Gretton Village Association
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Chairs Report for the period October 2025 – October 2026

Introduction

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

Once again, we've had a great year. Recognition as Gloucestershire Village of the Year is the ultimate endorsement of the appeal of Gretton. It recognizes the community across our key objectives of Recreation, Social and Welfare enabled by our wonderful facilities

I always judge our reach by event turnout and can report strong support throughout the year and new faces continuing to get involved.

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. In the year we have welcomed the Tower Trust as a new representative group. I would like to thank the committee for all their support.

The committee has evolved in the last year. Hayley Brookes had to step down as Secretary and has been replaced by Corinne Goatley. Thanks to both Hayley and Corinne.

The team bring great energy and we have reenergized progress on our finances, governance, maintenance and green agendas in particular during the year

Rev D Penny is a strong advocate for GVA and we thank him for his support. The new Friends of Gretton School team have been very supportive. I thank them for their hard work and look forward to continuing a strong partnership going forward.

We are working with GRCC and legal support to ensure that our charity and trustee structure is fit for purpose. Changes are needed and these will be progressed in the coming year

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	Sarah Branfield/Steph Marfell - Gretton School/FoGS	Adam Wawn (Maintenance)
Duncan Johnson – Treasurer and Trustee	Rev D Penny – Christ Church	Dean Sibborn
Corinne Goatley – Secretary	Mark Oliver – Gretton Parish Council	+ Rob Hardie
Kathy Tweedie – Booking	David Tweedie – Social Group	
Rich Wearn – Website/Marketing	Paul White – Gretton Tower Trust	
Sue Hughes – Trustee		

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 GVA Helpers Group has worked well to support the committee Thank you to all who have helped.

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 are maintained. A large number of maintenance jobs have been undertaken in the year (thanks to Adam Wawn) and subsequently the Hall remains in good condition.

Tweedie Cleaning continues 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 projects have been achieved in the year:

- As part of our Sustainability Drive LED lighting has been installed throughout the Hall to overcome obsolescence and improve our running costs. Thanks to Climate Change Gloucestershire/Gloucestershire County Council
- Our system gives us excellent power usage information and actions have been taken to zone and schedule heating to minimize costs. Our solar has delivered c£1k savings and the LED lighting is giving a 66% saving
- The Hall website and electronic booking are reducing workload and enabling easier booking.
- Facilities have been introduced at the Hall to provide battery recycling, and a clothing bank is being hosted on behalf of FoGS. Both have seen good use.

Looking forward our future plans include:

- Funding is now in place for the Sports Storage Facility and Activity Space. This is a significant step and enables us to progress to planning application, quote finalization and implementation. Thanks to the support of TBC and the Parish Council.
- Funding is in place to install a TV/Screen in the upstairs meeting room to improve utility and enhance attractiveness to business rental customers. We then need to improve the decoration and furniture
- Once the above are complete the playing field perimeter path is planned to improve accessibility and usability. The project includes a community seating area and residents will have the opportunity to fund memorial benches should they wish
- A pétanque terrain (court) is being considered

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, Yoga (2 sessions/wk and 1 morning/mnth), and Qi Gong together with bi-weekly Sound Bath and Spiritualists.
- The Reading group meet every 6 weeks and French group meet fortnightly. The table tennis table is hired by residents
- The Hall has been hired for 17 private parties, 1 funeral and 3 commercial rentals. 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, Tewkesbury Borough Council and local Parish Councils.

I am pleased to say that Hall rental income is up by some 40% on last year with Hall costs down. Rental income now covers 70% of our running costs. Huge thanks to Kathy Tweedie for managing all bookings.

Looking forward we want to increase personal and business rentals by improving marketing and continue to ensure the classes offered meet the needs of the community

Community Social Events

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

- Apple Rock in October 2025 was well attended. The Bucking Bronco and Gretton Apple Cup are now regular features along with the cider making and music from the Mashers who continue to support the event for free in memory of Nick Sharman. Apple Rock raised £740.

- The annual Christmas Quiz was a great success, and a Christmas Fayre was held for the first time. Both went well and raised £1100.
- In response to demand from the Village, we held a Spring Quiz. The event was sold out and raised £473
- In July we held our third Summer Fete. The Fete was bigger and better and introduced more stalls from local agencies and a classic car display. The event raised £2,472 which was split between GVA, FoGS and the Tower Trust.
- The 2026 Apple Rock has recently been held. The event raised £1064 which will be split between GVA and FoGS

Funds raised are all used to deliver on our charity objectives. In the last year funds have been needed to sustain the Hall but looking forward we aim to build our project budget to fund agreed new facilities.

Looking forward, we are always looking for new ideas. Plans are already in hand for the Gretton Village Ball in February and are always keen to hear ideas for future events.

Welfare and 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. Activities in the Year have included:

- The Gretton Hub continues to be important. We open twice monthly in the winter months supported by TBC Warm Space fund and monthly in the warmer months supported by GPC. In April the team were invited to tea with the Mayor in recognition of our Hub achievements
- We have introduced a Book Swap into the Hub and also bring in support from the GRCC Digital inclusion team and the Police.
- In January we held a Connecting Communities event with TBC to showcase local community groups in the area
- In October we launched the Gretton Men's shed. The group has 20 members who are currently getting to know each other and considering the impact they may have on the community
- In November we held a Live Longer Better event with TBC to showcase support available with health, recreation and welfare as we get older

Looking forward the GVA intends to build on our welfare offering. We will be able to signpost support for health and welfare matters. Two people are trained Citizens Advice First Aiders and information is being gathered to enable support from local agencies to be signposted if individuals are in need.

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:

- £994 Winter 2025/26 support to the Hub (Warm Space) from UK Government
- £668 from Gretton Parish Council to support grass cutting
- £4,999 for new LED lighting from Climate Change Gloucestershire grant
- £1000 from Gretton Parish Council to support 2025 Apple Rock and 2026 Fete, £500 for 2026 Apple Rock and £300 support to the Hub
- £500 from Gloucestershire County Council to support the Fete
- £5000 prize money for our Village of Year success
- £997 Winter 2026/27 Warm Space support to the Hub from Tewkesbury Borough Council

In addition, we have benefited from kind donations from the community of £947

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. The Gretton Village Notices Facebook page now has some 336 followers and has seen over 25k views in some months!

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

Village of the Year

We entered the GRCC Gloucestershire Village of the Year competition for the first time this year and were incredibly proud to be awarded Overall Winner, winner in the Volunteering category and runner up in the Digital category. These awards recognize the special place Gretton is.

Our success comes with some great publicity (Radio Gloucestershire, Cotswold Life etc.) but also £5000. Following consultation, we have launched the following threads to further enhance our community:

- Greening and Wildlife. We plan to improve our environment to support nature and wildlife. We are creating green spaces in the Playing Field and have started surveys of wildlife to inform work about introducing housing for birds, hedgehogs etc. We aim to offer a number of opportunities for the community to get involved in things like Pruning Workshops, Willow crafts, Wildlife Trails, Bug house building etc.
- Preserving our History and Heritage. We are gathering and archiving items of historical interest and are starting to plan a History and Heritage Trail around the village to bring to life some of our key assets. The new plaque and QR code on the War Memorial was introduced for Remembrance and enables people to easily access the life stories of those who have fallen
- Men's Mental Health. The Men's Shed has been launched and will develop as we go forwards
- We are considering using some of the money to go towards the Playing Field projects and especially a new seating area

Looking Forward

GVA has had another good year. Support and momentum continue 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 welcome and appreciated.

Thank you to 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

Chair – Gretton Village Association