

# GAYTON NEWS – SUMMER 2021



**Gayton Gigglers** is a weekly baby and toddler group that I started running in September 2018 in Gayton Village Hall.

It ran every Tuesday morning from 9:15 – 11am and welcomed many families from Gayton, surrounding villages and as far afield as Milton Keynes.



In pre-Covid times the group would include a wide range of toys and activities, drinks, snacks and a singing time. The group provided a space for families to play, connect and have fun. Due to Covid I sadly had to stop running the group in the hall in March 2020. In September 2020 I began running the group again but this time outside as lockdowns ended and restrictions lifted. The group has become even more popular and it has provided a welcome place for children to play and for their parents/carers to socialise. The children particularly love playing with bubbles during the session so here is a recipe for making homemade bubble mixture so you can experience the joy of chasing bubbles too!

6 cups of water, 1 cup of washing up liquid, 1 tablespoon of glycerin. Mix together and leave overnight for bubble popping fun.

In September 2021 I am going to start running weekly Forest School sessions for children aged 3-5 in a local woodland. If anyone is interested in finding out more information (or volunteering to help out) please email: [littlewillowsforestschool@yahoo.com](mailto:littlewillowsforestschool@yahoo.com)  
Victoria McConnachie

## Gayton Solar Farm

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended the Village Meeting and returned their questionnaires. The feedback you gave us suggests that the majority of residents are against a Solar Farm of the size and proximity to Gayton proposed by Anesco. With that in mind the stance of the PC is to oppose their plan as it stands. If changes are made we will of course examine them on their merit. The PC will explain this to Anesco at our next meeting with them and also ask again when they intend to hold a face to face meeting in Gayton as I think all those who attended the Webinar came away feeling disappointed. Not much will happen now until a planning application is submitted but there is a debate going on about whether or not an Environmental Impact Study is required and Councillor Karen Cooper has some information on that.

C Hamilton  
Chairman Gayton PC

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Planning Officers at West Northants Council advised Anesco on their screening opinion that the development was subject to the EIA regulations. See <https://snc.planning-register.co.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=110020>

Anesco challenged WNCs decision to the Secretary of State. It is now for the Secretary of State to make the decision as to whether an EIA is required or not.

The process is outlined here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment#Screening-Schedule-2-projects>

Cllr Karen Cooper  
Member for Bugbrooke Ward  
West Northants Council

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We have just received the link to the Q&A answers from the Anesco 'Gayton solar farm' webinar which includes a copy of the recording. Please find this below. Unfortunately, the script of questions being asked by attendees is not included - there may have been questions asked that were not answered during the recording. The Parish Council agreed at the latest meeting to object to the plans based on the feedback from the village questionnaire we sent out to you all, as the overwhelming majority of respondents were against the proposal. In order to make our response to Anesco as objective as possible we are registering with the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) in the hope that they will help us formulate a response to the scheme. A focus group of residents in the village also continues to work towards gathering information to aid with the rejection of the plans. Please do get in touch if you have any further concerns off the back of this new information, via [clerkgaytonpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkgaytonpc@gmail.com). The Parish Council intend to 'meet' with Anesco again next week on Zoom. Many thanks,

Gayton Parish Council

<https://anesco.co.uk/gayton-qa/>

## The Industrial Solar Saga

As I guess most Villagers know, Anesco (an industrial property developer) is proposing to build nearly 170 acres of industrial installations, on productive farmland either side of Milton Road and the Grand Union Canal. This will cover nearly all the land between Gayton and the A43. Obviously, a development of this massive scale would significantly impact both the village and the wider surrounding area and, therefore, we feel it is important to set out the facts as we know them today and where things are at this stage.

To recap, the land is now owned by a new landlord who, as far as we've been told, doesn't live locally or have any connection with the village and has been left this land in a legacy from an aged relative. Rather than continue with the two local tenant farming families carrying on working the fields for crops as they have successfully done for generations, this new landowner wants more value by engaging with Anesco to obtain planning consent for an industrial solar scheme. This would also include 2.4m high steel security fencing around all boundaries and footpaths, a substation, transformer and switchgear housings, and many, many miles of cabling – all adjacent to the village boundary and within very close proximity to the Conservation Area.

