



Casual Staff – Catering Department

Café / Bar Staff Front of House Staff (Bar Staff must be 18 years +) £10.90 per hour

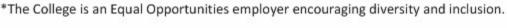
The College holds a list of registered casual staff for the Catering Department. Casuals are called upon when extra catering staff are needed at large functions e.g., Formal Halls, weddings, conferences etc.

We are currently looking for Café / Bar staff and Front of House staff.

Both positions will be mostly evening and occasional weekend work. Experience is not necessary – training is provided.

If you would like to register, please request an application form from recruitment@girton.cam.ac.uk

*Please note the College has a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK.





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:

Play Your Cards Right, Discos, Karaoke and Live Music

Fortnightly Bingo on Fridays - non-members welcome but must be signed by a member on the eve

We have two modern pool tables - £1 per game or £6 per hour (free Wednesday evening),

3 dartboards, skittles and a juke box updated twice weekly.

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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 £7.50, Senior Citizens £3.25, Armed Forces £1, Adults new/lapsed £10, Senior Citizens new/lapsed £3.50

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:

Typesetters Sam Clift, Pat Dickens, Claire Lightley, Shahila Mitchell, Bill Rothwell.

Distribution Coordinator Karen Richardson email:gpndist@gmail.com

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.

Printed by Printerbello Ltd,. Girton, Cambridge Tel: 01223 855195

Music at Girton College

'Die Sonne ist erschienen'

Sunday 28 January at 2.30pm (until 3.30pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College Isabel Benson (voice) Isabella Chan (cello) Edward Campbell-Rowntree (piano)

Music students from Girton College perform nature-themed songs by Brahms, Lachner and Bernstein, arranged for voice, cello and piano.

Admission free; retiring collection

Choral Exhibitioners' Recital

Sunday 4 February at 2.30pm (until 3.30pm)

Fellows' Drawing Room, Girton College

Members of Girton College Choir offer a variety of works, spanning music from the Baroque era to the present day, for solo voice and vocal ensemble.

Admission free; retiring collection

WEAR Wishing all our readers, helpers and friends Best wishes for 2024 and always May you all be healthy, happy, prosperous & bright The GPN team

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Copy date for February 2024 issue: Wednesday 17 Jan. Issue date: Sat. 3 Feb. Covers 3 Feb – 3 March.



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Girton Parish Council

Setting the Precept for Girton Parish Council, 2024–2025

January is the month that all Parish Councils set their budgets and submit their

request for local funding in the form of a precept request. In the case of Girton Parish Council this request is made to South Cambridgeshire District Council. We would invite you to attend our January Full Council on Wednesday 10th January to learn more about our 2024–2025 budget. A Full Meeting Schedule of all Full Council and Committee Meetings is available here: www.girton-cambs.org.uk. We would be very pleased to see you.

We have had a very busy November/December with our Committees and working groups reviewing and confirming new three-year plans which will give us and therefore all of you more oversight of GPC's plans going forward.

Welcome to our new GPC Parish Ranger

Girton Parish Council is pleased to welcome Kevin Jacobs who has been engaged for a six-month trial period to assist with maintenance of Parish Council assets throughout our village. This extends the support that Girton provides for Girton Recreation Ground by our Groundman Chris Wilson. GPC will be publishing in the new year on the Girton Village Community website a list of the work and projects we are undertaking.

GPC Sports Club Charges

Discussions are taking place with all sports clubs to look at their terms and conditions of use of Parish Council facilities. Subsidies and charges for the new financial year are also being looked at with a view to being fair to all clubs while making best use to residents' money. Although no final decision has yet been made, the Parish Council is looking to help all clubs promote their sport and encourage more participation from residents of the village across all age groups.

An update from our Environment Committee

- Continuing to liaise with contractors for a more measured approach to no mow summer
- Finishing and submitting the LHI bid for double yellow lines and other street painting based on the survey results

- Completing the process to declare Town End Close a Local Nature Reserve
- Working with the Local Nature Recovery Planning group on the 10-year plan and thinking about submission of future budgets
- Submitting the tree and grassland policies to December's Parish Council
- Creating a timetable for the creation of management plans for land owned by Girton Parish Council

A word from Daniel Carney, our Girton Parish Council Chair

There are some important projects coming up that are held in December's Chair report on Girton Village Community website. Please see Daniel's report which I have posted separately for easy access here under December Full Council Agenda: www.girton-cambs.org.uk/council-agendas/

- Enforcement of parking restrictions in the village and across South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Maintaining our pathways and excess hedging
- Footpath/cycleway links between Wellbrook Way and Darwin Green
- Safe lighting in the village
- Proposed works at Girton Corner

And finally....

Bringing the Parish Council to you

I am sure you will be delighted to know that our Events Committee, led by Cllr Stuart Marshall is putting together a list of organisations in Girton that we would very much like to come and visit and understand more of what matters to you and how we might support the work you are doing in the village. If you belong to an organisation in Girton or even if you would like to meet with us individually, please do let us know.

Girton Parish Council 237173, clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk

County Councillor's Report

Cost of living, inflation and ongoing central government funding pressures: the gradual bankrupting of local government

Proposals for Cambridgeshire County Council's 2024/5 budget and five-year business plan are set to be presented to its Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee on 19 December 2023, the same day the

Government is likely to unveil the full details of its Local Government Financial Settlement.

County councils across the country have warned of the risk of major budget overspends due to 'uncontrollable' pressures, and fear that even well-managed councils are 'running out of road to prevent insolvency'. Councils report that all frontline council services are being affected, with increasing demand for care services amongst vulnerable children and a rise in the cost of placing children in care leading to spiralling costs. It's expected that £319m of the projected £639m national overspend by county councils this year comes from children's services alone.

Concerningly, one in ten 'well-managed' councils are unsure whether they are able to balance their budget this year, which is a legal requirement. This figure is expected to rise to four in ten for next year, and then six in ten for 2025. The overall funding deficit is anticipated to reach £4 billion up to 2026, regardless of the £2 billion worth of savings and cuts that councils are planning to make in order to prevent the issuing of a 'Section 114 Notice' (the local government equivalent of bankruptcy).

We are certainly in tough times, but when the majority of councils are in trouble it's a sign that the system is broken. A new approach to local government by the government is urgently needed.

(Old) Shire Hall to be re-marketed

Cambridgeshire County Council is poised to begin work to find a new commercial partner in the redevelopment of the former Shire Hall building in Cambridge. The previous preferred bidder Brookgate has now confirmed that altered market conditions mean they are unable to complete the deal. Councillors have been asked to approve moves to re-market the site from early next year with a deadline to complete with a new partner by the end of 2024.

Council officers have been working with expert legal and property advisors to review the six-acre site and provide a view of options. This review has concluded that the hotel concept continues to be a valuable one, potentially providing an annual return in the region of £3m each year to invest in frontline services for the next 50 years and £6m to invest in Cambridgeshire's infrastructure and assets. All proposals for the site will require full planning, Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument consents, and ensure protection of the assets on site.

