

GAYTON NEWS – DECEMBER 2020



MERRY CHRISTMAS – HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Come on all you gardeners! The answers to the quiz this year are all the names of flowers. They include garden flowers, wild flowers, flowering shrubs, decorative plants, with the odd foreign and indoor plant thrown in.

Answers may be cryptic, sound-alikes, anagrams or straightforward general knowledge.

Questions are mostly simple, although one or two are more tricky!

This is something for all to enjoy on these long dark days and over Christmas. And even if you can't quite finish it, do send it in - we never have an all correct entry.

As usual, there are 3 fantastic prizes - £10, £5, and £2.

Closing date is Monday January 4th - please let me have your answers (on paper please, email answers not accepted) at 12 St. Mary's Court by this date

Enjoy! Wendy Steer

1. Sounds like we have a sore throat.(6)
2. Fussy Feline. (9)
3. Drive fast but safely. (9)
4. It needs thawing. (7)
5. Male bike riders. (8)
6. Off white basic paint colour (8).
7. Parsimony. (6)
8. Mr Cow sees 72 (5-5)
9. You'll drop this very quickly!(3-3-5)
10. Weeping tree with food flavouring. (6,4)
11. Senior bloomer. (11)
12. Effeminate male. (5)
14. It stings. (6)
15. Bovine in a hurry. (8)
16. Stringed instrument (5).
17. Archepiscopal ringers (10,5).
18. Favourite from The Sound of Music. (9)
19. SMITACLE (anag).
20. Floating funeral flower (5,4).

21. A proper 27. (8)
22. Alcoholic Mrs Bucket. (5,8)
23. Pelargonium. (8)
24. River of ardour, lust, desire!(7,6)
25. Royal throne of Japan. (13)
26. Followed by 3 kings. (4,2,9)
27. Stood up. (4)
28. Beast with ginger biscuit. (10)
29. More valuable than the House of Commons usher (6,3).
30. Marsh - - - - -. (6)
31. Sad sight at a dance. (10)
32. Christmassy decking with ham. (9)
33. Grandad needs a shave. (3,4 5)
34. - - - - - Time. 1922 operetta music by Schubert (5)
35. Not a sour pasture. (11)
36. Symbol for Lancashire.(3,4)
37. Perfumed soaps, sachets etc. (8)
38. Beautiful man who rejected the love of Echo (Gk Mythology) (9)
39. Delectable Bill. (5,7)
40. HIM RUN TRAIN (anag).
41. Sounds like neither past nor present. (7)
42. Lonely in an onion patch. (7)
43. Avalanche. (8)
44. From the fields of Flanders. (5)
45. September 29th with 72. (10,5)
46. Untrained 27. (4,4)
47. Above a New Year's romance (9)
48. Airborne in Eden. (4,2,8)

49. Alias Erica. (7)
50. Go away, you! (8)
51. Hiker 27. (7,4)
52. Mr Snow's feathered pen (7)
53. Solar river. (9)
54. Mainly a ship of the desert. (7)
55. Avaricious mother's advice to daughter. (8)
56. 'Roll me over in the
57. Keeps the floor clean. (5)
58. Basic 27. (8,4)
59. Prickly symbol of Scotland. (7)
60. Almost wolf-like. (5)
61. Azure ringer. (8)
62. Vulpine hand warmer. (8)
63. Herds of sheep. (5)
64. Argentinian lawn (6,5)
65. Foggy passion. (4-2-1-4)
66. Mrs Bucket (aka Mrs Bouquet). (8)
67. Baroness Orkzy's famous book.(7,9)
68. Ena with a 'doing' word. (7)
69. Hard working girl. (4,6)
70. Hello, park officer. (9)
71. Sugary pulse. (5,3)
72. He wants *her* answer urgently ! (5)
73. UPMILE HIND (anag.)
74. Coiled and twisted kind of bindweed. (11)

75. Tinned milk. (9)
76. Symbol of Yorkshire. (5,4)
77. Poisonous tree with yellow pendulous flowers
78. Sanguinous sign of a broken heart. (4,4 1-8)
79. She wrote A Severed Head (4)
80. Nancy or Mary. (5)
81. More than 7 times a week. (6)
82. From Amsterdam? (5)
83. Blue alpine flower. (7)
84. With 83, used as an antiseptic.(6)
85. Expensive sports car. (5)
86. Bovine herb. (3,7)
87. 20 doesn't go up to the hills .(4-2-2-6).
88. Prickly yellow shrub of coastal areas. (5)
89. Oh please remember me! (6,2,3)
90. Juggled spittle. (6)
91. You're in this when feeling well.(4)
92. Yellow in spring—FOR HISATY (anag)
93. NERD ROND HOD (anag.)
94. Canine 27. (3.4)
95. Goat's drinking vessel. (9)
96. Local Upper School. (7)
98. Kept in a warehouse. (5)
99. Christmas berries. (5)
100. A must have house plant at Christmas. (10)

Name:

Address

Phone no.

Millennium Spinney

There has been much activity in the Spinney through the autumn and the improvements programme has continued apace. Clive skilfully manoeuvred his tractor-mounted hedge-cutter along the boundary hedges and the volunteer workers kept the pallet bins full with the results of their pruning and ground clearance.



Rebecca Wheeler and daughter Arabella organised a Halloween Pumpkin Hunt for the village children. It helped make up for the lack of 'trick and treats'.



