

GAYTON NEWS – SUMMER 2022



The village thanks Stuart Woolston for sponsoring the 'Jubilee tree' planted on the village pound, and to Robin Kelso and those who helped plant it.

Gayton Jubilee Weekend Celebrations

It seems a while ago now but at the start of June the Gayton community celebrated the Queens 70th Jubilee, plans for the events started back in January where we invited villagers to meet at The Eykyn Arms to discuss what they wanted for the long weekend. This evolved into a small committee of hard-working people who pulled off a fantastic weekend, with events catering for everyone and memories that will last a lifetime.

The main remit for the committee was to bring the whole community together which we feel we managed, it was lovely to see so many people in the village especially for the picnic on the green which was a huge success.

We were blessed with good weather for the picnic and celebrated listening to the beautiful voice of Shannon Molloy.



The tug of war was very popular and great fun, I think I still have the bruises to prove it!

It was a shame that the weather let us down for the street party, but luckily The Eykyn Arms opened their doors for those of us who couldn't tolerate the weather and so we had an indoor street party. Much respect for those brave souls who defied the weather and street partied nevertheless!



Although the Jubilee Celebrations were planned more for fun than fundraising, you managed to



raise an amazing £1005 to help support the Church.

So many people helped with all the events I couldn't possibly remember to thank everyone, but I would like to particularly mention the following committee members as without their hard work and organising we would not have had any of the events.

Firstly, to Lisa Gunn for organising the bunting making crew and for creating such a fabulous float for the children who absolutely loved it.

To Nina McCarlie and Nicki Kilshaw for the jumble sale, afternoon tea boxes, the picnic on the green and tug of war, and who raised a considerable contribution to the funds.

Wendy Woolston for organising putting the High Street bunting up and for helping with all events.

Cameron Billing who put up the bunting in the high street, who set up the beacon and who set up, provided, and drove the children's float.

To Robin Kelso for arranging for the Jubilee tree to be planted and to Stuart Woolston for sponsoring the tree, I'm sure it will be known as 'Stuart's Tree' to future generations.

And to Roger Clark for organising the beacon lighting, which was a fantastic start to proceedings and I'm sure would have been seen from miles away.



To Karen McArthur and John Gould from The Eykyn Arms who worked nonstop to host us all in-between events, hosting the children's disco and for putting on a fantastic night on the 4 June including the free band and buffet, and for also arranging the road closure and organising the street party/indoor street party.



To Gayton Primary School for the super Queens portraits, for decorating the village hall and for lending us more bunting!



To everyone who brought their stunning cars out for the car parade following the children's float, considering the weather was against us, we had a fabulous turnout.



And to Carol Coppock and Anna Fox who organised the gorgeous cream teas and refreshments at the church following the procession.



Congratulations to Dominic Mussard from Gayton Primary who won the Queen's Portrait competition, and who's amazing painting will be hung at The Eykyn Arms.

Lastly thanks to YOU, everyone who helped, supported, donated, attended, and joined in, it wouldn't have been a success without all of you.

Leandra Bramham
Gayton Jubilee Celebrations Co-Ordinator

'On behalf of the village, a very BIG thank you to Leandra for everything you did to bring together such a successful and enjoyable occasion.'

St Mary the Virgin

I shan't elaborate here as I know others are covering these events elsewhere but well, that was a bit of fun, not only did we enjoy the Afternoon Teas as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, we also threw in a couple of sessions of bell ringing to mark the event, but that was followed up by a cracker of the Open Gardens, pats on the back all around for those concerned. A handsome total was also raised towards the church funds, a great effort and very many thanks from us all on the PCC.

On the subject of having a good time, those keen eared amongst you will have noticed how the church clock is now very much more closely aligned to every other timepiece in the land, we have John Gunn to thank as he has taken on the role of chronological technician and is doing a grand job, it would have been such a shame for all that clock watching experience to go to waste!