Teenage fostering appeal

In Cambridgeshire, there are currently more than 400 young people in the 12–18 age range who, for reasons beyond their control, are unable to continue living with their birth families. These young people would benefit hugely from the invaluable experience of people who

have raised teenagers and supported them on their journey to independence.

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Online at

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption

Phone 0800 052 0078

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Cllr Edna Murphy edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Councillors' Report

Cost of living support winter comms campaign

SCDC is running a campaign to encourage residents to claim all the cost-of-living support to which they are entitled. The campaign is sponsored by the Cambridge Independent and will be featured in Facebook adverts, and adverts on Guided Busway. The campaign is running until Christmas and will direct people to www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living to see what they can claim.

It's estimated that around 25% of benefits go unclaimed. Here's an easy-to-use on-line Benefits Calculator: *entitledto.co.uk*

Climate Action Conference in Cottenham, 28th November 2023

The conference was well received by the 80+ people who attended. The Zero Carbon Communities grants have provided over £500,000 in funding locally since it was launched four years ago and have so far funded 71 projects. Designed to equip community groups to take climate action at a local level, grants have helped upgrade community buildings, educate people about their carbon footprint, and helped nature recover.

You may like to see a video that was commissioned for the event: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXr9YIKUp0U. The video highlights some of the projects to have benefited from our Zero Carbon Communities grants in recent years.

South Cambs Finances

The latest audit is being signed off at a time when the vast majority of councils are behind on the audit due to big problems with the capacity of the auditors we are required to use. The joint planning service (Cambridge City and South Cambs) is reporting that its spending is close to budget – whereas this time last year it was £250,000 over. The Council has been able to recruit to a significant number of planning roles for which it had been employing agency staff at great expense.

Cambridge 2040

Cambridge 2040 is Michael Gove's vision for significant employment and housing growth in Greater Cambridge. There was not much in the Autumn Statement about it other than fairly modest sums of money for retrofitting water efficiency into existing houses and some money for enhanced planning services. We know that there is £3m to set up a Cambridge office to work up the scheme. There was mention of a possible Development Corporation but we have no reason to believe that this is definitely the route they are taking.

Civil parking enforcement

Earlier this year an application was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) to enable Council Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to issue Penalty Charge Notices for the majority of on-street offences such as parking on double or single yellow lines. The police will still cover parking offences like dangerous parking.

Following the decision by Government, the CPE scheme in South Cambridgeshire will officially come into effect on 19 December.

A Warning Notice will be issued to people who continue to park where there are restrictions throughout January. Penalty Charge Notices will be issued from 1 February which will mean a fine of between £50 and £70, depending on the severity of the offence.

Please contact us if you have questions and comments. We'll always be glad to put you and residents in touch with officers and to make sure that you see a prompt and accurate response.

May we offer you best wishes for a peaceful start to the New Year.

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

Cllr Richard Stobart 07950 934793 cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk

Cambridge Tourist Guides

How much do you know about Girton's big urban neighbour?

- 1. What did the Romans call their settlement in Cambridge?
- 2. Which monarch deprived Cambridge of its main street, and why?
- 3. How did Eddington get its name?

If these questions piqued your interest, you may like to know that there's a group of people just bursting to unlock Cambridge's secrets on a variety of walking tours. They're the members of the Society of Cambridge Tourist Guides (SCTG) — local people who have trained to achieve Institute of Tourist Guiding qualifications.



Two Girton residents were among those who qualified in the last round of training in 2016. Gerald Smith has studied Local and Landscape History as well as Historic Building Conservation and loves to point out to visitors

and residents alike the myriad factors that have influenced the Cambridge we see now.

Libby Cull was inspired to become a tour guide by many enjoyable tours on her holidays. Asked about guiding experiences, she recalls: "During an evening tour in September 2022, a lady took out her phone to take photos and



gasped. She'd seen in a newsflash that the Queen had just died. Within minutes the roofscape was transformed, as colleges raised their flags to half-mast and a solitary bell started to toll at Great St Mary's. It impressed the foreign visitors and made for a memorable experience."

In addition to leading tours, both Gerald and Libby volunteer at city events, such as Open Cambridge, the Cambridge Festival and the Bridge the Gap Walk.

From September 2024, SCTG's qualified trainers will be running a course leading to certification as

a Cambridge Guide. Sessions take place on Thursday evenings and Saturdays.

To find out more come to a drop-in session on Saturday 10 February 2024 from 10.00–12.00 in the Upper Hall, St Paul's Church, Hills Road, Cambridge, or email the training team on *training@cambridgegreenbadge.org.uk*

Answers

- 1. Duroliponte ("The Fort at the Bridge")
- 2. Henry VI. He built King's College (1441) right across the middle of the medieval main street, Milne Street.
- 3. It's named after distinguished astrophysicist Sir Arthur Eddington.



A New Year for Nature

The Local Nature Recovery Plan management group is still working on our programme of events for 2024, so now is a good chance to look back at progress so far and to outline plans for the new year.

Highlights from 2023:

• Writing the formal Local Nature Recovery Plan, which was approved by the Parish Council in November - if you want more details, you can find the whole thing at

www.girton-cambs.org.uk/girton-parish-council-2/local-nature-recovery-plan/

- Holding a series of events including moth trapping, open days at Town End Close, public meetings and a talk from the Museum of Zoology
- Taking part in the Village Fete and other local community events
- Working with the Green Team to maintain local green spaces at the Pump Garden, Town End Close and the Hibbert Ware Memorial Garden
- Working on identifying and recording the wildlife and plants which we already have in the village so that we can tell if our work is making a difference in the future
- Running guided walks to explore nature in the

village

• Starting a project to make the Hibbert Ware Garden into a better space for nature and to raise awareness of Alice Hibbert Ware and her work – more on this below!

We have also been recording sightings sent to us by members of the public – if you have spotted some amazing wildlife, please send us a photo at lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk along with the time and place of your sighting.

In 2024, we will be running more events (see future issues of the GPN for more details) and continuing to collect as much information about local wildlife and plants as we can. Our main project will be the Hibbert Ware Garden revamp, which should give us a chance to use this beautiful site opposite the church to show how we can use green spaces and gardens to be excellent habitats for wildlife. Changes will include:

- Creating pollinator beds with native wildflowers (this work has already started)
- Creating a bog garden with water-loving plants
- Reintroducing native trees
- A Hugelkultur bed (essentially a raised bed made from compost) and compost heaps
- If funding allows, extra features such as arches, a mosaic and a shelter.

