

GAYTON NEWS - SUMMER 2020



Gayton Church Heritage Trust

Not surprisingly, I have lost track of everything including the days of the week, since we have all been isolated. One thing in particular was the plans to improve the heating in the church and alterations to the North Aisle. As far as I knew plans were submitted for approval to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Like all Planning Applications, this can be a lengthy process at the best of times. David Coppock told me last week that the application to carry out the work has progressed as far as the final hurdle. This is good news and shows that things have been happening despite all the uncertainty in present times. Gayton Church Heritage Trust and Gayton Parochial Parish Council have between them a sum of £15,000 ringfenced towards the heating fund. A number of very generous Legacies are the reason that we have this sum, for which we are most grateful. It is a very healthy amount to have in hand to re-starting fund-raising events once when we are properly “unlocked” and the final go-ahead from the Diocese. Over time all improvements to the building have been very worthwhile, with the result that it gets used much more now, proving it to be a real asset for the village.

Anna Fox -GCHT

Gayton Walkers a.k.a. Chain Gang/ Community Service Volunteers

As the monthly walk has not been possible during the Covid lockdown, I hope that individuals have been enjoying the very mild weather recently and getting out for local walks. Now that we have a little more freedom, I have persuaded some to help clear the footways in the village, namely Blisworth Road and Back Lane. Some of the footpaths also need some attention as things seem to grow apace. They are still fairly amenable so I will continue to find jobs for them! As we appear to be getting a little more freedom, I plan to start the monthly walks again on SUNDAY 12th JUNE, meeting at Fiveways at 10am. We are allowed groups of six, suitably distanced but if we have more on the day, I will split people into two groups and send one group on the reverse route. If you have enjoyed walking during the lockdown, please join us on 12th June or any 2nd Sunday at 10am for a walk – no more than 2 hrs, initially local but hopefully further afield when we can.

Robin Kelso robin.kelso@btinternet.com

The wonderful group of volunteers clearing the hedged and pavement along Back Lane



The Allotment Diaries

There can be no doubt that these are strange times. Lockdown has been difficult for many and I can't imagine how hard life is if your stuck in a flat in a big city. However, here in Gayton we are fortunate and allotment members especially so. Our Cub Close site has been really important as a place where we can get plenty of exercise, spend time in the fresh air and still maintain our social distance. We also get to eat lots of fresh veg, once the 'hungry gap' is past that is.

The 'hungry gap' being that period of the year when gardens and allotments are least productive and, as the name suggests, in the 'good old days' would have seen poorer people go hungry. It spans the time from January to May with the leanest month of all being April. By June harvesting begins to pick up, but this year because its been so dry, some crops are a bit later or have a lower yield. My new potatoes are a good example, even though I watered them religiously they are later than normal and there's not many of them. However, the few we have are very, very tasty!

The lettuces and other cut and come again crops don't seem to mind the drought though, so we have plenty of salad (that's no thanks to me as the salads are all grown by Judy). In fact thanks to our greenhouse, we ate home grown salad right through the winter until January 2020.

If you have greenhouse or conservatory, line a small crate with paper, fill it with muck and compost and plant your salad. Keep it frost free and Bob's your Uncle! Here's a picture of the last box of Mizuna (Japanese salad leaves) and lettuce from the early spring.



Chillies and tomatoes from the greenhouse will be ready soon and should keep us in fresh pickings till October. The freezer takes over in the Autumn and we have only just finished eating our frozen tomatoes and home made passata from last season. The picture below is of a Purple Tiger Chilli that I grew from seed from the South Devon Chilli Farm and a couple of San Marzano tomatoes that makes wonderful pasta sauces later in the season.

We are slowly converting our allotment to no dig beds that require less maintenance but lots of compost. That has been quite hard to come by this year and we had to spend a fair bit of time in B&Qs click and collect queue to get enough to keep things moving. Eventually we will end up with more than a dozen 4 foot wide beds of various lengths, most of which will support at least 2 crops each season and, as the name suggests, won't need digging at all.