At the risk of being melodramatic, it all smacks of some medieval land clearance action, but unfortunately is a reflection of the planning world we now live in, marginalising communities and forcing residents to become objectors across countryside areas throughout the UK. This was recently evidenced by the protest vote against planning reforms, delivered by the electorate in Amersham and Chesham.

So where are we now? Anesco think that detailed environmental analysis for a scheme of this scale and location is *not* required. They have asked our Officers at West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) *not once, but twice*, whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is needed to support a planning application. An EIA is a very detailed series of surveys, reports and assessments that frame how much work (and significant cost) Anesco would have to commit to in their attempt to obtain planning. More importantly, it also exposes their scheme to much wider public scrutiny from a full range of interested parties, control bodies and formal consultees.

It was no surprise when our WNC Officers firmly responded to the first Anesco question with the direction that an EIA would most definitely be required, stating – *'the proposed development would have the potential for significant environmental effects on the landscape and visual impact'*. Anesco then immediately came back and asked the same question of WNC again. However, before a formal response was given, Anesco decided to pull their second question and appeal to the Secretary of State. Effectively, Anesco don't like the response from WNC and are challenging our local elected representatives by going direct to Central Government.

So, what issues have been raised by Villagers? There are many, but some of the most prominent are - loss of food producing agricultural land; negative impact on local farm businesses and jobs; loss of important traditional wildlife habitats; impact on Gayton, the Conservation Area, Grand Union Canal and wider Northamptonshire environment and landscape; undermining of local tourist and leisure businesses; traffic disruption; and the continued concerns surrounding the carbon and toxic footprint of industrial solar manufacture and disposal.

We would also dispute Anesco's assertion that Gayton is somehow a unique location with Anesco's grid connection many miles away and another 50MW scheme being promoted just 3 miles north at Upper Heyford. Anesco themselves admit they didn't find the site, but rather the landowner came to them.

So, what can we do? It would seem that many aspects of Anesco's scheme contravene a number of WNC stated planning objectives and policies. Therefore, we need to keep lobbying our local politicians to ensure they encourage the Secretary of State to stand behind and support the decisions made by WNC. We should also continue to focus on the impact on the village, to ensure that the myriad of issues that this scheme would generate are clearly understood and identified. Effectively, we need to prepare and collate our evidence for the next stage of this unfortunate saga.

If you want to share information or thoughts on any of the above, please email at [stopindustrialsolar@btinternet.com](mailto:stopindustrialsolar@btinternet.com)

Most Villagers are likely to be supportive of the UK's progress towards carbon neutral, utilising an array of methods to achieve this. However, it is not right if this means losing vital productive arable land, undermining local jobs and businesses, and building large scale industrial plant adjacent to residential areas. We fully support the actions of West Northamptonshire Council Officers and cannot see how this proposal, if it ultimately comes forward as a planning application, should ever avoid having to be submitted without the developer being obligated to carry out an EIA.

Thanks for reading. Chris Dancer





Thank you to everyone for your continued support with donations. As the world starts to get back to some sort of 'normal', donations have naturally slowed a little but the Foodbank remains open to all those who require their help and the donation box remains outside 20 Baker Street.

**If you would like to donate, the current 'most in need' items are:** Toiletries for men and women (any type welcome, including sanitary products) Washing powder

or liquids - Tins tomatoes - Tins spaghetti - Tins of fish - Jars of jam - Savoury crackers - Powdered milk chocolate. Please no donations of baked beans or pasta as stocks are plentiful but storage is minimal!

**Are you interested in volunteering at Towcester Foodbank? Opportunities we offer:**

- 1. Hands on tasks include making up food parcels, sorting and storing donated food.**
- 2. Assisting with setting up and serving sessions and engaging with clients.**
- 3. Option to collect food donations and deliver food parcels.**

**If you are interested in volunteering for an award-winning charity, please email directly on [info@towcester.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@towcester.foodbank.org.uk)**

**Our operating hours are Tuesday's 12-2pm and Friday's 10.30-12.30pm.**

With thanks and best wishes, Sami, on behalf of the Towcester Foodbank

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**St Mary's Church Gayton.** A member of the Amelcote Benefice.

