



Gawsworth Gazette

September 2026 | FREE

The Gawsworth Gazette is published monthly by Gawsworth Parish Council. It is funded by the Parish Council and the Gawsworth Hub.

To submit articles, advertise or subscribe to the digital mailing list email: clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk

Hub Frontage Upgrade

Gawsworth Hub is celebrating a transformed frontage.

The project, led by Hub Chair Sue Magee, saw a new resin surface installed to create an attractive seating area for visitors to stop and enjoy a coffee, cake or something from the Hub.

The Hub would like to thank Sue for her tireless work to

bring the project to fruition with determination, organisation and hard work. Sue led the fundraising efforts, which included securing a grant from Gawsworth's John Upton Charity.

Thanks also go to Gary Cook for the groundworks and resin, Brian for fitting the doors and working out how to assemble the tables when they arrived without fittings, and Karen, Sue's amazing sidekick working in the background of the project to help get it complete.

Peak Cluster Confusion

Parish Councillors were bemused in August following questions having been raised about the council's view on the proposals.

During the standing item on Peak Cluster, Cllr Deb Webb reported a perception that the council hadn't objected to the proposals she and Cllr Andrea Kinsey reported attending an anti-Peak Cluster meeting where it was suggested the council needed to "pass a motion".

Gawsworth Parish Council published its objection to Peak Cluster on the Gawsworth Life website in March, setting out a "strong objection" to the proposal and setting out the detailed concerns it had.

Work by the council led to a joint meeting of parish councils to share concerns, and meetings with Cheshire East Council to lobby for it to take a position and support community opposition to the scheme.



Sign Repaired

The Peak and Northern Footpath Society has restored its sign on Church Lane.

Sign no.149 was first installed in 1964 and marks the footpath from Church Lane towards North Rode.

The sign was badly corroded and David Morton, Signpost Officer for the society spoke of saving it "just in the nick of time" in the latest

issue of the Society's quarterly newsletter.

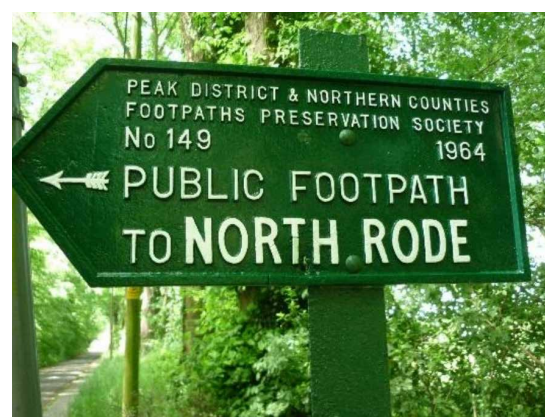
"I've now insulated the plate from the angle iron post using an old, left-over plaque" David said.

The PNFS is an organisation committed to protecting your right to access the outdoors by monitoring, protecting and improving public rights of way.

The Society has been erecting metal signposts since 1905, other nearby signs are at Birch Knoll

and Wildboardclough.

Find out more about their work, and consider joining at: www.pnfs.org.uk



Memories at 100

Many will know Gawsworth resident David Morten, who celebrated his 100th birthday on the 14th July.

David was born in Buxton, the youngest of 6 to a farming family, and went to Liverpool University to become a vet. He worked in the local area until he was 70, and his practice, Wright and Morten continues to operate.

The newly married David, with his wife Eileen, came to Gawsworth in 1959 and lived at Chestnut Cottage on Lowes Lane. In 1962 they moved to The Knoll on Congleton Road which became the family home where his three daughters were brought up. The Knoll continues to be the home for David and Eileen who now have five grown up grandchildren.

David recalls that the housing estates at Harrington Drive, Benbrook Way, Southview and others were all fields when he arrived, and he remembers helping to organise a Round Table fund raising traction engine rally on the Harrington Drive land. David also remembers the Gawsworth Sports event taking place on the field in front of the Harrington and arranging a Donkey Derby on this same field when he was in the Round Table.

The Village Hall was relatively new in 1959. A Miss Lister was the manager at the time and David says that she "ruled with a rod of iron and you didn't dare spill your beer on the floor in there!". David spoke of how most of the villagers back then were farmers, with many small council farms and market gardens. Gawsworth had its own resident policeman, Sgt Msasey, who lived on Dark Lane.

David has been heavily involved in the local community, not just as a local vet. He was Chairman of the Village Hall committee and was instrumental in bringing live theatre, music and comedy performances to the village through Cheshire Rural Touring Arts. David was also a Parish Councillor, and was chairman during the centenary year in 1994.

David has been an active member of the Methodist Chapel since arriving in Gawsworth, serving as Treasurer and Property Steward for many years, and helping to build the first Girls Brigade "hut" behind the chapel - since replaced with the lovely community hall. David remembers that for many years after he came to Gawsworth the congregation at the chapel was mainly local farmers, and to suit feeding and milking times services from May to October were in the morning and from Nov-April in the afternoon. David still attends service most Sundays and he and Eileen enjoy the weekly coffee mornings held there.

The Harrington Arms has also played an important part in David's life as he would often pop in for a pint on his way home. They only served pickled eggs and pies in the pub in those days, and if the pies weren't selling well Marjorie the landlady would take them into the back kitchen and leave just one in the display on the bar. The next customer would invariably ask "Have you only got one pie" to which she would reply "I can find you another". It is in the Harrington that he met up with local farmers and villagers and forged strong friendships which continue today.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be on Church Lane from 3:45 to 4:10 on 3rd and 24th September.



