

GAYTON NEWS – WINTER 2022



MERRY CHRISTMAS – HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gayton Walkers

The walkers still meet at 10am on the 2nd Sunday of the month for a walk of approx 4 miles, usually visiting a pub at the end.

In October we walked from Eastcote to the canal near Bugbrooke and back to the Eastcote Arms. In November, we started and ended at Peggottys at Fosters Booth and walked to Cold Higham, Potcote and back across the A5 to Astcote. It was very foggy so we didn't have the fine views towards Towcester and Northampton.

There will be the usual walk on 11th December starting from Fiveways at 10am, destination to be decided. It is a surprise as I haven't thought yet.

THERE WILL BE THE TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK AT 11AM (not 10a.m.) FROM FIVEWAYS, GAYTON FOR 1 HR ONLY, somewhere local.

If you are planning to come on any of the walks, please let me know beforehand so that I know who to wait for.

Robin Kelso robin.kelso@btinternet.com Tel: 07801859511

Chain Gang

The faithful members of the Chain Gang still seem willing to come to help with clearing footpaths, repairing stiles etc. It must be the fact that we usually retire to my house for coffee and biscuits (occasionally cheese scones!).

We have cleared the footpaths around Westgate Nursing Home (that was), Goggs Farm (avoiding the horses), Lower Wilds off Eastcote Road, and the path from The Limes on Milton Road to the Blisworth Marina alongside the rail line. I am always looking for more help "many hands..... etc". Please contact me for more information. Details above.



Dear Friends in Gayton

We wish all in Gayton a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy and Healthy New Year**. Instead of delivering Christmas cards to you, once again we shall be making a donation to Gayton Church Heritage Trust.

Jens & Manja, 6 Baker Street

Dear Jens & Manja, thank you very much for your kind donation to the Gayton News



Gayton Solar Farm Application WNS/2021/1857EIA

West Northamptonshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee met on Monday the 17th October to discuss and review all the submissions made on this application, and to make a decision. A representative from Gayton Parish Council was allowed 3 minutes to summarise the Parishes wishes to refuse this application.

Three minutes is not very long but, when a small committee group had concentrated on publishing a 47 page report full of expert comment and appraisal, the three minutes was ample time to convince the committee to unanimously Refuse the application.

The major issues were;

- Loss of productive Arable land
- Negative Landscape impact
- Loss of Open Field Wildlife Habitats and Ecology Impact
- Negative Impact on Gayton Conservation Area
- Negative Impact on the Grand Union Canal Conservation Area
- Undermining of Local Tenant Farm Businesses and Employment
- Negative Impact on Local Tourist Businesses and Employment
- Noise Generation
- Cumulative Development Impact
- Traffic Impact on Highway Network and Local Villages
- Temporary Use with Undefined Reinstatement Plan or Costing

Further issues as to how the two sites North and South were to be linked, as they are divided by both the West Line Railway and the Grand Union Canal and how the energy was to be stored on site before being linked to the sub-station on the Bedford Road in Northampton!

170 acres, the size of the Gayton Solar Farm application would produce 1 million loaves of bread. We each consume on average half a loaf of bread per week, therefore 170 acres could feed 2 million people for a week. Already 44,000 acres have been allocated to Solar farms, therefore divide 44,000 by 170 and then multiply by 2 million, you will have a figure of what land lost to solar could have produced in food!

Fertile farming land is a reducing asset, it is being consumed by housing, industry, road networks, HS2 and 300,000 hectares being allocated by the Government for tree planting!

We are only 68% self sufficient in home production, if we are to improve on that we cannot, and should not lose more land to energy provision when there are industrial buildings all round the country without any solar panels on the roofs!

