

CIRTON COMMUNITY MADAZINE AWARDS 2018 Parish News Parish News



January 2022

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Publication Information

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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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Pop up cafe to open at Cotton Hall

Lexi's is excited to announce the opening of a Pop Up Café in the Cotton Hall on Wednesday 12 January 2022. It will be open from 9am-3pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and occasional Saturdays (dates TBC) throughout the year.

There will be a wide range of fresh homemade bakes and savouries as well as a selection of hot and cold drinks.

Girton Walking Group

Wimpole all weather path - Saturday 5th February 2022

Six-and-a-half miles along a non-muddy route. This walk includes several hills, and excellent views of the Wimpole Estate. Please be aware that once started, there are no shortcuts as all the turnings off have been removed.

Meet at the car park at Wimpole Hall at 10 am. National Trust members free, non-members will have to pay an entrance charge as the walk starts at the stable block, within the NT grounds.

This walk will be led by Gina and Paul Lane. For further information, please email ginaklane@aol.com.

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Cover photo by Sarah Smith

Copy date for February issue: Wed. 19 January. Issue date: Sat. 5 Feb. Covers 5 Feb – 5 March 2022

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County Councillor Edna Murphy

Oakington Bridge update

At the time of writing this the consultation on the works over Oakington Bridge has concluded, but the results have not been analysed. There has been a good response from residents – thank you to everyone who took part. It will be interesting to see the outcome!

One concern that was mentioned by a number of residents was that works to widen the path might interfere with or undermine work to mitigate the flood risk in the area. There should be some reassurance to know that the two projects are completely separate, have different budgets, funders, project teams and partners.

Work on flood mitigation is proceeding in parallel, with different funding streams and project teams. Currently the County officers are seeking to secure modelling to understand the future risks of flooding, taking into account the new developments that have taken place, which would have an impact on a number of factors. There will then be options for consideration which address the issues arising, which can be considered by residents.

The County Council has launched its consultation on the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy which has been developed with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood and Water Partnership. The Council is responsible under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to develop and maintain this strategy and is keen to engage with partner organisations, community groups and residents to have their say. The document provides an overview of types of risk in the County with details of the policy, legislation, responsibilities and resource that determine the activities and actions that take place.

The Action Plan then highlights priorities for the county and its partners between now and 2027. Further details or options for each of those actions will then be developed and assessed as they are delivered. The consultation can be accessed before 23rd January 2022 on

https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cambridge shire-flood-risk-management-strategy.

More resource for Covid vaccinations

A major issue for all of us is the new Omicron variant, which appears to have seeded in the UK, including here in South Cambridgeshire. The County Council has upped its response and extended the Enhanced Response Area status and funding received from the government to run up to Christmas Eve. The County is one of very few bodies to have done this. The purpose is to provide more resource for the vaccination and booster effort locally, to try to get as many people vaccinated and boosted as possible, as soon as possible.

I hope you have a peaceful and refreshing holiday season and look forward to a better 2022!

Cllr Edna Murphy

01223 577005

Edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Councillor Corinne Garvie

Do you have time to volunteer to help the vaccination effort?

The Covid vaccination service needs more volunteers to help as vaccination patient observers, administration staff and marshalls. You can choose the days or half days when you work. Contact Rachel Wood, Programme Manager – Mass Vaccination.

Telephone 03300 571 030 Extension 2981

Mobile: 07773 930 849

New Golden Number

South Cambs District Council has introduced a single Golden Number to be used to contact the council. This should help you to be able to talk to the best person within the council more effectively. We have also introduced a call back facility so that you do not have to hang on the phone during busy periods.

The new number is 01954 713000.

Green bin collections cease until January 13th

Green bin collections have been suspended since Monday 13 December because of the number of drivers and loaders absent - particularly with Coronavirus or self-isolating. The next collection will be Thursday 13th January. Food waste will need to go in the black bin till then.

Throwing away computers?

Many of our children and families in need are missing opportunities because they don't have access to digital devices. The County Council is partnering with @cambsyouthpanel and @cambridge2030 to refurbish and donate essential technology to families in need. If you're buying new tech this winter, please consider donating your old and unwanted devices. Visit https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/computers-for-families-campaign-kicks-off-with-arm-donation to find out how you can help. Plus it's good for the planet!

South Cambridgeshire community groups can now apply for double the funding from Council's grants chest

Eligible South Cambridgeshire community groups which work to improve the quality of life for local residents can now apply for double the amount of grant help from the Council's Community Chest scheme.

Continued on page 6

Not-for-profit voluntary and community sector groups, charities, small parish councils or meetings and public sector bodies can now request small grants of up to £2,000, increased from £1,000, for help in covering one-off costs relating to a project or activity.

This can be for improvements to community buildings and spaces such as village halls, pavilions or play areas; repairs to historic buildings, monuments or memorials; equipment or capital purchases or materials; or 'Start-up' costs such as training of staff and volunteers, hall hire and other revenue costs.

Business Support

The Business Support and Development team offers advice on the wide range of financial help available to businesses such as general business grants and loans, support for the arts and culture sector, grants for rural businesses and support for the research and development sector, as well as help for businesses to become more energy efficient.

To help support economic recovery and growth for those working within the hospitality sector, which has been particularly hard hit by COVID-19 lockdowns, it has set up a new website at *www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk*. This showcases the wealth of local food and accommodation businesses and the attractions of the area to boost both the local and visitor tourism economy.

Corinne Garvie Cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk 07780 932267

Girton Parish Council

The deadline for submission of this report having come early in December, we can report that December's full council meeting will focus on important financial issues including: review of Oakington Bridge village response and buildout proposal for submission to Highways; new Parish Council accounting software; setting the precept for 2022; and increasing Parish Council communication around our initiatives.

We have a number of interesting matters in preparation for January's full council meeting, which will bring benefits to our suppliers and to the village. Topics to be discussed include adoption of MS365 Basic Access software; use of *.gov.uk domain and specific councillor email addresses; the award of the annual grass cutting contract; repainting of Wellbrook Way play area access gates in yellow to comply with H&S requirements; and preparation for the May 2022 parish council election process.

The Pavilion refurbishment project is nearing completion of the design phase and we expect to have the completed design and costs in December. This will

give us a much clearer idea of project timescales and the impact on availability of facilities to users.

Reinstatement of solar stud lighting along the section of Oakington Road from the bridge to the business park is now promised for 16th December so hopefully will be in place by the time the *GPN* is published. It is only a temporary measure to improve safety along this very dark section of path before new street lighting is installed in the first quarter of 2022. It is also hoped to have work done to cut back the hedge and improve visibility of the studs along the section between the Manor Farm roads.

It is regrettable that a further attack on the Garden Society flowering phone box at Cambridge Road near the High Street took place at the end of November. The lock on the door was broken and pots were shattered, and plants scattered about. It is incredibly sad that the wonderful voluntary work of a few parishioners to bring so much pleasure to people in the village can be vandalised in this way.

We also received a very disturbing report of an alleged attempted abduction of a child in the village. The police are investigating and have visited all schools in the area to answer questions, issue advice and alleviate concerns.

Next meetings

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). The next in-person meetings will be on Tuesday 18th January and Tuesday 15th February at St Vincent's Close Community Centre.

New Parish Council Telephone Number – Please note our new Parish Council Telephone number of 01223 618619.

We look forward to hearing from all our residents and suppliers on any matter that is important to you. You all are the best people to identify things that matter to your area of the village. With your help we can make a real impact at local level.



