

GAYTON NEWS – SPRING 2023



CHAIN GANG

New stile construction by the Chain Gang on a footpath in the Parish that had been blocked by a broken gate.



There are a group of “willing volunteers” who are helping to keep the stiles, footpaths, pavements and footways in the Parish clear.

We have been restricted recently due to poor weather but there are some stiles that need some maintenance as well as the footways on Blisworth Road and Back Lane that need some attention. We tend to work weekdays as the team are all retired. However, I do plan to offer some dates at weekends to attract others.

* I understand that “Chain Gang” is not very P.C. as it smacks of slavery. I have consulted the Cambridge dictionary and can confirm that the definition is “ a group of prisoners who have to work outdoors outside the prison while tied together with chains”. No mention of slaves. An apt description of our Gayton group! Robin Kelso robin.kelso@btinternet.com

BIG HELP OUT DAY 8TH MAY

By the time that you receive this copy of the Gayton News, you will have had a mailshot about the volunteering project that is planned nationally in conjunction with the Coronation weekend and we will have had a meeting in the Eykyn Arms.

It is hoped that with a good response asking for ideas and, more important, some of you willing to help, we might be able to tackle some projects to improve things in the Parish. If you haven't responded and have ideas, please let me know.

If you would like some help with a small job at home, please let me know.

Robin Kelso robin.kelso@btinternet.com

Tel: 07801859511



Gayton Open Gardens is back hold the date!



Gayton Open Gardens will take place this year on Sunday 11th June 1-5pm. There will be gardens to visit, a Teddy Bear Trail for the younger visitors, homemade teas and an exhibition of work by local artists in the church.



Over the years this has been a very popular fundraising event raising much-needed funds for Gayton Church.

If you are interested in helping at this event by opening your garden, making a cake, serving refreshments or running a stall, please contact either:

Joy Ayre 01604 858837 Email joyalisonayre@gmail.com

Carol Coppock 01604 859645 Email carol.coppock14@gmail.com

Barbara Kelso 01604 857585 Email barobkelso@btinternet.com

Gayton Gardeners and Allotment Society

It's that exciting time of year and once again we can start planning and preparing for this seasons fruit and veg. By the time you read this my allotment and garden will be filling up with hopeful sowings of spinach, beetroot, parsnips and maybe something unusual like scorzenera. I'm determined this year, what with the price and scarcity of some salad crops, to get a good succession of lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes and other salady bits, not to mention the odd wonky parsnip of course.

The allotment site is a wonderful place to be at any time of year and there's nearly always someone around to give a friendly wave or a bit of advice. There are around 50 plots of varying sizes and at the time of writing we have 2 or 3 plots available should anyone like to have a go? Contact Carl Hamilton if you'd like a look around and a chat (07547 380907).

We usually have a few events in our calendar, including a garden visit, a wonderful BBQ , but the big event this year will be the Gayton Fete which will take place at the Village Hall on September 16th. It is shaping up to be a fun event, with various show classes to enter, possibly a dog demo, lunches available and the obligatory Wonky veg competition! Our next meeting, which is open to all Villagers is on April 17th at the Village Hall. Meanwhile please scan through the list of Classes and see if there's anything that takes your fancy. We have one or two stallholders already interested and it would be nice to see a few more, possibly children's or handicraft stalls, please get in touch with me if you are interested. There will be more information available as we get nearer to the event. We already have 4 judges lined up, including Richard and Judy!!

Happy Gardening,





Happy Gardening, Hilary Glanville (Sec) hilaryglanville6@gmail.com 07778 574139

Gayton Churchyard

The churchyard is a place of peace and a sanctuary for the benefit of the community and wildlife.

The regulations regarding the churchyard are set by the Church of England, a copy of which can be found on the noticeboard in the church porch.

The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council are responsible for maintaining the churchyard with regard to the Church of England regulations.