It is quite likely that the applicant, Anesco will make an Appeal to the independent Inspectorate, who of course will review the whole issue but also note that it was a **Unanimous Committee Refusal**

Regards

Roger Clarke. Nominated Councillor for Gayton Parish Council

NEWS FROM GAYTON CHURCH HERITAGE TRUST - December 2022

The Autumn edition of Gayton News provided a good account of the aims of the Trust. The article mentioned the plans for church improvements that are drawn up and have been approved by the Diocese. The main task is to upgrade the heating in the North Aisle and Chapel, the pre-lockdown estimate was £60,000.

Now lockdown is over, the Trust wanted to celebrate this by hosting a social evening in the Church as we have done for many years before the virus changed all our lives. We started planning an event this autumn but our star attraction, Sarah Spade, suggested that November was not the best of months for such a festive event and the committee has taken her advice. We have postponed the occasion and will arrange a new date when the evenings are longer. Sarah will return to entertain us and we look forward to welcoming all comers to an enjoyable evening. You can look up Sarah on her website: www.saraspade.com to see what is in store.

GCHT has to get back to fund-raising and perhaps this will be the last of many major improvements to our beautiful church.

Anna Fox, *Chairman, GCHT*

Jens and Manja were collecting the rubbish, litter, tyres, bottles etc etc etc from Wrights Lane and found a huge amount of cables which had been dumped/fly tipped. They were incredibly kind and collected everything and reported it to the Police, who are looking into this.



A very big thank you to everyone who again supported the village litter pick. We collected 2 enormous piles of rubbish, tyres, boxes, tins of paint etc etc etc. West Northants Council have sent their thanks for helping to keep our area clean.

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.

Village Email Communications

Hello, on behalf of the village communications team we'd like to give you the opportunity to join the village email lists or update your details with us.

These lists are a vital link for villagers who may not use social media to keep up with village affairs and messages.

The village message email is used to send any relevant village communications such as church service dates, Gayton News, community events and also missing pets, advertisements and other village related news.

The neighbourhood watch email is used to communicate details about local crimes, messages from Northampton Neighbourhood Alert and Northamptonshire Police.

If you would like to join these lists, please email: gayton.northants@gmail.com and provide your name, address and confirm that you would like to join either/or both lists (unfortunately this is needed for GDPR)

We also welcome you to share anything you feel of interest to the village on the Village Message email, to do this send an email to: gayton.northants@gmail.com

Please also look out for our other village methods of communication: -

The Gayton News - published 4 times per year

Gayton Villagers Facebook group - search Gayton Villagers on Facebook and remember to answer as many questions as you can, if you answer no questions, we will not allow you into the group.

And the 3 village notice boards located, at the church, on the pound in the centre of the village and in the village hall porch.

Thank you for your time and look forward to adding you to our lists.

Gayton Communications Team, On behalf of Gayton Parish Council

Gayton Evergreen Club

The Coffee and Chat Mornings at the Eykyn Arms continue to be well supported. Thank you to John, Karen and Cameron for their hospitality and friendly service.

The dates of the Coffee and Chat Mornings for the beginning of 2023 will be:

Wednesday 11th January

Wednesday 8th February

Wednesday 8th March

All starting at 10.00am

These meetings are open to anyone who would like to join us. Currently there is no subscription, just 'pay as you go'.

An additional meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 7th December at the Eykyn Arms. There will be entertainment from the Jinx Singers followed by seasonal refreshments.

Thank you to those who have already offered support to help at meetings, it is much appreciated. Other volunteers are always welcome.

Carol Coppock 01604 859645 carol.coppock14@gmail.com

Manja Ronne 01604 859243 ManjaRonne@btinternet.com

PCSO 7041 Jen Harrison is our contact with the Neighbourhood Police Team for our area. Unfortunately there have been incidents of anti social behaviour in the village, which PCSO Jen Harrison is aware of, therefore a patrol team will visit the village regularly.