Registration form

Name								
Address								
Phone								
Email								
Groups Please indicate	vour first and s	econd choi	ce.					
(Please check the	at you are availa	ble to parti						
on all the dates	for your chosen	topics.)						
1st choice								
2nd choice								
Are you a mem		Yes	No					
membership lis		Yes	No					
How did you fir	d out about tal	king togeth	ner?					
Website	Friend	News	letter					
Other								
Registration for		urned by						
Wednesday 5								
Please post to: COPE, St Luke's Community Centre, Victoria Road, Cambridge CB4 3DZ								
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10 January – 24 February 2022







Whipple Museum of the **History of Science**

21 Feb* 1pm



The Whipple Cambridge holds an extraordinary collection of over 7000 scientific instruments and objects, dating

from the medieval period to the present day. We will be looking at some of the more unusual objects in the collection, from an earthquake model to a giant frog to something which looks suspiciously like a crystal ball, exploring the questions they provoke.

*no group on 14 February

Support and reminiscence group

Mondays (6 weeks) 10 Jan - 14 Feb • 2pm

Come and talk with like-minded people about what's on your mind - any concerns you may have, or something completely different, such as a hobby you enjoy, the book you are reading, a walk you take every now and again, a trip you have enjoyed. Share memories of days gone by or issues in your day-today life, knowing you won't be judged.



Current Affairs

John Abbott

eks): 10 Jan - 14 Feb 3pm



loin us as we endeavour to unscramble the issues of the day, embracing multiple forms of media and examining one or two hot news topics of the previous week. We'll aspire to informed debate and lively, courteous discussion while relishing some 'you couldn't make it up'

moments. We may not reach a consensus, but hopefully we'll all leave better informed!



Eating well for the New Year Sally Fenn

Thursdays (6 weeks): 13 Jan – 17 Feb 1 pm

Many of us start the new year wanting to make changes to enhance our health. How do we choose the best, balanced diet for us, that's nutritious, delicious and doesn't cost the earth? We'll consider some options - flexitarian and Mediterranean, seasonal and sustainable, raw and cooked, superfoods and comfort foods - and share thoughts, tastes and perhaps recipes.

Cambridgeshire Stories

Mike Petty

Thursdays (6 weeks): 13 Jan - 24 Feb* 2p



Mike Petty has been hearing and sharing stories of Cambridgeshire for more than 50 years; what can you add to the memories of local life? Join in a series of weekly discussions that can cover any or all areas of the County. Each week the group might draw inspiration from events taking place on that date in years past. Stories from local newspapers show that today's news has often happened before!

*no group on 17 February

The Cam: a world-famous chalk river system

Friends of the Cam

Thursdays (4 weeks): 13 Jan – 3 Feb = 3pm

The River Cam is associated around the world with beautiful colleges, punts and banks filled with grazing cattle. Less well known is that it is fed by a precious

system of chalk aquifers now under threat from the city's fast development. Come and discuss the importance of this water to biodiversity and human happiness, your memories of the river and what it means to you.



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Girton Glebe

Last term was a busy and fun-packed half-term at Girton Glebe! The children and staff all worked exceptionally hard with their learning whilst also putting on a Nativity, KS1

Production and songs to share virtually with parents.

As usual, our children embraced their new topics for this term with enthusiasm and passion. They should all be really proud of the work they have achieved!

A powerful and polished performance from Year 6

Last half term, Year 6 children have written some wonderful pieces of writing. The children's carefully-constructed newspaper accounts of the evacuation of Dunkirk were a pleasure to read, showcasing increasingly imaginative vocabulary use. They have also performed wonderfully in their production of Goodnight Mr Tom. They really owned their characters and, despite minimal rehearsal time, the performance was powerful and polished, with the children delivering their lines with confidence and aplomb.

Year 5 write their own pantomime

Year 5 were lucky enough to participate in the Music Service's Stage & Screen Project, in which the children of Willow Class wrote, rehearsed and performed their very own version of Cinderella. In their modern version of this classic tale, Cinderella's dress was delivered via Amazon Prime and she flew to the ball in a helicopter! All of the class worked incredibly hard to learn lines and create costumes and props and we couldn't be more proud of their performance on the day.

A visit from a BMX champion

Before Christmas the children of Maple Class and Oak Class enjoyed a rare treat when BMX champion and motivational speaker, Mike Mullen, visited the school to give them a masterclass in BMX skills. In spite of the rain, the children were wonderful and showcased some amazing skills. It was wonderful to see all the children developing in confidence and skill over the course of a very damp but very enjoyable day.

Trip to Sedgwick Museum a roaring success!

KS1 have been busy with their topics of 'Dinosaurs' and 'Marvellous Monarchs'. Year 1 had their first class trip to The Sedgwick Museum to see the dinosaurs; it was a roaring success! They held a real T-Rex tooth and a fossil iguanodon tooth. They also found out how big dinosaurs' footprints are. Eight children fitted in a T-Rex footprint! At the end of term, Year 2 and Year 1 were busy practising lines and songs for their Christmas Production of Baubles. The children were fantastic throughout.

Ash class crazy about Christmas!

Ash Class have really enjoyed their 'Dazzling Darkness' curriculum theme, before embarking on their 'Crazy about Christmas' learning! As part of 'Dazzling Darkness', the children learnt about nocturnal animals. The children also really persevered with their rehearsals for their exciting Christmas Nativity performance! We are incredibly proud of all of the children in both performances – well done Ash, Maple and Birch class children for putting a big smile on the adults' faces with your wonderful productions!

Recruitment

The school is currently recruiting for a cleaner and TA's. If you are interested in either role, please visit https://easternlearningalliance.org.uk/vacancies/

News for Older Residents

Our situation has improved, thanks to the hard work of many scientists and I sincerely hope that this will steadily continue in 2022.

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Vivian, my manager, who lives in Girton, is leaving Age UK this month. All the very best for the future, Vivian.

Our County Office has moved. The new address is L24 South Fens Business Centre, Fenton Way, Chatteris PE16 6TT.

Ongoing events

A Club 55 lunch is planned for Wednesday 28th January in Abbeyfield. More details about this can be found in the Club 55 update.

If you need help with a new (or old) device, go along to the Computer Club on Mondays from 10am – 12 noon in Abbeyfield.

Kurling continues each Monday from 2 to 3pm in the William Collyn Hall. This game has similarities to bowls but can be played either standing or sitting.

There are plans for other events and activities. I will update you, as and when I can.

At the time of writing, the freehand tray and zimmer frame are still available.

If you need any information about keeping active within your home, in the winter months, let me know. And, I have plenty of 500-piece jigsaws to lend or give away.

Happy New Year to you all!

Patricia Johnston Older Residents' Co-ordinator Tel: 07469 660 866

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk



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- Jill - Histon





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Girton Cottontails Preschool

Happy New Year to all of the Girton Parish News readers. We all at preschool hope that you had a happy and well Christmas whatever your

celebrations involved.

At the time of writing, we are near the end of term, with just a short time left of preschool being at Cotton Hall. By the time you read this article, we will be moved into our new home at Girton Glebe and looking forward to welcoming our families to start back in the new term.

