

# GAYTON NEWS – AUTUMN 2021



**Gayton's Chain Gang**





## Gayton's Chain Gang

This group of willing? Volunteers continue to meet to clear footways, footpaths and stiles in the area to try to make it easier for walkers to get around. We have cleared Blisworth Road and Back Lane footways and the footpaths behind the school and the one from Bugbrooke Road heading north towards the seat. We plan to tackle other overgrown footpaths soon. If you know of other paths that need attention, please let me know.

Robin Kelso robin.kelso@btinternet.com

## Litter Pick



The autumn village litter pick - Saturday 23 to Sunday 31 October. If you would like to help clear our village of litter please contact me to arrange to collect litter pickers, high viz tabards and rubbish bags. You will need your own gloves. Thank you to everyone who supports our litter pick.

Karen

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## GAYTON WALKERS

The Gayton Walking group plus a few outsiders continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 10am at Fiveways. In July the walk was from Bugbrooke to Nether Heyford and back. We stopped at Bugbrooke Meadows (a Wildlife Trust Site of Special Scientific Interest-SSSI) to look for Southern Marsh Orchids- no luck. We returned to the Bakers Arms for refreshments. In August, we walked from Bugbrooke to Eastcote and back, calling at The Wharf, Bugbrooke for refreshments.

For the September walk we met on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> for a sponsored walk for the Historic Churches Trust. We visited churches at Rothersthorpe, Milton Malsor and back to Gayton. It took longer than planned as it was hot, a long way and there were refreshments on route. I was able to collect £150 which is divided between Gayton church and the Churches Trust.

The next walk will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Do join us.

Robin Kelso robin.kelso@btinternet.com

## The Allotment Diaries – Why?

Once more, in another year dominated by COVID, my allotment has been a place for me to exercise, breath fresh air and grow fruit and vegetables for the family. However, sometimes people ask why I bother when the shops are full of cheap and readily available fruit and veg from all over the planet. It is a fair question and one I will try and answer in this short article.

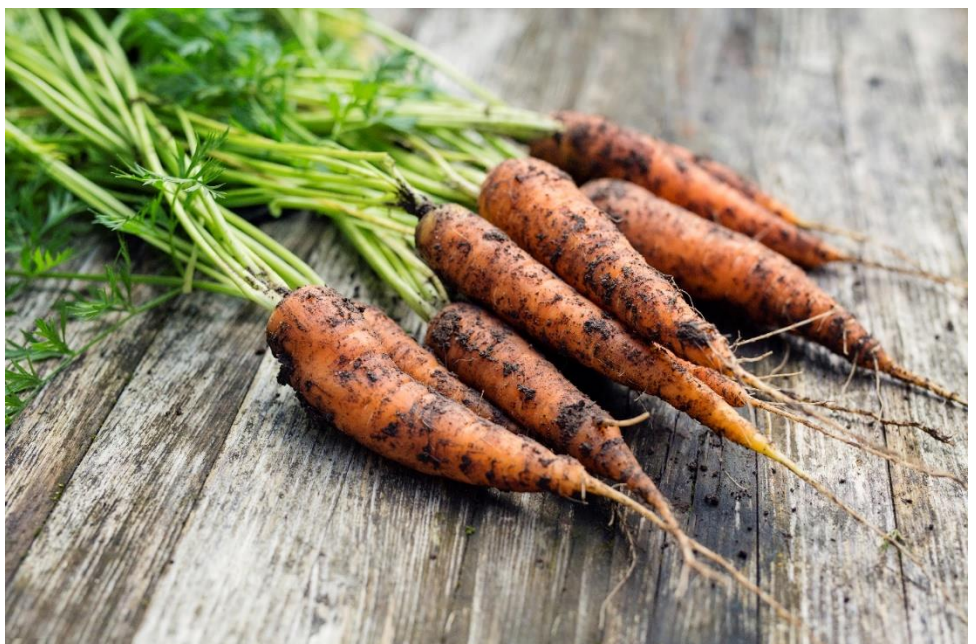
Let me start by examining the way commercial fruit and veg is grown and distributed. It is grown as quickly as possible, usually with chemical aid and must look, rather than taste good. It may be transported for thousands of miles before being packed in plastic and sometimes has gas injected in the packaging to keep it fresh for longer. In comparison, my home-grown product travels a few metres from plot to plate so can be eaten minutes after harvesting. Unsurprisingly, it tastes better and is nutritionally superior (other than some commercial produce that is frozen on the farm). And as I do not use chemicals during the growing process or plastic wrapping afterwards my methods are much more environmentally friendly. Now I would be lying if I said I never bought veg in a supermarket, but I feel a whole lot better about the stuff I grow on my allotment.

