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Parish News



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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:

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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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Goodbye!

I got involved with the GPN not long after arriving in Girton in 2001, first putting together a Neighbourhood Watch page in the good old days when the Police had the spare resources to send us regular reports. I progressed to

writing articles for the series 'Focus on Girton', which some may remember, and 'Active Girton', which was Girton's contribution to the Olympic Year (2012). When I took over the editorship, we embarked on a complete re-design including a full colour cover, and this earned us one of the Cambridge Building Society's annual Community Magazine Awards, the first of several.

In the past nearly 20 years, the GPN has gone from around 24 pages in black-and-white to up to 40 pages in full colour, and the whole village should be proud of it. The GPN is a creation of the whole village: you provide all the content, the stories, the reports on activities and events, the puzzles and photographs; an army of volunteers edit it, typeset it, proofread it, carry it round the village and push it through people's letter-boxes. So thank-you to all those listed on Page 3 and many, many others not listed, who have made my time in the 'hot seat' fun – sometimes exciting, sometimes stressful, but never dull!

Angela

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Girton Parish Council

As we reach the end of what has been a year of total disruption due to the Covid virus pandemic we hope that residents will have enjoyed Christmas as well as has been possible, and extend to all our very best wishes for the New Year.

The deadline for submissions for this edition precedes the December parish council meeting, but items on the agenda include the presentation of a proposal for the siting of a Men's Shed project at Girton Recreation Ground, and the possible installation of vehicle charging points at the Recreation Ground car park. The council will also discuss new guidance signage for dog-walkers at the Recreation Ground, and the approval of parish council-appointed Cotton Hall Trustees. We are pleased to report that we have received notification of the successful completion of the audit of our annual return. Details of this are currently published on the parish website.

By the publication of this edition, it is hoped that the council will have received the much heralded planning permission for the pavilion extension project. Details of the tendering process are being finalised and it is hoped that work can begin this year.

After several months of fruitless effort in seeking cost quotations for installation of safety bollards along the car park/footpath boundary, we have at last succeeded in generating contractor interest and several quotations are promised. Installation in early January is anticipated.

As one year draws to a close and another begins, the council would like to place on record sincere thanks to our staff who had to operate under very difficult Covid restrictions in 2020. Special thanks are due to our clerk, Susie, who in working from home and being the primary contact point for the 'Helping Girton' support activities, has been effectively 'on call' throughout most of the year.

Councillor Shahila Mitchell, as the second contact, also deserves special thanks in this regard. We would also like to thank all those parishioners who have lent their support to the various groups in the village providing help in these troubled times. Girton can be proud that it is a real community and has an abundance of willing helpers in times of crisis.

Next meetings

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. 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 19 January and Tuesday 16 February.

A full list of Parish Councillors can be found on page 30.

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FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Lynda Harford

Health & Wellbeing

As you read this we shall have experienced a different kind of Christmas and 2021 will have started with the hope that, thanks to the scientists developing vaccines, we may be on the path back to a more normal way of life. However, there will still be a way to go to achieve that longed for state, and we shall all still need to remember “Hands - Face - Space” for some time to come.

Along with this cause for optimism and hope, we need to remember that the long months of lockdown and restrictions have had an enormous impact on the financial situation of many for whom getting back to normal may have added challenges. Please, if you find yourself needing help, do ask for it. The county council’s winter grant scheme is one source of support for families and individuals to access food and provide help with energy and water bills or many other essentials. An application form is available on the council website. Click on Coronavirus [COVID-19]/Winter Grant Scheme or you can call 0345 045 5219 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

As I write, the media are full of the news that the first Covid-19 vaccination has been given to a 90 year old woman in Coventry at the start of the biggest immunisation programme in history. As you read this, local vaccinations will have started too at both Addenbrooke’s Hospital and Peterborough City Hospital.

However, for most of us our turn will come during the early months of 2021. People aged 80 and over as well as care home workers are first, along with higher risk NHS workers. It is important that we each wait until we are contacted and, when that happens, we take up the invitation and attend the appointment that we are given. You can find out more about the Covid-19 vaccination at:

www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughhccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-national-vaccination-programme/

Local Highways

The 20mph zone which will extend from Weavers Field to Manor Farm Road will be installed in the next few weeks. All the preparatory work that was required has been completed, including local consultation and the installation of additional speed cushions. In conjunction with this scheme the parish council has now taken delivery of a mobile vehicle activating sign which will be sited at various locations to remind drivers when they are exceeding the speed limit and to monitor traffic volumes.

I am grateful to all of you who contacted me about local issues, many of which are highways related. Please do continue to report faults at:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults. In some cases the work required is too costly for the

‘business as usual’ budgets of our local highways officers. These go on to the medium term work programmes which over the last three years have included resurfacing of Girton Road/Cambridge Road/High Street as well as some of the footpath along Girton Road.

I am hopeful that the footpath between St Margaret’s Road and Girton Glebe Primary School will receive similar treatment in the near future. I am also hopeful that 2021 will bring positive news of the cycle path upgrade to provide a link to the non-motorised user facility provided as part of the A14C2H project.

Please do stay in touch with your comments and questions. Take care. Stay safe.

Lynda Harford

lyndaharford@icloud.com; 01954 251775/07889 131022; follow me on Twitter: @2whit2who

District Councillor Tom Bygott

Best wishes to all for the new year

I would like to offer my very best wishes to everyone in the village, and hope that you have all had a great Christmas and New Year.

Twelve months ago, I wrote that the New Year should be a time for optimism and set out a list of some of the good things that might happen in 2020. It is difficult to make predictions, especially about the future. Nonetheless, what was on my list has gone well, but it obviously didn’t include Covid-19, so I’ll have a second try at wishing everyone a happy and successful 2021!

Even with the pandemic, we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel, as the vaccination programme is rolled out. More information on this is available at the NHS website:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/

Blue Plaque for the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine

I was honoured to attend the unveiling of a blue plaque to the Rev. W. Awdry in the village of Elsworth on 8 December. Wilbert Vere Awdry (1911–1997) was a clergyman, railway enthusiast and hugely successful children’s author who created the enduringly popular Railway Series of books and characters, including the much-loved Thomas the Tank Engine.

As Rector of the parish of Elsworth, he lived at the Rectory there from 1946 to 1952, where he wrote five of the books. They began as a father’s stories to amuse his three year old son, Christopher, in bed with measles. By 1972 he had written 26 books, handing over to Christopher, who wrote a further 16.

