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Parish News



October 2020

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Copy should be submitted to the Editor in electronic form, with any photos, graphics or logos submitted as separate attachments, not embedded in the file. Questions about submission should be addressed to the Editor.

The editorial team reserves the right to edit, accept or reject any material submitted for publication. The views expressed within the magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team.

A copy of the magazine is available on the Girton website at www.girton-cambs.org.uk, where you may also find expanded versions of selected items.

Advertisements

Prices for placing advertisements in the *Girton Parish News*, in black-and-white or colour, can be had on application to the Advertising Manager.

The advertising policy of the *Girton Parish News* aims to promote enterprises and activities from within Girton. The space available for advertisements is limited, and preference is given to businesses founded, situated, controlled and operated within Girton. The *Girton Parish News* reserves the right to decline to publish any advertisement which the Advertising Manager considers not to meet the objectives of this policy. Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by the *Girton Parish News* of the product or service advertised.

The *Girton Parish News* is produced and distributed entirely by volunteers from the village, including the following:

Typesetters Sam Clift, Andrew Hawkes, Claire Lightley, Bill Rothwell

Distribution Manager Rosemary Jones, tel. 276491

Editors and Proofreaders Chris Bowler, Wendy de Horsey, Mike Fay, Marion Fisher, John Gibson, Alison Giles, Carol Huxley, Jenny Knights, Patsy Smith, Matthew Vernon

Puzzle Corner Sian Franklin

Webmaster Andrew Haylett

and many others. If you are interested in becoming involved in any capacity, please contact the Editor.

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Cover photo by Charlotte Wilson.

Don't let it be Goodbye GPN!

I am stepping down from the Editor's role at the end of this year. Alas, so far no one has come forward to take over. Don't let the magazine disappear!

It could be a team job for two or three people working together. You don't need to know anything about publishing, but it will be an exciting opportunity for someone

- Who is creative
- Who likes dealing with people
- Who is interested in what is going on
- Who is well-organised
- Who cares about the community.

Contact Angela Blackburn
Email: gpned@girton-cambs.org.uk
Tel: 01223 528278

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Girton Parish Council

As reported in last month's edition, work on the proposed remodelling of the Pavilion is going well, with the planning application having been submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council in mid-September. The plans can be seen on the village website. The next stage is to arrange Project Management, and plan the internal reorganisation of the building. This will require clearance of the upper floor with temporary relocation of the Parish Office and transfer of Parish records, currently held in the Pavilion, to County Archives in Ely. Prompted by this project, the Council has resolved to register for VAT. Other items discussed at the September Parish Council Meeting included replacement of some items of Trim Trail equipment, and tree works at Mayfield Triangle and Weavers Field.

Following the earlier resumption of outdoor activities, the past month has seen the welcome return of several regular users of the Pavilion. Our thanks to Councillors Cockley and Rodger, and Susie and Laura, for their hard work in making this possible. However, with the recent introduction of the government's Rule of 6, users are required to look at their protocols to ensure that their activities can be adapted to comply with the new ruling.

Readers will we are sure be pleased with the new road surfacing works recently completed in the village. Many thanks to County Councillor Lynda Harford for her unstinting efforts in ensuring this work was undertaken. We are assured that the speed bumps will be replaced and that this will be co-ordinated with the introduction of the much heralded 20 mph speed limit zone. Despite pleas from the PC, the temporary cycle lanes will not be repainted but new periodic 'cycle roundel' road markings are proposed instead. The reasoning behind this appears to relate to opposition from Camcycle and changes in government policy on cycle lanes.

Apologies that two pieces of recreation ground play area equipment have been out of action for far longer than we would like. One is being repainted and the other is awaiting a visit from a competent engineer. Hopefully both will be fixed by time of publication. Regrettably minor acts of vandalism continue. Following damage to a set of football goalposts earlier in the summer, our new gel dispenser at the Pavilion play area was first of all damaged and following repair was then dumped in the waste bin. Other gel

dispensers inside the pavilion seem to have disappeared ...

At this time of year we would usually be giving details of the Remembrance ceremony at Girton War Memorial. However, given current circumstances this looks unlikely to go ahead, but we'll give any updates in the next edition and on the village website.

Girton Parish Council meetings are currently being held via video-conference until further notice.

Residents are encouraged to contact Parish Councillors directly if there are concerns they wish to raise (please see the listing of Parish Councillors elsewhere in this edition). Any member of the public who wishes to attend any meeting may do so by prior arrangement with the Clerk. The next meetings will be on Tuesday 20th October and Tuesday 17th November.

A full list of Parish Councillors can be found on page 34.

Appeal for Sleeping Bags for Jimmy's Night Shelter

Jimmy's Night Shelter would like to offer you their appreciation for all the donations you have given them this last year, since October 2019. Since then we have been able to pass on an amazing 88 blankets and 67 sleeping bags from Girton – let's see if we can do as well this year!

What a marvellously generous village we live in!

Jimmy's are asking for sleeping bags, blankets, rugs, new underwear, warm winter clothing and toiletries to hand out to their 'guests' and to rough sleepers over the winter months. If you can help by donating any of those that would be marvellous.

N.B. They can't take in pillows or duvets unfortunately.

Please contact me and I am happy to come and collect your donations from you. If you are unable to get hold of me then please leave your donations in the back of St Andrew's Church and I will collect them from there.

If you are interested in doing any volunteering at Jimmy's I can chat to you about who to speak to there.

*Jenny Knights, 47 Fairway, Girton
Tel: 01223 276405
jenny.knights@virginmedia.com*

FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Lynda Harford

Communications

This month I am making two pleas for volunteers. The first is to ensure we can continue the excellent work of the Girton Parish News editor when she stands down in December. We cannot let GPN die!! It could a person or a team. Please contact gpned@girton-cambs.org.uk or me if you can help.

Highways

The work done to improve the crossing at Girton Corner was energetically supported by a group called Eddington & Girton Safer Cycling & Walking Group. You can find out more about the group at:

www.camcycle.org.uk/newsletters/144/article26.html The group has had a series of meetings with representatives of Cambridgeshire County Council and the North West Cambridge development which I, too, have attended. At the last meeting a request was made to adjust the timings of the lights at the improved junction in favour of pedestrians / cyclists and this was effected by the county council the following day. This group has already formed a Speedwatch team which I would really like to encourage others to join. There is a great opportunity now, as the 20mph zone is put in, for Speedwatch too to contribute to making Girton's roads safer. If there are enough volunteers, people can concentrate their efforts on just those areas of the village that are of concern to them. More information about this police supported initiative at: speedwatch.info Please contact me if you could commit to just a couple of hours a month.

Education

Following detailed risk assessments and close monitoring of the local situation, schools have again opened. A comprehensive 'Welcome Back to School' guide was provided for all parents and carers of children returning to school. Understandably some are still nervous about letting their children go back to school but, under the direction of a highly respected director of education, everything that can be done to make schools Covid safe has been done and the county council will monitor the situation to ensure that this continues.

Environment

The county council has joined forces with a company called Solar Together in an initiative to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. Households and small / medium sized enterprises can now register, free and without obligation, for a group buying scheme at:

www.solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire. The county council will arrange an auction with pre-vetted installers on 06 October 2020. This will take the form of a reverse auction which means that the lowest bid wins. The winning bidder will set the price for all solar and battery systems. After the auction each registered household will receive a recommendation based on the information that it has supplied, and will have six weeks to decide whether or not to take up the recommendation. The offer is for a complete service including all equipment, survey, installation, monitoring and warranties. Households that already have

solar panels installed can also register to have battery storage added to their existing installation to maximise the benefits of their system.

Health

Please remember Covid-19 is regrettably still with us and keep doing the basic things that will keep us all safe: hand washing; keeping 2m distance wherever possible, wearing a face covering; getting a test and self-isolating if you have symptoms. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch recently. Please do continue to contact me with your comments and questions.

Take care. Please stay safe.

Lynda: lyndaharford@icloud.com;

01954 251775/07889 131022; follow me on Twitter:

@2whit2whoo



District Councillor Tom Bygott

Responses to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan consultation

The consultation was held in January and February, seeking feedback on what should be in the next Local Plan covering both South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City.

There were some interesting responses to policy questions: 97% of website responders strongly agreed that tree cover should be increased, compared to only 44% of more detailed written responses. 43% of website responders strongly disagreed that more houses should be planned than the required minimum, compared to only 6% of the second group. It would be interesting to see what proportion of householders and developers answered via each of these channels.

Responses have also been published to a Call for Sites, which is a way for developers and landowners to suggest development sites. This also included sites suggested last year and a Call for Green Sites. The two councils received 658 site submissions covering over 16,000 hectares of land and estimate that the sites could hold 170,000 to 200,000 houses, and around 5.8 square km of employment and other floorspace. The Call for Green Sites yielded an even larger area, nearly 29,000 hectares, including the entire Cambridge Green Belt.

Sites proposed in Girton include ten sites totalling 33 hectares, for between 135 and 445 houses and 40,000 sq m of other floor space. It is important to note that many more sites have come forward than necessary, so only a small proportion are likely to proceed; they comprise one sixth of the area of the district and three times the number of houses already built.