To Report any Incident, Crime , Antisocial Behaviour, Suspicious Circumstance, Welfare Concern:

- Telephone 101 (select option to report an incident / crime)
- **In an emergency dial 999**
- Use the online reporting form for anything that does not require a prompt response:
Report | Northamptonshire Police (northants.police.uk)

If you have any concerns regarding an incident in the village please report this through these channels.

PCSO 7041 Jen Harrison, Neighbourhood Police Team , Daventry & South Northants | Northamptonshire Police

Tel: **101** (if outside Northamptonshire **03000 111 222**) Ext: **344275**

Address: Towcester Police Station, Watling Street, Towcester, Northants NN12 6DE

Twitter: **@SthNorthantsNPT**

Facebook: Daventry and South Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Policing Team

Non urgent information can be sent to the Towcester Neighbourhood Team Inbox:

NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@northants.pnn.police.uk

If you have emailed me but are reporting Crime, Antisocial Behaviour , Suspicious Circumstances please use one of the below reporting options:

To report antisocial behaviour, suspicious behaviour and crime:

Telephone 101 (select option to report an incident / crime)

In an emergency dial 999

Use the online reporting form for anything that does not require a prompt response:

Report | Northamptonshire Police (northants.police.uk)



If you have any concerns and want to speak to me please do contact me, Karen.

Cllr Karen Cooper, Member for Bugbrooke Ward, Lead Member for Gayton, West Northants Council karen.cooper@westnorthants.gov.uk Tel: 07753 638180



Gayton C of E Primary School

We have recently undergone a SIAMS inspection here at Gayton C of E Primary School of which we have been certified as excellent.

Please see the quote below from our Executive Head Mrs Eliza Hollis:



It gives me great pleasure in advising that during our recent SIAMS inspection for Gayton school, we achieved the highest grading of **'Excellence'** in all areas.

I am incredibly proud of everyone, staff and pupils should be congratulated on this achievement. Thank you to those parents who spoke so highly of the school to the inspector. The report is truly wonderful and captures our school perfectly. I particularly love this: *'This is indeed a place where watching over one another in love is normal.'*

'Pupil achievement is high, pupil engagement and resilience, exemplary.'

The article features in the chronicle and echo can be read here:

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/education/headteacher-incredibly-proud-after-northamptonshire-school-awarded-highest-rating-in-latest-siams-report-3909987>

The children enjoyed watching England's first game in the World Cup, and what a game it was.



We are looking forward to lots of Christmas activities taking place within school, we will be taking part in the Gayton Advent windows, our Nativity will be taking place at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 7th December and we will be celebrating 'Christmas Jumper Day' in aid of Save the Children.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year, from all the staff and children at Gayton CofE Primary School.

Protracted delays in Broadband routers re-establishing connection after a power outage or reset

I (and others) have been experiencing some unsatisfactorily long delays with the Broadband service “re-synching” after a power outage or reset. i.e. The Router powers up and works locally quite quickly, but it won’t re-establish its Broadband/Internet connection for quite some time, 5–180 minutes (as recorded in system logs).

Realistically, after a reset, you should be able to get a response from Google within 1-2 Minutes.

As virtually the entire village is served over the same infrastructure, (“Blisworth 3” cabinet on Back Lane and its associated Fibre Cab), which is provided and maintained by Openreach, this issue is independent of whichever Broadband company that you are with.

In trying to eliminate the problem, I’ve replaced the router and indeed, even moved my broadband service onto a different product to see if it improves things, to no avail. I’ve also had 2 engineering visits; one to check that everything was OK in the house (it was) and secondly by Openreach to replace the Master Socket to the latest version and to check out the Cabinet.

The interesting cause and conclusion provided informally to me by the Openreach engineer, is that this cabinet is “lazy” in restoring the connection and that it is a well-known issue amongst other local engineers and indeed, their Field Manager, but no remedial work is planned to address it! This is potentially because it allegedly has Chinese Huawei equipment fitted and this is all due to be replaced at some point in the future by Government mandate. In the meantime, they may be unwilling to spend time and money on “fixing” it?