The blue plaque is located on a barn in the grounds of the Old Rectory, Church Lane, Elsworth, facing the entrance

to the churchyard. It is the second in a series of plaques to mark important historical events and to honour the contributions of individual people in the South Cambridgeshire District. The Cambridge and District Blue Plaques Committee, of which I am a member, has been active in Cambridge City since 2000 and has recently been extended into the District.

More information on blue plaques, run locally by Cambridge Past, Present and Future, can be found at: www.cambridgeppf.org/pages/category/blue-plaques. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for future plaques in the village, the criteria for which are listed on the website.

Cambourne to Cambridge (C2C) Guided Busway

On 10 December, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Board voted to proceed with further preparations on its preferred route, requiring 3,000 trees to be cut down along a strip of land nearly 3km long past Hardwick, and concreting over a significant stretch of countryside for a Park and Ride at Scotland Farm. This decision is premature because:

1. A location has not yet been decided for the East West Rail (EWR) station at Cambourne, which should be a key destination for the route. Options for the preferred railway alignments and station locations will be published and consulted on next year.
2. The C2C route will eventually become part of the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM). This means that whatever vehicles are chosen for the CAM must be able to use this route. The technical specification for the CAM has not yet been published. This is the subject of a procurement exercise, with three of the ten potential suppliers expected to submit designs in March 2021.

One of the greatest threats to Girton and surrounding villages is that we will be swallowed up by an expanded Cambridge City. If that happens, it will be an overcrowded, chaotic and poorly planned city that we will be living inside.

Well-planned transport infrastructure can avoid that fate by enabling new housing and development to be built further away in areas that currently have low levels of economic growth and would benefit from and welcome more development. This requires a strategic long-term vision, with a properly thought out plan and the various transport agencies and project teams working constructively together.

Cllr Tom Bygott
cllr@bygott.net

A View From the District

Although I am no longer a member, I still follow the work of the Joint Committee for planning on Cambridge's fringes (JDCC) closely. It is ironic that the JDCC met in the week of new government legislation proposals. Government attempts to bring greater green criteria into planning are certainly to be welcomed, but developers and planners will find it hard to submit and approve acceptable schemes while planning is in such flux; and it is unfortunate that the Government's own developer Homes England does not have a wonderful track record when it comes to providing first-rate housing.

Northstowe is very much a case in point. Happily the proposals presented by the University of Cambridge will indeed be first-rate, and there are signs that the university is finally prepared to tackle some of the problems it has created for our residents on Huntingdon Road and for the disabled. The agenda for the next JDCC has just been published and I am concerned to see that the one item, on Darwin Green, proposes reducing the size of many homes. I shall be attending.

On 14 November we had another full but remote council meeting. We approved the establishment of Northstowe Town Council and were able to satisfy all the majority responses to our consultation, and all the concerns of the relevant parish councils. There were then four motions put forward by members, complicated by the fact that three of them wished to propose amendments to their own motions. But I am pleased as this was a result of us encouraging dialogue between the major political groups, so all of the motions were approved by affirmation.

The one most relevant for parishes establishes that parish councils will have an early voice in assessing the sites put forward for development for the Local Plan, before a list of preferred options is presented for public consultation. I hope Girton Parish Council will use this opportunity to canvass public opinion, and where negative will be able to develop strong arguments against their inclusion in the list. The other motions were on food standards post-Brexit, the Ox-Cam Arc and free school meals.

Cabinet also had a meaty agenda, mainly on our finances (which seem healthy) but also with a proposal to re-start the scheme to offer asylum for Syrian refugees which was temporarily suspended by the Government. I was involved in one of the earlier schemes, and suggested that one important factor which we should try to include is English language lessons, a proposal eagerly accepted by the leader.

Covid vaccinations have begun to be rolled out, and offer some promise for the new year. I wish you all a much better year than 2020.

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 me.

Douglas de Lacey

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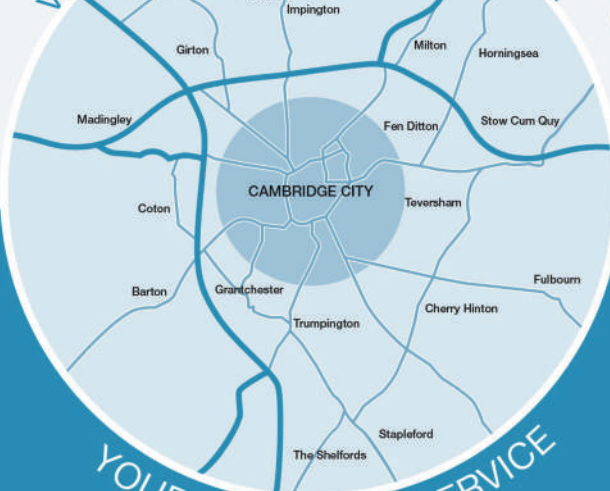


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News from Girton Glebe Primary School

Autumn Term Summary

The return to school in September was a challenging transition for all, but reflecting on the last 15 weeks has been a hugely exciting experience when you see all the incredible work that our pupils have achieved since the summer break.

Our staff and pupils can feel incredibly proud of what they have achieved in such unusual circumstances. Our pupils continue to display the most inspiring, resilient learning attitudes, producing amazing work in all areas of the curriculum. As for our staff, I cannot thank them enough for their dedication, flexibility and commitment in delivering such consistently high standards in teaching in ever-changing circumstances.

Our governing body and PTA have continued to provide such incredible support to Girton Glebe and our new trust, the Eastern Learning Alliance, have provided such strength and facility in their first term with us.

I would like to extend huge thanks to our incredible pupils and our fabulous parent community for their continued support and understanding. You have been amazing and we look forward to seeing you in the Spring term!

Christmas celebrations

End-of-term celebrations looked slightly different this year, but our pupils and staff marked the arrival of the Christmas break in style with the support of FOGG, our fabulous PTA.

Around school, our children enjoyed class-based parties and all took part in the Christmas Dinner on the final day of term, adorned in Christmas jumpers and paper hats. During the week, pupils also enjoyed a virtual Christmas panto, beamed into classrooms from Cambridge Junction. The Snow Queen was shown on big screens in each classroom and we would like to thank FOGG for funding the streaming of this event, our children loved it!

Our pupils took part in other class-based celebrations and forest school activities and, despite the current restrictions, thoroughly enjoyed the festive spirit.

Christmas performances

With Covid restrictions still in place, we were unable to host our usual EYFS and Key Stage 1 Christmas performances; however, this did not stop us celebrating the end of term with a virtual whole-school performance of Christmas songs and presentations.

Each class prepared a song, poem or Christmas performance and, alongside various instrumentalists, they were filmed and collated into a Christmas video, which was shared with parents at the end of term. Many thanks to Mark Whicker from Downham Market Academy for filming and creating the video for us.