However, the next public consultation won't occur until Autumn 2021. It is extremely irresponsible for the councils to publish a full list of sites with a full year before the time when local residents can have their say. The contents of this list will create a great deal of anxiety and distress in our villages before action can be taken to reject the most egregious sites.

Reform of the planning system

With the flaws in our current system on display through the Call for Sites, the question arises whether there is a better way. The Planning for the Future consultation, tinyurl.com/y5d4jw8v, is open until 29th October.

To understand the proposed changes, it is also necessary to read the report of the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission, called tinyurl.com/LivingWithBeauty, which explains some of the cryptic phrases in the consultation, such as 'fast track to beauty' and 'gentle densification', which are considerable departures from meanings in the English language, as we currently understand it.

The report starts well, with the proposition that traditional architecture, in its many and varied forms, is superior and more highly regarded by most people than the modernist style that has held sway for the past century. The report's authors have a vision for Georgian squares of the kind that grace central London replacing ugly twentieth century buildings. There have been some successes of this style of redevelopment, such as Paternoster Square and Richmond Riverside.

'Gentle densification' means demolishing low density areas and replacing them with buildings of a 'gentle density', namely town houses and apartments up to five stories. There may be some places in the uglier parts of London, Milton Keynes or failed new towns where this might be an improvement, but it would be a disaster if this were allowed to happen in our villages.

In politics, there is a concept called pluralism, where people are free to choose from a variety of different beliefs. Architecture and town planning need this as well, with many different types and styles of building and people free to vote with their feet. Village houses are needed for people who want to have children or who like gardening, with high rise apartments and city centre living for those who want something else.

Cllr Tom Bygott
cllr@bygott.net
07765 475 513

A View From the District

I had a useful meeting with Anthony Browne, our MP, and found him sympathetic to my concerns. Among other things we discussed climate change, the future of local councils, and planning. I noted wryly that there are billions of pounds to be found for Covid-19 but little for climate change, and he wryly acknowledged that governments are not good at long-term issues, but he is doing what he can. He agrees that the current 5 layers of local government (Parish, District, County, Greater Cambridge and Combined Authority) don't make sense but doesn't see immediate change. He thinks the planning White Paper will be implemented within the lifetime of this parliament but it will not change much immediately. It was good to have direct contact with him.

I have now studied the White Paper. Two repeated themes are striking: one a focus on beauty and the other the importance of using digital technology (including the odd claim that the new system will be 'based on data, rather than documents' p. 25). Two notable absentees are any reference to the problem of land-banking, and the issue of developer profits. Developers are able to build into their projected costs a profit of (I think) 20%, supposedly to account for their risk. This is then taken into account when assessing, for instance, the amount of community facility and affordable housing which can be imposed by the local authority. It is claimed that the new system will reduce risk but no suggestion that this should affect developer profits. The paper is full of aspiration, much of it excellent, but so free of detail that assessment is not easy. One proposal which may prove particularly problematic is that Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy would be replaced by a single levy, 'a fixed proportion of the development value above a threshold' which would be set centrally. The great advantage of S106 is that it reacts to local issues, such as the huge expense of dealing with contaminated land. This alternative could turn out to be very expensive to Councils. Another is the proposed expansion of permitted development rights; we have already seen abuse of such rights in our area. Details of the White Paper and the consultation can be found at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future (or tinyurl.com/y5d4jw8v).

Cabinet on 2 September looked at the first quarter's performance. Inevitably the effects of the pandemic were seen, sometimes starkly, in some areas (e.g. business rate income and B&B costs for housing the homeless), but most remarkable to my mind was my own *bête noir* – our Contact Centre. Its performance has improved remarkably over the past three months and I am now promised what I have been asking for over several years: details including standard deviations which may enable us to assess where the real problems are. But perhaps home-working has already solved them?

We are gradually opening the Cambourne SCDC Hall to officers who wish to return, though many are working happily and productively from home.

The Local Plan progresses with the publication of the Call for Sites – an invitation to suggest possible sites for development. The response is at least seven times what we might need, so most of them will be rejected; officers are now assessing them for viability. Details are at tinyurl.com/y2ywf9r where you can see all the sites. There are I think 10 in Girton, but I repeat: fewer than one seventh of all these sites would make it into the later consultation.

Our waste services division is struggling with blue bins which contain used PPE. Please remember that masks, gloves etc cannot be recycled, and should be placed in the black bin in a sealed bag.

If you would like a fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at scdc@de-lacey.org and I shall add you to the list of recipients. If you have any District Council issues you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to ask.

Douglas de Lacey

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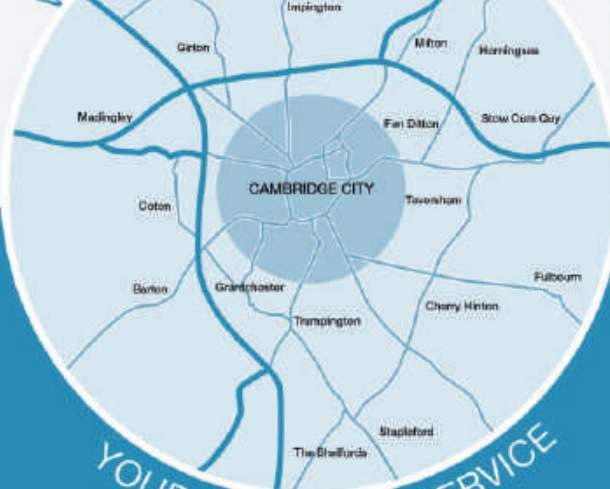


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News from Girton Glebe Primary School

School Reopening

We were delighted to welcome all of our pupils back to Girton Glebe on 3 September and it has been lovely to see our classrooms return to their usual buzz of excitement as learning returns to normal. The way in which our pupils are accessing the site has changed quite considerably from where we were in late March but classroom learning and curriculum provision have now returned to our usual high standards.

Reopening the school has meant considering many factors to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff and our response to national guidance can be found at girtonglebe.com/covid-19/

Within the classrooms, pupils are settling back into old routines and are engaged in their new topic work; teachers have now begun assessing the impact that the period of lockdown has had on our pupils. Supporting our pupils on their return to full-time education is a key priority within the School Development Plan, and teachers and senior leaders are augmenting the delivery of our curriculum, tailoring provision to the academic and emotional needs of our children.

Details of the topic work that our children are currently engaged in can be found on our school website at girtonglebe.com/curriculum-organisers

Across the school, it has been lovely to hear our pupils excitedly discussing their new topic work. Learning has ranged from exploring the geography of the USA to investigating local ancestors involved in World War One. Some children have been finding out about oceans and waterways whilst others have been investigating rock formations and natural disasters! Please keep an eye on our Twitter feed and fortnightly newsletters to see further updates on our classroom learning.

School Academisation – The Learning Alliance (TLA)

At the end of August, our transfer to The Learning Alliance (TLA) was passed by the DfE and Girton Glebe opened its doors at the beginning of the autumn term as a proud member of the new trust. We are very excited about the next chapter in the life of the school, and look forward to developing provision for our pupils with the support of TLA.

Welcome, Foundation Stage!

Throughout the first few weeks of September, we welcomed our new Foundation Stage pupils and parents to Girton Glebe for the first time following the period of lockdown. We were delighted to see so many smiley, eager new faces on site and we have been incredibly impressed by how quickly the children have settled in to their time in primary school. We look forward to seeing these children flourish as the autumn term progresses and are so pleased that they have now joined us at Girton Glebe.

Mr Andrew Spencer
Headteacher
[@GirtonGlebePS](https://twitter.com/GirtonGlebePS)

Codeword solution - see page 27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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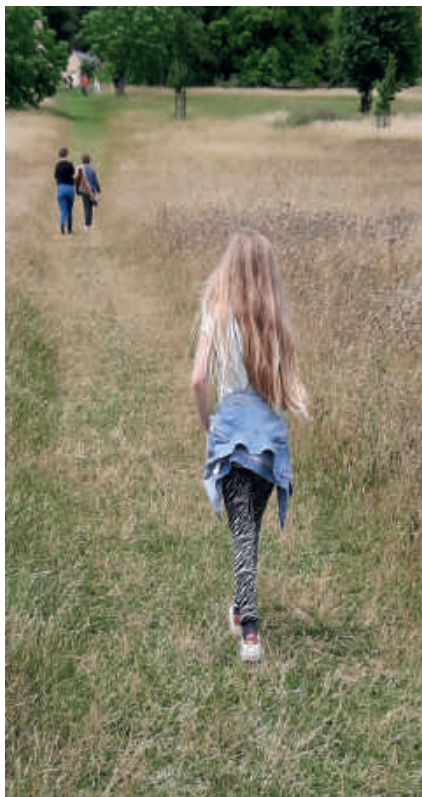




Friends of Girton Glebe

FOGG would like to thank everyone who has supported our school during the lockdown by taking part in our virtual events and through one-off

donations. We are grateful for all your support at this time.



