) – all suggestions and support are welcomed.

It is a particularly demanding term for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they sit their external exams. We said goodbye to Year 13 in style when, in keeping with tradition, they wore fancy dress on their final day. This year's costumes all started with the letter P – its not every day that you enjoy a most moving leaving celebration in the company of pilots, peaky blinders, punks and the police! Our Year 11 students also enjoyed a celebration assembly and as both year groups continue to work hard, they can look forward to their June Prom events to celebrate the end of the exam season. We wish each of them all the very best.

The growth of our new building continues at pace and remains on schedule to be open by September. We were also delighted to receive an additional grant of £466,133 to refurbish our changing rooms and this work will soon begin. If you are one of our community sports users, I am delighted to say that you can look forward to some first class changing facilities in the autumn.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 6 students for their induction experience in July. If you, a family member or a friend is joining Campion for the first time, be assured of our very warm welcome – we can't wait to meet you!

Finally, as we head towards the summer break, I send you good wishes on behalf of the Campion students, staff and governors.

With best wishes

Claire Whitmore  
Headteacher



## Gayton Village Hall Management Committee offer New Community Groups a Free Hire Session at Gayton Village Hall

Are you interested in starting a new community group (e.g. film club, badminton club, bridge club, U3A, dance, drama etc), or perhaps a member of an established community group looking for a new venue? Gayton Village Hall Management Committee is offering one free hire session of the village hall (e.g 0900 - 1200hrs; 1400 - 1700hrs; 1800 – 2100hrs, Monday – Sunday) for such groups to try our facilities and provide feedback regarding what changes would encourage them to become regular users of Gayton Village Hall. Such hire will be subject to availability and offered at the discretion of the management committee.

If you are interested in booking a session or discussing further please contact either:

David Ayre: tel 858837 e-mail davidstephenayre@gmail.com (chair of management committee), or Joan Adams: tel 859416 (Booking Clerk)

**Please note** this offer does not include fund raising events or parties.

**Village Hall Hire Charges:** The village hall can be hired from as little as £15 (from £11 for the committee room) for a wide range of social activities.

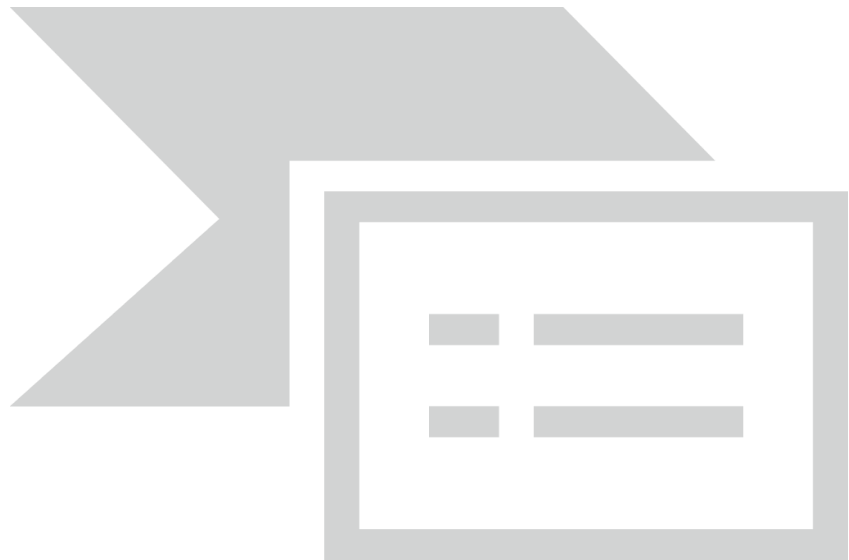
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## SPRING LITTER PICK

Once again a big thank you to all the volunteers who turned up on such a cold morning and cleared the litter in and around Gayton. It was good to see two new faces as well - hope to see you again! Twenty one bags of rubbish were collected plus a few bulkier bits and pieces. Thanks to Clive Wakelin for kindly picking up the bags left at the furthest points around the village.



A few people were unable to come along on the appointed Sunday but very kindly offered to litter pick beforehand. At the end of March Manja and Jens tackled the whole length of Wrights Lane and the resulting heap of rubbish can be seen in the photo below.

The next litter pick will be in the Autumn so watch out for details.