EYFS Open Session

On 5 December we were delighted to welcome prospective EYFS parents to Girton Glebe for timed tours of the school and the Early Years learning environment. Throughout the day, we had the opportunity to discuss all things Girton Glebe with close to 20 families ahead of the application for early years places on January 15.

It was a pleasure sharing our vision and curriculum with so many new families and we look forward to seeing them again soon. More information regarding the admissions process can be found at: <https://girtonglebe.com/admissions>

Mr Andrew Spencer
Headteacher
Twitter @GirtonGlebePS

Codeword solution - see page 25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	F	G	P	L	X	N	S	V	H	W	B	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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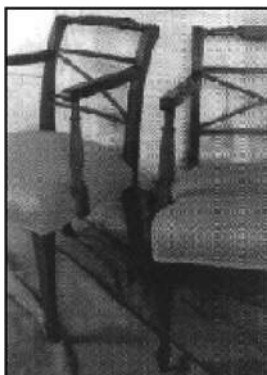
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Girton Cottontails Preschool

Happy New Year! With the new year, we have a new logo: our bunny has gone rainbow!

Well, we have completed the end of our first term and

though there have certainly been challenges, it's been brilliant, and we've had lots of fun too. We are delighted that everything is going well, and hugely grateful for the community support we have received. The children have all been working (playing!) hard and have made excellent progress. The Christmas holidays will definitely have been a well-earned break for them all.

We celebrated the end of our first term with a Christmas party. As we can't have visitors currently, sadly Father Christmas couldn't come, but he sent the children a special message instead. We also put on a Christmas performance which parents got to enjoy by video. The children have perfected taking a bow at the end of the performance. At Forest School, we had toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate for our last session.

During the last month, the children have been practicing their ball skills, kicking, throwing and catching balls, and games of tennis with a bat and ball.



The cold weather brings some wonderful learning opportunities such as observing and discussing the icy cobwebs and droplets of water on branches as the ice starts to melt. The very brief flurry of snow in December of course, brought about much excitement for the children!

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

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

Girton Glebe Primary School

Dream bigger, learn better



Parent governor vacancy

Would you be interested in joining our team of school governors?

Are you the parent of a pupil at Girton Glebe and could help with the governance of the school? If so, we would like to hear from you.

As governors we are responsible for holding the school to account. The school has recently joined the Eastern Learning Alliance academy trust and the governing body is refocusing on Teaching and Learning within the school. The school had excellent year end results in 2019 and has an Ofsted rating of Good. We continue to work towards improved outcomes for all our pupils and we have an excellent team of committed and enthusiastic staff.

To find out more please call our office to arrange an informal discussion: Tel: 01223 276484 or email

office@girtonglebe.cambs.sch.uk

or email the Chair of Governors, Rowena Barnes:

chair@girtonglebe.cambs.sch.uk

Applications can be made by submission of your C.V. by the closing date: 25th January 2021

Girton Glebe Primary School is committed to the welfare and safeguarding of children and young people and expects its staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment.

Girton Glebe Primary School

Dream bigger, learn better



Chair of the governing body vacancy

Are you enthusiastic about education?
Do you have leadership and governance experience?
Could you give some time to supporting the school?
If so, we would like to hear from you.

The current Chair will be finishing her term of office in the coming year and we are looking to recruit a governor to join our team, who is willing to move into the Chair position. You will be joining a group of vibrant and enthusiastic governors from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. The school has recently joined the Eastern Learning Alliance academy trust and the governing body is refocusing on Teaching and Learning within the school. The school had excellent year end results in 2019 and has an Ofsted rating of Good. We continue to work towards improved outcomes for all our pupils and we have an excellent team of committed and enthusiastic staff.

The role of the governing body is to hold the school to account by being a critical friend i.e. by being supportive and objective. A more detailed job description for this role is available on request and if you think this role is for you, we would be happy to have informal discussions with you and/or answer any questions by email.

To find out more please call our office to arrange an informal discussion:

Tel: 01223 276484 or email office@girtonglebe.cambs.sch.uk

or email the Chair of Governors, Rowena Barnes:

chair@girtonglebe.cambs.sch.uk

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I'm writing at my desk after a sleepless night. My worry? ... the deadline for submission of material for January 2021 Girton Parish News is tomorrow, Wednesday 9th December, and I went to bed with writer's block. In common with so many retired people living through the various degrees of restrictions — currently Tier 2 — an inevitable monotony is setting in, each day much the same as the last. The mind struggles for new ideas, especially when I've been writing the Allotment Society for eight years (I offered to 'resign' but was told 'No,'). Anyway, let's see what there is to report.

This morning saw the third consecutive day of dense fog covering the allotment site. Today, the sun has broken through and driven away the fog, but through Sunday and Monday, the fog remained thick all day, never relenting.

From my study window, I have a panoramic view of the site and enjoy looking out at all weathers: hot sun, sweeping rain, high winds, sometimes bland dullness; and last Friday a complete snow covering. Sunday and Monday's fog was fascinating. I estimate the visibility was never more than 60 yards. A few members, determined enough to be out there, from time to time emerged from the grey murk: indistinct, swaddled against the clinging damp, unidentifiable at first. It reminded me of scenes from the old ghost stories rolled out on TV each Christmas.

I am submitting a photograph. The automatic focusing system could find nothing sharp on which to do its work, hence the total fuzziness which, I think, captures the meteorological mood.

By the time you read this, the Allotment Society will have been operating under coronavirus rules and guidance for almost a year. Continuing undiminished throughout the year has been the thankfulness that we members have the benefit of being outdoors, physically active on our plots, and enjoying meeting and chatting to friends and acquaintances out there. From day one of lockdown, there was a specific statement from Mr. Gove (he can't be all bad!) that people could continue to visit and work on allotment plots. The committee has worked to encourage social distancing, sanitising and general common sense, and I believe members have complied.

I get the impression from all members that visiting and working on the allotment has been a great benefit for physical and mental wellbeing. Throughout the late autumn and the winter period, with more adverse weather, many members have continued to work

steadily whatever the conditions. As I spot them from my window, I feel put to shame as I hunker down inside. I suspect that those who completed the year's work and "put their plots to bed" earlier, in contrast to those who work on, have experienced a temporary loss of allotment compensation while living the constricted life (and I count myself one of those).