As if by magic, fairy doors appeared on some trees, with the help of the school children. There are several of these brightly decorated doors throughout the Spinney. Try opening them, to see what's inside!



Can you spot the nesting boxes?



Dave Roe has made several nesting boxes. They were painted by the children and fixed high up in the trees by John. There are 8 in all. Let's hope they are all occupied next spring.

John Upson commissioned an impressive Bug Hotel. The school children are fascinated and we'll all be interested to see how it's received by the insect world.

Will they move in? Will they rate it 5 Star accommodation !





Clive applies the annual autumn trim to the border hedges.

Glenyss Woodcock organised a programme of wild flower and bulb planting. All purchases were sourced in the UK and generously paid for by John Upson.

Glenyss and husband Bob along with Barbara Kelso have planted 600 English bluebells in the Spinney using an ingenious hole making tool (see below) and 100 more have been potted up by volunteers, for planting next spring.

In addition 100 primrose plugs have been potted by volunteers for spring time planting. The team have also moved some native UK wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) from Glenyss and Bob's garden to along the hedge bottom bordering Back Lane.

All this hard work will pay off in due course, with wonderful springtime displays of native woodland plants. But we will have to be patient and not expect immediate results!



Gayton Parish Council

The Parish Council are due to invite 'tenders' for the contract cutting of grass throughout the parish. To garner some response from the community the Parish Council invite you to submit comments of how we prefer the village to look, to the Parish Clerk; clerkgaytonpc@gmail.com

First impressions as visitors come to or go through the village are very important and thus some areas of grass need to be formerly cut on a regular basis. There may be some areas that have wild flowers which again is an important element. (Wild flower management is generally; strim and clear the arisings in the early Spring, then allow to flower and seed and then strim and clear the arisings again in the late Autumn, **they do go through an untidy period!**). There may be areas that do not require mowing quite so often, say every two or three weeks. The sports field by the Village Hall needs to be regularly cut to encourage usage whilst the Church Burial Ground may require mowing every three weeks?

Your comments are vital to enable the Parish Council to prepare a common statement to the potential contractors and this will of course enable the Parish Council to monitor that the standard of mowing is upheld.

Gayton Walkers

Since the last edition of Gayton News, we have only been able to have one walk as Covid-19 has got in the way.

Colin and Sue Simmonds led a walk in October which explored RL 16, which starts on Rothersthorpe Road approx 100 metres beyond the Banbury Lane bridge. It goes towards Bugbrooke and then the walk comes back along the towpath and up Wrights Lane. The November walk was cancelled due to “lock-down”. Whether the walk scheduled to take place on Sunday 13th December goes ahead, I await advice from Boris and his gang. If so, I will let the Gayton Walkers know.

If anyone else would like to be kept informed of these walks on the 2nd Sunday of the month, please e-mail me.

Robin Kelso -robin.kelso@btinternet.com

CHAIN GANG

The willing volunteers (?) have been clearing Blisworth Road footway and RL9 footpath beside Gayton Wilds House on the Tiffield Road. Harris' Lane, beside St Mary's Court has also been tidied and seeded at the Baker Street end. I have other projects for us but they will have to wait until we can escape the November “lock-down”.

I have recruited one new “gang member” and if you would like to join us in keeping our Parish footways, footpaths and stiles tidy, please contact me.

