

Gayton News

Est. 1988



"The Gully" - Frank Allen, 2020

Gayton
N • E • W • S

**Summer
2026**

Issue 171

Publication

Gayton News is brought to you by the Gayton Information & Communications Action Team. While we may edit submissions for clarity or length, the views expressed remain those of the contributors.

We print 250 copies of each issue, delivered throughout the village by our wonderful team of volunteers — thank you!

The Parish Council kindly funds the printing of **Gayton News**, with additional support from local advertisers. If you would like to advertise your business, please contact the Editor.

We welcome your stories and articles. Please send them to:
gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk

The deadline for submissions for the Autumn Issue is: **8th August 2026**

Advertising Rates

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| Whole Page | £16 | £32 |
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| 1/4 page | £4 | £8 |

(Increased in Jan 2026 to cover costs)

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Welcome!

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed one of the highlights of the village year: the Open Gardens event.

I hope the weather was kind and that many visitors enjoyed our beautiful little village. It is certainly a lovely place to live!

Some of that is the result of the volunteer working parties who report to the Parish Council and whose efforts are recounted in these pages.

Overall, however, I believe it comes from all of us sharing a positive vision of what we want our village to be and, through many small actions, helping to make and preserve it as a special place to live and enjoy.

Looking ahead, another highlight is the Produce Show in September. The Show Schedule forms the centre-fold of this magazine, which can be removed or just use page 16 to enter your prize vegetables, flowers, baking, and crafts.

I have continued my "Beekeeper's Year" account and hope that you find it both interesting and informative. If you have a hobby or interest that you would like to write about, please let me know.

The school provides its regular report, and their exciting news is the opening of the new garden, which pupils and staff have worked hard to create.

Finally, please do not forget that The Gumball Rally is in November, so there is plenty of time to support these super fellas, who have done so much good for the village.

Regards,

Colin Simmonds, Editor, Gayton News
gaytonnews@gayton-northants.co.uk
01604 858933

Village Contacts:

Email Addresses:

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villagemessages@gayton-northants.co.uk

walks@gayton-northants.co.uk

webadmin@gayton-northants.co.uk

| |
|--|
| 7 Jun, Sun 13:00 – 17:00 Gayton Open Gardens & Allotments |
| 12 Jun, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 14 Jun, Sun 10:00 – 13:00 Gayton Walkers Monthly Walk |
| 15 Jun, Mon 19:00 – 21:30 Open Mic Night @ Eykyn Arms |
| 17 Jun, Wed 20:00 – 22:00 Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms (TBC) |
| 19 Jun, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 21 Jun, Sun 16:00 – 19:00 Blues Engineers @ Eykyn Arms |
| 26 Jun, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 27 Jun, Sat 20:30 – 23:00 Reverb @ Eykyn Arms |
| 28 Jun, Sun 10:00 – 11:00 CW Family Communion at Gayton Church |
| 30 Jun, Tue 18:30 – 22:00 Jazz & Blues Night @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 30 Jun, Tue 17:30 – 20:30 Pizzas by The Wood Oven @The Eykyn |
| 1 Jul, Wed 20:00 – 22:00 Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms |
| 3 Jul, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 8 Jul, Wed 10:00 – 11:30 Evergreens meet @ Eykyn for drinks & chat |
| 10 Jul, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 11 Jul, Sat 20:30 – 23:00 Karaoke @ Eykyn Arms |
| 12 Jul, Sun 10:00 – 13:00 Gayton Walkers Monthly Walk |
| 15 Jul, Wed 20:00 – 22:00 Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms |
| 16 Jul, Thu 19:30 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall |
| 17 Jul, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |

| |
|---|
| 18 Jul, Sat 20:30 – 23:00 Boxeddy @ Eykyn Arms |
| 24 Jul, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 26 Jul, Sun 10:00 – 11:00 CW Family Communion at Gayton Church |
| 28 Jul, Tue 18:30 – 21:30 Jazz & Blues Night @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 28 Jul, Tue 17:30 – 20:30 Pizzas by The Wood Oven @The Eykyn |
| 29 Jul, Wed 20:00 – 22:00 Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms |
| 31 Jul, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 7 Aug, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 9 Aug, Sun 10:00 – 13:00 Gayton Walkers Monthly Walk |
| 12 Aug, Wed 10:00 – 11:30 Evergreens meet @ Eykyn for drinks & chat |
| 12 Aug, Wed 20:00 – 22:00 Pub Quiz @ Eykyn Arms |
| 14 Aug, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 19 Aug, Wed 19:30 – 21:30 Horticultural Summer Quiz @ Eykyn Arms |
| 21 Aug, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |
| 23 Aug, Sun 10:00 – 11:00 CW Family Communion at Gayton Church |
| 25 Aug 18:30 – 21:30 *Live Music* Jazz & Blues Night @Eykyn |
| 25 Aug Tue 17:30 – 20:30 Pizzas by The Wood Oven @The Eykyn |
| 28 Aug, Fri 20:30 – 21:30 Bingo @ The Eykyn Arms |