To return to weather conditions for a moment: it can be hard for the memory to grapple with the great contrasts this small island off north-western Europe goes through. During the last few days of snow, frost, fog, I have been recalling the extraordinarily high temperatures of late spring and early summer. Did it really happen? ... I recall very late May/early June spending two full days, morning to evening, in the scorching heat. I was determined to plant out everything which had been getting too large in the greenhouse. I was bending, kneeling, crouching all day, and loving the heat. I woke during the night feeling the most ill I had ever felt. You can imagine what I thought it was! After a phone call to the surgery and an unhelpful attempt to get a test, I spent the day recovering; and realised it had been sunstroke from labouring in the intense heat for so long. Now, huddled up and shivering in the cold, all that seems an impossible dream. But that's our intriguing little land.

Now it's looking forward to the coming season. The Society's bulk order of seeds has arrived and individual orders are being collected from a central point. We feel a buzz of anticipation as we study each packet, hoping to achieve the images of perfect vegetables on the front, and reading the planting instructions on the back. Perhaps drawing up a schedule of sowing times and locations. Undoubtedly many of us will have ordered too much for the growing space we have... but that's a gardener's world!

Graham Jones



Snow on the Allotments



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George's Gardening Tip

What do you think are the odds that you will be killed by a falling tree or branch? According to the Office for National Statistics, the odds are about one in 10 million. For comparison, this is 3 times more likely than being struck by lightning, but hundreds of times less likely than dying from an accident in the home. Generally, people don't worry about risks that have less than a chance in a million of happening (although the comparable odds of winning the lottery don't put some off purchasing tickets).

Why on earth is George on about this? Over the last generation, the Health and Safety industry has managed a remarkable increase in their market, and the motive they employ with such success is usually fear. If you are not personally intimidated by the fear of suffering an accident, they may still recruit you by promoting a fear of dreadful legal consequences if you don't play their game, and the law gamely backs them up.

Landowners have a responsibility to maintain their property — including trees — so when I was Head Gardener, I was responsible for several hundred trees, bless them. Occasionally, we had to remove one, usually because it was ill and might have fallen across a road or footpath. The height and weight of a mature tree represents a lot of potentially destructive energy, so if disease is detected you have to estimate how long it will stay stable, and judge the potential damage if it fell. This is not an exact science, and the mood nowadays is to err on the side of safety and take it down.

The majority of Girton gardens don't have huge trees, although there are quite a few, which are nice to see, so chances are this problem is not likely to affect you. Remember, though, those long odds of being killed by a falling tree, and don't allow yourself to be scared into taking down a "dangerous" tree unless you have consulted a qualified tree surgeon. There are rogue traders about posing as tree surgeons, and adept at making proposed work sound too urgent to postpone. I suggest you only engage a tree surgeon who has been personally recommended to you, or is registered with the Arboricultural Association, or at least has a landline phone number! If the estimate for tree work sounds way too much, get another estimate; pricing does depend on the amount of work they have booked.

Happy New Year!

George Thorpe

Cambridge Ten Sing

As you can imagine, 2020 was a far from normal year for Cambridge Ten Sing. We were happily preparing for the Annual Concert in March when the first shutdown happened, and we have obviously not been able to meet much face-to-face since then.

Before lockdown, we had managed a fairly busy time as always. In February 2020, we had had our Fundraising Dinner, which was Greek-themed this year. That was a

really fun event, and we even had people up dancing a Greek dance with us. The young people enjoyed this as much as our guests: another very successful evening, although it feels like it was a lifetime ago now.

As the virus started to affect life, we decided quite quickly not to hold our Annual Concert in March, and then meetings also had to stop. We did not do anything until late May, and then we really wanted to start keeping in touch with everyone, to show them Ten Sing was still here for them. We started weekly virtual meetings — shorter than our normal sessions, but fun events all the same. We played lots of new games, learnt some drawing skills, and had a virtual party at the end of July, delivering goody bags to everyone so they could all join in the fun — one member even dialled in from her holiday in Greece!

We then restarted with the new academic year, still meeting virtually, and we invested in ukuleles which we are all starting to learn to play. There were about three weeks when we managed to meet face-to-face, which was great as the young people could catch up with each other whilst still following all the relevant rules. Lockdown 2.0 put us back on virtual meetings, but we had a mini bonfire night event, made crafts over Zoom and learnt some sign language, not to mention two songs for our new instruments!

We wait to see what the New Year will bring, and will plan accordingly. We are still open to new members, and welcome anyone to come and see what we do on Zoom. Hopefully Ten Sing will, like everyone, find a "new normal" and we will continue to support our young people in the coming months.

Terry King (Ten Sing Administrator)

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GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Bowls Club

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and were able to share it with some, if not with all, of your family members.

The weather continues to be dreadfully gloomy and wet making it difficult to ever imagine being out on the bowls green again. Hopefully with the promise of a vaccine we will be able to enjoy a more normal season in 2021.

I understand that indoor bowls can be played, but on a very restricted basis. At the moment, players can play with up to 6 people on a rink if you are from the same household. If two households mix it can only be in a 1 to 1 singles game on each rink.



Indoor bowls

Our Chairman has managed to get the trophies and prizes out to the 2020 winners, having been unable to do this at our annual dinner, which unfortunately had to be cancelled.

As a result of the online AGM in November all the committee members who were willing to stand again were accepted, as was the proposal of two new committee members, Paul Foster and Alan Benton.

I would like to extend the club's grateful thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Secretary, Margaret McCall, for all the hard work and attention to detail she brought to the role. She will be sorely missed. Our thanks go to Geoff McCall who has also stepped down from the committee, but will still be very involved in the club.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining Girton Bowls Club, please contact our Secretary, Lynne McGill, at lynnemcgill63@hotmail.com. You can visit our website at www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com to catch up with all our activities and photos to date.

Lynne McGill



Girton Golf Club

I am writing this in early December so the world may well be a very different place by the time the magazine hits the door mats in January. Currently at the golf club we are playing golf when the weather allows.

Having had rain and snow at the end of last week, we are enjoying being back on the course, but disappointed that we cannot make proper use of the clubhouse facilities as we are in Tier 2. Roll on being switched to Tier 1, or being released from this partial lockdown completely. Currently we can just serve take-away tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks but who knows when we can open our clubhouse again to members and visitors for lunches and daytime coffee breaks – we just hope that it is soon.

Great news for the club has been the appointment of our new PGA Head Professional Sam Beckett, who will be in situ from 1st March having served his notice out at Oundle Golf Club where he has been their Head Professional. Sam is bringing his Shop Manager, Fin Swan, with him which means the shop will be up and running straight away and Sam will be able to spend time meeting members and coaching. With Sam we will be creating Junior and Adult Academies for newcomers to the sport and those who want to improve their skills, so watch this space and our adverts to see when these sessions start, or contact the office or pro shop in early March.



