

G M K

Gnosall

Moreton

Knightley

Gnosall Parish Council Newsletter



Autumn 2022

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022



Welcome

I have recently taken over as Chair of Gnosall Parish Council from Councillor Gail Gregory, and I have to say that writing this first editorial for the GMK is daunting to say the least.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Gail on behalf of Gnosall Parish Council for the sterling work she has done and for the support she has provided as Vice Chair during the hand over period. It is an honour and pleasure to have been elected Chair of such a busy and successful Parish Council and I shall do my best to uphold the standards set by my predecessors.

The Parish Council is planning for the year ahead, and finally moving forward on plans which have been shelved for a variety of reasons, such as the Sensory Garden. We recently received a very generous donation from a local resident who wishes to remain anonymous to be used for the benefit of all residents of the Parish, part going to local groups and part for the refurbishment of the Grosvenor Centre.

The funds for local groups were distributed to the following:

- Heritage Group
- Gnosall Scouts, Cubs, and Brownies Groups
- Gnosall Library
- Youth Club
- Public Right of Way
- Best Kept Village Team
- Sensory Garden Project

As a Parish Council, we really enjoy helping parishioners to meet others; this is especially true for our older residents, who may not see their friends as often as they'd like. We are fortunate to have an active community and this is a great time to announce that a new service is being offered twice a week, in the Youth Club, for elderly residents to get together, enjoy a hot meal and a catch up.

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to new residents, who may never have lived in a village location before. If any of those residents are able or willing to assist any of the local groups, I'm sure that would be very much welcomed. The Parish Council works hard to improve facilities and services within the village.

It is deeply sad that, as we put together this edition of the GMK, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away quietly at her Balmoral home. Having become Britain's longest-reigning monarch in February of this year, she clearly enjoyed many Jubilee celebrations and events - who could forget her Tea with Paddington? The fact that her family only learned of this at the same time as the rest of us, is testament to her sense of fun. The evidence of her service and commitment is clear and, for many of us, her loss has been a more poignant one than we might have imagined. Many parishioners have taken the opportunity to record their feelings in a Book of Condolence, either here in Gnosall, or farther afield, and some even travelled to London to pay their respects, regardless of queues and weather. I am glad that we had the opportunity to celebrate and commemorate her reign with all our Jubilee activities. Let us hope that we have plenty of opportunities to celebrate the reign of our new King in the years to come.

Councillor Allan Mills
Chair of Gnosall Parish Council



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

It is with great sadness that we all learned of the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Many of us have never known another Monarch and few, if any, will see another Platinum Jubilee.

The Parish Council quickly organised a Book of Condolence along with the lowering of union flags for the duration of the mourning period. Many local people recorded their condolences in the book which may be sent to the Borough Council to keep with other local condolence books.