So, my vegetables are nutritionally superior due to the speed that they reach the kitchen but there are other health benefits to veg gardening. An hour on the allotment, digging, pruning and weeding is a really good workout and can use a wide range of muscles and, because I'm outside, I get fresh air and sunlight which we all need to stay healthy. There is also a sense of achievement in growing things from seed, watching the plants mature and then harvesting and eating them. So being in the garden is good, especially if were not sat on a swing seat drinking Gin and Tonic!

In a small way organic gardeners can also help biodiversity. Because we garden organically both at home and on the allotment, we have an ever increasing number of critters, some more welcome than others! Our contribution is small but if every gardener looks after their own patch, by gardening without the use of chemicals, the impact will be huge. And it's not too difficult to achieve a balance of helpful critters and pests, it just needs a bit of patience and a willingness to lose a few things

to slugs, mice, flea beetles etc. The list of pests is a long one, but as the great Joni Mitchell said, 'hey farmer, farmer put away the DDT, give me spots on my apples but leave me the birds and bees, please'.

Did you know that insects have decreased dramatically over the last 30 years and that without them working for us our crops won't get pollinated? That is an important factoid.



Continued ..... Last but not least, let's think about waste. If you grow your own, you can harvest what you want when you want it, and all the trimmings go back into the compost bin. If you go the whole hog, you can eat seasonally and won't even need a freezer but personally, I'd rather harvest produce when it's fresh and tasty and put it in the freezer for later. I must ask myself though, do I need strawberries or asparagus at Christmas time? Probably not! Of course, I've bought Kenyan beans and Peruvian asparagus, but increasingly I'm thinking it is really not necessary.

Please don't think I'm trying to lecture anyone here. This is purely an examination of why I think growing some fruit and vegetables is a good idea. Now that I've analysed my motives, I might even try a bit harder!

Carl Hamilton,  
Vegetable Gardener

## Gayton Village Hall Management Committee

Your Village Hall is slowly returning to more regular use. We are still encouraging users to be cautious in their activities and remember the 'Hands, face, space' mantra....hand sanitiser is being provided in the village hall, users are encouraged, where possible, to use only the toilet for the disabled to reduce areas for regular cleaning and avoid using the kitchens (please bring your own drinks and snacks for personal consumption rather than have group catering). Also please try and keep the hall well-ventilated by having some windows open during use. At the time of writing, we are expecting further updates from ACRE on COVID precautions required/advised for village hall users.

Many thanks to all who completed the recent 'Village Hall Questionnaire'. The management committee want to manage the hall wisely and we have engaged a property surveyor to provide a report detailing what works need completing to keep the village hall in a sound state. We will use this information to guide us as to whether we should look to improve the current building or whether it might be more cost effective to replace the current structure with a 'better building'. Either course of action will require significant funds and the expectation is that we would only obtain match funding (1:1) at best. So please be ready to support your village hall and consider attending any social/fund-raising events to help towards getting the village hall you deserve.

I understand that Yoga, Pilates and Show Dog training classes will be running on a regular basis out of the village hall soon. And a 'pop-up salon' is occupying the village hall on the first Saturday of every month. These activities will complement the current regular Gayton Giggles and Table Tennis.

And finally, there are plans for a Halloween Party for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October...so watch for further information on this event and others.

**For bookings** contact our booking clerk, Mrs Victoria McConnachie, using the contact number 07841 720865 or e-mail [gaytonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:gaytonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com)

David Ayre

## St Mary's Church Gayton

Harvest Songs of Praise on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 3.00 pm

You are invited come along and join with fellow villagers in this celebration of harvest. There will be the usual seasonal readings, congregational hymns together with some anthems sung by a small choir.

If you would like to contribute by donating non perishable food items, the church will be open daily from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00 am until 4.00pm. Donations can be left on the table at the back of the church. After the service the food will be passed on to the Towcester Food Bank. Ideas for donations include UHT fruit juice, jam, small packs of rice, instant coffee, sponge puddings, tinned carrots, pasta & sauce packets, mug shot packets, laundry powder, razors and shower gel. Currently the Food Bank has plenty of baked beans, pasta and soup.

Covid-19 Measures - Your health and safety is of great concern to us.

Participants are therefore advised to bring a face covering which we recommend is worn when entering and moving around the church and during the singing of hymns.

Hand sanitizer is available for use at the entrance and exit doors.