As well as packing for our move, the children have been having lots of fun with the boxes. The imaginative play possibilities that a box can create are endless. They have been rockets going to the moon, houses, tortoise shells, beds and many, many other things.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the Cotton Hall trustees. Cotton Hall has been the preschool's home for many years from when it started as a playgroup to the preschool it is now .The trustees played a huge part in making it possible for us to reopen the preschool in September 2020 after it had sadly had to close earlier that year. We will always be grateful for the support they gave us and take with us many fond memories of our time in this lovely building.

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 http://www.gofundme.com/f/emma-amp-laura-are-reopening-cottontails-preschool

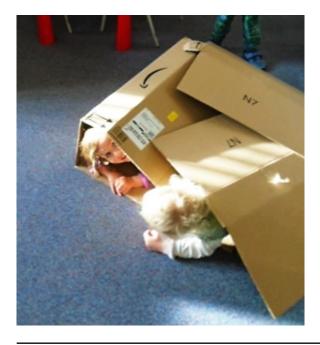
Laura Norman and Emma Pell

Girton Cottontails Preschool Managing Directors

Email: info@girtoncottontailspreschool.com

Phone: 07368 180771

Web: https://www.girtoncottontailspreschool.com Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



What's in store for the Girton Feast in 2022?

The planning for next summer has started and these are the dates for



your personal, club, society and business calendars...

- Music on a Summer's Evening Friday 8th July
- Village fete day Saturday 9th July

We undertook a survey of stallholders and business participants after last year's Feast and we received very favourable feedback. Participants felt the events were well organised and that staff were friendly and helpful. There were some ideas about how we could improve and we would like to ask villagers if you have any thoughts or ideas about how the Feast could be enhanced. Our contact details are below.

There are many ways in which you can take part:

- Your club or society may wish to promote itself by having a stall, providing entertainment and/or games.
- If you are a local business, we will be contacting you in the New Year for sponsorship to support the costs of bands and entertainment. We hope you will be able to support the events with a donation.
- We will need help over the Village Fete weekend
 - 8th & 9th July. We always need volunteers behind the scenes or on the front desk to enable the events to run smoothly.
- You may wish to book a stall to sell goods or promote your local club, charity, society or business.
 The more the merrier! The 2022 booking forms will be available on our website in the New Year.

We will be providing updates leading up to the events in the *GPN* and on our website. Please look out for further information.

Please contact us via our website:

www.girtonfeast.org.uk

All queries will be answered or contact Rowena: rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk, Carol: carol@girtonfeast.org.uk

Helen: helen@girtonfeast.org.uk.



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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 shown on page 22

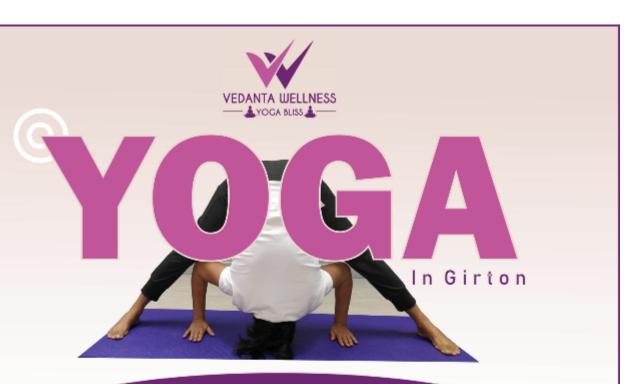
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WORDSEARCH – Christmas film titles!

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.

D	Υ	С	Н	R	I	S	Т	М	Α	S	В	D	ACTUALLY	ICE	SNOWMAN
N	L	J	Α	2	G	L	Ε	D	Т	G	Α	Ε	BABES	JACK	SONG
Α	L	W	H	_	Т	Ε	Ε	Α	N	C	В	R	CALIFORNIA	JANGLE	STAR
М	Α	М	0	J	S	С	R	0	0	G	Ε	Α	CAROL	JINGLE	TALE
W	J	0	Ε	7	K	٧	S	N	R	Κ	S	L	CHRISTMAS	KINGDOM	TREE
0	T	D	C	Е	D	K	N	1	С	2	М	L	CINDERELLA	KRANKS	WHITE
N	C	G	_	L	N	Ε	N	Α	N	Ε	J	Е	CLAUS	LIFE	WONDERFUL
S	Α	N	T	Α	С	C	R	Ε	L	Ε	1	R	CONNECTICUT	LOVE	
F	С	_	R	T	Н	С	Z	F	Q	J	N	Ε	DECK	NUTCRACKER	
R	L	K	_	N	T	0	Α	Υ	U	Q	G	D	ELF	QUEEN	
0	Α	С	М	J	R	Ε	Ε	R	Т	L	L	7	FROST	RED	
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Т	S	J	Α	I	N	R	0	F	1	L	Α	С	GRINCH	SCROOGE	

January 2022 13



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Sitting at my desk, I can push back my chair and gaze out over the allotment site. With limited opportunities for getting out and about during 2 years of Covid precautions (allotment activity excepted, a real lifeline), I have spent a lot of time turning away from keyboard and screen and taking in the site – the beautifully cultivated plots, the few weed choked ones, the sheds and greenhouses, protective tunnels and cages, fruit trees.

I am aware that in every bi-monthly article I rejoice at, or bemoan, what weather conditions have afforded us. I'll give weather reporting a miss this time, except to say that I can hardly remember a spell of days when the site has been almost so totally unpopulated as recently. With raw cold, blustery winds, leaden skies, and rain, it has been a surprise to see the occasional solitary figure out there, braving the conditions. But it is good to think that the soil, with worms, bacteria, fungal networks, is reconstituting itself. Fruit trees and bushes are going through unseen cyclical stages in preparation for the new season. Our frogs and toads, hedgehogs, insects and other wildlife will be hunkered down in the way in which each species gets through the winter. And, of course, certain crops from last season are standing, ready to be harvested for winter dinners – brassicas (most relevant, Brussels sprouts for Christmas Day), leeks, carrots. Broad beans, onions and garlic are planted out there, the vanguard of a new season.

In the depths of winter, one of the enjoyable little horticultural activities lots of us engage in is to spread out our seed orders for the coming season, studying each packet's illustration, instructions on timing, spacing and depths of sowing; whether best brought on indoors or sown directly outdoors. We draw up sowing/planting schedules. We try to remember where we grew what last season, so that we can observe rotational use of our soil. (Why, oh why, didn't I draw up a plan of last year's rows!) One early sowing is sweet peas, which can be done in December. I'm waiting for a day when the sun warms up the interior of the greenhouse and I'll be there, enjoying the warmth and sowing three varieties of sweet peas in root trainers. Sweet peas hold sentimental memories for me: whenever I drove to Birmingham to visit my aged mother, if sweet peas were flowering, I took her a bunch. And when my mother lay in her final coma, I held sweet peas close. And a flicker of recognition lit her face.

Once Christmas and New Year have gone by, and days start to lengthen, our spirits will be cheered by the approaching of the new gardening season. How good it will be, as those occasional lovely early spring days arrive, that we can increasingly be out there, preparing, sowing, eventually planting. Involved with nature, dirtying hands in the soil, aware again of the rhythms of life, human, animal and plant.

This leads me into my final thoughts. I have just finished a remarkable book, The Well Gardened Mind by Sue Stuart-Smith. The writer is an NHS psychiatrist and a gardener. I did find a lot of the book, with its explanations of the working of the human brain and nervous system, very hard to understand and heavy to work through. But well worth reading for the brilliant insights and examples of the effects of gardening and involvement with nature on individuals (often disturbed individuals) and communities (again, often communities ravaged by unemployment and bleak cityscapes). The author describes the transformations brought about in hapless and hopeless people by their introduction to a community gardening project, to flowers, even to a little cactus needing TLC. And she tells of initiatives by community-spirited men and women at derelict sites in cities, abandoned allotments, overgrown parks, and drawing the unemployed and the dispirited into enthusiastic local gardening brigades (sometimes defying bureaucratic local councils).