The picture on the right is of a wild area on a plot that belongs to Hilary Glanville and although



you may have to be pretty eagle eyed to see the diversity she has achieved, it is pretty impressive for year one. It isn't everyone's cup of tea of course, many gardeners are horrified at the thought of encouraging grass and wild flowers, weeds to some, onto the allotment but for those of us who want to grow organically, such areas are invaluable. Even a small area of wild flowers can attract many of the good bugs, that eat the bad bugs that eat our crops. Wild flowers also attract pollinators such as bees and hover-flies. Judy, is presently designing our very own wild patch and plans to add a small pond to attract an even greater range of beasts. Although we haven't got a wild area yet, Judy does have an area dedicated to flowers and adds plants from time to time as they become available and a lot more self seed. See above.



As always we seem to have more ideas than the time or energy to carry them out but we have made progress on the 'no dig' front. The beds we have converted are proving much easier to maintain than the traditionally managed ones they replaced. The picture to the left shows onions and cabbages planted in the spring and the only maintenance required is a bit

of weeding and absolutely NO DIGGING!

I will close in the time honoured fashion by saying we have space for new tenants and would be especially pleased to welcome more Gayton residents into our Society. So if you want to spend more time outside with likeminded people, contact me on my Mobile 07547380907 or email me at letting.gaytonallotments@btinternet.com and, as we don't have a lot of free plots, contact me ASAP to avoid disappointment. Carl Hamilton, Letting Agent for Gayton Allotments.

Gayton Evergreen Club

The last time the members met was for the Fish and Chip Lunch at the beginning of March. We enjoyed freshly cooked fish and chips followed by homemade desserts, tea or coffee. Sadly since then our meetings have been suspended.

However, the situation has not prevented us from staying in touch. The committee have continued to contact members by telephone or in some cases in person, keeping of course to the social distancing advice, to have a chat and catch up on the news.

Those members who have celebrated a birthday have, as usual, received a card and a gift from the club. This is normally Jan's responsibility, but during lockdown Naomi took over the job. I know members have been pleased to be remembered by their friends in the club, as birthdays, along with everything else haven't been quite the same recently.

While I have had plenty of time! I have been thinking about some of my most memorable



meetings, such as the one in 2012 when we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style with a 'Posh Afternoon Tea'.

The village hall was decorated with bunting, balloons and flags. Members came dressed for the occasion; men in suits and ladies smartly dressed and wearing a

hat, Mary Clarke and Olive Starmer swapped their hats for tiaras at tea-time. After a toast to the Queen, with a spot of sparkling wine and a rousing chorus of the National Anthem, there was a Royal Quiz, devised by Len Schofield, to test us.

Tea followed with delicious sandwiches (crusts off of course!) with a variety of fillings including coronation chicken. This was followed by homemade cakes, scones and cream and cup cakes.

After Tea, we sang a chorus of 'Land of Hope and Glory' which required lots of flag waving. Garry Keal, Chairman of the Parish Council, presented each member with a commemorative mug.





Prizes were then awarded to the winners of the quiz and to the best dressed lady and gentleman who were Norma Nightingale and Ken Cokayne.



Of course, I have many other happy memories of our meetings, the outings, speakers, lunches, afternoon teas, entertainment afternoons, and Christmas Lunches. I am sure the committee and members are looking forward to getting together again to enjoy good company and friendship very soon.

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

Towcester & District Angling Association

The new coarse fishing season has started this means that fishing can resume at Astwell Mill and the River Tove, in addition to the waters not affected by the close season. It was also the start date for existing members to renew their books. They can be obtained online at www.t-daa.uk. Alternatively all of the usual local fishing shops and membership outlets now have stocks of books. Membership costs have remained unchanged. We will shortly be adding more fish to both Astwell and Silverlake to ensure even larger catches. Following the parking improvements made at Astwell Mill there are some temporary restrictions to allow the ground to settle and the new grass to grow. There should be enough spaces, if not we do have a plan B.



Enjoy your sport. Wet nets to you all! John Newman. T&DAA Development Officer.

