



GIRTON

Parish News

December 2022

Do you want to play Santa?

See page 17

Wendy's last fare

See page 15

Co-op members raise more than £4,000

See page 20





Girton Social Club

48 Cambridge Road, Girton, CB3 0PJ. Tel: 01223 276890
Email: Girtonsocialclub@gmail.com

We are a family social club situated in the village of Girton.

We hold various events throughout each month including:

Saturday 15th October, 8.45pm - Play Your Cards Right

Saturday 5th November, 12 noon until late - Charity Event in aid of Parkinson's -
pool competition 12 noon with disco and live music during the evening

Fortnightly Bingo on **Fridays**

We have a modern pool table - 50p per game (free Wednesday evening),
3 dartboards, skittles and a juke box updated twice weekly.

Thank you to the new members who joined us during August and September.

We now have Free wi-fi and BT Sports

Children are welcome Dogs are welcome on a lead

Opening Times

Monday to Thursday: 7.30pm to 11pm, **Friday:** 12 to 3pm, 7.30 to 11pm,

Saturday: 12pm to late, **Sunday:** 12pm to 3pm

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

Christmas Fair

WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2PM - 5PM

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Martin, on **01223 814900** or email
martin.dickson@hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk



Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire, CB3 0FW



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

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

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

Advertisements

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

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

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

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

Distribution Manager Rosemary Jones, tel. 276491

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

Puzzle Corner Sian Franklin

Webmaster Andrew Haylett

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

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Wishing you a prosperous
2023.

The Girton Parish News
Committee

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Copy date for January issue: Wed. 7 Dec. Issue date: Sat. 7 Jan. Covers 7 Jan – 4 Feb.

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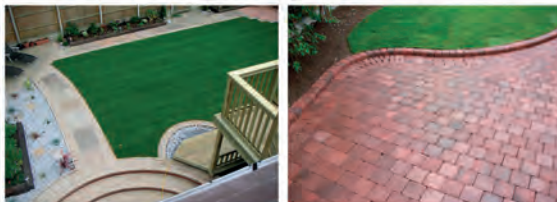
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Girton Parish Council

Councillor Resignations

It is with great sadness that Girton Parish Council have this week accepted the resignation of our Chairman, Councillor Douglas de Lacey, and Councillor Gill

Cockley. Girton Parish Council thanks both councillors for their time and expertise in serving our village over many years. Also, thanks to Cllr de Lacey for leading the two-minute silence for Girton and the service of Remembrance on 11th and 13th November.

Additional recreation ground parking

From Saturday 3rd December from 9am to 2pm, Girton Glebe playground will be accessible for additional parking during the football season. This will reduce the number of cars parking on adjacent streets in the neighbouring area. Thank you to the Headmaster of Girton Glebe, Mr Butler.

Planning appeals

Planning appeals for the former Hotel Felix and 2 Duck End, Girton are underway. Further details will be available on the community website and from the clerk.

Street Trading.

An update on the kebab van was given by our district councillors at our full council meeting on 9th November. There was a new policy issued in March and SCDC are encouraging parish councils, together with residents, to begin to consider a community led plan to identify what residents of Girton would like to see in terms of street traders in the future. More detail is available in the minutes of this meeting which will be available on our community website.

Kebab Van

Thank you for all comments regarding the kebab van. An update will be given at full council on December 14th. All members of the public are welcome. If you would like to send your comments ahead, please email clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk.

Committee Progress

Our committees are progressing their project lists and looking into the potential opportunities for the Local Highways Initiative funding which needs to be submitting in early January. Thank you to all residents who have made suggestions for this funding.

Streetlights

An update on streetlights in the village is expected at December 14th full council.

Communication

With all these important issues coming to Girton Parish Council we have been working over the last year to increase our ability to provide information to the village. For this December edition we just wished to remind you of the ways you can contact and see the work that Girton Parish Council is doing.

1. Community website
2. Girton Parish Council and Girton Village Community Facebook Page
3. Girton Parish Council on Twitter
4. Village Noticeboards

For all important issues please email clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01223 618619.

Please attend our meetings which are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month in Girton Recreation Ground Pavilion. Look out for news on all meetings on all the community website, Facebook, and Twitter. I as our profiles on Facebook and Twitter.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Telephone: 01223 618619

Email us at: Clerk: clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk;

Assistant Clerk: admin@girton-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.girton-cambs.org.uk





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From Our District Councillors

Here is our final report for 2022. We are leading on the cost-of-living crisis. For some residents, winter is going to be a real challenge. The South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) is offering a wide range of help. If you're not sure whether you're eligible, please let us know.

Cost of living

SCDC is responding to the cost-of-living crisis in a number of ways.



Warm Hubs

Warm Hubs are community spaces where residents can enjoy a safe, warm, and friendly environment this winter. The first of these hubs was opened last week and more are to follow.

Discussions about a Girton Warm Hub continue. The hubs are being funded by the NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System and delivered by charity Cambridgeshire ACRE in partnership with SCDC. <https://www.cambsacre.org.uk/introducing-warm-hubs/>



Discretionary Housing Payments

This is an SCDC fund which supports residents on Universal Credit or Housing Benefit. The Council is planning to add an extra £100,000 to this fund. Residents can read the full

eligibility criteria and find out how to apply at www.scambs.gov.uk/dhp or email benefits@scambs.gov.uk or call 01954 713 000.



Discretionary Council Tax Discounts

This is an SCDC fund to support people who are not eligible for the Local Council Tax Support scheme but are in extreme hardship. Residents can read the full eligibility criteria and

find out how to apply at www.scambs.gov.uk/reductions-discounts or email revenues@scambs.gov.uk or call 01954 713 000.



Charitable giving

SCDC is proposing to establish a grant fund to provide lower cost options for cooking and staying warm, such as slow cookers and electric blankets. Residents and

businesses who are financially able will be welcome to

contribute. The Council will allocate £15,000 to the fund. In the coming weeks, residents will be able to visit www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support to find out more.



Community Chest criteria - updated

SCDC's popular Community Chest fund provides grants to voluntary, and community sector groups, charities, and public sector bodies that are wishing to improve quality of life

locally. Recently, the criteria was amended to allow bids that include contributions for any project that has a positive impact for communities related to the cost-of-living crisis. Parish and town councils can also now bid for Community Chest grants linked to this cause. Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest for more details, or email Community.Chest@scambs.gov.uk



Update on Ukraine Refugees

The most recent data shows that 737 Ukrainian guests have now arrived in South Cambridgeshire involving 74 parishes. Since the start of the scheme, SCDC Officers have made 330 welfare visits and conducted 838 DBS checks.

In the next eight weeks we will see the peak of the Homes for Ukraine scheme's host/guest arrangements reach their six-month anniversary, after which hosts can withdraw from the scheme if they wish. SCDC has conducted a survey which shows that around 80% of hosts are happy to continue. The remaining 20% of guests will therefore need alternative arrangements. If you would like to become a host, please email communities@scambs.gov.uk Further information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdea56w3>



Making Connections Consultation

We would remind you that the Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP's) "Making Connections" consultation is open and runs until 23 December 2022. The proposals are

described as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change how we travel in the Greater Cambridge area. The survey, and more information can be found here: <http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022>

We strongly suggest that you to visit the website, learn more about the proposals and take part in the consultation.

