

**Gretton Village Association
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Chairs Report for the period October 2024 – October 2025**

Introduction

This is my third AGM report as Gretton Village Association (GVA) Chair having been elected October 2022.

It's been a busy year with significant progress being made in each area of our work: Hall and Playing Field maintenance, recreational classes, social opportunities and community welfare. We continue to see a strong turnout (including new faces) at our events and we have been recognized by Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council (GRCC).

The GVA is a team sport and the work put in by the committee and other volunteers from the village should be recognized and appreciated.

Committee

GVA is led by a committee of six elected members, representatives of local groups (Parish Council, Christ Church, and Gretton School) and two co-opted members. I would like to thank the committee for all their support, understanding and hard work and especially say a big thanks to Team Tweedie who are consistently fantastic.

The committee has developed in the last year with Duncan Johnson, Rich Wearn, Adam Wawn and Liz Brazier joining. Liz Brazier stepped into the Treasurer role at the last AGM but unfortunately had to step back for personal reasons. I am very grateful to Duncan for moving into the Treasurer role. Rich brings strong web and marketing skills and Adam has recently picked up the Hall maintenance activity.

Treasa Cahill retired earlier in the year and Alix Scott has recently decided to step down. Alix has worked tirelessly to integrate the school into events and so her loss means the interface with the school will need some discussion.

Rev D Penny is a strong advocate for GVA and we thank him for his support. I continue to link GVA with Gretton Parish Council and their considerable support is recognized and appreciated.

Our thanks go to those are leaving both for their contribution to the team and village.

As we enter the AGM the status of the GVA team is as follows:

Elected Members	Representative Members	Co-Opted Members
Mark Oliver – Chair & Trustee	Alix Scott - Gretton School/FoGS (Retiring)	Adam Wawn (Maintenance)
Duncan Johnson – Treasurer and Trustee	Rev D Penny – Christ Church	Vacant
Hayley Brookes – Secretary	Mark Oliver – Gretton Parish Council	
Kathy Tweedie – Booking	David Tweedie – Social Group	
Rich Wearn – Website/Marketing		
Sue Hughes		

During the year the Gretton Tower Trust has been more involved with the village agenda and GVA will propose their joining the team as a Representative Member.

In addition to the committee I would like to record my thanks to Gretton Parish Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council and GRCC for their active support.

Finally, the new GVA Helpers Group has worked well to support the committee and we plan to further develop this in the coming year.

Facilities

The Hall and Playing Field are tremendous village assets and GVA's role is to maintain them and make them available for the community. The Hall and Field are regularly inspected by a committee member and a

maintenance list and financial risk/exposure assessment is maintained. The Hall is currently in good condition with the only significant expense in the year being replacement of the hot water tank. Tweedie Cleaning continue to clean the Hall and two maintenance days have been held to tidy up the Playing Field

The Playing Field grass is cut regularly under a contract arranged by Gretton School and costs are split between the school and GVA. We appreciate the contribution from Gretton Parish Council towards this expense.

Our catering facilities maintain a 5* Food Hygiene rating.

A number of significant developments have been achieved in the year:

- Solar panels have been installed thanks to support from Gretton Solar Farm Ltd through Greenfields Trust
- The remaining heaters have been upgraded thanks to support from Climate Change Gloucestershire/Gloucestershire County Council
- 8 fruit trees have been planted with thanks to a Community Orchard grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council
- A new website with improved calendar visibility and ease of booking has been implemented.

We are still planning on installing Memorial benches on behalf of village residents and this will be completed in the coming year.

