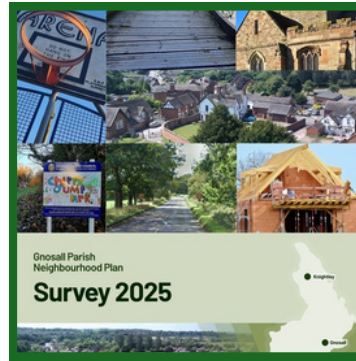


Our Year in Review



Gnosall Parish Council

Annual Report
April 2025 - March 2026



A Welcome from the Chair



Every year I wonder where the last 12 months have gone and this year is no different.

Once again, it has been both busy and productive, filled with tasks both routine and unexpected.

As you will remember, January 2025 saw us facing a major challenge after the departure of several colleagues. I was able to report in April last year that we had successfully appointed a new Chief Officer and 6 new councillors and the rest of that year was very much focussed on helping all of them settle into their respective roles. I cannot tell you how rewarding it has been to see them all blossom.

Our Chief Officer, Jennifer, brought with her a wealth of organisational experience which culminated in the tremendous Lights Switch-On in November. She has now completed her first year with us and it is clear that we were very fortunate to be able to appoint her.

Our new councillors were joined by another new face, David Baker, and we are now almost a full complement with only one vacancy left. If you live in Moreton and would like to help us represent your bit of the parish, do make yourself known!

Our new faces have brought with them a wealth of experience and talents and we have greatly expanded the parish council skillset.

From taking the lead on projects, to researching ideas and bringing proposals to Council for consideration, it is wonderful to see such active councillors, happy to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into the jobs that are done but not seen, essential but not in the least glamorous. Having begun last year with an immense sense of foreboding, I am more confident than ever that the Parish Council has increased in strength and expertise and that we are better placed to withstand whatever the future may bring.

This is good news as the future of parish councils will possibly be rather different from the present. Under the Local Government Reorganisation proposals, which would see the abolition of Borough and County councils and the creation of a much larger Unitary Authority, parish councils are almost certain to inherit many tasks that they do not presently undertake – and there is no certainty as to what funding may accompany these changes.

Later in April we shall hold our Annual Meeting, when Council elects a new Chair and Vice Chair and where councillors decide what committees they would prefer to serve on for the forthcoming year.

Parishioners are mostly aware that Full Council meets every month except August and that there is a Public Forum slot at the start of each Full Council Meeting, in which they can bring concerns to us and to the Borough and County councillors who also attend those meetings unless they have a clash elsewhere.

They may not be so aware that all our Committee meetings have a similar Public Open Forum slot and we welcome representations from parishioners.

None of us could do our jobs without the support of the team which makes it all possible – our Caretaker Jon, Community Support officer, Michelle, and Chief Officer Jenni. I thank them all for all that they do. Thanks must also go to those community volunteers who lead and organise the various groups which operate under the parish council banner – Public Rights of Way, GLEAN with all its associated clubs and activities, Youth Club, Heritage, Tow Path and BKV – and also our Designated Premises Supervisor who organises so many events at The Grosvenor Centre.

All of this work makes Gnosall what it is – a vibrant community which it is a pleasure to serve and represent.

