

# GAYTON NEWS - AUTUMN 2020



## The Parks Medical Practice

The Partners and staff of The Parks Medical Practice would like to thank all our patients for their patience and understanding during the current pandemic. To reduce footfall in the practice most initial appointments will continue to be telephone triaged and the doctor or nurse will only ask you to attend in person if an examination is necessary. We are also using some new technologies to help improve access to care;

If you have online access eConsult can be found on our website;  
[www.theparksmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.theparksmedicalpractice.co.uk)

You can use it at any time day or night to request an appointment, to ask for advice, request medical certificates and also be signposted to other services, saving you a phone call or visit to the surgery. If you have a smartphone you may be contacted by us via AccuRx. We can use this to send you information, or to request information from you. Sometimes a doctor will ask you to send a photograph to help with a diagnosis, a blood pressure reading, or just an update on your condition. All the technology we use has been approved by the NHS and is secure.

### Flu Clinics

Due to the current pandemic and social distancing restrictions our flu clinics will be slightly different this year. The following Saturday clinics will be held;

3<sup>rd</sup> October – Roade Village Hall. 10<sup>th</sup> October – Blisworth Village Hall. 17<sup>th</sup> October – Grange Park Surgery. 24<sup>th</sup> October – Hanslope Surgery

Each Surgery will then hold additional clinics throughout the season. You may be asked to travel to a different surgery as social distancing is very difficult in our smaller sites. All patients that are eligible for a flu vaccination will be notified by letter or text message in the coming weeks.

**Please do not call to book an appointment until you have received a letter or text.** We will be calling the most at risk patients first, the elderly and those with chronic conditions. The new groups announced by the government, including those in the 50-64 age group with no underlying risk factors will not be called until the end of the year, and only if additional vaccines are made available to us. Thank you, The Parks Medical Practice



Congratulations and thanks to Sharon Crossley for raising the magnificent sum of £700 for the church with her 5K Sponsored run on 11th July.

Her efforts are much appreciated.  
Church Wardens and  
PPC of Gayton Church





## Gayton Walkers

Since the last Gayton News, we have been able to arrange walks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month. In July we went across to Rothersthorpe and back in two separate groups of six. In August, we started in Eastcote and walked towards Bugbrooke via Littleliff Farm and the canal. We returned through Pattishall and back to Eastcote for refreshments at The Eastcote Arms.

Above is a photo taken at St Luke's Church, Cold Higham, the doorway shown is approx 30 cms high! They were having a wedding at 2pm so the Ride & Striders were being sent round the back but the notice pointed somewhere else!

In September, the walk was on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust's Ride and Stride fund-raising event. We started from St Mary's Church, Gayton and visited Astcote chapel before crossing the A5 to St Luke's, Cold Higham then to Holy Cross, Pattishall. We stopped for refreshments at The Eastcote Arms then people made their way back to Gayton by foot or car. Some completed the Benefice round by walking to St John the Baptist, Tiffield.

Assuming that we can meet in small groups next month, I hope to arrange another walk in the local area. We meet at Fiveways at 10am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. I can't guarantee a pub on route but will try.

Robin Kelso. [Robin.kelso@btinternet.com](mailto:Robin.kelso@btinternet.com)



## Gayton Primary School

We wished good luck to our year 6 pupils in July as they left us to start their journey's in secondary school. We hope they are having fun and enjoying their time at their new schools and would like to remind them to keep in touch with us here at Gayton primary school.

We would like to welcome our 8 new reception pupils and pupil in Year 3 and their families that have joined us here at Gayton Primary School this September. They have settled so well already. It is so lovely to have the children back in school seeing their smiling faces and ready to learn in the 'new normal' way.

Teachers have been busy over the summer planning exciting new topics including famous explorers in Class 1, the Stone Age in Class 2 and World War 2 in Class 3.

Our Harvest celebrations will be slightly different this year and will be held in school. Each class will celebrate within their class bubbles. We are unable to take Food bank donations but please do contact Towcester Foodbank direct if you wish to donate as they are always grateful for donations.