Gayton Alms Charities

Gayton Alms Charities have been established for over 100 years. Today they are called the 'Gayton Relief in Need Charity' and the 'Gayton Educational Foundation'.

Gayton Relief in Need Charity

This charity exists to provide assistance to any person living in the Parish of Gayton* who for whatever reason find themselves in need, hardship or distress especially during this time of uncertainty arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. Usually this assistance is financial, with money paid directly to the successful applicant.

Gayton Educational Foundation

This charity exists to provide assistance to people living in the Parish of Gayton* who for whatever reason find themselves in need of financial help with their education. With schools not fully operational for all pupils, some parents may wish to apply for money to help them assist their child's learning at home. Money is usually paid directly to the successful applicant. Examples of where this charity might be able to help are in the provision of books, computer software, or anything else not provided or funded by an educational institution such as a school, college or university.

The charities receive their modest income from land rent and returns on investments so grants are usually limited to a maximum of £500. This, of course, is subject to the number of applications received. Any villager who feels they might be eligible for help under the terms of either of the Gayton Alms Charities should contact the Chair of Trustees who will provide the appropriate application form. The Chair of Trustees is happy to offer general advice about an application and/or assist with the completion of an application form.

*In exceptional cases the Trustees may give assistance to people living just outside the Parish of Gayton. These people must be able to satisfy the trustees that they ought to be treated as if they lived in the Parish.

David Coppock, Chair of Trustees (01604 859645)

The Eykyn Arms – Community Survey

Thank you to everyone that completed the recent Community Survey, whether on line or paper based. Just over 70 responses were received, so about a 33% return on households.

The responses are now being collated and we will publish the findings to the village. We will also be submitting the survey findings to the Plunkett foundation and hope to have their assistance in terms of Business advice and guidance for next steps.

If you have any other thoughts or ideas relating to this matter please free to contact us at: BuyTheEykyn@gmail.com

Regards,

Colin Simmonds on behalf of the Eykyn Working Party.

Gayton volunteers & Foodbank update

Hello everyone, I hope you are keeping well. It has been a strange few months since the last edition Gayton News, with the country adjusting to a new but temporary socially distanced way of life. With many villagers entering a period of self-isolation at the end of March, a group of volunteers convened to offer their services to those who needed them, whether it was for collecting prescriptions, shopping, or just for a friendly chat on the phone to break up the long day.

The charity SOFEA (South Oxfordshire Food & Education Alliance) also offered their support to local villages, providing us with small food parcels for those who were struggling to get to the shops or make ends meet. As the impact of Coronavirus became more widespread, more people needed SOFEA's service. As a response, SOFEA expanded their Community Larder provision to 22 locations and are providing stock into a number of food banks. They now provide over 3,000 non-perishable food boxes, plus fruit and vegetables every week across Oxfordshire and South Northants at no charge. This number is increasing all the time as they encourage people who are not currently members to sign up and access these larders at no charge and work in partnership to open more locations. They are working at four times the speed and pace of just a few weeks ago. An emergency grant from OCF's Community Resilience Fund covered their immediate lost income and allowed them to continue their vital and unique role.

I am really pleased to say that over the past 3 months, Lisa Gunn & I have delivered 171 boxes to those who need them. The support will continue until recipients are able to go out shopping for themselves again, or for as long as SOFEA are able to provide it.

A big thank you to those who have donated part-baked bread rolls and UHT milk to us too, which has enabled us to give them to those who need it on our weekly round.