Gail Gregory

Meet the Team

Councillors - Gnosall



Gail Gregory
Chair



Laura Pearson
Vice Chair



Pat Alker



Dave Baker



Mary Booth
Knightley



Chris Herbert



Martin Holmes
Moreton



Gren Knight



Bob Middleton



Keith Parry



Mike Sullivan



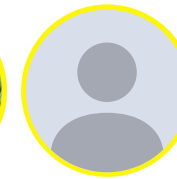
Graham Symons



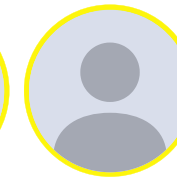
John Beswick



Chris Haycock



Aaron Reeves-
Riché



Vacancy

Staff



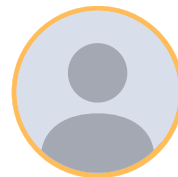
Jennifer Marshall
Chief Officer



Michelle Farmer
Council Support
Officer



Jon Cooke
Caretaker



Vacant
Assistant Caretaker



Cllr Scott Spencer
Stafford Borough
Council



Cllr Mark Winnington
Stafford Borough
Borough



Cllr Jeremy Pert
Staffordshire
County Council

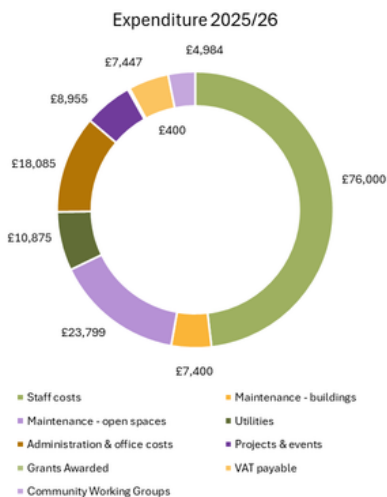
Borough & County Councillors

Council Finances

Financial Statement 2025/26

The financial statement shown below is in the same form as the summary of accounts provided under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 for external audit.

2024/25	Income	2025/26
£102,673	Precept	£117,047
£1,483	Allotment income	£1,798
£8,723	cemetery income	£7,973
£37,162	Grosvenor Hire/lease income	£43,582
£9,366	Grant income	£9,265
	Other income (interest, wayleaves, donations etc)	£3,070
£16,080	Community Working Groups	£2,477
£12,207	VAT reclaim	£3,777
£5,605		
£193,299		£188,989
	Expenditure	
£83,080	Staff costs	£76,000
£10,243	Maintenance - buildings	£7,400
£29,784	Maintenance - open spaces	£23,799
£9,241	Utilities	£10,875
£19,109	Administration & office costs	£18,085
£4,710	Projects & events	£8,955
£625	Grants Awarded	£400
£7,420	VAT payable	£7,447
£11,121	Community Working Groups	£4,984
£175,333		£157,945
	Cumulative Fund Balance	
£71,241	Balance brought forward 31/03/25	£89,207
£193,299	Total receipts	£188,989
£264,540		£278,196
£175,333	less total expenditure	£157,945
£89,207	Balance carried forward 31/03/26	£120,251



Parish Council Finance

Parish Councils get their funding through the Precept, as well as other channels such as grant funding and rent from resources managed by the council.

What is a Precept?

The Parish Council receives a small proportion of the local Council Tax. It does not receive any direct funding from Central Government. The funding collected pays for the running of the council and the services it provides.

How is it raised?

Stafford Borough Council collects your Council Tax on behalf of themselves, Police, Fire and Parish Councils in the district.

How is it calculated?

The budget is set by the Parish Council in October and agreed at Full Council in December, for the following financial year. It is at this time that Councillors consider financing existing and future projects, as well as the general day to operations of the council.

It is then calculated as an amount per Council Tax Band D Property and added to the Council Tax Bill of all dwellings within the parish.

How much does the average household pay towards the Parish Council?

In January 2026, Gnosall Parish Council requested a precept of £121,763.22 for the 2026-27 financial year, an increase of 3.2% for a Band D property, this is a contribution of £60.05 per property per year or £1.15 per week.

The National average precept of Town and Parish Councils in England in 2024/25 was £91.22.

Whilst increases are never welcome, this increase is in line with inflation and takes into account the inflationary pressure on the cost of labour, raw materials, utilities and transport, which impact our capital spending and maintenance work.

We believe this remains good value for the services we provide and is comparable to, or lower than, many parishes of a similar size.

Your precept contributions allow the parish to continue to deliver the following services for the community: the Grosvenor Centre, Gnosall Community Library, GG's Youth club, Gnosall Allotments, St. Lawrence Cemetery, The Acres, Brookhouse Way playpark, Chippy Jumps, tennis court, MUGA and cage, as well as events such as GFest, Heritage Open Days and the Christmas Carnival.

The role of your parish council is to:

- Represent the views of the people who live in Gnosall and the wards of Knightley and Moreton.
- Raise issues of public concern with other authorities, such as Staffordshire County Council for highways, Stafford Borough Council for planning issues and Staffordshire Police for crime & public safety.
- Comment on planning applications and other proposals which affect the village. Stafford Borough Council has the final say on all planning applications.
- Provide and/or maintain public areas and facilities, including the Acres, playparks and MUGA, Gnosall Allotments, Youth Club and the Grosvenor Centre.
- Maintain grassed areas, village greens, and report maintenance issues to landowners or appropriate authorities
- Undertake projects and obtain grant funding to support the parish.