I would like to ask Gayton residents to respond to this survey: (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3TZNXWY>) with their own experiences in order to gather more information. Thank you, Colin Simmonds, (Chair, Gayton Communication Working Party)

For the next edition of the Gayton News please send me your articles, photos, updates, information etc by Friday 24 March 2023

The next edition of the Gayton News will be distributed between the 31 March – 3 April

karencooper@mortimers.uk.com Tel 07753 638180



Gayton Village Hall Management Committee

The village hall continues to be available for hire during uncertain times. Rising energy costs have been managed by prudently negotiating a 3-year contract with our electricity provider earlier this year. In addition, careful management of finances will ensure we are in a strong position to maintain your village hall going forward into the new year. There are several maintenance projects we are trying to progress, but we are finding it difficult to engage appropriate trades to complete these.

During the past 2+ years Leandra Bramham and Nina McCarlie have been leading activities to keep the village hall available for hire (fundraising, managing repairs, ensuring someone was available to take bookings etc) and at the latest AGM they accepted the position of (joint) chair of the village hall management committee. I will continue to support the village hall management committee, but the dynamism and creativity of our new chair/committee should allow our village hall to grow.

Jens Buus has formally stepped down from the management committee after almost 25 years. Please join with me in thanking him for his services to the community. We still rely on Jens going forward as he has irreplaceable knowledge regarding finances of the village hall.

Wendy Woolston and David Glanville have agreed to join our management committee and I would like to welcome them.

After analysing the village hall survey results (autumn 2021) we can inform Gayton residents that of the 51 responses, nearly 50% only use the hall once or twice per year.

Changes to encourage people to make more use of the village hall are modernised kitchen and toilet facilities, Improved lighting, More efficient heating system, Future events/clubs, Barn Dances, Chess Club, Crafting Club, Antiques fairs.

The kitchen/toilets/lighting and heating improvements are on our list of activities for the New Yearbut further funds will be required to realise these projects.

If you would like to lead on any future events/clubs then please talk with us as our main aim is to provide the community space for the community to form clubs and run events.

We continue to offer very competitive rates, including discounted rates for regular users.

David Ayre . For Village Hall Management Committee

Gayton Church Clock

As some may be aware the church clock's timekeeping has been hit and miss lately.

Behind the scenes we are working hard to keep it going, sometimes it's a race against the repair man's time to get it up and running again!

We are making every effort to keep it on time and trying to prevent it from stopping again but as each second ticks so does the cost of repair. We hope to have the cogs all shiny and new in no time at all.

Finally as time goes by (sometimes slowly!) please pause for a thought and it may be ticking again the next time you look.

Gayton PCC

MERRY CHRISTMAS GAYTON VILLAGERS
FROM KAREN & JOHN AT THE EYKYN ARMS

Thank you for your continued support over the last year

Forthcoming events & Christmas opening times

Saturday 17 December

Free Mulled Wine (1 per person) after the Santa Run (we are proud to donate the children's selection boxes again this year)

Saturday 24 December Xmas Eve Xmas Karaoke with Pravin 8.30pm – midnight

Sunday 25 December Xmas Day Open lunchtime only 11.30am – 2.00pm

Monday 26 December Boxing Day Open 12noon - 4.00pm & 6.00pm – 10.00pm

New Years Eve 31 December Open 12noon – 1.00am 'Mr Vegas' returns to entertain you (back by popular demand) 9.00pm – 12midnight approx.

Sunday 1 January New Year's Day Open 12noon – 10.00pm



The Gayton Santa Tractor Run!!

It is that time of year and The Eykyn Arms along with members of the community are preparing for the Santa Tractor Run. We are hoping to make it bigger and brighter this year.

Thanks to all those who have already contributed so far.

Can we please ask if there are any local business owners if they are happy to donate a gift/prize towards a hamper/raffle?