SERVICE ROTA JULY & AUGUST 2021

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Sunday 4 July	Family Communion	10.00am	Holy Cross – Pattishall
Sunday 11 July	Family Communion	10.00am	Zoom
Wednesday 14 July	Morning Prayer	10.00am	Holy Cross – Pattishall
Sunday 18 July	Family Communion	10.00am	St Mary's – Gayton
Wednesday 21 July	Morning Prayer	10.00am	St Luke's – Cold Higham
Sunday 25 July	Family Communion	10.00am	Zoom
Wednesday 28 July	Morning Prayer	10.00am	St Mary's – Gayton
Sunday 1 August	Family Communion	10.00am	Holy Cross – Pattishall
Wednesday 4 August	Morning Prayer	10.00am	St John's – Tiffield
Sunday 8 August	Family Communion	10.00am	Zoom
Wednesday 11 August	Morning Prayer	10.00am	St Mary's – Gayton
Sunday 15 August	Family Communion	10.00am	St John's – Tiffield
Wednesday 18 August	Morning Prayer	10.00am	St Luke's – Cold Higham
Sunday 22 August	Family Communion	10.00am	Zoom
Wednesday 25 August	Morning Prayer	10.00am	Holy Cross – Pattishall
Sunday 29 August	Family Communion	10.00am	St Luke's – Cold Higham

Due to coronavirus restrictions, seating at church services is restricted.

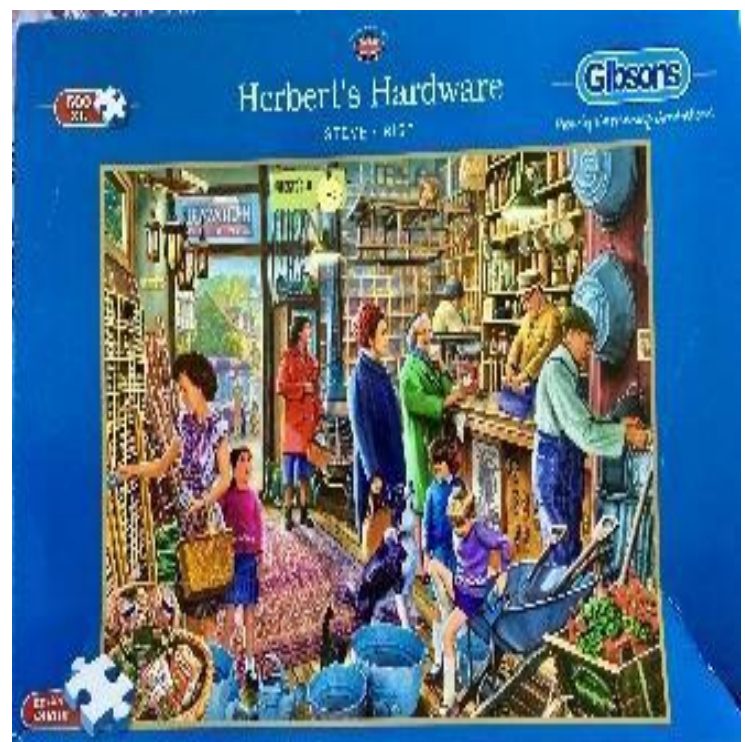
To reserve a seat for a church service please ring Rev. Canon Karen Jongman on 01327 830569 or 07980 881252. Attendance at Zoom services is open to all using the following access

instructions: **Meeting ID: 323 560 1333. Passcode: Amelcote**

David Coppock, Churchwarden

## Gayton Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Just a reminder that we're still here and still operating, albeit at a much reduced level. It's summertime and people are generally too busy with outdoor activities to think about jigsaw puzzles. However there are some rainy days when you might welcome an indoor diversion, in which case why not pop round and take a look at what we have to offer. All donations go to Gayton charities and so far £307 have been shared between the Village Hall, Church and Gayton Educational Foundation. We ask £1 per 500 pieces. If possible bring the puzzles back when you have finished with them and if you have others you no longer need we will be pleased to take them off your hands! Here are a few examples of our current stock. Barry and Wendy Steer. Tel 858886



## Annual Parish Meeting

It was lovely to see so many of you at the meeting held on Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>.

We were blessed with glorious weather which always makes meeting outside easier!