Our class 2 pupils have an exciting opportunity to take part in Forest school during this term at Salcey Forest in Hartwell. The children will take part in a range of activities throughout the sessions including den building, orienteering, outdoor art and campfire building. Children in Class 1 and 3 will have this experience later on in the school year.

There will be no Reception open morning's this year due to the current circumstances, however if you would like to visit the school for a Reception 2021 place, please contact the school office on 01604 858749 to book a visit and meet our head teacher at a convenient time to you. We look forward to meeting you.



Gayton Parish Council would like to thank Joan Wood for her huge contribution to keeping the village tidy by organising the village litter pick for so many years. We all benefit from the litter pick and Joan has co-ordinated the volunteers relentlessly.

The Parish Council is pleased to say that Karen Cooper is happy to take on the role and is sure that the volunteers will continue to offer their services to do the litter pick. Thank you very much to both for your services.

**The next 'Village Litter Pick' will be on Sunday 1 November from 10am.** This will be conducted in line with Government guidelines for Covid, depending on social distancing guidelines on the day. Picking tools, sacks and Hi-viz tabards are provided, which will all be sanitised as you collect them. You will need to provide your own gloves. Please text, email or call me to confirm your availability. If you can't make it on the 1 November an alternative day will be welcomed. It would be great to have as many people as possible so that we can have a big tidy up around our village before winter. Thanks & best wishes Karen

karencooper@mortimers.uk.com      Tel: 07753 638180

## The Chain Gang



Some of you may have noticed some “willing volunteers” in the village clearing paths, working in the Millenium Spinney and tidying Harris' Lane. A lot of this work has been to help John Upson who has been the instigator of these projects. He plans to move on to the churchyard shortly. The idea is to get the gang to continue clear footpaths and around stiles in the Parish prior to the winter period. If you find paths very overgrown, please let me know as, I am sure that The Chain Gang will be eager to clear it! Robin Kelso



**PATTISHALL  
PET SITTING**

## **PATTISHALL PET SITTING**

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e: [pattishallps@gmail.com](mailto:pattishallps@gmail.com)



Could you volunteer to help the elderly and vulnerable in our parish? If you have been volunteering during lockdown or are now working from home, are you able to spare some time to help out? **Towcester Area Door to Door** urgently need to recruit additional volunteer drivers to help people in our community. As we emerge from lockdown, the NHS is now offering a wider range of hospital and GP appointments, and dentists, opticians, podiatrists and other healthcare providers are back at

work. We have seen a steady rise in the number of journeys requested and we expect this to continue, particularly when the Autumn flu vaccine programme begins.

This year, more than ever, our elderly and vulnerable neighbours need the support of a friendly, affordable, door-to-door service for their medical appointments.

Drivers need to have access to a car, be available on a regular basis for a minimum of half a day a week and complete a DBS check. Mileage is reimbursed at the HMRC rate and insurance premiums are not affected. Journeys are agreed in accordance with weekly availability and can fit around the school run, working from home or part time employment.

To learn more about volunteering for TADD visit [www.towcesterareadoor2door.com](http://www.towcesterareadoor2door.com) or email [volunteer@towcesterareadoor2door.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@towcesterareadoor2door.co.uk)

## **GAYTON EVERGREEN CLUB**

'We'll Meet Again' seems to have been the anthem of lockdown. On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September members of the Gayton Evergreen Club did just that!

Of course all the regulations regarding cleaning the Village Hall, sanitising hands, wearing masks and social distancing were followed to the letter. Fortunately it was a lovely sunny day so we were able to enjoy the sunshine and the fresh air.

It was great to meet with each other and to catch up on all the news although as curtains and any notices on the walls had been removed the acoustics in the room weren't very good. This and the wearing of face masks meant there was quite a lot of noise. It was good to see members even if it was only the top half of their faces.

We were fortunate to be able to get together as further guidance has now been issued regarding meeting in groups. It may be a while before we meet again but 'I know we'll meet again some sunny day'.

Guests are always welcome to join our meetings. As soon as we are able to meet, full details of meetings, including timings and costs, will be available on the Gayton website or from one of the committee members.