Cllr Corinne Garvie
mobile: 07780 932267
email: cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Stobart
mobile: 07950 934793
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all."**- Jill - Histon*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Girton College Music Society Concerts

Baroque Sonatas and Trios

Sunday 4 December

2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)

Chapel, Girton College, Cambridge.

Alice Rivers (oboe), Emma Scott (violin), Max Todes (cello) and Martin Ennis (harpsichord and organ) perform works by Handel, Bach, and others.

Admission free: retiring collection



Girton Garden Society

Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm

Girton Garden Society

Monet at Giverny

Caroline Holmes, a writer, and historian will be giving a talk on Monet at Giverny, which may well appeal to those who have visited the garden or are just inspired by Monet. This talk uses historic and contemporary images of Monet's garden at Giverny to explore the man and his gardens.

William Collyn Community Centre,
Everyone welcome!



FREE VISITOR ENTRY

South Cambridgeshire
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Christmas Tree Shredding

Sunday 8th January 2023

9.30-11.30 am

Girton Glebe School

Come and join us for a
great community event !

* Tree Shredding*

by Acacia Tree Surgery

* Wheelie Bin Cleaning*

by Wheelie Fresh Bins



* Suggested donation of £2. All proceeds go to Friends of Girton Glebe, Registered Charity 1098145

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Girton Cottontails Preschool

Last week we made our own postcards, drawing pictures of our families on them. Then we took a walk to the postbox and posted them to our homes. Since the late Queen's jubilee, and sadly then her passing, the children have all been very interested in her. It was with much delight that they all got to stick on their stamps and noticed who was on them! We also talked about our home addresses and what they mean.



We have been delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our team this month, they are both settling in well and are brilliant additions to the preschool. We do still have another staff vacancy for a part time practitioner, so if you know anyone who might like to work at our brilliant preschool, please do get in touch.

So far this term at Forest School, the weather has continued to be very mild, but we've had some blustery weather too lasting quite a few days. On one of those blustery days we made musical instruments with pots and pans. We are still picking apples in the woodland for our snack, which the children love. It is always a challenge to see who can find the biggest apple!

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: <http://www.gofundme.com/f/emma-and-laura-are-reopening-cottontails-preschool>
https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/JJP8OJALIV2I?ref_=wl_share

We welcome children from the age of two years and upwards. Please contact us if you would like to apply for a place.

For further information about the preschool and what we have to offer, you can visit our website, follow us on social media, and get in touch using the contact details below.

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Girton Cottontails Preschool Managing Directors

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Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Traditional Carol Singing around Girton

We are singing traditional carols around the streets of Girton on three nights leading up to Christmas. We would welcome anyone who wishes to come and sing with us or help with the charity collection. We are collecting in aid of the Cambridge Food Bank. Please wrap up warmly, with comfortable footwear, and bring a torch! Children are welcome and should be accompanied by an adult.

- 21 December: meet at 6.30pm by the Golden Goose railings bus stop, near the rec car park.
- 22 December: meet at 6.30pm at the first lamp post on Thornton Road (nearest to Girton Road).
- 24 December: meet at 6.30pm by the sensory garden, Wellbrook Way.

Detailed route maps can be found on our web page www.girtoncarolsingers.org.uk or on Facebook (Girton Carol Singers). For more information contact Helen on 276940.



Appeal for sleeping bags - winter is here!

Jimmy's Nightshelter in East Road is absolutely desperate for sleeping bags for the homeless. They have none at all in the store cupboard at the moment so they have nothing to offer those that come knocking on the door.

If you have any sleeping bags to spare then please let me know and I can take them there when I do my volunteering shifts. The bags do not necessarily need to be new but they do need to be clean and serviceable. Single blankets would also be welcome.

I can collect from you or you can drop them at the address below.

Thank you.

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Jenny.knights@virginmedia.com



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Girton Glebe School

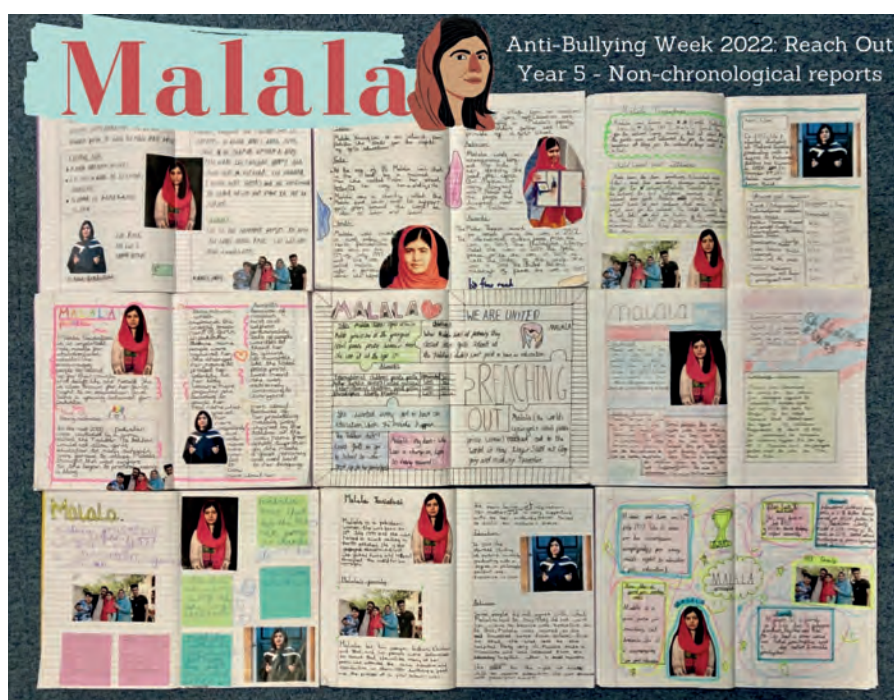
Girton Glebe celebrated Anti-Bullying Week, World Children's Day and Children in

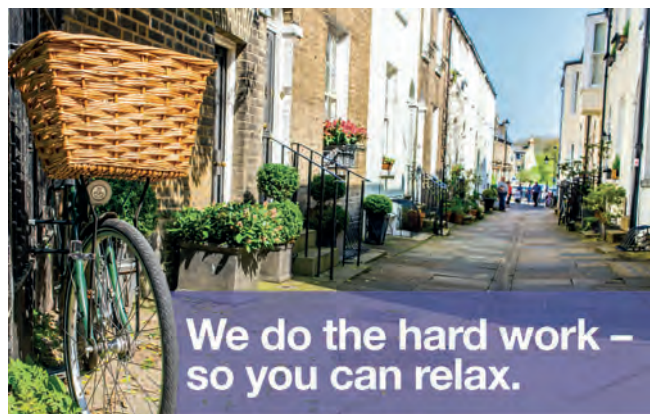
Need during an action-packed week in November! The children launched their week with Odd Socks Day on Monday 14 November, celebrating that we are all different and unique within our school. The day began with a special assembly about the week's theme of 'Reaching Out', which included a personalised message from CBBC's Andy and the Oddssocks (thanks to a wonderful, well-connected GG parent)! Children (and some adults) wore crazy odd socks underneath - and sometimes on top of their school uniforms. Each class then competed to take the most creative odd socks photo in a school-wide competition. The winning class were our Year 6 class, Oak, who attempted to spell out the word 'odd' using their feet! Our odd socks day linked so well to our current learning around personal development, as the whole school are looking at celebrating differences and having the courage to be yourself throughout this half-term.