Anyone who tends a grave in the churchyard is respectfully reminded of the following:-

YES to -

Wreaths, flowers or a potted plant close to the headstone or plaque.

NO to -

Plastic/artificial flowers

Solar lights

Ornaments/wind chimes/windmills/tokens etc..

To aid regular grass mowing, graves should be left clear and not planted with flowers or shrubs, or covered with gravel or marble chips.

There will be an inspection of the churchyard on Monday 1st May 2023.

Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Gayton PCC



SCHEDULE OF CLASSES FOR GAYTON SHOW SEPTEMBER 16TH 2023

FLOWERS

- 1 Rose: one stem
- 2 Gladioli, 1 vase, 1 spike
- 3 Dahlia, 1 vase, 1 bloom
- 4 Chrysanthemums, 1 vase 3 sprays
- 5 1 Vase, 6 stems 1 or more kinds (not Chrysanthemums)
- 6 1 Vase mixed foliage, 6 stems
- 7 1 Pot plant, pot not to exceed 20cm

VEGETABLES

- 8 4 Onions, White
- 9 4 Onions, Red
- 10 6 Shallots
- 11 3 Potatoes, White
- 12 3 Potatoes, coloured
- 13 6 Dwarf French Beans (stalks attached)
- 14 6 Runner Beans pods (stalks attached)
- 15 1 Cabbage, with approx. 75mm stalk
- 16 2 Parsnips, with 75mm tops
- 17 3 Beetroot, with 50mm tops
- 18 3 Carrots, with 75mm tops
- 19 3 Tomatoes, with calyx attached
- 20 2 Courgettes
- 21 1 Marrow (not exceeding 35cm)
- 22 Chilli Plant, pot not to exceed 9"
- 23 Vegetables – 2 of one kind not included in schedule
- 24 Wonky veg

FRUIT

- 25 3 Cooking Apples, 1 variety
- 26 3 Desert Apples, 1 variety

- 27 3 Pears, 1 variety
- 28 6 Soft Fruit, 1 dish, 1 kind
- 29 5 Stoned Fruit, 1 dish, 1 kind

DOMESTIC

- 30 Victoria Sponge (2 eggs)
- 31 Loaf of Bread – handmade, not bread machine
- 32 Quiche - own recipe
- 33 4 Cheese Scones
- 34 Jar of Soft Fruit Jam
- 35 Jar of Chutney
- 36 Photo of my veg or fruit patch, max 5in x 7in, unmounted
- 37 Handicraft, homemade item of crochet, knitting, macramé

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

- 38 3 cookies decorated (up to 5 years) Judged on decorations only.
- 39 3 Fairy cakes (6-9years) Judged on decoration and taste
- 40 3 Fairy cakes (10-15years) Judged on decoration and taste
- 41 Picture of flower (up to 5 years, any medium but not Photo)
- 42 Picture of animal (6-9 years, any medium but not Photo)
- 43 A Gayton landscape (10-15 years, any medium but not Photo)
- 44 Garden in a Saucer, or seed tray (up to 5 years)
- 45 As above (6-9years)
- 46 As above (10-15years)

HINTS TO EXHIBITORS

Read the schedule and the show regulations carefully, noting the number of specimens to be staged, the number of varieties required and the exceptions to the various classes.

The preparation of produce for exhibition. Apples and pears should not be polished. All fruit should be shown on the stalk. All vegetables should be prepared for exhibition by washing only. Root vegetables must have the leaves cut, leaving not more than 75mm (3") of leaf stalks. Beans and peas should have some stalk attached. Onions tops and roots should be trimmed and can be staged on rings. Shallots for pickling must not exceed 30mm diameter. Tomatoes should be ripe but firm, with calyxes attached. Potatoes should be clean and clear-skinned. Any paper used on plates or for positioning should be white.

Pick Flowers in the evening or early morning and place them almost up to their necks in deep containers of clean water and place in a cool position until ready for staging.

Pot Plants should receive enough water so they are fresh at the time of showing.