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

If you are interested in joining this friendly and lively club when it reopens please contact one of the committee members Carol Coppock (859645), Jan Leeding (859275), Manja Ronne (859253), or Naomi Sheehan (859814). Carol Coppock

## Services Resume at St Mary's Church!

It is with great pleasure that Gayton Parochial Church Council (PCC) can announce that St Mary's church will be open for the first time since the 'lockdown' in March to host a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00 am. The PCC hope that subsequent services will follow once a month until the situation regarding the coronavirus pandemic becomes clearer. Unfortunately the church will have to remain closed at other times. This is because of the strict guidelines we are required to adhere to. Visits to the church, including those for private prayer, have to be supervised and an accurate register of those visiting has to be kept. Thorough cleaning is to take place before and after each church opening. The PCC is not able to do this at the moment.

There will be no Harvest Festival this year nor will there be a Service for the Commemoration of the Departed. Decisions are yet to be made regarding a Service of Remembrance and the Christmas Carol Service.

For those villagers intending to attend on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, **please will you let Revd. Káren know in advance** either by telephone (07980 881252) or by email to karenajongman@gmail.com by **lunchtime on the Saturday before the service**. This is so that we can make sure that we have sufficient seating. Names and contact details will be retained for 21 days for the purpose of 'Track & Trace'.

You are also asked to read the following before attending the service.

### COVID-19 Precautions

For the safety of everyone, please note the following.

- Enter the church by the Main (South) door and depart by the North door
- Maintain 2 m distancing as best you can from those not in your Family Group
- The wearing of face coverings in places of worship is now a requirement except for those addressing the congregation and certain other exemptions
- Apply hand sanitising gel (provided) on entering and leaving the building
- Seating in the pews has been arranged to allow seating in groups of 2 and 3 and singly. If you are on your own please choose a single space if there is one available.
- We are not permitted to sing at services but we can join in the said responses and prayers
- During communion you will be invited to come forward to receive bread. Please follow the directions given by the Churchwardens. Wine will not be shared.
- We are unable to provide refreshments but there will be an opportunity to speak with friends outside the church after the service, subject to the current social distancing guidance

An Order of Service will be sent to you via email. Please bring a copy with you. There will be a limited number of pre-printed copies available in church for those unable to print their own. These are to be taken away after the service and may be reused at the next service.

David Coppock  
Churchwarden

## The Joys (?) of Gardening

Over the lockdown period there has been much talk about how people have found solace and enjoyment in gardening. Personally, I've never been a great fan of that particular hobby. It's just something that has to be done. But not all of it fills me with dread. Weeding can be quite therapeutic, and I quite enjoy digging: maybe because my grandfather's family dug great big holes in the ground and came out with wagonloads of coal (no subtlety needed). And it was during one session on my hands and knees, eyeball to eyeball with what was either a weed or a vegetable (though I often find it difficult to tell the difference) that the answer came to me – gardening was far too much like being an accountant. Oh dear, I can hear you say: the lockdown's got to the poor guy.

But just take a moment to consider the similarities: in both there are certain tasks that have to be done at particular times of the year; there are routine tasks that must be done regularly; then there are the boring, repetitive tasks to keep on top of things; and you have to work your way through the rubbish to get at what you need. Occasionally there is a special project that lightens up your life for a day or so, and there is the potential for satisfaction at the end result. The one major dissimilarity is that, as much as you might want to, an accountant cannot spray his or her domain with weed killer, not even with the environmentally friendly stuff.

So next time all you gardeners relax with a glass or mug of something, admiring the result of all your hard work, have one thought in mind. You're actually not a gardener: you're really a closet accountant. Or, even worse, have I been a closet gardener all these years? Now isn't that a depressing and sobering thought as we rush headlong into winter!

Anonymous .....



### Winner: Best Individual New Home



#### Milton Road, Gayton, Northamptonshire

- **Project Team:** Cornerhouse Building Contractors, Msquare Architects, Roger Clarke
- **Local Authority:** South Northants Building Control

South Northants Council won the best individual house, and was commended (runner up) in the best volume housing scheme. 2 Milton Road, Gayton was entered into the Regional LABC Building Excellence Awards 2020 competition and won the award for 'The Best New Build' house.