We've tried to speak to as many people as possible who have been involved with working on the garden in the past, but we know we might have missed people! If you have any information about work which has previously been done, or if you are interested in keeping in touch with what we're doing now, we'd love to hear from you at lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk

Finally, if you're thinking about New Year's resolutions then doing more for and in Nature could be a great thing to try. You can help us work on our projects by volunteering your time or by contributing to the Hibbert Ware Garden project at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nature-in-girton. We'd like to thank those who have joined in with our work in 2023 and to wish everyone a happy and nature-filled New Year!

What's your story

It would be great to hear from you, so why not drop us a line with your amusing story? It doesn't have to be a great long tale just something that happened to you during your normal day.

Perhaps you could include a picture of the incident – just send them in.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



St Andrew's for Kids



Sundays 10 - 10.45 am

A weekly group for children to explore the big questions of life through stories, wondering and creative play



Eana Bell (Children and Families Minister) ofmagirton.church / 07505 201419 www.girton.church







Christmas Tree Shredding

Sunday 7th January 2024 09:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Girton Glebe School**

Come and join us for a great community event!

Tree Shreddingby Acacia Tree Surgery

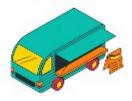
Wheelie Bin Cleaning by Wheelie Fresh Bins

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



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12th Jan - 4 pm - Tradizioni

19th Jan - 4.30 pm - Papas Locas

26th Jan - 4.30 pm - Pizza Passione

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January Wine Selection

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and looking forward to sharing new discoveries with you in 2024!

Here are three interesting wines from the Balkans to get the New Year off to a cracking start! Although winemaking is a well-established tradition across the countries of the Balkan Peninsula, their wines are generally not very well known internationally. But given the diversity of terroir across the Balkans, and with very good wines being produced from familiar international as well as less familiar indigenous grape varieties, now is a very good time to explore the region's wines and try something new.



PinotPinot Pinot noir 2021 (North Macedonia)]

Behind the gimmicky name is a smooth, very pleasant Pinot Noir. The wine has raspberry, plum and cherry aromas on the nose, and flavours of red fruits, blackcurrant and a hint of vanilla and spice on the palate. An easy-drinking, reasonable wine offering very good value for money, it will go well with a Sunday roast, roasted vegetables or a mushroom dish, and can also be enjoyed by itself.

Available from Sainsbury's (£7.50)



Totem Viorica Château Vartely 2022 (Moldova)]

This delightfully aromatic dry white wine from Moldova is a little gem! Produced from the indigenous grape variety Viorica, it is a crisp, refreshing wine with a long finish. With orange blossom and honey on the nose, and citrus and peach flavours on the palate, this is well-balanced wine that has lots of character. Perfect as an aperitif or with a seafood dish.

Available from **The Wine Society** (www.thewinesociety.com) (£7.25)



Marks & Spencer Expressions Fetească Regală 2022 (Romania)]

This fresh aromatic white wine from the new M&S Expressions range is a very good example of one of Romania's most popular white grape varieties, Fetească Regală (Royal Maiden). With aromas of jasmine, peach and green apple and flavours of peach, pear and melon, this is a well-balanced wine with a long finish and a slight fizz on the

palate. This can be enjoyed by itself or with grilled fish. It's also a good match for a slightly spicy Asian dish.

Available from Marks & Spencer (£8)

Martin Nuttall www.itmustbewineoclock

Vive la différence

Recently I was fortunate enough to do a spot of wine judging at the People's Choice Wine Awards in London. This was my first judging "gig" so although I have been to many many trade and private tastings, I haven't done it according to other people's criteria.

As I sipped and spat, judging the 50-plus wines in the relatively short time available, I was immediately struck how different in quality and style the wines were compared to the stuff I usually drink, however catholic my tastes. It occurred to me how easy it is to get into a groove with our drinking habits. Buying wine can feel like backing a horse. You are putting cash down and taking a bet, sometimes a rather expensive one.

Domaine de la Romanée-Conti is around £25,000...per bottle!

You can improve your odds by knowing the form and educating yourself. But whether you go into a wine shop, a supermarket (where the selections are ready made), a restaurant with a helpful Sommelier or indeed a wine tasting you are hoping that the person giving advice can improve your chances of backing a winner. One of my favourite things about giving tastings is defying people's expectations about a region or grape variety. Taste is subjective and there is always someone out there making wine with tastebuds like yours! So go and explore.



Come and join me for my next tasting "Try January" at William Collyn Community Centre. We will be trying

wines and grape varieties which are deliciously off the beaten track. Friday 26 January at 7.30 pm. To book contact Matt: mattgamblewinetastings@gmail.com.

Matt Gamble

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Brilliant

Neil is extremely reliable and efficient. He sorted my laptop out very guickly and efficiently and talked to me in language I understood, which is very helpful as being a silver surfer it can be confusing. I have no hesitation in recommending him to

- Jill - Histon



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The Mikado by Gilbert & Sullivan

In the fictional town of Titipu there is great excitement, as the first **International Arts** Festival and Summer School is about to take

place. There are also preparations underway for a wedding, but it's not entirely clear who the groom will be. Nanki-Poo, a wandering minstrel, has followed Yum-Yum, the girl of his dreams, to the town, but has yet to find her. She and her friends are just about to return to Titipu having finished school for good! Meanwhile, the status of Titipu has been enhanced by the appointment of Ko-Ko to the position of Lord High Executioner. He has accepted the role on the (mistaken) assumption that the duties are "purely nominal".

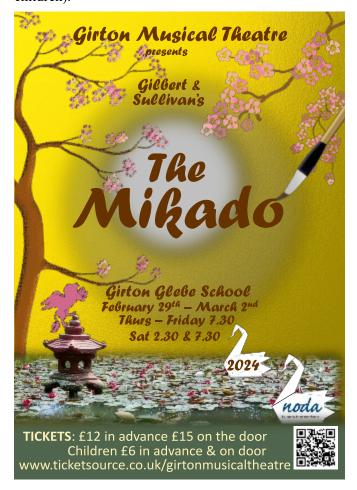
The Mikado is one of the best-loved of the Gilbert & Sullivan musicals, and includes well-known songs such as Three Little Maids from School, A more Humane Mikado ("let the punishment fit the crime") and the often parodied patter song I've got a Little List. With the usual cast of larger than life characters, and a mix of romance, pathos and comedy, this is a show which can be enjoyed by most ages.

Will Nanki-Poo get his girl? Will Titipu keep its town status if Ko-Ko refuses to carry out his duties? Will the Mikado get involved with the happenings in this small town? To find the answers to these and other questions, come along to the Glebe School to one of the four performances:

Thursday 29th February to Saturday 2nd March 2024 at 7.30pm, or 2.30pm on the 2nd. Tickets in advance: £12 (£6 children) from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/girtonmusical theatre. Tickets on the door: £15 (£6 children).







News for Older Residents

Happy New Year!