'What has this to do with our possession of little allotment plots?' I hear you asking. I quote from the book: 'I have come to understand that the deep existential processes can be involved in creating and caring for a garden'. This book sets one's mind racing with the beneficial effects of getting one's hands into the soil, nurturing delicate plant life, simply being outside and open to nature. One doesn't have to understand the book's talk about the brain's chemistry to be convinced about our hobby's mental and physical benefits.

Graham Jones, Girton Allotment Society



Going Green in 2022

In 2021, there was a lot of publicity about the Climate Conference, COP26, and the need for urgent action on climate change and the environment. And as we look forward to 2022, many of us will want to make changes to reduce our environmental footprint. This can sometimes be daunting, so we wanted to share a few ideas.

Heating

One of our biggest energy uses is heating our homes. Switching to green energy may be more challenging in the current environment, with some of the big companies recently going bust, but it is still worth putting on the to do list. And many of us could improve our insulation to conserve energy. Cambridge Carbon Footprint is a great organisation that can give you advice on this and other actions.

Everyday products

When it comes to the products you buy, go room by room! Choose one room in your house, such as the bathroom or the kitchen, and review the things you have in there and where you could make a change. How much plastic do you use? What disposable products do you use? And what cleaning chemicals? And how are all of these packaged? In the bathroom, you could swap your shampoo for a shampoo bar or move from plastic toothpaste tubes to a glass jar or toothpaste tablets. In the kitchen, swap plastic milk bottles to milk deliveries in glass bottles and get refills of cleaning products. Making one change at a time will soon add up.

Plants

Eat more plants! This can be a challenge, but why not try a vegetarian meal instead of meat once or twice a week and take it from there. This can be cheaper and there are some great recipes online.

Travel

Think about travel. This can be daunting to change, especially if you need to drive for work or commute long distances and especially in winter! But think about whether there is a shorter journey you could do on foot or by bike, or share lifts for longer journeys. Holidays

might still be difficult at the moment, but when planning your next one think about a staycation, or check out Eurostar and European train trips which can be surprisingly well priced.

Garden

Let the garden grow! Why not leave a wild patch in the garden for biodiversity to thrive. Or plant some



wild flowers, using seeds that are native to the UK as a friendly space for bees and butterflies.

Green spaces

Enjoy our green spaces! We are lucky to have so much green space in Girton with the recreation ground and Millenium Woods, Girton Nature Reserve, pocket parks through the village, and walks in Girton College grounds. Being in green space helps physical and mental health, but it can also inspire you to make environmentally friendly changes. So why not get out there and enjoy it!

Sarah Ferriss and Sarah Smith Green Blue You www.greenblueyou.com



An alternative viewpoint on a common saying

I wonder, if like me, you are familiar with the saying that if something is worth doing, it's worth doing well.

It is only in recent months that I was made aware of a slightly different version of this saying and an alternative viewpoint. If something is worth doing it's worth doing poorly until you can do it well.

I was puzzled by this different version until I really thought about it. It seems timely to share with you my understanding when, at the start of a new calendar year, many people make resolutions which are then so quickly abandoned because aspirations and high expectations have not been met. So, the message here is that sometimes we cannot do things which we know are important exactly as we wish, perfectly or in an ideal way. And instead of then abandoning them with an 'all or nothing' desperation, maybe what we should try and do is start small and do part of it. In practical terms:

- You know you should do 10,000 steps each day but you can't find the motivation. Why not try for a couple of 10 minute walks each day instead there are still health benefits in doing this.
- You want to drink more water to help with hydration, avoiding headaches and supporting a healthy lifestyle but 8 glasses per day seems too much. Why not try drinking one glass of water before and after each meal 6 glasses already and then you'll be on your way to 8 in no time.
- You'd like to pause more during your day, to take a break and not feel so overwhelmed, but there's no way you have time for a half hour break; you're too busy to stop for long enough. Why not aim for three 5 minute pauses each day, setting a timer to remind you?

There's no need to set a resolution, you can quietly and gradually make a difference to what is important to you.



Signposting

If you're looking for a database of drug treatment services, www.drugwise.org.uk is a website searchable by several different criteria including service name, treatment offered and geographical region.

Juliet Adloune, a longstanding Girton resident, is a fully qualified and accredited Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor and Suicide First Aid Associate Tutor experienced in delivering the full suite of MHFA and SFA courses and committed to supporting mental health within her local community.

Contact her via:

www.facebook.com/listeninglantern.julietadloune or mhfa.julietadloune@gmail.com.

Three recent discoveries to tempt your palate as we start the new year

• • •

Why not kick the year off with something a little different? Here are three interesting wines to tempt your palate ... Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and looking forward to sharing new discoveries with you in 2022!

Although we might automatically think of Germany when we think of Riesling, the grape is very adaptable and is grown in many different parts of the world. The common denominator is its preference for cooler, more temperate environments, where the longer growing times enable the grapes to retain their characteristic acidity as they ripen.



The Eight Thousand Lakes 2019 Riesling is a very good example of a fresh, vibrant, aromatic Riesling. It's an off-dry wine with refreshing acidity and has aromas of apple, pear and honey on the nose, and lemon and peach flavours with a touch of minerality on the palate. A smooth wine with a long finish, it can be drunk by itself or paired with seafood or a slightly spicy Asian dish.

Majestic (£12.99, Mix Six £9.99)

Somborne Estate Reserve Red 2014 (England)

One of the things I enjoy most about exploring English and Welsh wines is the opportunity to try unusual grape varieties. And if you're looking for a little treat to help you get into gear as we start 2022, this delightful Rondo wine from Somborne Valley Vineyard in Hampshire, ticks all the boxes.

Rondo is a hybrid grape variety, created in 1964 when Zarya Severa, a grape variety of Russian origin, was crossed with St Laurent from Austria. Given its hardiness and high resistance to winter frost, it generally fares well in Northern Europe and is widely cultivated in the UK.



Deep ruby in colour, this is a rich, smooth, mediumbodied wine. It has blackberry, plum and black cherry aromas, with notes of cinnamon and vanilla, on the nose, and rich black fruit flavours with savoury notes on the palate.

This is a wine to sit and relax with, or to enjoy with lamb chops, beef casserole or your favourite cheese.

Available from Grape Britannia (£15.99)

Domaine la Hitaire 'Les Tours' 2019 (France)



Quite apart from the obvious choices, France is a wine region that never fails to surprise and delight. And Gascony in southwest France is a quiet corner of the country that punches above its size. Here you can find a real abundance of interesting and unusual grape varieties, and this blend of Ugni Blanc, Colombard and Gros Manseng is a little gem.

This is a dry wine with relatively low alcohol and a crisp, refreshing acidity. It has aromas of lemon, grapefruit and apple, with floral and herbaceous notes on the nose,

and flavours of peach, nectarine and lychee, with a hint of spice on the palate. Well-balanced with a long finish, this is a perfect apéritif wine, and will go well with goat's cheese, seafood, or a slightly spicy dish.