Its super to be able to welcome Roger & Trudy Clarke to Gayton.

*We are very proud to have won the award and to be able to share the accolade with the village of Gayton. Regards, Roger & Trudy Clarke*



## Gayton Village Hall Management Committee

In June I reported the expectation of village halls being allowed to re-open early July. In order to ensure a 'Covid-safe' environment we needed to undertake risk-assessments and arrange cleaning equipment (sanitising station) for any users of the village hall prior to opening. We get regular updates from Northamptonshire ACRE that informs our management of the Hall.

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Victoria McConnachie has taken on the position of booking clerk for the village hall – contact details below and on the village website (<http://www.gayton-northants.co.uk/services/villagehall.html>).

This appointment allowed us to 're-open' the village hall on 1<sup>st</sup> September. However we have restrictions on current use and these are:

- Maximum of 30 people with requirement for social distancing practices and no groups of greater than 6 people – e.g gatherings should be managed to separate large numbers to groups of up to 6 at any event.
- Hirer's are responsible for keeping details of people attending the village hall for their event for 'track and trace' in event of a Covid19 case amongst their group.
- Hirers to clean before and after use – use provided surface cleaner on door handles, chairs etc.
- Only use toilet for disabled (single toilet area) to reduce areas for constant cleaning and reduce infringement of social distancing (main toilets closed).
- No use of kitchen areas and committee room.
- Face masks must be used by all except when engaged in exercise/sports activities.

If you would like to hire the village hall please contact Victoria McConnachie on 07841 720865 or email [gaytonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:gaytonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com)

For continued use of our village hall we do require that the community support the measures put in place. It is expected that village hall use will be infrequent as many activities are not easily accommodated with the Covid rules. However, with the care and consideration of all users there is every reason that your Village Hall will serve the community for many years more.

David Ayre

September 2020

## The History of Chain Walk (Part Three: A House with three bedrooms)



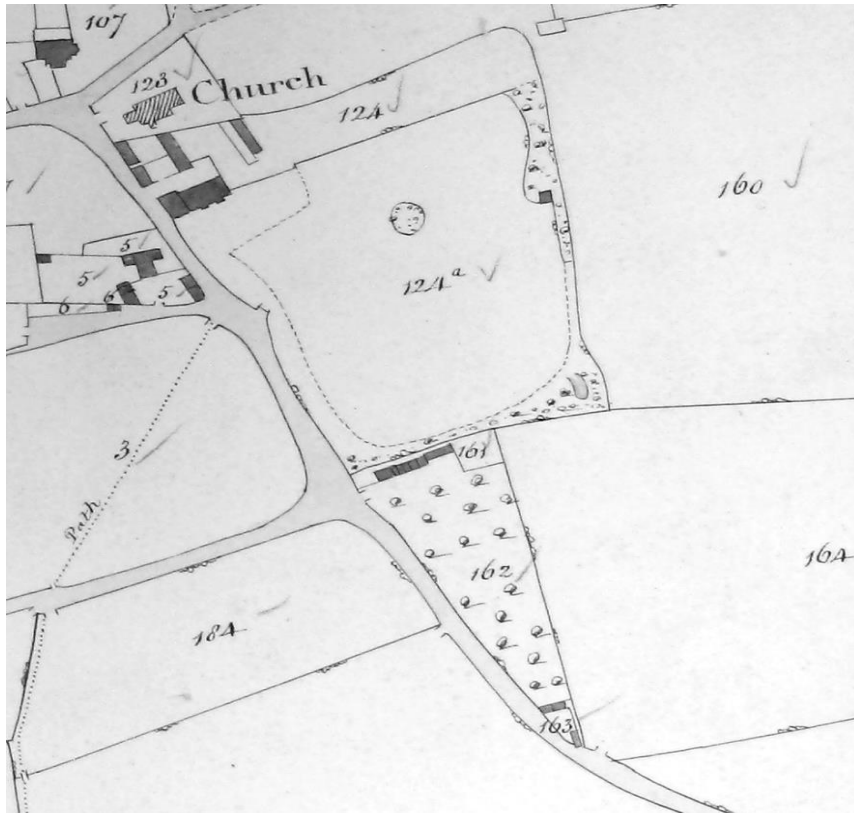
Courtesy of the Gayton WI Scrapbook

We have established that the Houghtons and then William (c.1630-1711) and Jane Watson were the first known owners of Chain Walk, living and farming from there.