Sam Beckett

Membership at the club continues to increase with new people joining even when we were closed. Many of these new members are in their twenties and thirties so if you always fancied playing the game but

didn't know how to get started call the office and join now. Great rates are available for the under 30s and even better for the under 18s. Golf is a really enjoyable and safe game for all ages and levels of fitness and skill. Joining Girton Golf Club as a 5 day

or 7 day member also gives you 60 other courses in England that you can play for free during the week and at very good rates at weekends.

Hope you had a great Christmas and that 2021 proves to be a better, safer and happier year for all of us.

Alan Henderson-Smith
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Girton Colts

Happy New Year from the Girton Colts! After a short break from the FA, we're straight back into matches from 2nd January. Some of our teams decided to protect themselves

between lockdown 2 and Christmas as there were only 3 playable weekends and teams had no training during the lockdown. So it will be nice to see all of our teams back in action.

The new Under 5s team had a couple of taster sessions in December that went well and are now going to be training every Saturday morning. It's so good to see these young players come along to have some football fun. If you or your child would like to join in, do get in contact with teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk.

Member News

Under 8 Team: The team have made a decision to protect their football bubble for Christmas and are looking forward to starting their matches in January. We wish all the kids and parents within our bubble a very happy and safe New Year.

Andrew Hawkes, Chairman



Girton Tennis Club

The tennis club committee would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy 2021. Tennis is a great way to stay fit and have some fun so why not consider joining our club this year if you are not already

a member?

Covid restrictions caused difficulties for all tennis venues in 2020 but we all hope that, with the availability of safe and effective vaccines, we will

see the return of 'normal' tennis around the world. It would be great to be able to watch Wimbledon again this summer.

As I write this, the outside temperature is 2°C and there is a threat of freezing fog. Not ideal tennis conditions! However, we are past the shortest day and on dry winter days there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy a friendly outdoor game of tennis. Members just need to access the booking page on our website to reserve the courts.

The tennis club has use of the recreation ground courts and members who purchase a key have court access during most daylight hours. Club members meet and play from around 7.30pm to 9pm on Friday evenings (unless winter weather prevents all play). Potential new members are very welcome to come along to our club nights for one or two free sessions to check it all out. Please check our website for latest details as arrangements may still have to change at short notice.

Details about our activities can be found on our website www.girtontennisclub.uk or by contacting our Membership Secretary Kevin Keeves on 276660 or by email at info@girtontennisclub.uk.

Alan Franklin



Girton Netball Club Returns

Playing for Keeps

Following the relaxation of lockdown regulations, the team is back in training. Coach Helen has been leading us through some new practice drills on the art and science of keeping

possession. Without possession scoring is impossible, but it's all too easy to lose the ball to the opposing team. Possession requires good decision-making, strong and accurate passing and excellent spatial awareness. We enjoyed working on this aspect of our game in some rapid-fire drills which improved our skills and tested our post-lockdown fitness to the max.

Do you have a New Year's resolution to get fit and make new friends? Then come and join us. We meet every Monday at Girton Recreation Ground between 6.30 and 7.45 pm for skills practice and friendly match play. Come and try us out – email girton.village.netball@gmail.com or Facebook: Girton Netball Club.

Emma-Louise Longden

Girton Social Club

48 Cambridge Road, Girton. Tel: 01223 276890

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News from Girton Co-op

Hi all, this is Sadaf Safian, Girton Co-op Member Pioneer. My role is to work for our community, charities and local causes. I would like to wish all of you a very happy New Year for 2021. No doubt last year has been challenging for everyone but, as they say, there is light at the end of every tunnel.

2020 ended with Sylvia Goldsmith winning the MIND Hamper full of Co-op's own Irresistible range. You raised a huge £167 for MIND charity. Thank you! We also ran the Winning Words competition for children aged 7–14. Author, storyteller and a retired primary school teacher Jane Bower judged this book review competition. The winners, in order, were Valentino Lormant, Alice Tofaris and Brea Rothe. Congratulations! They each received a Co-op goody hamper along with a Heffers voucher worth £20, £15 and £10 respectively.

Last year's Girton Co-op Local causes received a whopping £3729.84 altogether. Thank you to all our Co-op members. This year, our Local causes are:

- FOGG (Friends of Girton Glebe) a charity supporting Girton Glebe school. This year, they aim to bring our community together to celebrate and support children's learning.
- Girton Colts Football club, which aims to help improve football skills and general physical, social and mental ability of children aged between 5–18.
- BEFA, a farming-based charity which supplies free food to other charities, supporting those in greatest need. For the last 3 months they have been supplying Cambridge charities with food as part of its Emergency Meals Programme in response to Covid-19.

Please choose your local cause today and become a Co-op member by visiting www.coop.co.uk/membership or download the Co-op app. Community is at the heart of what we do. I would love to hear from you. Please let me know what is happening in the local area and how can I support you. Thank you.

Email address: Sadaf.safian@coop.co.uk

Mobile: 07816 098778.

Twitter@Sadafsafian.

Girton Coronavirus Support Page on Facebook.



*Sylvia Goldsmith
won the Mind
Charity Hamper.*

*1st Winner:
Valentino Lormant*



*2nd Winner:
Alice Tofaris*

*3rd Winner:
Brea Rothe*



Thread and Thrum

Girton author Jane Bower's first novel for children, *Thread and Thrum*, is illustrated by her artist father, who has since lost his sight and is now aged 100. Thirty percent of sales go to the Macular Society, which researches the disease which caused her dad's blindness. *Thread and Thrum* will be appearing in bookshops in 2021.

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- Laundry



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01223 755 180 www.FarthingsCambridge.co.uk

Daveed Flanders

I am interested in hearing from anyone in Girton who remembers me. I lived in Girton with my parents from the Fall of 1957 until the Spring of 1958. My brother Zvi and I attended Girton Glebe, which was quite an adventure for two little boys coming from Berkeley, California. I was in the 3rd form, my brother in the 1st.

School uniforms, with short trousers, jackets and ties were new to us, as were the imaginative books we read, including Noddy and the Magic Rubber (those books have been destroyed by p.c.), Family Afloat, The Disappearance of Tom Merry, and the timeless Worzel Gummidge. There were books filled with puzzles, and there was English Monopoly, which we bought second-hand at a rummage sale at Girton Glebe. Nothing I had ever encountered in America even began to match the magical imagination found in English literature.

We lived in Mayfield Road, in a house called The Mayflower. Although visiting other children in their homes was rare in 1957, I did spend a lot of time outside playing with a neighbour my age named Peter. He was a wonderful lad with an unfortunate skin condition, and if you're reading this, Peter, I'd love to hear from you.