Available from Majestic (£8.99, Mix Six £6.99)

Martin Nuttall www.itmustbewineoclock

— GIRTON scoreboard

looking forward to the last game of the season. Hope everyone had a merry Christmas! KS

Andrew Hawkes, Chairman



Girton Colts Football Club

At the time of writing, I have no idea what the FA response to the current threat of Omicron will be. However, as we are outside, we hope to carry on

playing. If we do, then we kick off again from Saturday 8th January. If you are free and able to come down to enjoy a match and a coffee from our tuckshop then you're more than welcome to join us ... hopefully with just a nip of frost in the air rather than torrential rain!

Committee roles

We are looking for any village volunteers who would like to get involved with some of the committee roles of the club. We have many non-coaching roles to fill and it would be great to get external help if possible. If you are into football then why not be part of the organisation, instead of just a spectator. Involvement is super rewarding and we have roles that suit all. Contact Andrew for more information *chair@gironcolts.co.uk*.

Referees still needed ... can you help?

The FA are very low on referees this season, so it's all hands on deck for clubs to find referees for matches. We really need a pool of local people who we can call upon. It's important to have impartial referees and not parents as it assists in the depth of experience our players can get from playing matches. Our club is very welcoming, and you will be given full support in learning how to be a referee as well as being paid too! If you're interested, please contact *matchsec@girtoncolts.co.uk*.

Girton Colts team news

Under 10s

Girton Colts Under 10s are really going from strength to strength. The team are working hard in training, learning new parts of the game and of course we still bring the fun element to training and matches. They are seeing their rewards for all their efforts, as they are now through to the quarter finals of the cup, where they will play Saffron Walden Red away on January 22nd. Come on you Colts!!! SG

Under 11s

The under 11s have had a great month, with two away victories including a hard-fought win at Burwell. The team also showed huge spirit and determination in coming back from a heavy loss at half time to almost clinching a draw at Soham. The group are really developing well, with every player improving their individual skills and teamwork, with players such as Sophie, Sofia, Fred and Jasper all stepping up. We're all

18 Sept 11

Girton Netball Club

I'm pleased to report the team has won two matches since my last article. In the Cambridge Adult Friendly League (CAFL), we scored an incredible victory over

Linton, winning 22–15; our first success of the season and proof that our efforts in training are paying off. And in a gripping game against Melbourn, also in the CAFL, the score went down to the wire ending 30–29 to Girton. Well done to shooters Amy and Catherine for getting free in the D despite close marking and to the centre-third players for exploiting the full width of the court. It was a very tense match!

The courts at Milton have been pressure-washed to remove the slippery moss that had grown up during lockdown. This is good news and much safer for the players now, though I'm pleased to report there were no match casualties at Milton apart from Lucy's trainers which split open through overuse. Hopefully Santa brought you a new pair for Christmas, Lucy.

Training with Helen continues in 2022 on Mondays, 6.30 – 7.45pm at Girton Rec. All welcome. Email *girton.village.netball@gmail.com* or facebook: *Girton Netball Club*.

Emma-Louise Longden



No match casualties apart from Lucy's trainers

10W1 5 (1.0)

Girton Bowls Club

In spite of the really cold weather the AGM held on 26th November was very well attended. There were 14 apologies and 24 attendees including the Committee

members. The members were then informed that, following their agreement, the Club had made an application to enter a second team into the Ely & District Afternoon League. Our application has since been accepted and members will be invited to choose which leagues they wish to play in next season as well as which team in the E&D League they would like to be selected for.

As a result of discussions at the AGM and following an attendance at the Parish Council meeting the Club will be obtaining an estimate from a local builder of how much it would cost to erect a toilet/changing room facility at the Club. This will then be submitted to the Parish Council in an effort to find an alternative solution to the difficulty we are having accessing the facilities at the William Collyn Community Centre.

Our Chairman advised that he has approached Abbeyfield in Wellbrook Way regarding the possible use of their facilities for after match refreshments and toilets. He was delighted to report that he received a very positive response; the Management at Abbeyfield were more than happy to facilitate all our requirements free of charge. This means that for all the evening home matches we will be able to make use of this very pleasant venue. We very much appreciate their amazingly generous offer.

Both Indoor Bowls teams, Girton 1 and Girton 2, are continuing to play their League matches at Chesterton Bowls Club. Girton 1 are currently sitting at the top of Division 2 and at the moment Girton 2 are in 7th position.

Our C&D finalists from this year's external competitions will be attending the Presentation dinner at Girton Golf Club in February, when they will receive their awards.

If you would like to find out more about joining Girton Bowls Club next season, please see our website at www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com or email our new Secretary, carey@horton.uk.net.

Happy New Year to all.

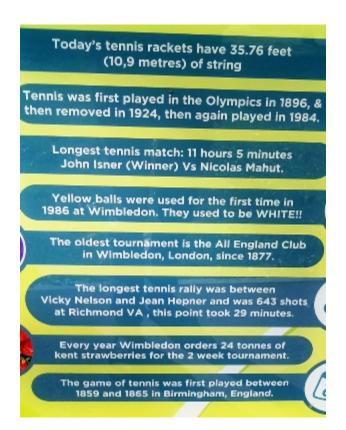
Lynne McGill



Girton Tennis Club

Our committee would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy 2022. 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?



Fun facts.

As I write this, the outside temperature is 5°C and there is a threat of gales and heavy rain. Not ideal tennis conditions! However, when you read this we will be 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.

If you are playing outdoors over the winter, we recommend that you check that there is adequate grip between your shoes and the court surface before starting to play. I often try and play in the mornings and, if the frost has not burnt off, I do not risk playing and slipping.

The 'Tennis Fun Facts' picture we tried to publish in December was a little bit too small to read. Here is a final attempt!

The tennis club has use of the recreation ground courts and members who purchase a key and have a confirmed booking have court access during most daylight hours. Club members meet and play from around 7.30pm to 9pm on Friday evenings. Potential new members are very welcome to come along to our Friday club nights for one or two free sessions to check it all out.

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

Alan Franklin

Continued on page 21



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Girton Golf Club

Membership Special Offer

Join before 10th Jan 2022...

Get 15 months membership for the price of 12

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Get 14 months membership for the price of 12

Join before 10th March 2022...

Get 13 months membership for the price of 12



For more info please contact the office@girtongolf.co.uk or our Head Professional sambeckett@girtongolf.co.uk or alternatively call 01223 276169





Girton Golf Club



Typing this on an extremely cold December day after playing golf in the morning reminds me of why summer golf is such a pleasant pastime and winter golf

a little more testing. However, it is still great exercise providing you are sufficiently well wrapped up and are prepared to accept unexpected weather conditions.

As we move to the year-end, we have just held the final official function with our Men's Presentation Evening. A good turnout of members celebrated the wins in our numerous competitions and most of the winners were present to receive their trophies. Winners were asked to leave their cups and salvers in the clubhouse to prevent damage, but one asked if he could take his away to show his grandmother – who could say no?

The club has a special offer on during December, January and February to attract new members. Up to the 10th January you can buy 15 months for the price of 12, and

the following month that becomes 14 months for the price of 12 – a great deal if you are thinking of joining a new club, or even getting into golf for the first time. Call the office or Sam Beckett, our Head Professional, in the Pro Shop for more information.

Our clubhouse will be open throughout the winter months for members and visitors with great lunches, excellent coffee and a wide range of alcoholic drinks. Just pop in and relax, with a lovely view across the golf course. Incidentally, the clubhouse is also available for business and social meetings from 2 to 100 people.

