

# Gayton News

Est. 1988



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*Summer Solstice, Karen Vie Spence*

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*Gayton*  
N • E • W • S

Summer  
2024

Issue 164

### Publication

Gayton News is published by the Gayton Information and Communications Action Team, four times per year in March, June, and September and just before Christmas.

If you would like to submit an article for the News, please contact:

[gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk)

The Cut-off for articles for inclusion in the Autumn edition is: 9<sup>th</sup> August

The Parish Council covers the cost of printing the Gayton News. The cost is also defrayed by advertising, if you would like to place an advert for your local business, please contact the Editor.

Over 200 copies of the Gayton News are printed and distributed across the entire village, (except where paper copies have been declined) by a team of excellent volunteers, Thank you!

### Advertising Rates

Fundraising events held in the village and organised by residents: FREE

All other advertising	By Villagers	By Others
Whole Page	£6	£12
1/2 Page	£3	£6
1/4 page	£1.50	£3
4 lines or less	Free	n/a

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This, the 164<sup>th</sup> issue, is my first as Editor of the Gayton News. I am proud to follow on from Karen Cooper, who has produced it since 2015 and the originators, Wendy Steer and Lois Shaw who started it off, in 1988. I would like to thank them all, for their service to the village over these many years; and look forward to producing an interesting and vibrant reflection of village life. I hope that I can match their efforts!

This edition highlights several excellent community driven events and activities, both previously and upcoming.

Personally, I think that Gayton is a wonderful place to live, mainly because of the lovely people who live here; I am assured that not *all* villages are as good!

I would particularly like to thank Karen McArthur and John Gould and their families for having made The Eykyn Arms such a welcoming, inclusive community space in the village. There are frequent activities, such as Pub Quiz every other Wednesday, Bingo on Fridays, Darts and Skittles teams, Open Mic nights, excellent Live music from various Jazz, Blues and Rock bands. Oh, and of course, the investment they have made in the kit that ensures that the Real Ale from Local breweries, Phipps and Roman Way are in tip-top condition! Thank You!

Regards,  
*Colin Simmonds, Editor, Gayton News*  
[gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk)  
01604 858933

## Gayton Diary

Tue, 2 Jul, 18:30

Jazz @ The Eykyn Arms & Pizzas by The Wood Oven

Fri, 5 Jul, 19:30

Fundraising Fashion Show & Shopping Event

Wed, 10 Jul, 10:00

Evergreens meet at the Eykyn Arms for a tea/coffee & chat

Sun, 14 Jul, 10:00

Gayton Walkers - Monthly Walk - meet @5Ways

Sun, 28 Jul, 10:00

CW Family Communion at Gayton Church

Tue, 30 Jul, 18:30

Jazz @ The Eykyn Arms & Pizzas by The Wood Oven

Sat, 3 Aug, 13:00

Gayton Gardeners & Allotment Society Produce Show

Sun, 11 Aug, 10:00

Gayton Walkers - Monthly Walk - meet at 5Ways

Wed, 14 Aug, 10:00

Evergreens meet at the Eykyn Arms for a tea/coffee & chat

Sun, 25 Aug, 10:00

CW Family Communion at Gayton Church

Tue, 27 Aug, 18:30

Jazz @ The Eykyn Arms & Pizzas by The Wood Oven

Sun, 8 Sep, 10:00

Gayton Walkers - Monthly Walk - meet at 5Ways

Wed, 11 Sep, 10:00

Evergreens meet at the Eykyn Arms for a tea/coffee & chat

Sun, 22 Sep, 10:00

CW Family Communion at Gayton Church

Tue, 24 Sep, 18:30

Jazz @ The Eykyn Arms & Pizzas by The Wood Oven

## Gayton Primary School Summer Report



It's been a really busy fun filled Summer term here at Gayton Primary School we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their continuous support in making our school thrive, all the staff here at Gayton are so proud of our lovely school and the fabulous children.