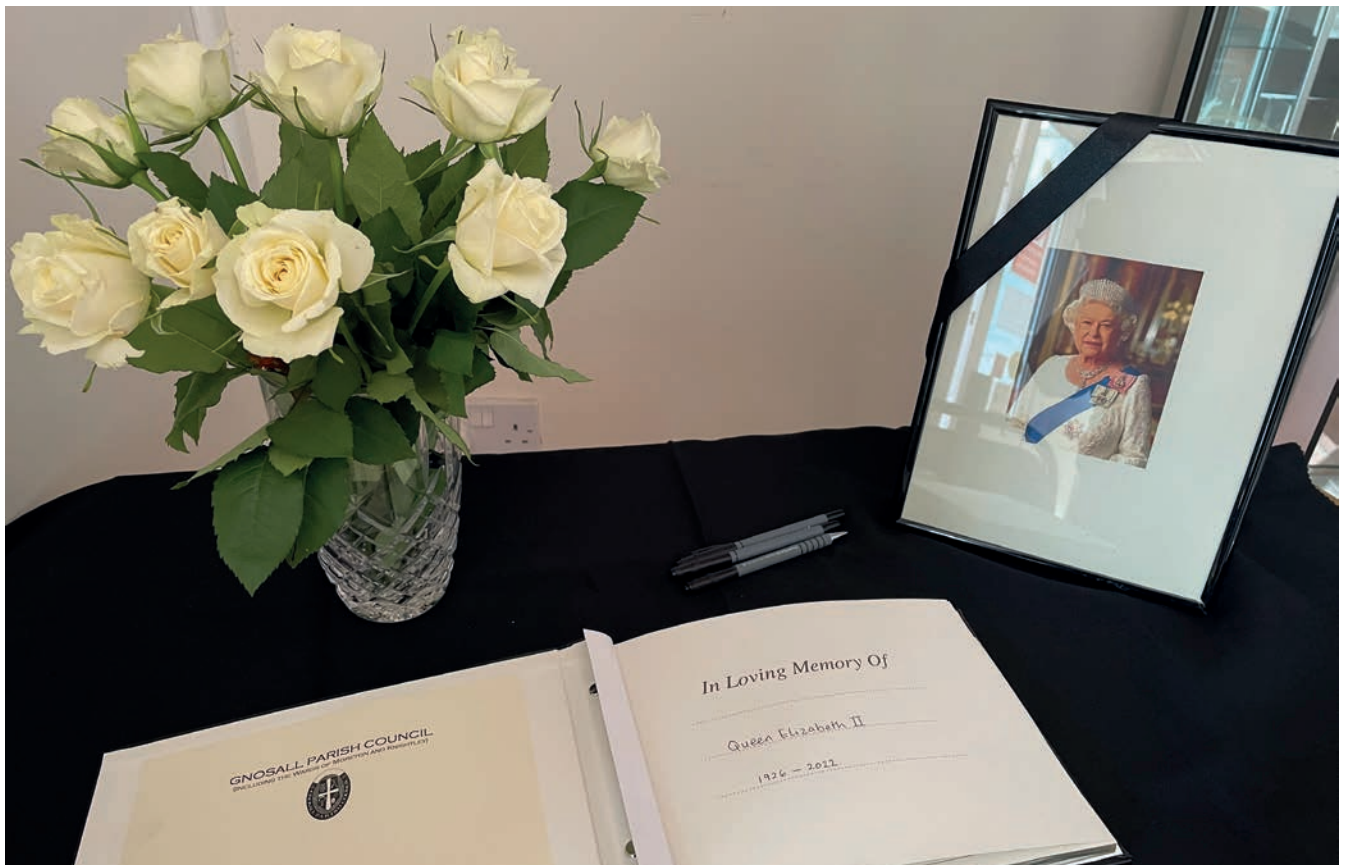
Memories of Platinum Jubilee celebrations, held earlier this year, now seem more special. Those who attended the jubilee afternoon tea and street parties, together with those who received commemorative items will, I am sure, treasure those memories and gifts for a long time.

Over the past ten years the Parish Council has received several letters from Buckingham Palace. One in 2012, thanking the parish for sending congratulations on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the Throne, one sent in 2016 thanking the parish for sending 90th birthday wishes, another in 2020 thanking parishioners for their wonderful contributions to the local community during the challenging times during the pandemic and the most recent, received in July this year, a thank you card from The Queen thanking the parish for sending congratulations to her on her Platinum Jubilee. There were visits too from Lord Lieutenants, on behalf of the Queen, to GFest services and the first of the over 85's afternoon teas, which was organised to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Those letters and visits are now even more valued.

Loss is always difficult to bear, but Her Majesty lived a full life, devoted to the service of her country and the Commonwealth. A life of dedication that is celebrated as we enter a new era with the reign of King Charles III.

Thank you, Ma'am. Long Live the King!

Jayne Cooper
Clerk to Gnosall Parish Council.



Sensory Garden

At long last, a spade went into the soil a few weeks ago and the Sensory Garden is starting to take shape. The footings have been poured and the retaining wall has been built. The surface has been levelled with the planters, benches and water feature being installed soon. Nearer the time, there will be an announcement on the Parish Council's Facebook page and website requesting volunteers to help with planting, before the garden is opened to the public.

Councilor Roger Greatrex
Sensory Garden Working Group



Gnosall Canal Festival July 2022

The July sun shone and over 1500 people from the villages of Gnosall, Moreton, Knightley, Haughton and from Newport, Stafford and beyond came to join together in celebration. The canal from Cowley Tunnel to past the old railway bridge was lined with boats ancient and modern.

Historic working boats were visited and peered at as owners told the story of their boat. There were talks about the old canals and present day work to restore them.

From the trade boats people bought a variety of beautiful hand made canal-ware, clothing, ceramics, wood-ware, and other gifts and ornaments. They refreshed themselves with beer from the local pubs, tea and cakes from McMillan volunteers and pizza cooked on board. The trip boat supplied by Norbury Yard was very popular. There was music in the Festival Garden in the grounds of the Navigation and on the towpath.

The Festival was hailed a success, even better than the first one in 2019. It was helped by the sun shining over the weekend and the forecast very hot weather holding off until later in the week. A big thank-you to all the contributors and the volunteers who made it such a success.

We'll be back!

