



Gawsworth Gazette

March 2025 | FREE

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MP Visits Gawsworth

Our new MP Tim Roca visited Gawsworth Village Hall on 9th February to host one of his first 'Meet Your MP' events in the constituency.

There was a good turnout from residents on a cold and blustery Sunday evening and a fascinating discussion on a variety of topics that affect a rural community like ours.

The flooding on Lowes Lane was one of the first discussion topics and it was good to hear that Tim had added his voice to that of local residents, the Parish Council and the ward councillor pressing Cheshire East Highways for urgent work to address the problems. The work on the spring has now been completed and we hear the road repair work has been scheduled for March.

The state of our roads with

so many potholes was, unsurprisingly, a concern that residents raised with our MP.

The importance of protecting Danes Moss, affordable housing in the area, and the role of the Parish Council were other topics discussed. We were also able to boast about our active community and the great service provided by the Gawsworth Hub.

Tim gave some useful information about the plans for devolution for Cheshire and what it could mean for our communities. The importance of Macclesfield and the surrounding villages getting our fair share of benefits was stressed by the Gawsworth residents present.

Revitalising Macclesfield town centre was a priority topic and concern was raised about the loss of health science research

and development capability in the North-West in recent years. University tuition fees were also raised by families with youngsters about to go off to university.

Plenty there for our MP to get his teeth into and he stressed that all Gawsworth residents are very welcome to get in touch with him about topics that concern them. tim.roca.mp@parliament.uk

Devolution Proposals

The government has launched a consultation on the proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for Cheshire.

The Cheshire and Warrington Mayoral Combined Authority would be led by a newly elected Mayor (elections in 2026) who would lead a board which would also include two reps from the three unitary councils. The proposals would not involve the merging of CEC, Warrington and CWAC.

The authority would have powers devolved from Westminster in areas including transport, economic regeneration, skills and housing.

You can find the consultation at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cheshire-and-warrington-devolution/cheshire-and-warrington-devolution-consultation





Meet Sara

Sara Dickinson joined Gawsworth Hub as Hub Coordinator on 6th January.

Sara has added her skillset to help the Hub increase its delivery in the Gawsworth community.

Her main roles are to strengthen their volunteer base through training and development of volunteers to help put their skills to use, as well as to develop

opportunities for engagement within our community.

Sara has been well received into the Hub environment and has made a flying start, introducing new ideas and initiatives to further engage with the community.

If you have any ideas for events or changes to our operations, please come in for a chat with Sara, contact her by email at shop@gawsworthhub.co.uk or call her on 01625 425428.

Spring into action

The snowdrops and crocuses around Gawsworth have been so uplifting to see in recent days.

As reported in the last Gazette a small group of Gawsworth Gardeners are determined to enhance our green spaces and bring more colour to our village.

The first working group session, preparing the ground around the Pleasance ready for planting, was held on 1st March.

The planting plan is being refined and there'll be another volunteer session to really get the project off the ground a little later. Watch out on the 'What's going on in Gawsworth' Facebook Group for how you can join in making Gawsworth more floriferous this year.



Gawsworth WI Report

Our February meeting was the first of 2025 and we had an interesting talk from Kaite Percival who is a milliner.

Katie explained, briefly, the process of hat making and also brought along many examples of the hats some of the hats she has for sale or for hire. Some of the ladies tried on the hats and fascinators afterwards.

Some of our members will be joined the Gardening Club for a trip to Rode Hall to do the Snowdrop Walk on 22 February. Ladies that lunch went off to the Flower Pot on the 11th and some

ladies attended the Cinemac for a night at the pictures.

The Crafty Ladies were at their new venue of the Parish Hall on 20th February.

The Cloud Group are having a lunch at the Knott Inn Rushton Spencer on the 19th March and the Spring meeting will be at the New Life Church Congleton on the 7th May.

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Parish Hall, Gawsworth at 7.30 pm, please feel free to come along and join us.



Pavement Parking: a rant

Several of our roadside footways have disappeared, are partially blocked or impassable to wheelchair and buggy users

Residents regularly report these problems on the Cheshire East Fix My Street service but there is little or no prospect of most of them being fixed in the foreseeable future.

The dire financial position that Cheshire East Council, and indeed many of the country's Local Authorities, have faced during recent years means that keeping all the footways usable, particularly in a rural area, is beyond their capability. In Gawsworth the footway south from the Harrington Arms to Gandysbrook is not only overgrown but now so broken up that we must be resigned to walking in the road. Heading from the Harrington to the A536 there is effectively no accessible footway. At least here there is a grass verge to walk on, as there is further along the A536 north

of Maggoty Lane where the path has also disappeared.

But that's no good for buggy and wheelchair users. Buying your duck food at the Hub and wheeling the buggy or wheelchair down Church Lane to feed the ducks? The tree roots and pavement parking have so degraded the footway as you approach the halls that you'll have to walk in the road where it's a 60mph speed limit.