As the school year comes to an end we will be bidding farewell to our current year 6 children who will be continuing their educational journey at secondary school, we wish them every success for the future, we know they will all go on to achieve great things! This also means that we will be welcoming our new reception children and their families in September; we are all looking forward to the children beginning their educational journey with us here at Gayton.



We do still have some places available for our September intake so if anybody has a school age child that would like to be part of our wonderful school then please do get in contact with our school office 01604 858749, we would love to show you around.

This term the children have been having great fun.



Our class 1 children have been enjoying their time at Salcey Forest for their forest school sessions.

The children have enjoyed a scavenger hunt and some free time in the forest. Lots of fun was had whittling sticks, swinging, Nordic weaving and creating on the art mat, they have made habitats for the forest creatures and their friends.



In their last session, the children had a go at lighting fires and classifying caterpillars and of course, everyone has enjoyed their hot chocolate around the campfire!



Our class 2 children have had the privilege of decorating the new fairy doors for The Spinney. Local resident John Upson very kindly purchased the fairy doors and the paint

for the children- they all loved coming up with their own designs and putting their special touches on them.



As an extra treat, we arranged for John to meet the children at the Spinney so they could help decide on where the doors should go and lent John a hand in attaching them.



They then enjoyed story time on the lovely seats that have been made. The children love spending time at the Spinney and are looking forward to visiting again soon.



Our year 6 children have recently completed their SATs. The children all worked incredibly hard and conducted themselves in a calm and mature manner.

They certainly celebrated the end of their SATs in style, pizza, sweets, cake, ice cream, and cookies to name but a few of their treats, as well as trips over the field in the sunshine!







We are excited to be taking part in Gayton Parish Council's grow the tallest sunflower competition.

The children have all enjoyed planting their seeds and we keep making trips outside to check on their progress. I am happy to say that our seedlings are coming along nicely!

The children have been busy completing tasks independently in our provision. They have produced some wonderful work relating to our History topic - artwork on the Blitz, diary entries from a pilot in the Battle of Britain.

They have been looking at classification and exploring the Linnaean system in Science.

They are loving the new style of Math challenges, reading various texts, and writing biographies.



Over the Easter holidays, our class 3 underwent a fantastic transformation.

I think you will all agree the classroom looks amazing, what lucky children!

We would like to wish you all a really lovely Summer and we look forward to telling you all about the exciting things we have been getting up to in the next edition of Gayton News.

**Bev, Bursar, Gayton Primary School, [bursar@gayton-ce.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@gayton-ce.northants-ecl.gov.uk)**





GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Chairman's Report 2023-2024

During the past year the Parish Council has continued to deal with the day-to-day matters which keep the Parish ticking over; the maintenance, repair and renewal of the Playground and equipment, the replacement and up-grading of street lights, the paying of bills for various services such as insurance, electricity, grass-cutting, repairs to the church clock, the list goes on. All this requires accounts to be kept, budgets to be set and finances scrutinised and audited.

Much of this work goes unnoticed and is carried out tirelessly by our Clerk, Viv Hartley.

Then there is liaising with WNC regarding roads, gullies, and drains. Planning applications to be commented on ranging from no objection to a side extension to an objection to a solar plant at appeal level (now at the High Court). This requires keeping up to date with current national and local infrastructure and planning policies. For these matters where contact with WNC is required we are indebted to Councillor Karen Cooper.

The PC also has many responsibilities, which could not be fulfilled without the efforts of those who generously give their time and

energy in various ways. The "Chain-gang" who keep our footpaths clear and maintain stiles, litter pickers and all the others who do their bit for the village.

There have been some issues this year where we have been called to account for not being as pro-active as we might have been and for not having structures in place where we can respond to Villager's proposals and requests. This is being addressed and shows us that we need to engage with you, the village, to find out what it is that you expect from us beyond the civic duties outlined earlier but at the same time we need you to take part in this dialogue too. There have been many initiatives in the village this year, which have shown that much can be done by this community. We applaud that and would not want to stifle such endeavours but hope that we can be seen to be here to support that work while we continue to manage the required administrative functions of grass-roots local government.