Get your event in the Village calendar:

events@gayton-northants.co.uk

Gayton Gardeners and Allotment Society

The growing season was off to a rather hesitant start, with the weather throwing everything at us from hail to sunshine, warm days and cold nights. There were quite a few frosted veggies out on the plot. However, later it was a little warmer so all those leggy plants waiting in greenhouses could go out!



This year, the allotment site is full up and already looking very productive as you can see if you visit us at **OPEN GARDENS - JUNE 7TH**.

Perhaps we are all beginning to realise how satisfying it is to be able to supplement our weekly shop with a few home-grown fruit and veg.

We have a small waiting list for plots but if you would like to try your hand at an allotment, please contact me.

There are numerous events on our calendar this season. The main event, which is open to the whole village, is our **ANNUAL PRODUCE SHOW on Sept 5th**. Please read the Show Schedule and perhaps find something you can enter. There are too many Classes to mention here but I'm sure there is something for everyone. We always need help with various things, such as Raffle prizes, cakes, plant donations, all offers of help much appreciated.

The other event to which you are all invited to, is our **QUIZ NIGHT** (with a quirky horticultural theme) on Aug 19th at the Eykyn Arms in Gayton.

Happy Growing

Hilary Glanville (Sec)
hilaryglanville6@gmail.com

Evergreen Club

Why not join us on the second Wednesday in the month for a coffee and a chat?



John has really upped his Game as the Compere for the Bingo calling!

Karen and John offer great hospitality at the Eykyn Arms. Select an item from the breakfast menu or a toasted tea cake alongside your tea, coffee or hot chocolate.

No need to book, no subscription to pay, just come along and enjoy the company!

The dates of future Coffee and Chat Mornings for 2026 are:

Wednesday 8th July

Wednesday 12th August

Wednesday 9th September

Wednesday 8th October

Wednesday 11th November

All at the Eykyn Arms starting at 10.00 am.

Further information from:

Carol Coppock 01604 859645

carol.coppock14@gmail.com

Manja Ronne 01604 859253

ManjaRonne@btinternet.com

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

Struggling to pay for those extras at school or college?

Gayton Alms Charities may be able to help.

For information contact David Coppock, Chair of Trustees, on 01604 859645.

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.

Save the Date
– 26 September –



We would like to celebrate **St Mary's Church, Gayton** by inviting you all to come to a “**Open Day**” where you can meet us, make a donation, enjoy tours of the church, bell tower and the church yard and have some tea, coffee and cake or a light lunch of homemade soup and fresh bread. There will also be toys, games and a children's treasure hunt for the younger ones alongside other activities supported by Gayton Primary school.



St Mary's Church, Gayton

A Beekeeper's Year

Why Summer Is Important

Summer provides the colony's opportunity to gather enough surplus nectar not only for honey production, but also to build the resources needed to survive winter. For beekeepers, it is the culmination of successful spring management and the period when the colony is at its most impressive and productive.

A good summer can produce abundant honey and strong colonies; a poor summer can quickly expose weaknesses in colony health, forage availability, or management practices.

Early Summer (June): Peak Colony Strength

By early summer, a successful colony may contain **40,000–60,000 bees**. The queen is laying at or near her maximum rate, and large numbers of foraging bees collect nectar and pollen whenever weather conditions allow.

Major forage sources can include:

- Clover
- Bramble (blackberry)
- Lime trees
- Field beans
- Wildflowers
- Lavender and garden plants

In our area, the strong flow from **oilseed rape** stopped with the recent hot weather, and I harvested a significant amount of Honey that will be in jars as "Soft Set Honey."