Joan Wood



**Gayton Primary School** We have an Art Exhibition on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018 which will be held in our school hall. The children are going to create artwork based on the village using different materials. We would like to invite the Gayton community to come into school between 10 and 11am to view the work our pupils have done. There will be tea and coffee served by our year 6 pupils and the children will perform a few of their songs from the upcoming leavers show.

We will be holding our Federation Sports Day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at the Towcestrians Sports Club. All children across the Federation will enjoy a picnic lunch with their families and will then take part in a number of sporting activities and races throughout the afternoon. Fingers crossed the sun is still shining for us!

The children will take part in a couple of residential's this term. Year 4 have been to Boughton Woods where they camped out for 2 nights and had fun cooking outdoors. They took part in lots of outdoor activities including archery, fire lighting and outdoor cooking. Year 3 will be going to stay at Everdon for 1 night where they will enjoy outdoor activities including den making!

We would like to thank our year 6 pupils for how hard they worked during their SAT's week. They all remained very calm and put their full effort and enthusiasm into their assessments. We are all very much looking forward to the summer holidays that will be soon upon us. The children have worked very hard over the last year and hope they have a wonderful break. All staff are extremely proud of the children's effort and achievements this year.

## **GAYTON EVERGREEN CLUB**

# **Coffee Morning**

**Thursday 2 August 10.30 - 12.00**

**Gayton Village Hall**

**Tombola, raffle, bring and buy, plants, cakes and produce**  
**Refreshments      Free Admission**



## GAYTON EVERGREEN CLUB

The Evergreen Club currently has thirty-eight members who meet twice a month, normally on a Tuesday afternoon from 2.30pm in the Village Hall. We have a programme of events including speakers, outings, musical entertainment, lunches and afternoon teas. We are supported by the Gayton Alms Charity which awards the club a grant. This grant helps to pay for the Christmas Lunch which is free to members. This year the membership fee is £15.

Since March the members have enjoyed a Fish and Chip Lunch and a Spring Lunch both with home-made sweets, Bingo with a table top sale, a Social Afternoon with Quiz and Cream tea, and a Musical Quiz.

The programme for the next 3 months is:

- 28.6.18 Lunch Outing to Turweston Airfield Café for lunch
- 10.7.18 Strawberry Tea at 2.30pm in the Village Hall
- 2.8.18 Annual fundraising Coffee Morning at 10.30 am in the Village Hall
- 11.9.18 Speaker, topic to be confirmed, at 2.30pm in the Village Hall
- 27.9.18 Outing - destination to be confirmed

Photos from our Musical Quiz afternoon .....



and clearing up afterwards .....

Gayton Evergreen Club warmly welcomes new members, who are 55 and over.

The full programme of activities is available on the Gayton website or by contacting one of the committee members Carol Coppock (859645), Jan Leeding (859275), Manja Ronne (859253), or Naomi Sheehan (859814).

## St Mary's is now watertight!

For many years the roof of our village church has leaked badly. Despite many attempts at localised repairs, water still managed to get through, putting at risk many of the historical and valuable artefacts contained within the building.

In 2016, Gayton Parochial Church Council (PCC) applied for a grant through the government-funded Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund. The Fund is administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The PCC were delighted to hear that their application was successful and they were

to receive a grant of up to £88,000 towards the repairs to the roof of Gayton church. This money, in addition to that raised at fundraising events, has enabled the following works to be carried out.

Nave - Complete replacement of the lead roof covering. Repairs to coping stones.

Repairs/reinforcement of a main roof beam.

North Aisle - Complete replacement of the lead roof covering. Repairs to masonry on parapets and copings. Chancel - Repairs to existing roof covering.

South Aisle - Repairs to existing roof covering. South porch - Removal of tiles.

Repairs/replacement of rotten roof timbers. Replacement of original tiles.

North Wall - Repointing of water damaged mortar joints. Repairs to masonry around window frames.

The church is now completely watertight and should remain so for many years to come enabling the building to continue as a centre for village community activities.

The PCC wish to thank all those who have contributed to this project by supporting fundraising events or by donating money to the church to help in its upkeep. Special thanks, of course, must go the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund for their generous grant. David Coppock, Chair Gayton PCC

## Got a favourite hymn or worship song?



We are holding a special 'Songs of Praise' in St Mary's church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 4.30pm to celebrate the reroofing of our village church. Villagers, including children, are invited to choose one of their favourite pieces which they would like to be included in this service. Tea and cake will be served afterwards! Please contact me if you would like your song to be sung on this memorable occasion.  
David Coppock 01604 859645

## Gayton Church Heritage Trust

I was sorry to have missed the Open Gardens last w/e. I gather it was a beautiful day and all the effort from those involved who opened their gardens and served cream teas and cakes in the church were rewarded by the numbers who came to enjoy this very popular village event, this year it included a re-run of the WWI Exhibition. A great day and good to be able to use the building once more under the newly restored roof.