On the subject of time and experience, we are about to celebrate Rev Karen's 20th anniversary of ordination, this being marked in the benefice by a suped-up communion service at Holy Cross Church Pattishall on the 3rd of July starting at 10.30am. Karen has been with us for just a handful of those years but I am sure we can all agree, within the community and schools too, that she is a real asset to us all and one we all very much appreciate, well done Karen.

On more mundane matters, you may be pleased to read that the current Church Wardens, David Coppock and Andy Hartley, have been elected to continue for another year and the other members of the Parochial Church Council remain Toby Benham, Kristina and John Rodgers, Sharon Crossley with Jenny Hinds as Secretary and Carol Coppock as Treasurer.

Just in case a reminder is appreciated, the Sunday services in Gayton are typically on the 4th Sunday of the month, starting at 10.00am. Very many thanks Andy

Jubilee Celebrations - Sunday 5th June



The morning started with dark clouds and heavy rain. Fortunately the rain eased off and the cavalcade around the village was able to start promptly at one o'clock from the church. On its return tea and homemade cakes were served in the church. The best decorated cake competition was judged by David Coppock, who has great experience in the field of cakes! The winners were Grace and Edith Gunn.

The monies raised from the jumble sale, cream tea sales, the raffle and the teas in the church were donated to church funds.

The Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council would like to thank the village for the generosity of the donation,

which was £1005.00. This contribution will help to maintain our historic church both as a community building and a place of worship. Carol Coppock

Gayton Open Gardens and Teddy Bear Trail - Sunday 12th June

How lucky were we?

After rather a dodgy start to the week the weather stayed fine for Sunday, much to the relief of the gardeners and organisers of this year's Gayton Open Gardens. There were eleven gardens, three of them new for this year, as well the allotments to see. Visitors were also encouraged to stroll around the Spinney and to enjoy the wild flowers in the churchyard. Barry and Wendy Steer set up their jigsaw stall in the church and did a brisk trade. The exhibition of work by the Litchborough Art Group provoked a lot of interest. We also had our very own 'Artist in Residence', Jenny Clark, who kindly set up her easel in the church and chatted to visitors about her work. A welcome addition to the

day was the free shuttle minibus service around the village kindly driven by David Coppock. In total the event raised £1173.75 for the church, which includes £148.00 from jigsaw, plants, garden sales and donations, and £397.75 from refreshments.





Many thanks go to all those (too many to list here, but you know who you are) who made this event so successful. The gardeners, who worked so hard to get their gardens ready for opening, the organisers of stalls and plant sales, the cake makers, the tea makers, the washers up and the clearers up! Without your support this event would not happen or be so successful.

Thank you also to the residents of Gayton who supported this event by coming to look around the gardens and enjoying some refreshments afterwards.

Joy Ayre, Carol Coppock, Barbara Kelso

Gayton & Tiffield Community minibus - what a fantastic Jubilee weekend of special events in both of our villages and our thanks to everyone involved for all the time and effort put into the organisation and delivery of the fabulous Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

We are still in the process of trying to extend our scheduled Tuesday and Friday services to an expanded local service area. This will enable us to provide an increased regular passenger base which will help to guarantee our future revenues and allow us to continue to operate our much-valued service to our local communities.

We are very grateful to both Tiffield and Gayton Parish Councils for assisting us by approving and providing £500 grants to help with the impending costs of training our new volunteer drivers from Gayton and Tiffeld.

Our Minibus again provided a shuttle transport service for the Gayton Open Gardens festival held on Sunday 12 June and our thanks to David Coppock for organising and driving on both the preview on Thursday 8th and for the sun-drenched event.

To our surprise and delight, WNC have agreed to extend our 'pre-Covid' level of funding for concessionary-fares for this financial year which will guarantee our revenues at pre-covid levels until March 2023, which leaves us with an excellent funding base.

Cate Gardner has continued to provide a superb service as our Treasurer and Steve Jowers has also been a major help in sustaining our services though these Covid restricted periods which together with WNC staff shortages have inevitably impacted our expansion plans.