Tuesday Connections

January can feel like a long and dreary month, so we'll have a Winter Warmer on Tuesday 9th January at 2pm in the William Collyn Community Centre.

Sam Clift has put together a collection of well-known songs to sing, the words of which will be on the screen so everyone can join in. We will also have some poetry with poems chosen and read by various people. Following this there will be plenty of time to chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

The February meeting will be a talk by Ben Truett (SCDC) on Keeping Active and Healthy. It will be at 2pm on Tuesday 13th in the William Collyn Community Centre.

Hope Again

The Spring 2024 course starts on Thursday 8th February and finishes on Thursday 14th March. Each session is from 2-4pm in the Methodist Church Hall in Histon and deals with different aspects of bereavement and loss each week. For more information and to register phone 07707 263353 or email HABG1@icloud

At time of writing the white (little used) electric cooker is still available, free of charge.

Girton Community

Warden Sarah Stuart can be contacted on 07979 333963.

Patricia Johnston, Older Residents' Coordinator Tel: 07469 660 866 Email:

patricia.johnston@ageukcap TownCharity .org.uk



January 2024 13







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Gretton School News - Autumn Term 2023

November has been a

busy month at Gretton School with December looking to be even busier, if that is possible!

Earlier this month, Gretton School made the short journey to compete in the Panathlon at Impington Village College. For the first time in Gretton's history we had enough female students to create an 'all-girl' team to represent the school - this was very exciting!

'Girl Power' was in full flow as the girls represented the school to the highest standard - they are now regional champions across South Cambridgeshire! We are very proud of them all.

Gretton loves raising money for charity and this month was no different - we hosted a Children in Need Bake Sale on our Rectory site and we raised an impressive £260!



Speaking of raising money for charity, we are thrilled to be raising money for Jimmy's homeless shelter in Cambridge at our annual Christmas Fair this December.



Children in need bake sale

Barry, from Jimmy's, has visited us in school on two occasions over the last few weeks to speak to our students about the important work they do and what the money raised will be supporting. The students



Barry from Jimmy's

asked really insightful and interesting questions and Barry will be joining us at our Christmas Fair this year. Local community spirit has been bountiful as we have been gifted so many wonderful prizes for our tombola at this year's

fair. We look forward to paying this kindness forward and will update everyone with the amount raised for Jimmy's at one of our favourite annual events for learners, parents and guests.

We also had a very jam-packed sustainability week,



where we had various visitors come in to talk to our students as well as taking part in activities with them. We even had a trip out for our key stage 3

students to the local recycling centre in Waterbeach. The students had a tour of the site - many said it was rather smelly! - and then carried out some activities linked to recycling. Back on



site, throughout the week, we had visits from a civil engineer, a solar panel enthusiast and Cam Valley Forum

As I write, we are gearing up for our Christmas Pantomime, Cinderella, this week, for our Christmas Fair, and for a primary student trip to St Andrews Church to meet Eona! We look forward to telling you more about these events in the next edition.



All that is left for us to say, on behalf of all the staff and students at Gretton School, is we would like to wish the Girton community a very healthy and happy new year.

Victoria Howe Deputy Head

scoreboard

Girton Bowls Club



Both Indoor Bowls teams, Girton 1 and Girton 2 are continuing to play their League matches at Chesterton Bowls Club. Girton 1 are placed 2nd in Division 1 and Girton 2 are sitting in 6th place in Division 2.

During this quieter period in the bowls calendar, I thought I would take the opportunity to acknowledge all our valued sponsors: Peasgood and Skeates, The Old Crown, Oakington Garden Centre, Redmayne Arnold, Shauns Newsagents, Urban Cars, and Arlington Manor. We also hope very soon to welcome a new sponsor, MM Wealth, based in Wellbrook Way.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year, as we now start to look forward to the 2024 bowls season.

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

Youth football goes from strength to strength. As the new Chair of the club I've taken over the role from Andrew

Hawkes, who did a great job with the committee, coaches and volunteers, to build the club up to where it is now. By the New Year, we will have fifteen squads from Under-5s to Under-16s, training and playing weekly. Over 100 children, mostly from Girton, are playing each weekend. We now have two girls teams playing and winning in the league and surely more to come. We can do this because we have fantastic volunteers and the generous support of Girton Town Charity and the Parish Council. So please come down and watch and cheer, or help with the tuck shop, or become a referee, or a coach! And if you are still unsure about the beauty in the 'beautiful game', have a read of Carol Ann Duffy's sonnet We See You.

David Rothe



Girton Golf Club

Happy New Year to all or members and friends. Let's all hope for a peaceful 2024.

Our Professional Paul is holding group lessons at Girton for all levels of Ladies and Juniors golfers, and would-be golfers. Prices and schedules are:

Group lessons

Juniors – Saturdays 3 till 4pm, £15.00 (includes range balls)

Ladies – Thursdays 11am till noon, £15.00

Individual lessons

Adults – £35.00 for ½ hr, £60 for 1 hr Juniors – £27.00 for ½ hr, £45.00 for 1 hr

Just contact the office and book yourself in. Remember if the weather is inclement we have an indoor studio so lessons can continue indoors.

We also have a special membership offer running so ask the office about joining and take advantage of a great deal. Also, if you are not a golfer, Social Membership is also available at a very low cost so pop in and ask about that whilst enjoying a coffee in the clubhouse.

The popular fun Friday quiz nights continue into 2024 with teams of up to 6 people at a cost of only £2 per person. Food is available if pre-booked. Dates are 19th January, 16th February, 15th March. We look forward to seeing you then. Call the office, or bar and catering, for more information.

At Girton Golf Club there are groups for all to join, so if you are new to the area and don't know many people yet then joining Girton Golf Club is a great way to make new friends and get wonderful exercise. Call the office, or pop in, and discuss the membership options.

Alan Henderson-Smith

Tel: 276169 www.girtongolf.co.uk



Girton Tennis Club

Our committee would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy 2024. 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? We are past the shortest day and on dry winter days there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy a friendly outdoor game of tennis. Members just need to access the booking page on our website to reserve the courts.

The Parish Council have been using contractors to install outdoor table tennis facilities at the rear of the basketball practice area. As a result, the grass between the Pavilion and hard courts has become very muddy. Until this fully recovers, we would ask members to stop using the court gate nearest to the Pavilion. Please use the gate on the far side of the courts and try to minimise the amount of mud getting onto 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.

We entered a mixed and men's team in the 2023 Winter League and the mixed team have had an excellent start, winning their first three matches. The men's team had a more difficult start but drew their last match. We hope the weather is kind when they play the last two matches. Thanks to all of those who have taken or are due to take part.

The tennis club committee has been in discussion with Toby Jackson of Game Set Tennis, and is pleased to announce that he will be offering coaching sessions to interested members from 10th January 2024. Toby is an experienced coach who has coached locally for several years, most recently at Cambourne and Cottenham. He is a LTA Level 3 Qualified Coach.