We regret that we are unable to provide refreshments on this occasion

The Churchwardens

## Gayton Evergreen Club

Well here we are again!

It's September and I'm afraid there is not a lot to report regarding the activities of the Gayton Evergreen Club since I reported on our meeting last September.

But... the good news is, the Committee have invited members to get together at the Village Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September for a chat over a cup of tea and home-made cake. It will be lovely to see our members and to catch up on the news. Hopefully as things improve there will be other opportunities to meet and spend time together.

Sadly we have lost two members of our club this year (neither to Covid19). Valerie Phizacklea had been a member of the club for many years and Ted Jell had joined with his wife Liz more recently. On behalf of our members we send our sincere condolences to their families. We will miss both of them at our meetings.

Once the current situation allows us to meet on a more regular basis we will be happy to welcome new members.

So...if you are interested in joining this friendly and lively club or would like to help out at the meetings when it reopens please contact one of the committee members who are Carol Coppock (859645), Jan Leeding (859275), Manja Ronne (859253), or Naomi Sheehan (859814).



## Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus

With the effects of the Covid pandemic at last beginning to recede we can now start to plan our project to potentially expand our service to include more local villages.

Hopefully we will be able to schedule a meeting soon so that we can discuss the best way to achieve our objectives which can include contact with local Parish Councils to discuss our plans. We can then distribute flyers with a request for responses from individuals who would like to utilise our services on a regular basis so that we can gain an idea of take up.

Hopefully this exercise will help in increasing our passenger numbers and provide a much-needed community transport facility and it may also encourage other volunteer drivers to support our efforts.

Fortunately, the new combined West Northants Local Authority has continued to provide us with 'pre-pandemic' remuneration based on our previous regular passenger numbers which has helped us to maintain income levels.

We will also be Midas training our three new drivers so that we can have a full complement of 10 volunteer drivers for our potential expanded service plans.

With regard to our AGM we will be scheduling this for sometime in October so that we can elect our officers and Trustees for the forthcoming year.

It has certainly been a very challenging period for us all and we should all be very proud that despite the pandemic, we have continued to operate our limited service throughout to give much needed support to our local residents.

With our new drivers, which include Pete Baxter and John Rogers from Gayton and John Pearson from Tiffield soon to join our dedicated team, and our new state of the art minibus and the potential to increase our service area and obtain extra funding, the future continues to look extremely exciting.

So, as ever, our thanks to our dedicated team of drivers which include Manja, Jens and David from Gayton and Andy, Steve and Cate from Tiffield, and especially to Cate Gardner for her superb work with our finances. So, let us look forward to a much brighter and less Covid impacted future.

Rae Spencer - Chairman

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

## Gayton Youth Group Update

Unfortunately there was not much interest in a Gayton Youth Group, therefore the idea has been put on hold for now. The Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC) would be happy to talk to us again in the future should there be more support.

You can find more information on NAYC, what they do and how they could help us at

<https://youth.naycacuk.co.uk/affiliate/>

Sami Johnstone

## September and October Rota for the Four Churches - Amelcote Benefice

### September

26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Benefice Communion	Gayton
	3pm	Harvest Thanksgiving	Tiffield

### October

3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Benefice Communion	Pattishall
	3pm	Harvest Songs of Praise	Gayton
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Family Communion	Tiffield
	11.15am	Morning Prayer	Pattishall
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Benefice Communion	Cold Higham Celebrate St Luke Festival
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Family Communion	Gayton
	11.15am	Morning Prayer	Bible Sunday Tiffield
31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Benefice Communion (All Saints)	Pattishall

### November

14 <sup>th</sup>	4 pm	Service of Remembrance	Gayton
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**This is issue 153 of the Gayton News, we are in our 38<sup>th</sup> year!** During this time there has been incredible support by the village offering articles, information and photos to keep us updated about village life, projects, clubs, volunteers, our Church, the school, the community minibus and more....



The Gayton News started out as a printed news booklet distributed to every home in the village 4 times as year. A few years ago it was decided to offer the alternative of an email copy, which several people opted for.

We have seen families move out of the village and new ones make the village their home. I decided to distribute a printed copy of this edition to every home to make sure everyone receives a copy.

I send my thanks to the super team of volunteers who help to distribute the Gayton News out to the village.

Please let me know if you prefer to receive an email copy of the Gayton News and give me permission to store your email address to enable me to distribute it to you by email. Your email address will not be used for anything other than to send you the Gayton News 4 times a year.