During this week, each class also created a piece of writing of a different genre linked to Celebrating Differences, Reaching Out and The Rights of Children Across the World.

We shared all our artwork, learning and writing in a whole-school assembly on the Friday. We are also pleased to share one of our classes' wonderful works with Girton Parish News. Congratulations Willow Class for your brilliant non-chronological reports on Malala, and well done to all at Girton Glebe for a fabulous week!

Chris Butler
Headteacher





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Wendy to pick up her last fare

Much loved Girton taxi driver Wendy Barrett has announced that she is retiring on 14 January and is keen to say thank you for all her custom over the last 15 years.



Wendy told the GPN: "I've had a lot of fun along the way and made some lovely friends. I've learned lots from all the interesting conversations, laughed a lot at all the funny stories I've been told and cried at the loss of people who have moved on from this world.

"I won't miss the 3am starts but I will truly miss the people who have put their trust in me and allowed me the privilege of transporting them to all sorts of places, near and far."

Wendy moved into the village in March 1999 and the first neighbours she met were Bill and Margaret Parnwell as she was being taken from the house to an ambulance after falling from a safety ladder and breaking her leg.

She began taxi driving as something to do for a year while she had a career break and here she is some 15 years later. Some of her passengers attended her civil partnership and her 60th birthday party and Wendy has been to some of their important occasions too.

Here are some of the stories from the road...

Wartime passion

"I once picked up a very elderly couple who were being treated to their 75th wedding anniversary party," said Wendy. "I asked how they met and she said she was a young French woman working with the French resistance and he had been a young English officer who had been sent to France to work with her resistance group. The woman looked at me with a rather naughty glimmer in her eye and said 'we broke all the rules, but it was wartime and we had such passion'."

Sleeping baby #1

"I picked up a young couple and their baby from Tesco and took them home, where I helped them unload their shopping," recounted Wendy. "When I got home I realised the baby was still fast asleep, in my car. I drove her back to her parents, who were devastated because they hadn't realised she was missing. I got much better at checking the car before driving off after that!"

Sleeping baby #2

"In a similar vein I had a customer who had a crying baby, she would phone and ask me to take her and her son for a drive," said Wendy. "Within two minutes he was asleep and after driving just a little longer to make sure he was truly out for the count I would drive mum and baby back home."

Talk about synchronicity

"There was one other story," said Wendy. "I was on the M25, heading to Gatwick around 3am on New Year's Day. I was listening to the radio and they were doing tributes to people who had died during the year. The interviewee was reminiscing about his friend and said he was the kind of guy who would be late for his own funeral. As he said those words I was overtaken by a vehicle travelling very fast indeed, it was a hearse, complete with coffin. Talk about synchronicity."



From left to right: Retirement ready, A reminder of my constant travelling companion but this one is real, Name dropping my friend Joan Baez



Details of Girton Glebe Primary School and application forms are available via the school website or phone 01223 276484

Please send a completed application form and covering letter to Mrs Amy Nestor
Girton Glebe Primary School, Cambridge Road, Girton CB3 0PN or e-mail:
anestor@gg.tela.org.uk

Cleaner - Casual flexible hours

£10.92 per hour

Girton Glebe Primary is looking to recruit an additional School Cleaner in order to provide a high quality cleaning service.

You will work as part of the school cleaning team to achieve a clean and healthy environment for the school community.

As a school, we are innovative in realising the potential of all our students and we offer an excellent, supportive environment in which to work.

Girton Glebe primary school is part of the Eastern Learning Alliance Trust.

Closing date: Friday 16th December 2022

Interview date: TBC

We are committed to equal opportunities, to safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All staff are expected to share this commitment and undergo the appropriate checks. All positions within the Trust are subject to enhanced DBS checks and satisfactory references. Only applications submitted on using the ELA application form will be accepted.

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Cool tips for a warm house

It's been an exceptionally warm autumn, but as winter closes in and energy prices rise, we shall all be wondering, how am I to

keep warm? There are lots of ways in which you can avoid wasting energy, and here are some which won't cost you a penny!

The main loss of heat from many houses is through draughts.

- A rolled-up towel makes an excellent draught excluder for the bottom of a door.
- A curtain over outside doors reduces the draughts at source. Don't have a spare curtain? Use a spare sheet.
- Keep all doors in the house shut.

Your windows leak more heat to the world outside than your doors do.

- Curtain liners cut the leakage. Again, use spare sheets.
- Used bubble-wrap is an excellent insulator. Sellotape it to your windows, over the frame if the window lets a draught in.
- Draw all curtains (even in rooms you don't use) at night. Open them, especially on the south side of the house, when the sun shines.

Many people are afraid to use energy to cook, although it is probably cheaper to cook at home than to buy pre-cooked food. And the surplus heat will warm your home a little.

- A small pan on a large ring is bound to waste heat. If you can see the hot ring, or a gas flame up the sides of the pan, you are wasting energy.
- Turn the gas down, or use a bigger pan, and make sure the pan is centred on the ring.
- A lid on the pan will keep the heat where it's needed.
- Once a pan is boiling, increased heat just means producing more steam; it won't help the cooking process at all.
- A heavy, thick-sided, pan means that the top of the contents will be nearly as hot as the bottom. In a thin-sided pan the top will be cooler; that's why many housewives used to advocate a high boil.
- A large oven takes a lot of energy to heat. A microwave puts the energy straight into the food; but microwaves do waste about half the input energy.
- A kettle is more efficient than a pan for boiling water; but if you have any leftover put it into a vacuum flask.

*Douglas de Lacey
for Sustainable Girton*

Do you want to play Santa?

The Mitten Tree in St Andrew's Church, Girton, is now on display and many kind people have donated gifts of newly-purchased or newly-knitted mittens, gloves, hats, socks and scarves for our lovely tree.

Colourful items are now hanging on the tree but there is room for more. Santas can bring in their items whenever the church is open and place them on the tree. The tree will be taken down on 17 December.

The men and women at Jimmy's Cambridge and the children at GrowKids Cambridge will be given all of the donated clothing just before Christmas so that they can be a little bit warmer this winter.

To all Santas and their helpers - Thank you!



GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Bowls Club

The indoor season is progressing well, with many of our Girton members playing several games a week in various teams. In the Indoor/Outdoor League, Girton 1 have won two out of four matches

in Division 1 and are currently 9th out of nine teams. Having already played the top three teams in the league, they are very optimistic about their forthcoming games. Girton 2 have won three out of the five matches they have played and are in 3rd position out of nine teams in Division 2.

Our Presentation Dinner, which was held again at The Old Crown, proved a great success, with a lovely meal. The presentation of prizes was followed by a jolly singalong.