Any other donations towards this are also greatly appreciated.

If anyone would like a specific visit from Santa on his tractor then please do let us know. His route is being worked out and we would like to enable as many villagers to see him as is possible.

If your child requires a 'free from' option, please let us know so we can accommodate everyone.

Please contact Lisa Gunn on 07703842606 It would be great to see as many of you as possible and please join in by lighting up the streets of Gayton with your homes.

Many Thanks, Santa's Tractor Elves



Gayton Tractor Run

17 DEC | **STARTS AT 6:30 PM**
2022 | **ST MARY'S CHURCH**
Santa's tractor tours the village,
More Details coming soon!!!

BUGBROOKE MEDICAL PRACTICE UPDATE

I recently joined Bugbrooke Medical Practice Patient Participation Group and, in future, will publish any information that may be of interest to residents of Gayton who use the Bugbrooke Surgery. If you're on Facebook you may already have seen some notices I posted about flu jabs and the renovation of the surgery. However, if you aren't a FB user I will also give updates on the Village Messaging email system (we recently did a letter drop explaining how to join) and on the new Parish Council Website that will be up and running early in the New Year. It is also worth visiting the Bugbrooke Practice Website which contains lots of information about how to access services and the changes taking place in how those services are provided. The following Newsletter will give you an idea of the sort of information being passed on by the Practice.

Carl Hamilton, Chairman Gayton PC

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of YOUR Patients' Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading through and finding out what's happening within YOUR practice.

Issue: Autumn 2022

Welcome Message

Welcome to our Autumn Patient Newsletter. The nights are drawing in and the autumnal colours are certainly painting a colder picture. Please enjoy our new edition of the newsletter.

Supporting the Community

Staff have been busy supporting our Community at large and locally. We have raised over £120.00 for charity including MacMillan Nurses and Breast Cancer Now.

We are supporting our local community with our inaugural Baby Carer's Afternoon Tea, 7th December between 12:15 and 1:15pm at Bugbrooke Rugby Club, who have kindly donated the use of the room. We aim to give mums/dads/grandparents and carers a chance to come along and have a chat with others looking after pre-school aged children. We will have a nurse and a Health Visitor present for those little niggles you may wish to discuss. So come along for a cuppa, a biscuit and a chance to meet other people.

New Starters

We would like to wish a warm welcome to some of the newest staff to the practice including: Lorraine Spicer our Practice Manager, who joins us with many years of experience working in Practice Management in Northampton, and supporting a PCN. We are very excited to work alongside Lorraine to continue developing our services.

We welcome back Dr. Sumera Shariff, who has returned after her Maternity Leave, and will continue working along side our growing team of Salaried GPs.

We have two new trainee Drs. Joining us in December, Dr. Ayesha Naeem, as an ST1 – which means that Dr Naeem is already a qualified Doctor, but is spending time with us to improve her skills in General Practice. We will also be joined by Dr. Emily Pontin, FY2. Dr Pontin is a qualified Dr, who is joining us to gain experience in a general practice.

Enhance Access

You may be offered an appointment with our Enhanced Access system for out of hours appointments. These could be in a variety of locations, but they are an added benefit to give you, our patients more access to treatment and appointments and the care you need.

Meet our Physiotherapists

Our Physiotherapists are here to help you with a multitude of problems, and there are experts in their field.

Mehzabeen Warsi. Mehz is one of our Physiotherapists. She studied at Manipal, India and gained a Bachelors of Physiotherapy, MSc in MSK Physiotherapy, MSc in Sports and Clinical Biomechanics, at the Robert Gordon University, Scotland.

Mehz's Specialist area – **What is a Musculoskeletal Specialist Practitioner?** Musculoskeletal Specialist Practitioners are Senior Chartered Physiotherapists working in your GP Surgery to see you alongside the GP team to provide an assessment service. They are trained to a high level and specialise in any conditions involving muscle, bone, tendon, ligament, nerve and many other conditions such as arthritis, sciatica, fibromyalgia etc.