On another note, the Foodbank collection point at our house has been very busy, with generous donations coming in regularly. Since the last edition of Gayton News, a further 270kg worth of tinned and dried food, pet food and toiletries have been donated, taking the village donation total to almost 400kg! That's an impressive achievement for a little village and my hugest thanks to everyone who has contributed. The donation box can be found on our front porch and you

can place items in at any time of day. The types of items you can donate are all tinned/long life/dry food items (not fresh/frozen), toiletries/cleaning products and small boxes/tins of pet food. Items currently running especially low at Towcester Foodbank at the time of writing are: Sponge puddings – they never have enough. Washing up liquid. Non-bio laundry powder or liquid. As we start to see the return of some normality in the coming months, with social distancing measures being slowly relaxed and the comfort of being able to see familiar faces again once more, we hope that the pressures on families will also begin to ease. But for as long as it is required, the Gayton village volunteers will be there to assist and the foodbank donation point will remain. With very best wishes, Sami Johnstone, Court House, 20 Baker Street. MB 07753262676. srjohnstone@outlook.com

If you or your family are in need of support from the Foodbank, please ring Laura Green at South Northants Council on 01327 322107 to get an e-voucher. Please note, vouchers are for those who cannot afford food. If you are self-isolating or ill and need food because you cannot get out to shop, please contact myself, your village volunteer, or call Northamptonshire's Coronavirus Support Line on 0300 126 1000 and select option 5.

Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus

With the beautiful and record levels of sunshine providing probably the only positive aspect of what has been an unprecedented period of restrictions to the everyday lives and routines of our residents.

During the restrictions of the lockdown, we have been continuing to provide a limited service to local shopping and medical facilities for those users who had restricted access to transport facilities often provided by family members.

Sadly, the expected arrival of our new upgraded minibus has also been delayed by manufacturing restrictions by at least two months and is now expected to be arriving in September. We are eagerly awaiting the new minibus as it 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 manoeuvring in confined areas. Unfortunately our village Open Gardens event scheduled for the Spring Bank Holiday on the 25th May has also been a casualty of the Covid-19 restrictions, but hopefully it may be re-scheduled for the August Bank Holiday. We will be delighted to again provide a minibus shuttle service between the garden locations for both the Tiffield and Gayton events.

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 would also enhance private hire opportunities, driver recruitment and our future revenues.

So as always, our thanks to our brilliant team of 10 volunteer drivers, to Cate Gardner for her superb work as our Treasurer and to Steve Jowers and Phil Leggett who have all made significant contributions as our Trustees and drivers during the past year.

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

Gayton Parish Council

Carl Hamilton, Chair of Gayton Parish Council would like to confirm that Gayton Parish Council is up and running and having regular remote meetings using Zoom. If you want to know what happens at the meetings the minutes are on the website. If you would like to join the meetings you would be very welcome, joining instructions are on the agenda also found on the website a few days prior to the meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday 8th July at 11 am.

Joining Instructions for 8.7.20:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82087304488?pwd=UWVtZTdtc3Y2NWpFU2lNWIR3ODF5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 820 8730 4488

Password: 455220

If you have problems joining please contact the Clerk, Viv Hartley

email: clerkgaytonpc@gmail.com

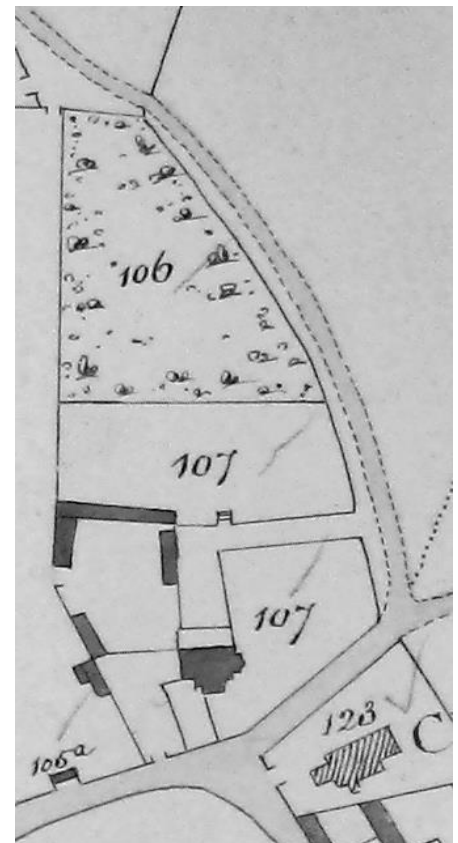
Tel: 01604 858360

The History of Chain Walk (Part Two: Wealth squirrelled away)

Chain Walk was owned for many years by the well to do Houghton Family. Finally when John Houghton, Butcher, died in 1679 and his widow, Mary, married Richard Rogers, she moved across the road to live at the Squirrel Inn with her new husband and Chain Walk was vacated.