The "June Gap" or shortage can occur if other sources are late into blossom and so I need to

keep a close eye that the bees have enough food stored. But also, the beekeeper's role is to ensure colonies have enough space by adding honey supers as they are needed. Congestion can trigger swarming, so inspections continue throughout June.

Mid-Summer (July): Honey Flow

July is often the main honey-producing month in much of the UK. Worker bees exploit long daylight hours and warm temperatures to gather nectar intensively. A strong colony may gain several pounds of nectar in a single good day.

Beekeepers monitor:

- Honey stores in supers
- Queen status and brood health
- Signs of disease or queen failure
- Ventilation during hot weather

When honey frames in the supers are fully capped, the honey is "ripe" and may be harvested using clearer boards beneath the supers so that the bees move down. The supers are removed (sans Bees!) and the frames are then placed in an extractor that spins the frames to drive the honey out. It is then filtered, allowed to settle, and jarred.

Good hygiene and careful handling are important to preserve honey quality.

Late Summer (August): Decline Begins

Although colonies remain active, late summer marks the beginning of the colony's transition toward winter. Nectar flows often reduce significantly, especially during dry weather, and the queen gradually decreases egg laying.

Common late forage sources include:

- Himalayan balsam
- Heather (in some upland areas)
- Ivy, (later and into September)
- Garden flowers

Robbing behaviour between colonies can become a problem as nectar becomes scarce. Wasps may also pose a serious threat to weaker colonies.

After the main honey crop has been removed, the beekeeper begins essential winter preparation:

- Removing unused supers.
- Assessing colony strength.
- Monitoring varroa levels.
- Beginning varroa treatment where appropriate.

Varroa (*Varroa destructor*) is a tiny reddish-brown parasitic mite that attacks honeybees. Originally, from Asia, it spread worldwide during the 20thC. and is one of the biggest problems facing beekeepers in the UK today.



Varroa Mites on an adult worker bee

About the size of a pinhead, the mite feeds on both developing baby bees and adult bees, weakening the whole colony. Even more

seriously, varroa spreads harmful viruses between bees, including Deformed Wing Virus, which leaves bees unable to fly.

If left untreated, a heavy varroa infestation can cause an entire colony to collapse, especially during winter.

Because of this, modern beekeepers regularly monitor their hives and use a range of treatments and management methods to keep varroa numbers under control and help colonies stay healthy. I use approved organic acid treatments such as oxalic and formic acid, after the honey has been harvested.

Summer Challenges

Although summer is productive, it also presents risks:

- Swarming may still occur!
- Poor weather can severely reduce nectar collection.
- Any Queen failure needs to be fixed!
- Overheating and ventilation problems can arise (especially inside my bee suit!)
- Heavy honey supers create lifting and handling challenges!

Successful summer management requires balancing honey production with maintaining healthy, sustainable colonies.

If you have any concerns about bees— or other small, buzzy things — in the village, feel free to contact me for advice.

Colin Simmonds. Tel: 858933

The Gayton Gumball Rally goes “Over There”

For their next mission, the intrepid crew of the Gumball Rally will be heading off to invade the Continent!

As you may be aware, these fellas organise a “Boys weekend away” each year, in the form of a themed road trip, and this year's challenge is to use French cars (ideally costing less than £500) to visit the north coast of France and Belgium.

However, it is not just about the personal enjoyment and camaraderie of the trip, as they also raise funds for community-minded projects within our village. In the past, they have provided the village with defibrillators, Chaingang tools, village hall electricity meters, and even the odd bunch of flowers!

An initial goal for this year's fundraising is the purchase and installation of a steel “Tommy” silhouette in the village, which they hope to unveil before their departure.

With their own D-Day planned for the 5th November, they are planning a multi-vehicle invasion, with the first objective being the port of Cherbourg.

From there, a sweeping assault will be carried out along the D-Day beaches, celebrating the role of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, who landed on “Gold Beach” as part of the 33rd Armoured Brigade. Equipped with Sherman tanks, they provided essential support to British infantry during the Normandy campaign.

Continuing up the coast beyond the Second World War sites, the team will step back in time to the trenches and military cemeteries of the First World War, perhaps taking in the locations associated with fallen local sporting heroes Walter Tull and Edgar Mobbs, whose bodies were never recovered from the battlefields of Bapaume and Passchendaele.

A visit is also planned to the Last Post ceremony at The Menin Gate at Ypres, which bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are unknown.