I mentioned in the March edition of Gayton News that the Parochial Church Council were solely responsible for gaining a large grant specifically for church roof restoration and were fortunate to be one of the few churches in the area to receive an award. Gayton Church Heritage Trust supports the PCC by applying for community funded grants to preserve the building as an asset in the village and an ideal place for variety of events. The work on the roof did not deter the parishioners most of the church services were able to go ahead. However, an event organised by GCHT last December, Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' was cancelled, I don't think anyone minded because the building is jolly cold in the winter months. The next and most pressing improvement to the building is to raise the money to upgrade or replace the heating and be able to use the building in comfort all year round.

Fund raising Events to this end are in hand and include: - The National Historic Churches Trust, Ride and Stride on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. A sponsored activity in which half the takings on the day go Gayton Church. The object is to be sponsored to visit as many churches in your locality either on foot or bicycle, even by car if you wish!! It is a pleasant way however you choose to travel with an opportunity to raise money and visit churches, normally closed but will be open on the day, in beautiful villages with great pubs needing careful planning to reach them at lunch time. In turn the charity helps by giving grants to assist in the preservation of our historic parish churches. Gayton Church will be open for this event – see the village website for information. There will be another Halloween Disco again this year on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Hall – details in the village website nearer the time

Anna Fox  
anna6fox@gmail.com



# South Northamptonshire Council

This is an update on the latest state of play regarding Local Government Reform – specifically around the formal public consultation exercise that the Government requires is run across the county.

This public consultation will now start on Monday, 18 June and will end on Sunday, 22 July 2018.

The consultation will include:

- a questionnaire available online from each of the districts, boroughs and county council websites from Monday 18 June 2018
- paper copies available with freepost return address from 25 June – copies will be available at council offices, libraries, leisure centres etc.
- a representative telephone survey carried out by the independent company running this survey across the county, ORS
- ORS will also be running focus groups with invited residents. Details of these are being worked through, so will follow in my next update
- It is planned that there will be other stakeholder events too – and once these are worked out, details will also be provided in the next update

All background information available, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and useful links will be published on the South Northants council website and information provided in the local press. This information will be updated as we move through the process and more answers become available to us. The consultation itself, alongside a detailed explanatory document and all the relevant documentation can be found at [www.futurenorthants.co.uk](http://www.futurenorthants.co.uk).

We would appreciate your support in encouraging people to have their say, so as many voices as possible are heard. Other consultations by the local media and by individual councils may take place at the same time so it's really important that you respond to the official Local Government Reform Northamptonshire consultation being run by all eight Northamptonshire councils so that your comments on the proposal get to be officially considered.

We hope this is useful in updating you on the latest situation ahead of the consultation beginning, and sharing the latest information available generally.

Yvonne Rees  
Chief Executive  
South Northants Council

## Allotment News - June 2018

It has been a difficult spring for us vegetable gardeners. First came the rain, cold nights and soil too cold to germinate our seeds, now we have warmer days and no rain at all. It seems we're stuck with these extremes of weather but, as Monty Don says, you just have to adapt and grow what works and, if all else fails, do what I've done and go on holiday.

Here in Devon, I've found something unusual to share with you and would like to thank the Bridford and Teign Valley Garden Club for inviting me to their annual Summer Gathering. It was there that I came across the following little gem (no gardening pun intended).

### *The Many Benefits of Hugelkultur*

*Hugelkultur are no-dig raised beds with a difference. They hold moisture, build fertility, maximise surface volume and are great spaces for growing fruit, vegetables and herbs.*

*Hugelkultur, pronounced Hoo-gul-culture, means hill culture or hill mound.*

*Instead of putting branches, leaves and grass clippings in your green bin build a hugel bed.*

*Simply mound logs, branches, leaves, grass clippings, straw, cardboard, petroleum-free newspaper, manure, compost or whatever other biomass you have available, top with soil and plant your veggies.*

*The advantages of a hugel bed are many, including:*

*The gradual decay of wood is a consistent source of long-term nutrients for the plants. A large bed might give out a constant supply of nutrients for 20 years (or even longer if you use only hardwoods). The composting wood also generates heat which should extend the growing season.*