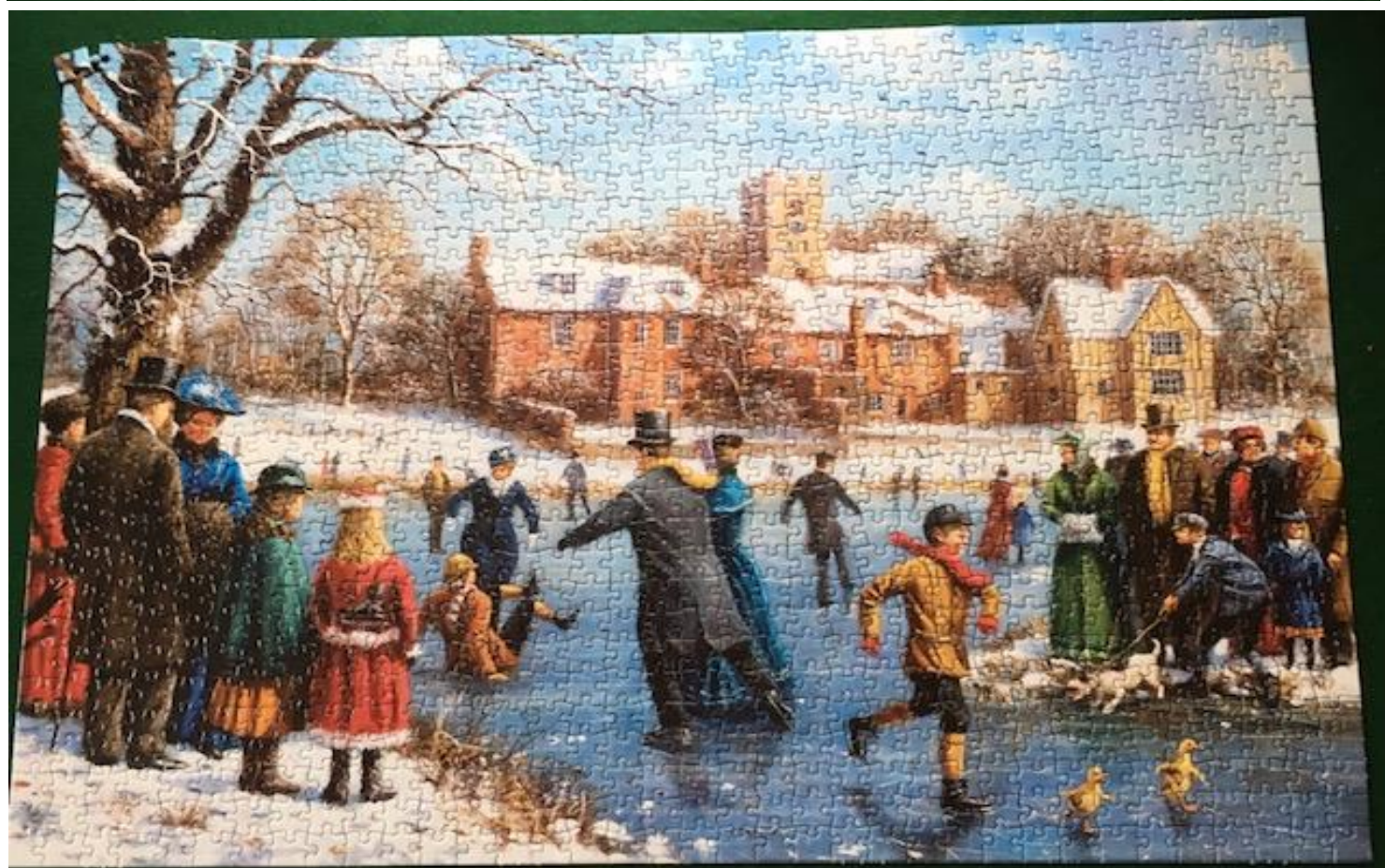
Robin Kelso. Robin.kelso@btinternet.com

Gayton Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Hello there Jigsaw Puzzlers! We have started a jigsaw puzzle exchange/village fund raiser and we need your help! We really got into Jigsaw Puzzling during the pandemic, found it a great comfort during the long weeks of the lock down. It helps to relax, stimulates the brain, is very satisfying and it's an activity you can pick up for a few minutes, whenever you're at a loose end.

We built up quite a pile of jigsaw puzzles during the months of isolation and we were wondering how best to dispose of them. In previous years we have sold them on the Gayton 'Open Gardens' day at our 'Books and Bric a Brac' stall, to raise money for the church, but of course that event was cancelled this year. So back in October we offered them for sale on the Gayton Facebook page at £1 per 500 pieces with all proceeds being split evenly between Gayton church and Village Hall. Our entire stock sold out in a couple of days. Since then we have received more puzzles, as a result of our appeal for donations and we sold most of them. By mid November we had raised nearly £70 - not a fortune but, as they say, every little helps. So, we need more puzzles to keep the exchange going and raise more money for the village.

If you have any that you have finished with, please do consider donating them to us. Just bring them round to 12 St Mary's Court for us to sell and at the same time, take a look at the puzzles we have to offer. There's a long winter ahead and we all need a bit of help to stay positive and get through it! Perhaps our jigsaw puzzle exchange can make a small contribution and raise a few quid too!



A couple we recently sold. Barry and Wendy Steer 01604 858886

Gayton Primary School



As we write this news piece for Gayton News, the country has entered a second lock down. The major difference is that all schools have remained open. We feel passionately that all children should receive high quality education and should feel safe and secure in these uncertain times. Since lockdown all our Federation schools have revised operations to follow with guidelines. We are proud of all the children as they have adapted so well. We want to thank all the parents that have been very supportive and followed procedures that are in place. We have been fortunate so far in avoiding many cases

and hope this continues.

We have held Harvest and Remembrance celebrations in different ways this year. This is the first year for many years the School Council have not sold poppies on the playground for the Royal British Legion. However, they observed the 2-minute silence for remembrance and were encouraged to make donations online.

Children in Need & Christmas Jumper Day will involve the children dressing up and donating to these worthwhile charities. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our Church Nativity this year due to restrictions but we can assure you that all our children will be learning what Christmas means in our Christian faith and celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This term the children in Class 3 are learning all about World War II. They were fascinated and humbled after listening to a talk from a World War II holocaust survivor. Class 2 are enjoying their topic 'Scavengers & Settlers', finding out about the Stone Age to the Iron Age whilst also exploring the 'first' artists. Class 1, this term are 'Adventurers and Explorers', travelling to the New World with Christopher Columbus and into space with Neil Armstrong and Tim Peaks.

The Forest Federation have launched an exciting new IT system in partnership with RM Education. This will have a huge impact for the Federation the schools. The partnership makes our federation one of the most technologically advanced groups of Primary Schools in this country. Education and teaching are constantly evolving in the UK and we are proud and excited to be at the forefront of technology in education.

We currently have a few places available at Gayton, please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to learn more about our lovely school. Applications for admissions are now open for September 2021 intake. We have had a lot of interest from prospective parents which is great news for our small village school.