We heard from many organisations in the village on the day, including Karen McArthur on ideas for the future of the Eykyn Arms, Sami Johnstone on the proposition of a Youth Group, Leandra Braham for



the Village Hall committee, Hilary Glanville for the allotment and gardeners group, Chris Dancer on the Gayton solar farm proposal with an additional group presentation, Carol Coppock for the open gardens and Evergreens, Robin Kelso for the footpaths, Cllr Karen Cooper and her role as our local WNC Councillor, and Judy Hamilton kindly shared her artwork.

We hope that future annual meetings will be a coming together of not only sharing ideas and what we would like to see in the future (long and short term) but also for local businesses and organisations to share what they do with other residents.

If you have any ideas in the meantime or would like to get in touch with any of the above people or organisations to offer your help or support, please do get in touch directly. Alternatively, we can pass on your information. Thank you, Sami Johnstone & Carl Hamilton

## Gayton Youth Group

Would you like to see more activities for the older kids & teens in our village?  
Would you be able to offer your time to help make this happen?

The Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC) have offered to help us get from 0-to-fully functioning and run some activities, for a small fee of £48 each year. But we need volunteers to help shape the plans and help run sessions. If you would like to be part of this new committee, please get in touch.

Thanks, Sami  
sjohnstone.gpc@gmail.com

You can find more information on NAYC, what they do and how they could help us at <https://youth.naycacuk.co.uk/affiliate/>



## Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus

Well since our last update in March we have certainly been experiencing some extremes of weather with May being the coldest and wettest for over 100 years which was followed by a 'mini-heatwave' with the hottest temperatures ever recorded! But fortunately, our new minibus with all the latest 'Gizmos' including air-conditioning and ultra-rapid de-icing and de-misting, easily offset this and we no longer need copious amounts of de-icer and de-mister pads which were essential with our 'Trusty but rusty' minibus which served us well for ten years.

Unfortunately, the many and variable restrictions due to the Covid situation have continued to restrict access to public transport with some of our areas being severely affected. This has been particularly evident in Northampton Town in which several districts were declared to be 'hot-spots' due to local outbreaks and the number of individuals from the area requiring medical treatment. The rapid changes to the various lockdown restrictions due to the unpredictable Covid variants has inevitably restricted our plans for expanding our service to include several local small villages and hamlets. But we have continued to provide a limited service on Tuesdays and Fridays for local residents to access shopping and other facilities in Towcester.

Unfortunately, the financial impact of the Pandemic has reduced our passenger numbers and hence income from concessionary fares, but this has been offset by NCC continuing to pay us for 'Pre-Pandemic' average passenger numbers which has allowed us to continue operating our limited services while maintaining normal income levels. The new combined West Northants Council has continued this arrangement, but our annual NCC grant which was due in April has only just been approved by the new Authority for payment later this month.

With new drivers including Pete Baxter and John Rogers from Gayton soon to join our dedicated team, a 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, our thanks to our dedicated team of drivers which includes Manja, Jens and David from Gayton and especially to Cate Gardner for her superb work with our finances. So, let us look forward to another summer heatwave and a brighter and less Covid impacted future.

**Rae Spencer - Chairman** - rae.spencer@btopenworld.com

Tel: 01327-353352 – 07784 561268



**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 Autumn issue by Friday 17 September**

Best wishes Karen

karencooper@mortimers.uk.com

Tel: 07753 638180



Towcester & District Angling Association

**Towcester & District Angling Association.** It is that time of year when memberships are due for renewal. Already we have had some renewals via the website [www.t-daa.uk/membership.htm](http://www.t-daa.uk/membership.htm).

The membership books have now arrived from the printers, and are in the tackle shops. If anybody has any difficulty in renewing their membership, please don't hesitate to telephone anyone on the committee, numbers are in your existing book or on the website.

The new season has begun both for rivers and Astwell Mill. The first day of the new season at Astwell Mill produced some good catches, but owing to the very hot weather results were varied. During the off season we have been doing some maintenance work at Astwell, trimming trees and bushes and adding dye to the water to suppress the weeds. The dye has already had an effect, although with the sudden arrival of some very sunny and hot weather we still need to keep our fingers crossed.

By the opening day Astwell was all strimmed and trimmed ready to go. Silverlake has also been the subject of some work and a strim and cut are due imminently. On the subject of the committee, two long standing and much valued members of the committee have signalled their intention to retire at the next AGM, which due to Covid will be next March. In advance of their retirement I'm sure that members (not to mention the committee) would like to extend their sincere thanks to Trevor Johnson and Ivor Findall for their hard (often unsung) work and effort over many years.