We will shortly be arranging our long-awaited AGM to approve our accounts and to elect our Chairman, Treasurer and Trustees for the upcoming year. I would like to give advance notice prior to the AGM that I intend to stand-down as Chairman and hand over the reins to a new team to progress our expansion plans to ensure the future of our service. But I will be happy to continue as a Trustee and driver.

So, I would sincerely like to thank our Treasurer, our Trustees and of course all our volunteer drivers for their unstinting support and assistance in providing our much-valued Community Transport Service. Our thanks of course also go to our loyal passengers who continue to support the scheme. **Rae Spencer - Chairman** - rae.spencer@btopenworld.com

Gayton CE School

Well, it's that time of the year again! In school, we're looking forward to celebrating with all our Year 6 children, who are leaving us this summer, to begin a new chapter in secondary school. A special Leavers' Service in the church will round off the end to another academic year, whilst we also prepare to welcome our new Reception children.



You may have noticed, outside of school and around the village, our Eco Committee have been undertaking litter picks to help keep our village tidy. The eco committee have also made an effort to make our school look nice by planting flowers outside the back and front of school.

It was also amazing to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Over 200 children, from across all four of our schools, took part in the federation's celebrations which took place across the school, the village hall and field.

Kind regards,

Mr M McLoughlin. Gayton CE School Lead. The Forest Federation

The 'chain gang' clearing a fallen branch on a local path



Chain Gang

There have been about four sessions for the Chain Gang- a group of “willing volunteers” who help to clear footways, tidy around stiles etc. around the Parish. It gets more difficult at this time of year as weeds, especially nettles seem to grow as soon as your back is turned. I have recruited three people to join the team but am always looking for others.

Please let me know if you are able to come.

Robin Kelso
robin.kelso @btinternet.com

The re-launch of Gayton Church Heritage Trust Events

Gayton Church Heritage Trust (GCHT) was set up in 2005 as a registered charity to maintain and improve the fabric of the church and ensure it remains in use by the community. All monies raised by the Trust are solely for the upkeep of a building of historical significance, a community venue and a place of worship.

Alongside the Parochial Church Council (PCC), the Trust has raised funds from grants, donations from the community and events to fulfil this aim. The improvements to date include; making repairs to the roof, upgrading the internal lighting, installing a roof alarm, resurrecting the weather vane, and building the toilet and servery.

The support of GCHT in maintaining the fabric of the building has meant that the PCC has been able to use their income from collections at services, regular monthly giving, donations, and fees from weddings, funerals and fundraising to pay for day to day running costs such as insurance, heating, lighting, water and for their Parish Share which pays for a vicar.

Working with the PCC, the Trust wants to raise monies to further enhance the church facilities as intended in the village plan. These include:

- *New heating
- *Reordering of the North Aisle to create a space for events
- *General maintenance
- *Storage cupboards
- *Seating

The Heating project and re-ordering of the North Aisle is estimated to be about £60,000. GCHT has already has some money from bequests and fund raising. The Trust will be able to apply for grants. However we also need support from the community. Funding bodies are very keen to know that the community is supporting the project before they will award a grant.

We are now planning regular events in the Church following the disruption caused by the pandemic.

GCHT is organising a re-launch event in the Church on Friday 7th October 2022 at 7.30pm for Wine and cheese. All are welcome to attend. Please come along and support the work of GCHT Trust and be a Guardian of Gayton Church. Joy Ayre

Gayton Walkers

These walks still occur on 2nd Sundays of the month although there have been a few cancellations due to Covid (me in April) and in June as it clashed with the Open Gardens. I had a 3-line whip to get our garden fit for visitors. Colin has agreed to lead the walk on July 10th as I shall be in Canada. Now there we could have a serious walk!

I plan for future walks to be slightly shorter, start from Fiveways and finish at The Eykyn Arms.

Please let me know if you have discovered a local route that would be interesting.

Robin Kelso. robin.kelso @btinternet.com

Solar Farm

Gayton Parish Council has campaigned against the proposed 70 ha solar farm on two sites near the village. As a part of this campaign a list of issues has been drawn up. A few of these issues are relevant, but unfortunately the majority are unquantified blanket statements. If the Parish Council wishes to continue fighting the proposed scheme, the objections will have to be far more specific and generally of a significantly improved quality.