Virtual Cake Sale/Walkathon

Thank you to everyone who took part and thank you for your photos – we raised £375.00! This is an amazing amount.

Projects supported by FOGG

During lockdown the work of FOGG continued. We were able to fund new curriculum software to assist planning for the teachers, new books for many of the new classes, enrichment for the EYFS and art packs to pupil premium pupils.

Through the Co-operative Local Community Fund we hope to raise money for resources to support the delivery of children's events such as display boards and digital equipment. Please remember to support Friends of Girton Glebe by selecting it as your local cause and swipe your membership card each time you shop at the Co-op.

Second-hand uniform

FOGG are still accepting second-hand uniform. If you would like to donate or would like to purchase any uniform please contact FOGG on contactfogg@gmail.com – we can then make arrangements for you to view any uniform you need and/or provide your uniform donations.

2020/21 Events

As you will appreciate, the school year 2020–21 is going to be very different from previous years. By now our volunteers would have been busy planning cake sales and a coffee morning to welcome new pupils and their families to the school and preparing for the AGM. Sadly this has not been possible. The AGM has been postponed and will now take place on Zoom on a date yet to be

confirmed. We will provide details at the school when possible.

We also regret to announce that the popular Autumn Jumble Sale, which usually takes place at the end of September, will not be able to go ahead and it also looks unlikely that our FOGG Christmas Fair, which brings all of the Girton and school community together, will take place either given the current restrictions.

It is sad for FOGG and the school. As well as being fantastic community events the jumble sale and Christmas Fair raise a large proportion of the much needed funds for the pupils of Girton Glebe Primary School to support the learning and enrichment of its pupils.

Fundraising Ideas

Although events may look very different this year FOGG still hope we can hold some smaller or virtual events to help bring both the school and the wider community together and to welcome the new students and families to the school and the village. If you have any suggestions for events at this time please do contact us on contactfogg@gmail.com.

Annika Osborne



GIRTON



POPPY

APPEAL 2020 update

Since the distribution of the September edition of GPN, some rules relating to the 2020 Poppy Appeal have been relaxed.

There will still be no House to House or Street collections, but static collection boxes can be placed in venues throughout the village.

Sainsburys are not allowing charity collections in their foyers this year, so no volunteers with be required for Eddington.

I can now order almost all merchandise including wreaths, wreath badges, ribbons and wooden remembrance products.

Thank you

Wendy Ripley - 07885 190597 or email
girtonpa@yahoo.com

(Wreaths from last year are held in the Parish Office and should be available from the Parish Clerk in exchange for a donation as in previous years)

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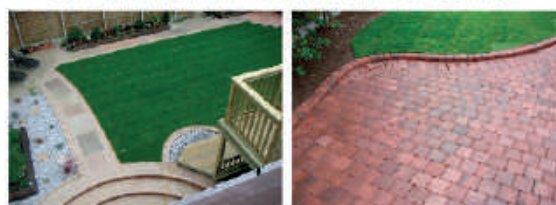
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Girton Cottontails Preschool

At the time of writing, we are in the middle of our second week of term and our new opening. We have had a wonderful start and the children are all doing well settling in, making new friends and exploring the preschool.



The children have been using magnets, exploring how they work, and they have been taking many photos around the setting with the cameras. There has been lots of play cooking in the playhouse and much pretend ice cream has been eaten!

This week we had our first Forest School day. We have a lovely new site which we really enjoyed setting up and both the children and ourselves had a great day including having our lunch immersed in the natural environment. We made homes for our toy woodland animals, went for a walk to collect sticks for den building and of course we made mud pies! We would like to say a huge thank you to the Parish Council for allowing us to use their land for our new site, we really appreciate it.

Since we opened we have been delighted to receive some gifts from our Amazon wish list. This includes a new mud kitchen and some children's books which give some understanding of the coronavirus in a child friendly way. We are hugely thankful to the buyers of these gifts which will be of benefit to all the children's learning.

We are a community interest company, so non-profit-making, and we greatly appreciate any support you can give. Please take a look at our gofundme page and our Amazon wish list: www.gofundme.com/f/emma-amp-laura-are-reopening-cottontails-preschool
www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/JJP8OJALIV2I?ref_=wl_share

For further information about the preschool, please visit our website or get in touch using the contact details below.

Laura Norman and Emma Pell
Girton Cottontails Preschool Managing Directors

Email: girtoncottontailspreschool@gmail.com

Phone: 07368 180771

Web: www.girtoncottontailspreschool.com

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Girton Youth Project closes after 10 successful years

It is with great sadness that we must confirm that after ten and a half years, the YMCA Trinity Group's Girton Youth Project will no longer be able to continue.



Unfortunately, the project relied on funding from Girton Town Charity who have identified other areas of priority they would like to support moving forward. Officially, the project will end on 30th November 2020.

Looking back over the past ten years it is clear to see how much of a positive impact Girton Youth Project has had on the young people of Girton.

Frances Roach, Youth Engagement Project Manager at YMCA Trinity Group, said: 'Around 300 young people attended the youth group and at least 400 have been supported through the project's outreach work. No numerical number can begin to put a value on the youth project's work. The group has empowered young people to try new activities, embrace their individuality and feel part of a solid support network and, most importantly, have fun.'

'Our Youth Leaders worked tirelessly to create a non-judgmental environment, driven by the wants and needs of young people; where individuals met friends, shared experiences, sought support, embraced their individuality and above all, felt safe.'

Girton Youth Project also supported 12 Youth Workers, many who were members and then went onto become part of the inspiring paid staff team.

Frances added: 'We want to take this opportunity to thank every single person, particularly the young people, that have made this project a success.'

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When we look back on the year of coronavirus, what will we remember? I will certainly think of the incredible spring, and how much time I spent in the garden. Not being able to go away on our planned holiday, or to buy plug plants from garden centres, sent me to look at what seed packets I had languishing in the shed. For a few weeks the conservatory became a greenhouse, with seedlings growing away in the sun and warmth. Then a frantic appeal on the neighbourhood Whatsapp group to give away seedlings because the Garden Society plant sale had to be cancelled! Now as I look at the flowers, fruit and vegetables that have resulted from all those seeds, I do feel a sense of satisfaction from having grown them all from scratch.



Last year I wrote here about our attempts to frustrate the squirrel's assaults on our figs. We decided to net the whole tree this year (no mean feat as it's quite big). I am happy – in fact positively triumphant – to report that we've harvested quite a few huge, juicy figs this summer! (Although, a letter in the *Guardian* from someone who'd had over 200 figs rather put my crop into perspective.) It's been a good year for fruit in general – we had bumper crops of strawberries and raspberries, and our citrus plants have small lemons and limes growing away.



It hasn't all been successful. The early heat and drought affected some of the flowering plants that I tried. Cosmos shrivelled up, some of the more wimp-like perennials (a white geranium, astrantias and crocosmias) died off in the sun. Morning glory, kindly nurtured from seed in a friend's greenhouse, was attacked first by slugs and snails, and then, when it got hot, wilted. Trees prematurely shed their leaves. Watering early and late on the day had little effect, and merely depleted all my water butts. As the water supply ran out, I pondered whether this is climate change. If I can grow figs, lemons and limes without a greenhouse, then is it perhaps no surprise that I can't grow cosmos in the same garden?

It will be October by the time you read this. Time to enjoy trees with their autumn colours. One of my favourite places in autumn is the Cambridge Botanic Garden, which thankfully is open again (booking required). The autumn colours across the lake are spectacular. There will also still be time to go and look at the dahlias at either Anglesey Abbey or Wimpole Hall (booking also required). I also enjoy the trees along the Huntingdon Road in autumn, in shades of buttery yellow (especially when seen from the top of a bus).

In our own gardens it's all about getting ready for winter. A plea not to be over tidy (I find it difficult myself). Wildlife will thank you for leaving a few piles of leaves and some seed heads. Autumn is when we seem to spend hours sweeping up leaves (I haven't used last year's leaf mould yet!). So, cut back and divide your perennials, but not all of them. I prefer to cut down those that turn into sludge, but sedums (oh, sorry – Hylotelephium; another name change to remember) look good all through winter, especially when frosted. Do you dig up your dahlias? I have been doing so ever since I moved to Cambridge from an overheated London garden; but I'm wondering whether to risk leaving them in the ground this year. It's a good idea to take a few cuttings as insurance. As well as cutting back and digging up, October is a good month to plant bulbs (except tulips – leave those till next month, to ward off the fungal disease tulip fire), new shrubs and perennials. In my little veg patch, I am planning to use the space over winter this year, with kale and garlic.

But maybe, this year of all years, as you do the autumn chores and look perhaps a little sadly at your declining garden, do remember how much we all valued it during lockdown, and think of those, like our daughter in her London flat, who had to get through it with no outside space. They would like to be clearing up! We gardeners are very lucky.

Gina Lane

Girton Social Club

48 Cambridge Road, Girton. Tel: 01223 276890

We are a small friendly social club situated in the centre of Girton.