On Friday 10th December we held our Christmas Quiz Night and presented a cheque to our chosen charity for the last 2 years, Alzheimer's Research. The Quiz Nights are held every 3 weeks – to find out more call the office or the bar.

That just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Alan Henderson-Smith Tel: 01223 276169 www.girtongolf.co.uk



On Tuesday 14th December, Girton Golf Club presented a cheque for £7,202.66 to Alzheimer's Research, the club's Captain's Charity for the last two years. Mo Dualeh of Alzheimer's Research received the cheque from Chris Stanton, Seniors Captain, Alan Henderson-Smith, Club Captain, and Sarah Pugh, Lady Captain. This has been a tremendous effort over two very difficult years and was much appreciated by Alzheimer's Research.

January 2022 21



If you are a lover of classic music then it's well worth checking out these free concerts at Girton College this month.

Sunday 23 January at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College

Charlotte Howdle (violin)

Robert Jones (viola)

Sam O'Neal (piano)

Franck's Violin Sonata, Brahms's Scherzo from the 'FAE' Sonata, and Britten's arrangement of Bridge's 'There is a willow grows aslant a brook'

Admission free; retiring collection

Saturday 29 January at 8.00 pm (until 9.00 pm)

Great Hall, Girton College

'two women'

Music: Marcella Keating; Direction: Joe Wardhaugh Two short dramatic works inspired by the writings of Virginia Woolf

Admission free; retiring collection

Sunday 30 January at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College

Emma Scott (violin)

Ben Markovic (piano)

Jacqueline Seki (violin)

Isabella Chan (cello)

Juliette Richards (piano)

Brahms's Violin Sonata in A major (the 'Thuner' Sonata), Op. 100, and Fauré's Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 120.

Admission free; retiring collection

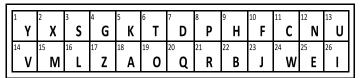


Girton Musical Theatre: The Yeomen of the Guard (Gilbert & Sullivan)

We are stepping back in time to around 1540. King Henry is no longer the fun-loving prince and Defender of The Faith. He has morphed into an unhealthy, bloated tyrant, suspicious of all but his closest friends and even their positions are somewhat precarious.



Codeword Solution see page 13



It is in this climate, the curtain rises in the Tower of London: not just a fortress and palace but, by now, a place of fear and dread. No one wants to be invited to stay there at Henry's pleasure. There has been a fire in the Beauchamp Tower and there is clearing up to do because an important event is about to take place – an execution! Usually this would be a cause of excitement – something to look forward to, but the prisoner, Fairfax, who is about to lose his head is not guilty of any crime. He is a war hero, popular with the people, and the victim of jealousy and envy, so the Wardens of The Tower are not looking forward to executing their duty – or Fairfax!

Enter Phoebe, who has fallen in love with the condemned man and would do anything to help him gain his freedom, as would her (misogynist) father and brother, because they both owe their lives to him. Wilfred, the head jailer and assistant tormentor would really like to marry Phoebe, so has a vested interest in despatching this brave soldier.

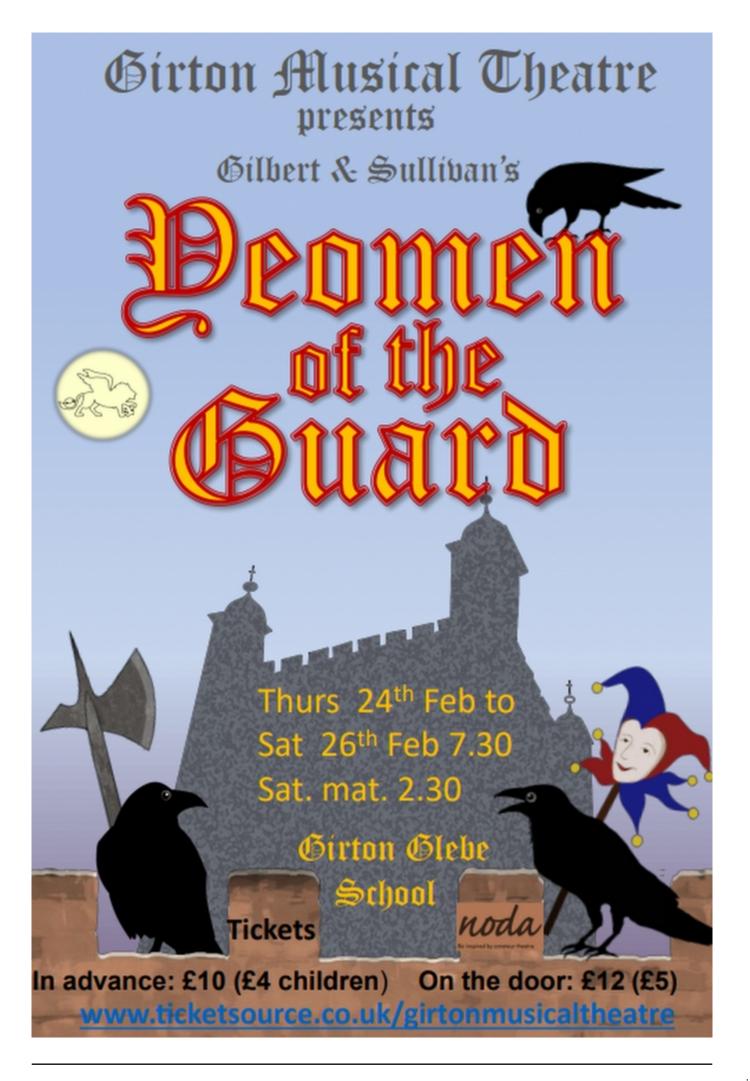
A band of players arrives to join in the festivities and one of them is asked to help Fairfax wreak revenge on his false accuser (a relative who has given false evidence on the charge of sorcery). This singer is Elsie, loved by Jack Point, a comedian, but who doesn't want to declare his honourable intentions just yet.

Thus we embark on an intricate and highly (un)believable plot of love and intrigue, camaraderie and duty, disappointment and desire. Who will fall in love with whom? Who will end up with a broken heart? Who finds themselves a prospective husband – and is pleased at the prospect? Who is responsible for the graffiti on the Tower walls? Why do the Ravens insist on sticking their beaks into human proceedings?

To find the answers to these and several questions you didn't even know you wanted answered, please come to Girton Glebe School on at least one of these dates: Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th February 2022 at 7.30pm, or 2.30pm on the 26th.

Tickets in advance: £10 (£4 children). from www.ticketsource.co.uk/girtonmusicaltheatre or on the door: £12 (£5 children).





Girton TownCharity

Major milestone at Dovehouse Court

Girton Town Charity (GTC) joined with contractor Barnes Construction, Mole Architects and Northmores Project Managers to mark a key stage in the building programme at Dovehouse Court, with the erection of timber frame panels which will provide the structure for the new energy-efficient homes.

Built to stringent Passivhaus standards, Dovehouse Court will provide 15 almshouses for the over 55s and a new office for GTC.

Designed to meet the future needs of the elderly, it allows for extended independent living including easy wheelchair access. Homes have individual terraces or balconies which open onto communal landscaped gardens, an orchard and allotments.

Sustainable construction

Passivhaus is a leading international low-energy design standard which offers a robust and proven method to help UK construction achieve carbon reduction targets set out by

the Government and local authorities, leading to a sustainable future for the environment locally, nationally and globally.