What should you expect when you have an appointment with Mehz?

A thorough assessment just as you would have with your GP and then where appropriate you will be given

- The chance to discuss your condition and receive advice and exercises
- Medication to help with your pain. Always try over the counter medication first under the guidance of a pharmacist
- A referral for further investigation such as X-ray or Ultrasound Scan
- A referral to Physiotherapy
- A referral to orthopaedics/spinal team or other services such as Podiatry or Rheumatology You will be under the care of the Musculoskeletal Specialist Practitioner who will ensure you are on the best pathway for a speedy recovery.

Muhammad Ahmad Ahmed is one of our Physiotherapists who can help you. He has the following qualifications: DPT; MSc (Advancing Physiotherapy Practice), Coventry University. MSK First Contact Physiotherapist.

His expertise lies in the advanced evaluation/assessment of individuals with suspected musculoskeletal conditions. Ongoing spinal issues, management of ongoing Arthritis pain with exercises and activity modification through patient centred approach.

Meet our Clinical Pharmacists

Meet our **Clinical Pharmacists** – you may be offered a chance to talk to one our Clinical Pharmacist who will talk to you about your medications and help you understand them.

Shiv Chadha. Shiv is our Senior Clinical Pharmacist. He studied at University of Brighton, where he achieved his Masters in Pharmacy. He went onto complete CPPE GP Pharmacist Pathway at the University of Manchester, along with a Postgraduate Clinical Diploma. He obtained his Independent Prescribing Certificate at the University of Reading. Shiv works alongside his team managing medications and helping with medicine reviews. In his spare time Shiv enjoys riding his motorcycle and has ridden around Europe in 7 days. He plans to have many more adventures in the future.

Tracy Lengu: Tracy is one of our Clinical Pharmacists working alongside Shiv, managing medications and carrying out reviews. Tracy's qualifications are: Qualifications: Bachelor of Science - **University of Malawi**, Master of Pharmacy - **University of Sunderland**, Postgraduate Clinical Diploma- **Cardiff University**, Master of Science- Clinical Pharmacy - **De Montfort University**, Independent Prescribing-**Sheffield Hallam University**. Her hobbies include reading and listening to music.

Krishna Champaneri: Krishna is our Pharmacy Technician, her qualifications are Pharmacy Technician (NVQ Level 3 Buttercups), Completion of CPPE Medicines Optimisation in Care Homes Pathway (Primary Care) BA (Hons) Business Management. Krishna provides technical and

administrative support for our Clinical Pharmacist and GPs. She will assist with transferring medication and supporting with medication reviews. In her spare time Krishna enjoys travelling.

Website

Our website has been re-arranged and we continue to work hard keeping the information accurate and up to date. It is now 'smart phone' accessible too.

Refurbishment

Exciting news – our refurbishment is due to start 3rd December. We do plan to keep disruption to a minimum. Please bear in mind there will be some disruption if you use our dispensary:

Our Dispensary is undergoing refurbishment at the start of December, our dispensing work will therefore be limited to **urgent prescriptions only from Friday 2 to Wednesday 7 December**. If you were due to place a medication order at the start of December please do so a week or two earlier.

There will be a longer delay for processing orders in early December – the turnaround time will be 4 working days rather than the usual 48 hours. We aim to return to normal as soon as possible with a fresh look and the new dispensing hatch to the left of the reception desk.

Except Bank Holidays we will open as usual over Christmas so please only order extra if you are going away.

Keeping in Touch!

Don't forget to keep us updated with your contact details! You can update us by giving us a call on 01604 830348 or via email at bugbrooke.k83070@nhs.net

Also don't forget to follow us on Facebook for regular updates, health campaigns and urgent announcements.

It is worth noting that if you are moving out of our service area, we will ask you to register with a practice closer to your new home within thirty days. This is to ensure you continue to have the best service possible, together with our every growing surgery will no longer be able to provide services to patients no longer in our area.