Thank you

The family of the late Jane Palmer would like to thank all those who attended her funeral last month.

Jane's daughter, Sarah Bautmont, said "We were so touched by how Mum's funeral went, and having a full church meant so much to us."

Dangerous Tree Felled

Emergency works were undertaken in Gawsworth Park in August.

A resident contacted the Parish Council concerned about a tree which had a major crack down its trunk. Following advice from an arboriculturalist the tree was felled urgently.

Trees in the park are inspected every 2-3 years. If you ever spot something concerning in the park, report it via clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk

History of Mary Fitton

A new book explores the history of Shakespeare's 'Dark Lady' - Mary Fitton of Gawsworth Hall'

"Queen Elizabeth I's Maid of Honour and Shakespeare's Dark Lady" was published in April and explores the life of Mary Fitton who was born at the Hall in 1578 and grew to become a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I.

Mary bore illegitimate children before taking two husbands, and lived a colourful and eventful life until 1641 when she died aged 63. This new book looks at Mary's story in the context of her immediate family, her life in the Queen's court, her companions, her lovers and her two husbands.

The book is available from Waterstones, Amazon and others.

Parish Council calls for environment to be prioritised

New Gawsworth Parish Council has responded to the Cheshire East Council Local Plan consultation, which closed on 1st September, calling on the plan to prioritise minimising the loss of green belt, improving active travel links, protecting sensitive habitats and delivering truly sustainable development.

The consultation response, which is available on the Gawsworth Life website, also calls for Town and Parish Councils to be properly involved in the site selection stage to ensure local input helps determine where future housing is built.

The council called for Cheshire Wildlife Trust to be involved in assessing sites to ensure ecologically important spaces aren't earmarked for development. The council also insisted their should be a policy aiming to protect peat land and promoting the restoration of Danes Moss North.

The Parish Council also called for "green destinations" such as Gawsworth to have greater protection in the new local plan.

Handrail Installed

Gawsworth Parish Council has installed a new handrail at the steps leading up to Benbrook Way.

The rustic green oak handrail was carved and installed by Mark Herring, the council's ranger who undertakes a range of jobs across the parish for the council.

The handrail makes using the steps that little bit safer and easier, and is part of the council's work to continually improve the parish for residents. The handrail has proved popular with positive feedback on social media.

Planned works by the council coming up include the repair of the village sign, replacement of



the park goal posts, new picnic tables in Nancy's Wood and an interpretation board for the orchard.

The Parish Council is always open to suggestions for work and improvements that are needed in the community - just email clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk



Coffee and Coincidence

Sometimes, a visit to the Gawsworth Hub café can turn into something rather more special than just a cup of coffee!

Hub volunteer, Edith (*pictured*), discovered this recently when she got chatting to a customer who had travelled from Congleton especially to enjoy a coffee at the Hub.

The lady explained that she regularly makes the journey because she loves the friendly atmosphere and enjoys chatting to everyone. Her daughter apparently couldn't understand why she would travel from Congleton to Gawsworth when there are plenty of cafés closer to home!

As they chatted, they discovered that the lady had once owned a shop in Congleton, just a stone's throw from the shop where Edith had grown up. Then came the amazing revelation - this lady had actually taken over Edith's very first job!

Neither of them recognised the other when they first started

chatting, despite it being more than 70 years since they had last crossed paths.

What a wonderful coincidence — and a perfect example of the unexpected friendships and connections that can happen over a coffee at the Hub.

The two have now rekindled their connection, and the lady has promised to return for another coffee and a catch-up very soon.

So, if you ever wonder whether

Hub Volunteer Social

Hub volunteers were treated to another wonderful volunteer social, this month kindly hosted by Brenda Hughes at her home.

On a sunny afternoon, everyone enjoyed some lovely food, much of which had been made by the volunteers themselves. There was plenty of chatting, laughter and catching up, and the time simply flew by!

It was a lovely opportunity for everyone to relax and spend some time together away from the Hub, and everyone had a fantastic afternoon.

A special thank you to Brenda for being such a wonderful host in a pretty garden setting and for making this month's volunteer social so enjoyable

These get-togethers are such a lovely way to celebrate the amazing people who give their time and energy to make Gawsworth Hub what it is. Please contact sara on shop@gawsworthhub.co.uk to join the family and volunteer with Gawsworth Hub.

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
Sunday	08:00 – 10:30

it's worth travelling a little further for a coffee, perhaps Edith's story provides the answer!

At Gawsworth Hub, it's not just about the coffee — it's about the people, the conversations and the wonderful surprises that can happen along the way.

Events at Gawsworth Hub

Movie Night - 18th September

Something a little different is coming to the village!

On Friday 18 September, Gawsworth Hub is holding its first movie night at the Village Hall, showing 'The Choral'. Tickets are just £5 each. It will be a fund evening with popcorn, a bar and, of course, a great film.

So come along, get your tickets at the Hub, bring your friends, settle in and enjoy a great night out while supporting Gawsworth Hub.

Bingo Night - 16th October

Get the date in your diary, the next Bingo Night will be on Friday 16 October, with tickets going on sale very soon.

The Hub's bingo nights are always hugely popular and usually sell out, so don't miss your chance to join. There will be fabulous prizes to tempt you, both in the bingo and our fantastic raffle.