*Soil aeration increases as those branches and logs break down... meaning the bed will be no till, long term.*

*The logs and branches act like a sponge. Rainwater is stored and then released during drier times. Actually you may never need to water your hugel bed again after the first year (except during long term droughts).*

*The system will also sequester carbon into the soil.*

*On a sod lawn Sepp Holzer (hugelkultur expert) recommends cutting out the sod, digging a one foot deep trench and filling the trench with logs and branches. Then cover the logs with the upside down turf. On top of the turf add grass clippings, seaweed, compost, aged manure, straw, green leaves, mulch, etc.. and get planting.*

This is something so odd that it must be worth a try! I intend to select an area of my allotment to try it out on and I will of course let you know how I get on. I hope it goes better than my Three Sisters experiment, during which I planted squashes, sweetcorn and climbing beans together as practiced by the Native Americans. It all grew into a tangled mess and yields were pitiful. Maybe that's why the tribe is so small today.

The next important event on the allotment calendar is our annual BBQ which we will hold in early August. Last year we had great fun despite torrential rain, hopefully, the sun will shine on us this year and we won't need our wet weather programme.

I would like to finish on a very positive note. During the recent open gardens, many of our visitors, one from as far away as Lithuania, commented on how good our allotment looked and what a lovely site we have. This is of course down to the hard work and enthusiasm of the members and long may that continue.

Till the next time Carl [letting.gaytonallotments@btinternet.com](mailto:letting.gaytonallotments@btinternet.com)



## A Note from the Rectory

It is now three months since I came to live in Pattshall, for me the joy of being here is still vibrant, and I am delighted each morning thinking about the list of things I have planned to do, and even more so by the end of the day, considering those unexpected treats and encounters which may have come my way.

There is a verse in St Paul's letter to the Philippians which says "give thanks in all circumstances" which never ceases to make me consider "How often do I give thanks, well usually when things are going well, less often when I am not really enjoying the circumstances I find myself in?"

So what is genuine thankfulness? Paul is speaking of freedom from worry and frustration about anything in life – even unfulfilled desires.

I was particularly reminded of this verse quite recently. Friday morning is a special time for me as I meet with a friend to chat and walk around Pitsford Reservoir. This particular Friday was no exception, we met as usual on the causeway and set out in fine dry weather, and managed to reach the cafe (our half way stop for refreshment and ore chat!) completely dry, and ready for a cup of tea, before completing our work.

However, during our short break the rain began to fall gently at first and then to our dismay became much heavier. We sat discussing the possibility that it would stop before we left or at least ease up. Sitting close by was a family of four, consisting of grandparents and their grandchildren who had been quietly enjoying their refreshments, gradually they became more and more animated as the rain became heavier. The children became so excited they couldn't wait for their grandparents to finish their drinks, so they could get outside.

Listening and watching them get into their brightly coloured mackintoshes, and wearing fluorescent wellington boots, made us both smile and realise just how different we were. For them the rain was exciting, for us it had become an annoyance. Eventually, as we left the shelter of the café to continue our walk, in the rain, not really relishing the idea of getting really wet, our attention was caught by the children who were by now jumping in and out of newly formed puddles, catching rain water in upturned umbrellas, and having a wonderful time, as their grandparents joined in the fun and laughter.

What was it Jesus said? "Unless you become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." No wonder Paul encourages us in his letters to give thanks – no matter what the circumstances. Watching the happy family of four, made me consider these words, and want to join in their fun.

Whether you are spending this summer at home or going away, I pray you will have fun, no matter of the sun shines or there is rain. Perhaps you might remember St Paul's advice to give thanks in all circumstances. Yours in Christ, Reverend Karen

## Calendar of events

### June

Sunday 24	10.30am	Gayton cyclists monthly ride – meet at Fiveways
Thurs 28	1.00pm	Gayton Evergreens Lunch Outing to Turweston Airfield Café

### July

Sunday 1	9.30am	Family Communion at Gayton Church
Sunday 8	10.00am	Gayton walkers monthly walk – meet at Fiveways
Tues 10	2.30pm	Evergreens Strawberry Tea in the Village Hall
	7.30pm	Gayton Parish Council meeting
Sunday 15	11.00am	Family Communion at Gayton Church
Sunday 22	10.10am	Gayton cyclists monthly ride – meet at Fiveways