Finally their mission encompasses bringing their (t)rusty vehicles back to the UK, via Calais and Dover for a triumphant return to Gayton, where the cars will either be scrapped or, if sold for a profit, see the proceeds donated to the cause!

Please keep an eye out for fundraising events throughout the Summer and Autumn. The team will greatly appreciate any contribution, large or small, towards their efforts.

For further information, please contact: Les (07885 677734) or Martyn (07933 845016) or the Gayton News Editor, or indeed, find the boys in the front bar of the Eykyn Arms.

Further updates will appear in the Autumn issue and via Village Messenger and Facebook.

Good Luck to the Gumball Rally crew!

Gayton Gardeners & Allotment Society Produce Show

Show Schedule

GAYTON VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER
1.00pm – 4.00pm

Free Admission

Teas & Homemade Cakes

Raffle

Stalls

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Class

FLOWERS

- 1 Rose: 1 bloom
- 2 Dahlia: 1 bloom
- 3 Flowers raised from seed, 1 vase, 1 kind, 3 stems
- 4 1 vase, 6 stems 1 or more kinds (Hardy Perennials)
- 5 Vase mixed foliage: 6 stems
- 6 Flowering plant in pot, (pot not to exceed 20cm)
- 7 Foliage plant in pot, (pot not to exceed 20cm)
- 8 Cactus or Succulent, (pot not to exceed 15cm)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

- 9 3 x Dessert Apples
- 10 3 x Cooking Apples
- 11 3 x Pears
- 12 5 x Stoned Fruit
- 13 6 x Soft Fruit
- 14 4 Onions, Red
- 15 4 Onions, other
- 16 3 Potatoes, white
- 17 3 Potatoes, coloured
- 18 6 Dwarf French Beans, with stalk
- 19 6 Runner Beans, with stalk
- 20 6 x Shallots
- 21 3 Beetroot, with 50mm tops
- 22 3 Carrots, with 50mm tops
- 23 1 Lettuce, with roots
- 24 4 Tomatoes, with calyx attached
- 25 2 Courgettes (approx 150mm long)

- 26 1 Squash/Pumpkin (any variety)
- 27 1 Cabbage, with 50mm of stalk
- 28 Vegetables, 2 of one kind not included in schedule
- 29 Longest Runner Bean
- 30 Wonky vegetable
- 31 Chilli Plant, pot not to exceed 23cm
- 32 Herbs: 5 stems in vase – one or more varieties
- 33 2 Cucumbers

DOMESTIC

Classes 39-42 must be made within the year and Dated

- 34 Victoria Sandwich
- 35 6 Cheese Scones
- 36 6 Pieces of homemade Shortbread
- 37 Loaf of Bread – any kind, hand made (not bread maker) (not Sourdough)
- 38 Sourdough loaf
- 39 Jar of Pickled Onions
- 40 Bottle of Fruit (s)
- 41 Jar of Jam, Soft Fruit (s)
- 42 Jar of Chutney

CRAFT SECTION

Photographs max size 10cm x 15cm, no frames or mounts

- 43 A petite floral arrangement of fresh plant material (overall size 4” to 9” including the container)
- 44 Photograph of Garden or Allotment
- 45 Handicraft, Knitting, Embroidery, Macrame or Crochet

ART

18 years and over. Paintings should not be signed or framed.

- 46 British Wildlife, any medium
- 47 Landscape, any medium

CHILDRENS CLASSES

- 48 3 Cookies decorated (up to 5 years) judged on decoration only
- 49 3 Fairy cakes (6-9 years) judged on decoration and taste (home made)
- 50 6 Flapjacks, home made (10-17 years)
- 51 Drawing or Painting (up to 5 years) any medium, any subject (not photo)
- 52 Drawing or Painting (6-9 years) any medium, any subject (not photo)
- 53 Drawing or Painting (10-17 years) any medium, any subject (not photo)
- 54 Garden in seed tray

SHOW ENTRIES TO

Tom Rathwell email: thomasrathwell@gmail.com
Malzor Cottage, 23 High Street , Milton Malsor. NN7 3AS
or
Post through door 5 Bugbrooke Road, Gayton
(before 9pm on Thursday 3rd September).

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.

Beans and peas should have some stalk attached.

Onions tops and roots should be trimmed and can be staged on rings.

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.

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.

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

Doors of the show open at 1.00pm (at conclusion of judging).