The timber frame panels are made from Spruce soft wood sourced from Scandinavia and manufactured in Welshpool by Lowfield Timber which specialises in Passivhaus buildings. The frames were delivered to site on lorries, for erection by crane, and once completed, an air test will be carried out to calculate the building's air permeability.

Funded by GTC and a grant received from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined





Dovehouse Court begins to take shape with the construction of the timber frames.

Mark Hart, Joint MD at Barnes Construction, joins GTC Trustees Marc Bermann, Robin Hiley and Ann Bonnett on site.

DOVEHOUSE COURT

Authority, the Dovehouse Court almshouses, scheduled for completion in Autumn 2022, will be made available to those living in, or with a close connection to Girton. Vacancies will be advertised locally for which residents can apply and be interviewed, with decisions made after careful consideration on the basis of a wide range of criteria.

Energy-efficient

Ann Bonnett, GTC Chair said: As an almshouse charity, we are committed to providing homes that will meet the needs of our residents, both families and the over 55s.

With Dovehouse Court, we are looking forward to having age-appropriate affordable almshouses that

are not only practical and energy-efficient but also enjoyable places to live.

We are delighted with the progress to date and to be able to mark the installation of the timber frames which represents an important milestone in the 61week programme."

Mark Hart, Joint Managing Director at Barnes Construction added: "We are pleased to be involved in this high specification project, which not only meets rigorous energy efficient design standards, but also supports the housing needs of the Girton community".

Girton TownCharity

NOTICE

One family home available for a limited term appointment

A two-bedroom family home located at Centenary Court, Wellbrook Way, will be available for a three year appointment in Spring 2022.

Centenary Court almshouses include fitted kitchen, living room, small garden, an off-road parking space and an energy-efficient heat recovery system.

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 31st January 2022.

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 Marc Bermann t: 277319

Dan Buck t: 07775 839703

Colin Carr t: 276312 Dr Robin Hiley t: 277296

Andrew Muston t: 07831 591809 Patsy Smith t: 07503 282199

GTC postal address and post box remains at: 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

Enhancing our environment



Delilah plants an apple tree in the William Collyn garden.

GTC is committed to making our Village a place in which we can all enjoy living and walking around and several new developments have recently been introduced to make the most of our outdoor spaces.

The William Collyn Community Garden, along with beds around the Centre car parks, are already showing the benefit of monthly

maintenance carried out by Majestic Garden Services.

Signs of Spring

More than 1,000 narcissus bulbs have been planted which will bring welcome signs of Spring in the coming months. Majestic has also planted Cornus, Bergenia, Vinca and Lavender in the gaps where shrubs have not thrived.

In December, Village resident Delilah planted an apple tree in the garden. She had written to GTC asking for a community orchard and although not quite what she was hoping for, the tree is an excellent addition to the garden.

The Sensory Garden on Wellbrook Way is continuing to receive weekly maintenance, with plenty of Winter colour and texture and the promise of Spring as bulbs emerge.

Possible purchase

Recently GTC Trustees agreed to investigate buying a field along the footpath behind Manor Farm Road, with a view to adding to the Charity's landbank and using it as an amenity area for the benefit of residents with woodland, re-wilding and a community orchard.

However, further examination showed that the field is landlocked and has no Right of Way access for vehicles required for necessary maintenance. With no time before the auction date to find out more or resolve the issue, Trustees agreed not to progress the purchase.



Please see website for up to date details of Clubs and Classes www.williamcollyn.co.uk Information correct at time of going to press.

In line with government guidance the Centre expects all visitors to wear a face covering at all times whilst in any communal area of the building.

Monday

9.30 - 1.00pm Tumble Tots

2.00 - 3.00pm Kurling for over 55's

6.30 - 7.30pm Clubbercise

8.00 - 9.30pm Whole Notes Gospel Choir

Tuesday

8.30 - 9.30pm Yoga with Julia Dale 10.00 - 11.00pm Yoga with Julia Dale

6.00 - 7.00pm Bounce

7.30 - 10.30pm Eastern Swing

Wednesday

9.30am - 12.00pm Tiny Toes Ballet

7.00 - 10.00pm The W.I. (monthly - first Weds)

7.00 - 10.00pm Girton Garden Society

(monthly - second Weds)

Thursday

9.30 - 11.30am Pilates 5.45 - 6.45pm Pilates

7.15pm & 8.15pm Ballroom Dance Classes

Friday

10.00 - 10.45am Shake Rattle & Roll

for pre-schoolers

9.30am - 12.30pm Little City Toddler Play

(monthly - second Friday)

7.00 - 9.30pm New Life Church Tribe

Saturday

9.00 - 10.00am Bounce

10.30 - 11.45am Vedanta Wellness Yoga

10.30 - 11.30am Pilates

1.00 - 3.00pm Cambridge Jazz Co-op

Sunday

26

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP

01223 279587

info@williamcollyn.co.uk www.williamcollyn.co.uk

GIRTON TOWN CHARITY

Educational Grants 2022

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 June 2022.

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



Unfortunately the Girton Youth Group has been paused whilst we appoint new Youth Workers.

SESSIONAL YOUTH WORKERS

We require a number of committed individuals who have the skills to engage positively with young people during youth work sessions on our youth bus or youth club settings.

Some experience of working with young people is essential. Sessions can start at 4pm or 7pm across Cambridgeshire, including Girton. Pay scales depending on experience and qualifications and range from £11.10 to £14.52 per hour.

For more information contact: www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk Alan Webb 07887 947748

Email: admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk



Oh no we didn't!

The continued march of the Coronavirus variants saw us lose a small battle to them when we cancelled our Christmas Lunch trip out to Fen Drayton. Government and medical advice, coupled with local information, and the fact that Club 55

members are in the most-at-risk group, really gave us no option but to cancel our Christmas lunch. Transmission of the virus can occur when large groups of people gather in confined places; and we were to travel by coach and then eat together in one room. Over fifty people were due to travel with us and we felt that it was better to disappoint rather than to risk passing on this virulent virus.

Why do we bother to organise these trips out? Let me explain: people living alone see this as an opportunity to join with friends, use our laid-on transport and enjoy the company of others in safety. People with physical difficulties or who have impaired vision are happy to join our group in the knowledge that they will not be hurried and will be helped when necessary. Alzheimer's, and dementia sufferers travel with friends, relatives or their carers and enjoy the normality of a meal out with others. This, of course, costs money; we have overhead costs to cover, printing and paper costs, telephone bills, transport costs and the food itself. None of these things are cheap in the present financial climate.

Most people are prepared to pay a little over the odds for these organised visits which after the long lockdowns of last year help relieve boredom and loneliness. Although not all our visits are within the village most could be labelled as local. Finding good food pubs and restaurants capable of dealing with fifty or more people suddenly descending upon them is not always easy. However, it can be quite lucrative for them when we do find these places and they are happy to make sure we get good value for money.

Well, I'm sure that you know this already but I would like you to take a moment to think about what I have said. Is there a need within the village for outings such as these, bear in mind that close on fifty people usually turn out? Do you think there is a benefit from getting people together for a chat over a meal with friends? Financially we are pretty much self-supporting but we could do with some organisational help. Could you offer help? Could you back us in any way? If you think you could, and want to help, please contact us.

What's next? The truth is – I really don't know. We have planned another visit to Abbeyfield on the 26th January for our New Year party and have booked a musical interlude but we don't know what the rules and regulations will be after Christmas. At this moment it is at 'go' but we just don't know for sure. We will let you know as soon as we can.