### August

Thurs 2	10.30am	Evergreen Coffee Morning in the Village Hall
Sunday 5	9.30am	CW Family Communion at Gayton Church
Sunday 12	10.00am	Gayton walkers monthly walk – meet at Fiveways
Sunday 19	11.00am	Morning Worship at Gayton Church
Sunday 26	10.30am	Gayton cyclists monthly ride – meet at Fiveways

### September

Sunday 2	9.30am	CW Family Communion at Gayton Church
Saturday 8		Ride & Stride
Sunday 9	10.00am	Gayton walkers monthly walk – meet at Fiveways
Tues 11	2.30pm	Evergreen meeting with a speaker, topic to be confirmed, in the Village Hall
Wed 12	7.30pm	Gayton Parish Council meeting
Sunday 23	10.30am	Gayton cyclists monthly ride – meet at Fiveways
Thurs 27		Evergreen Outing – details TBC

### October

Sunday 7	9.30am	CW Family Communion at Gayton Church
Wed 10	7.30pm	Gayton Parish Council meeting
Thurs 11	12.30pm	Evergreen F&C Lunch
Sunday 14	10.00am	Gayton walkers monthly walk – meet at Fiveways
Sunday 21	11.00am	Family Service at Gayton Church
Saturday 27		Halloween Disco in the Village Hall

**Please email your articles for the autumn edition by Friday 14 September 2018**

**To: [karencooper@mortimers.uk.com](mailto:karencooper@mortimers.uk.com)**

**Tel: 07753 638 180**

## The History of Evergreen Farm (Part Two: Passport to Status)

Like it or not, Enclosure had arrived in Gayton, instigated by Mr Francis Tanfield, Lord of the Manor, and supported by Reverend John Markes, Vicar of Pattishall (1577-1605), who Francis had instituted as Rector of Gayton Church in 1583. Both men signed the Enclosure of Gayton in 1601, and both men intended to prosper from it.



In 1598, Robert Tanfield left John Markes, Parson of Gayton, 40 shillings, the equivalent of £394 today, in his will. The death of a parishioner was always lucrative for the Parson. Revd John Markes bought land whenever it came onto the market. As Rector of Gayton and with the Pattishall living, John Markes became a wealthy and influential man.

In 1585 he married Emma Pilgrim from a local family of Yeoman farmers and they had two sons and six daughters all of whom were provided for admirably. John made sure that his daughters all made good marriages and the future looked bright for his two sons, too, as they reached 21 years old.