Patient Survey Feedback

Thank you to all of you who participated in our survey. We were extremely pleased to see that you feel either extremely satisfied or satisfied with our services, on the whole.

Patient Participation Group

Our Patient Participation Group will be looking over the survey results and looking at providing us with some suggestions on how we can improve a few areas to support you.

Remember if you want to have a voice and would like to join us, we meet every two months for approximately an hour and you can be as involved as you like. We would love to hear from you if you would like to join us.

Thank You

Thank you to all of our patients for your continued support and understanding. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. **Please note our PLT Training dates. We will close at 12:30 on the dates below. Please call 111 if you require medical assistance after that time. 14th December 2022, 26th January 2023, 23rd February 2023**

Finally

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Partners - Dr W Hunt, Dr J Toplis, Dr R Parry, Dr S Boston

Practice Manager: Lorraine Spicer, Business Manager: Donna Gilbert

Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus

With Christmas now fast approaching we are nearing the end of a remarkable year which was marked by the Platinum Jubilee in March to celebrate the 70 years of dedicated service by our Monarch Queen Elizabeth II, followed by her sad loss at the age of 96 in September.

Back to more mundane local matters! We are holding our annual AGM at Gayton Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 7th December to approve our annual accounts and to elect our Chairman, Officers and Trustees for the forthcoming year.

We are again planning to run two MK Shopping trips on Wednesday 14th December and Wednesday 21st December, leaving Gayton and Tiffield at 11.00am and returning at 2.00pm at a cost of £8 return subject to a minimum of 8 passengers for each trip. **Could you please email me ASAP to make a booking if you are interested in using this service.**

We have had a reduction in passengers since the Covid outbreak which affects our revenue from concessionary fares which we need to sustain and extend our service. To offset the reduction in passengers, we now have formal approval to extend our scheduled services to Towcester and Northampton on Tuesdays and Fridays to include both Eastcote and Dalscote which will provide more passenger revenue. Another benefit of this expansion will be to hopefully provide more drivers and of course more Private Hire revenue.

We were pleased to again provide a complementary minibus shuttle service for the Gayton Open Gardens event in June, and for our own highly successful Tiffield Open Gardens event held on August Bank Holiday Monday.

We have also been delighted to continue to provide our communities with the opportunity for visits by local groups and Charities, which included trips to enjoy Windsor Park festivities, a trip to Kelmarsh Hall Gardens, and low-cost transport to and from airports for local community groups.

Cate Gardner has continued to provide a superb service as our Treasurer through these challenging times, and of course our thanks to all of our Trustees and volunteer drivers for their unstinting support and assistance in providing our much-valued Community Minibus Service.

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

Please, please please can EVERYONE pick up after their dogs and use the bins that Gayton Parish Council has provided around the village or your black bin at home. Concerned residents have reported dog fouling in Park Lane, Baker Street, Blisworth Road, High Street and Back Lane. Please pick up after your dogs and keep our village clean.

Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant and completely unnecessary, it is dangerous. Contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness and seizures.

St Mary the Virgin

Yep, it's that busy time of year again, all that Christmas décor going up around the village, both inside and out, extra shopping, both planned and last minute, socialising and partying, both at home and at work/school etc. It's so so easy to become wrapped up in our own little worlds, nothing wrong with that at all but if we can share just a few of the bare necessities of life with those that genuinely need them at some stage, we can all have a better festive season, both us and other folk. Thank you.

Taking a detour of the Christmas theme for just a moment we can reflect on recent events in the Church including the ever thought provoking Remembrance Day Service, many thanks to all those involved with the formal proceedings and the refreshments afterwards.

Also, we have recently received a contribution to church funds from the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust following the annual *Sponsored Ride and Stride* event earlier in the year. The merry band of striders trying to keep up with the blazing pace set by Molly Kelso deserve all the credit and plaudits for their achievement, well done from the Parochial Church Council.