It is likely that they set their eldest son and heir up in a farm of his own, when he came of age, and to William (1667-1705), their second son, they gave two closes when he came of age. As he was unmarried he undoubtedly lived at home using the closes for grazing land for the stock. Thomas (1677-1710), their third son, married Hannah and had three baby girls in 1704, 1706 and 1709. He died in 1710 aged 33 years old and Hannah and the babies moved in with William and Jane, only to have William die a year later. But all three girls survived. William's Inventory (1711) mentions bed and bedding in the Parlour, the Little Parlour and the Hall Chamber. Perhaps William and Jane were used to having their grandchildren visit overnight. William Watson (abt 1695-1759), son of John (1663-), may have taken over the running of the farm but Jane his Grandmother was entitled to the house for life.

In 1723 Jane died. Hannah's inheritance enabled her to provide her, then three teenaged girls, with a home in the middle of the village. William Watson took possession of his inheritance as the eldest son of the eldest son and his fifth child Richard (1731-1789) survived to inherit the farm. In the 1700s life was becoming more of a struggle, as the Markes family at Evergreen Farm were discovering, and Richard Watson worked as Tax Assessor and Collector of Land Tax, as well as being a Farmer.

He farmed the Churchland as well as Revd Griffith's own land from 1780 to 1789, when he died. Mary his widow went on renting the Churchland, but not Revd Griffith's land, until her death in 1803. Tithe Award Map, T15.



Courtesy of Northamptonshire Archives, showing Chain Walk and George Coleman and Elizabeth Watson's house at the other end of Watson's Close (162)

Richard and Mary Watson's daughter Elizabeth married George Coleman, a dealer in cattle, on 22 September 1791 in Gayton and they moved into the house today known as The White House at the other end of 'Watson's Close', as 'Houghton's Close' of 1632 was now referred to in the Glebe Terriers. It no doubt made Mary's life as a widowed cattle farmer much easier. Her son Thomas Watson helped her farm the Watson land. Mary died in 1805 and Elizabeth Coleman died in 1813.

Thomas Watson was recorded at 21 years old on the Militia List in 1798 as a Mason. It is tempting to think that he was able to use the ironstone from the Home Close. (It was later commercially mined and owned by Wheldon.)

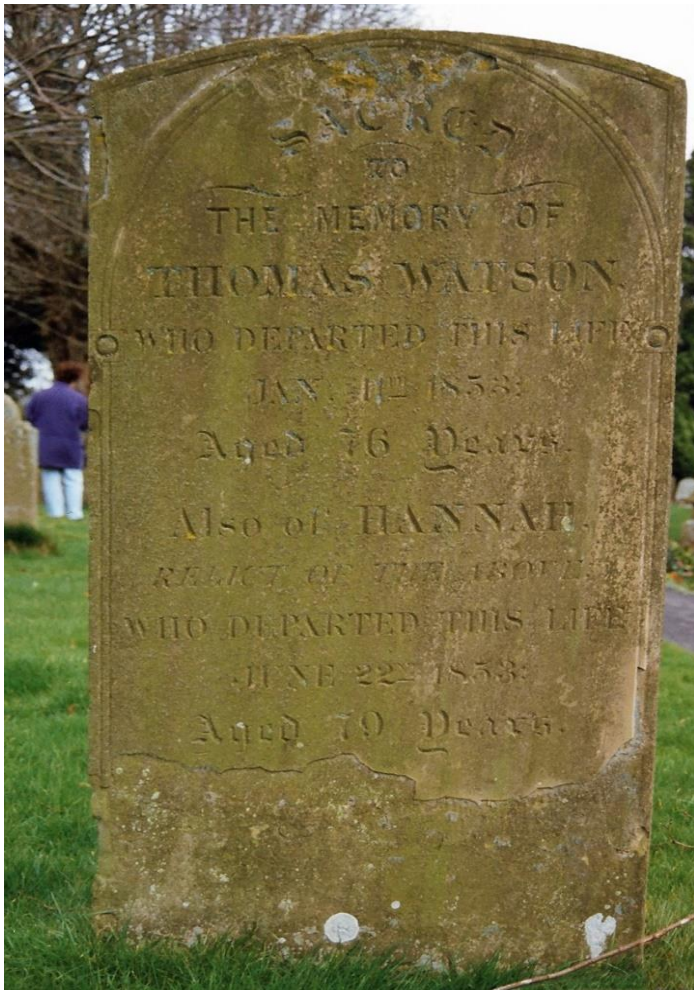
Thomas (1777-1853) and Hannah Watson were the last of the Watson's to live in Chain Walk. In the 1841 census Thomas Watson gives his occupation as Farmer but by 1851, when Ironstone mining in Gayton is beginning to take off, his occupation is once again given as Stone Mason. In his Will he directs the selling up of his estate, part business: leaving everything in the hands of John West, his son-in-law, and Walter George, Farmer to negotiate and get the best deal.