Finals dinner

Our AGM is scheduled for the 8th December and will be held at Abbeyfield, Girton Green at 7pm. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2023.

If you are interested in finding out about joining Girton Bowls Club, please see our website www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com or contact our Secretary, Carey Horton, at carey@horton.uk.net. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

Lynne McGill



Girton Colts Football Club

Seasons greetings to all players and supporters from all of our wonderful committee, managers and coaching staff.

All our teams are continuing to grow and improve as the season progresses. Our Girls only kickabout session is developing a team, which we hope to register with the FA for next season. They have a manager, now we just need some extra parent volunteers and a couple more players and we are good to go.

The ground is improving with our trusted groundsman battling against nature a battle which he always wins! There's nothing quite like a clean player to start a match but completely caked in mud at the end. You can't get a better Saturday morning if you ask me, although I'm sure Chris would probably not want too many sliding tackles pulling out the grass.

Big thanks to the Co-op and all of you villagers who nominate our club to receive your donations. The money goes into providing football for our village and every penny goes a long way, so thank you (see page 20 for more details on the Co-op fundraising).

We'll probably get a break for a couple of weeks over Christmas and then straight back into it. We have some home matches on 17th December so all welcome to come down for a mince pie.

Note to Father Christmas, if you can hear me, because I know you are so busy! Please deliver as many footballs and garden rebounders to as many of our players as possible. Practicing at home really helps players and the team move forward. I hear the elves have rebounders and they are top of the fantasy league ahead of the Bunny United, Tooth Fairy Rangers and of course the nasty Wolves.... Go Elves... I mean go Girton Colts!

Have a great one.

Andrew Hawkes



Girton Netball Club

We were pleased to welcome some new players from Histon to training this month. They looked really impressive as we ran through some drills and half-court games and we hope they'll become permanent

fixtures in the team. With Christmas coming up we are busy planning our team outing and looking forward to taking delivery of our new Girton Netball hoodies (thanks, Claire, for organising these). We only had one match this month which we lost against Stetchworth 31–23. More games are coming up in the next few weeks – look out for the results in the next issue of the GPN.

Girton Netball Club meets Mondays during term-time at Girton Rec with coaching from Helen.

We have moved to the new and later start time of 7pm. Sessions run 7pm–8pm. Email girton.village.netball@gmail.com or facebook: *Girton Netball Club*.

Emma-Louise Longden



Girton Golf Club

Well, the winter certainly appears to have arrived as I type this in mid-November and the rain lashes down outside. No golf today and tomorrow is looking doubtful at this rate.

Twelve of us seniors travelled down to Colne Valley near Colchester yesterday for an 'away day' on another course, and very good it was too. Belonging to Girton Golf Club means that we can play 64 other courses for free as Girton belongs to two different associations of golf clubs. Whilst rules apply, of course, it does mean membership is excellent value for money. Talking of which, currently, until the end of January, Girton Golf Club is offering 15 months membership for the price of 12, so now is a good time to join – talk to Nicola or Lynda in the office or anyone at the Pro Shop for more details. Our new Junior Golf Academy is starting in January. Membership would make a great Christmas present to anyone aged from 6 to 16 and it should not be weather dependent as we have an indoor swing studio – so perhaps a surprise under the tree for some lucky juniors. Talk to the office of the Pro Shop staff for more information.

We have started the ever-popular quiz nights again. For the dates and details, call the office or pop in to the clubhouse and ask the staff at the bar, maybe while enjoying a coffee, drink or even lunch. Remember social membership gets you discounts off food and

drink, and weekly updates of what is going on, so well worth joining.

Happy Christmas to all our readers and members, playing or social, and hopefully a good new year to you all.

Alan Henderson-Smith

Tel: 01223 276169 www.girtongolf.co.uk



Girton Tennis Club

Our committee would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy Christmas. Maybe a game of tennis would help to burn some of those extra calories that many of

us consume over the holiday period!

The tennis courts remain available for booking over the Winter period but we would ask all members to check the surface conditions and to only play when they feel there is sufficient grip for their game. It is surprising how long an overnight frost can take to burn off, even in bright sunshine.

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 info@girtontennisclub.uk.

Alan Franklin



Girton WI

Girton WI started our Christmas preparations early with our November meeting, which was a time for us all to experiment with a new

craft. This year we learnt how to make Christmas fairy decorations to hang on the tree, using beads, florist wire and any left-over wool, embroidery threads, and fabric we had to hand. As always, our members brought along more than enough extra material for everyone who wanted to make a fairy. There was plenty of sharing, and the room was filled with the buzz of chatter. Everyone ended up with a fairy and covered in glitter! Good conversation was carried on over tea and cake.

We look forward to our Christmas party, and to 2023, where our meetings in January and February will be on the following topics:

4 January: My amazing aunt Cicely Saunders and the modern hospice movement with Kate Kirk.

1 February: Incredible edible (and drinkable) plants with Gwenda Kyd.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the William Collyn Community Centre at 7.30pm. Attendance at up to three WI meetings as a visitor is free, and there is no obligation to join.

For more information about Girton WI, our daytime Knit and Natter, or the WI Nationally, please contact girtonwi@gmail.com or girtonwisecretary@gmail.com

Whether you are a member, a past member, or someone who has never tried the WI before, I look forward to seeing you and giving you a warm welcome. We wish you an early, but heartfelt, happy festive season.

Hannah Wyborn, Girton WI President



Co-op customers raise more than £4,000 for good causes

Girton Co-op members have raised £4,147 for three good causes in the village.

Girton Colts FC received £1,417, Girton Cottontails Preschool received £1,337 and the Friends of Girton Glebe Primary School (FOGG) received £1,393.

Earlybirds WI

Our November meeting was a Christmas craft and coffee morning, with all the ladies attempting to either knit a Christmas pudding (!) or make an origami Christmas tree from an old paperback book. It was tremendous fun, with varied results, and much hilarity in the process. For those of us making paper trees, it was hard not to be distracted by reading the pages we were using, a good deal of chat and laughter ensued. Coffee and Judith's homemade 'melting moments,' provided us with refreshments on the go and by the end of the session there were a number of Christmas decorations fully assembled and ready to take home.

Our December meeting is on Friday 9 and will include a talk on wellbeing, "positive psychology with practical applications to our everyday life" hopefully designed to reduce our stress levels over the busy festive season. The talk will be followed by a bring and share lunch, with time to chat and share our latest news.

Do come and join us.

Meeting at the CFWI office in Girton on the second Friday every month at 10.30am.

For more information email our secretary k.m.richardson.1157@gmail.com

Trish Peroni



Girton Walking Group

Our walk around Wimpole on Saturday 5th November was surprisingly dry considering the grim forecast. Nine of us set out and, due to the expert guidance of the leader, nine of us returned! One of our group is a volunteer at Wimpole, so the walk was not only good for the body, but for the mind too. Everyone was on great form, and we all enjoyed being outdoors. We saw a couple of kestrels and enjoyed beautiful autumn colours with great views over the whole estate.

Our future walks are:

Saturday 3rd December: Wandlebury Country Park, CB22 3AE, followed by a bring and share lunch at 141 Thornton Road, CB3 0NE.