Photo: Anne Warren
So who moved in? Gayton has one early Glebe Terrier of 1632, a listing of all the



land the Church owns in the Parish, which identified Houghton's Close as bounding on to the Rectory (Wendover, today). Sadly, the next surviving Glebe Terrier is not until 1726 but now Houghton's Close is Watson's Close! Let's go back to the Enclosure and sure enough John Watson was one of the elite band of Parishioners who signed the Enclosure of Gayton on 23 March 1600/1. Except that I can find no further reference to him in Gayton! Someone of his standing should have some entry in Gayton records if only his burial! The only conclusion is that he did not live or own land in Gayton although it may be he who died in Blisworth in 1672.

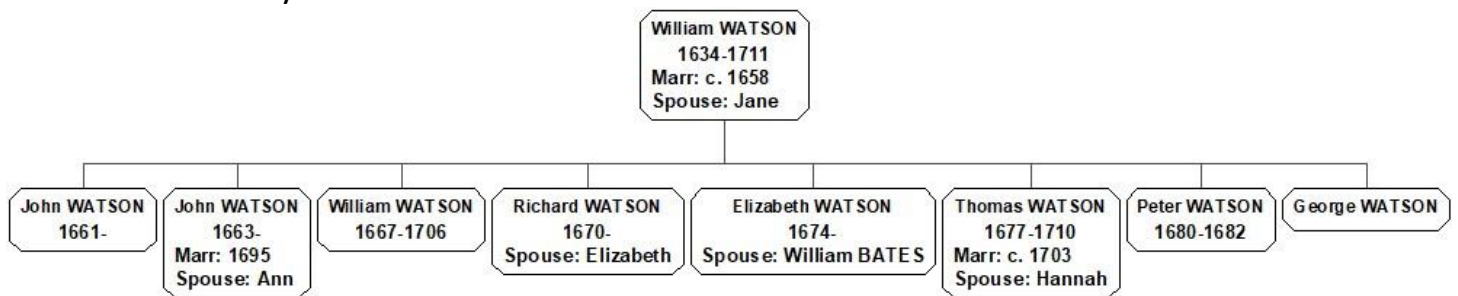
In 1668 William Watson was a Churchwarden at Gayton church and in 1674 William Watson and Jane had Elizabeth christened in Gayton. William Watson came from a well to do family that owned land in Gayton.

In the Samwell Rental of 1694: William Watson paid for Placketts Close and a Chief Rent. (William Watson senior owned his own house and was renting Samwell land around the Manor house, marked 107 right)

Tithe Award Map, T15. Courtesy of Northamptonshire Archives

William Watson junior died young in 1705 leaving his two Closes, Houghton's Close and Park End Close, to his parents, William (d1711) and Jane, for their life and then to his eldest brother John Watson's eldest son, William. If Houghton's Close is the Home Close for Chain Walk then William Watson purchased it with Chain Walk from Mary Houghton when she was selling and moving into the Squirrel, whereas Park End Close may have been sold to them by the Markes family. The Watson family were up and coming!

The Watson Family of Chain Walk



When William Watson senior died in 1711 aged about sixty-six, his son, William, had predeceased him aged 39, and his son, Thomas, had died a year before him at 33 years old. Jane was left running the farm. It is possible that John and his family moved into Chain Walk until his son, William Watson was old enough to take over.

William Watson senior left a simple Will:

Item I make my wife Jane Watson full executrix hereafter of all my goods and chattels and moveables as I have (*with*) in door and with out for term of her life upon the condition paying all debts

Item I give unto my grandson William Watson after my wife Jane's decease all moveable things within door and without door household goods ploughs – geares horits all that is with in door and without door

Item I give my eight grandchildren after my wife Jane Watson's decease all my cows bullocks and sheep and horse to be equally divided amongst them share and share alike that is two children of my son John, three children of my son William Batses, and three children of my daughter (H)Anna.