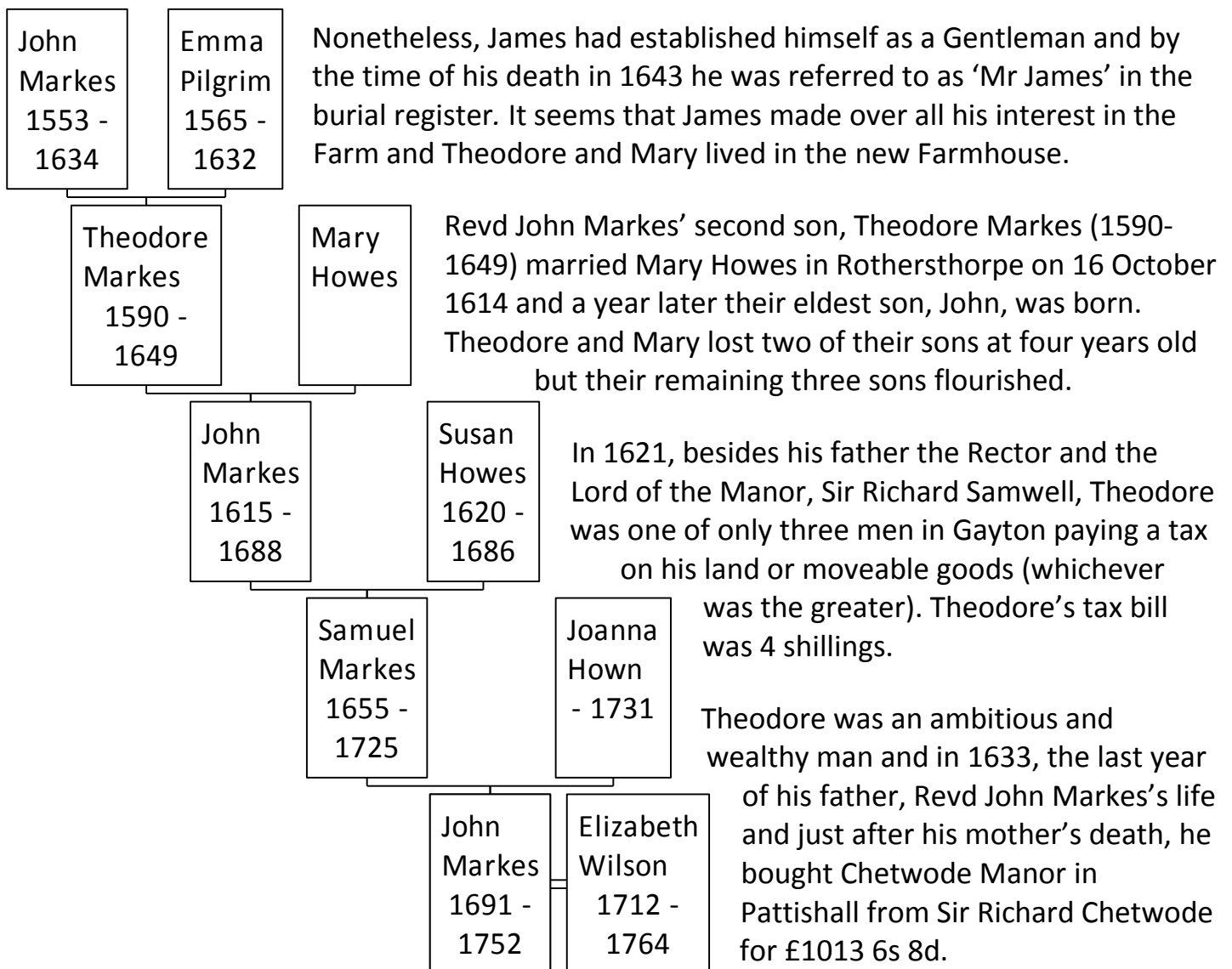
Richard Wapul of Dover's House (today, Evergreen Farm) had just died and his estate was on the market. In 1609, James, 22, was farming 13 acres of Wapul's land with his haybarn and cowhouse and Theodore, now 20, with his father's backing, took over the mortgage of Dover's and the land.

By 1613 James was part of a Trained Band from Gayton, for the defence of the Realm, or perhaps the County, as further Enclosures loomed. Trained Bands were to consist of able bodied men that were from freeholders, farmers, land owners or householders, men who benefited from Enclosure, trained as foot soldiers.

22 May 1609 (edited)

Abstract: Lease John Allen to Theodore Markes, second son of John Markes clerk  
A haybarn and cowhouse, sometime Richard Wapul and half of 26 acres of pasture  
in the occupation of James Markes. Term: till 1 May 1612 Rent: one peppercorn  
Between John Allen of Gayton Yeoman and Theodore Markes second son of John Markes of  
Gayton Clerk Witnesseth that John Allen Hath farm letten unto Theodore Markes All that  
one haybarn and one cowhouse in Gayton sometime Richard Waples and half of six and  
twenty acres of meadow and now being in the tenure of James Markes  
Lincolnshire Archives, Ref: Hawley 1/C/18 Transcription: Rita Poxon

James, John Markes' eldest son married Ursula Adcott in Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire on 7 June 1616 and they had a son in 1618 they named John. But tragedy struck and John grew up unable to walk and work on the farm and James and Ursula did not have more children. As Revd John Markes dabbled in Alchemy, particularly 'drinkable gold' which is gold dissolved in mercury, and was not averse to trying his 'medicines' out on his friends and family, one wonders whether he gave a potion to Ursula when she was pregnant! When Revd John Markes died in 1635 he left James, 'the feather bed in the little chamber where he lodgeth', which implies that James, often visited the Parsonage where his son could be cared for.