Children welcome

We hold various events throughout each month including:

- Quiz Nights, Play Your Cards Right, Family Games Night
- Discos & Karaoke, Live Music
- Fortnightly Bingo on Fridays which includes a jackpot for members
- Summer Barbeques

We also have a modern pool table, darts/skittles and a juke box with all genres of music.

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Annual Membership: Adults £10, Senior Citizens £3.50, Armed Forces £1

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A Community Land Trust for Girton?

Sustainable Girton is a group of people who share a concern for the environmental sustainability of the village. Over the years we have been involved in such activities as litter-picking, 'make do and mend', composting, and

promoting Girton as a Plastic Bag Free Zone. There has been promotion locally of thermal imaging of houses in cooperation with the SCDC initiative of grants for insulation of single skin housing. We were involved in a bulk buy promotion of solar panel installation in cooperation with other villages in SCDC area. We have tried to work as much as possible with other groups and organisations – Friends of Girton Glebe School, Girton Town Charity, both Churches, the Co-op, Parish, District and County Councils and Girton Parish News.

Across the planet we are faced with a series of environmental disasters – global warming, destruction and pollution of habitats of land, sea and air, diminution of species, etc. The root causes are our excessive exploitation of natural resources, typified by our escalating production and use of fossil fuels, mass production and overconsumption. We have to stop doing it. Our survival and the survival of our fellow species depend on it. And to survive we need Land and Food.

It is not that long ago that there were seven working family farms in Girton. They were the mainstay of food for the village, for local food markets and for Cambridge colleges, and provided employment and wellbeing for village people. But such land is now largely in the hands of big agricultural corporations intent on increasing productivity and profitability through excessive use of heavy machinery, fossil-fuel-based fertilisers and pesticides, with scant regard for environmental sustainability and Girton's needs.

A Community Land Trust is a body that develops community land and gardens and can support such things as affordable housing, civic buildings, commercial spaces and other community needs. Community Land Trusts balance the needs of the individual and families to access land and maintain security of tenure whilst maintaining affordability, economic diversity and access to essential services.

Could a Community Land Trust be one way of addressing these issues in Girton?

We have a strong and vibrant community which can rise to the occasion when the need arises. In coping with Covid-19, many of us are already changing our livelihoods and lifestyles towards ones which are more locally based. Are these likely to continue in some form or another? Will more of us be growing more of our own food? Will more of the food produced from local farms be bought and sold in local markets and food shops? Are these trends we would want to encourage?

Setting up a Girton Community Land Trust would be no mean achievement. How would it be organised? Are there local groups and organisations which could take a lead?

Would money have to be raised? How much? Short-term? Long-term? Are there resources and expertise in the village? Outside the village?

If this article and the idea of a Community Land Trust interest you, could we continue this discussion and keep the village informed through the pages of Girton Parish News?

John Ranken, Douglas de Lacey, Christine Bromwich

Garden Tip of the Month, October

Let's think about roots! Plant roots I mean, what we know about them, and how that affects what we do in the garden, particularly when planting. Roots nourish the shoots by taking in water and dissolved plant food, and anchoring the plant.

Let's start with the interesting balance between a plant's top and its roots. Roots are often envisaged as having a similar volume to the rest of the plant above ground, and the balance between roots and shoots can be adjusted by pruning. Prune the top and the roots drive a spurt of growth toward an equilibrium, as when roses are pruned back in winter to a much smaller frame, and in spring burst forth in growth. Occasionally the roots may be pruned, typically when a large Bramley apple tree is far too vigorous for the space and needs restraint. I have only done this a couple of times and it did make a useful difference.

The role of roots for anchorage generally works well without much conscious checking, provided the root zone is reasonably deep and inviting, and they are at the right depth. Trying to put a plant rootball from a 2 litre pot into a slightly too shallow hole chiseled out with a trowel in un-dug soil, is too challenging for many plants. They may endure but they are unlikely to thrive. Wind-rock may be a factor for larger plants, when the plant top is able to move so much that it starts to tear off the roots; first damaging the fine feeding root hairs and then if unchecked ripping off whole sections of root. This is a classic way to lose a big mallow or buddleia, which should cut back by half in autumn to reduce the risk of wind-rock, and pruned in late spring. For trees and some shrubs there is the additional risk of the whole root plate (the central root zone and the soil it is anchored into) lifting and the plant being thrown. Generally plants with trunks (and hence leverage) should have additional anchorage for their first 1–4 years, typically with a firm stake tied to the stem at about 60cm above ground. In windy spots a pair of stakes may work better.

That's enough for now, more about roots another month!

George Thorpe

Girton Garden Society

Girton Garden Society has reluctantly taken the decision not to meet face to face again until next year. Our speakers for this year have agreed to reschedule to the same month next year. As things stand our first meeting will be on Wednesday 10th March at 7.30pm in the William Collyn Community Centre. The speaker will be Joe Sharman from Monksilver Nursery in Cottenham and he will give a talk on 'Herbaceous Perennials'.

We will look forward to meeting again in better times.

Kay Green, GGS

GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Bowls Club

At this time of year in the Bowls calendar we are usually playing our last few League matches of the season and looking eagerly at our final positions to see if we are going to achieve promotion, or stay put for another year.

This year, however, no such competitive Leagues have been played, but fortunately we are able to hold our annual internal singles and pairs competitions. These commenced with the first leg of the Men's and Ladies' singles being played in the second week of September. The first of these matches were very hotly contested and the scores were incredibly close. Congratulations to all our new Ladies who entered and proved worthy opponents for our more experienced players. This year's scaled down finals day will be on Sunday 27th September.

Our fun bowls competition, organised by Dave Fryer and Geoff McCall, which was played throughout the season, has come to a successful conclusion, having proved very popular. A big thank you to them and Margaret McCall for organising the Rink bookings and for keeping everyone informed of the matches being played and posting updates of the daily results. Thanks also to Graham Clare, who was mainly responsible for setting up and clearing away the equipment daily, so that we could play safely and adhere to the social distancing rules.

We played the last of our friendly matches away to the Stretham Bowls Club, who as usual made us feel very welcome, providing us with unexpected refreshments after the match. We would like to thank all those clubs who joined us in the friendly matches which made things feel a little more normal in these difficult times.



In preparation for this year's indoor Bowls season, practice sessions have begun at Chesterton Bowls Club under very precise social distancing procedures. Players must wear a mask at all times and enter via the reception where their temperature is checked and leave by the fire exit at the

back of the building. Only alternate rinks are played on and there is a one-way system to navigate whilst inside the building. Adhering to these rules enables players to feel safe while continuing to enjoy Bowls throughout the winter months.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining Girton Bowls Club, please contact our secretary Margaret McCall on margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com or visit our website www.girtonbowlsclub@weebly.com

We do update the website with information and photographs on a regular basis.

Lynne McGill



Girton Golf Club

The Golf Club is surviving and developing in these so unusual and difficult times. We have grown by 80 new members since we opened after lockdown and despite still being restricted in many of our

activities we are playing golf in large numbers and enjoying internal competitions. The weather, and the hard work of our greens staff, has meant that the course is looking absolutely wonderful and playing really well.

This last month has seen a number of events including the Shearline Trophy, one of our major competitions and the culmination of the Order of Merit, which takes into account results over a number of events during the year. The Scratch element was won by Neil Cowie (see photo), as were the Club Championship and the Nett by Fin Creighton; trophies presented by Chairman Hugh Carlisle. The Juniors have also held competitions and the Peter Silk Trophy was won by Ethan Goebbels on countback from Henry Howe and Ben Shanks, with all three scoring the same number of points.



Neil winning the Order of Merit

Our clubhouse is still open daily for coffee and light lunches and it is great to see the support we are receiving from golfing and social members and supporters. If you fancy a break during the day pop down. Sitting on the patio looking over the course on a sunny day is just so relaxing.

We still have membership available at really competitive rates for all standards and ages. Call the office and ask for more details or come on down and have a chat, and a coffee, and see just what we can offer.

Alan Henderson-Smith



Girton Colts

By the time this is published we will hopefully be playing some league matches. All teams have enjoyed training and some have managed to organise friendly preseason matches.

We are operating within strict guidelines as per the parish council, FA and Government rulings, which will hopefully mean we can continue to play as safely as we can.

We do have some opportunities with our teams if you are interested in getting involved. Current opportunities are:

- U12 girls team players (Year 6 and 7 in September)
- U11 girls and boys players (Year 6&5)
- U7 girls and boys players (Year 2)
- U6 girls and boys players (Year 1)
- U5 girls and boys players (early years)
- U5 potential parent managers
- Referees ... training available ... Paid per match once trained

Please contact teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk if any of these are of interest.

Andrew Hawkes
Chairman



Girton Tennis Club

Government guidelines and legal requirements continue to change in an attempt to keep us away from the Covid 19 virus. We would like to reassure our readers that the tennis club committee

regularly monitor national, local and LTA guidelines and ensure that all members are updated quickly with any applicable changes. At the time of writing, we

continue to allow members to book the courts for exclusive use by up to 6 people. Friday evening club nights and junior supervised sessions also continue to operate but do please check our website for the latest information as changes could occur very quickly.