This obviously leaves us with two vacancies on the committee, can we urge anybody who may want give the club some positive input and perhaps some fresh ideas to please step forward and volunteer for a post. If we leave the jobs to just a few people it ceases to be fun, whereas little and often for a number of people giving something back to the club can be very rewarding. Again, email us or telephone any committee member.

Plans for a members evening at Towcester Mill Brewery tap room in Towcester have not been abandoned, but as soon as we can see a viable opportunity we will let you know, perhaps an ideal event to have a chat about joining the committee.

Regards.

John Newman. Development Officer



# **GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Introduction**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 local council elections were held all over England and Wales, the first that had taken place for 6 years in Northamptonshire (due to COVID and the setting up of the Unitary Council).

On that date 7 councillors were elected to represent Gayton for the next four years and, at the first meeting after the election, I was re-instated by the council as the Chairman.

I am aware that the Parish Council (PC) has a bit of an image problem and that people probably perceive us to be a mixture of The Vicar of Dibley and Dad's Army, but we really work hard to keep the village maintained. I agree that our work is far from glamorous but, if you look around, you will see things that we continue to achieve on your behalf. The grass verges are regularly mowed and the playing field too, the play area is maintained and street lighting (which will be high on the agenda of the PC in 2021) repaired and updated. The PC is the landlord of the Allotment Society, maintains the Church Clock and helps maintain the Churchyard.

The village sign and notice board on the village green were commissioned by the PC and support is given to the footpath committee and other village groups that need funds or advice.

I'm pleased to say that our new council has a wide range of talents, age groups and genders. We are on average much younger than we were last year and the split between men and women is now about equal.

There follows a short introduction from each councillor and it only remains for me to say please come to our meetings and give us your ideas about how to not only maintain the village but improve it wherever we can.

Carl Hamilton  
Chairman Gayton PC.

## **Members**

Carl Hamilton

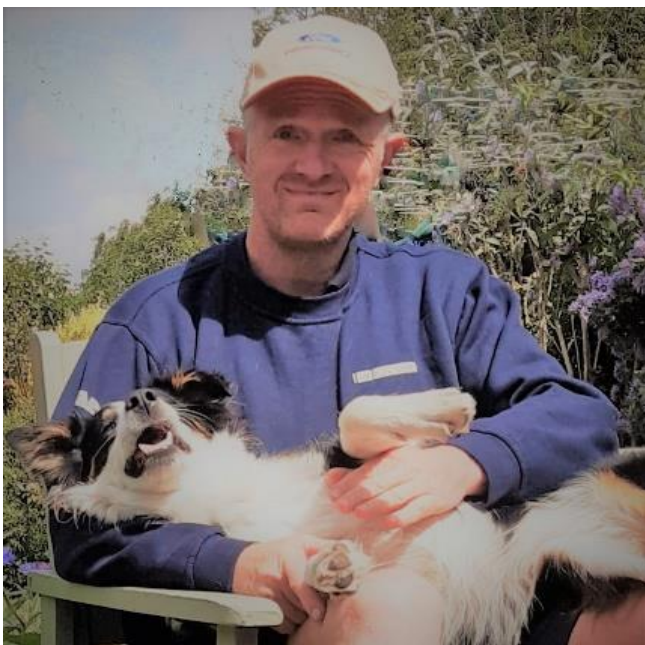
My work as a Military Engineer in the REME and Project Manager in the Ministry of Defence, gave me skills such as; the ability to solve problems, think logically and work as a member of a team, all important attributes for a councillor at any level. My reason for being on the PC is simple, I believe we have an important role to play in ensuring that Gayton remains a good place to live. If I'm re-elected there are some challenges that need to be addressed over the coming months and I think I can help tackle them. Our ageing and unreliable street lighting must be replaced and my background in engineering and science can help in that area. We also need a new Parish Plan.



It doesn't have to be about spending a lot of money but could be about encouraging residents to get together to do some ecologically friendly projects (like the Spinney). Maybe flowers on the green or wildflower verges in parts of the village, the choice must be for the residents. I really believe that once lockdown starts to lift things like that will help build a sense of community and will also improve our surroundings. And, last but not least, being an MoD project manager prepared me for criticism and the occasional disappointment, both useful attributes for any Councillor!