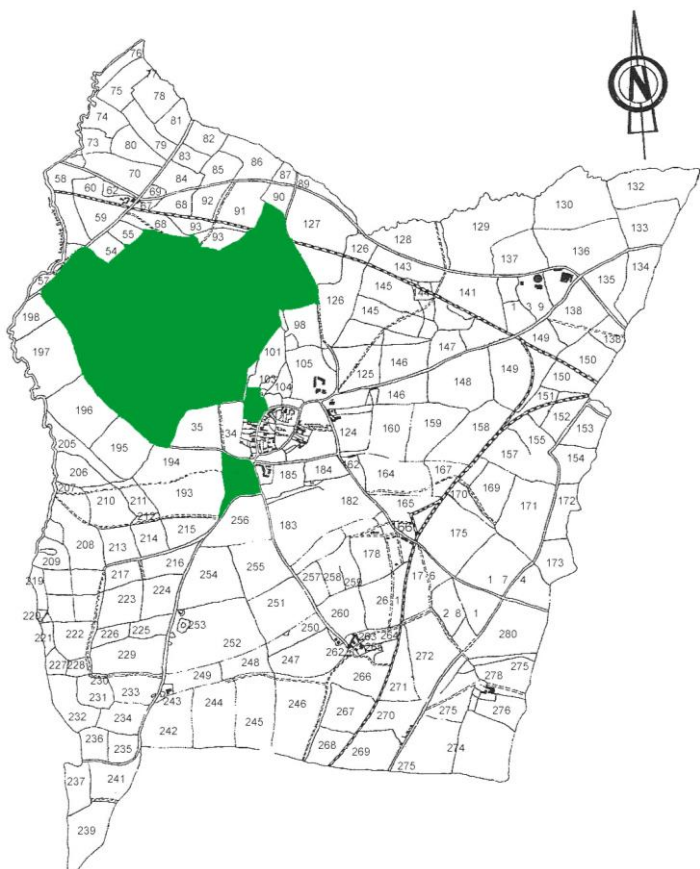
Evergreen Farm passed down the Markes Family

Theodore as Churchwarden of Gayton was responsible for the Glebe Terrier for Gayton Church where his father was still the incumbent. The 1635 Glebe Terrier is the earliest Terrier extant and details the Parsonage Farm as being ninety-four acres bounded by Fielding Way (Bugbrooke Hill) on the north, a brook called Gayton Brook on the south, a track called Stone Hill Way which leads into Mill Way (Eastcote Road) and Mill Way and Pinfold Close (Hillcrest Road) on the east.

After his father's death, and following his son John's marriage to Susan Howes, of Rothersthorpe on 20 December 1638 at All Saints Church in Northampton, Theodore moved into his Pattishall Manor and his son John, aged 25 years, took over the farm in Gayton. John's brother William at 14 may have remained in Gayton to help on the farm but little Theodore, 6, moved to Pattishall with his parents. 'Little' Theodore grew up and acquired the other Pateshull Manor and eventually inherited Chetwode as well. He had risen to the ranks of Gentleman.

John Markes (1615-1688), like his father Theodore, took to farming and in 1641 his tax bill for his land was 8 shillings. He also served as Churchwarden. John Markes was living in the new Farmhouse while the old Dover's House was being used as a Brewery, Granary and tenement. In 1662 John and Susan paid tax on six hearths whilst his brother William's house (which may have been Old Wilds Farm in Gayton) had four hearths.

Between 1659- 1674, John added to his land holding by purchasing Houghton's Barn Close (on the Banbury Lane) from John Houghton leaving it to his younger sons, Samuel and Daniel Markes in 1687. John and Susan had three children who died at 2, 10 and 6 years old and a daughter who died at 29. They also brought up two girls, who married well and two boys, Daniel, became a Cleric in Kettering and John gave him Pinfold Close for life and part of Houghton's Close and Samuel, to whom he gave the other part of the Close, and the farm.



Markes land, Gayton Parish

Samuel Markes (1655-1725) married Joanna Hown from Pattishall on 8 September 1690 in Northampton at St Sepulchre church, and like his parents, John and Susan, they brought up their family at the Farm.