***David Glanville.***

***Chairman, Gayton Parish Council May 2024.***

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Meeting Dates, Agenda and Minutes, are located on the Gayton PC website:

<https://gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

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## Parish Council Members

### Areas of Responsibility and Contact details.

David Glanville  
Chair – Planning Applications and Village Hall  
Representative  
[david.glanville@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:david.glanville@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Rex Goddard  
Councillor – VAS Devices (with Cllr Glanville)  
[rex.goddard@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:rex.goddard@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Anna Goddard  
Councillor – School liaison  
[anna.goddard@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:anna.goddard@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Roger Clarke  
Councillor – Highways, gullies, road sweeping  
[roger.clarke@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:roger.clarke@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Viv Hartley  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
Tel: 01604 858360/ 07936 419863  
[clerk@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Rachel Billing  
Councillor – Rights of Way and Hedges  
[rachel.billing@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.billing@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Carl Hamilton  
Councillor – Street lights  
[carl.hamilton@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:carl.hamilton@gaytonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Liam Hollin  
Councillor – General Maintenance



### Evergreen Club

Members continue to be warmly welcomed to the monthly Coffee Morning at the Eykyn Arms. These mornings are well attended and are open to anyone who would like a coffee and chat with their fellow villagers.

The dates of future Coffee and Chat Mornings are:

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September

All at the Eykyn Arms starting at 10.00am.

Further information from:

Carol Coppock 01604 859645

[carol.coppock14@gmail.com](mailto:carol.coppock14@gmail.com)

Manja Ronne 01604 859243

[ManjaRonne@btinternet.com](mailto:ManjaRonne@btinternet.com)

### Gayton Alms Charities

#### Can help with financial assistance!

Gayton Relief in Need Charity is there to help if you are finding it difficult to cope with ever-increasing cost of living.

Gayton Educational Foundation is there to provide funding to support your education such as in the purchase of books or IT equipment. Grants are also available to help with the costs of educational visits/field trips.

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.

For information contact: **David Coppock, Chair of Trustees, 01604 859545**



## Gayton and Tiffield Community Minibus



Some disappointing news to report about the minibus finances. Up till now we have been supported by South Northamptonshire Council and latterly West Northamptonshire Council with an annual grant ever since the Gayton and Tiffield Community Transport Charity was set up in 2005. Despite us applying this year, this funding has now been withdrawn and we have lost a major part – over one third - of our income. This money helped to subsidise the service and to keep hire costs at a reasonable level.

In addition, we had two minor bumps with other vehicles, which led to insurance claims and the loss of our no claims bonus. These, plus a general increase in premiums, meant that our insurance has now jumped from about £1,600 to almost £3,400 for the year.

We have written to Gayton, Tiffield, and Pattishall Parish Councils to see if they could

help to make up this shortfall in funding and we are hopeful that together they will come to our assistance.

Meanwhile the service continues to run as before and we would like to see as many people as possible using it in order to generate fare and private hire income.

The government have introduced a fare cap for **cash** customers of **£2 per single journey**. This is a temporary measure until the end of December 2024. **Passengers with bus passes do not have to pay anything.**

Thanks again to our team of nine dedicated drivers which includes John Rogers, Peter Baxter, Manja Ronne and Jens Buus from Gayton and to our Trustees who run things behind the scenes.

Please remember that we are a charity and it is a community bus, so if you want to hire a 16 seater (plus driver) for trips out, airport runs, sports, or social events please contact us to see if we are available. Recent trips have been to local pubs and restaurants, airport runs, monthly dining club visits and regular darts team away matches.

If you have any comments to make about the service please contact me.