Best wishes Karen      [karencooper@mortimers.uk.com](mailto:karencooper@mortimers.uk.com)

## Gayton Church Heritage Trust

The role of the Trust is to maintain and improve the church buildings as an amenity for everyone living in the area. The Trust raises money in a number of ways – grants, appeals and events in the church. It was suggested the we should add “Just Giving”. An account has been set up and details can be found in the next issue Gayton News.

The most recent improvements were coming together in February 2020 when the Trust received Faculty Approval for plans to upgrade the heating in the church, including a new boiler, radiators on the North wall, repairs to the parquet flooring and re-arranging the pews.

The cost, excluding the Architects Fees, is estimated to be in the region of £45,000 before VA.

Churches are opening up now but major works cannot begin until next year. This is frustrating but we see it as a time to renew our efforts at fund raising and to be in a position to afford the improvements and begin a new chapter of life in Gayton Church.

Best Wishes to one and all for a better year ahead

Anna Fox  
GCHT Trustee



**Please send me your articles etc for the Winter issue by Friday 19 November. This will be the issue leading up to Christmas. If you are someone who doesn't usually contribute but have something you would like to include please do contact me.**

Best wishes Karen

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## Gayton House: Part Three, Famous Connections



By 1856 the Bevan family had moved from Gayton House to Brixworth Hall and Gayton House had new owners, Charles and Anna Maria Pilgrim. Pilgrim was a retired Army Officer and Justice of the Peace. As a JP, he would have moved in the same circles as Richard Lee Bevan, his predecessor, and no doubt he heard that the house was vacant in that way.

The well-to-do were not the only ones to move house and early in the 1860s the Pilgrim's employed a new Housemaid, Martha, from St John's, Sherborne, Basingstoke, Hampshire, who came to work at Gayton House. Benjamin Smith, a local Agricultural Labourer whose family lived at Little Brittain's Cottages in Gayton, married Martha on 10 March 1863 in Gayton, the same day that the future King Edward VII and Alexandra were married at St George's Chapel, Windsor!

Benjamin Smith, in 1871, now working as a Gardener, and Martha, his wife, lived in a Yard off Deans Row with their two children, William, 7, and Bertha Jane, 3. Bertha went on to marry John Manning Payne in 1888 and they have several descendants living in the Village to this day!

In 1864 Charles Pilgrim donated land for an enlarged playground on the boy's side of the Old Schoolhouse but soon afterwards Gayton house was put up for sale through an advertisement in the Times on 8 October 1864:

Gayton House – For sale, this capital Hunting box or Family residence, 4½ miles from Northampton 1¼ from Blisworth Station and 1½ hours from London. First-rate hunting with Duke of Grafton's, Pytchley and other packs. Church, village and post-office close at hand. The house is modern, substantially built on a dry soil, and commands a fine view. There are 13 bedrooms, four sitting rooms, all lofty and of good size, billiard and bath rooms, capital offices. Boxes for nine hunters, pretty and inexpensive gardens, large detached cottage &c For particulars apply to Messrs Debehams and Tewson 30 Cheapside.

On 14 January 1865, the Gardener from Gayton House inserted his own advertisement for a job in the Times:

Gardener. Married, age 33, two children. Thoroughly understands kitchen and flower garden, greenhouse, &c Three years' good character. – AB, Gayton-house, near Northampton.

Henry Thomas Salmon moved into Gayton House in 1865 following his marriage in 1864 to Gertrude Rose Harrison of Bugbrooke. Gertrude was daughter of the Rector James Harwood Harrison. Henry and Gertrude's son and heir, Henry Roope Pomeroy Salmon was born at Gayton House and at 15 he was a scholar, boarding at the Rectory, Courteenhall. Henry Roope Pomeroy Salmon married and became a Captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Gloucester's Regiment.

Henry Thomas Salmon, himself, had been a clever young man. He 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 was on his retirement in 1885, given the honorary rank of Major.

In 1871 Mrs Salmon put an advertisement for staff in the Times:

A superior middle-aged person wanted to take the entire charge of two children, eight and five years old. One who is accustomed to wait on the lady, and to travel preferred. State wages.  
Mrs H Salmon Gayton-House near Northampton.

Henry Thomas Salmon acquired property in Gayton as it came onto the market: for example he bought Grey House in 1868. It seems likely that Rensbury was bought by him from Richard White Rolfe with the sitting tenant of Henry William Wheldon and Grey House was also bought from Richard White Rolfe with the sitting tenants of George and Ann Old.