And part family: I bequeath unto my dear wife Hannah Watson the use and enjoyment of all and every the household goods and furniture plate linen china and other household effects of which I shall die possessed during her life.

And after her decease I bequeath the same to my three children John Betts Watson, Elizabeth West and Frances Matthews to be divided between them as nearly as may be in equal shares.

#### Stone masons of Gayton 1798-1864

Militia List	Thomas	Watson	1798	Verified 20 Sept 1798	Mason
Baptism	Richard	Benjamin	1819	7 November 1819 William son of Richard and Mary Benjamin of Gayton	Stone Mason
26 November 1822	Thomas	Watson	1822	Proved 22 Nov 1822 Thomas Cockerill's Will father William Cockerill Brother in law Pheasant Griffith friends William West, Farmer and Thomas Watson, Mason	Mason
	Richard	Reeve	1831	Prop Thomas Payne House	Mason
Poll Book	Thomas	Watson	1841	Gayton H L C K	Mason
PO Directory	Thomas	Watson	1847		Mason
PO Directory	Joseph	Ratledge	1847		Mason
Whellans	Thomas	Watson	1849		Stone Mason
	Joseph	Ratledge	1851		Stone Mason
	Thomas	Watson	1851		Stone Mason
	Benjamin	King	1851		Stone Mason
	Thomas	Watson	1853	Made by Thomas Watson 13 Apr 1850 sub £100. Wife Hannah first then between John Betts, Elizabeth West, Frances Matthews. Grandson Walter West £10	Mason
23 Jan 1855	William	Ratledge	1855	23 Jan 1855 William Ratledge sen of Greens Norton	Mason
PO Directory	Joseph	Ratledge	1864	Beech House	Stone Mason
2 Hawley 5/E/22	Joseph	Ratledge	1864	Sir JH Hawley paid bill for rebuilding wall by roadside in 1864	Mason



Thomas and Hannah Watson



John and Elizabeth (née Watson) West's son Walter

Photographs courtesy of Rod Poxon

The Watson family had a sad time with so many of their babies dying as toddlers. But none so sad as Thomas and Hannah's daughter, Elizabeth, the last of the Watsons who married John Wheatley West of the Dower house.

Sacred  
to  
the memory of  
WALTER  
son of JOHN and  
ELIZABETH WEST  
who died 15 March  
1853  
aged 10 years

AND OF EIGHT CHILDREN  
OF THE ABOVE PARENTS  
WHO DIED IN THEIR INFANCY

Rita Poxon

## Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus

During the unprecedented period of Covid-19 restrictions we have been continuing to provide a limited service on Tuesdays and Fridays to local shopping and medical facilities for those local users who have restricted access to transport facilities which are usually provided by family members.

We have been recently informed that our new Minibus which has been delayed due to the Covid manufacturing restrictions has just arrived in the UK and is in Liverpool docks awaiting collection by Ford. The new minibus will incorporate many useful features including an electrically operated sliding door, luxury seating, air-conditioning, sat-nav, parking sensors and a rear-view camera which will really help with manoeuvring in confined areas.