Item I give my son Richard's three children twelve pence a piece

A detailed Inventory was taken, too:

An Inventory of the goods and chattels of William Watson lately deceased in the town of Gayton in the county of Northampton 1711

Money in pocket and wearing apparel	£5	00	0
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In the parlour room

one bed and bedding	£5	00	0
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one table one coffer four chairs		10	0
In the little parlour			
one bedstead and bedding and one coffer	£1	00	0
In the hall chamber			
one bedstead and bedding	£2	10	0
in the same chamber one chest one coffer with oats and barley and some cheese	£1	10	0
In the hallroom			
one clock and jack one spit (<i>labour saving machine to turn spit</i>)	£2	00	0
brass and pewter fire shovel and tongs and andirons chairs and stools and one little table and a flitch (<i>side</i>) of bacon	£2	00	0
In the little buttery			
three barrels and the barrel bench		10s	0d
In the kitchen			
five tubs three kettles one porridge pot one brass ladle three pieces of pewter half a dozen of occamy (<i>alloy to resemble silver</i>) spoons four sieves one cheese press	£2	10	0
In the milk house			
two churns one brass pan		12	0
In the yard three hovels with what lies upon them, wood and straw	£4	10	0
one cart one plough and two harrows	£2	00	0
In the barn one wind fan two ladders three forks and some straw		10	0
In the stable two pair of trays (<i>wooden hurdles</i>) chains harness and fill straps	£1	00	0
cart saddle wood and backs (<i>strap or chain passing over saddle to support shaft of vehicle</i>)			
one pig	£1	05	0
three yearlings	£7	00	0
one mare	£6	16	0
one bull	£2	00	0
four cows	£16	00	0
three calves	£3	10	0
eighteen sheep and four lambs	£11	10	0
Ye crop of corn as grows upon six acres of land	£15	00	0
two closes			
Appraised by Elias Tomkins and William Webb	Sum Total	£94	03s 0d

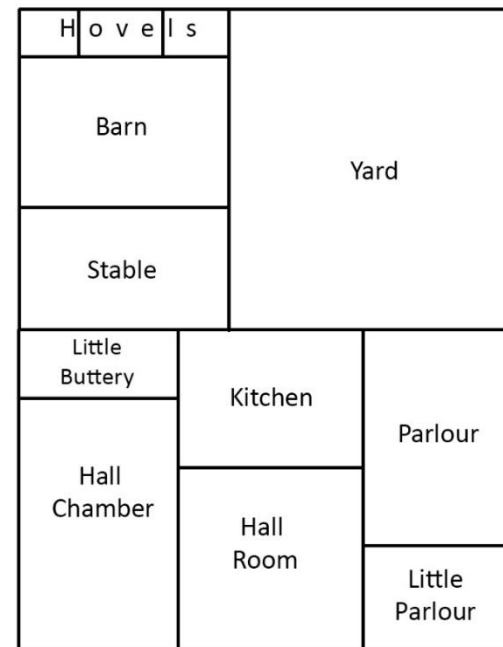
Inventory 1711, William Watson, Northamptonshire Archives.

Transcribed by Rita Poxon

John and Ann's son William started taking his place in Gayton society, and in 1717-20 he was a Churchwarden. His Grandmother, Jane Watson died in 1723 and in 1724, Thomas Watson's widow, Hannah Watson, bought a property in the centre of the village, on the site that would become Edward Hayne's Blacksmith shop.

William Watson married Ann and had three boys that all died. The last child, Richard took over the farm when William died in 1759. Richard Watson married Mary Betts on 28 September 1766 in Gayton. Some building work must have taken place on Chain Walk because in 1768 Richard paid window tax on 6 windows. This was a sizeable property for that time and in 1769 he paid 3s House Duty and 9s Land Tax. As well as farming his own land, he farmed Revd Griffith's land and the Church Land and in addition to his farming, he was also the Tax Assessor!