We will meet at 10am in the Wandlebury car park for a gentle stroll of about 2.5km/2 miles on good paths, then convene from 12.30pm onwards for a pre-Christmas bring and share lunch at the home of Angela and Simon Blackburn.

At Wandlebury there is a parking charge of £3.50, payable by card only, which contributes to the upkeep of this lovely country park, which is managed by Cambridge Past, Present, Future (members of Cambridge PPF park for free).

Those who won't be on the walk but would like to join us for lunch are most welcome to turn up at 12.30pm. If you are not on our regular mailing list but would like to be included, please let me know at angela.blackburn@cantab.net

More information about lunch will be communicated by email.

Saturday 7th January: The Coton Corridor
A walk of about five miles, starting at the Coton Countryside Reserve, and then including Gough Way, Grange Road, Adams Road and the Coton footpath. Some fields at the start but thereafter using hard paths and pavements.

Meet at 10am at the Coton Orchard Garden Centre, where you can also get lunch afterwards.

This is Walk 3 on the Coton Countryside Reserve website.

The walk will be led by Gina and Paul Lane, ginaklane@aol.com



Girton Musical Theatre: New members welcome!

After a break of two and a half years, Girton Musical Theatre was delighted to be back on stage for the recent performances of Yeomen of the Guard. We had very appreciative audiences, and good reviews, and are now looking forward to our next show (February 23rd to 25th 2024) which will include the short operetta Trial by Jury, by Gilbert and Sullivan (plus a short orchestra piece and a one-act play). If you have been thinking of joining but are not sure about learning a whole show, then Trial by Jury is a great way to start - it's only 40 minutes long! From January we are rehearsing twice a week, on Thursdays (8.00pm Orchard Close Community Centre) and Fridays (7.30pm Glebe School Hall).

There are a few extra rehearsals in the last week! For more information please visit our website www.girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk or find us on Facebook. Alternatively, please call Helen on 276940.



Girton Feast calendar

After the success of the 2022-23 Jubilee calendar, the Feast Committee is now putting together a village calendar for 2023-24. If you would be interested in advertising in the calendar (prices from £20 to £250) please contact carol@girtonfeast.org.uk.

We would also like to include up-to-date contact details from village clubs and societies. Please contact rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk with these.





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Friday 9th &
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Hello from the surgery

It has been a busy time at the surgery and now things are settling back down I would like to address some of the general queries we have received over the last few months.

Firstly, we would like to say THANK YOU ALL! We have seen so many changes from our wonderful fresh new layout at the surgery to of course, Covid. These were some incredibly difficult times and we appreciated all of your support, kindness and patience as we did our best to maintain “usual” service to you all.

We continue to offer our Covid and flu vaccination clinics and again, appreciate your patience while these have been arranged.

Deliveries

We continue to offer our delivery service to those who are housebound or unable to get to the surgery. We deliver to Girton residents every Thursday, this is funded by Girton Town Charity. We deliver to Oakington fortnightly, funded by the surgery.

Coverage

Our dispensing area covers those living in the village on the Co-op side of the bridge and Oakington. We are governed by NHS England in this decision. They calculate that those living more than one mile from a pharmacy, as the crow flies, are not able to use our dispensary to collect their medications. However, all patients are able to use Girton surgery for appointments and enquiries.

Range of services

We generally have a Doctor, Nurse or phlebotomist every day at the surgery, however all Doctor's appointments are being triaged in the first instance. The health professional will then decide whether to invite you in for a face to face consultation.

There is a wealth of information on our website and we would encourage you to read it.

www.huntingdonroadsurgery.co.uk/homepage

Prescriptions

Ordering your prescriptions can be done online (pop into Girton with identity for an online password) or your repeat slips can be left in our post box. We ask for two working days to be given for us to dispense your medications. Please note that we do not open on the weekends. If you leave your prescription at the surgery after 12.30pm we will not pick up your request until the next working day, therefore it will be two working days later that you can collect your medication.

Supply of medicines

We have experienced some issues with our deliveries recently, delaying our turnarounds and thank you for your understanding when this happens. We do aim to complete the dispensing of your medications within 48 working hours.

Recycling medicines

We still have a box for recycling inhalers, however, the company that used to collect our inhalers are no longer collecting but they have advised us that you can recycle the casing of the inhaler in your blue bin. We are hoping to get a new collection arrangement set up in the near future.

You are able to return your unused medications to us. Please do not put them in your bin (or down the loo!). If you return them to us they will be disposed of safely.

Samples

Please do not post samples through our letterbox at any time. If we are open there is a box at Reception to place any samples in. Any samples that are posted may be compromised and will have to be repeated if there is nobody to transport them to Huntingdon Road.

Christmas preparation and opening hours

We will not be doing double issues of medication for the Christmas period. If you are going on holiday and need your medications early please let us know and allow us plenty of time to dispense for you. Other than this please order around your normal dates to enable us to spread the work load accordingly.

The only days over the Christmas Period that we will be closed are:

Monday 26th

Tuesday 27th December

Monday 2nd January

Our normal opening hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am – 1.00pm and on Monday we open again from 3.00pm – 6.00pm.

Sending you all the very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Andrea Rusted

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He did very well

About forty people turned up at the Abbeyfield restaurant on Monday 14th November to listen to David York from Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Cybercrime and Fraud Prevention unit give his talk on scams. It seems that they all enjoyed

his talk as I have received emails, phone and text messages together with oral messages congratulating him on his performance. Well, I did say he was good.



The audience listens intently to David

Our 16th November outing to the Three Tuns public house at Fen Drayton turned out to have a very Christmassy theme with roast turkey and Christmas pudding on the menu together with other options. Christmas decorations adorned the room and tables with Christmas crackers to the fore. Do you know – I just could not remember when I last pulled a Christmas cracker. It must be my age!



Christmas Crackers – on the table!

Our next outing is to Abbeyfield, Girton on the 21st December so please turn up in a Christmas hat. Someone has donated a tin of peas to us so there will be a prize for the best decorated tifter. Oh the expense! A menu will be made available soon. Please note that a previously announced function on the 14th December has been cancelled.

For more details about the December function contact:

For more details or order forms contact us using the details below:

Sam Clift

Tel: 07850740721 or email samclift@ntlworld.com



Listening Lantern

Mushrooms, onions, and carrots but not yet butternut squash!

In my last article I described a recent injury (a broken arm) and the learning about mental health

taken from a physical issue. I have been since describing my recovery to all those kind people who have enquired, related to the cutting of vegetables! At first, I could not even cut a mushroom but now I have progressed to onions and even to carrots. But not yet butternut squash - when I can tackle that hard skinned vegetable with a sharp knife, I will know that my arm has recovered fully!

Recovery in relation to mental health, though, is viewed very differently to my vegetable cutting analogy. It's not about necessarily returning exactly to how things were before. In fact, people often describe being different to how they were before, having a new perspective and understanding recovery as a journey not a destination.

