



## Editor's update June 2021

A very warm welcome to this, the second edition of the newsletter. During the past three months the wheels have been turning at GXCA and there have been some changes. Firstly, we said a fond farewell to Ken Piercy, Director of Services for the past ten years, as he moved on to pastures new. Here he is with Richard Stone, being presented with a painting of The Colston Hall by Ann Hall.



I am sure you that you will all be sad to hear that Michaela, our Events and Weddings Coordinator, will be leaving GXCA at the end of June. She has decided to accept an exciting role with one of Tom Kerridge's Group of companies which will involve travelling and catering for exclusive parties and events. Michaela has contributed a lot to the success of the Centre as a wedding and parties' venue and, until lockdown, had created an array of community events such as comedy nights, music evenings and the like which were a great success. Her friendly, hardworking approach to her role, involving long hours at times, will be missed.

We wish her every success with her future role and hope and hope she comes back to visit us.

## So what can you expect in the June edition?

You can read about our fantastic lottery award which Sue Hatrick has been hugely involved in submitting, **'The Secret Garden'** project with Jack and Alice, The **Vintage, Bric-a-Brac and More Sale** on Sunday 18 July from 10-1pm, **Community Kitchen Lunches, GXCA Summer School** and the **Classic car Show** on 11 August.

**We are also looking for more volunteers!** GXCA needs you so please give it a go. There are many areas where we need help, so no matter what you can offer, we will be very grateful. The café is always busy and, if this is of interest to you, you will be required to undertake the food hygiene certificate online. Perhaps you have a friend you would like to work with. Rope them in!! The Jumble Sale in September also requires lots of pairs of hands so if you can spare any time, no matter how little, we will welcome you with open arms!!



## **We now welcome Xavier Diers to take us into the next phase in the life of GXCA.**

I am delighted to have joined GXCA as General Manager. I have had extensive experience in the hospitality industry and my most recent roles have been as General Manager of Wildwood in Gerrards Cross until 2018 and General Manager of the United Airlines airport Lounges at Heathrow Airport run by Sodexo.

I very much look forward to meeting you all over the coming months and to reaffirm GXCA's commitment to meeting your needs as you seek to return to the Centre as, all being well, restrictions continue to ease. Equally, I am looking forward to driving some new initiatives, along with embracing some of our well-established events such as the Jumble Sale, Fireworks, Pantomime and Burns Supper.

My wife Kirsty, son Henry and I live locally in Chesham, having been in the area for around 12 years. During downtime, I enjoy playing golf, running, and cooking for the family.

I am hugely passionate about great hospitality; I hope to encourage community and fellowship to be at the heart of all we offer at the GXCA. Although we have been through a tough year and a half, I relish the opportunity to revive the Memorial Centre for a bigger and better future.



**Great news! A MASSIVE THANK YOU from Gerrards Cross Community Association to National Lottery Awards for All supporting people and communities to thrive, for a wonderful £10,000 grant for our project named 'Continuing Survival of Gerrards Cross Community Association for GX and villages**

As you will be aware, GXCA has either been closed, or seriously impacted by the Covid Pandemic for the past fifteen months. Our amazing staff have been furloughed and, more recently, flexi furloughed. Classes, clubs and inhouse entertainments have been cancelled and front doors locked. Our income has reduced by eighty percent, our reserves seriously diminished, with buildings continuing to need repair and maintenance. However, with very careful housekeeping, we have survived, and are getting ready, regulations allowing, to throw open our doors and welcome you in.

Did you know that Colston Hall alone has seventy-two fluorescent tubes for lighting? Forty-eight in the ceiling and twenty-four behind the curtain pelmets. Over the past year, 47 of the 48 ceiling fluorescent tubes have failed, which means that

Colston Hall is rather dark! We are having these lights replaced, but with LED's. These are far more energy efficient and cost effective. This is one of the maintenance projects that the Community Fund grant has enabled us to fulfill. We have other necessary maintenance requirements, which we are now able to achieve.