Grey House  
Photos by Rod Poxon



Rensbury

On 14 November 1870, Henry Thomas Salmon was made a Sheriff of Northampton. He moved to Fern Park, Tockington, Gloucestershire in 1872 and sold his Gayton Estate by Lots.

Grey House, formerly in the occupation of Linnell and then George Old, was sold to William Brown, of Tiffield, a member of the Rolfe family, for £150. However, George and Ann Old continued living there and running the Village shoemaker's shop, and in 1877 George Old bought it from William Brown and so it descended through the family to Gladys Lucas. Miss Lucas, as she was known, was interested in Local History and we have her to thank for a comprehensive piece of Social history of the Village written in 1953 for the Women's Institute.

Rensbury was sold to Henry Wheldon who, according to the Sale Catalogue had been renting it at the 'inadequate' rent of £32 per annum from Richard White Rolfe.



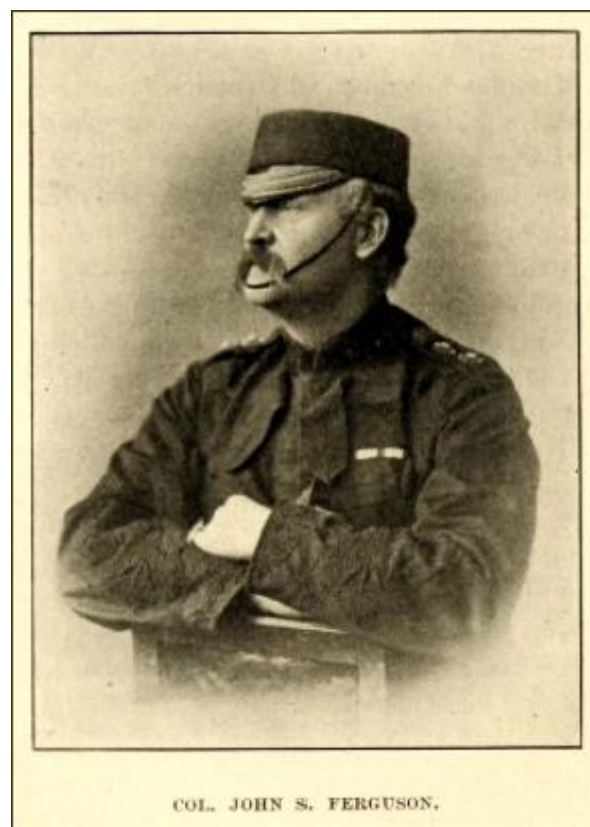
Although Gayton House was included in the 1872 Sale by Auction, its fate on the day is not clear. It is quite probable that Roger Eykyn bought it intending to move into it at a later date and in the mean time rented it out to Major John Stephenson Ferguson.

Major John Stephenson Ferguson was born in Ballysillen, County Antrim on 17 May 1834 and died on 11 January 1885 in Eaton Square London. He had joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guard in 1852 at the age of 18 and had served in Crimea and saw action in Balaclava, Inkerman and the Siege of Sebastopol. He was awarded with two medals and clasps. Later he transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Life Guards and died in 1885 whilst in command of the Regiment.

Major John Stephenson Ferguson married Sophia Jane Holford on 10 June 1863 at St Paul's Cathedral, London. He applied to the High court to sell some land in Gayton forming part of his wife's, Sophia Jane Ferguson (née Holford), marriage settlement in 1873.

And Mrs Ferguson advertised in the Times on 8 Jan 1875 for a Nurserymaid:

Can any lady recommend a thoroughly well-trained and good girl as nurserymaid? She must be tall, strong and a fair needlewoman.



Colonel John Stephenson Ferguson (Lieutenant 1856) (Captain 1873) of 2nd Life Guards is remembered in a memorial window in Polebrook Church erected by his son Brigadier General Algernon Francis Holford Ferguson of Polebrook Hall the grandfather of Sarah Ferguson, who became Duchess of York when she married Prince Andrew.

Roger Eykyn moved into Gayton House following his defeat in the 1874 General Election. His first wife had died in 1866 and he was married in 1868 to the Honourable Mary Caroline, the eldest daughter of the Right Honourable George Mostyn, sixth Baron Vaux of Harrowden, and Caroline, Lady Vaux of Harrowden, (née Vanssitar). This explains, if you have ever wondered, why Lord

and Lady Vaux of Harrowden are buried in Gayton churchyard, along with several other members of the Mostyn family.

Cartes de visite of Roger Eykyn and Mary Mostyn, courtesy of, and belonging to Anne Shellim:



**Rita Poxon**