Toby will be offering group lessons for adults and juniors. He'll also be able to run individual lessons for members. Here is a summary of the exciting range of coaching being offered:

Wednesdays

4–5pm Red ball (5–8 year olds)

5–6pm Orange/Green ball (9–11 year olds)

6–7pm Yellow ball (12–16 year olds)

7-8pm Adult beginner/intermediate

8-9pm Adult advanced

Thursdays

8–8.45am Tennis Breakfast Club (KS2) held at Girton Glebe Primary School

9.15–10.15am Cardio Tennis (the perfect way to get back into shape after Christmas!)

Saturdays

8.30-9.30am Adult advanced

9.30–10.30am Adult beginner/intermediate

10.30–11.15am Tots/Super Tots (3–6 year olds)

Please check our website for further details and how to sign up for coaching.

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

At different times of the year, many people adorn their front doors with a wreath – a way of welcoming, a



marking of the seasons and a celebration of occasions.

This homemade wreath has adorned our front door over the winter, with colourful berries and shiny foliage from our garden on display during the day and with lights to brighten the dark nights. I aim

for my home to be welcoming, to neighbours, friends and family, and I hope the wreath helps to do this.

But more importantly it is my wish for me to be

welcoming in my approach: inclusive, warm and with a listening ear. The wreath which all of us 'wear' everyday is how we treat and connect with others.

Signposting

www.sidebyside.mind.org.uk is a community moderated by the team at Mind (the mental health charity) for over 18 year olds. It

offers someone to connect with 24/7 and, by doing so, aims to reduce isolation and vulnerability.



Connection is key in supporting others and in keeping them safe. Learning how to build connections is just part of a Suicide First Aid course; you also learn how to look out for signs of someone in crisis, how to ask crucial questions and how to support someone towards safety as a First Aider. My next open course, held online on the morning of 29th January 2024 welcomes anyone who wants to support family, friends, neighbours and colleagues. For details, please contact *mhfa.julietadloune@gmail.com*

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



Caught!

Reynard the fox caught on night-time camera in Thornton Road. Don't leave your shoes out! See page 19

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- Phillip W.

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Continued page 21



Girton, we have a problem!

I am sorry to keep harping on about Reynard the daring fox of Redgate Road and the village but he's been at it again!

Another of my neighbours who leave their gardening

shoes out at night have suffered losses. Firstly, I am a little envious that all my neighbours seem to be discerning enough to own gardening shoes and slippers as well as their everyday shoes. Admittedly I have slippers albeit that they have holes in the soles and are all muddy from my gardening work but I haven't got any specific gardening shoes. I suppose I really ought to have some, it would stop my wife moaning about the muddy footprints across the carpet.

The particular neighbours of whom I write, not only have gardening shoes, slippers and wooden clogs but have a lean-to-shed at the side of their house in which to store them. Oh, the luxury of it all! Unfortunately the door of the lean-to was left open and Reynard seized the opportunity to nip in to steal a pair of black lace-up shoes, a pair of blue slippers and a pair of wooden clogs. Wow, what a rich find!



The chewed clog



The blue slipper

One black-lace up shoe and one blue slipper have been found buried in the garden and one well-chewed wooden clog was found mid-lawn but the others are still missing. Would you please keep an eye out for a fox using the name Reynard, although this could be an alias, sneaking about at night. He will be brown in colour with a long bushy tail and wearing one black lace-up shoe, one blue slipper, one wooden wellchewed clog and possibly with one bare foot, unless of course, he has 'nicked' an odd shoe from you. To be honest with you I'm not really keen on that choice of footwear, although occasionally you could catch me wearing odd socks. My wife does insist on rolling one short black sock and one long black sock together and storing them in my sock box at the bottom of my very dark wardrobe. Oh, life is so tough.

On 6th December 45 of our members enjoyed a carvery lunch at Abbeyfield and it was great to see several ladies from Churchfield Court joining us. A three-course-meal was available with choices for each course and all were delicious.



Table one enjoying a glass of wine

If you would like to come along to one of our events you will be able to join us on 24th January at Girton Golf Club for lunch or on 22nd February at the William Collyn Community Centre for fish and chips out of paper accompanied by the film 'The Great Escaper' staring Sir Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. Other things in the pipeline for Monday mornings a talk by Nick Leader 'To spy or not to spy' and an opportunity to meet the Flukes Ukulele Group. Dates for the Monday morning events are not yet confirmed so watch this space for more information in the February edition of the GPN.

Happy New Year all

Sam Clift

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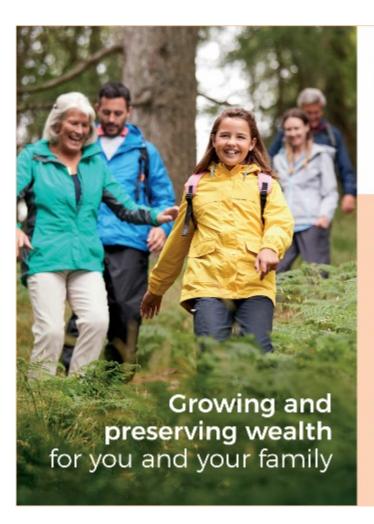
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CODEWORDS

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 30

WORDSEARCH - Panto Fun!

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.

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CASTLE	GIRL	RAT X2
CAT	GODMOTHER	ROSE
CHEER	GOLD	SEED
COSTUME	HERO	SINGALONG
cow	HORSE	SLIPPER
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Each month Rob, our editor, sends out a reminder to contributors that it is time for submission of material for the next GPN. There is always an exhortation for "positive and upbeat contributions". As I settle down to write for the January GPN, on deadline day (Tuesday 5th December), I'm thinking "positive and upbeat" is a tall order today. It has been dreary and depressing out on the allotment site for several days now. I find the word "dank" an expressive one. A quick look on Google says "unpleasantly damp and cold" ... that sums up my allotment impressions as I survey the site.

I don't recall having this "positive and upbeat" difficulty before. There are lovely spells of weather to report; poring over seed packets; progress of the crops; successful harvesting. But I've previously written lots about anticipation of next season. So I'm struggling this month.

Until the end of the lovely glistening white frosty days, a few dedicated hardy members were out there working their plots. But since then, I cannot recall such a complete absence of life and activity day after day.

I wonder how are the moods of members. Varied no doubt. Many will be content to take a break and feel confident that seasonal cycles will take care of things. Others may be feeling a loss of control. I'm in the latter set. Weather and more significantly health problems have kept me off my plot for several weeks. I had three areas of strongly growing green manure ... field mustard, rye grass and clover. A fellow member and friend chopped down the first area for me. The foliage has been laying on the soil, slowly decomposing. That should be OK for digging in before planting in the spring. The other two areas are still standing; they mustn't seed or there will be problems next year. And, of course, there is the universal problem of the survival power of weeds. When one has kept one's plot reasonably clean for years, it's painful to see weeds gaining ground.