Seasonal Support

There are times in the year when there are events and celebrations which may be family based, cultural or religious. Expectations around these events can be challenging for some people. If you are struggling with expectations, you are not alone - there is always someone to connect with:

Samaritans. Phone: 116123 (24/7)

Shout. Text: 85258 (24/7)

As a new year approaches, newly developed training is on offer

The Mental Health First Aid (two days) course which I have delivered for some years now, has recently been updated and redeveloped including access to an App to support Mental Health First Aiders, more inclusive materials, and increased opportunities during training to practise the skills needed in the role. My next open course to be held in Cambridge runs on the 2nd and 3rd of February 2023. Do get in touch if you are interested in attending.

Thank you to readers this year who have shown their appreciation of Listening Lantern – through GPN articles, the Facebook business page, the Food Hut, and individual support or signposting which I've been able to provide.

Juliet Adlouné, 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.julietadlouné or mhfa.julietadlouné@gmail.com.

A selection of wines to enjoy this Christmas



Vavasour Sauvignon Blanc 2021 Awatere Valley (New Zealand)

This elegant Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough's smaller, cooler Awatere Valley is the perfect aperitif to get your Christmas celebrations off to a fine start. An aromatic wine with notes of citrus and peach on the nose, leading to stone fruit flavours and a refreshing minerality on the palate. It has a lively acidity, a creamy mouthfeel, and a long finish.

Available from Co-op (£11)



Paco & Lola Albariño 2021 (Rías Baixas)

Year after year, Paco & Lola come up trumps with their Albariño to create award-winning wines.

This is a fresh crisp wine, high in acidity with aromas of blossom, lemon, and apple on the nose, and flavours of apple, peach, and nectarine on the palate. It is a well-balanced, medium-bodied wine with a lengthy finish, which matches perfectly with white meat and fish dishes.

Available from Tesco, Sainsbury's (£12-£14)



Somborne Estate Reserve Red 2014 (Hampshire)

This delightful red wine made from Rondo grapes grown in Hampshire is an ideal match for the complex blend of flavours associated with a traditional Christmas lunch.

Deep ruby in colour, this is a rich, smooth, medium-bodied, well-balanced wine. With blackberry, plum, and black cherry aromas, and notes of cinnamon and vanilla on the nose, and rich black fruit flavours with savoury notes on the palate, it's a wine with depth and complexity.

Available from Grape Britannia (£15.99)



Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Pedro Ximénez (Spain)

Christmas is a time for indulgence. And this is pure indulgence! This Pedro Ximénez (PX) from Sainsbury's is a full-bodied, lusciously sweet wine with sufficient acidity to balance the sweetness and create a long, velvety finish. With aromas of honey, raisin, and toffee, reminiscent of a mince pie, on the nose, and coffee, caramel, and toffee flavours on the palate, this is almost a dessert in its own right. A perfect match for Christmas pudding, rich desserts, and mature cheese. It can also be drizzled over vanilla ice cream for another-worldly experience!

Available from Sainsbury's (£8)

Merry Christmas! Look out for more wine suggestions from around the world in 2023. Cheers!

Martin Nuttall

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We all think that December is a time to relax and look out of the window at the garden with a mug of coffee but,

as always, there is plenty to do. One important job is tidying up, especially the vegetable beds where there are pea and bean supports to remove and plants that we hoped would produce before winter but have now given up need to be removed and composted. Compost made over the summer can be spread out. Don't tidy up too much as seed heads left over winter provide homes for insects and food for birds.

It is also the time to plant new fruit trees and bushes. New stock arrives at the garden centres around now and there may be new varieties to experiment with. I came home with a sad looking gooseberry plant, reduced to £1.25p, in need of a good home!

Colour at this time of the year is a treat – cyclamen look especially good now. The hollies are bright with berries and already attracting blackbirds, let's hope they leave some for decorating the house at Christmas! This year the weather has turned topsy turvy and seeds dropped by summer plants have sprouted where they fell in the warmth of October, roses, fuchsias, and many other flowers are still blooming, and apples are refusing to drop off the trees although their leaves have fallen and need collecting to make leaf mould. Where there are spring bulbs such as snowdrops and plants such as winter roses, hellebores, primroses, and cyclamen, fallen leaves need removing to give light to those growing below trees or in borders.

My hedgehogs have taken up residence in their wooden house after giving us so much fun in the summer evenings, how fast they run! Ladybirds have gathered in their usual winter quarters. Birds are coming to the feeders and squirrels are digging holes in the lawn to bury walnuts etc. The jay appeared at the first sign of cold weather, I guess soon the field fares will be devouring the berries on trees. A key worry this year is the spread of avian flu which is devastating many wild birds as well as chickens, turkeys, and other farm birds. Do what you can to keep the wildlife that live in, or visit your garden, as healthy as possible by cleaning bird feeders frequently. Enjoy the festive season and finally a quote from Oliver Herford:

'I heard a bird sing in the dark of December.

A magical thing and sweet to remember.

We are nearer to Spring than we are to September.'

Judith Addison

Girton Garden Society

Eddington News

Eddington is gearing up for Christmas with an entertaining range of events and workshops lined up for December.

Storey's Field Centre plays host to festive folk from the Megson Christmas Show on the 4 December, and a yuletide performance from A Winter Union on the 15 December. Workshops include wreath-making on the 11 December, and calligraphy on the 4 December at Turing Locke.

The University of Cambridge Primary School is hosting a Christmas market and funfair on the 16 December, with market stalls and fairground rides. Come and enjoy a traditional mulled wine or hot chocolate, while listening to Christmas Carols sung by the school choir. If you can't make that date, a Christmas Carol Service hosted by New Life Church will also take place at the School on the 18 December.

More Christmas events will be announced shortly, including ways to support local businesses, and spread festival cheer at Turing Locke and among the wider community. For updated events information please visit the Eddington website.



Girton Poppy Appeal 2022

This year Girton raised the magnificent sum of:
£11,600.66

which will be used to help provide continued support and assistance to our Armed Forces Personnel following conflicts throughout the world.

Thank you to everyone who supported this worthwhile cause again in any way. From the volunteers who sat in Sainsbury's foyer at Eddington, to the businesses in the village that had collecting boxes on display and to all those who donated money.

If there is anyone reading this who may be interested in becoming involved with organising the 2023 appeal in Girton, please contact me at girtonpa@yahoo.com

Lest we Forget

Wendy Ripley

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Girton



Youth Group Offers wide range of activities and support

Earlier this year, Girton Town Charity awarded a grant to the Connections Bus Project to run a weekly youth group in the Village, delivering activities for residents aged between 11 and 16. Project Manager Alan Webb gives an update on what is currently on offer.

“Girton Youth Group, which meets on Tuesday evenings between 7.00-8.30pm at the Cotton Hall, is open to all those in school years 7-11 and free to attend,” he says.

Activities on offer

“Each week, we run a variety of activities for the young people to choose from including: table tennis (very popular and everyone brings their own bats), table football, karaoke and Nintendo Switch with FIFA. There’s also MarioKart, Death Squared, Bomberman and table-top games such as Battleships, Connect4, Uno, chess, draughts and Othello, as well as a Giant Jenga.

“We also provide different crafts, a quiz with prizes and a cooking activity – and there’s a tuckshop with low prices.