Council Meetings

Full Council meet every second Monday of the month, with the exception of August.

Residents and the press are welcome to attend.

Committee meetings vary depending on demands.

A full list of all council and committee meetings can be found at www.gnosallparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings

Committees

Grosvenor & Events

Cllrs Gail Gregory (Chair)
Laura Pearson (Vice-Chair)
Mary Booth
Keith Parry
Dave Baker
Jordan Archer (non-cllr)

Open Spaces

Cllrs Laura Pearson (Chair)
John Beswick (Vice-Chair)
Gail Gregory
Keith Parry
Bob Middleton
Roger Greatrex (non-cclr)
Barbara Juniper (non-cclr)

Planning

Cllrs Gail Gregory (Chair)
Mike Sullivan (Vice-Chair)
Keith Parry
John Beswick
Graham Symons
Chris Herbert
Aaron Reeves-Riché
Gren Knight

Procedures & H&S

Cllrs Mary Booth (Chair)
Gail Gregory (Vice-Chair)
Pat Alker
Martin Holmes
John Beswick
Gren Knight
Dave Baker

Resources & Personnel

Cllrs Mike Sullivan (Chair)
Gren Knight (Vice-Chair)
Gail Gregory
Mary Booth
Pat Alker
Martin Holmes
Aaron Reeves-Riché
Chris Herbert

Committee Reports

Grosvenor & Events Committee

The Chair Store has been remodelled to separate more delicate equipment from chairs and tables. We plan to refresh the Main Hall and are hoping to replace the Small Kitchen units but have a very small budget, so if you are thinking of replacing your units and disposing of the old ones – think of us and get in touch!

As ever, our centre hosts many community events, managed by Jordan Archer, our Designated Premises Supervisor. The Charity Quiz nights are a regular and very well-attended feature as are parties of every conceivable kind.

Externally, our grounds are maintained by the wonderful Ellen, who keeps them spick and span and it has been gratifying to see the Sensory Garden blooming so well. This is now being used much more, and we welcome people coming to spend their lunch hour in a (relatively) quiet and pleasant space.

Our wonderful “flagpole Christmas Tree” along with our extended external lighting, made the Centre so attractive this year and was eco-friendly as well!

The Youth Club is now a warm and welcoming place to hold small meetings, and it is lovely to see it used by Baby Bounce as well as by the Youth Club. Thank you to all who keep this valued space so welcoming.

As parishioners will remember, our Caretaker, Mavis Hill, retired last year and her Deputy, Jon Cook, stepped up to maintain and improve the site – and an excellent job he does too! We are hoping

to appoint a Deputy to assist him as it is a big job for one person, so applications will be very much welcomed. Jon was also our Chef for the Christmas Dinners (having been in catering in previously) and did a sterling job.

Events are a big part of this committee, and we are now in the throes of planning this year’s GFest, which promises to be bigger and better than ever. We hope to see many of you at one of our many events. Cllr Gail Gregory, Chair

Open Spaces & Burial Ground Committee

It is never a dull day with open spaces. Always something to do, just how I like it. We have a fantastic committee who look after the open spaces and Burial Ground, and I was very honoured to be voted in as chair in May 2025.

Public safety is a huge aspect of Open Spaces with the boardwalk, play equipment and many trees on our land.

Our tree inspection in December 2025 unfortunately highlighted over £20,000 worth of work needed for tree management. For this reason alone, we’ve temporarily halted any tree planting on parish land. Maintenance of trees is costly. We are now in the process of working through the risk report to address this in stages.

We are starting a Friends of the Acres working group to look after/report/maintain and improve biodiversity on the acres. We have had three volunteers come forward so far and would love to have more residents of Gnosall involved.

The play area is due some maintenance in due course.

I’ve absolutely loved working along side my peers on Open Spaces, here’s to another fantastic year.

Cllr Laura Pearson, Chair

Planning Committee

We have reviewed many planning applications this year and held Public Meetings on large proposals.

The Wharf Road application is presently at Appeal and while the parish council did not oppose building on the site in principle, nce it is within the Settlement Boundary (SB), it did express considerable concern about existing and potentially worsened flooding, along with other concerns including access.