Alastair Anderson

I have been a Gayton resident now for 3 years, moving from Blisworth in 2017, where we lived for 10 years. The family comprises 3 children and 12 dogs (at this point in time as the number of dogs can change at any time!). Gayton has given and continues to give the family everything we need to be settled and happy. All my children attended the Gayton school, which has succeeded in developing strong resilient and respectful characters and a good foundation to cope with the challenges of the next educational step. I was a proactive member of Blisworth PC for 4 years prior to moving to Gayton and have continued the commitment to the cause with the Gayton PC. I am passionate about contributing to protecting the best interests of the village and happy to continue to commit whatever time and resource is necessary to achieve the PC objectives. Gayton village is a wonderful place to live and it's important to protect this. My current professional activity focusses on improving wastewater management and environmental performance for water utilities and commercial clients, including mitigating negative impacts of fat, oils and grease thrown down the drain in attempt to stop fatbergs growing and causing all kinds of issues! I am friendly and approachable with a strong sense of community, whilst possessing all the necessary attributes to cope with political bureaucracy that can often cloud the simplest of tasks!



Liam Hollin

My name is Liam Hollin and I have been a resident of Gayton since I was 2 years old. For the last four years it has been my privilege to serve on the Parish Council, in an attempt to give something back to the place where I was raised. Hopefully I can continue to give back to the village that we all love so much.

Sami Johnstone

Being co-opted as a Parish Councillor at the beginning of last year was a welcomed opportunity for me to play a bigger part in serving the village Jamie & I love. Many of you may only know me as the 'Foodbank box lady' or as the person who dropped off your food parcels or prescriptions during the lockdowns but in between my voluntary work, my day to day life is spent as a busy mum and completing a Science degree.

Having previously worked in the NHS I understand pressure and responsibility, but none more so than in raising our five children and having to deal with the minefield of special needs. All my experience has taught me how to advocate well, manage complications and that if something can be done better, it should be. Over the next year, I would like to revive the Gayton Parish Plan. As a 'newer' resident of almost 5 years, I feel now would be a great time to take a fresh look at what *you* want from our village. Do you want selected verges given to wildflowers to improve Gayton's environmental impact? Would you want to see more for our children in the village? If you have ideas, a new Parish Plan could help bring these to life.

As a Parish Councillor, I will always listen to fellow villagers and do what I can to take suggestions or concerns forward. The pandemic has done so much to keep us apart for so long and I would love to continue to play a part in keeping that spirit alive as our community comes back together.



Roger Clarke

I moved to Gayton in October 2019 from nearby Pattishall where Trudy and I lived for 45 years. I was co-opted onto the Gayton Parish Council last year to help fill an empty position, having served and chaired Pattishall Parish Council for over 30 years. I also chaired the group of Parish Councils that successfully defended and defeated Rail Track when they tried to close the Rothersthorpe Road crossing over the railway. This ultimately resulted in the bridge being built over the railway and canal. To defeat Rail Track was a great combined achievement. I retire from South Northamptonshire Council in April as it moves towards the new West Northamptonshire Unitary and therefore will have time to involve myself more in village life. Moving to Gayton where we knew a lot of people has enabled us to

get involved with a new community and perhaps bring experience and enthusiasm to achieve the various challenges that need to be addressed. I really am passionate about Rural communities and getting involved. You may not realise that it was me dressed as Santa touring the village on Christmas Eve!



### Anna Goddard

I have lived in and around Gayton on and off since I was a child, but consistently for the last 18 years. I have and continue to raise and my 3 children here. Professionally, until August of last year, I spent 25 years working as a worldwide cabin crew member for British Airways. I now run a hair and beauty salon in the village. Many of the skills I have gained during my career will be useful as a parish councillor. These include communication, organisation, and the ability to genuinely listen to people. My career has also given me a broad and varied outlook on life. Having travelled so much, I realise the importance of having a safe and pleasant environment to live and come home to. Like many of us I have enjoyed walking around our beautiful village in this last year and I would love to help the parish council in the upkeep and continued improvements they are dedicating their time to achieve.

### Rachel Billing

My name is Rachel Billing I am married to Gavin and have two sons Cameron and Aidan.