**Steve Jowers**  
**Chairman, Gayton and Tiffield Community Transport**

[stevejowers@gmail.com](mailto:stevejowers@gmail.com)

01327 350 292, 07890 764 633

## GAYTON AND TIFFIELD COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

**MINIBUS TIMETABLE AND FARES - From 1st APRIL 2024  
TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS ONLY**

**FARES: BUS PASSES - FREE. ALL OTHER FARES £2 SINGLE.**

**BUS TO TOWCESTER IS A SCHEDULED SERVICE  
BUS TO NORTHAMPTON IS A REQUEST SERVICE ONLY**



*Please note that timetable may be subject to minor delays depending on unforeseen circumstances*

### TO TOWCESTER - SCHEDULED SERVICE

Stage	Gayton - Start	9:30	Dep	Gayton - Hillcrest Rd, Five Ways, High St, Back Lane
1	Tiffield	9:40		High Street - North and South
	Eastcote	9:50		High Street - Eastcote Arms
	Pattishall	9:55		Pattishall - Church St, Fosters Booth Rd, Leys Rd, Pool Close
	Astcote	10:00		Astcote School, High Street
	<b>Towcester - Arrive</b>	<b>10:05</b>	<b>Arr</b>	<b>Towcester - Tesco, Aldi, B&amp;M - Market Square - Waitrose</b>

### TO NORTHAMPTON - BY REQUEST

2	<b>Towcester - Depart</b>	<b>10:10</b>	<b>Dep</b>	<b>Towcester - Waitrose</b>
	Northampton	10:25		Tesco Mereway
	Northampton	10:35		Morrisons
	<b>Northampton - Arrive</b>	<b>10:40</b>	<b>Arr</b>	<b>Northampton - Drapery</b>

### RETURN FROM TOWCESTER - SCHEDULED SERVICE

3	<b>Towcester - Depart</b>	<b>11:15</b>	<b>Dep</b>	<b>Towcester - Waitrose - Market Square</b>
	Towcester	11:20		Towcester - Tesco/Aldi/B & M
	Tiffield	11:25		Tiffield, High Street South and North
	Gayton	11:30		Gayton (Hillcrest Rd, Five Ways, High St, Back Lane)
	Eastcote	11:35		High Street, Eastcote Arms
	Astcote	11:40		Astcote - School, High Street
	<b>Pattishall</b>	<b>11:45</b>	<b>Arr</b>	<b>Pattishall - Church St, Fosters Booth Rd, Leys Rd, Pool Close</b>

### RETURN FROM NORTHAMPTON - BY REQUEST - COLLECTION TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED BY PASSENGERS

4	<b>Northampton - Depart</b>	<b>Approx 12:05</b>	<b>Dep</b>	<b>Northampton - Drapery</b>
	Northampton	12:10		Northampton - Morrisons
	Northampton	12:15		Northampton - Tesco Mereway
	Gayton	12:25		Gayton (Hillcrest Rd, Five Ways, High St, Back Lane)
	Tiffield	12:30		Tiffield - High Street North and South
	Eastcote	12:40		High Street, Eastcote Arms
	Astcote	12:45		Astcote - School, High Street
	<b>Pattishall - Arrive</b>	<b>12:50</b>	<b>Arr</b>	<b>Pattishall - Church St, Fosters Booth Rd, Leys Rd, Pool Close</b>

## St Mary the Virgin church



You may all now be aware that Reverend Marion has indeed returned, she found us far too irresistible and just had to come back. I am sure, you will all join us in welcoming Marion and Paul to the benefice, I am equally sure they are delighted to be back.

As mentioned previously, we are registered within the Northants Wildlife Trust's Churchyard Conservation Scheme and continue to promote the integration of wild flora, fauna and mini-beasts into our churchyard for all to enjoy. We do recognise the need to maintain certain key areas in a traditional manner, with that in mind, please keep your eyes and ears open, as we shall be calling out for assistance with cutting, slashing and pulling once the spring/early summer flowers have seeded etc. The volunteer working group did a fantastic job last year, so please join us again this year.

At the time of writing, willing and unwilling volunteers are battling the elements to make

sure their gardens are in a fit state to be viewed and enjoyed by the throng attending the Gayton Open Gardens from 1.00pm on Sunday the 9th of June. Many thanks to all those preparing and those visiting, your contributions are very much greatly valued.