It is possible that William Watson's Cottage in Chain Walk looked something like this. Anne Warren was generous with the support and help she gave me in producing this plan of Chain Walk of 1711. Chain Walk descended through the Watson Family
Rita Poxon



Gayton Village Hall Management Committee

My last article (late March 2020) informed the community that our Village Hall was closed due to Covid19 precautions (government advice). Last week (18 June) Northamptonshire ACRE sent advice to all village halls regarding risk assessments and precautions to set in place for re-opening of community centres and village halls. Joan Adams stepped down from the booking clerk role in March and we are hoping to announce a new booking clerk in the coming weeks. Details will be posted on the village hall notice board and the Gayton website.

Gayton Village Hall – plans for re-opening. The government announced that relaxation of Covid-19 precautions will extend to community facilities/village halls and ACRE advice is that village halls can start re-opening from Monday 6th July. However before we can re-open Gayton Village Hall we need to carry out a risk assessment and put extra precautions in place (to avoid coronavirus being transmitted from user to user).

The village hall management committee will start making arrangements to complete the required risk assessment and put required 'measures' in place before allowing users to return to hiring the village hall. As our village hall relies on the goodwill of volunteers and the support of hall users it is expected that return to 'normal' will take a little longer than the larger community facilities that have employed staff to manage the extra requirements. We are not expecting to have all necessary measures in place before the end of July. If you represent a user group who would like to start using the village hall as soon as possible, we ask that you contact the committee and register your request so we can gauge the need. The minimum requirement will be for our users to restrict numbers in any gathering, wipe all surfaces, door handles and other fixed items in the hall with disinfectant before and after using the hall and maintain the recommended social distancing. There will probably be other requirements and we will include these in a new hire agreement. We will purchase sufficient cleaning equipment and install 'cleaning check-sheets' as the first actions.

We have every confidence that our village hall will return to use but we ask for your support and patience. David Ayre, Village Hall Chair of management committee (tel 858837)



Village Litter Pick

The next village litter pick will be in the autumn, a date to be confirmed. In the meantime please be vigilant, keep our wonderful village clean and tidy, that includes DOG POO, bag it and pop it in the dog poo bins around the village or take it home and pop it in your own black bin.

Millennium Spinney Restoration Update

In the last issue of the Gayton News, I wrote about the planned restoration of the Millennium Spinney, the work that had been done between December and February and the further improvements that were planned. Shortly after I wrote that article a large spanner was thrown into the works, in the form of the Coronavirus lockdown. All activity was suspended and nothing was done for several weeks. Work resumed around the end of May led by John Upson and a small group of volunteers, respecting social distancing of course.

Several work sessions have been organised during June with a larger group of volunteers and the 'Chain Gang' in particular, have toiled away heroically, pruning, strimming, clearing away the undergrowth and disposing of the debris. Piles of wood chips have been deposited by local tree surgeon Colin Ellis, and the volunteers, using barrows, shovels and rakes, have spread them along two sides of the perimeter, the back and the Blisworth Road edge. So, there is now a clear easy to walk path all the way round. Two new bench seats have been installed – generously donated by John and Diane Upson – along with several tree trunk seats. A mechanical digger, supplied by Martin Church has dug out the overgrown hedge along the Back Lane and Blisworth Road perimeter and the freshly cleared ground has been prepared for the sowing of wild flowers and planting of bulbs. Martin has also installed two new gate posts and will refit the gate. New fencing is being ordered to close the gap between the gate posts and hedge, so the whole entrance area will have been renovated. Next to the seats, a framework for a den or playhouse has been nailed to the trees and there are piles of pruned branches for children to use as building material.