Finally, all the staff and children wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Gayton Village Hall Management Committee

I would like to start by reflecting that at the start of the Covid pandemic Joan Adams decided that the time was right to 'retire' from the Gayton Village Hall Management Committee and her duties as Booking Clerk. The records show that Joan joined the committee in February 1993 and took on the booking clerk and cleaning duties in 1996. My dad's philosophy was that one volunteer was worth ten pressed men, and Joan was that one volunteer where the village hall and Gayton community was concerned; 27 years on the management committee demonstrate her commitment. The current situation has prevented any opportunities to celebrate Joan Adams' long service. Please join with me now in expressing our gratitude for the many hours she has dedicated to the running of the Village Hall. I believe that our hall had one of the most flexible booking systems – with Joan being available most of the time to provide access to the village hall.

This year has been a quiet year regarding village hall use and bookings because Covid-19 significantly impacted social activities. The Government closed village halls in mid-March (along with many businesses). We only re-opened in September with strict measures in place to minimise virus transmission (wearing of face masks, social distancing and minimising group sizes). However, we closed the village hall to social activities on 5th November on Government guidance and the expectation is the hall will re-open early December (this opening date is unknown at the time of writing).

When the village hall is open for use restrictions will remain in place, currently 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

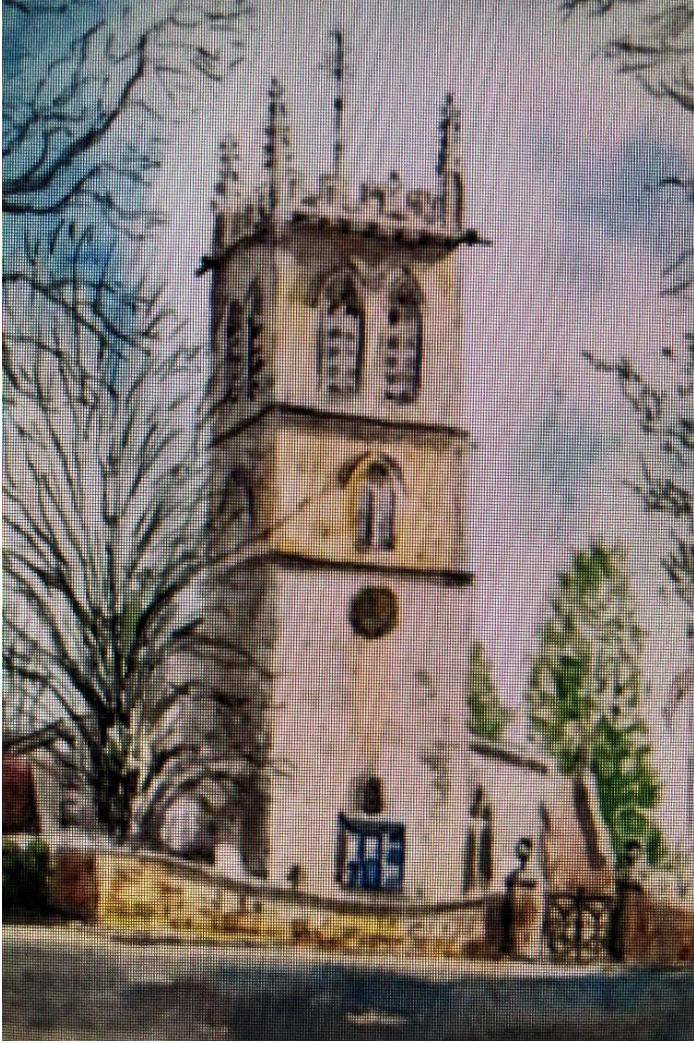
David Ayre. November 2020

A Chubby Snowman

A cubby little snowman
had a carrot nose.
Along came a bunny,
and what do you suppose?

That hungry little bunny,
looking for some lunch,
Grabbed that snowman's nose,
Nibble, nibble, crunch!





Church Open – Closed - Open??

Government restrictions were lifted long enough for us to hold our first service in St Mary's church since the Spring, on Sunday 18th October. Attendees were asked to 'book' their seats in advance so that all precautions including adequate social distancing could be made. We were pleased to welcome 38 people, including several children, from the Amelcote benefice to St Mary's.

May I take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who helped clean and prepare the church for this service.

At the time of writing, the service rota for the Christmas period is as follows:

6 th Dec.	10am Communion at Cold Higham
13 th Dec.	10am Communion at Pattishall
20 th Dec.	10am Communion at Gayton
24 th Dec.	5pm at Cold Higham
25 th Dec.	10am Communion at Pattishall
27 th Dec.	No Service

If you plan to attend any of these services, please contact Rev. Karen Jongman on 07980 881252 well in advance to ensure you get a seat.

Of course, this is based on the assumption that restrictions on church services will be lifted following the end of the lockdown on December 2nd.

Virtual Church Services

If services cannot be held in churches, then they will continue be held via Zoom conferencing. To join by PC, tablet or smartphone, use:

Meeting ID: 323 560 1333 Passcode: Amelcote

To join by phone, use one of the following numbers:

0203 481 5240

0203 481 5237

0203 901

0131 460 1196

0203 051 2874

Meeting ID: 323 560 1333 Passcode: 296427

David Coppock
Churchwarden

Christmas greetings to you all!



As we move into the festive period, most of us are planning on celebrating Christmas this year in a slightly different way than we would normally do, with fewer family members at the table or perhaps tackling technology to celebrate together via Zoom!

But as we prepare, we pause for a moment to think of all the families whose lives have been changed for the worse due to the impact of the pandemic.