## Afternoon Tea with GXCA and Jack and Alice

Covid 19 has, without doubt, dramatically affected us all over the last year. In an effort to offer a pleasant diversion to our membership and some life back into our centre after many dormant months, GXCA and Jack and Alice, the local wine bar/café in Packhorse Road, arranged a series of traditional English Afternoon Teas in the 'Secret Garden' at GXCA throughout April and May.



An important part of the idea was also to welcome people who had not visited GXCA before and to show the many facilities on offer which are relevant to all in our community.

The 'Secret Garden' was at the rear of the Garden Room and dressed with bunting, straw bales and other items for seating, gazebos for shelter from the sun (and rain on occasions!) and plenty of summer flowers, offering a relaxing afternoon. Bookings and attendance were excellent even though the wind and rain on those few occasions caused some havoc!

Despite this, spirits were high and feedback from those attending has been extremely positive. Jack and Alice are happy to be working with us and, in a spirit of community support, offered a profit-share from the venture. We have more 'Secret Garden' events planned, starting in July and beyond, see the poster below for more information. We hope you will join us!

**Update from Fiona Kennedy.** The sales from Jumble Sale donations are getting close to £6,000!! Amazing efforts!

The team of people involved has also expanded. In addition to Fiona, Judy Mitchell, and Sue Hatrick, Geoff Mackrill has been busily assessing and PAT-testing electrical goods before we advertise them on Facebook Marketplace. Joyce Moore has been helping to sort clothes. Debbie Wheeler stepped in to help assess a particularly large donation of children's clothes, since that's her "specialist subject" at the Jumble Sale. Denise Leschhorn has held two small toy sales in the car park with the assistance of Anne George, AnnMarie Harvey,

Anne-Marie Walker, Rita Frasier, Rosalie Thomson, and Carol Nairn. Manda Adams is feeding our vinyl record donations through to Peter Ballard who is researching their value for which there is a healthy demand.

The volume of books is always a problem to manage, so we are currently discouraging donations of those, unless they are of special merit. If anyone is available to help sort and stack the books and CDs we already have, they would be very welcome.



## Celebrate the Great British Summer

With a delightful, quintessential, summer lunch at the Gerrards Cross Community Association.  
19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 1pm

Join us every month for a wonderful lunch cooked by our own GXCA volunteer cooks. Starting this August, we will be offering a delicious two course summer lunch complete with a glass of bubbles for just £10! Get together with some friends in a COVID safe setting and celebrate the summer in style. The GXCA bar will also be open.

**Reserve your place today!**

Contact: Sue Stone Tel - 07979 497617 or email: [s.j.stone@talk21.com](mailto:s.j.stone@talk21.com)

Can't make this one? Do join us next time, other lunch dates for 2021

**September 2nd, October 7th,  
November 4th, December 2nd**

### August Menu

#### Coronation Chicken

*Vegetarian option available*

*Served with new potatoes and side salad*

#### Red Fruit Pavlova

#### Summer Bubbles

*A refreshing glass of chilled sparkling wine*

*Coffee*



**Gerrards Cross Summer School** is an annual event in its 37<sup>th</sup> year. During the recent difficult times, the group of dedicated volunteers have been determined to continue its contribution to the Community. From 26th July to 6th August, you can book a day course on a variety of subjects ranging from Music to History, Craft to Personal Development. Why not come and hear about local history in Bucks and beyond, try your hand at crafts (Watercolour, Patchwork, Acrylics) or find out how to work with your iPad? There are lots of choices, but spaces will fill up very quickly. All details will be on the website (<http://www.gxca.org.uk/summer-school/>) and you will be able to access copies of the Application Form and course summaries from GXCA reception desk once launched, subject to Government guidelines, so please keep a place in your diaries to come and see us. We look forward to welcoming you!!

### Gerrards Cross Classic Car Show

Wednesday 11th August 2021, 12noon – 5pm. A wonderful opportunity to view an amazing collection of classic cars and motorcycles. Bring your family and friends too! £2.00pp entry.

To enter your classic car please head to

[www.gxclassiccars.co.uk](http://www.gxclassiccars.co.uk)



**Request to clubs and Societies.** Please get in touch and promote them.

More members, more fun!!

Eileen Powell

[editor@gxca.org.uk](mailto:editor@gxca.org.uk)