Can nothing be done? Well, there is the DIY option. It was so heartening to see some residents cutting back and siding out the footway adjacent to the A536 in the Gandysbrook area recently. Thank you! If you do tend the footway near you remember that great care is needed near busy roads. Of course, it's hard and time-consuming work and we are not all able to do that. One thing we all can do is cut back our hedges where they have encroached on pavements. It's Cheshire East Council's

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be on Church Lane from 3:45 to 4:10 on Thursday 7th and 28th.

responsibility to maintain the highways, including the footway, and it should be financed by national taxes and local council tax - but it hasn't been adequately funded. The Parish Council could get a contractor to do some of the siding out work but that would mean residents paying again through an increased parish precept. Is that an option in your view?

One glimmer of hope is that the Parish Council have made representations about one particularly dangerous overgrown footway. The section north of Gawsworth crossroads on the A536 is immediately next to the busy road and is often overgrown. Pedestrians, buggy users etc are forced into the way of the main road traffic. The danger to life might mean that Cheshire East Highways could prioritise siding back this section. Also, the Parish Council is pushing for the ward councillor to allocate all or part of their small discretionary budget to this project.

Enclosure of the Smith

Reading a sign whilst on holiday in Costa Rica had our parish council clerk musing over the meaning of place names.

One of the places he stayed was *La Fortuna*, a town nestled under the Arenal volcano. Until the 1960s the town was called *El Burio* but the local people decided to rename it as *La Fortuna* owing to the richly fertile land which surrounded it. *La Fortuna* directly translates a *The Fortune*.

How strange would it be for places to be named like this in England, he thought. It certainly contrasts with many of our place names - such as Gawsworth. Or does it?

Everyone knows that language evolves over time and if we head back far enough, Gawsworth will have had a name that meant something in everyday speak.

According to the University of Nottingham, Gawsworth is an example of a hybrid name, which

combines Old Welsh and Old English. It's literal translation would be something like Enclosure of the Smith.

This comes from the Old Welsh 'gof' and the Old English 'worth'. It indicates that Gawsworth was probably a Welsh settlement with possible neighbouring Old English speakers providing the *worth*, meaning *enclosure*, but keeping the Welsh name for smith as it was probably a well-known name in the area.

Gawsworth Hub News

March is the month that marks the anniversary of Gawsworth Hub.

On 10th March 2011 Gawsworth community shop opened as the "shop in the box". We still have volunteers with us who were there at the beginning and there are many more people in the village and the surrounding areas that have contributed to the success of Gawsworth Hub over the years. A big thank you to everyone who has played a part, small or large, it is appreciated by the community.

We have an exciting new product in the shop a "Hug in a Box". This is a boxed gift that can be given to someone to say you are thinking of them, either as a treat a thank you or to brighten up their day. It contains lots of nice warm comforting items that everyone will enjoy. Why not pop in and take a look?

We have also launched some new gift vouchers that come with a professionally designed gift card to give to someone as

a present. These gift vouchers can be redeemed at the Hub and spent in both the shop and the café.

From Shrove Tuesday we are offering pancakes in the Café all week. Our Hub Cafe will be opening on Mondays from 3rd March. These additional opening hours are the result of Sara's efforts to open the Cafe an

Shop Opening Hours

Monday	08:00 – 13:30
Tuesday	08:00 – 13:30
Wednesday	08:00 – 13:30
Thursday	08:00 – 16:00
Friday	08:00 – 16:00
Saturday	08:00 – 13:00

additional day per week. Thank you to the volunteers taking on the extra hours.

The Cafe is now open from 10am to 1pm Monday to Saturday.

International Girls Brigade Conference 2026

Gawsworth will be represented at the Girls Brigade International Conference in 2026.

Captain Carolyn and daughter Natasha of 1st Gawsworth Girls Brigade have been chosen as two of the ten delegates to represent England at the conference which takes place in 12 months time in the Cook Islands.

But they need some support from the local community to raise the £1,600 to fund their attendance.

Carolyn said "We have to fund

this trip ourselves, so we will be doing a lot of fundraising this year."

"We have a couple of Coffee Mornings booked in at Gawsworth Methodist Church, the next on 24th April at 10am. We hope to try and raise the cost of attending the Conference itself, which is just under £800 each"

If you can support their fundraising efforts, please contact Carolyn via email at carolynboden@gmail.com

World Day of Prayer

Gawsworth churches invite you to join the world for a day of prayer on 7th March at 2pm.

The World Day of Prayer has been written by the women of the Cook Islands to highlight their life and "the need for prayer for our world today". Local people from the Anglican, Methodist and Catholic churches will be reading the service at St James Church, with the service lasting an hour. Afterwards refreshments will be served in the St James Church Hall.

Park revamp to start

Works to revamp Gawsworth play area are due to start in March.

The £110k refurbishment of the play area will take around 3-4 weeks, during which the play area will be closed, though the rest of the park can be enjoyed. Funds for the works have been secured by grant funding, CIL and the council's park reserve.

For any queries about the work please email clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk



Macclesfield Model Railway Exhibition

05 – 06 April 2025

Sat 10am – 5pm; Sun 10am – 4:30pm

Tytherington School

Manchester Road, Macclesfield, SK10 2EE

Adults £10.00, Accompanied Children FREE (under 16)

www.macclesfieldmrg.org.uk

See web site above for full details

All Major Cards Accepted

Free Vintage Bus Service