Another fund-raise on the horizon and approaching fast is the Ladies Fashion Show and Sale (sale of the clothes, not the ladies), with the proceeds generated being split between the Village Hall and the church. Thank you to Sharon Crossley for driving this idea forward, from whom, together with Jenny Curtis, you can buy tickets at £7.00 each, this includes the cost of a "complimentary" glass of wine. The event is to be held in the Village Hall from 7.30pm on Friday the 5th of July. Please come along, it promises to be quite an evening.

As a reminder, the usual Sunday communion service rota continues with Gayton hosting the 10.00am service on the 4th Sunday of each month, followed by tea and coffee served with biscuits and friendly chit chat, by all means please join us if you can.

Should any of you need to contact the church for any reason, the churchwardens (Andy Hartley and John Rogers) and pastoral lay reader (Jean Pugh) would be more than willing to help, full contact details are available on the church noticeboard. Rev. Marion can be contacted via 01327 624203.

**Andy Hartley, Churchwarden.**





## Fundraising **FASHION SHOW** & SHOPPING EVENT

**YOUR FAVOURITE BRANDS AT UP TO 75% OFF**

DOROTHY PERKINS WHITE STUFF RIVER ISLAND NEXT  
EVANS NEW LOOK MISS SELFRIDGE TOPSHOP WALLIS  
URBAN OUTFITTERS WAREHOUSE MONSOON & MORE!

**PLUS FRENCH + ITALIAN DESIGNER WEAR**

**SIZES  
6 TO 30**

Gayton PCC and Gayton Village present an evening of fundraising

**Date : Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Venue : Gayton Village Hall**

**Time : 7.30pm**

**Tickets are £7 to include a class of wine.**

**For tickets please contact :**

**Sharon Crossley – 07545 948807**

**Jenny Curtis - 07494 558987**

**Everyone welcome**

DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

CHARITYFASHION SHOWS.CO.UK



## Gayton Gardeners & Allotment Society Produce Show

GAYTON VILLAGE HALL.

SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST

1.00pm – 4.00pm

Free Admission  
Teas & Homemade Cakes

Raffle

Stalls

Entries close Thursday 1st August at 9.00pm prompt.

Exhibits to Village Hall between 9.00 and 11.00am on the day of the show.

Presentation of prizes at 4.00pm. Followed by the auction and draw of the raffle.

Trophies to be Awarded:

Heaviest Onion

Best plate of potatoes

Best vegetable exhibit in show

Best exhibit flowers

Trophy for overall points

Classes 51, 52, 53 & 55 sponsored

The Full Show Schedule has been distributed by Gayton Messenger email on 14<sup>th</sup> June and inserted in the Spring Gayton News and is available from the Village Website.

[allotments@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:allotments@gayton-northants.co.uk)

### GICAT

Did you know that the “Gayton Information and Communications Action Team” brings Gayton News to you? We also carry out some other functions for the village:

**Village Message System** Leandra Bramham  
[villagemessages@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:villagemessages@gayton-northants.co.uk)

Adhering to GDPR rules, we distribute Village Messenger Emails to 112 residents/properties in Gayton (51% of the 218 properties). You can submit an item for distribution or add yourself to the list, by following a link on the village website or by contacting the “villagemessages” email account above.

**Neighbourhood Watch** Richard Akers  
01604 859813 [NHW@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:NHW@gayton-northants.co.uk)  
Richard maintains a separate list of recipients, so you can choose what you receive.

**Village website** Sue Simmonds 01604 858933 [admin@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:admin@gayton-northants.co.uk)  
The New Gayton Village website was launched in August 2023.

<https://gayton-northants.co.uk/>

Sue has rehomed, rebuilt and reduced the maintenance overhead of the village website. Recent updates include:

- Local Amenities – Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacies, Opticians & Local Shops.
- A new “Welcome to Gayton” leaflet for new residents created & distributed to 2 new families in the village with some very positive feedback received.
- links to West Northamptonshire Council and Chris Heaton-Harris, MP for Gayton
- Gayton & Tiffield Community minibus.
- School Bursar, Gayton School page.