I have lived in Gayton village all my life and took over the running of Evergreen Farm in 2006 from my father Michael East. I therefore have a strong link to the village community and remain on the parish council to help maintain a good relationship between residents and the parish council.

I am passionate about hearing and voicing local opinions within the village and would like to see more activities for the older children and keep the hub of the village for example the Eykyn Arms.

I also have run Evergreen Riding Stables since 1986 and have taught many local adults and children from the village this has helped me build good relationships and gain a valuable insight into current village issues and concerns.





Clerk – Viv Hartley

I have lived in Gayton for the best part of 55 years other than a few years when I lived in Kent, Milton Malsor, Shropshire, Blisworth and back to Gayton in 1996 so I haven't travelled far. I became Clerk of Gayton PC in 1991 when 2 of my children were small - the other 2 were born in 1992 and 1995 and I didn't miss a meeting! So I have experienced Gayton as a child, parent and now pensionable age! (well nearly !). The children attended Campion School.

I have worked for 16 years as an Agriculture Lecturer and Apprenticeship Assessor at Moulton College. I love running and cycling around the area with my dog and very much value community life. I am married to Andy who some of you may see trundling about doing peoples gardens.

Clerking for Gayton PC can be a very quiet position – the majority of time there are few controversial issues and the Council proceeds with routine; but every now and then a large planning item may arise which the Parish Council has to try to represent the village views as best it can.

### Allotments and gardening .....

At last the weather has warmed up a little and everyone is busy sowing, planting and weeding.....mainly weeding in my case.

There are the usual successes and failures - masses of strawberries but very few climbing beans. Lots of promising looking pears but something has eaten all my gooseberries already.

I've been doing some plant ID for National Plant Monitoring Scheme this year and it's been lovely to see how the roadside verges have been left to grow, although sometimes a little too vigorously!

This Scottish thistle was one of the more dramatic plants I came across just near the old railway bridge on Blisworth Road. I'm hoping it will be left to flower so I can collect some of the seed later on.



I recently carried out a wild flower survey of one of the nearby hedgerows that might be affected by the proposed solar farm....it had 60 wild flower species in it....probably more! I came across a very odd looking prickly sow thistle and was interested to learn that the growth on it had become 'fasciated' which I now know is something to do with the growing tip inside the stem. It's something I've seen before in daisy/dandelion flowers. Then I saw this asparagus on Plot no 1.....



It's been heartening to welcome quite a lot of newcomers to the allotment site and it's nice to see the more experienced plot holders giving advice or answering questions. The swop shop has been well used for plant donations and we hope to be holding one or two events later in the summer.



A few months ago we invited the village gardeners to become members of the Society with a view to getting together to exchange ideas, plants, or other garden related ideas. So we now have another 15 members that can access the allotment site to look around or swop plants etc. There is a proposal to hold a Village fete day, possibly with a produce show, if you are interested in this idea and would like to know more please contact Leandra Brahman, [onehillcrestroad@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:onehillcrestroad@hotmail.co.uk)

Later on, in August, we will be having our Annual BBQ, to which all members and their families are invited.

If you wish to become a Gardening member of the Society, for the princely sum of £5, then please email me, [hilaryglanville6@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryglanville6@gmail.com)

It's not all weeding.....

Hilary Glanville (Secretary of the GG and AS)



## Gayton Walkers

Walks have been able to resume albeit with limited numbers and socially distanced, of course. Colin and Sue Simmonds have been organising the walks in April, May and June but I hope to be able to re-join in July.

April's walk was to Rothersthorpe using the footpath from Milton Road that may be swallowed up by one of the solar farms in the future, returning along the Northampton arm of the canal.



In May, the walk was Stoke Bruerne to Shutlanger with a detour to see the bluebells in Nun Wood.



In June the walk was around Yardley Gobion for 4.5 miles and ending at the Coffee Pot pub in the village.

In July, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>, leaving Fiveways by car at 10am, it is planned to walk from Nether Heyford to Bugbrooke visiting "Bugbrooke Meadow", a Wildlife Trust SSSI. It should have a fine display of Southern Marsh Orchids - no guarantee.

Do join us please, always meeting at Fiveways at 10am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

A reminder that the September walk will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup>, NOT Sunday, to coincide with the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust fund-raising event.