An imposing two-sided signboard has been erected at the entrance. The front panel features a beautiful original painting of a woodland scene by Gayton artist Judy Hamilton. The back panel tells the story of the Millennium Spinney from conception in 1999 to restoration in 2020. It was designed by Jenny Chapman (née Steer) using words and pictures supplied and mostly taken by myself over 20 years – the two 1999 planting pictures were taken by Rod Poxon and the final February 2020 one by Manja Ronne. The board itself is a splendid piece of carpentry designed and built by Dave Roe. A brilliant team effort and a stunning result. Pictures do not do it justice. It needs to be seen and examined up close. There is still more to be done, but in the meantime it's good to note that more Gaytonians of all ages are visiting the Spinney and using it as a place to walk, relax and play – just as was intended by the Millennium Committee that conceived the idea of the Spinney at the end of the last century. Barry Steer

End May: restoration work on the Spinney resumes after a lockdown of several weeks



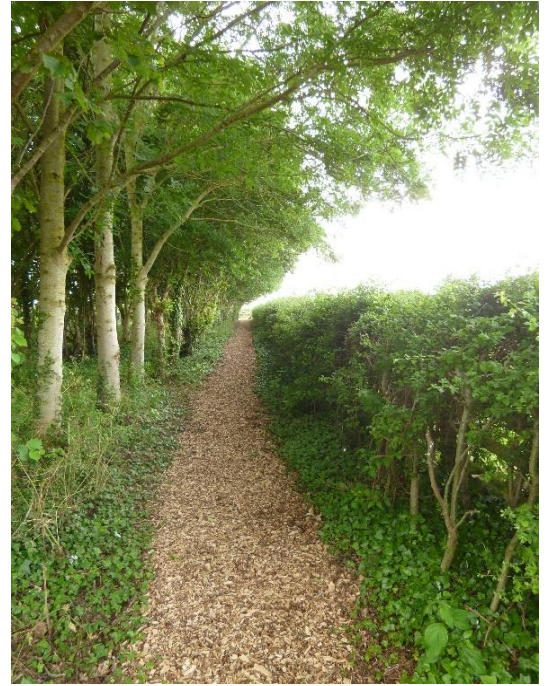
Spreading wood chippings to make a path along the back



June: Raking up debris along the Back Lane edge. Removing plastic netting from the hedge



Another supply of wood chippings to continue the perimeter path along the Blisworth Road edge



Relaxing with refreshments on the new seats

Two sides of the perimeter path



Digging out the overgrown hedge to make room for wild flowers





The new den

Huge thanks go to Manja, Barry & Robin for these wonderful photo's



Manhandling the new signboard into position



Filling the holes with concrete



Checking that it's level



It's up! Judy's beautiful woodland painting and Jenny's cleverly designed history panel



The new gate



Stan and Mary enjoying a picnic in the Millenium Spinney – photo taken by Breesia



Gayton Primary School

The last few months have been strange times. School has been different to what we know. Unfortunately our Year 3 and year 6 residential's were cancelled along with our summer trips this year.

Gayton Primary School remained open during lockdown to Federation children of keyworkers throughout. Our schools have now re opened to pupils and the children that are in are enjoying being back and seeing their friends. It will soon be our summer break and we are hoping to have all pupils back to school in September.

We would like to wish all of our year 6 pupil's lots of luck in their new secondary schools as they move on, they have all been a joy to have over the years.

To all of our new Reception children joining us in September, we can't wait to welcome you and make you part of our Gayton family.

We need your help.....

If you or anybody you know has any experience, memories or stories about WW2 and would be willing to share it with the pupils of Gayton Primary School, please let us know! Whether you be an evacuee who decided to settle in Gayton, you shared your home with somebody who was an evacuee or if you recall hearing the terrors of war, we'd love to hear from you.

Class 3's topic in the Autumn term is WW2. To help bring our learning to life, we're looking to hear from real-life people with real-life stories to tell.

Contact the school office 01604 858749 or bursar@gayton-ce.northants-ecl.gov.uk

We hope you all enjoy a lovely summer and stay safe and well during this uncertain time.

Enjoying pancake day



World Book Day



Many 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. Karen

Please keep going..... the next deadline for articles is Friday 18 September 2020.

Have a great summer