The Summer leagues were all cancelled but our local Lawn Tennis Association has put together a 'Celebration League'. Our men's team had their first away match at Longstanton on Saturday 12th September but news of the result is yet to issued.

Our club membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March. If you are still considering joining our friendly club, we can offer a 50% reduction in fees for the remainder of this year. Just make contact using the details below.

Details about our activities can be found on our website www.girtontennisclub.uk or by contacting our Membership Secretary Kevin Keeves by email info@girtontennisclub.uk

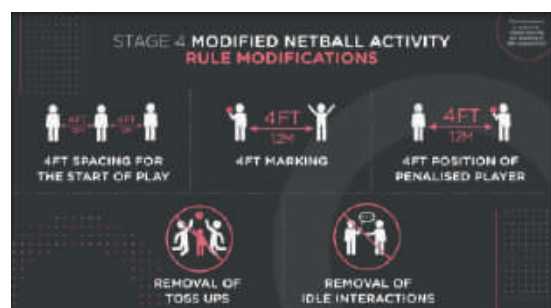
Alan Franklin



Girton Netball Club Returns

We are delighted that netball training has started again. As an organised team sport we are exempt from the new Rule of 6 that the government has announced, which would otherwise limit numbers. To keep ourselves and others safe from

Covid-19, England Netball have implemented new procedures and guidance for how training sessions will run including the regular use of hand sanitiser and cleaning of the ball. Marking will now be much more difficult with the changes to player distances shown in the graphic below, which also includes a new rule against 'idle interactions', i.e. No chatting on court!



Even with these changes we're pleased to be back playing netball again. New players of any standard are always welcome. Contact us at email girton.village.netball@gmail.com or reach us on Facebook at Girton Netball Club.

Emma Longden

Girton



Musical Theatre

Girton Musical Theatre (Girton Operatic): – thirty years of music and fun!

In 1989 a group of parents at the Glebe decided they'd like to put on a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. Led by Petrina and Alan Lodge, they coaxed and cajoled other parents, friends and colleagues to join the project. Many of these first recruits had never sung in public before but rose to the challenge over the next few months, leading to the first ever Girton Operatic production in 1990.



Gondoliers 1990 Act 1

As well as singers, Trina and Alan recruited musicians (many of whom were Girton residents) for the orchestra, and a dedicated band of costume makers and scenery painters.



Gondoliers 1990 orchestra

With a limited budget, many of the first costumes were made from curtains and duvet covers, while the scenery made imaginative use of cardboard carpet tubes and other cardboard shapes.



Gondoliers 1990 Act 2

The first show was a resounding success, and the group followed it up with the first of its annual summer concerts – a concert version of *Trial by Jury* in St Andrew's Church. The pattern of one staged performance and one Summer Concert continued until this year, when the 2020 Summer Concert was cancelled (along with many other events). The Summer Concerts have usually been in aid of a local or national charity, often matching the theme of the concert to the good cause: for example *Songs of the Sea* in aid of the RNLI or *Songs of Childhood* in aid of East Anglia Children's Hospices.



Ruddigore 1991

The next two shows performed were among the most popular by Gilbert & Sullivan (G&S): *Ruddigore*, complete with ghosts coming out of ancestral portraits, and *Iolanthe*, in which Fairies and the House of Lords compete for supremacy (spoiler alert: the Fairies win!).

Over the years Girton Operatic has performed all of the G&S operettas, including less well-known ones such as *The Grand Duke*. As there are only fourteen operettas in total, several shows have been repeated, but always with a new slant! The society has built up a reputation for adding in extra 'business' to the shows. This arose, originally, from the Producers' wish to ensure that everyone, including the chorus, had a chance to be the centre of attention at some point in the show – even if it wasn't quite fifteen minutes of fame!

In 2016, the production of *The Sorcerer* included a subplot of a Bake-off competition.



During the course of the show, a total of 300 props (many of them small cakes) had to be organised by the cast and

crew, and various ‘baking’ challenges undertaken while songs and dialogue carried on as normal. To involve the audience in the fun, they were encouraged to bring along baked items for a competition each night. We were delighted when one of the Great British Bake-off finalists, Ian Cumming, agreed to come and be our celebrity judge for one of the performances!

From the early days of performing with no stage, the productions have become more elaborate over time. In the second show, stage blocks donated by Littleton House (previous occupants of the Gretton School site) were used to provide a small elevated area, and by the third year the society had made enough staging for the large area it uses today. Flats were built to provide more substantial scenery. Custom-made supports enable a backcloth to be hung behind the arches in the school, or a full height backcloth at the back of the stage. There are also times when the plot requires special one-off constructions – such as the picture frames for the ghosts in Ruddigore.

Over the years the society has helped finance improvements to the school hall, which can also be used for school productions. In 1996 a lighting bar and theatre lanterns were installed. A subsequent joint bid to the Girton Town Charity increased the lighting provision to three lighting bars. Theatre curtains were purchased in 2001, and an electric curtain track installed in 2007.



The audience

Preparations for the show usually start in September, with one rehearsal a week (plus extra soloist rehearsals). From January, the whole cast rehearses twice a week, and other

work begins. The scenery is painted over two weekends in January, and over the February half term the stage is erected, scenery constructed, and many metres of black curtaining are hung. Set painting and construction weekends are usually well-attended by the cast and are a good way of getting to know new people.

Costumes are often hired these days, but there are still times when we have to make our own, because what the Director wants is not available to rent.



The society has accumulated a large collection of costumes over the years and has been happy to lend them to other groups. For example, when the Glebe held a Victorian day a few years ago, we were able to lend costumes for many of the staff, and also helped run a workshop on Victorian Music Hall for the children. Being part of the local community is very important to



Preparing costumes

us, and we have helped raise money for many local causes such as Friends of Girton Glebe, St Andrew's Church, Cottontails and the Cotton Hall. We usually give a mini-performance to the Glebe School in the week of the show, as a Thank-you for using their hall.

In 2016 the society voted to change its name to Girton Musical Theatre, and celebrated with a gala evening of Songs from the shows, and of course, cake!

continued on page 22...

...continued from page 21

Cake at relaunch party



The Merry Widow was chosen as the group's first show from outside the Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire. It was an ambitious undertaking. The show involved more dialogue (much of it over music, adding to the challenges of being heard at the back of the school hall) than a typical G&S show. A cast of twenty named characters (plus additional chorus) and three acts added to the complexity. A week before the first night there were worries that it might all be a disaster, but a week is a long time in theatre, and the show was another great success!

An added bonus was that we received a nomination from NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) for Best Technical Award 2018. The citation read: 'for the wonderful settings & costumes for *The Merry Widow*'. The committee enjoyed attending the presentation dinner, even though we were only runners-up.



The Merry Widow 2018

At the end of last year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of our first rehearsal with another party, at which friends old and new came together to enjoy excerpts from most of our previous shows. The social side of the society has always been important to us. We organise outings to see other local groups performing, and to see shows in London.



For our 30th show we returned to many peoples' favourite and re-staged *The Gondoliers*, complete with Gondola.

Large props have been another popular theme in our shows. Giant binoculars, oversized books and even a version of the Girton Book Exchange have all featured. There is usually one item in each show which takes the backstage team many hours to make but is only on stage for a few minutes (if that!). Sometimes they can be repurposed for subsequent shows, and regular audience members enjoy spotting the items which are enjoying a new lease of life.

This autumn we would have normally been starting rehearsals for our 2021 production. We are currently looking at different options for singing, meeting and acting together, and at what sort of production we might be able to work towards. As soon as we have any definite plans we will publish them on our website (www.girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk) and on our Facebook page. If you would like to join us to sing, or to help backstage in the future, or to be included in our mailing list, please email info@girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk.

Helen Wilson (Business Manager, T: 276940)

[Photos by Rob Furber, Vish Chandrasekaran and GO/GMT members]



News from Girton Co-op

In August I ran the lockdown bunting where the community submitted bunting expressing their lockdown memories. The winner from the lucky draw is **Jane Bower**. Congratulations to her! She has received 2 hours' worth of gardening service courtesy of Lisbeth who owns a local business *Purpleflowersgm.co.uk*. She provides various garden services, from planting schemes to a new flowerbed to an overhaul of your whole garden or maybe just some tweaks to an existing design. Thank you so much, Lisbeth.



As you know Co-op supports 3 local causes every year through the local community fund. Our current causes are **FOGG (Friend of Girton Glebe), Girton Colts Football Club** and **Girton Cottontails Preschool**. I want to thank all Co-op members who supported their community through their membership cards. Your support is highly appreciated. If you have not chosen your local cause please visit www.coop.co.uk, sign in and select your cause. If you are not a member please visit www.coop.co.uk and register only for £1. The Co-op will continue to support its local causes each year with its members, bringing the community together. For up-to-date news about Girton Co-op please follow me on Twitter @Sadafsafian. I regularly post on the Girton Coronavirus Support page.