It has been very helpful to work closely with local residents who have extensive knowledge of all matters regarding drainage, culverts and flooding and this information has greatly enhanced our responses.

The application for land at The Horseshoe, which lies outside the SB, has not been considered by the Planning Committee of Stafford Borough Council at the time of writing.

The parish council objected to this on a number of grounds, with flooding being a major concern.

In both cases, our concerns were mirrored by the Lead Flood Authority, so we are now seeing a recognition of long-standing problems within the village.

Cllr Gail Gregory, Chair

Some of our Parish Council activities in 2025/26

Grosvenor Centre: Mavis Hill retired after many years of service. She is greatly missed but left the Grosvenor Centre in safe hands when she handed her extensive bunch of keys (and duties) to her deputy, and now Caretaker Jon Cooke. We wish Mavis all the best in her retirement.

Afternoon Teas: Thanks also to the formidable Maggie Hughes and her dedicated crew of volunteers who cater and host the much appreciated Over 82’s Afternoon Teas each quarter. These are very well attended and enjoyed by both those who volunteer and those who attend.

Best Kept Village: Our thanks to the phenomenal BKV team, led by Laura Pearson, who keep Gnosall looking its best. Fingers crossed for a winning result in this year’s BKV competition, the entry form for which has just been submitted.

Heritage Open Day: This year, in collaboration with Gnosall Heritage Group, WI and St. Lawrence Church, we took part in the National Heritage Open Day Festival, opening the old Lock-Up, held an informative drop-in session in the church and hosted a family history search in the Grosvenor Centre.

It was such a success that we plan to take part again this year on Saturday the 19th of September and look forward to holding a wider range of events.

Christmas Carnival: November saw a new format for the traditional Christmas lights switch-on with a Christmas Carnival at the Grosvenor Centre. A very well attended event, with something for all ages, we look forward to doing it all again on the 28th November, only even better!

Neighbourhood Plan Survey: September, we delivered our Neighbourhood Plan survey to every house in the parish. We had a 15% return rate, which is above average for these types of survey’s and are in the final stages of analysing the data so that we can start to put our new Neighbourhood Plan in place.

Highways: We continue to report problems and escalate them where needed with our County Councillor.

Planning Applications 2025/26

In the past year, the planning committee commented on over thirty planning applications, held two public meetings for the community, attended a discussion regarding solar panels on farmland in the region and a presentation on the scoping access at Plardiwick Farm.

Procedures & Health & Safety Committee

Our Committee has had just two formal meetings during the period in question, but we have got through a lot of work, and some activities have taken place outside the meeting room, such as risk assessments and the study of documents.

The most important documents we as a committee have to review annually are the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Last year we discovered it is best to wait for the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) annual update recommendations, even if they are late, if we don't want to have to do the work twice!

This year approximately 18 policies are due for review, so we have scheduled a programme to space them out more evenly across the year. A lengthy and detailed new policy that we tackled recently was the IT and Cyber Security Policy. This is now required for audit purposes soon. It applies to both councillors and staff and is very comprehensive.

With reference to health and safety, we are responsible for ensuring risk assessments are carried out according to their schedule and reviewed annually.

Open Spaces Management: Our play areas are inspected regularly and our annual ROSPA inspection took place in August. The Boardwalk and Acres are regularly inspected and maintenance carried out as required.

In September we went to tender for our grounds maintenance and awarded the contract to JHW Grounds Maintenance for another four year term.

In December we had our three yearly tree inspection which highlighted a significant amount of work to be carried out, particularly on the Acres.

With quotes for the works required at over £20,000, we are implementing a phased programme starting with those deemed high risk.

These apply to all our premises and land, as well as our activities. A new risk assessment of the external areas of the Grosvenor Centre has recently been developed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members and council officers for their help in this vital work.

Cllr Mary Booth, Chair

Resources & Personnel Committee

This report summarises the activities and achievements of the Resources & Personnel Committee for the financial year from April 2025 to April 2026. This period was defined by a significant leadership transition following the retirement of our long-serving Chief Officer, Jayne Cooper, and the successful appointment and probationary review of Jennifer Marshall. The committee oversaw extensive training for the new Chief Officer, including enrolment in the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) to ensure the continued professional management of the Parish. Additionally, we successfully rebalanced our caretaking staff following Mavis Hill's retirement, appointing Jon Cooke and ensuring facility coverage remains consistent and efficient.