Below are my comments on the 11 issues raised.

1. Loss of productive arable land.

Most of the land in question is classified as grade 3, i.e. low grade. Both energy and food are critically important for our society, so with a choice between using land for energy or for food production we should bear in mind that in proportion to our consumption our net import of energy exceeds our net import of food.

2. Impact on the landscape.

There is little visible impact, except from some roads and footpaths. Some of this impact can be mitigated by hedge planting.

3. Loss of open field wildlife habitats and ecology impact.

The area of the panels is about 1/3 of the total land area, and the percentage of land completely obstructed is much smaller than this. There is opportunity for using the land for sheep grazing or for rewilding. A field used for solar panels will have much more biodiversity than a field of monoculture crops.

4. Impact on the Gayton conservation area.

The areas in question are hardly visible from the conservation area. So, what is the impact?

5. Impact on the Grand Union Canal conservation area.

The two areas are not visible from the Grand Union Canal conservation area at all. So, what is the impact?

6. Undermining of local tenant farm businesses and employment.

This could be a valid point, but it needs to be quantified. What proportion of their area will the farms in question lose? How much employment does the farming of 70 ha generate?

7. Impact on local tourist businesses.

The only local tourist businesses close to the village are the caravan site and the businesses related to the canal. The two areas are neither visible from the caravan site nor from the canal. So, what is the impact?

8. Noise generation impact.

There will be noise during construction, but after completion there will be less noise than if the areas are used for farming.

9. Cumulative development impact.

All development is cumulative, so I simply don't understand this point. During my time in Gayton every single house on Milton Road has been extended or rebuilt. That is also cumulative development.

10. Traffic impact on highway network and local villages.

There will inevitably be a period of increased traffic related to the construction. After completion there will be a very limited amount of traffic related to maintenance, but that will be far less than the current traffic related to farming.

11. Temporary use with undefined reinstatement.

This is a valid point. The developers should be required to provide a bank guarantee (or some other suitable arrangement) to cover the decommissioning costs (likely to be under 10% of the construction costs).

It has been argued that solar panels should have been put on all the new warehouses being built in the area, I fully agree. In fact, they should have been put on all new buildings, industrial and residential, for at least the last 10 years. It is not a question of whether to use land or buildings, we need both.

At the Village Meeting in May it was clearly stated that it is not solar electricity as such that is the problem, only the location. That being the case I feel that the link presently appearing on the Gayton website is inappropriate, as there are several problems with this link:

1. The material is presented as “Solar Scheme Evidence” coming from a “Government source” and as an “article from a Government employee”, when it is in fact merely a letter from a private citizen, who is not even a local resident. I regard this as a misrepresentation.
2. Most of the arguments in this letter are against solar power in general rather than against the proposed scheme.
3. It contains numerous imprecise or incorrect statements.
4. It makes extensive references to a U.N. report, but several of the figures from that report are misquoted. Has any member of the Parish Council even studied this report?

There are examples of other villages who have taken a “bribe” (which in our case could be used to refurbish the Village Hall) instead of trying to stop the development of solar farms. However, I fully accept that the Parish Council has a mandate to work against this scheme. In response to the village questionnaire around 25% of those asked were against, only around 5% in favour, and around 70% did not bother to respond.

My conclusion is simple: The parish Council should either work against this scheme using a limited number of high quality and quantifiable arguments or accept that this development is likely to happen anyway, and try to get some benefits for the village in return.

Jens Buus, 6 Baker Street.