Sadaf Safian

Co-op Member Pioneer

sadaf.safian@coopmembers.co.uk

**FOOD
FOR
OUR
FUTURE**

Food Waste Challenge with Cambridge Sustainable Food & South Cambridge Council

Did you know the average household in South Cambridgeshire throws away around 2kg of food waste each week that could be avoided? This is food that could be eaten if used up in time. It's effectively throwing money in the bin! The cost of edible food wasted across the UK is equivalent to around £700 a year for an average family with children.

At a global level, food waste is a major contributor to climate change. The greenhouse gases produced by food waste account for around a fifth of our individual carbon footprints – so small actions and changes at home can make a big difference to our impact on the planet and our legacy to the future.

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge Sustainable Food are teaming up to challenge us all to shrink our food waste. It's a win-win – reduce your carbon footprint and save yourself money!

Take on the Food Waste Challenge!

The Food Waste Challenge launches on Monday 26th October. How does it work? Participants will weigh their kitchen food waste over 3 days (you can request a green waste caddy if needed).

Over the following 4 weeks there will be free online cookery demos from top local chefs, with their favourite recipes and tips for reducing waste. A chance to join a cook-a-long with celebrated chef and food writer Rosie Sykes [14th November] or watch demos by Nick from Jack's Gelato, Liz Young of The Modern Table and Alex Collis, chef and food poverty campaigner; or choose from more talks, storytelling, and other fun activities to support you in reducing your food waste.

In the final week we ask participants to weigh their kitchen waste again to calculate their carbon emissions saving.

Cambridge Sustainable Food will support you with regular emails and links to events as well as forms to help in weighing your kitchen food waste. Their website will be updated with news of the campaign throughout October:

www.cambridgesustainablefood.org.

For more information please email bea@cambridgesustainablefood.org

Village sees new developments this Autumn

Progress on the new almshouses at Suffolk Terrace, the successful re-opening of the William Collyn Centre, the restoration of the Sculpture Railings and a busy time for Age UK's activities are just some of the developments this Autumn, reports GTC.

New almshouses

Over the last few months, construction of the three family houses at Suffolk Terrace by the appointed contractor Godfrey & Hicks has progressed well. The roof is now on and the windows and doors will be going in shortly before work starts on the interior. If all proceeds to plan, the two and three bedroom homes will be completed before Christmas.

The name Suffolk Terrace has been chosen to represent the original use of the WI Hall, on which site it is located, as an army hut for the Suffolk Regiment in the First World War. The houses themselves, Parsley, Pond and Searle, are being named after the three founding trustees of the Hall trust.

GTC are inviting applications from families with a Girton connection who would like to live at Suffolk Terrace. The three year appointments will commence early 2021 when the homes will be available for occupation. Subject to COVID-19 regulations at the time, an Open Day for Village residents is being planned during January.

Centre re-opens

Following the announcement in the September issue of *Girton Parish News*, the William Collyn Centre has re-opened and groups are using the facilities, with COVID-19 procedures in place to ensure the safety of users and staff.

These include more in-depth cleaning, hand sanitisation stations, the requirement to wear face coverings, a limit to the number of people on site at any one time and some restrictions on the types of activity that can take place. Hirers are being contacted ahead of their bookings so they know



what to expect and staff are on hand to guide them through any new protocols they will need to follow.

Helen Johnson, Centre Manager said: "It is great to see the return of some of our regular hirers after the closure, as well as welcoming new groups and activities. The positivity organisers have shown and their willingness to adapt their set up to accommodate the new regulations is a testament to them after such a challenging time.

"With many businesses not able to offer the necessary space for socially distanced

meetings, we are seeing an increase in enquiries for the Hall which can safely accommodate 30 people as well as having a large screen and projector for presentations."

Age UK activities

Everyone has had to adapt their daily lives since COVID-19, including our Warden and Older Residents' Co-ordinator as they work with Village residents.

Community Warden Fiona, has provided a great support to those on the Scheme, getting in touch regularly and offering reassurance to dispel understandable anxieties and feeling of isolation. This has been particularly helpful for those with families living away.

Age UK report: "The pandemic has evidenced more than ever the need for schemes such as the Community Warden. As soon as lockdown was announced, we very quickly put risk assessments in place to ensure the safety of our staff and the service users to enable us to deliver support. All staff were issued with the required PPE and although we had

to pause indoor home visits, we introduced doorstep and garden visits where suitable. When restrictions eased, we reassessed home visits and felt they were needed to help with reducing anxieties and returning to some normality. Clear protocols were put into place and the resumption of home visits has been a significant help to so many people who really look forward to seeing the warden."

Patricia as Older Residents Co-ordinator faced similar challenges and was unable to carry out her usual face to face visits or hold events. However she continued to stay in contact by telephone and email and liaised with the Girton Community Support group which was set up to support local residents.

When the lockdown measures began to ease, Patricia resumed her visits at a safe social distance and since the beginning of September has facilitated outdoor get togethers for older residents, allowing for socially-distanced chat at the Recreation Ground which have been greatly enjoyed.

Sculpture Railings

There is also good news for the area around St Andrew's Church. The Sculpture Railings at the heart of the Village have been reinstalled following the restoration of part of them after an accident last year.

Youth Project

Among the positive developments, there is also an area of activity which has not fared so well. The arrival of COVID-19 in March saw the closure of the Youth Project which coincided with a review of its funding in the light of reduced local take-up. As a result, there are no plans to resume activity in the foreseeable future.

Ann Bonnett, Chair of GTC said: "It is good to report positive progress after a disrupted year in terms of activities and initiatives. This has certainly been a year like no other. Earlier in the pandemic, GTC Trustees outlined the challenges of continuing to fund activities at previous levels in the light of much reduced interest on the Charity's investments due to Coronavirus and its effects on the financial markets. Unfortunately some difficult decisions have had to be made and the Youth Project is in this category. However we are continuing to support activities and services for young people in the Village including Girton Colts Football Club, King's Junior Voices and After School Club provision."

NOTICE

Suffolk Terrace, High Street, Girton **Three family homes available for** **limited term appointments**

Suffolk Terrace two-bedroom and three-bedroom family homes located on the High Street will be available for three year appointments early in 2021.

These new almshouses include a fitted kitchen, living room, small garden and an off-road parking space.

Applications are invited from residents of Girton or those having a close connection with the village, who meet qualifications laid down by the Charity Commissioners.

Request an application form from the GTC office, complete this and return together with your written expression of interest to Ann Bonnett, Chair of Trustees.

Closing date 6th November 2020.

Girton Town Charity exists for purposes which include the relief of need in Girton, either individually or collectively, or the support of any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of Girton.

Enquiries on behalf of individuals or village organisations may be made in confidence and addressed to any of the Trustees below:

Ann Bonnett (Chair)	t: 276354
Michael Aston	t: 07878 319743
Marc Bermann	t: 277319
Colin Carr	t: 276312
Dr Robin Hiley	t: 277296
Patsy Smith	t: 575288

GTC office:
22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.
Open 10.00am–2.00pm Monday–Friday.

01223 276008
email: gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk
www.girtontowncharity.co.uk

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272



Dog Theft

Due to an increase in reports of dog thefts and attempted dog thefts, we are offering advice around crime prevention and home security.

We would encourage you to be vigilant and cautious of suspicious people or markings seen around addresses, as well as cold callers,

and if you are approached by strangers while out on a dog walk. Please report such activity, with descriptions of the individuals and their vehicles, to police before sharing with social media and local watch groups.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or report online via www.contactcambspolice.uk/Report/. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org. In the event of an emergency, call 999.

- Ensure your dog is microchipped and registered with up to date information and has a collar and dog tag (use your surname rather than the dog's name, and your telephone contact).
- Take plenty of clear photographs of your dog and especially of any distinctive markings.
- Never leave a dog unattended in the garden, car or outside a shop.
- Don't give details of your pets, your location or your favourite walking spots on social media and make sure your security settings are set to friends only.
- When out, always know where your dog is. Be mindful of anyone who may be trying to distract your attention from your dog or attract your dog's attention away from you.
- Avoid leaving dogs in outside kennels if at all possible. If not possible then make sure the kennels are alarmed – padlocks alone will not stop thieves.
- Ensure all gates are locked at top and bottom with a shoot bolt and padlock and consider fitting a bell or gate alarm as well.
- Make sure your garden boundaries (fence, hedge etc) are secure so no one can gain entry or pull your dog out and to ensure your dog cannot escape through any gap.
- Consider driveway alarms to alert you to intruders and combine this with the use of monitored CCTV that will alert you via your phone or tablet instantly.
- For more rural locations, think about uwatch.co.uk/, a great multi-purpose security device that does not require Wi-Fi or additional lighting.
- Don't buy dogs from social media sites or any person where appropriate documentation (ownership, health check, pedigree papers etc.) cannot be provided, and always view puppies with the mother in their home environment.

If your dog is stolen report it to police on 101 and to your local authority dog warden. Notify your microchip database provider immediately and advise www.doglost.co.uk or via their Facebook page. They will offer help, support and advice.

GIRTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**WANT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE?
JOIN US**



Girton Neighbourhood Watch (GNHW) has members throughout the village who form a network of people helping to keep our community informed about matters that impact all of us. These include internet scams, anti-social behaviour and doorstep crimes. During this time of Coronavirus lockdown, it is ever more vital that we all keep a look out for each other.