A core achievement this year was the positive outcome of our Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2024/25, which confirmed that our financial management is in accordance with Proper Practices. We have been proactive in addressing the auditor's "minor scope for improvement" points, including the transition to a gov.uk domain for all official communications and the

Allotments: We have now digitized the management of our allotments which is already reaping dividends. Our plan is to focus on the allotments in 2026/27, improve communication and engagement with allotment holders and ensure it is the best facility it can be.

IT and data management: This has been a priority this year to ensure we are complying with the highest standards in accordance with new audit requirements. As part of this project, we have installed a new broadband connection in the Grosvenor Centre which provides faster free Wi-Fi for users and community events and ensures the council network is safe and secure.

itemisation of individual bank accounts in our reconciliations. Furthermore, we conducted an exhaustive review of our Financial Regulations to align our electronic payment processes with modern practices while maintaining robust internal controls. To simplify our audit trail, we also formally discontinued the use of petty cash in favour of secure electronic reimbursements.

The committee has maintained rigorous oversight of the council's strategic assets, most notably the Grosvenor Centre. We authorised essential health and safety upgrades, including the unplanned replacement of the fire alarm panel and the renewal of all fire safety equipment following our annual safety inspection.

Furthermore, we resolved a long-standing dispute with BT regarding overcharging and porting failures, successfully moving our digital infrastructure to more cost-effective and reliable providers.

Our personnel and policy remit saw the formal adoption of the Employers' Pensions Discretions Policy, satisfying a statutory requirement to define how the council applies its powers under the Local Government Pension Scheme.

We have established a pay review subcommittee to conduct benchmarking exercises, ensuring that staff remuneration remains fair and competitive.

The committee also facilitated essential councillor training following several resignations, ensuring our elected members have the necessary skills to fulfil their governance roles effectively.

Finally, we have looked toward the future by progressing sustainability and community projects. We applied for a Lawful Development Application for solar panels on the Grosvenor Centre, investigating funding options to reduce our long-term energy costs.

We also completed the bus shelter rebuild project, which delivered a necessary asset for the parish.

Through careful budget monitoring and a strategic three-year insurance deal, we concluded the year with healthy reserves, ensuring Gnosall Parish Council remains on a firm financial footing for the year ahead.

Cllr Mike Sullivan, Chair

Visiting boats

We have a few historic and charity boats that attend free of charge to provide interest and promote their good causes.

We have many trading (business) boats who pay to attend and are pleased to come back year after year. Between them, they sell a vast array of goods, and some even demonstrate their work.

The Festival Garden (at the Navigation Inn)

The stalls are all charities and/or local good causes such as RNLI, Staffordshire wildlife trust, SNCT, First responders etc. We support them in raising funds and profile for their organisations. Thanks go to the Gnosall Phoenix Club for providing tea and cakes raising funds for charity.

Other Festival Aspects

The Boat Inn and the Navigation Inn have many bands over the weekend and a vast selection of food and we're pleased they have a bumper weekend of business. We run a free trip boat (courtesy of Norbury Wharf) and a free shuttle bus (provided by Community Link Stafford).

We raise some money for GTR by running a raffle, with the grateful donations of many local businesses.

Barry Witts



Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

The Neighbourhood Plan working group continues its work towards a new NP, though this is greatly delayed due to the requirement to produce a new Local Plan. Our survey went out last year and results are almost all analysed now. Thank you to all who participated.

The Project Board for Knightley Road which comprises residents and parish councillors, is paused at the moment as an outline application is in the pipeline. Once this is received, another Public Meeting will be held. We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with a developer (a first for many years) and some very promising work has been undertaken in relation to existing flood problems and preventing new ones.

We look forward to sharing this with you later in the year.

Gail Gregory

Gnosall Public Rights of Way (PRoW)



This has been a challenging year for PRoW with only six members who attend our meetings with any degree of regularity.

All are volunteers with competing interests in the village and beyond and this means that the attendance at most meetings is either three or four. Even with regular email contacts this limits progress.