As for the PCC, St Mary' is benefitting from having an active and enthusiastic body steering things along and there are a few social and fund-raising schemes at the late incubation/hatching stage, when things are firmed-up, rest assured we shall certainly let you know and pester you to the hilt to join in and part with your money! The PCC is now holding its' meetings in the Eykyn Arms, as one would expect, the Meeting is made to feel very welcome, it is nice to support the local industries when we can!! Thank you John and Karen.

Other note-worthy happenings could include the recentish spate of Sunday afternoon church bell ringing, I am sure you will agree it was of high quality and was a pleasure to have in the background whilst going about our chores. The reason for the additional ringing being the church bells at Holy Cross, Pattishall, are temporarily out of action, in fact they are temporarily out of the county to enable modification of the church tower etc as the six in number are due to be augmented to become eight, the ringers have to get their fix from somewhere, Gayton was on the radar.

Gayton was also on the radar for a batch of students from the local University of the Third Age, U3A as it is known, the students are typically ladies and gentlemen firmly wedged in the retired pensioner age bracket, they visited to receive a talk about the church history from Gayton's own Rita Poxon, the morning was a success to all who attended.

Back to the Christmas theme, at the time of writing, we eagerly await hosting the School Nativity midweek and the Gayton Carol Service at 4.00pm on Sunday the 11th of December, supported by the Gayton Festival Singers, we look forward to seeing you there, it should be a very pleasant service.

Looking further ahead, the Christmas Day Services in the Joint Benefice are to be held at 10.00am Holy Cross Church, Pattishall (Communion Service) and 11.00am St John the Baptist, Tiffield (Family Service). There is no service scheduled in Gayton on Christmas Day.

Should you need a reminder, the normal service rota within the Benefice includes one here in Gayton on the 4th Sunday of each month starting at 10.00am, you are all of course very welcome and as an extra enticement, lovely refreshments are enjoyed after the service.

This just leaves me now to, on the behalf of the PCC, David, Carol, Tony, Jenny, Lisa, Sharon, John and Rev Karen, to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and New Year with yourself, family, friends and neighbours and thank you for your support during 2022. Andy Hartley

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We still need volunteers to be street wardens for Banbury Lane & Flitnells Farm. Street wardens are a point of contact, acting as a link between the community and the NHW coordinator.

If you would like to volunteer to be a street warden or would like more information or wish to join the Gayton NHW scheme please contact Richard Akers.
rjakers@hotmail.co.uk or 01604 859813.



For more information regarding Gayton NHW, please see on village website.

To Report any Incident, Crime, Antisocial Behaviour, Suspicious Circumstance, Welfare Concern:

Telephone 101 (select option to report an incident / crime)

In an emergency dial 999

Use the online reporting form for anything that does not require a prompt response: [Report | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](https://www.northants.police.uk)

Westgate House

Many people in the village are concerned about Westgate House.

West Northants Council (WNC) Enforcement Officers visited Westgate House on the 9 November and met with representatives from the company who now own the building. At that time there were 5 rooms occupied by private tenants and an additional room occupied by a caretaker.

WNC Housing granted the owners a 3 month exemption licence, which is about to expire, whilst they apply for planning permission for use of the building. Housing regulations differ to planning permissions, this exemption licence does not negate the requirement for planning permission.

Currently there is no planning permission for the occupation of the building in any manner.

The owners state they are preparing an application for planning permission. As this is not yet submitted, we do not know what form this will take.

Enforcement was made on the 9 November by WNC that the building must be unoccupied by the 7 January.

I am working closely with WNC Enforcement, Planning and Housing and will provide further updates in the coming weeks.

Karen. District Councillor for Bugbrooke Ward. Lead Member for Gayton. West Northants Council. Karen.cooper@westnorthants.gov.uk