Dahlia blooms, must not be supported above the top level of the vase.

Domestic Jars should be labelled and dated using plain white labels.

Whatever you exhibit remember that quality, freedom from blemish and uniformity are considered of greater importance than size alone.

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks? Walking in Northamptonshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northants> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northamptonshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris www.walkinginengland.co.uk john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Gayton Evergreen Club

The Coffee and Chat Mornings at the Eykyn Arms continue to be well supported with the breakfast menu proving very popular. It is nice to meet friends and fellow villagers to catch up on the news.

Thank you to John, Karen and Cameron for their continued hospitality and friendly service.

The dates of future Coffee and Chat Mornings are:

Wednesday 12th April, Wednesday 10th May, Wednesday 14th June, Wednesday 12th July
All starting at 10.00 am.

These meetings are open to anyone who would like to join us.

Further information from:

Carol Coppock 01604 859645 carol.coppock14@gmail.com

Manja Ronne 01604 859243 ManjaRonne@btinternet.com

Gayton Litter Pick

The litter pick will take place between the 8th – 16th April. This is a great opportunity to clear the village verges ready for the spring.

I have litter pickers, high viz tabards and black sacks. You just need your own gloves

Please contact me if you can help. Many hands make light work.

Karen karencooper@mortimers.uk.com

Tel / text 07753 638180



Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus

We continued running the minibus during the Covid-19 outbreak with a somewhat reduced service as demand was limited. It has proved invaluable in providing essential transport services to our villages for those without access to assisted transport. We are now resuming the full service from early April and apologise if anyone has been inconvenienced in the meantime. If possible, please contact us to ensure that we know you want to use the service and so we can let you know if there are any delays.



We are in the process of trying to expand our service to include Eastcote, Pattishall and Astcote, following discussions with their Parish Council and have submitted a formal application for approval to the 'powers that be'. Hopefully, if successful this should provide us with more regular passengers which will assist in safeguarding the future of our service. It will mean a revised timetable but this will be publicised well in advance.

At the time of writing we have not heard whether West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will continue to provide grant funding, or at what level, but we remain hopeful that they will as this is an important source of income for us, as well as our fares (both cash and refunded concessionary ones) and private hire. Over the past year we have received grants from both Gayton and Tiffield Parish Councils for which we are most grateful and which will be used primarily for driver training.

I recently accepted the role of Chairman at our AGM and would like to heartily thank Rae Spencer who was involved in setting up the charity to keep the service going in 2007/8 and who has been running it for the past 15 years. Thanks also to David Coppock from Gayton who has also now stood down after many years as a volunteer.

With new drivers, including Pete Baxter and John Rogers from Gayton, soon to join our dedicated team, our new state of the art minibus and the potential to increase our service area and obtain extra funding, the future looks good. So, our thanks to the team of eight drivers which also includes Manja and Jens from Gayton and to our Trustees. Let us look forward to a good summer and a brighter and Covid clear future. Please remember that we are a charity and it is a community bus, so if you want to hire a 16 seater for trips out, airport runs, sports or social events please contact us.

Steve Jowers

Chairman, Gayton and Tiffield Community Transport

stevejowers@gmail.com

01327 350 292 – 07890 764 633

Gayton Walkers



There is still a nucleus of walkers who meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month to explore the footpaths of the area. Recently we walked at the Bringtons and more locally, Dalscote, Eastcote and Folly Farm, Tiffield.

It would be nice to see some new faces. Please join us at 10am at Fiveways on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Robin Kelso

robin.kelso@btinternet.com Tel: 07801859511

St Mary the Virgin

Gayton News' deadlines often seem to fit in quite tightly with significant events in the church calendar, on this occasion we look forward to hosting the school's Easter Service, no doubt some of you around and about during the day will have spotted the crocodile of little ones on the way round to the church for practices. Those were the days eh?

The "community" Easter events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday are across the joint benefice including the Easter Sunday service here in Gayton, starting at 9.30am.