Despite this, we have achieved the following:

- Maintained the Gnosall Footpath Friends scheme and all the thirty-five patches within the parish.
- We have cleared the vegetation which obstructed the start of footpath seventy-one where it leaves Moreton village.
- Our platemaking machine is now fully operational, and we have made bespoke signs for Broadhill and the Kingfisher Trail amongst others. We have also produced signs for the Gnosall Heritage Group and Gnosall Library.
- With the assistance of the landowner, we pressed the County Council to repair the boardwalk on Footpath 12 at Hollies Common. This is an important linking path in the network, and we are pleased that the route can once again be walked safely.
- We have installed a set of steps on Footpath 111 at Coton End allowing walkers to use this more accessible route rather than take the alternative route through a working farm.

The newly appointed County Council Footpaths Officer attended one of our meetings and has agreed to survey a number of paths which we believe need serious attention and suggest a way forward.

We were pleased to receive an invitation to have a stall at the Christmas Carnival and this spurred us into upgrading our display materials.

We displayed a board showing all our 121 rights of way in the parish which attracted much interest from passers-by who were eager to pick out their homes.

We were able to recruit two new Footpath Friends, and we now have the kit to attend other events with confidence. Our next appearance will be at CFest.

For the future, we have issues we need to tackle especially repairing stiles and doing more to clear overgrown paths.

Trevor Whincup



GG's Youth Club

At GG's youth club we provide a therapeutic free flow space for children between the ages of 7-11 years old (school years 3-6). We operate during term time only. There are currently around 30 children registered with anywhere between 10 - 18 children attending each week.

Our activity planning is done collaboratively between youth club staff and volunteers and includes things like biscuit decorating, card making, end of term party (including party games like musical statues), we have a few games consoles and air hockey table/pool which are also very popular resources with our young people.

A therapeutic space means to provide children with an open environment in which they can be themselves and talk about anything safely and freely, relieve any anxiety through craft and being with friends.

We recently collaborated with local businesses/volunteers such as Baking at No.42 with Sarah Day and a Knit and Natter evening with Sue, which have both been extremely successful in giving the children new interests/hobbies.

When the sun is shining, we like to spend our Wednesday evenings on the field playing sports or colouring in the sensory garden.

We have also been involved in many community events such as making Christmas cards for the Over 82's Tea and Christmas meals and painting pebbles for a village feature.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you can spare a couple of hours every so often, please get in touch.

Megan Corbett

Working Group News

Best Kept Village



When I think back on this past year, and all we did in preparation for the BKV competition 2025, I find it really hard to remember everything that we've done as there was so much done, but by so many volunteers. We are still having light bulb moments now of "ah, do you remember..."

We've worked with so many local businesses, other community groups and charities to help raise their awareness and to bring the community together, to work together and support each other. I am extremely proud of the whole team and of the Gnosall community who have shown me that there is so much love in a world full of hate and that Gnosall will always come together when needed, whether that be to support thy neighbours, help fix a part of the village or raise vital funds for whatever it may be.

I love this role; it gives me so much joy. Thank you Gnosall.

Laura Pearson

Gnosall Heritage Group

Membership of the Group has steadily increased with considerable amount of research done by members. Our Facebook page has over 2,500 members.

The continuation of the blue plaque scheme with Coton Mill (a plaque on the bench facing the mill and one in the notice board) and Greene's (a plaque both on the outside and inside). The initial thoughts of a plaque for the Memorial Village Hall have developed over the past six months into a major project. Members have researched the names on the Memorial Boards, both here and Moreton Church for WWI and WWII.

The outcome of which is an impressive Memorial Sign, 900mm square with all but one of the 95 soldiers who died given their first names, together with the history of the hall.

The 'Blessing' and unveiling of the sign is anticipated in mid June.

The Group have been successful in purchasing high resolution digital copies of aerial photographs of the Parish, 51 in total, taken in 1947, 1963 & 1971. When zoomed in the detail is very impressive.

Also purchased was a high-resolution digital copy of a painting of St Lawrence Church, a view from the Southwest, done by a Staffordshire artist, Rev J. L. Petit, painted in the early 1840s when he was vicar at Shifnal. The framed print was presented to a long standing and valued member of the Group, Felicity Potter, who is moving away from the area.