Presentation of prizes at 4.00pm.

Followed by the auction and draw of the raffle.

Trophies to be Awarded

Best plate of potatoes

Best vegetable exhibit in show

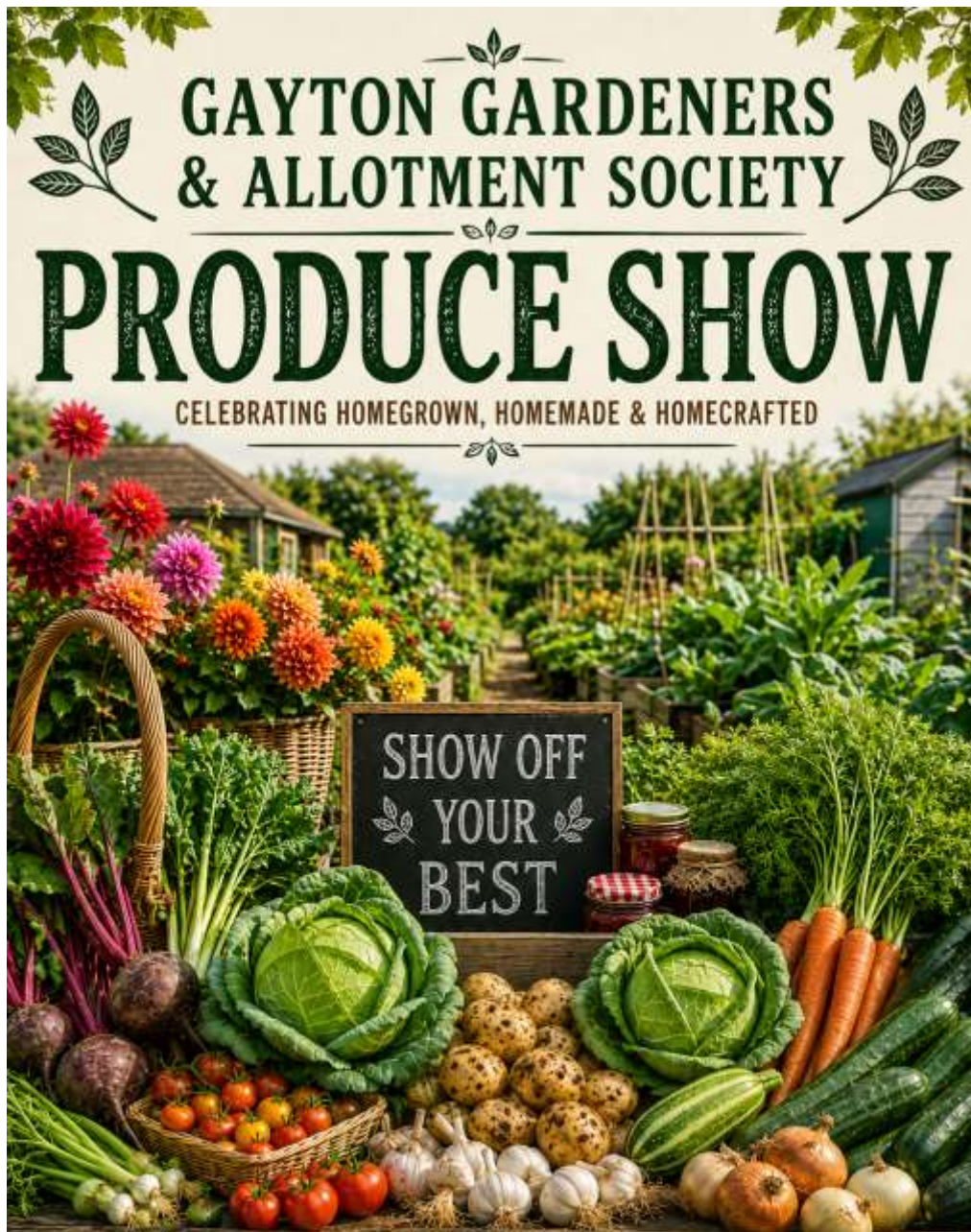
Best exhibit flowers

Trophy for overall points

Classes 51, 52, 53 sponsored

Rules

1. Entries close on the previous Thursday 3rd September at 9.00pm. The date is definitely **FINAL**.
2. No flower, fruit or vegetables shall be exhibited unless the same shall have been the property and in possession of the exhibitor for at least two months previous to the show.
3. All exhibits must be ready for the Judging at 11.30am.
4. All vegetables to be shown in a clean state.
5. No exhibitor will be allowed more than one exhibit in each class.
6. Exhibitors must provide their own plate and vase, and everything shown at the risk of the exhibitor, though every precaution will be taken by the committee to ensure safety.
7. Junior relatives of village residents are eligible to participate in the children's section.