With waving goodbye to winter and the onset of spring the church yard remains awash with colour from the aconites, snowdrops and daffodils through to primroses and bluebells, plus many more as the seasons progress. If you're passing by then why not take a mini detour and pass through!

During the forthcoming months we shall endeavour to be a part of the King Charles III Coronation celebrations in addition to the annual Open Gardens event, normally by providing refreshments in a peaceful and quiet venue.

We also have a summer wedding and christening to look forward to but alas there are always moments of sadness too. We recently saw the ashes of dear Gwen Crossley join her husband Cliff in the church yard and we also prepare for the funerals of John Metcalfe and Stan Watterson, the latter was a church warden here for nearly 30 years. We also fondly remember the late John Shaw who too devoted much effort to the church through his activity on the Gayton Church Heritage Trust.

We recently held the ever popular and successful Songs of Praise service and we look forward to an evening of *Heart and Music*, a social and fundraising concert featuring music and songs from folk/pop to show tunes. It starts at 7.30pm on Saturday the 22nd of April, discounted advance tickets (£8 each) are available from Sharon Crossley, 07745 948807 sharon.xley@btinternet.com or tickets may be bought on the door (£10). Tickets for a family of 4 are available at £20.

Finally, should you need reminding, Sunday services are held here in Gayton at 10.00am each 4th Sunday of the month. Andy Hartley

Gayton Church Heritage Trust

It is worth a chuckle reading the GCHT articles from the last couple of editions of Gayton News as each describes a re-launch of the said trust following the restrictions and wider implications of the covid pandemic etc.

Suffice to say, the return of a very popular artiste to perform her unique brand of ukelele wizardry to signal the re-launch unfortunately had to be re-scheduled, due to circumstances beyond the GCHT control we hastily add.

We recognise that GCHT does play a very important role in providing support for the upkeep of the church building and the trustees are equally keen to arrange programmes/events to help reach this aim and provide a bit of fun and culture at the same time. But to do so we need to meet the rules and reg's of the Charity Commission including having named officers.

Lo and behold during recent meetings, including the AGM, the officers for the coming year were confirmed as Andy Hartley in the Chair, Astrid White as Secretary and Tony Foottit holding the purse strings as Treasurer.

You will no doubt have noted the absence of oh so familiar names from this list. John Shaw has recently and sadly passed away. John shall certainly leave a great hole in GCHT, a village organisation he has done so much for over the years, we say "thank you very much John, you definitely did your shift."

Anna Fox has also stood down from her role as Chair but remains a trustee, we may all benefit from her advice and years of experience on GCHT.

These two have certainly set the bar quite high, let's hope we are able to rise to the challenge and keep the trust on track in contributing to both the heritage of the church and the village at large.

So, fingers crossed for re-launch III.

Andy Hartley, Chair, GCHT

Gayton Village Hall

The village hall continues to get moderate use. With the closing of the table tennis season there will be less evening use. However, there are several enquiries every month for children's parties and family gatherings.

The maintenance programme for 2023 has started with replacement of window glass and repair of window hinges. The next item will be repair/replace the fire exit doors and door to rear of the village hall. There are also plans to re-varnish the porch.

The kitchen and toilets are due a refurbishment, but this will require a funding source.

Please continue to use your community facility - details can be found on the village website www.gayton-northants.co.uk/services/villagehall.html

Parish Council Newsletter

This has been an eventful year and the Parish Council has spent a great deal of time and effort in resisting development on two fronts, first Anesco and their plan for a huge solar farm and then Midland Living with an application to turn Westgate House into a House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO).

As you all know, Anesco have appealed against the decision to refuse planning permission for the Solar development. There will be a Public Inquiry over four days in May where WNC and Anesco will each put their case to the Secretary of State's Planning Inspector. WNC's chief reason for refusal was based on the Landscape and Visual Impact of the scheme and Anesco's case seems to be based on mitigating that impact by planting a few hedgerow plants that will only mature in thirty years time. A finely balanced argument; we can only hope that the Inspector sides with WNC.