“From time to time we organise an outside trip. Our next is on 13th December, when we are going to the Xtreme360 Trampoline Park in St Neots.

“Three youth workers always attend the Tuesday sessions to help facilitate activities and make it a safe place for all those attending.

Opportunity to meet

“We are really pleased with the take-up. Young people who attend enjoy having the opportunity to meet in a safe space with their friends, away from home. Some are able to share concerns or worries with the youth workers and have found this has helped to reduce anxiety. If necessary, youth workers can provide additional advice or details of other organisations for more serious issues.

“Youth Groups can definitely deliver a range of positive benefits, helping young people to gain social skills, learn about boundaries and respect, and get the chance to have the listening ear of a responsible adult outside of the family environment.”



Activities at the weekly youth group: Leather embossing - key rings and bookmarks; Nintendo Switch; table tennis and biscuit decorating and eating!

Supportive environment

Ann Bonnett, Chair of GTC added: “It is encouraging to hear that our

Youth Group is meeting a clear need for young people in the Village and at GTC, we are very grateful for the commitment of the team which makes it happen. The advantages of attending go beyond the excellent activities on offer, giving an opportunity for socialising outside the family home in a safe and supportive environment.”

review

CIRCLED IN THE RADIO TIMES
by John Osborne

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- The Independent

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WILLIAM COLLYN COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Monday

9.30 - 1.00pm Tumble Tots
2.00 - 3.00pm Kurling for over 55's
8.00 - 9.30pm Whole Notes Gospel Choir

Tuesday

8.30 - 9.30am Yoga with Julia Dale
10.00 - 11.00am Yoga with Julia Dale
6.00 - 7.00pm Bounce
7.30 - 10.30pm Easton Swing

Wednesday

7.30 - 10.00pm The W.I. (monthly - first Weds)
7.30 - 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

9.30am - 12.30pm Little City Toddler Play (monthly - second Friday)
7.30 - 8.30pm Easton Swing (monthly - third Friday)

Saturday

9.00 - 10.00am Bounce
1.00 - 3.00pm Cambridge Jazz Co-op (monthly)

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP
01223 279587
info@williamcollyn.co.uk
www.williamcollyn.co.uk

The William Collyn Centre is provided and run for the benefit of Girton residents by Girton Town Charity.

News for older residents

Welcome and good wishes to Michelle, the new Assistant Editor of Girton Parish News!

Winter Fair

The fair is at the Abbey Stadium, Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8LN on Tuesday 6 December from 10.30 to 1.30pm. Local agencies and charities will be offering information and advice relevant to older people. Hot drinks and mince pies will be provided free of charge. The stadium is close to a Citi bus C3 stop and there is some parking.

Ferrule Replacement Service

This service is now offered at all Cambridgeshire Libraries, so please check the ferrules on all your walking sticks.

Can you get down and back up again?

NHS Senior Clinical Exercise Specialist Simon Hanna says it is wise to practice being able to get down on the floor and back up again. There are many good reasons

for doing so, like playing with children or animals, gardening or retrieving items from under the bed or the back of a cupboard. As well as the importance of being able to get up, if uninjured, after falling. Practicing these skills is an effective way to increase strength and flexibility. Apparently, just sitting on the floor doing nothing also helps to improve our balance, stability, co-ordination, and posture.

Jigsaws

I have a number of 500- and 1000-piece jigsaws for giving away.

Items available

These include: a four wheeled rollator, a commode, toilet guard, shopping trolley and incontinence items.

Last, but not least, Happy Christmas, I hope you can celebrate in the way of your choosing whether with company or quietly at home.

I will be on leave from Thursday 22 December until Tuesday 3 January.

Patricia Johnston Older Residents' Co-ordinator

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk

Tel: 07469 660 866

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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 elsewhere in this magazine.



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

WORDSEARCH – Christmas Celebrations!

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.

S	F	B	S	R	E	K	C	A	R	C	Q	B	BAUBLES	HATS	PIE	TOY
L	T	E	P	A	R	T	Y	P	E	Y	E	A	BELL	HOLLY	PRESENTS	TREE
E	C	R	A	T	S	N	F	L	R	L	O	U	BERRIES	ICE	RED	TURKEY
I	C	R	E	Y	O	T	U	I	L	L	T	B	CANDLES	IVY	RINK	WASSAIL
G	N	I	S	A	E	Y	N	T	G	O	O	L	CAROL	JOKE	SANTA	WHITE
H	D	E	S	T	M	K	A	E	C	J	H	E	CRACKERS	JOLLY	SCARF	YULE
S	E	S	A	U	G	E	R	A	S	A	P	S	EAT	LIGHTS	SING	
T	R	E	E	O	M	S	R	U	T	E	N	G	FAMILY	LOG	SILVER	
H	E	L	L	E	A	O	T	S	T	O	R	J	FUN	MINCEMEAT	SLEIGH	
G	V	D	C	T	L	O	Z	I	W	E	O	P	GIFT	MUSIC	SNOWMAN	
I	L	N	N	L	O	G	H	M	E	K	Y	I	GOLD	NUT	SOOT	
L	I	A	S	S	A	W	A	N	E	V	X	E	GOOSE	PARTY	STAR	
M	S	C	A	R	F	N	Y	L	I	M	A	F	GREEN	PHOTO	STREAMERS	

Where does Christmas begin?

My wife disagrees with me, but I think Christmas advertising started even earlier this year. The supermarket aisles were filling up even before Halloween, and the TV adverts are now saturated with Christmas. Just yesterday (16 November), I was surprised to read in the news that Mariah Carey is officially NOT the “Queen of Christmas” – did anyone think she was? The launch of the new John Lewis Christmas advert is now a “thing” every year.

But one of my biggest personal bugbears for Christmas advertising is Frosts Garden Centres using the slogan “Where Christmas Begins...” Maybe they are right in the sense that they seem to consistently move into Christmas mode fantastically early each year, but in any serious sense Christmas does not begin in Frosts or, indeed, in any garden centre.

One of the most extraordinary things about the real beginning of Christmas is that no-one was really prepared for it. No-one expected it. The good people of Bethlehem hadn't ordered any turkey or put lights on a single tree. Where Christmas begins is the birth of a child to two people of no consequence in an obscure corner of a minor Roman province. Little warning. No preparation. The only fanfare was a group of shepherds and a star in the sky.

It's been a challenge not to be rather glum about the state of the world in the last year. The war in Ukraine, rising inflation, soaring fuel bills (with the backdrop of the threat of climate change), political instability, the potential for global recession, division, and unrest. As I write, Jeremy Hunt is about to reveal the government's financial plans for setting us back on course. By the time you read this we might have a sense of how it's going. It's likely to involve much belt-tightening and further cutting of public services. As I said, it's hard not to be glum.

But the wonder of Christmas is that God comes, without warning, to be with us in the tangible form of the babe lying in a manger. In that child God is starting the process of putting things right. The journey isn't over yet, the job isn't finished, but we can know the peace of God-with-us despite all the challenges we face.

If you live in Girton you should get a joint card from St Andrew's and Girton Baptist Church (maybe it's already arrived). The card lists everything we are doing to celebrate Christmas this year. We're confident that there's something for everyone. Why don't you come along to one thing this year and take a moment to step off the busy treadmill of Christmas preparation to reflect upon where Christmas really begins.