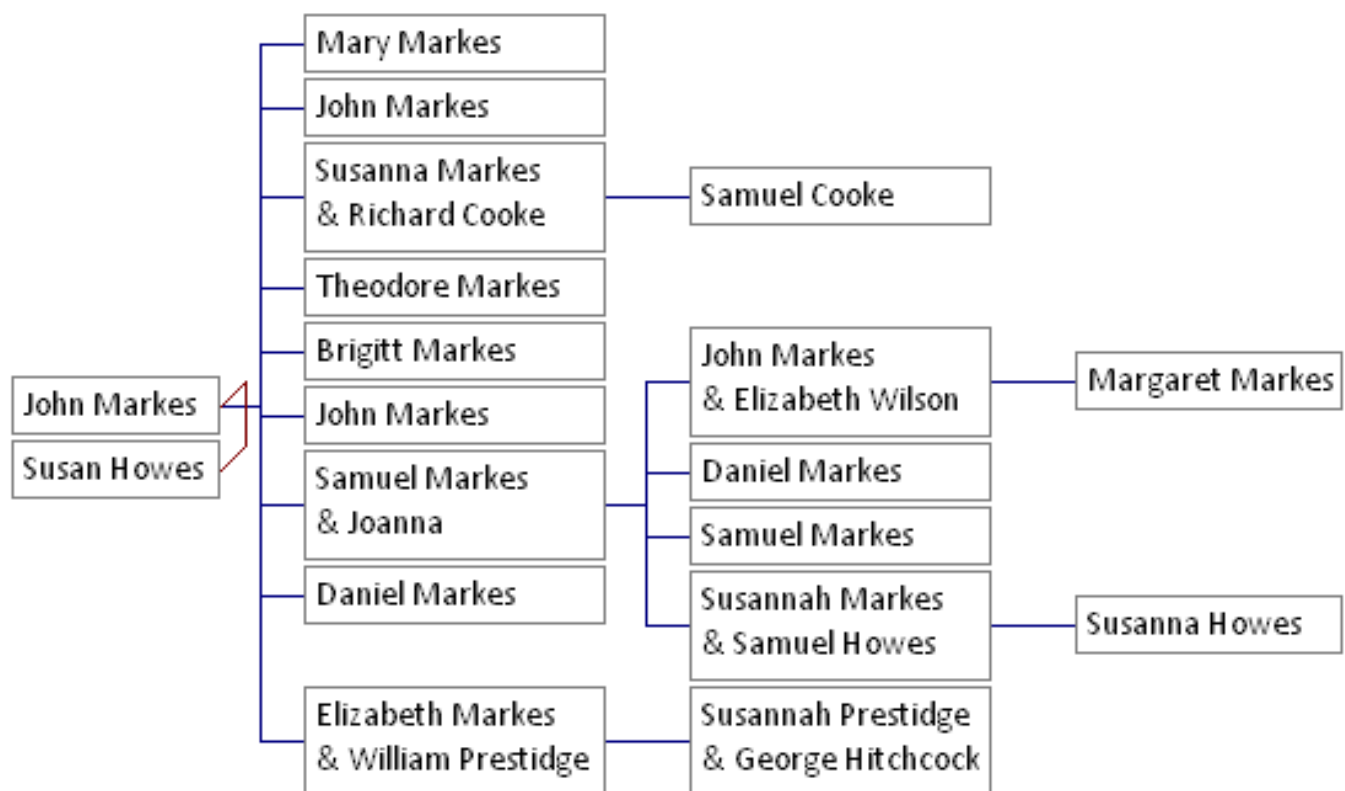
He was a Freeholder and paid a Chief Rent in 1694, (a small annual rent payable by freeholders, to enable them to then go free of all other services to (Thomas Samwell) the Lord of the Manor. Samuel was regarded by the people of Gayton as a Gentleman, rather than a Yeoman Farmer.

In 1720 John Bridges commented in his History of Northamptonshire that Mr Markes was farming Gayton Manor's 'Deer Park'. Although this may not have been strictly accurate, eg Park End Close was owned by William Watson before 1705.

From then on certainly the Markes family began, not to buy but to sell off their land. Samuel and Joanna left the farm to their eldest son John but they must have been struggling to maintain their lifestyles. It appears that Samuel sold 13 acres of the Deer Park to Thomas Faulkner, perhaps in 1724 to raise the money to cover his debts and funeral expenses.

John Markes (1691-1752) married Elizabeth Wilson whose mother inherited The Squirrel, possibly the only pub in Gayton at the time, and whose father, Thomas Wilson, farmed. Elizabeth inherited a house, close and garden from her father and income from The Squirrel from her mother. John and Elizabeth married late in life and they only had one child, Margaret Markes. John inherited Evergreen Farm in 1725 and in 1728 he mortgaged 56 acres for £800. In 1736 he sold the farm and land to Richard Kent senior whilst renting the farmhouse.

John and Susan Markes' Descendants



As they raised their status and standard of living the Markes family made sure that everyone was provided for. So what happened? Did Theodore take too much money out of the Farm when he bought the Manor in Pattishall? Did John or Samuel enlarge the Farmhouse and spend too much? Whatever had happened Margaret Markes only ended up with Pinfold Close, Waples Meadow and a cottage in Gayton from the Markes side of the family, and all of her assets were sold and shared between her Wilson and Markes relatives when she died on 4 December 1766 aged only 22. 'Evergreen' Farm was again on the market!