Westgate House has also been high on our agenda for the last few months and will continue to be of concern until the future of the property is decided. What happens next is dependent on what the owners decide to do and there is still a possibility that they will appeal against the decision to refuse planning consent for an HMO. However, the fact that Westgate House is outside the village boundary and that Gayton lacks the facilities required to support asylum seekers cannot easily be changed and so the chance of a successful appeal is small. It seems likely that the owners will need to find an alternative development solution, such as properly refurbishing the property and reopening it as a much needed care home, or building affordable homes that can be built outside the village confines. We will of course keep you informed.

There are a couple of things I wish to highlight that have helped make a robust case against both the Solar Farm and the Westgate House HMO. The first was that in both cases residents engaged with the Parish Council and got involved with the campaign. Such support is crucial to a successful outcome.

The second was that via social media, email, meetings and good old fashioned mail drops, the PC ensured residents were kept up to date with the situation. We have been trying to improve our communication, and this serves as a reminder of the importance in keeping you all informed. With that in mind, we will shortly be opening a Parish Council website that will have up to date information on all PC business. The website has already been built and Viv Hartley is in the process of populating it. The address is gaytonpcnorthants.gov.uk and it will be up and running in the next 4 weeks. We'll let you know when it comes on line and ask only that you take a few minutes to log on to it regularly. Remember, feedback on what we do is always gratefully accepted, even if it is critical of our performance!

I feel I should briefly mention our street lights. We are slowly working our way through our small network and replacing the old heads with LED ones which are greener and cheaper to run. We are also replacing some of the old concrete lamp posts, the one leaning over on Eastcote road demonstrates why – concrete doesn't last for ever. Once the network has been fully modified, we will ask the village if they think the current distribution of lights is sufficient or maybe we need a few more (bearing in mind they are expensive to install from scratch).

For the past two years we have asked parishioners to meet in the village hall in May to discuss problems, projects and working groups. This year, there are so many meetings already planned in preparation for the Coronation we thought it inappropriate to add yet another to the busy calendar. So instead, the Chairman of the Parish Council will present a summary of events, projects and working groups, followed by a public voice session where people can ask questions or suggest new initiatives. If you'd like to speak, please keep your presentation to 3 minutes as we would like the meeting to last no more than an hour. If you have news about your group that you would like publicised, please let me know at chairmangaytonpc@gmail.com and I will ensure it is included. This will take place on the 11th May at 7pm and will be followed by the Parish Council meeting.

I will close by thanking everyone in the village for getting involved in the important campaigns discussed in this article. Without you attending the meetings, joining the action groups and responding to planning applications we could not have achieved what we have to date. I would also like to thank Councillor Karen Cooper for her excellent support throughout, without her tenacity the outcome, on both applications, could have been very different. We must all remain vigilant though, because even if the appeal fails on the Solar Farm and Westgate House is resolved to our satisfaction, there will always be fresh challenges on the horizon.

Carl Hamilton, Chairman, Gayton Parish Council

Dog Fouling

Owing to dog faeces being seen on the footpath in Baker Street it is obvious that an explanation of the severity that a basic function of dogs has on human health, in particular babies.

Dog faeces may carry toxocariasis-this is the larvae of a genus of roundworms . Toxocars, of dogs and cats can cause swelling of the liver, and sometimes damage to the eyes.

Imagine a baby's pram wheel running through the faeces, and then wheeled into someone's house. The baby removed from the pram and allowed to crawl around on the floor, hands inevitably go towards the mouth and thus infection takes place. It is also not pleasant to tread in dog poo in the dark at night.

Gayton Parish Council have five Dog Poo Bins situated around the village in, Park Lane- Harris' Lane- The Spinney- Bugbrooke Road- and the Village Green for the very purpose of depositing bags of dog poo. This service costs the parish £1200.00 a year.