GAYTON GARDENERS & ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

PRODUCE SHOW

CELEBRATING HOMEGROWN, HOMEMADE & HOMECRAFTED

SHOW OFF
YOUR
BEST



SATURDAY
5th SEPTEMBER
2026



VIEWING
1.00pm - 4.00pm



Gayton Village Hall,
25 Hillcrest Rd,
Gayton, NN7 3HG



ENTRIES WELCOME • EVERYONE WELCOME • TEA & CAKE



Gayton Parish Council

Pavement Parking

On 15th April, the Parish Council issued the following notice on the Gayton Villagers Facebook page:

(Repeated here for village wide coverage):

“The Parish Council has received multiple complaints concerning vehicles being parked on and obstructing footpaths within the village.

Such actions are causing considerable inconvenience and safety concerns for residents, particularly for parents with pushchairs and individuals using wheelchairs or mobility scooters, who are being forced into the roadway to pass safely.

Thoughtless parking obstructing the pavements constitutes an offence and is not permitted. The Parish Council respectfully requests that all residents and visitors comply with this regulation and ensure that footpaths remain clear at all times.

Failure to do so may result in further action.

We thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a safe and accessible environment for all.”

June Update:

On behalf of the parish council, we would like to thank everyone who has stopped parking on the pavements.

However, there are still some instances of pavement parking within the village, and we would kindly ask residents and visitors to refrain from doing so, as it makes access very difficult for wheelchair users, mobility scooter users, and those with pushchairs.

Could we respectfully ask for everybody’s support in helping to keep access to pavements available for everyone within the village?

Thank you.

Primary School Report

We have been very busy here at Gayton Primary School since the Spring edition of Gayton News!

To celebrate World Book Day we had an outdoor theme, working around a book called 'Outside In' by Deborah Underwood.

The whole school enjoyed a nature walk around the village, ending at the pocket park. There, the children took part in an exciting nature-themed scavenger hunt, exploring the outdoors and searching for different plants, creatures and textures



As part of our RE topic on Sikhism our Class 2&3 children went on a trip to the Gurdwara in Northampton to learn more about the Sikh religion.

During the visit, they were able to see the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, which is treated with great respect because Sikhs believe it is their eternal Guru.

The children also had a presentation that explained the main beliefs and practices of Sikhism, learning about the importance of equality, helping others, and remembering God.

Another important part of the visit was experiencing Langar, the community kitchen where free meals are served to everyone. Langar shows the Sikh belief that all people are equal, regardless of background, religion, or status. Everyone sits together and shares the same food. The children were able to enjoy a tasty treat of chips and beans.

The trip helped us to understand Sikh values such as kindness, equality, and community service. It was an interesting and educational experience.

The whole school enjoyed a visit from Mrs Ettridge, who came from Peterborough Diocese.

We were thinking about how Jesus is represented in different cultures across the world. EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and KS1 (Key Stage 1) learnt about the Christian symbol of the fish, Year 3 and 4 learnt about the symbol of the cross and Year 5 and 6 thought about different bible stories where they could represent Jesus in their own way.

A beautiful display was created using all the children's creations in our reflection area.

----- Cont'd →



After months of hard work behind the scenes, we're proud to announce that Gayton's Garden is now officially up and running 🌱

A huge thank you to the Gayton Alms for giving us the opportunity to bring this project to life.

Thank you so much to all the villagers in Gayton who have donated various pots, seeds and other equipment for the children to use.

A massive thank you to Alex's mum and dad for the generous donation of our greenhouse.

And a big thank you to the FrOGS for helping to build the allotment space and for their financial support.

We'd also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the parents whose fundraising through the FrOGS and unwavering support have made this possible, it truly means a lot to us. It will have a massively positive impact on our children.

This is just the beginning! 🌱✨

Gayton's Garden will be taking part in the village open gardens, so please do come and visit us, we hope you enjoy the Garden as much as we do!