A Happy Christmas to all when it finally comes!

Michael Bigg

Rector - 01223 202145

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: December

4th 10:00 am Holy Communion (+StA4K)

11th 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00 am Nativity Service

6:00 pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

18th 10:00 am Holy Communion (+StA4K)

7:00 pm Carol Service

25th Christmas Day - See below.

1st Jan 10:00 am - Holy Communion

Regular weekday Services: December

Tues 9am Morning Prayer (said)

3:45pm Choir Church (during school term time)

Weds 9am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)

Thurs 9am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)

9pm Compline (said) (Online)

Christmas Services

11th 10:00 am Nativity Service

18th 7:00 pm Carol Service

24th 3:00pm Christingle Service

11:30pm Midnight Communion

25th 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Christmas Communion with activities for children

Other Services

8th 3:30 pm - Messy Church

14th 2:00 pm - Abbeyfield Holy Communion

20th 2:15 pm - Arlington Manor Holy Communion

29th 11:00 am - Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

Please note that the Carol Service on the 18th starts at 7.00pm.

Because of the great demand there will be a second sitting for “Carols at the Crown” on 21 December, at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Come and enjoy good food and company to the background music of Christmas carols.

Please book with the Old Crown on 01223 277217.

Tickets are £31 per person.



St Andrew's Church

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

Make me pure, Lord: Thou art holy. Make me meek, Lord: Thou wert lowly.

Now beginning and always; Now begin, on Christmas Day.

(Gerard Manley Hopkins)

Girton Baptist Church



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe
Tel: 01223 279289

Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith
Tel: 01223 520442

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

December Services, all at Girton Baptist Church at 10.30am, and on Zoom.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------|---|
| 4 th | 10.30am | Morning Worship, Second in Advent, with communion, led by Nick Lowe. |
| 4 th | 4.00pm | Christmas Songs of Praise, Girton Green Abbeyfield, with afternoon tea. |
| 11 th | 10.30am | Morning Worship, Third in Advent, led by Nick Lowe. |
| 18 th | 10.30am | Morning Worship, Fourth in Advent, with communion, led by Nick Lowe. |
| 18 th | 4.00pm | Carols by Candlelight. |
| 24 th | 6.00pm | Christmas Eve Service, reflection with communion, led by Nick Lowe. |
| 25 th | 10.30am | Morning Family Service, led by Nick Lowe. |

Messy Church at Christmas is on Thursday 8th December from 3.30pm. Messy Church is for parents and their children, with craft activities based on a biblical theme, a story and a meal together. If you would like to find out more, please contact us or just come along.

The Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group (TAFG) is on 6 December for an Advent party. If you would like to come but need a lift, please contact us.

Girton Baptist Church



All are welcome to any of the services and events to in the previous column.

For further details about any of the above, including the online link for the service, please ring 07483 334860 or email pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

Bible passages from the prophet Isaiah are often read in churches during Advent and Christmas because they predict the coming of Christ. One such passage is found in Isaiah 9v2, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." The situation in ancient Israel at the time of Isaiah's prophecy was dire, with turmoil within the nation and fearful threats of war from the great Assyrian Empire. Isaiah described it as a time of darkness. But where could light, that is, a brighter future, be found? The word of hope spoken by Isaiah referred to a coming Messiah, a Saviour. Four verses later Isaiah explained this hope further with words many of us are also familiar with: "For to us a child is born, to us a child is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders." When Jesus came, he identified himself as the light that shines in the darkness, the one who will guide our feet onto the path of peace.

The second verse of the carol, "Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light" captures Isaiah's message well:

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light
To herald our salvation
He stoops to earth - the God of might
Our hope and expectation
He comes in human flesh to dwell
Our God with us, Immanuel
The night of darkness ending
Our fallen race befriending

A Prayer for Christmas: Dear Lord, in our Christmas celebrations this year, help us to remember the Christ who became man, to die and bring light and salvation for all people. May we know your peace and joy in our family and community relationships this festive season. Amen

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

Chairman

Vacant at time of printing

Vice-Chairman

Daniel Carney, daniel.carney@girton-pc.gov.uk

Councillors

Gary Betts, gary.betts@girton-pc.org.uk

Michael Blom, michael.blom@girton-pc.gov.uk

Andrew Clare, andrew.clare@girton-pc.gov.uk

Alison Giles, alison.giles@girton-pc.gov.uk

Nas Hayat, nas.hayat@girton-pc.gov.uk

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Ann Muston, ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk

Haydn Williams, haydn.williams@girton-pc.gov.uk

Carolyn Wright, carolyn.wright@girton-pc.gov.uk

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

District Councillors

Richard Stobart, Tel: 07950 934793

cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk

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 237173

clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk

Assistant Parish Clerk

Angie Vidler, Tel: 01223 618619

admin@girton-pc.gov.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

You may also use the QR codes below to contact us:



Girton Parish Council
Website



Girton Village
Community FB



Girton PC Twitter
@GirtonPCouncil

Bin collections December

Thursday 8 December	Black bin
Thursday 15 December	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 22 December	Black bin
Saturday 31 December	Blue bin

Mobile Library

Thursday 8 and 22 December 2022

Thornton Court	9.40 -10.00
Abbeyfield	10.10 -10.50
Cotton Hall/Church	11.00 -11.30
Orchard Close	11.35 -11.55
St Vincents Close	12.00 -12.40
Gretton Court	12.50 -13.15
Churchfield Court	13.20 -13.45

Contact numbers for bookings

Cotton Hall	07759 983420
Orchard Close	277164
Pavilion	618619
St Vincent's Close	276447
William Collyn Community Centre	279587



The Mobile Post Office

Opens every Friday 1.30-2.30 pm
in the car park in Orchard Close
behind the old Scallywags Nursery.



The A10 Fish & Chip Van

Visits Girton most Thursdays

Church Yard	3.50 – 4.10
Orchard Close	4.15 – 4.30
Wellbrook Way	4.30 – 4.45
St. Vincents Close	4.45 – 5.30
Church Lane	5.30 – 5.45
Hicks Lane	5.45 – 6.00
Duck End	6.00 – 6.30
Gretton Court	6.30 – 6.45
Woodlands Park	6.45 – 7.00
Dodford Lane	7.00 – 7.15



Answers to this month's
CODEWORDS puzzle (p.31).

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

The Girton Chiropodist

(Mobile Service)


ERICA NICHOLS

M.S.S.Ch. M.B.Ch.A HCPC Ch20454

Glebe House
39 Cambridge Road,
Girton CB3 0PN

Tel: 01223 520077
Mob: 07703 292354
e-mail: erica.n@me.com



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July
2023



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THE COGWHEEL RUNNING FESTIVAL

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An end-of-year running festival for all the family

Saturday 31st December 2022
10.30am, Girton Recreation Ground

Event organised by Cogwheel Counselling to help provide affordable counselling

Register online for 5K and 10k at www.cogwheel5kcanter.org.uk from 1st September
 On-the-day registration for 200m mini-run and 2K

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 Girton Golf Club, Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QE
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