At the moment our Computer help group is still operating from Abbeyfield and you are welcome to drop in between 10am and 12noon on Mondays.

Happy New Year everyone – if you need further information about any of our functions please contact us using the details below.

Sam Clift

Tel: 07850740721

Email: samclift@ntlworld.com

Mitten Tree update

Huge thanks to the many, many people who donated hats, scarves, gloves and socks to the Mitten Tree at St Andrew's Church - the response has been amazing. In total there were 195 individual items donated (80 hats, 36 scarves, 59 pairs of gloves/mittens and 20 pairs of socks).

The boxes of donations were taken to Jimmy's Night Shelter on 9th December and will be distributed to the homeless around Cambridge over the coming months.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved. We don't know who you are, but there will be many grateful recipients and it's hugely encouraging to live in a village with such generosity on show. Particular thanks to Sharon Priestley for having the idea and making it happen.



Girton Baptist Church



Happy New Year

There is an ancient Celtic tradition for the first day of January that will soon become redundant. After the bells ring out to herald the New Year, the first person to cross the threshold should be a dark-haired man bearing a lump of coal. This strange gift is to ensure that the household will always have a warm and welcoming hearth and all who come to sit around it will benefit accordingly.

In our coal-rejecting times, however, a new tradition must be created for the sake of auld lang syne. The traditional gift with its benediction latches into the highland habit of taking along a small token gift when visiting someone's home, perhaps a home-baked cake or cookies, or even, in times of celebration, a bottle of something to warm the cockles of the heart.

It is not that the gift is needed or expected, but rather it is intended to convey genuine pleasure in the anticipated companionship and good conversation around the glowing fireside.

A more subliminal characteristic may be apparent in a highlander's diffidence over being sufficient in oneself without the added value of the donation when arriving on the doorstep just as you are.

It is a wondrous assurance to discover that the love of God does not depend on the largesse of what we can bring to him. He invites us to simply come just as we are, and to find full acceptance as a child of his loving care.

Charlotte Elliot's hymn of appeal has often been sung out at church gatherings as an invitation to make a fresh commitment and dedication and to embark on a pathway of faith and renewal.

"Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidst me come to thee
O Lamb of God I come. I come."

We do not trade good works for the promise of salvation. God always acts with absolute integrity, planning ahead in his wisdom to maximise blessing and spiritual maturity in each of his children.

During his ministry years, Jesus sought out people just where they were, beside a well, or by a roadside, or mending fishing nets. He called them to a higher purpose simply because he came to seek and to save that which was lost. His love had reached down through eternal ages into the time zone of humanity bringing the sublime gifts of healing and forgiveness.

The first clean page in a new diary presents a daunting yet exciting opportunity to record the choices and decisions that will establish each significant turn of events. There will be happy days, challenging incidents, gain and loss. As it becomes a treasured document of family history, the diary will preserve not only the events of the year, but also our changing attitudes, our hopes and fears, our times of triumph or despair, our strivings through faith to peace of mind. Let us encourage and invest in the many positive discoveries and innovative projects on which we will depend as we face the challenges ahead. Let us give each other the gift of hope at the beginning of this new year.

F. R Havergal wrote a hymn of hopefulness, leaning on the faithful promises of God.

"Another year is dawning Dear Master let it be In working or in waiting Another year with Thee."

Iris Niven



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St Andrew's Church

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

2nd 10:00am Holy Communion 7:30pm Taize Service (Online) 10:00am 9th All-age Communion 4:00pm Choir Church 16th 10:00am Holy Communion St Andrew's for Kids 10:00am 6:00pm Evening Prayer (BCP) 23rd 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer 10:00am 30th 10:00am Holy Communion 10:00am St Andrew's for Kids

Weekday Services: January

Tues 9:00am Morning Prayer (said)

Weds 9:00am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
Thurs 9:00am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
9:00pm Compline (said) (Online)

Other Services

Wed, 12 Jan 2:00pm Abbeyfield Holy Communion
Thu, 27 Jan 11:00am Gretton Court Holy
Communion (BCP)

On 9th January at 4pm, we hold our second Choir Church service, giving children in KS2 the chance to sing church music. The previous occasion in October was a great success. All are welcome, friends and family, to hear the progress the choir has made.

You are welcome to join us for worship in person or remotely at http://bit.ly/GirtonParishLive. Please check the church website for up to date information. (www.girton.church)

The Taizé service continues to be held remotely using Zoom. All are welcome. Please email Kay Barrett at *singing.kay@gmail.com* for details.

O God, who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of your Son; we pray you to lead to yourself the wise and the great of every land, that unto you every knee may bow and every thought be brought into captivity through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Church on Jerusalem and Middle East)

Girton Baptist Church



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe Tel: 01223 279289

Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith

Tel: 01223 520442

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

Sunday Services: January

(All at Girton Baptist Church and on Zoom)
2nd 10.30am Communion, led by Nick Lowe

9th 10.30am Led by Nick Lowe

16th 10.30am Communion, led by Nick Lowe

23rd10.30am Led by Nick Lowe 30th10.30am Led by Nick Lowe

Masks are optional and we have space for those who wish to social distance.

Messy Church is on Thursday 13th January from 3.30pm and is for parents and their children, with craft activities based on a Biblical theme, a story and a meal together. All are welcome. If you wish to find out more please contact us.

For the Zoom link or more information please ring 07751 748757 or email pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk.

The words of this hymn by Timothy Dudley-Smith express the joy of the Christian hope as we enter a new year:

> Sing a new song to the Lord, He to whom wonders belong; rejoice in His triumph and tell of His power, O sing to the Lord a new song!

> Now to the ends of the earth, see His salvation is shown; and still He remembers His mercy and truth, unchanging in love to His own.

Sing a new song and rejoice, publish His praises abroad; let voices in chorus, with trumpet and horn, resound for the joy of the Lord!

The apostle Paul wrote some encouraging words to help in times of difficulty:

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Romans 5:3-5

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

Daniel Carney, 28 Cambridge Road, Tel:07986 592507 Douglas de Lacey, 9 Woodlands Park, Tel: 565219 Marcelo de Lima, 45 Thornton Close Tel. 276859 Val Godby, 38 Woodlands Park, Tel: 276372

Andy Griffin, 298, Wellbrook Way, Tel: 07956 447642

Anne Kettle, 11 Redgate Road, Tel: 277505

Ann Muston, 59 Thornton Road, Tel:07796 430345

Mary Rodger, 11 Fairway, Tel: 277316

John Thorrold, 53 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276760

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

District Councillors

Tom Bygott, Tel: 07765475513 cllr.bygott.net Corinne Garvie, Tel: 01223 276184 cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

Edna Murphy, Tel: 01223 577005 Edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Parish Clerk

Yvonne Murray Tel: 01223 618619 clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk

Assistant to the Parish Clerk

Angie Vidler, Tel: 01223 618619 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

Contact Numbers for Bookings

Cotton Hall 07759 983420

Orchard Close 277164

Pavilion 472182

St Vincent's Close 276447

William Collyn Community Centre 279587

Bin Collections

Tuesday 4 January Blue bin

Monday 10 January Black bin

Saturday 15 January Blue and Green bins

Friday 21 January Black bin

Mobile Library

Thursday 27 January 2022

 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 Vincents Close
 12.05 -12.30

 Gretton Court
 12.35 -13.00

 Churchfield Court
 13.05 -13.30

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