The remaining priority facility improvement projects are as follows:

- Sports storage facility to replace the current shed and provide more space. S106 funding is available.
- A flexible activity space and parking to optimize usable space at the rear of the Hall for events and/or parking. Funding is available from S106 and GPC
- Perimeter path around playing field to improve accessibility and usability. This project is not yet funded but community fundraising is progressing well and it is hoped that grant funding can be secured.
- Meeting room improvements to enable more business rental

Recreation and Rental

The Hall is there to be used. We host a number of regular classes and also hire the hall for events:

- We have regular classes for Dance (2 sessions/wk), Pilates (2 different sessions/wk), Yoga (2 sessions/wk and 1 morning/mnth). We are pleased to host a regular Singing Bowl & Gong Soundbath
- The Reading group meet every 6 weeks and and French group meet fortnightly. The table tennis table is hired by residents
- The Hall has been hired for 15 private parties and a large wedding. Residents are reminded that they can benefit from preferential rates on Hall rental.
- The Hall is a Polling station and is used by the School and Gretton Parish Council.
- Business rentals have been slow. This is a focus for us with an upgrade of the upstairs room being considered along with a refreshed marketing activity.

Hall rental income is down and costs have increased. This needs to be addressed to assure sustainability of the Hall. As part of this we have been forced to increase our fees after a number of years of no change.

Community Social Events

A number of community events have been staged in the year.

- Apple Rock in October 2024 was blessed by the weather and very well attended. The introduction of the Bucking Bronco and the Gretton Apple Cup was well received. The village scarecrow display was repeated. Apple Rock raised £1,646 with 50% donated to Friends of Gretton School
- The annual Christmas Quiz was held in December and raised £482.
- A Progressive Supper was organized by local residents and went well.
- In May 25 we recognized VE Day with an afternoon tea and performance from the school. It was a lovely and very well attended event.

- A Rogation Walk was held in May and a number of other walks have been organized to explore the village and surrounds
- In June we held Walk for the Park. This year's event was a family focused day to coincide with Fathers Day and made a profit of £623
- In July we held our second Summer Fete. The Fete was a wonderful community event and some £1,962 was raised which was split between the GVA and the School. The support of Centaur Homes, Martins Meats and Gretton Parish Council was appreciated.
- Finally, in October Apple Rock was held. The Bucking Bronco winner secured the Apple Cup, the Apple Cake competition was tight and the Mashers played us into the evening. Zoe Howells' Elemental Mule Bar was a hit and the support of the Parish Council was appreciated.

Social Impact

A key priority of the GVA is supporting community cohesion and support in the Village. We aim to bring people together, overcome social isolation and also recognize the pressures of the cost of living crisis. The Gretton Hub has been a great success with a strong attendance at each opening. Activity in the year includes:

- 10 winter openings 2024/25 supported by Tewkesbury Borough Council Warm Space scheme
- 6 summer openings supported by Gretton Parish Council
- We have also recently secured £994 from UK Govt to enable the Hub to run Winter 2025/26

In addition to the book swap and table tennis we also now offer regular Digital support courtesy of the team from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Funding

Attracting funding is always a priority and is a time consuming activity. However, it is encouraging that money is being made available to communities such as ours. In the year we have secured:

- £850 Winter 2024/25 Warm Space support from Tewkesbury Borough Council
- £1,340 Community Orchard Grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council
- £4,999 for new heaters from Climate Change Gloucestershire grant
- £15,000 for solar installation from Gretton Solar Farm Ltd through Greenfields Trust
- £668 from Gretton Parish Council to support grass cutting
- £1000 from Gretton Parish Council to support the Fete and Apple Rock and £300 support to the Hub
- £994 Winter 2025/26 support to the Hub (Warm Space) from UK Government

In addition we have benefited from kind donations from the community of £1,400.

Communications

Multiple communications channels are used by the GVA: hall website, noticeboards, leaflets and the Gretton Village Notices and Gretton Village Hall Facebook pages and the Gretton Help Force and GVA Helpers WhatsApp Groups.

We are always keen to receive feedback and/or ideas for future activities so please reach out to the committee.

Looking Forward

GVA has had another good year. Support and momentum continues to grow and improvements are being made.

Our contribution is wholly dependent on voluntary support from the committee and helpers. Sharing the load across more people enables us to do more so the support of the community is welcomed and appreciated.

Thank you for all who have been involved and supported GVA over the year.

I will be standing to continue as Chairman at the AGM for the coming year if required.

Mark Oliver