To celebrate World Earth Day 2026 🌍, some of our youngest children made wonderful use of our school allotment, getting hands-on with nature and learning how to care for our environment.

Earth Day, celebrated each year on April 22nd, is all about raising awareness of environmental issues and encouraging us all to take action (big or small) to protect our planet.

We're so proud of our little gardeners for doing their part 🌱

----- Cont'd →



We are pleased to introduce you to our new Gayton Eco Council members. 🌱

Our school Eco Council is a team of passionate students working together to make our school more environmentally friendly and encourage everyone to care for the planet. ♻️

We look forward to sharing with you the great work they will be doing within the school. ✨



Contact for more information.
Bev Tyler-Bedford
bursar@gayton-ce.northants-ecl.gov.uk

End

Eykyn Arms Music & Events

Monday 15th June 7-9:30pm

Open Mic

“Mack & Wood” host a night for all artists to show their talent.

Sunday 21st June 4-7pm

Blues Engineers

They play a mix of covers and original blues tracks, regularly featuring slide guitar, harmonica, and sometimes saxophone.

Saturday 27th June 8:30pm

Reverb Band

Rock / Indie / Alternative music to keep toes tapping and bodies moving. All the songs you forgot you loved, the night you won't wanna leave!

Tuesday 30th June 7pm

Jazz & Blues Night

Now in their third year of regular monthly sessions, Cliff Brown and the House Band plus Guests start early and finish by about 10pm; it's perfect for coming straight from work, having a bite to eat, some drinks and catching some outstanding mid-week live music. Burgers from the Pub and Wood Fired Pizzas by The Wood Oven (outside) 5:30-8:30pm

Saturday 18th July, 8:30pm

BoxEddy

Pop, Rock & Indie Covers Band

Quiz Nights

Will be dependent on World Cup games!

Gayton Spinney

What has been happening in the Spinney recently?



During the **Winter**, Colin Ellis, our local Tree Surgeon, has removed several of the trees in the Spinney; many were suffering with Ash-Dieback and others needed thinning to allow the remaining trees to grow to their full maturity.

When the trees were originally planted back in 1999, they were planted close together as they were not all expected to survive, but as the volunteers back then did such a good job, the majority of the trees have survived and now they need more space to grow to their full potential.



You may have noticed the stumps have symbols carved into them, presumably by Colin, has anyone worked out what they mean yet?

In the **Spring**, the Spinney Working Group were busy clearing and planting out a second area of wild flowers, near the Hibernaculum, with the wild flowers from Blisworth Wildflowers. And it's not just the planting out we need to do, Glennys our plants-woman recommends newly planted wildflowers are watered daily for 5 days and then left to fend for themselves. So, if you have seen me wandering round to the Spinney with my watering can, now you know why; I have been on my watering duties.



The wildflowers planted out last autumn, at the back of the Spinney near the coppiced trees, are getting established and starting to flower nicely. All the volunteers' hard work is starting to show results.

----- Cont'd →



The Spinney always gets a bit overgrown this time of year, with April showers and sunshine enabling the weeds to flourish. We had our 1st tidy-up session cancelled due to the rain recently; I've tried tempting the volunteers with Jammie Dodgers but they are really not keen on working in the rain.



Hazel coppiced - Nov 2024

We have managed 1 tidy-up session so far where we have strimmed a lot of the weeds & nettles and dismantled 1 of the protective nests around the 1st Hazel we coppiced back in November 2024. I was very surprised to see how much the tree had grown in 18 months.



Hazel regrowth – May 2026

We only dismantled one nest as we had already filled all the garden bags we had with weeds & woody debris, and we always like to leave the Spinney in a tidy state. It looked like we would need several trips to the tip; however, one of our friendly farmers allowed us to add the woody debris to his farm bonfire, so I only needed 1 trip to the tip with the weeds. Many thanks, Cameron Billing!

Our plan for the coming **Autumn** is to coppice some more Hazels in collaboration with the Canal & River Trust and Inland Waterways Association; working together with these organisations has proved to be a very beneficial partnership.

They help us with the coppicing, with their knowledge & expertise of coppicing, and we provide keen & willing volunteers to assist them, as well as tea, coffee & biscuits. In return, they get lots of stakes & binders for their hedge-laying projects along the Grand Union Canal and we get to learn first-hand about coppicing and get a chance to coppice our own hazels.