One pleasing piece of work is in my greenhouse. Against the normal principles, I sowed Little Gem lettuces and planted out 18 plants in the greenhouse soil. My wife is looking after them and they seem to be thriving (first one eaten today). Also I have broad beans in root trainers, and sweet peas, growing under glass.

Enough of these messy dreary days. Here are a couple of diversions ... irrelevant to Girton but pleasant.

First, a friend, visiting the Yorkshire Moors recently, sent me this super picture of an allotment site near Settle. If working on this site, I think it would be a case of "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills" as much as looking down at one's soil and plants.



Allotment site Yorkshire Moors

Second, my daughter resettled in France a couple of years ago, now living in Chamonix in the Alps. Having

acquired from childhood an interest in gardening from her old dad's activity, she rapidly established a garden, flowers and vegetables. There was excellent success ... outdoing me in some crops. But I have been receiving cries of anguish because Alpine deer have descended from the mountains and are attacking over-wintering crops. In spite of pinning down protec-



Garden in the Alps

tive netting, the deer have got their heads in and munched Brussels sprouts down to soil level. The pigeons I can see at the moment, exploring ways into brassica netting, seem comparatively innocuous. One of my Christmas presents to Andrea is a box of netting staples.

More cheer and optimism next time.

Graham Jones, Girton Allotment Society





Looking ahead to 2024

Over the last 12 months, GTC has seen the completion of 15 further almshouses and the Charity's new office at Dovehouse Court, the retirement of Dr Robin Hiley after 25 years' service, increasing use of the William Collyn Centre and ongoing popularity of its Schemes and Grants.

As we start a New Year, here's a reminder of what is on offer and how it could help you.

Hospital Taxi Scheme

For Girton residents who have problems using public transport, do not have their own transport or find it difficult to drive, the Hospital Taxi Scheme enables them to get to outpatient appointments at Cambridge Biomedical Campus including Addenbrooke's Hospital, the Rosie or Royal Papworth Hospital and some of the satellite outpatient clinics. An annual registration fee of £7 is payable and then taxi fares are capped at £9 for each return trip.

Short-Term Care Grant

For Village residents and their carers, the Short-Term Grant is to assist independent living, providing additional care to suit the individual s need over and above any statutory care to which they are entitled. The Grant also aims to help residents return home from hospital as soon as possible, responding quickly at a time of need. Application is by referral, with care worth up to £1,200 for a maximum of three months in any calendar year, paid directly to and provided by, one of four care professionals nominated by GTC Availl, BlueBird Care, Home Instead and Better Home Care.

Community Warden and Older Residents Co-ordinator

Working in partnership with Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, GTC funds a Community Warden to assist older people living in their own homes to continue an independent lifestyle, as well as an Older Residents' Co-ordinator to help older people access existing services and recognise gaps where new clubs and groups could be introduced.

Prescription Delivery Service

This service enables prescriptions for the housebound to be collected from the dispensary at Pepys Way Surgery and delivered to the homes of residents within the Surgery's catchment area.

Educational Grant Scheme

This is open to all young people in the Village leaving secondary education for further or higher education or training leading to a formal examination at degree level BA, MA or PGCert, or NVQ Level 4. The Grant, which can only be claimed against actual expenditure, is a maximum of £300 per year and is intended for books, equipment, tools or other direct costs relevant to the course.



Connections Bus Project Youth Club

This weekly club for young people aged 11-16 years, is free to attend and held on Tuesday evenings, 7.00-8.30pm, in the Cotton Hall. A range of activities are organised including table tennis, table football, karaoke and Nintendo Switch, as well as different crafts, a quiz with prizes and a cooking activity, a tuckshop with low prices and from time to time an outside trip.

Individual grants

In addition to these Schemes and Grants, GTC also offers individual grants to Village residents in need who can apply for financial support to fund specific items or services to enable them to live independently in their own home

Achievements

GTC s Chair Ann Bonnett said: Last year was hugely busy for the Charity and we celebrated some significant achievements. I'd like to thank my fellow Trustees and GTC staff for their support in reaching these milestones.

"As we look forward to 2024, we have a full agenda ahead and also a Trustee vacancy. Do contact us if you'd like to find out more about joining us and playing an active role in the future of our community."

For further information please call the GTC Office on 01223 276008 or email gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk

Girton TownCharity



Applications are invited from Girton residents age 55 and over or those having a close connection with the village, who

meet qualifications laid down by the Charity Commission.

Applicants must be able to live independently and look after themselves. Further information on Girton Almshouses can be found on the GTC website www.girtontowncharity.org.uk

In the first instance, please request an application form. Applicants must complete their own form and return together with a written expression of interest to the GTC Office at 22 High Street.

Additional information will be requested from applicants invited for interview particularly relating to personal circumstances, financial situation and ability to cover the weekly maintenance contributions, council tax and utilities bills.

Permanent appointments will be made based on a range of criteria specified by the Charity Commission as well as an interview.

Closing date 28th February 2024

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

 Colin Carr
 t: 276312

 Gill Cockley
 t: 276703

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

GTC office:

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



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 (term time)
2.00 - 3.00pm	Kurling for over 55's
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane
8.00 - 9.30pm	Whole Notes Gospel Choir

Tuesday

9.00 -11.00am	Yoga with Julia Dale
11.15am - 12.15pm	Yoga with Jess (Hatha)
10.30am - 2.00pm	Hartbeeps (term time)
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane
7.00 40.00	Faston Curina

7.30 - 10.30pm Easton Swing

Wednesday

6.15 - 7.00pm	Bounce
7.30 - 10.00pm	The W.I. (first in month)
7.30 - 10.00pm	Girton Garden Society
	(second in month)

Thursday

9.30 - 11.30am	Pilates with Wendy Jane
5.45 - 6.45pm	Pilates with Jax Eades
7.15pm - 9.15pm	Ballroom Dance Classes

Friday

9.30 - 10.20am	Optium Women's Fitness
9.30am - 12.30pm	Little City Toddler Play
	(second in month)
1.30 - 3.30pm	Falls Prevention Clinic
7.30 - 8.30pm	Easton Swing

(third in month)

Saturday

9.00 - 10.00am	Bounce
11.00am - 1.00pm	Cambridge Jazz Co-op
	(monthly)

Check website for more information.

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.

Girton Walking Group

A very cold and frosty morning greeted us at Wandlebury Country Park on Saturday 2nd December. Fog obscured the hoped-for views to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and Ely Cathedral, but everything looked magical in the frost, and we had a lovely gathering afterwards for our pre-Christmas Bring and Share lunch at the Blackburns'.



