

# Gawsworth Gazette

FREE  
FEBRUARY 2021



## Is 20 plenty in Gawsworth?

A “20’s Plenty in 2020” motion to reduce speed limits on our roads has been agreed by Cheshire East Council and they want your thoughts on what it should mean for Gawsworth. Both residential streets and small lanes will be covered by a borough wide review of Speed Management with the aims to increase the uptake of walking and

cycling and improve safety for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Introducing speed limits and other ways of reducing vehicle speed can be considered. Should Gawsworth residential streets have a 20mph limit? Is the current 60mph limit safe and appropriate for Woodhouse End Road, Dark Lane, Church Lane etc. ? What ideas do you have for improving safety where cars, trucks,

cycles, walkers and horse riders share our country lanes?

It’s good to have the opportunity to contribute ideas early in the project. Provide your input and offer suggestions by emailing [clerk@gawsworthpc](mailto:clerk@gawsworthpc) and [activetravel@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:activetravel@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

## Parish Council Spending

Parish Councillors have voted to keep the Gawsworth Parish Precept at the same level as last year - an annual cost of £34 to Band D households. The council’s total budget for

2021/22 is £35,549.

As the precept is only a small proportion of our total Council Tax, bills will be increasing with increased charges from Cheshire East and the Police having been agreed.

In January the Parish Council approved expenditure on a replacement Village Hall noticeboard, tree works, hedge repair in the park, repair to damaged paths in Nancy’s Wood, replacement street signs and refurbishment of the tennis court.

The Gawsworth Gazette is published by Gawsworth Parish Council. It is funded by the Parish Council and the Community Shop. Submit articles for inclusion or subscribe to receive a digital edition each month by emailing: [clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk)

# Nancy's Wood Management Plan



A 10-year management plan for our much-loved Nancy's Wood was agreed by the Parish Council following an ecological report and tree survey. You can expect to see removal of laurel and leylandii, replacement tree planting with native species, repositioning of the stepping-stones and clearing the fallen tree which is creating a dam.

Councillors are keen to involve the community in activities such as creating a woodland trail, maintaining bird and bat boxes, a bug hotel and planting woodland bulbs.

Email [clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk) to express your interest in getting involved.

## Double the time to speak

Gawsworth Parish Council always welcomes residents joining its meetings which include an opportunity for the public to raise questions, comments and suggestions before the councillors get stuck into discussing the items on the agenda.

From February, residents will now have a second chance to speak. The council is introducing an item at the end of each meeting for the public to provide feedback on the evening's discussions!

The next council meeting is Tuesday 9th February at 7:30pm – join us via Zoom or Facebook.

## Out and About

We all know we must stay at home to save lives and aren't we so lucky to have Gawsworth for our daily local exercise!

We're really enjoying the fantastic pictures residents have been

posting on social media.

We've been asked to pass on a few reminders for when we are out and about. Please...

Keep your distance from others as you pass – especially panting runners.

.....  
Keep dogs under control and always pick up their poo, bag it and bin it.

Sorry, no dogs in the park.

Don't feed horses or other animals and bird seed is best for the ducks.

## Maggoty: King of Chaos

We know his grave is in Maggoty Wood and he was supposed to have been the last court Jester in England but there's much more to learn about Samuel "Maggoty" Johnson.

A fascinating new internet read has appeared, written and researched by Eli Lycett. Just Google "[The local Mythstorian](#)" and look for "King of Chaos".

So, who was Samuel Maggoty Johnson – or Lord Flame as he referred

to himself?

A Dance Master, Jester, master fiddler and playwright. Also known as teacher, an actor, a writer and a Gawsworth boy of supreme artistic talent.

Johnson described himself as 'a genius' while others thought he was a "King of Chaos" and a "Madman". He wrote a successful play which he performed in at the Theatre Royal in London. The 'King of Chaos' article suggests it was rather like a forerunner of Monty Python. Silly songs and

silly walks no doubt? Gawsworth residents said that Johnson had "Maggots in his brain" and so the name "Maggoty Johnson" was coined.

Well worth a read.

Also available on "The local Mythstorian" website is Samuel Johnson's bizarre collection of toilet and ale house graffiti "THE MERRY-THOUGHT: or the Glass-Window and Bog-House Miscellany". Now don't go getting any ideas for when you next sit down at the Harrington!

## The original Gawsworth Park

Nowadays *Gawsworth Park* refers to the popular playing field behind the Village Hall. However, look back to the late 16th century there was a 600 acre park surrounding Gawsworth Hall.

To the west it extended up to the Macclesfield to Congleton road, to

.....  
the north to Woodhouse Lane, to the east to a line close to that followed by the modern railway line, and to the south the border partly followed Cow Brook.

There was a warren around where Nancy's and Maggoty Woods now are where rabbits for the hall table were reared and which gives rise to the area approaching the Dark

.....  
Lane crossroads now being referred to as 'Warren'. A few ancient lime trees survive on the footpath leading east from the hall towards Woodhouse End Road, remnants of a grand avenue.

In 1725, after Lord Harrington inherited Gawsworth, the park was enclosed and parcelled out among tenant farmers.



*Map of the Gawsworth Hall Park, supplied courtesy of Gawsworth Hall.*

## Gawsworth Shop News

What a month January was, both good and bad. The storms were awful but the snow looks wonderful, however it causes everyone so many problems. The good news has been the rapid roll out of the vaccine and I'm sure many of us will have received our first, and for some their second, dose by the end of this month. Thankfully the shop has kept going through the thick and thin of it and kept you supplied with all your essentials.

With Valentine's day this month, why don't you treat your loved one to a box of Whitakers chocolates and or a bottle of wine. Perhaps you would like to cook something different, look no further than the Hub where there is a good range of recipe books available for a donation to the Christie in Macclesfield fund. While there you could choose a jigsaw for a

cozy evening in trying to fathom out where each piece goes. If you don't feel like cooking but need a wholesome meal look in the shop freezer where there is a range of Pegoty Hedge ready meals.

The Hub has retained the tree decoration from Christmas and it is now a Memory Tree. If you would like to remember anyone, whether they are still with us or not, you can put a message or a photo on the tree. It might just be someone you are missing having a hug with or a baby you are desperate to meet. Whatever the memory is, here is a place to share it.

Ten years ago this month we, as a community, bought our last remaining shop from its previous owner and set about transforming it into our very own Community Shop while continuing to trade from a converted container on our forecourt, affectionately dubbed our 'shop in a box'. Next month sees the 10th anniversary of its actual

opening. The current covid restrictions prohibit a proper celebration but if you have memories of the opening or would like to comment on the past 10 years we would love to hear from you so please do fill in one of the blank cards we've put out in the hub for you. We're not going to let the date, 10th March, go unmarked so are busy planning to celebrate the milestone as best we can. Look out for the next issue of the Gazette for details.

## Broadband Survey Update

Thank you to the 166 residents who completed the Gawsworth Broadband Survey.

The data is currently being crunched but the headline results are that 23% of residents desperately need faster broadband with speeds as low as 1.06 Mbps before reported!

The full results will be reported in the next edition of the *Gazette*.