- Gayton News editions & the Messenger from the Amelcote Benefice.

If you have something, you would like to add, please contact Sue. It is a great place to visit to find out about events in the village!

**Gayton News** Colin Simmonds 01604 858933  
[gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk)

Published four times a year

### Facebook (Gayton Village & Gayton Villagers)

Leandra Bramham, Colin Simmonds  
Embracing the wonders of social media, we maintain the Gayton Village “Location” page and the Villagers “Group” where notifications and discussion can take place. Overall, we are pleased with what we feel is a positive communications method for the village.

With 868 members, the Villagers group goes way beyond just including our residents and generally seems to be appreciated by those beyond the village as a means to keep up to date with what is going on here.

We have reviewed the advertising rules and have reduced the number of Businesses allowed and the frequency of adverts.

### Broadband, Wi-Fi and general computing assistance.

Using the team’s various skills and experience, we have been pleased to be able to offer advice and assistance to many residents in the village in identifying and remedying problems such as: Broadband speed & reliability; home Wi-Fi coverage; PC hardware problems; and computing skills such as Email and Office.

We also pursued Openreach to remedy a significant long-standing fault on the Broadband Fibre cabinet, which was affecting a significant number of villagers.



## Footpaths

Since Robin Kelso's departure "out of Parish" Jonathon Taylor and I are organising the "Chaingang", we thank him for his staunch service to the village!

We have a small number of "hands" involved on a regular basis. If you can spare an hour or two each week or so to help us, it would be much appreciated. You can do as much or as little as you are comfortable with and we even provide refreshments and biccies when we remember!

If you think that you could help, please email your details to me and I promise not to expect you to do every session! <SMILE>



*Tree down on RL14*

Highlighting some of our achievements so far this year.....

<u>Date</u>	<u>Job Location</u>
05-Jan-24	Blisworth Road footway
12-Jan-24	Blisworth Road footway
07-Feb-24	Clearing footway on entry to Eastcote Rd cul de sac & Repair to steps on RL 6 going up to Blisworth Marina

- 03-Apr-24 RL14 clearing fallen Tree
- 29-May-24 Blisworth Road footway 1
- 03-Jun-24 Back Lane footway
- 13-Jun-24 Blisworth Road footway 2
- 14-Jun-24 Blisworth Road footway 3



*One of many visits to Blisworth Rd!*

Previously in 2023, we built a stile on RL2 (Park Lane) and carried out about 10 workdays covering footpath & footway vegetation clearance.

Also on a personal volunteer basis, we tidied and maintained Joan Adams' garden as a thank you for all of her services to the village.

As Parish Paths Warden, I am proud to follow in a long line of predecessors. If you are aware of an issue on a Right of Way in the Parish, you can contact me:

[parishpathwarden@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:parishpathwarden@gayton-northants.co.uk)

or use StreetDoctor:

<https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk/>

**Colin Simmonds, Gayton Footways & Footpaths Working Party (aka "Chaingang")**  
[chaingang@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:chaingang@gayton-northants.co.uk)

## Gayton Walkers

Again, with Robin & Barbara Kelso's emigration to Towcester, a gap in our active organisers in the community has opened up, which I have been pleased to fill by attempting to lead the Gayton Walkers; "herding cats" and "the Blind leading the Blind" spring to mind! <GRIN>.



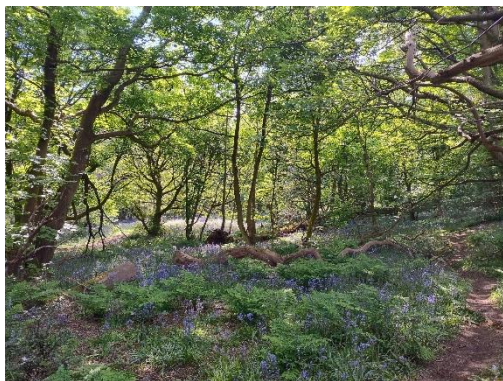
We have had a battle against the weather for when & where we could walk! On the February walk from Cosgrove to Wolverton, we intended to include the Floodplain Forest Nature Reserve, but had to divert due to flooding; I guess there is a clue in the name!