Wandlebury Country Park

Our next walks are:

Saturday 6th January: Over to the West Cambridge site and back

This 5-1/2 mile walk is all on good paths and so should be OK whatever the weather throws at us in January! We will meet outside the Girton Co-op at 10am and walk down Thornton Road, over to the Eddington playing fields and then to the West Cambridge site via the University Observatory, then back via the Ridgeway in Eddington and footpaths around Girton's NW boundary. There will be options to drop out early if the walk seems too long. Those coming from the Thorntons/St Margaret's Road area are welcome to join the walk at 10.15am outside 141 Thornton Road which we will pass on the outward journey. Bring refreshments for a rest stop.

This walk is led by Angela Blackburn, angela.blackburn@cantab.net or 07742 222536.

Saturday 3rd February: From Oakington

This walk begins at 10am at The White Horse in Oakington, CB24 3AB. There is plenty of parking in the roads around the inn but please do be considerate of the residents nearby. The walk takes us in a loop of just over 6 miles passing Westwick, Rampton, Northstowe and Longstanton. It is mostly field walking so do expect muddy conditions. We can use wooden seating for our drink/snack stop but you may need something waterproof to sit on!

This walk is led by Ann and Ian Jerram, ann.jerram@gmail.com

If you would like to join our mailing list for future walks, please contact Angela at angela.blackburn@cantab.net

An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

During the winter months, one of the UK's best wildlife spectacles starts to take place at sunset around the country. Starlings are probably one of our most beautiful birds with their white-flecked, iridescent black feathers showing lustrous greens and purples as they move in the light, but they often seem to be overlooked as they hang around in towns and cities throughout the spring and summer making a lot of noise and feeding their plain brown fledglings.

Come the autumn, birds from mainland Europe head over to the UK in their thousands (varying from year to year depending on weather conditions) to spend the winter here in our milder climates. As the afternoon wanes and the sun sinks in the sky, small family groups start to gather at roost sites to form larger and larger flocks, sometimes reaching hundreds-of-thousands of individuals, forming an aerial display known as a murmuration.

Whilst other bird species form huge flocks (such as Knot which gather in tens of thousands around the coast in places such as The Wash), none of them are quite as impressive as the starling murmuration. As sunset approaches, groups of all different sizes, from tens to hundreds, start to fly towards the roosting site from miles around. With the light dimming, more and more groups join the flock as it drifts around overhead.

The exact mechanisms of starling behaviour in the murmuration are not fully understood, but it seems that each bird in the flock follows the general heading of its nearest neighbours, steering towards its neighbour's position and avoids getting too close to crowd it and hinder flight. With these behaviours the flock moves like a single organism through the sky, stretching out into a long line before folding back into a ball, rising up and diving back down,wheeling around and eventually spiralling down to land in the heart of the reedbed roost site in a truly mesmerising display.

Here at Fen Drayton Lakes, we are lucky to get starlings coming to roost in our reedbeds on Holywell and Elney Lakes. Some years we only get sporadic groups of a few hundred, but at the time of writing in mid-December, this winter is the best for quite some time with estimates of around twenty thousand, maybe more. With this many starlings flying around, sparrowhawks, top aerial predators specialising in hunting other birds, are drawn in too and can be seen flying in to fracture the murmuration, making it easier to snag a meal. With viewing possible from along the Guided Busway or the welcome shelter at the main car park, why not come down one afternoon to see this spectacle for yourself?



Starlings over Elney Lake - Gill Parrish

Wednesday Wander

Ever thought you'd like to know more about the reserve and its wildlife? Volunteer-led guided walks take place once a month, usually on the second Wednesday. To see further details and book, please visit:

events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk

Phone: 01954 233260

Visit rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes



The Friends of the Rosie Hospital

The Friends of the Rosie Hospital are raising money to help make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. We are sharing our extensive catalogue on our facebook

page so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts and warm clothing and accessories for special friends and family. By using our online store you will be avoiding the crowded shops and keeping yourself safe. You can shop for new items on our website or donated items in our *rosieinstitches2010* eBay charity store, and vintage knitting patterns on our facebook page. Please take a look at our extensive selection of jumpers and cardigans ideal to keep babies and children up to 4 years old toasty and warm through the remaining weeks of winter using coupon sleeves50.

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Friends of the Rosie Hospital with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 5,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping – at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up and share today. www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Avril Williams

01954 782431 avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk

Remembering Ray

Ray Gordon, who for many years was a well-known resident, and a familiar face to many people in and around Girton, has passed away peacefully. Ray was born in Church Lane, Girton, and apart from his army and police service lived most of his life in Girton.



Ray (pictured left) and his wife Diane lived in Pepys Way for many years, and kept a large and well-attended garden there, which, by no coincidence, backed onto his beloved allotment. His very close link to the allotments proved invaluable for the site, because along with several other hardworking members, (mostly still members today!) Ray literally saved

the life of the site in the early 90's.

The site today is testament to their determination and hard work. Ray was always on hand to help, support and praise new members, and many of us owe our growing success to his knowledge and skills. Ray was previously Chairman of the Histon and District Angling Society and had been a life member and trustee for many years too.

A Parish councillor for nine years, and then Chair of the Environment Committee, Ray was constantly engaged. One of Ray's lasting legacies, and one he took great pride in, was the project to build the Lawn Bowls Green in Wellbrook Way. There are now some 40-odd bowling members of the club presently, and it has a growing reputation as one of the leading clubs in Cambridgeshire, playing across the county, with players representing the club at county level.

The Cottenham Brass Band was another of Ray's loves. He played with the band for 36 years and was also involved for some years with Girton Operatic. Having enough hours in the day was always a challenge for Ray, and he certainly didn't waste any. He was an early riser, - a lifetime habit, rising at 6am most days, and I can bear witness to seeing him on his allotment, planning his day, literally from sunrise!

Ray was also a hard-working member of Girton Town

Charity, and he would certainly say, that of all the contributions he made to village life, the project he is most proud of being involved with would be the William Collyn Community Centre, adjacent to the Bowls Green, in Wellbrook Way, wherein there is a room in his name.

Our sincere condolences go to his family, to his wife Diane and Steve and Sarah.

Malcom Frew

Girton Baptist Church



Looking to the New Year

If we were to be asked for our greatest wish for 2024 many would reply with two significant words, PEACE and HOPE. Without peace we are in turmoil and conflict, never resting in stability and the promise of safety. Without hope we are resigned to depression and the abyss of meaningless existence.

The old year has now passed into history, leaving heavy blood-stained and war-grimed imprints on our memories. We have endured a global pandemic and financial pressures that have affected not only health, but also the social and economic structures of our troubled world. We observe the unspeakable self-indulgence of the over-wealthy, whilst in shop doorways and grim alleyways, the homeless huddle together through the dark hours. Amidst the prosperity of great cities like New York, whole areas are inhabited by disaffected youth, resorting to the precarious shelter of squats in abandoned buildings, rain-soaked and vermin infested. We watch with a sense of hopelessness as billions of funds are spent on weapons of destruction, whilst hospitals run short of essential aid.