If you are enthusiastic about keeping our village safe and you have some time to spare, do please get in touch and have a chat about how you might be able to contribute.

The village group is currently organised by Geoff Varley and Sandy Couch and our contact details are below. We look forward to hearing from you.

Geoff Varley: geoff.varley3522@btinternet.com (01223 276772)

Sandy Couch: sandy_couch@hotmail.com



*Resurfacing Oakington Road by night.
Photo by Tony Maragna.*

CODEWORDS

Each number 1–26 represents a different letter of the alphabet. Can you work out which is which? Use your word skills and the clues included. Note that Codewords can include names or well-known phrases. Answers are on page 9

16	20	1	12	5	21		14	20	21	12	21	18	CLUES A 1 14 B 2 15 C 3 16 D 4 17 E 5 18 F 6 19 G 7 20 H 8 21 I 9 22 J 10 23 K 11 24 L 12 25 M 13 26 N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z		
23		17		5		7		7		21		5		14	15
18	23	1	4	23	26	17		12	23	5	22	17		16	17
15		21		1		3		5		5		7		18	19
4	17	8	22	23	18	10	17	13		16	20	3		20	21
13			11			22		18		23				22	23
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2	21	21		5	17	3	10	22	25	21	23	26		28	29
5		26		5		23		10		6		26		30	31
23	1	23	19	21		9	21	26	12	21	7	23		32	33
17		5		26		21		21		26		22		34	35
26	23	24	17	8	10		18	21	7	22	26	21		36	37

WORDSEARCH

– Theme –
Some Useful
Jobs !

Can you find all these words in the grid? They can read Left to Right, Right to Left, Up or Down or Diagonally. Tick them off as you go.

N	O	E	G	R	U	S	M	K	C	A	R	T
U	R	R	A	H	E	C	I	L	O	P	E	R
R	Z	E	S	R	E	K	R	O	W	S	P	A
S	G	E	N	E	R	A	L	E	H	R	P	I
E	R	N	P	O	R	T	E	R	E	E	O	N
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C	D	A	L	U	R	C	S	R	C	S	B	M
E	F	L	G	B	E	K	O	A	F	A	U	U
H	O	Q	U	W	R	E	P	C	J	M	R	L
C	A	S	H	I	E	R	T	E	V	E	P	P

BUS	MASKMAKERS	TRACE
CARER	NURSE	TRACK
CASHIER	PLUMBERS	TRAIN
CHECKOUT	POLICE	VET
COLLECTOR	PORTER	WORKERS
COWHERD	POSTIE	
DRIVER	POWER	
DOCKER	PPE	
ENGINEER	PRACTITIONER	
FARMER	RUBBISH	
FIRE	SEWER	
GAS	SHOPPER	
GENERAL	SURGEON	



Shared Space for Remote Workers

We are throwing open the doors to our lovely hall to welcome remote workers!

One of the many changes that Covid-19 has brought about is the number of people who now work from home, whether this be on a temporary or long-term basis.

When so much work is being done remotely, one of the many results that the coronavirus crisis and new home-working conditions is bringing to light is the impact of the lack of movement and transitions between places of work along with the loss of social interaction with colleagues. Not travelling to and from work and instead making contact through video or phone calls can remove thinking space and social experiences that were previously helpful in cogitation and were perhaps taken for granted.

In addition, your remote working space may not be ideal for your needs with a lack of space or a busy/noisy environment making focus and concentration difficult.

At the William Collyn Community Centre we are going to open the main hall for workers on Mondays and Wednesdays to provide a warm welcoming space for all. With good wifi capabilities, plenty of parking, high ceilings and a lovely outlook this could provide that perfect environment to get those creative juices flowing or to aid concentration.

We can provide a separate desk with a power supply per person and plenty of social distancing as well as a private room for anyone wishing to make a discreet phone call. On top of this, there is use of the kitchen to store and prepare lunches and hot or cold beverages. We could even order lunch from the nearby café and have this delivered for you.

Obviously all of this will operate within the government's regulations for a Covid-19 safe environment and we will need to take and keep your contact details for 21 days for track and trace purposes.

Our hope is to establish a community of remote workers who will enjoy the environment and interaction with others in the same situation, and maybe even make new business connections.

We are opening our shared space weekly from Monday 28th September and Wednesday 30th September (excluding Wed. 14th Oct) from 9am to 4pm until half term (w/c Monday 26th October) with the option to continue depending on popularity.

No need to book – just drop in at the times to suit you. The cost is £3 per person per day (cash only).

For any additional information contact 01223 279587 or wccmanager@cambsacre.org.uk





News for Older Residents

Welcome to Michael Bigg, the new Rector. I look forward to meeting him soon.

Are you interested in future get-togethers?

I am writing this as the Rule of 6 comes into force. Thankfully, the September get-togethers were exempt from this legislation. At the moment, I cannot tell you of any indoor possibilities. If you are interested in meeting up with others for a chat, let me know and I can then keep you informed of future plans.

Resources

Some (perhaps many) of us are continuing to feel the effect of less activity, exercise and social interaction in our lives. And none of us is immune to feeling sad and lonely.

If you live on your own and would like to meet someone new, I can refer you to Sharing Time, the Age UK befriending service. The contact may be by phone, but could be face to face. Or, for daily weekday phone calls and visits, I can put you in touch with Fiona, the Girton Warden.

For friendship, information and advice phone The Silver Line on 0800 470 8090. This free confidential helpline is open 24 hours a days, every day of the year.

For mental health support, phone:

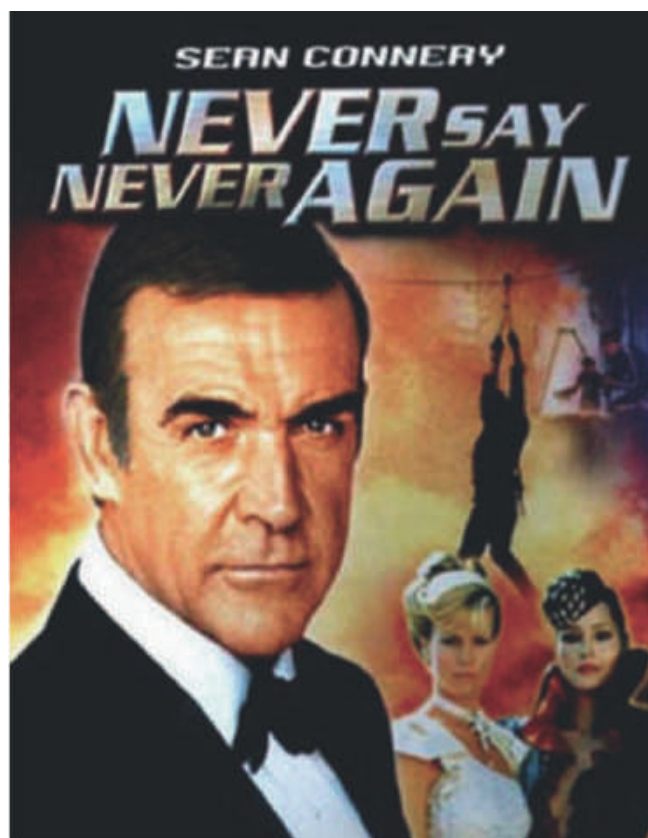
- Lifeline on 0808 808 2121, which is open from 9–11am and 2–11pm. Calls are answered by trained professionals.
- Psychological Wellbeing Service on 0300 300 0055, an NHS service for people who have been feeling low for a period of time. The line is open Mondays to Fridays from 9 am – 4 pm.
- And for those with the internet, check out the Every Mind Matters section on the NHS website, www.nhs.uk. It has lots of helpful advice for all ages.

Slip into Slippers

This AgeUK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough fundraising campaign starts on 2nd October. If you want more information look at the website www.ageukcap.org.uk or ask me.

supported by
Girton
TownCharity

Patricia Johnston, Older Residents Co-ordinator
Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk
Phone: 07469 660 866



As Sean Connery himself once said, 'Never Say Never Again'!

Now I have your attention, hopefully, read on to find the connection between Sean Connery and Girton Community Choir. No, as far as I know, he isn't hoping to join, but you never know ...

No sooner had I sent off the [Girton Community Choir](#) article to last month's edition of The GPN, saying we wouldn't be singing together this term, than it was discovered that various institutions had been working on ways to make it safe to sing in choirs! After a couple of Zoomed meetings with interested parties, it was decided to work on a Risk Assessment and see if we could safely sing together again. And we think it probably is! Hooray!

The deadline for this esteemed magazine is a little early for me to be able to confirm this for definite, but if you would like to consider joining us for one hour only on a Wednesday evening at the new time of 8.00pm, you would be very welcome. We already have some new members, but would welcome more. For more up-to-date information, please ring Jane on 01223 474667.