We left Cosgrove through the "Horse Tunnel" under the Grand Union canal heading south to where the "Iron Trunk" Aqueduct crosses the

River Great Ouse. Looping across the higher ground, we did manage to take in the ancient Manor Farm and the derelict remains of Old Wolverton before re-joining the Grand Union canal back to Cosgrove and Bridge 65, "the Ornamental Bridge" before retiring to the "olde worldly" (17c) Barley Mow pub for a refreshing pint of Everard's beer and a Cider!

As mentioned we had to postpone the March walk, planned for Harlestone, due to heavy rain, but in April, we enjoyed a lovely day on an "adventure" through Harlestone Heath and then hiking across the fields between Lower & Upper Harlestone.

For May, we traditionally have an explore of Badby Woods for the Bluebells and maybe because of the damper weather, they had lasted well and we saw extensive swathes of them.



The next scheduled walks are:  
14<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> August, and 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Contact for more info and to join our email list: **Colin Simmonds 01604 858933**  
[walks@gayton-northants.co.uk](mailto:walks@gayton-northants.co.uk)



## Gayton Open Gardens and Teddy Bear Trail Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024

*The gardeners of Gayton were glued to their weather app as the day for the Open Gardens approached..... Would it ever stop raining?.....*

*Would the wind stop blowing a gale?..... Would there be any flowers left in the gardens?.....*



*Teddy Bear's Picnic, Gayton Spinney*

There were seven gardens open this year as well as the allotments. There were two new additions for the visitors.

Hilary Glanville opened her allotment plots and was happy to answer questions and encourage visitors with advice on growing their own fruit and vegetables.

Sue Simmonds was on hand to answer questions about the new developments in the Millennium Spinney, particularly the hibernaculum.

She was also in charge of supervising the teddy bear's picnic in the shady glade seating area and to make sure the bears didn't get too rowdy!





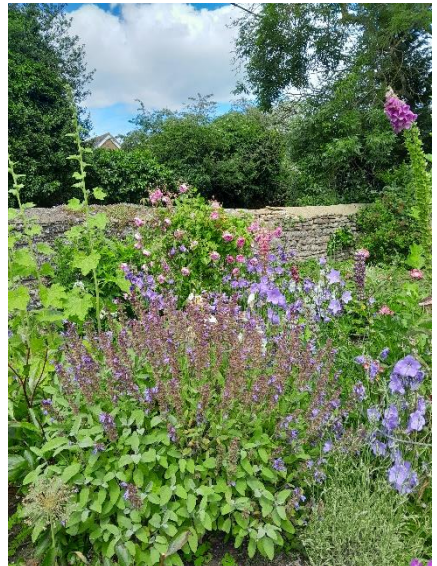
*Joy Ayre's Garden*

Once again, a welcome addition to the day was the free shuttle minibus service around the village kindly driven by John Rogers.

Afternoon teas were served in the church with a great selection of homemade cakes and scones. Visitors could also purchase plants, pots and puzzles.

On the following afternoon 34 members of the Vicarage Lane Gardening Society braved the wind and rain to view three of the gardens and made a visit to the church.

They rounded off the afternoon with tea and cake.







*Jason & Tanya Auld's Garden*

The total money raised for the church was £1008.20, which included a generous donation from the visiting gardening society.

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 cake makers, the tea makers, the washers up and the clearers up!



*Manja Ronne's Garden*



*Carol Coppock's garden*

A particular thank you goes to Sharon Crossley who coordinated the refreshments in the church and those who provided the hospitality to the visitors.

.....and to the three gardeners who kindly opened their gardens again on Monday afternoon.

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 and Carol Coppock***



... and of course, a Very Well Done to Northampton Saints Rugby Union Team!