Everywhere hang clouds of despair, protest and anger. We long to have faith strengthened, hope renewed and trust restored. As Isaac Watts wrote.

Forbid me to think

He'll leave me at last

In trouble to sink.

Psalm 6. For King David and his army, the journey towards the rallying point at the Jabbok Gorge had been an utterly exhausting struggle through jungle and across the river Jordan. Now, having reached a ravine like the valley of the shadow of death, the sleepless nights, weariness of body and anxiety about the way ahead, all took their toll on spirits and resolve. David cries out to God in an anguish of soul. He desperately seeks solace and sustaining assurance, whilst clinging to battered faith and the remembrance of mercy and grace already afforded to him in times of need. He recalls Jacob's night of conflict and testing in that same area and the deliverance of God.

David is so authentic in expressing deep emotion and in his intimate prayers as he puts the welfare of his men and his own guidance into the care of the God who answers prayer. And God hears his cry. Everything changes. The morning light brings new resolve, hope and vigour.

Sometimes a light surprises

The Christian while he sings.

It is the Lord who rises

With healing in His wings.

When comforts are declining

He grants the soul again

A season of clear shining

To cheer it after rain. - Cowper.

After a storm, our garden birds emerge from shelter and begin a tremulous but joyful message in song to each other. May we take our cue from them.

In this context, David's next Psalm in the order of writing is Psalm 23. He is resting in the security of the Shepherd, no longer embattled, but beside still waters. In the enfolding presence of his faithful God, new hope emerges and peace becomes the reality. May such hope be ours, so that "The peace of God ... will guard your hearts and minds." (Philippians 4 v 7)

O God our help in ages past

Our hope for years to come

Be our defence while life shall last

And our eternal home. - Isaac Watts.

So, as we look ahead, may the God of hope fill you with all joy as you trust in Him. (Romans 15)

Iris Niven





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

Children and Families Minister:

Eona Bell Tel: 07305201419

Email: cfm@girton.church

Churchwardens:

Mr Bruce & Mrs Wendy Hunter Tel: 503958

Sunday Services: January

7th Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion (+StA4K)
14th Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	All-age Communion
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
21st Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion (+StA4K)
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
28th Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Morning Prayer (+StA4K)
4th Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion (+StA4K)

* StA4K is St Andrew's for Kids in the church North Room unless otherwise stated.

Morning Prayer (said)

11.00pm Gretton Court Holy Communion

Regular weekday Services: January

9.00am

Tues

25th

Weds	9.00am	Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
Other Ser	vices	
10th	2.00pm	Abbeyfield Holy Communion
11th	3.45pm	Messy Church
16th	2.15pm	Arlington Manor Holy

For up to date, time and place information about all these events please see the church website. You are welcome to join us for Sunday morning worship in person or remotely at *bit.ly/GirtonParishLive*. Please check the church website for up-to-date information (*www.girton.church*). Continued column 2

(BCP)

Girton Baptist Church



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe

Tel: 07751 748757

Secretary: Mr Ken Smith Tel: 07860 736536

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

January Services

(all at Girton Baptist Church, and on Zoom)

7th Morning Worship with Communion, at 10.30am, led by Nick Lowe

14th Morning Worship, at 10.30am, led by Nick Lowe

21st Morning Worship with Communion, at 10.30am, led by Nick Lowe

28th Christmas Morning Worship, at 10.30am, led by Nick Lowe

Messy Church is on Thursday 11th January from 3.30pm. It is for parents, grandparents or carers and their children, with craft activities based on a Biblical theme, a story, and a meal together. This month the theme will be "Treasure in Heaven." If you would like to find out more, please contact us or just come along.

Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group meets next on 6th February at 2.15pm.

All are welcome to any of the services and events.

For further details about any of the above, including the online link for the service, please ring 07751 748757 or email

secretary@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Continued from column 1

Church can change your perspective



For all the possibilities ahead in this new year, make us thankful, O Lord. Give us wisdom, courage and discernment in the face of so much chaos, despair and fear. Help us to see how, in our circumstances, we can contribute towards peace, faith and love; and give us the will to translate our desires into actions. (*Brother John Charles SSF*)

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

Daniel Carney, Tel:07986592507 daniel.carney@girton-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chairman

Ann Muston, Tel:07796 430345 ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk

Councillors

Gary Betts, Tel: 07950 526349 gary.betts@girton-pc.org.uk

Victoria Brown, *victoria.brown@girton-pc.gov.uk* Andrew Clare, *andrew.clare@girton-pc.gov.uk*

Alison Giles, Tel: 07855 184549 alison.giles@girton-pc.gov.uk Nasir Hayat, Tel: 07917 204126 nas.hayat@girton-pc.gov.uk

Leslie Lampe, leslie.lampe@girton-pc.gov.uk
Patrick Linton, patrick.linton@girton-pc.gov.uk
Stuart Marshall, stuart.marshall@girton-pc.gov.uk
Haydn Williams, Tel:07831 858584
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

Corinne Garvie, Tel: 07780 932267 & 01223 276184 cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk Richard Stobart, Tel:07950 934793 cllr.stobart@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*

Facilities Manager

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



Bin collections January

Thursday 11 January Blue & Green bins

Thursday 18 January Black bin Thursday 25 January Blue bin Thursday 1 February Black bin

Mobile Library

Thursday	11th & 25th January					
Thornton Court	9.40 - 10.00am					
Abbeyfield	10.10 -10.50am					
Cotton Hall/Church	11.00 -11.30am					
Orchard Close	11.35 -11.55am					
St. Vincent's Close	12.00 -12.40pm					
Gretton Court	12.50 - 1.15pm					
Churchfield Court	1.20 - 1.45pm					

Contact numbers for bookings

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



The A10 Fish & Chip Van

Visits Girton most Thursdays

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



The Mobile Post Office

Opens every Friday 1.30-2.30 pm in the car park in Orchard Close behind Girton Village Day Nursery.



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

Calling all bridge players!

We are a friendly duplicate bridge club, meeting every Monday evening at 7pm in Cotton Hall, Girton.

Come and join us. First 2 sessions free.

North Cambridge Bridge Club

Our website has all the details: www.bridgewebs.com/northcambridge or contact alison14.lloyd@gmail.com

The Girton Chiropodist

(Mobile Service)

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

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10 High Street Girton Cambridge CB3 0PU

Mobile: 07980475856 Email: louieholliday@icloud.com

Girton Yoga Cambridge Hot Yoga Collective | Girton New to Girton, a hot style yoga class. Come along to try a moving meditation yoga practice - open to all, regardless of yoga or fitness level. We hold classes at Cotton Hall Find out more by visiting: www.girtonyoga.co.uk or email us at: girtonyoga@gmail.com