Robin Kelso

## Maintaining Gayton Churchyard

Many readers will have noticed some significant changes in the churchyard of St. Mary's church. Regular mowing and grass cutting has been taken over by Andy Hartley. Our sincere thanks must go to Gayton Parish Council for providing the financial support to enable us to employ Andy to do this.

It would help us enormously if those people whose relatives or friends are buried in the churchyard would keep floral tributes as close as possible to the headstone marking each grave. This will enable mowing between headstones much easier, quicker and therefore less expensive.

As a PCC, we are governed by The Peterborough Diocesan Churchyard Regulations which state the following:

Containers with flowers should be placed as close to headstones as possible so that they do not obstruct mowing or churchyard maintenance.

Wreaths and other cut flowers may be placed on graves but removed as soon as they have withered.

There should be no artificial flowers except Remembrance Day poppies and traditional Christmas wreaths. These are to be removed after a period of two months.

Flower bulbs may be planted in the soil of any grave.

No tree, rose bush, or any other bush or shrub may be planted without the Chancellor's\* permission.

We are sure you will agree that our churchyard has not looked so neat, tidy and wildlife friendly for a long time. The churchyard is a valuable heritage and an asset to our village and we hope that with everyone's support we can continue to improve its appearance.

The Churchwardens and Gayton Parochial Church Council

\* Contact details of the Chancellor's Office are available from the Churchwardens

## St Mary the Virgin (Church Yard)

Firstly could I thank many of you for your kind and encouraging words with regards to the maintenance of the church yard this year, we are having a go at tackling a number of issues at the same time and I thought some of you may have an interest in the overall aim.

Cutting the grass in the church yard sounds fairly straight forward but throw into the mix very uneven ground, numerous little walls, plinths, chains, decades of bramble growth and limited resources to name some of the other ingredients, "straight forward" begins to evaporate. We are not alone however, this is a scenario facing a number of churches and has also been one of the prompts for the Church of England to encourage wildlife diversity in their grounds in collaboration with a number of regional and national organisations.

In a nutshell, here we are striving to keep the flat easy bits at the front of the church and the large area of more recent graves we shall be keeping traditional.

The tricky bits in the middle we shall regularly mow if possible but allow areas of wild flowers to develop/flourish on a seasonal basis in the hope that a wider fauna network will follow. We shall be using variable cutting frequencies and heights to help with the cause.

A number of residents want to be involved and have offered the provision of further native wild flowers to augment the existing wild flower range. We also hope to enable the school to use the area for environmental education, some of the teachers and children have already been involved in an initial wildlife audit.

Experience shows this to be very much an ongoing process, there will be times when areas just get away from us, lessons will undoubtedly be learnt along the way but it should certainly all be worthwhile. The resources available are limited and thus some of the work may be reliant on additional voluntary input, by all means please let me know if you are interested.

On a different tack and one that is proving to be very interesting to me is the clearance of pathways to every grave in the church yard and the removal of years of ivy growth from many of the memorial stones so that all may be accessed and read. I can now see that some of the old village names really do live up to that description, in a few months, you will hopefully be able to take an informative stroll all round church yard.

Very many thanks for reading, Andy Hartley, one of the Church Wardens.



There are now two new unitary councils for Northamptonshire – North and West. They'll help us provide better services and information for residents and businesses.

West Northamptonshire Council covers the local areas of Daventry, Northampton

Borough and South Northamptonshire. [westnorthants.gov.uk](http://westnorthants.gov.uk) Have a look at our new website. Its full of information.

North Northamptonshire Council covers the local areas of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. [northnorthants.gov.uk](http://northnorthants.gov.uk)

Myself, Cllr Ann Addison and Cllr Adam Brown are your elected Members. We represent the residents in the Bugbrooke Ward which includes Gayton, Blisworth, Pattishall, Bugbrooke, Nether & Upper Heyford, Harpole, Kislingbury, Milton Malsor and Rothersthorpe.

To best serve the Ward we have shared out the villages for attendance at Parish Council meetings and day-to-day business within them. I am responsible for Gayton, Blisworth and Nether & Upper Heyford. Please do contact me for help and advice.

Best wishes, Karen

Cllr Karen Cooper, The Paddocks, Baker Street, Gayton NN7 3EZ. Tel: 07753 638180.  
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