Although we have sufficient accumulated reserves to fund the acquisition of our new minibus and the operation of the service, we are still planning to explore the possibility of extending our service to incorporate nearby villages including potentially Eastcote, Astcote, Dalscote and Caldecote. This should result in an increase in our passenger numbers which is an essential factor in safeguarding the future of our service. This expanded area of operation would also enhance private hire opportunities, driver recruitment and our future revenues. To start this process, we are initially going to consult with the Parish Councillors in the respective areas and then plan to distribute flyers to each residence to determine their interest in using a regular scheduled minibus service on which the passengers can utilize their concessionary passes.

Hopefully a Covid 19 vaccine will be available in the next few months which will then allow us to plan for providing our normal service to our regular passengers.

So as always, our thanks to Cate Gardner for her superb work as our Treasurer and to Steve Jowers and Phil Leggett who have made significant contributions as Trustees and of course to our brilliant team of ten volunteer drivers for their continued support during the past year.

Rae Spencer

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

### **‘Autumn Fires’**

**In the other gardens**

**And all up the vale,**

**From the autumn bonfires**

**See the smoke trail!**

**Pleasant summer over**

**And all the summer flowers,**

**The red fire blazes,**

**The grey smoke towers.**

**Sing a song of seasons**

**Something bright in all!**

**Flowers in the summer,**

**Fires in the fall!**



## Foodbank update

Hello everyone, I hope you are keeping well.

Our village Foodbank donation point continues to be successful and I thank you for your continued support and generous donations, especially those I see regularly. Our village donation total has now reached a whopping 500kg; that's half a tonne of donations just through our village donation point! What an incredible achievement. Thank you so much.

I have an update from Towcester Foodbank which I would like to share with you;

“First, a huge thank you to all our donors. We have never been as well stocked at this time of year and that is down to you. We would like to ask for your help, as we have limited space to store all the food and due to Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to have our normal “Help Yourself” table for items that don't appear on the standard list. We would therefore like to ask you to try to only donate items from the following list, this will help us with the items that are in shorter supply. Thank you”

\* Tinned custard or rice pudding \* Tinned fruit, vegetables or potatoes \* Tinned meats such as corned beef or meatballs \* Toothpaste or toothbrushes \* Deodorants, soap, shampoo or shower gel \* Razors or shaving gel \*  
\* Washing-up liquid or washing powder \* Pet Food \*

If you or your family would like advice or support from the Foodbank, please call or text 07724 832 043. You can also speak to SNC Money Advice on 01327 322107 or speak to one of a number of other e-voucher providers including Housing Options, Grand Union Housing Group, Schools, Nurseries, Clergy, GP surgeries and Community Nurses. Please visit [www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/](http://www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/) for more information.



## SOFEA

Since the start of Lockdown, a total of 266 Emergency Community Larder food boxes have been delivered into Gayton and distributed each week by Lisa & I. I know I speak for us both when I say it has been a real pleasure to visit these residents each week, not just to drop off their box of supplies but also to have a chat and see how they were doing.

Continued .....

Continued .....

We delivered our final boxes at the end of August, with the project ending now that supermarket supplies have returned to near normal levels.

SOFEA's focus has now moved to supporting schools in Northamptonshire and I am pleased to be continuing to support them with this. Following the success of Marcus Rashford's campaign to make food vouchers available to families and children over the summer holidays and his continued campaign to ensure all children have access to the food they need, FareShare and SOFEA are supporting this campaign by providing our local schools here in Northamptonshire with food for breakfast and after school clubs as well as snacks.

"To be well-nourished is the foundation of opportunity"

As we turn towards the autumn and begin preparations for the festive season (or is that just me who starts this early?!!) it is with hope that the situation for those who are struggling might improve.

But until then, there will always be a place to turn for support and to help bridge the gap.

With very best wishes,

Sami Johnstone

Court House, 20 Baker Street.  
srjohnstone@outlook.com



Many thanks to everyone who volunteers and works so hard to make Gayton such a special place to be. Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles and wonderful photos for this edition of the Gayton News, please keep going..... Could I have your articles etc for the December issue by Friday 27 November 2020 please. Karen