Jane Williams

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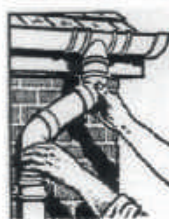


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St Andrew's Church

The Rhythm of Life

Firstly, a note of thanks to everyone who has welcomed us into the village. We've enjoyed starting to get to know people at the school gates and have had lots of people say 'Hello'. It's good to be in such a warm and welcoming place – thank you!

Unsurprisingly, I've been thinking a lot about beginnings and endings at the moment. How do we move well from one phase of life into another? Increasingly I have come to the conclusion that a healthy 'rhythm of life' provides a framework in which we can navigate transition and change. Whether it's the school year, the changes of the seasons, a weekly day or two off, an annual trip, a daily morning routine or a monthly evening in the Social Club, we all have habits and routines that give shape to our lives. Some are shared and given experiences (like the seasons), others are deeply personal (and perhaps no one else even knows).

The church has her own yearly rhythm as each year we recall the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, as well as meeting weekly to share fellowship and worship together. Many of us also have regular rhythms of prayer or reading the Bible (I'm about half-way through reading the Bible in a year at the moment – it's not easy!)

And then something happens to disrupt all of our rhythms and routines. A pandemic means that the school run ceases; our working rhythms change; even simple things like a weekly trip to the shops is disrupted for a time.

I don't know about you, but I discovered some things about my rhythm of life during that time. Some of my routines were more sustaining than others at the height of the pandemic, particularly the routines of prayer. The absence of other rhythms was like a weight lifted off me.

I have no time for the idea that God might bring a pandemic to punish humans or teach us. However, I have often experienced God using times of disruption and disorientation to speak to me afresh. As we (hopefully) continue to return to some 'normality' I'm going to be taking more care over my rest time – I might even attempt to leave my mobile phone by my bed for most of my day off! I'll also continue to try to develop the habits of prayer that sustained me through the

hardest times of this year. (You're welcome to join me at St Andrew's at 9am on a Tuesday or Wednesday to pray with me!)

As you look back over the last 6 months what have you found to be the rhythms and routines that give you life? What are the habits that you might be best to leave behind at this time? You may well have very different answers to me, but I encourage you to take this rare opportunity to develop life-giving habits and to ditch unhelpful ones!

Michael Bigg



Friends of the Rosie

Now that summer is over, take a look at the Hallowe'en toys available on our website www.rosieinstitches.org.uk shop. Please also take a look at our extensive selection of jumpers and cardigans ideal to keep babies and children up to 4 years

old toasty and warm through the autumn and winter. You can shop for new items on our website or donated items in our *rosieinstitches2010* eBay charity store, and vintage knitting patterns on our Facebook page. Please also refer to our Facebook page which is updated daily. While you are shopping online, you could be saving money and helping our fundraising for items for the mums and babies at the Rosie Hospital that the NHS cannot buy.

Shop on AmazonSmile, and Amazon donates to The Friends of the Rosie Maternity Hospital Addenbrookes NHS Trust, at no cost to you. Click on one of our affiliate store buttons on our website and a percentage of your purchase will come to The Friends of the Rosie Hospital.

Did you know that you could save money when you switch your providers? Now is the perfect time to see where you could make a saving on your utilities, mobile contracts and insurance – use *easyfundraising* to compare Broadband and Digital TV packages and you could be raising free donations for Friends of the Rosie Hospital. There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/forh and join for free.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Rector: Revd Michael Bigg
Tel: 01223 202145
Email: rector@girton.church
Website: www.girton.church

Associate Priest: The Revd Christine Barrow
Tel: 575089 **Email:** mcbarrow@me.com

Licensed Lay Ministers:
Mr Dugald Wilson **Tel:** 276940
Mrs Christina Deacon **Tel:** 525337

Churchwardens:
Mr Bruce & Mrs Wendy Hunter
Tel: 503958

Sunday Services: October

4th	10.00am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Taizé Worship (by Zoom)
11th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	All Age Communion
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
18th	10.00am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
25th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Morning Prayer

Weekday Services: October

Tuesdays
9.00am Morning Prayer (said)

Wednesdays
9.00am Morning Prayer (said)

We are resuming services in church and your safety is paramount: there is to be no singing, spaced seating is indicated, and you are asked to wear a face mask as much as possible.

St Andrew's is also open daily for personal prayer. All care must be taken regarding cleanliness and touching any surfaces. If there is anyone else in the church, please respect social distancing. And may you find peace and comfort in this sacred space.

The Taizé service is being held remotely using Zoom usually on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone is welcome. Please email Kay Barrett at singing.kay@gmail.com and she will send the link to you in order to join in. Any problems, please do contact us via the website.

Please check the church website for up to date information (www.girton.church).



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe
219 Wellbrook Way, Girton CB3 0GL
Tel: 279289

Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith
Tel: 926807

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

Sunday Services: October

Services continue online each Sunday at 10.30am using Zoom for the time being. If you would like to join us, and all are welcome, please ring 07751 748757, or email pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk so we can send you a link for the service. We are also meeting in the William Collyn Centre on the second Sunday of the month, the next service on 11th October from 10.15–11.15am. Bookings for services may be made on the website at www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk and anyone is welcome.

A Bible verse:

‘Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.’ (1 Timothy 6:17)

Verse 1 of the Hymn ‘Abide with me’:

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
 Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows
 flee,
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

Prayers from the Congregation:

Thanks and praise to you, our Redeeming Saviour!
 Thank you for the joy of your love and the gentle perseverance of the Holy Spirit whom you poured out on your waiting church. May we truly live to please you and not grieve the One who is your precious gift to all your redeemed children. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son purified us from ALL unrighteousness. Amen, Lord!

Thank You, Father, for loving me with all Your heart, all Your soul and all Your mind.
 Inspire me this week to love You more with all of mine.
 Amen.

If you would like to discuss any Parish Council issues, please contact the following:

Chairman

Haydn Williams, 40 Church Lane, Tel: 474667
chairman@girton-cambs.org.uk

Vice-Chairman

Gill Cockley, 73 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276703

Councillors

Jane Buckler, 28 Girton Road, Tel: 277636

Julie Dashwood, 36 High Street, Tel: 276590

Douglas de Lacey, 9 Woodlands Park, Tel: 565219

Val Godby, 38 Woodlands Park, Tel: 276372

Andy Griffin, 1 Churchfield Court, Tel: 07956 447674

Roger Hickford, Manor Farm, Manor Farm Road, Tel: 07985 770082

Anne Kettle, 11 Redgate Road, Tel: 277505

Shahila Mitchell, 18 Northfield, Tel: 07519 265755

John Thorrold, 53 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276760

Mary Rodger, 11 Fairway, Tel: 277316

Formal correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk.

District Councillors

Tom Bygott, Tel: 232966

cllr@bygott.net

Douglas de Lacey, Tel: 565219

scdc@de-lacey.org

County Councillor

Lynda Harford, Tel: 01954 251775/07889 131022

lyndaharford@icloud.com

Parish Clerk and Acting Finance Officer

Susie Cumming, Tel: 472181

clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk

Assistant to the Parish Clerk

Laura Lawrence, Tel: 472182

admin@girton-cambs.org.uk

Website: www.girton-cambs.org.uk/council.html

Postal address: Girton Parish Council
The Pavilion, Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0FH

Rubbish Collection

People in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are being asked to make sure disposable face coverings and masks are put in their black wheelie bins at home, to help control the spread of Coronavirus.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service has already seen disposable PPE such as face coverings, masks and gloves in the blue recycling bins, despite none of these items being recyclable. With a rise in use expected over the coming weeks, waste bosses are urging people to keep caring by disposing of the items correctly, which will help ensure recycling is not contaminated, and control the spread of the virus.

Disposable PPE can be put in litter bins outside of shops, but if there isn't one they need to be taken home and put in the black bin.

Bin collections October

Thursday 8 October	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 15 October	Black bin
Thursday 22 October	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 29 October	Black bin
Thursday 5 November	Blue and Green bins

Mobile Library

Mobile Library services resumed from 21 September. Access to the vehicle will be limited to keep staff safe. You can pre-order books using the Select and Collect service online, or by calling 0345 045 5225. Simply choose the Mobile Library as your pickup point and order as far in advance as possible (preferably 1 week ahead). Any books borrowed can be returned to any Cambridgeshire Library and books from other libraries can be returned to the Mobile Library, but late books will incur charges. For more information visit cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/mobiles

Thursday 24 October

Thornton Court	09.40 – 10.00
Abbeyfield	10.05 – 10.50
Cotton Hall/Church	11.00–11.30
Orchard Close	11.35 – 12.00
St Vincent's Close	12.05 – 12.30
Gretton Court	12.35 – 13.00
Churchfield Court	13.05 – 13.30

Contact numbers for bookings

Cotton Hall	07759 983420
Orchard Close	277164
Pavilion	472182
St Vincent's Close	276447
William Collin	
Community Centre	279587

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Mob: 07703 292354
e-mail: erica.n@me.com



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We are now welcoming new residents to Arlington Manor Care Home. And while we can't wait to say hello, times have changed and so have we. So, what can you expect? Call us on 01223 814900 or visit hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk for specifics on the precautions we have in place (and see what we've been up to!).



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