Hugh Flanagan
Gnosall Towpath Restoration



Images by Jim McGregor



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas Meals

Rachel at Greens, together with a legion of other volunteers, will be cooking Christmas Dinner again this year for parishioners who would like one. Chicken (not Turkey) or Vegetarian Christmas Dinner, Trifle and a Mince Pie, will be accompanied by Cheese and Biscuits, together with a Christmas present. This service is being provided, in particular, for those that will be on their own this Christmas. Donations are not expected, but are always welcome.

If you would like a meal delivered, or provided at the Grosvenor Centre on the big day, please make your order/booking with the Parish Council Office by Thursday 15th December. Deliveries will be between 10am and 1pm, with the meal at the Grosvenor Centre from midday.

Jayne Cooper
Clerk

Grosvenor Centre Refurbishment

The wooden floors have recently been sanded and resealed. Because of the damage caused to the wooden floor by bouncy castles, council have taken the decision to prohibit the further use of bouncy castles indoor. Hirers can, though, use the Grosvenor field for bouncy castles, at no extra expense, so long as the provider has an independent generator.

The furniture in the Brearley Room and the Coffee Lounge has been updated and the walls and doors will soon be redecorated throughout. There will also be a new cooker in the Large Kitchen.

Chris Emsley.
Chair of the Grosvenor Centre Committee



Forthcoming Events



The annual Christmas Light Switch-On will be on Saturday 26th November this year, with the usual fun and games beforehand for children of all ages. The date for GFest 2023 has yet to be decided, but if there are any activities that you would like to run during GFest, please get in touch with the Parish Council Office.

Stu Ridgewell
Council Support Officer

Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To mark Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's historic seventy years on the throne, Gnosall Parish Council gave commemorative mugs to local school and nursery children, as well as residents of Gingercroft Care Home.

Stu Ridgewell
Council Support Officer



Over 84's Tea

The Summer Tea for people in the village aged 84 and over was held on the 3rd June and so was, of course, a Jubilee Tea. The Grosvenor was beautifully decorated with Union Jacks and bunting and many of the 36 guests wore red, white and blue. As usual the 'Tea Team' provided sandwiches, cakes, savouries and scones and for this special tea a wonderful cake decorated with the ensign and bunting was made by Gail Gregory. Reverend Alison gave the Loyal Toast and Her Majesty's health was drunk in Bucks Fizz. Although there was sadness because of the several loyal guests who are no longer with us, it was wonderful to see so many old friends again and to welcome a couple of new ones.

The next Tea will be the Autumn one in October and we have decided to drop the age to everyone who is 83 and over. Please tell me, or the Parish Office, if you know of anyone aged 83 or over - and anyone of the relevant age who hasn't received an invitation in the past. And a plea – if you have said you are coming and then find that you cannot, could you please let me know so that we are not providing more food than necessary. Thank you – and we look forward to seeing everyone in October. Invitations will be sent out towards the end of September.

Maggie Hughes
maggiehughes123@btinternet.com



Jambusters

Gnosall Jambusters celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee by holding our own indoor Jubilee street party during our normal monthly meeting. The Memorial Hall was decorated with bunting, flags and pictures of the Queen. Everyone dressed up in costume from regal, to red white & blue outfits.

One of our members downloaded music from the 50's through to the present day, which was played all evening with some people partaking in a bit of dancing.

We had a Best Made Crown competition, won by Charlotte Astley who had made her crown using a number of Pom Poms that she had made and a Corgi Drive; our take on the beetle drive game!

Our wonderful committee and four of our members provided sandwiches, sausage rolls crisps dips cakes & trifles. Members were asked to bring a glass and a tippie, or soft drink, of their choice

We ended our evening with a toast to the Queen and everyone joining in singing the National Anthem, accompanied on the piano by Phyllis, another of our members. A great time was had by all.

To end our village celebrations, one of our talented members, June Frost, made a spectacular floral arrangement using a model horses-head for the local church, as a tribute to the Queen depicting her love of horses and horse racing.

I am proud to be involved in such a wonderful village W.I.

Wendy Mills
President - Gnosall Jambusters





Moreton, Outwoods & Bromstead Scarecrow Festival

Our third Scarecrow Festival & Trail attracted over four-hundred visitors, during a very warm weekend. Visitors were able to admire fifty-seven scarecrows, lovingly created on the theme of children's characters from films, books and cartoons and displayed right across the villages in some interesting spaces.

In addition there were vintage vehicles, military tanks, old tractors and three beautiful alpacas to view.

The Millennium Hall provided an excellent venue for the Craft Fair, whilst visitors enjoyed refreshments and in addition on Sunday live music.