Would all dog owners who exercise their dogs within the village confines please collect their dogs waste and dispose of it in the appropriate bin.

Gayton Parish Council

Police Drop In Surgeries

Come and speak to Officer/s from Towcester Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Beat Bus: A mobile Police Station where you can approach the local Policing Team for info, chat about any concerns and pick up crime prevention advice

Wednesday 12 April

10.00 – 12.00 Towcester – Forum
13.00 – 14.00 Towcester – Islington Road
14.30 – 15.30 Towcester – Redcar Road
15.45 – 16.30 Shutlanger – outside pub/shop

Wednesday 10 May

10.00 – 12.00 Towcester – Forum
13.30 – 15.00 Towcester – Islington Rd
15.30 – 16.30 Roade – outside library

Wednesday 7 June

10.00 – 12.00 Stoke Bruerne – canal car park, 13.30 – 15.00 Tiffield – The Reading Room
15.30 – 16.30 Roade – Village Hall

Opportunity to meet members of the local Policing Team for your area and discuss any local issues and find out about work the team are involved in.

Towcester Team email – NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@northants.police.uk

Facebook – Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team

Twitter - @SthNorthantsNPT

Neighbourhood Alert – register at www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

Drop in Surgeries – where you can approach the local neighbourhood policing team for info, chat about any concerns and pick up crime prevention advice.

5th April 10.00 – 12.00 Towcester Forum, 6th April 14.00 – 16.00 Road Library, 11th May 14.00 – 16.00 Towcester Forum, 12th May 14.00 – 16.00 Road Library, 8th June 10.00 – 12.00 Towcester Forum, 9th June 14.00 – 16.00 Road Library

In an emergency call 999

For non emergencies call 101 www.northants.police.uk



**Northamptonshire
Police**

Test your knowledge about electricity cost and generation

The purpose of this quiz is to raise awareness about issues related to electricity cost, consumption and generation, not to campaign for or against specific issues. Test your knowledge by trying to answer the questions below before looking at the answers on the next page. You may find some of the answers surprising.

I hope that looking at the questions and answers may help you to think about your electricity use and on how to reduce it. There are several good reasons for trying to do this, including: reducing your electricity bill, reducing pollution caused by electricity generation, and reducing the need for increased electricity generation.

Energy and power are often messed up, but they are not the same thing. Power is energy per time unit, just like speed is distance travelled per time unit. The unit of electrical energy is Watt-hours (Wh) or kilowatt-hours (kWh) with $1\text{kWh}=1000\text{Wh}$. A device with a power rating of e.g. 1000W (1kW) running for 1 hour (1h) will consume an amount of energy equal to 1kWh.

Electricity is paid according to the energy (i.e. the number of kWh) used. In the following I have assumed a price of 35p for 1kWh. This is close to the current capped rate. It does not include the standing charge.

Questions

1. How much does it cost to boil a kettle (say 1 litre) of water?
2. What is the cost of running a washing machine at 60°C?
3. What is the cost of running a dishwasher?
4. What are the typical annual costs for a larder fridge without a freezer compartment, and for a chest freezer?
5. How much does it cost to run a microwave (assuming a setting of 800W) for 10 minutes?
6. What is the annual cost of having a modern TV on stand-by for 20 hours per day?
7. What is the annual cost of using a 60W incandescent (old type) light bulb and an equivalent LED lightbulb for 8 hours per day?
8. How much does it cost to use a standard 1.5V AA or AAA battery compared to the cost of using mains electricity?
9. What is the typical cost for charging an electric car?
10. The Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant (rated at 3.2GW) will increase nuclear power generation in the UK by about 50%. How many wind turbines of the same size as those close to the M1 will it take to generate the same amount of electricity as Hinkley Point C?