After a full breakfast, we either walked, or in cold weather were sometimes driven, the half-mile trip to school in a neighbour's van. A ride with him meant a stop-off at the tuck shop on the way, where his children bought the chocolate and sweets denied to a generation of British children due to the previous decade's unpleasantness with Europe. That tuck shop was probably where Peter Graves Florist is today. In the school lunchroom I quickly developed a lifetime hatred of tart rhubarb, and a lifetime love for the yellow custard it floated in.

The headmaster was named Mr Foote, which gave us lots of opportunities to refer to him as the Footmaster, although always behind his back. I had to learn upside-down division, English cursive, and in maths, base 4 (for farthings), base 12 (for shillings), base 20 (for pounds), base 21 (for guineas), plus the mysteries of crowns, half-crowns, florins, and why a thrupenny bit (three pence) was smaller than a penny.

I believe that I was as much an object of wonder on the part of my school chums as they were to me. Girton Glebe featured five American students, and five Jews, all the same. We were the two Flanders boys and the three Katz girls. It didn't take long for the confused children to make the connection that since all Americans were Jews, and vice versa, then all Americans were Christ-killers, as a few of them let me know one afternoon on the way home.

One memorable day in class, the schoolmistress decided on what was either a lesson in Christianity, or a lesson quite insulting to my intelligence, and probably to that of the other children as well. She asked each child to give his or her surname and Christian name. Following the after-school incident mentioned above, I decided to take a stand. When she got to me, she said, 'Your surname is Flanders. What is your Christian name?' My heart was racing, as I was sitting near the back of the class and it had taken her a few minutes to reach me, but I replied, determinedly, 'I don't have a Christian name, Miss, I'm Jewish!'

If anyone reading these recollections remembers me, please get in touch.

Daveed
dovshachar@hotmail.com



Dear Girton Parish News

One of the projects I set myself during lockdown was to walk every street in Girton. Having done this several times I am left wanting to know about some of the older buildings I have encountered. I have been searching online and as far as I can discover there is no written or published history of Girton, and very few historic photos online.

I would love to know more about:

1. 46 High Street – this rather resembles an old school, with symmetrical doors and a plaque reading G.B.F.P. 1863 in the centre. I don't believe it can have been a school, as the old school is next to the church, but I don't believe it was created as an ordinary residence. Do we know what it was and what G.B.F.P stands for?
2. 52 High Street – the arched windows are interesting. Again, I wonder what its original purpose was and what date it was built?
3. The whereabouts of Girton's third, now missing, pub, the White Horse. From the census it would appear to be somewhere on High Street.

I wondered if any residents could supply any information. Any help you can give would be much appreciated!

Jane Bower
jane-bower@ntlworld.com

Dear Girton Parish News

Sloe bushes line the footpath from Girton Grange to Huntingdon Road which many Girton residents use for leisure, enjoying the changing seasons. In Spring the blackthorn white flowers herald the warmer weather, then the dense leaf growth shelters many nests. In the Autumn the bitter sloes, dark blue fruit, can be found and picked to add zip to various dishes and gin. What a blessing these hedge rows are in our parish.

Sadly some people have been adding other 'fruit' to the sloe bushes, now revealed by Autumn leaf fall. Small black bags of dog faeces hang at eye height impaled on the thorns of the sloe bushes, contaminating the sloe fruit. Please could we beg dog walkers to take these bags home or to the correct bins as decency requires? Your 'convenience' of disposal of dog poo in non-biodegradable plastic bags is spoiling the pleasure of Girton people in our beautiful footpaths.

*Yours sincerely, Christine Bromwich
(Address supplied)*

Trustees report positive end to challenging year

2020 was a year like no other but it ended with positive progress on a number of projects, report the Trustees of Girton Town Charity.

Suffolk Terrace

Despite the constraints of lockdowns and adherence to Government guidelines, work on the three new almshouses at Suffolk Terrace in the High Street was completed on schedule by the end of the year. The homes should be available for occupation next month.

This is a huge achievement and our thanks go to our contractors and other suppliers working on the project who have gone the extra mile to ensure that the completion date was met, despite unforeseen challenges.

Applicants for the three cottages – named Pond, Parsley and Searle after the original Trustees of the WI Hall – were appointed following interviews in December and it is anticipated that they will move in during February.

High Street



Architects drawing of Almshouses and GTC Office on the High St.

The second major almshouse project – the High Street redevelopment – has progressed well during the year and the six outdated single bedroom bungalows have been demolished to make way for the new homes. A revised application by our architects and planning consultants was approved in June, the design was finalised and the tender sent out to selected contractors in mid-December.

The proposals are for a mix of bungalows and apartments built to Passivhaus standards and providing 15 comfortable and attractive homes for people over the age of 55 who are resident in, or who

have a strong connection with Girton, as well as a new office for the Charity.

Fortunately the funds for this project were ring-fenced ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic; the monies have been withdrawn from long-term investments and placed in liquid, interest-bearing, accounts with a variety of banks.

William Collyn Centre

Following its opening in April 2019, the William Collyn Community Centre has become firmly established as a valuable resource at the heart of our Village, hosting a wide range of activities and events for all ages.

In order to establish it on a firm footing, Cambridgeshire ACRE, a charity specialising in community facilities, was appointed to provide management for an initial period from January 2019 to March 2021. The aim is for GTC to take over full management during 2021 but still to consult with Cambridgeshire ACRE to ensure continuity of good practice.

The arrival of COVID-19 – and the resulting closure of the Centre in March – meant that no bookings were made for the last three months of the GTC financial year and up to September. As a result, GTC increased its annual grant to offset the shortfall, although successful applications for a £25,000 grant from SCDC for Community Centres and Business Rates Relief have helped to reduce the level of assistance required.

Grants and Schemes

Grants for Village infrastructure included repairing the Sculpture Railings, damaged by a car, and also maintaining the Sensory Garden. The figures that follow relate to the financial year end June 2020 and GTC's full report and accounts will be available on The Charity Commission website from February. www.charitycommission.gov.uk

In terms of education, GTC continued its support for Girton Glebe Primary School to fund enrichment activities and to provide childcare for families-in-need.

The Educational Grant Scheme, which provides assistance in buying books and equipment, continued to be popular with grants made to 32 recipients. The Hospital Taxi Scheme, which helps patients get to hospitals on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Brookfields Hospital in Mill Road and the ARU University Eye Clinic, was much used during the year by its 206 subscribing members.

GTC's Care Plus Scheme, which is to assist Girton residents to live independently by providing additional short-term care over and above any statutory care to which they are entitled, continued to meet a significant demand, benefitting 36 residents.