The Foodbank continued to remain operational throughout the second national lockdown restrictions, offering support for anyone who needed it. In the half term, the Foodbank also helped to feed families whose children would normally receive Free School Meals vouchers term time and will be doing so again during the Christmas break too.

But to do all of this, they need our continued support.

The current items most in need are;

* Tinned veg * Tinned meat (meatballs, stew, etc) * Washing powder * Sanitary products * Toiletries*

*Snacks (chocolate, Christmas treats, savoury crackers, crisps, etc) * 1L Long life fruit juice *

They currently have enough; * Baked beans * Tea * Pasta * UHT Milk*

As always, the Foodbank is there to support you if you need it. Please visit the Foodbank during opening hours.

From my family to yours, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Sami, Jamie & family x



Don't go without! Help with School Meals

If anyone is entitled to Free School Meal Vouchers and needs food over the Christmas Holidays the Foodbank can help. We will give them a parcel of 3 days' worth of nutritious food for their family (as well as toiletries and pet food as long as stocks last) just come to the Foodbank during opening hours:

Tuesday 12noon – 2pm and

Friday 10.30am – 12.30pm at the St Johns Ambulance Hall, Islington Road, Towcester NN12 6UA

The History of Chain Walk (Part Four: Upstairs, Downstairs.)

Thomas Watson had lived all his life in Chain Walk and with his wife Hannah made it their family home. As a reputable stone mason he had done work for most farms in Gayton.

Thomas Watson Invoice:

Here, on 19 February 1827, he is repairing the barn at Old Wilds Farm, for Elizabeth Payne.

Feb. 19
1827

An Estimate of Mr. Payne
Wild Barn - L.S.D.
pulling the pike wall down and
Chimney and Dairy and other
petitions and pulling down the
Barn Side Wall and Rebuilding
it up againe painting the Barn
Lime for C and here which is all
Concluded to gether - - - - - 10.5 -
Thos Watson Mason
Gayton

Living next to the Rectory was not always easy! One of the Rector's sons shot Thomas Watson's cat! Perhaps he didn't find out what had happened to it!

Thomas and Hannah died in 1853 and their daughter Elizabeth's husband, John Wheatley West, was left to sell the property.