11. What area of land would be required to generate the same amount of electricity as Hinkley Point C if we use ground based solar panels? How much is this compared to the total area of agricultural land in the UK?
12. If biomass is used for electricity generation, how much land would be needed to generate the same amount of electricity as we get from a roof mounted 1 square metre solar panel?
13. What fraction of the energy consumed in the UK is imported?

Answers and comments

1. The cost of heating 1 litre of tap water to boiling is approximately 3.5p. Don't boil more water than you need.
- 2 and 3. In both cases the typical cost for a cycle is about 50p, possibly less for a modern machine, not including the cost of water. Make sure the machine is full, and do not use a temperature higher than necessary.
4. About £60 for the fridge, based on an average power consumption of 20W, and about £90 for the freezer, assuming an average power consumption of 30W.
5. About 3p.
6. About 60p, but for an old TV this could be considerably higher. Modern TVs are not the main culprit when it comes to stand-by costs.
7. An incandescent light bulb would cost about £60, an equivalent LED about £6. Note that the rating of incandescent bulbs used to be based on how much power they consumed, not by how much light they emitted. Ratings are gradually being changed to Lumens which is a measure for how much visible light is being emitted. As a rough but simple guide an incandescent bulb will generate about 10 Lumens per Watt of electricity consumed, but an LED will give about 100 Lumens per Watt.
8. A standard 1.5V battery can typically deliver a current of 1A for about 1 hour, this is equal to an energy of 1.5Wh and will cost about 50p (but watch out, battery quality and prices vary widely). For 50p you will get about 1.5kWh of mains electricity, so the battery is 1000 times more expensive. Don't use a torch if mains lighting is available.
9. Charging a 50kWh car battery fully, using economy 7 at 22p per kWh, will cost £11.
10. Assuming a capacity factor of 80% for Hinkley point C and 20% for wind turbines and using 800kW wind turbines we would need about 16,000. The capacity factor is the ratio between the electricity generated by operating full time at maximum power and the amount actually generated.
11. With a capacity factor of 11% for solar panels, and a panel area equal to 35% of the land area, we would need about 400 square kilometres of land, equal to 56,000 football fields. This is slightly less than 0.5% of the total UK agricultural land.

12. About 100 square metres. Most of the biomass currently used is imported.

13. According to data for 2021 from the Office for National Statistics we import about 38% of the energy we use. We can decrease this fraction by using less energy or by generating more of our own. Gas is the dominant source for electricity generation and for heating. We currently import about 50% of the gas we use.

Some additional general comments

Read the energy label when you buy appliances or any products that use electricity.

Many appliances such as vacuum cleaners, irons, kettles, toasters and power tools are rated between 1000W and 2000W, this means that 1 hour's use will cost between 35p and 70p. For shorter (or longer) periods of use, the cost will be proportionally lower (or higher).

There may be an energy saving by using an air fryer, but you need to read the energy information and consider how often you will use it.

Most appliances give really good value for the money you spend on electricity, but a lot of energy is squandered on stand-by.

You can use a smart meter to find your total stand-by use: Let everything which is normally on stand-by stay on, but switch everything else off, including lighting, refrigeration and circulation pumps, the power consumption can then be seen on the display unit. This experiment can also be done with a traditional meter, you don't get a direct power reading, but the power can be worked out from timed meter readings.

With the current electricity price each Watt on constant stand-by costs about £3 per year.

Switch to LED lighting if you have not already done so. This is a lot cheaper, but you should still make it a habit to switch off unnecessary lighting.

You can check the consumption of individual appliances with an energy monitor, the starting price for these devices is under £10.

Disclaimer: All data used are based on public sources and all information provided has been checked to the best of my ability, but any use of this information is at your own risk.

If you have any comments or questions, you are welcome to contact me on jbuus@btinternet.com

Jens Buus

The next edition of the Gayton News will be published at the end of June. Please send me your articles, news, photos etc by Friday 23 June. It will be distributed to the village 30 June – 3 July 2023. Thank you, Karen. karencoper@mortimers.uk.com Tel: 07753 638180