The Charity also supported two Age UK activities: the Community Warden Scheme used by 20 villagers and the Older Residents' Co-ordinator.

Grants were made to 13 people during the year to help with costs such as essential household goods, support for special needs and enhancement of mobility.

Other financial help was given to a range of specialist providers to enable them to give support and advice to Girton residents. These included: The Arthur Rank Hospice, East Anglia's Children's Hospices, Headway, Cam Sight, Macmillan Cancer Support, Relate and Cambridge CAB. Following declining use of the Girton Youth Project run by the YMCA, and funded by GTC since 2005, the annual grant was reviewed and, after closure at the onset of COVID-19, it was agreed that this would cease at the end of November.

Challenges

Commenting on the Trustees' Report, GTC Chair Ann Bonnett said: "The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on our achievements and performance. The Trustees quickly reviewed the Charity's activities as soon as the pandemic was declared and it was clear that there would be a marked reduction in both returns on our investment and Community Centre income and therefore our ability to carry on supporting a wide range of activities within the Village. The almshouse provision and development was protected, in part because all the funds needed for the building programme had already been ring-fenced.

"The Trustees were unanimous in their view that grant giving must focus on the Charity's primary purpose: the provision and long-term maintenance of almshouses and responding to the needs of the elderly residents in our Village. It was also agreed that this



GTC Almshouses at Centenary Court, Wellbrook Way.



The William Collyn Community Centre at Wellbrook Way.

would necessitate a reduction in grants to individuals and groups. Those affected were contacted early to allow contingency plans to be put in place.

Continuity

"Our office remained open but not to personal visitors and with our two office staff working alternately in the premises and at home, we were able to ensure safety and continuity of support to as many individuals as possible.

"GTC's income is derived from our investments and with very careful management, we have ended the calendar year with a slightly improved financial position since the markets have started to recover. I'd like to thank all our Trustees for their support and guidance during this most challenging of years and our Administrators, Gilly and Rachel for their commitment to GTC and beneficiaries of the charity as well as the huge support they have been to me in my first year as Chair".

Educational Grants 2020

Applications for an Educational Grant are invited from young people over 18 leaving secondary education and moving on to higher education and some training schemes or NVQ qualifications Level 4 and above.

The Grant covers books, equipment, tools or other direct costs relevant to the course and is a maximum of £300* per year for up to four years.

Next payment date for grant applications received will be July 2021.

Applicants must have lived in Girton for a minimum of two years immediately before leaving secondary education.

Contact the GTC office for an application form.

* Terms and conditions apply

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
Dan Buck	t: 276008
Colin Carr	t: 276312
Dr Robin Hiley	t: 277296
Patsy Smith	t: 07503 282199

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.org.uk

NOTICE

Vacancy for Parish Council appointed Trustee

Girton Town Charity, is registered with the Charity Commission and exists to help Girton residents, both as individuals and collectively. The Charity's primary purpose is provision of Almshouses within the Village and relief of the needs of our elderly residents. In addition GTC offers a range of Schemes and Grants to help both individuals and groups.

There are seven Trustees: five are appointed by Girton Parish Council and two are appointed by the Trustees themselves.

The Trustees of Girton Town Charity wish to be representative of the residents of the Village and welcome expressions of interest for a new member regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin on the grounds of gender, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, religion, belief, or sexual orientation.

As a Trustee you must be prepared to take an active and hands-on part in the running of the Charity which will involve working on specific allocated responsibilities. We have a monthly (currently virtual) evening meeting to discuss the routine business of the Charity with additional daytime meetings and activities on a regular basis. New strategies are developed at an annual all-day meeting.

If you are interested in the position, please contact the Chair or any other Trustee to talk about what is involved in carrying out the work of this vibrant charity.

Written applications to be addressed to the Chair of Trustees.

Closing date 31 January 2021.

Girton Town Charity, 22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.

01223 276008

email: gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk

www.girtontowncharity.org.uk

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272

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.

8	20	19	8	20	25		24	5	6	23	14	1
20		14		9		12		15		22		5
4	10	24	25	14	4	20		25	17	23	15	25
23		23		10		10		4		25		21
11	23	22	10	19		26	14	23	15	23	22	20
18			7			21		26		10		4
	26	21	20	15	15		17	21	10	19	20	
12		10		10		10			23			8
19	10	22	3	14	23	6		6	4	10	2	20
10		6		15		5		23		6		4
13	20	12	4	10		24	18	16	10	1	10	15
20		10		3		25		5		23		20
4	20	3	4	20	25		14	22	23	25	20	6

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CLUES	
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12	25
13	26

WORDSEARCH

– What shops can you find?!

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.

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

BAKERY	GARDENCENTRE
BARBERS	GIFT
BEDDING	GREENGROCERS
BOOKSELLER	HAIRDRESSERS
BUTCHERS	HARDWARE
CARD	HAT
CLOTHING	IT
COFFEE	JEWELLERS
CORNER	LOCK
CYCLE	PRINTERS
DANCE	SMITH
DIY	SUPERMARKET
FURNITURE	TATTOOIST



Hoping for a Happy New Year

Here we are in 2021 and we are still uncertain as to how the Coronavirus will affect us over the next few months. It would be very nice to all meet up again as we did at Christmas in 2019 but as yet that is not possible. For almost a year now we have not been able to

organise events and meetings other than those that we can hold online. But, like the proverbial spider, when we fail, we will try, and try again to organise something. To that end we are in the process of organising an outdoor Valentine's event which will include a wander in Girton Wood and will include any other activities legally allowed at that time. Hopefully, this event will take place on Thursday 11th February 2021. Put it into your diaries please. We will not give full details until we have seen what rules might apply to such events at that time. Full details will be outlined in the next issue of this newsletter if indeed we can go ahead with it.

Your Stories

I am preparing this article on the 7th December, only a few days after our request for your stories appeared in the December issue of this newsletter. Already we are receiving your contributions and some I have found to be quite funny. If you have not already done so please let us have the story of your childhood as outlined in last month's issue. If you would like more details contact us on the number below.

What's on offer?

Patricia Johnston, our Older Residents' Coordinator has several jigsaw puzzles that you may borrow and Club 55 has several DVDs of very good films that you may have missed. Ask her for details about these when you see her – all are free.

Angela

I would like to say thank you to our retiring editor, Angela Blackburn, on behalf of all at Club 55. She has been a great help to us, not only allowing our monthly articles, but reporting on our Christmas Pantomimes and other events. We wish her a very long and happy retirement and may all her curly commas and en dashes live for ever. Best wishes from us all at Club 55.

2021

It just remains for me to wish all our members and readers a very happy and healthy New Year with the hope that the Coronavirus will soon be behind us.