Courtesy of
Hertfordshire Archives

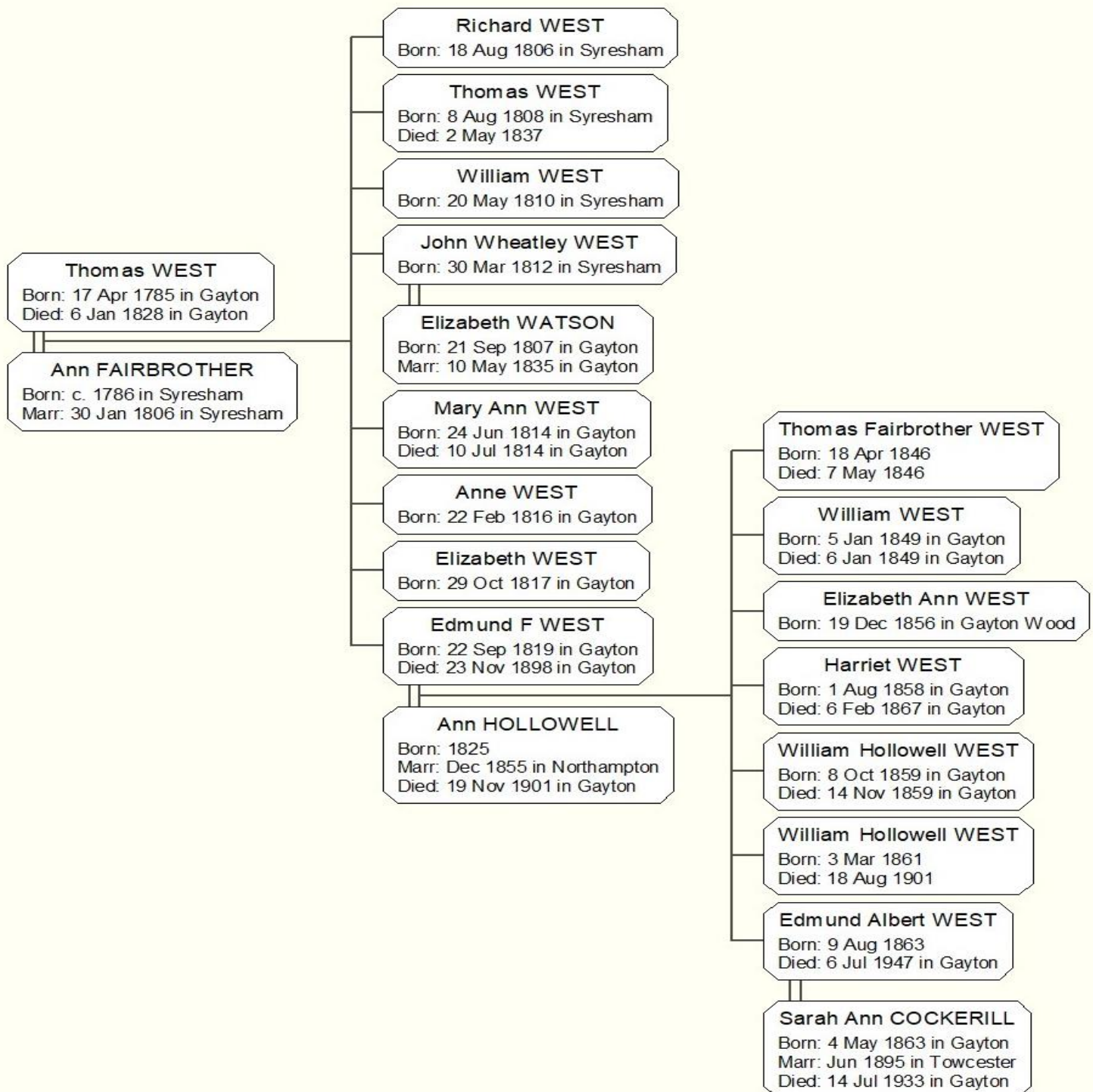


John Wheatley West's brother, Edmund Fairbrother West was helping his mother, Ann West, to run Wood Farm after their father's death in 1828. Edmund married Ann Hollowell in 1855 and they moved into Chain Walk.

Edmund and Ann West lived at Chain Walk whilst Edmund worked on the farm. By 1874 Wood Farm had gone over to ironstone mining completely. Edmund worked as a Highway Labourer and his son, Edmund Albert West, as an Agricultural Labourer, until in 1891 Edmund was living on his own means and his son, Edmund Albert West, was a Horsekeeper.

Edmund Fairbrother West was buried on 26 November 1898 in Gayton.

Edmund Fairbrother West's Family



Henry Thomas Salmon had a Master of Arts degree from Oxford and had been called to the Bar on 27 January 1862. He was a Lieutenant of the Militia in the Northamptonshire Regiment and on his retirement in 1885, was given the honorary rank of Major. On 14 November 1870 Henry Thomas Salmon was made Sheriff of Northampton. He bought Gayton House in 1865 following his marriage to Gertrude Rose Harrison of Bugbrooke in 1864. Gertrude was the daughter of the Rector of Bugbrooke, James Harwood Harrison. Their son and heir, Henry Roope Pomeroy Salmon, was born at Gayton.

Whilst in Gayton Henry Salmon acquired property as it came onto the market: Rensbury was bought from Richard White Rolfe with a sitting tenant of Henry William Wheldon; and Grey House was also bought from Richard White Rolfe with sitting tenants of George and Ann Old, (*Miss Lucas' parents*). Henry Salmon bought Chain Walk, and by 1871 added another cottage that John Adams' family had moved into.

It may be interesting to compare the household of Henry Salmon at Gayton House with that of Edmund West his other tenant, at Chain Walk, through the eyes of his Under Nurse who was Edmund West's fourteen-year-old daughter:

							Place Born
Henry Thomas	Salmon	Head	Mar	33	MA Barrister, Landowner	Berkshire	Sonning
Gertude R	Salmon	Wife	Mar	33		Northants	Bugbrooke
Elizabeth R	Salmon	Mother	Wid	63	Landowner	Bucks	Eton College
Henry R P	Salmon	Son	U	5	Infant	Northants	Gayton
Mary P	Salmon	Dau	U	7		Northants	Bugbrooke
Cornelia	Kuchdorffer	Governess	U	22	Governess	Germany	Nuremburg
John	Houghton	Servant	Mar	54	Butler	Beds	Harrold
John	Salmon	Servant	U	17	Footman	Northants	Great Houghton
Edward	Cox	Servant	Mar	24	Coachman	Northants	Paulerspury
Sarah	Smith	Servant	U	50	Cook	Wilts	Gittleton
Emma E	Patrick	Servant	U	22	Kitchen Maid	Northants	Little Harrowden
Elizabeth	Bachall	Servant	U	32	Lady's maid	Northants	Naseby
Elizabeth A	West	Servant	U	14	Under Nurse	Northants	Gayton

Salmon moved to Fern Park, Tockington, Gloucestershire in 1872 and sold his Gayton Estate by Lots. Henry Thomas Salmon sold Grey House, formerly in the occupation of Linnell and then George Old, to William Brown, of Tiffield for £150; Rensbury to Henry William Wheldon, who had been renting it at the 'inadequate rent' of £32 pa from Richard White Rolfe; and Gayton House to Major John Stephenson Ferguson.

It is not surprising that Henry William Wheldon bought Rensbury in Gayton from Henry Salmon. Wheldon was an Iron Ore Master employing 21 men and 10 boys, and Gayton was up and coming. Wheldon bought Chain Walk and the Home Close for the iron ore.

The Sales Catalogue in 1872 described Chain Walk as Lot Five:

A VALUABLE

ENCLOSURE OF FREEHOLD GARDEN GROUND AND PASTURE LAND,

Close to the village of Gayton, with an extensive frontage to the High Road from Gayton to Blisworth;

TOGETHER WITH

TWO COTTAGES

Thereon, the whole comprising about

TWO ACRES

WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

Upon completion of the Purchase

**THERE IS A VERY VALUABLE AND EXTENSIVE BED OF IRONSTONE OF THE FINEST
QUALITY UNDERLYING THIS LOT**

By 1881 things in Gayton had changed with a lot of the Gayton men being employed as ironstone miners, however they were a lot better paid than the agricultural labourers. Even Edmund West's son, William West, was now employed as an ironstone miner whilst his younger brother remained an agricultural labourer.

The White House at the other end of Watson's Close was not occupied by family but by the new Schoolmaster of Gayton School, employed by the School Managers to improve the quality of the education.