***** The article above has been submitted by a Village resident; the one below is a response and update from the Gayton Parish Council***

Everyone has the right to express personal opinions on the massive 170 acre industrial solar application, proposed to be located directly adjacent to the Village boundary and extending as far as the A43. However, the Parish Council would urge all Villagers, who have not already done so, to read the objection report submitted on behalf of the Village by the Parish Council to West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). This can be found on the WNC Planning Portal – go to -

<https://snc.planning-register.co.uk/Document/Download?module=PLA&recordNumber=112162&planId=1245601&imageId=137&isPlan=False&fileName=SIS%20Full%20Submission.pdf>

and input the reference - [WNS/2021/1858/EIA](https://snc.planning-register.co.uk/Document/Download?module=PLA&recordNumber=112162&planId=1245601&imageId=137&isPlan=False&fileName=SIS%20Full%20Submission.pdf) – our report is in the ‘Neighbour Responses’ section under the ‘Supporting Documents’ tab.

The report was put together after canvassing the whole of Gayton last summer where 85% of Villagers, who responded, objected to the proposals. It was specifically drafted to comprehensively relay all of the issues and concerns identified by Villagers. Many of these concerns have also been raised by our neighbouring Parishes (Blisworth and Rothersthorpe), our local MP, the Campaign for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and a large number of local residents and local businesses.

Regarding the actual formal planning process, we understand that a number of WNC Statutory Consultees have outstanding concerns and others are still waiting for the developer to provide information or revise previously submitted studies. We have been in contact with the Planning Department to understand timescales, but as yet, no dates have been confirmed for when this vast application will go to committee. We will obviously let all Villagers know as soon as we hear anything from the Officers. Although technically out of time, we understand that WNC Planning Officers will still record and take note of objections or comments (via the website link above) if anyone has not already done.

Regards, Roger Clarke, Nominated Gayton Parish Councillor

Finding it difficult to cope with the rising cost of living?

Gayton Alms Charities may be able to help.

For information contact David Coppock, Chair of Trustees, on 01604 859545
All calls and any subsequent applications will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

Please note: Anyone applying for assistance must be resident in the Parish of Gayton

Litter Pick

A big thank you goes to everyone who supported the spring litter pick.
The autumn litter pick will take place over the week of Saturday 15 to Sunday 23 October.

Please do support the litter pick and help keep our village clean. Thank you.

karencooper@mortimers.uk.com. Tel/text 07753 638180



For the next edition of the Gayton News please send me your articles, photos, updates, information etc by Friday 16 September.

The next edition of the Gayton News will be distributed between the 23 – 26 September.

karencooper@mortimers.uk.com

Gayton Evergreen Club

The thirty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Club was held on Tuesday 24th May at the Village Hall. The Secretary reported on the minutes of the previous meeting held in January 2020. The Treasurer reported on the finances of the Club, which are healthy! The Chair gave a report on activities during 2020-2022.

Naomi Sheehan resigned from the committee as she has moved away from Gayton. The members warmly thanked her for her hard work on the committee since June 2015.

Jan Leeding also stepped down from the committee, she will continue to be a member of the club. Manja Ronne and Carol Coppock agreed to remain on the committee and were re-elected. The committee currently has two vacancies.

Jan was a founding member of the Club when it was formed on 17th January 1984, she has served on the committee ever since. Jan was thanked for her hard work and continuing commitment to the club.

She was presented with a bouquet of flowers, some posh chocolates and a certificate recording her long service to the club.



Time is needed to recruit additional committee members and to plan a programme of meetings.

In the interim, it was agreed that Gayton Evergreen Club would meet once a month on a Wednesday morning at 10.00am at the Eykyn Arms for 'Coffee and Chat'.

Our first meeting was held on Wednesday 8th June. This was a pleasant occasion and gave members a chance to catch up on their news over coffee (and in some cases an egg and bacon roll, which looked delicious!)

Future dates of the Coffee and Chat Mornings will be:

Wednesday 6th July

Wednesday 10th August

Wednesday 14th September

All starting at 10.00am. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to join us. Currently there is no subscription, just 'pay as you go'.



If you are interested helping the current committee get the club going again, please contact Carol or Manja.

We would like to see the club 'back on its feet' providing regular meetings with speakers, lunches and outings.

Carol Coppock 01604 859645 carol.coppock14@gmail.com

Manja Ronne 01604 859243 ManjaRonne@btinternet.com