Sam Clift

Tel: 07850740721 or email samclift@ntlworld.com



News for Older Residents

I would like to welcome Rob Neal, our new editor. Thank you, Rob, for taking on this key role in Girton.

2021 and wishing a happy new year to you all. I am writing this on the first day of the Covid vaccination programme, so maybe there is light at the end of the coronavirus tunnel.

Childhood and Youth Memories Project

Thank you to all who have contributed so far. I've had some fascinating conversations with people reminiscing about their past. Contact either Sam Clift or myself for any help regarding this.

Talking Together (i.e., phone calls on subjects of interest)

As yet, I have not been given the topics and dates for the sessions in January. If you give me an email or house address, I will ensure you get the details as soon as I get them.

Jigsaws and the loan of DVDs

I now have plenty of jigsaws, as well as three Wasgij. The observant ones among us will notice that Wasgij is simply jigsaw in reverse! These puzzles have an added twist as the completed picture is a bit different to that on the lid of the box. There are clues to help.

Would you like one? Choose from 500, 750 or 1,000 pieces, or a 1,000-piece Wasgij and I will bring you a wide a selection to choose from.

If films are more of an interest, contact Sam Clift who has a wide choice of DVDs to lend out.

Patricia Johnston

Older Residents' Co-ordinator

Tel: 07469 660 866

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk

supported by
Girton
TownCharity



The Road Ahead

Happy New Year to you all!

2020, the year we have now dismissed with a sigh of relief, has been referred to as the non-year, the stolen year, the crazy year, and the year of loss and limitation.

But, upon reflection, it has created an unexpected opportunity to stop and think, to work out alternative modes of operation, learn new skills and discover new resources along the way.

Moreover, we may be reconsidering the value of community and mutual support systems. Might 2021 be a truly happier year of kindlier attitudes and positive changes that benefit our beleaguered society? We have come off the old highway and are heading down unexplored routes towards a destination as yet misted in uncertainty. We can scan ahead with doubt and anxiety, or with a spirit of adventure. Whatever happens, we will need the robust spirit of Emily Bronte who wrote:

*No coward soul is mine
No trembler in the world's storm-troubled sphere
I see Heaven's glories shine
And faith shines equal,
Arming me from fear.*

This is our time to look deeper, higher, and wider into life. Where normal routine would find us on the treadmill of duty and responsibility, harried by red-ringed dates on over-filled diaries, we have been nudged into a different gear.

Many have reached a turning point in their career or found time to re-order schedules to make space for a clearer vision of priorities. Which things enduringly matter? Are the things we have taken for granted now calling for more appreciation and gratitude? Are some old established habits no longer 'fit for purpose' as we review the use of our time, or will we live more in the moment and seize the day? Perhaps we might now choose enough rather than excess, contentment over consumption, simplicity rather than super-abundance.

Michel Quoist, the French writer, posed a thought-provoking suggestion; "Only love enables humanity to grow because love engenders life, and it is the only form of energy that lasts forever."

The Apostle Paul reminds us that love is the force that demonstrates the very nature of God, the dynamics of new life, the source of hope. When hope comes hand in hand with faith and the confidence of experience, it

wears the sturdy cloak of trust rather than the wispy veils of wishful thinking.

When Phoebe set out on her journey to Rome, she carried a precious document. The Apostle Paul entrusted her with the transport of his letters to the new Christians in that great centre of power. They were enduring many trials, persecuted, misunderstood, accused of instigating every misfortune that beset the locality. Phoebe's name means 'radiance' and the message she carried was intended to pour the sunlight of encouragement into weary hearts. It was a benediction, a prayer. It was an assurance based on Paul's personal relationship with God who informed, inspired and guided him.

He wrote, "May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him." (Romans 15v13). Hope, if it departs or loses potency, leaves only despair and emptiness, but hope, when it beams over the horizon, strengthens resolve, brings purpose and releases the creative energies to produce solutions, plans and strategies. Paul envisages trust in the God of Hope as a continuous well-spring, affirmed and refreshed. Its bonuses will be joy and peace. This is not the resigned lethargy of the battle weary, but peace that turns anxiety into expectation and donates the surprise of joy. God is faithful.

*Great is thy faithfulness
O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not
as Thou has been, Thou forever wilt be.*

*Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.*

Iris Niven

DENNIS FORBES

We regret to report the death of Dennis Forbes on 19th November 2020. He was an active member of our community, especially Neighbourhood Watch, and was one of the initiators of the Girton Calendar with which he was closely involved until a few years ago.



Girton Golf Club

The Networked Golf Club

Join as a 5 day or a 7 day Member

and Play Over 60 other UK Courses for Free

Low membership rates for juniors, students and the under 30s

Our New Golf Professional Sam Beckett starts on 1st March

Look out for details of his new Junior and Adult Academies

Our Club House is Open Daily 9 am to 4 pm

(Covid rules allowing)

Breakfast/lunchtime menu with daily specials

Call in for tea, coffee or something stronger

Stay Safe and Socially Distanced

Girton Golf Club

Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0QE

Tel: 01223 276169 www.girtongolf.co.uk info@girtongolf.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram



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: January

3rd 10.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm Taizé Service(by Zoom)

10th 10.00am All Age Communion
6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

17th 10.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

24th 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Morning Prayer

31st 10.00am Holy Communion

Weekday Services: January

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. If possible you are asked to join us online to allow those who are not able to do so to attend in person.

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.

Please email Kay Barrett at singing.kay@gmail.com for the link to join the Taizé Worship.

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

Minister: Revd Nick Lowe

Tel: 279289

Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith

Tel: 520442

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

Sunday Morning Worship Services

3rd 10.30am Zoom service

10th 10.30am William Collyn Community Centre

17th 10.30am Zoom service

24th 10.30am William Collyn Community Centre

31st 10.30am Zoom service

All are welcome. For Zoom please ring 07751 748757 or email pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk so we can send you a link for the service.

A Bible verse for the New Year:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46v1)

Some words from a New Year's Hymn:

*Standing at the portal
Of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us,
Hushing every fear;
Spoken through the silence
By our Father's voice,
Tender, strong and faithful,
Making us rejoice.*

Prayer for the New Year

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts. Amen (Debbie McDaniel)

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

cldr@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.

Bin collections January

Monday 4 January Blue bin only

Saturday 9 January Black bin

Friday 15 January Blue and Green bins

Thursday 21 January Black bin

Thursday 28 January Blue bin only

Mobile Library

Thursday 28 January 2021

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

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Orchard Close 277164

Pavilion 472182

St Vincent's Close 276447

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