In 1953 The WIs were asked to produce a scrapbook to cover the history of their village. This is what they had to say about Chain Walk:

Blisworth Road & Back Lane.

Turning to the right up Harris' Lane, we come to the Blisworth road, at the crossroads is a set of cottages known as Cheyne Walk. One of these was an ancient & very small thatched cottage. Its roof was raised and a slate one added when the other two cottages were built a mere 200 years ago. One was formerly occupied for 50 years by Mrs Hancock who died in June, the others are occupied by Mr Ted Cockerill & Mr Harold Kingston whose father once farmed at the Glebe Farm.

Gayton 1853 – 1953 With thanks to Miss Lucas and other members of the Gayton WI, like Joan Wood, who ensured a record of a real cross section of Gayton social history for posterity!

Rita Poxon

GAYTON EVERGREEN CLUB

The 'window of opportunity' in September allowing groups to meet in the Village Hall was a very short one. Consequently the members of the Evergreen Club have not met since I last wrote a report for the Gayton News.

The recent lockdown will come to an end (we hope) on 3rd December this would have been the date of our annual Christmas Lunch at Woodward's Restaurant at the Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne. We are all disappointed to miss this event. I have found a few photographs taken at last years lunch (courtesy of Barry Steer) which I hope will remind our members of the happy times we have spent together and which we will enjoy again when we 'meet again'

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





BBC RADIO
Northampton

Carols on the Doorstep

Wednesday 16th December

6 – 7pm

BBC Radio Northampton is taking part in 'Carols on the Doorstep' on Wednesday 16 December from 6 – 7pm. So far the following areas have signed up to play along on the 16th December at 6pm, so all you have to do is tune in...BBC Radio Shropshire, BBC Radio Derby, BBC Radio London, BBC Radio West Midlands, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, BBC Essex, BBC Radio Lincolnshire, **BBC Radio Northampton**, BBC Radio Suffolk, BBC Radio Surrey, BBC Radio Sussex, BBC Radio Stoke, BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester, BBC Coventry & Warwickshire, Red Kite Radio, Andover Radio, Radio Leyland, 103 The Eye.

[Google - downloads.bbc.co.uk/radionorthampton/pdf/bbc-radio](https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/radionorthampton/pdf/bbc-radio) for the carol sheets

104.2 FM | 103.6 FM | Digital | bbc.co.uk/radionorthampton

The Allotment Diaries Christmas Edition

Here we are at the end of one of the strangest years I can remember, 2 lockdowns, hands washed till they're sore and still more hard times to come. What then can we do to cheer ourselves up? Well, for me and Judy at least, the allotment and garden have provided places to escape to for a few hours and think about positive things like planting and harvesting fantastic tasting vegetables. And now the days are short and often wet I can plan for next season. But more of that later, let me start with a few success stories from 2020.

Our first bumper harvest was tomatoes. We have more greenhouses than cars and they produced tomatoes by the kilo. I have a couple of recommendations, always bearing in mind that personal taste is the most important thing. If you want a really early crop, Supice from the Real Seed Company is an ideal early cropper when grown indoors. Then there's Sungold that comes shortly after and is very sweet and prolific. Both will also do well outdoors but crop much later. Finally we have the cookers, San Marzano and Roma produced enough fruit to ensure we'll have passata in the freezer until the next crop comes along in 2021.



Later on in the season came courgettes, or summer squashes, (we favour Lebanese varieties such as Otto) followed by a variety of winter squashes pictured above. If you fancy growing your own, I would heartily recommend the stripey one that sits front centre in the picture. It's called Honeyboat and it's ideal for a small garden as, being quite petite, it can be trained up a trellis or wires on a garden wall. It also lives up to it's name and has a lovely sweet flavour.

At centre back is Queensland Blue and you need a lot of space to grow that one. The flavour is superb, it will keep for several months and as it grows to be several kilos in weight it'll feed a large family at least twice! I'm not sure it's blue though, more bluey green, but I guess Queensland Bluey Green doesn't exactly roll off the tongue.

The main difference between Summer and Winter squash is that summer squashes don't keep. So if you have a glut of courgettes and a freezer, here's a great little recipe for fritters that you can freeze to eat later.

'Fritters' for 6 people

4 courgettes (grated) about 500g, salt and pepper, 6 spring onions, 1 garlic clove, 3 eggs, lightly beaten, 250g feta cheese, handful of breadcrumbs, 60g parmesan cheese, 100g flour, 1 chilli chopped, handful of chopped dill and oregano, oil for frying

Put the courgettes in a colander, salt for 20 minutes and squeeze dry, mix in all the ingredients together, form fritters, place in an oiled pan and fry till golden. Enjoy!

As I have already said, winter squash will keep for several months and can be prepared in numerous ways (lovely roasted or in soup).

Those are the two crops that did best but we have enough Chilis to last all year, our garlic will last till the spring and we have broad and french beans frozen for later. We are eating our own Brussels and have plenty of Pentland Brig and Cavalo Nero Kale.

The outdoor lettuce are still standing well and the broccoli we planted early in the year will be ready for Christmas.

But what of preparation for next year? Well, one winter pastime I particularly enjoy is sitting in front of the fire with seed catalogues and a pile of part used packets of seed from previous seasons. All have a shelf life but some will keep for years longer than it says on the packet (after all, seed companies don't want you to use old seeds!) so its worth doing a bit of research. Don't mess with the following ones though, onions, chives, parsley and parsnip seeds don't keep so its always best to buy fresh. Carrots go off fairly quickly too but but things like tomatoes and chilis can be good for up to ten years if kept in cool dry conditions.