A quiz based on the scarecrows challenged many people with substantial prizes for the winners. The whole weekend proved to be a wonderful community event with a real feel- good factor.

Jackie Brookes & Sue Orton





Gnosall Public Rights of Way Group (PRoW)

Our focus - our footpaths



The ProW Group are a working group of mostly volunteers set up by the Parish Council in order to support the council in its responsibility to enhance the public's ability to enjoy the public path network.

Gnosall PC which also includes Moreton and Knightley, has 121 FPs that cover 71 km or 44 miles. Since lockdown the importance of local footpaths to physical health and mental wellbeing has become more evident.

However, this does present challenges for both walkers and landowners. Our group seeks to work as



an intermediary to resolve some of these issues. Group members, together with our 35 volunteer 'Footpath Friends', regularly walk our routes to ensure that they are easily identifiable to walkers, free from obstructions and that stiles and bridges are safe.

Gnosall Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Group walks local Rights of Way ensuring that they are suitable to walk in order to enjoy the countryside, working with Staffordshire County Council and landowners.

If you are interested in joining us, do get in touch on gnosallfootpathfriends@gmail.com.

We welcome everyone – no matter how much (or little) you feel you would like to become involved!

Who are we – and what do we do?

With clear labelling we help walkers keep to the designated paths, so that they do not damage crops.

Historically many footpaths followed hedge lines and were easy to follow. When hedges have been removed, it is less easy to follow the line of the footpath - or to identify that the footpath abruptly changes direction!



Our group is keen to help walkers keep to the paths, so that they don't wander over crops. We are planning to use really innovative solutions, such as QR codes and 'what 3 words' (both of which are free to use on smartphones) to guide walkers.

We liaise with landowners where difficulties have been encountered, encouraging them to leave the footpath clear and easy to follow.



We are also investigating whether we can further help landowners with signage on footpaths near areas with dense housing informing walkers about the importance of picking up after their dogs.

Preserving our Parish Footpaths

Gnosall Library is part of the Staffordshire Libraries network and has access to all of the network's facilities.

However it is managed by local people and we aim to be a hub for the whole community.

Drop in and talk to one of our friendly team of volunteers about what we have to offer. It's more than just books!

Better still come to one of our regular events; everyone is welcome and there are no charged for any of our events

Baby Bounce & Rhyme



Music, rhymes and fun for 0-3 year olds and their carers

11:00am-12:00 on the second and fourth Tuesday each month in school term-time. Stay for a cuppa and a chat

Reading Cafe



Our discussion group on books. Each month the group discusses a theme about books which is selected in advance. Get lots of tips about good reads

3:15-4:45pm on the third Thursday each month

Family History



Come along if you would like help in tracing your ancestors online

4:00-6:30pm on the fourth Monday in each month

The library is open

Monday: 4:00-6:30pm

Tuesday: 10:00am-12:30pm

Wednesday: 3:00-5:30pm

Thursday: 2:00-4:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am-12:30pm

GG's Youth Club

In March 2020, like many other facilities, GG's Youth Club had to close because of the Covid pandemic. To enable the parish council to reopen the Youth Club, a Youth Leader is needed and finding one is proving very difficult. If anyone is interested in this paid position, please get in touch. It would be great to open the Youth Club again in the autumn for younger residents to enjoy. We have the facilities, equipment and some funds. We just need a dedicated youth club leader!

The main aim of the position is to manage and deliver high quality youth club activities and to facilitate young people's personal, social and educational development at weekly youth club sessions. The main tasks include planning and delivering weekly youth club activities, supervise volunteers, to organise the administrative functions for the club and ensure young people have a rewarding experience. The appointed leader would have the support of a committee and assistance from parish council staff with administrative duties.

If you are interested in this role or for further information, please get in touch with the Parish Council on 01785 822685, or email clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk

Jayne Cooper
Clerk

Gnosall Parish Council - Contact Information

Gnosall Parish Council Staff

Jayne Cooper	Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk
Stuart Ridgewell	Council Support Officer	cso@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk
Mavis Hill	Grosvenor Centre Caretaker	

Parish Office

The Grosvenor Centre, High Street, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0EX 01785 822 685

Office Hours

Tuesday	09.00 - 14.00	Thursday	by appointment only
Wednesday	09.00 - 14.00	Friday to Monday	CLOSED

Stafford Borough Councillors

Councillor Mike Smith	rsmith@staffordbc.gov.uk
Councillor Patrick Farrington	pfarrington@staffordbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Councillor

Councillor Mark Winnington	mark.winnington@staffordshire.gov.uk
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Your Parish Councillors



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