Encouraged by the Parish Council the Group organised the opening of our ancient Lock-up during the National Heritage Open Day events last September. The Gnosall W.I. were involved in relocating it to its present location and their members also assisted presenting it to the public on the wet Saturday morning.



During the day, the group had four members presenting the newly acquired aerial photographs and other records in the Grosvenor Centre. Also, a guide to the churchyard was on display for visitors.

Many news sheets have been created to record all research conducted by members, including, 18th C Peculiar Courts, Moreton School Register 1900-13, inventory from Gnosall's 17th C mercer's shop, further research on Moreton's WWI war casualties, Gnosall men who joined the RAF early on, the realignment of Doley Brook when the railway embankment was built, Wistaston House, fatal occurrence on a steam tug, interesting memorials in St Lawrence churchyard, Gnosall Heath roads in 1814, the Boat Inn, Plardiwick Lane, Gnosall roads in 1817, the Mount & the Pearce family, Fanlizard Lane, Gnosall's first Police Station, Blythe House, Newport Road Dairy, Sunbeam Cottage and the Cannock to Norbury Mail Road.

Malcolm Price, Chairman

Gnosall Towpath Restoration (GTR)

The Canal and River Trust is a charity formed in 2012 to take on the maintenance of most of the country's historic unique canal network from the government. A few years after forming, to make scarce resources go further, it introduced a scheme of communities and businesses "adopting" stretches of canal for minor maintenance and improvements.

Ten years ago, our stretch was adopted by the parish council, under the guise of GTR. We work largely autonomously but with the support of both organisations.

We receive no funding from either, but the parish council manages our accounts (similar to BKV). CRT provide materials and equipment from time to time, for example the 8 tons of stone (£350 worth) that we have just laid.

We work most Saturday and Tuesday mornings. Over the 10 years, we've probably had about 100 volunteers, including around 10 DofE students. We now have about 10 regulars and see between 3-8 at each session. More help is always needed; there is something for everyone.

Our tasks include stone laying, timber repairing, leaf raking, bulb planting, weeding, cleaning, litter picking, pruning, etc. All welcome

As well as the parish council and CRT, we have had support from local businesses such as Shelmore Timber, Wrights Garage, Bank Top Garage, and particularly Norbury Wharf.



Gnosall Canal Festival (C-Fest)

To complement our activities and show off our canal, we introduced C-Fest in 2019.

Although we do raise some money, that is not the primary aim. We like to promote the canal in an enjoyable way whilst helping good causes.

There are several features to the event; visiting boats, festival gardens

GLEAN - Gnosall Community Library

Gnosall Community Library provide the same services as Stafford public library, with the stock and management system provided by the Staffordshire County Council public library service.

Gnosall may be the smallest of Staffordshire's Community Managed Libraries, but they have a committed Trustee Group managing the library, supported by a strong group of over 27 library volunteers. Each library session is manned by at least two library volunteers.

Last year the library increased their hugely popular Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions

from fortnightly to weekly and have introduced a new Board Games Café and a Creative Writers' Circle.

The library also offers Family History Sessions, and a Reading Café, providing social and creative activities for local people.

The library promotes itself via articles in local magazines and takes part in community events, which has contributed to an 8% increase in visits to the library compared to the previous year.

This year is the 'Year of Reading' and the Writers Circle is providing a competition for those below 18 years of age to enter a story, based on a book they have read

or that inspired them.

The 'Read It, Write It' competition will be deciding and announcing the winners during GFest.

The annual 'Summer Reading Challenge,' which operates during the school summer holidays to aid reading skills will build on last year's excellent success and starts during GFest.

Robert Alker

Library Opening Hours

Monday	04:00pm - 06:30pm
Tuesday	10:00am - 12:30pm
Wednesday	03:00pm - 05:30pm
Thursday	02:00pm - 04:00pm
Friday	02:00pm - 04:00pm
Saturday	10:00am - 12:30pm

Community Events



In 2025 the Parish Council hosted several events, some old favourites, some new, including over 82's Tea's, the Heritage Open Day Festival and the Christmas Carnival.

Christmas Carnival

Heritage Open Day



Save the Dates for 2026

GFest Open Gardens 6th & 7th June
 GFest 11th to 19th July
 CFest 11th to 19th July

Heritage Open Day Festival 19th September
 Christmas Carnival 28th November