Judy and I are still working towards a no dig allotment and garden and although it's a slow process to get enough compost and muck onto the bigger beds, it does make life so much easier in the long run. Much less weeding and of course no digging.

I'll finish with an apology to all you experienced gardeners who already know all this stuff but I hope that by sharing a few of our experiences that someone in the village may be tempted to get their hands dirty (maybe even get an allotment!). If you fancy a go we usually have spare space and, if you only want a small plot to try things out, please feel free to call me on MB 07547380907.

There is plenty to do outside of course and between showers Judy has been preparing our new strawberry bed. If it rains she can retreat to the greenhouse and below is a picture of some of the winter salad she is growing. If it does as well as last year we will have fresh salad on Christmas day, which may not be everyone's idea of what Christmas is about but there's always cold cuts on boxing day!



Next Year's Strawberries



Winter Salad in the Greenhouse

Last but not least have a Happy Christmas and may the New Year hold better things for us all.

Carl Hamilton, Letting Agent for Gayton Allotments.



Village litter pick

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who volunteered and picked up litter and other unusual items from in and around our village. 28 black sacks of rubbish were collected and pieces of pipe, plastic cartons, a pillow, plastic sheeting a pair of old boots to mention a few! Thank you too to Joan Wood who organised the village litter pick for so many years. Joan handed over to me with a super system which has enabled our village litter pick to continue.

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)



**Thank
You!!!**

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..... Please send me your articles etc for the Spring 2021 issue by Friday 19 March 2021. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Best wishes Karen



Dear Friends in Gayton

We do not yet know where we will be spending Christmas as, at the time of writing, we are in Denmark and there is still no easy way of getting back to the UK. However, one thing is sure and that is that we would like to wish all our friends in Gayton a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021 wherever YOU will be and with whom you will be spending it.

Jens & Manja, 6 Baker Street

Richard Evans Dairies Delivers in Gayton on Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Delivering to your doorstep since 1990, mornings are our speciality. From the heart of Northamptonshire we deliver fresh produce and milk to your door just in time for breakfast! The road to local produce delivered to your door starts here.

Please do get in contact for a single delivery or to set up a regular weekly order.

CALL OR TEXT YOUR MILKMAN 'RICHARD' TODAY - 07761 871663

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[@richardevansdairies](https://www.instagram.com/richardevansdairies)**

We source and deliver local produce from UK farms and suppliers

GLASS BOTTLE MILK - Channel Island Milk

Skimmed, Semi-Skimmed and Whole Milk - 1 Pint £0.89 1 Ltr £2.40

Organic Milk - 1 pint £0.95. OAT MILK Barista Oatly 1 ltr £1.99. SOYA

Fresh 1 ltr £1.85

Soya Fresh Light 1 ltr £1.85. GOATS MILK 1 ltr £1.99

Flavoured Milk - **STRAWBERRY**, **CHOCOLATE** & **BANANA FLAVOURS**. Delamere Dairy's Flavoured Milk, 500ml Bottle – £1.29

GLASS BOTTLE FRESH ORANGE JUICE 1 pint – £1.35

BREAD - Kingsmill Soft White Medium Sliced £1.65. Kingsmill 50/50 Medium Sliced £1.65.

Kingsmill Wholemeal Medium Sliced £1.65

BACON - Local Smoked Bacon 454g – £3.75. Local Unsmoked Bacon 454g – £3.55

FRESH EGGS - 6 Local free range eggs £1.89. BRITISH WHITE POTATOES - 2.5 Kg bag £1.79



Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus

At last there is good news of the imminent availability and roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccines which will help pave the way back to the 'much valued normality' that perhaps we had all taken so much for granted. This will also enable us to start our development programme to expand our service to encompass more local villages and communities.

During the periods of both local and national Covid-19 restrictions we have continued to operate a limited service on Tuesdays and Fridays to provide access to essential services for our local users without transport facilities.

Sadly, our loyal team of 10 local volunteer drivers has been recently depleted with the loss of Geoff Wilkins and Phil Leggett who have both made significant contributions not only as drivers, but also as Trustees actively involved in the management and development of our Charity. They will both be missed by everyone, including all our passengers and supporters.

But some extremely welcome news is that John Pearson from Tiffield will be joining us as a volunteer driver in the New Year which will bring us back up to nine drivers. So a huge thankyou and welcome to John from all of us. However, as always, we really do need additional drivers to help us with our service delivery and expansion plans, please do contact us if you can help. Our exciting and eagerly awaited new Minibus is now in the final stages of completion and will be available very soon. Although the acquisition of the new Minibus has significantly depleted our accumulated funds, we have been fortunate to have our pre Covid-19 monthly income levels maintained via a Government Support Grant to Community Transport providers paid via NCC.

So our thanks to Cate Gardner for her superb work as our Treasurer during extremely difficult times and to Steve Jowers, Geoff Wilkins and Phil Leggett who have all made significant contributions as Trustees and of course to our brilliant team of volunteer drivers including Jens, Manja and David from Gayton for their continued support during the past year. Finally, our Minibus team would like to wish you all a Merry 'Covid-Clear' Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year.

Rae Spencer

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