And the best thing is, it's a fun day out for everyone, out in the fresh air doing something useful and productive; everyone who has come along has thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Gayton Millennium Spinney is designed to be a natural looking managed woodland for everyone in the village to enjoy, young & old. It is managed by the Spinney Working Group, a working group of Gayton Parish Council, made up of willing volunteers from the village. If you fancy joining our group and helping to maintain the Spinney, please let me know; we can always do with more volunteers.

Sue Simmonds

feedback@gayton-northants.co.uk

Chaingang

Efforts so far this year have been in support of the Spinney Working Group, but by the time that you read this, we will have commenced our usual rota of path and hedge clearing in support of the Open Gardens event and also, to keep our pavements clear for pedestrians.

During last year, we received the kind offer of the supply of a batch of tools from "Tools for Self-Reliance," a charity in Milton Keynes that refurbishes and distributes tools, often to small undeveloped African countries, but in this case, Gayton also qualified!



We have also received the kind offer from Cameron Billing of a "lock up" to store all of our tools and growing assortment of signs, cones and associated gear, thank you!

So we now have great hardware and safety gear with which to tackle the jobs around the village. All we do need is a few more willing "Hands" to join the regulars of the Chaingang! If you can spare a couple of hours for some community-minded work, please contact me.

Colin Simmonds

chaingang@gayton-northants.co.uk



Hi Everyone,

We are pleased to report that the minibus service is attracting more passengers on our regular timetabled services which is good news as it boosts our income and makes it a more enjoyable social occasion for our passengers. Why not give it try? A local community transport provider, Ability Bus, has recently ceased operating and I have had many requests from other villages to provide a service for them as their former passengers really miss their services. They envy us in that we are continuing to operate.



The grant we received from the Northamptonshire Community Foundation for the past year was very helpful and we appear to have a sustainable financial future for the medium term. However, fund raising is now required again in order to generate income as well as running private hire trips. Any donations are always welcome to cover the substantial cost of keeping the bus on the road and the service running following the withdrawal of funding by WNC.

Since expanding the service to Eastcote, Pattishall and Astcote, passenger numbers have continued to increase and these now make up more than half of our regular users. We are continuing with this service for the foreseeable future. We do realise that it means a slightly longer journey for Gayton and Tiffield residents but we do need the extra fares to keep the service operating.

Most users seem happy with the current timetable but please let us know if you have any comments, suggestions or wish to volunteer. This is a Community Bus Service so we do try to respond to everyone's wishes but if you would like to comment on the service please contact me or come along to our AGM: 7pm, Wednesday 1st July, Gayton Village Hall.

The government's fare cap for cash customers remains £3 per single journey. Passengers with bus passes do not pay anything.

Please remember that we are a charity and this is a community bus, so if you want to hire a 16 seater (plus driver) please contact us to see if we are available. Recent trips have been for cubs/guides, local schools and group visits to local pubs and restaurants, monthly dining club visits and sports team away matches. Airport runs are possible but not at unsocial times. Donations are always welcome.

Steve Jowers – Chairman, Gayton and Tiffield Community Transport

stevejowers@gmail.com 07890 764 633 - 01327 350 292

GAYTON AND TIFFIELD COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

MINIBUS TIMETABLE AND FARES - From 1st JANUARY 2025 TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS ONLY

FARES: BUS PASSES - FREE. ALL OTHER FARES £3 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 |
| | Towcester- Arrive | 10:05 | Arr | Towcester - Tesco, Aldi, B&M - Market Square - Waitrose |

TO NORTHAMPTON - BY REQUEST

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 2 | Towcester - Depart | 10:10 | Dep | Towcester - Waitrose |
| | Northampton | 10:25 | | Tesco Mereway |
| | Northampton | 10:35 | | Morrisons |
| | Northampton - Arrive | 10:40 | Arr | Northampton - Drapery |

RETURN FROM TOWCESTER - SCHEDULED SERVICE

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| 3 | Towcester - Depart | 11:15 | Dep | Towcester - Waitrose - Market Square |
| | 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 |
| | Pattishall | 11:45 | Arr | Pattishall - Church St, Fosters Booth Rd, Leys Rd, Pool Close |

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

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|--|
| 4 | Northampton - Depart | Approx 12:05 | Dep | Northampton - Drapery |
| | 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 |
| | Pattishall - Arrive | 12:50 | Arr | Pattishall - Church St, Fosters Booth Rd, Leys Rd, Pool Close |



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