



GIRTON

Parish News

February 2024



**SAS founder member
dies in Girton aged
103 — see page 25**

**Can you help Girton Musical
Theatre? — see page 3**

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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.

We now have Free wi-fi and BT Sports Children are welcome Dogs are welcome on a lead

Come along and support your local Social Club

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

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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.

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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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Girton Musical Theatre - can you help us?

To turn the village school into a theatre for GMT's annual performances takes many hours of work, and a lot of moving stuff around!



Stage blocks, scenery flats; curtains, carpets, chairs; wood for construction, mirrors, props and more; all need to be fetched from various storage places around Girton, brought to the school and assembled into a

stage, set and audience space. The main work takes place over the two weekends either side of the February half-term break. We are looking for volunteers to help with this. The main dates and times are Friday 16 Feb between 5pm and 7pm, Saturday 17 February anytime between 9am and 4pm, and Sunday 3 March between 10am and 2pm. There is always a steady supply of tea, coffee, and cake (and other refreshments) to help the work along!



For more information please email: info@girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk, or phone Helen on 276940.

We have made a time-lapse video showing the process of stage building and deconstruction, if you'd like to see the set builders in action: <https://shorturl.at/dgqyH>.

Contents

Page 3	Girton Musical Theatre
Page 5	Parish Council Report
Pages 6, 7	Councillors' Reports
Page 8	Forthcoming Events
Page 9	FOGG, Girton Scouts, Singing for Breathing, CUH Volunteers
Page 11	Girton Green Fingers
Page 13	Puzzle Corner
Page 15	Wild Girton
Page 17	Listening Lantern / Girton Walking Group
Pages 18,19	Scoreboard, Mobile Post Office
Page 21	February Wine Selection, Girton WI
Pages 22,23	Girton Town Charity
Page 24	Club 55
Page 25	News for Older Residents
Pages 25,26	Obituaries
Page 27	Girton Glebe Primary School/Ten Sing
Pages 28,29	Our Churches
Page 30	Food Trucks, Bin Collections, Mobile

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Girton Parish Council

STOP PRESS: setting your precept for 2024/25

At an extraordinary meeting on 17 January, Girton Parish Council set the 2024/25 precept

for Girton. The council feels it has a very clear picture of where it is financially and what it can achieve.

What is a precept?

The precept is the **parish council's share of the council tax**. It is calculated as part of the parish council's budget and is the amount of council tax that the billing authority collects on behalf of a parish council. The precept is converted into an amount per council tax band that is added onto residents' council tax bills.

How did Girton Parish Council set the precept for 2024/2025?

All the committees reviewed their individual budgets in detail and signed these off. On 16 January, members of the finance and resource management met at a council workshop to review the figures and give an opportunity for questions.

Ninety-four Girton residents provided input to the council's precept survey. We hope to make this survey a regular occurrence and increase the information we can provide on future projects and detailed spend.

What is the recent history of Girton's precept?

Looking at historic yearly inflation rates from 2018/19 shows that the precept has lagged behind inflation,

making it a tax cut in real terms up to now. In 2018/19 the council's precept request was £117,561, rising to £180,147 in 2024/25.

What is Girton's precept compared with other local villages?

In 2023/24, with a precept of £74.51 for a Band D house, Girton had the lowest precept per Band D house of the comparable parishes in South Cambridgeshire. Of all the 99 parishes, Girton was 66th highest in terms of precept per household.

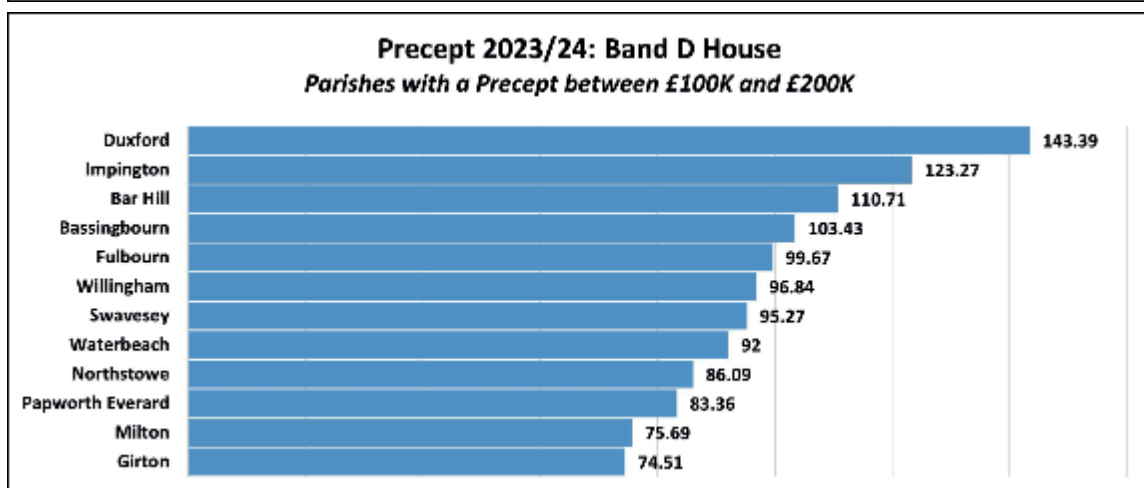
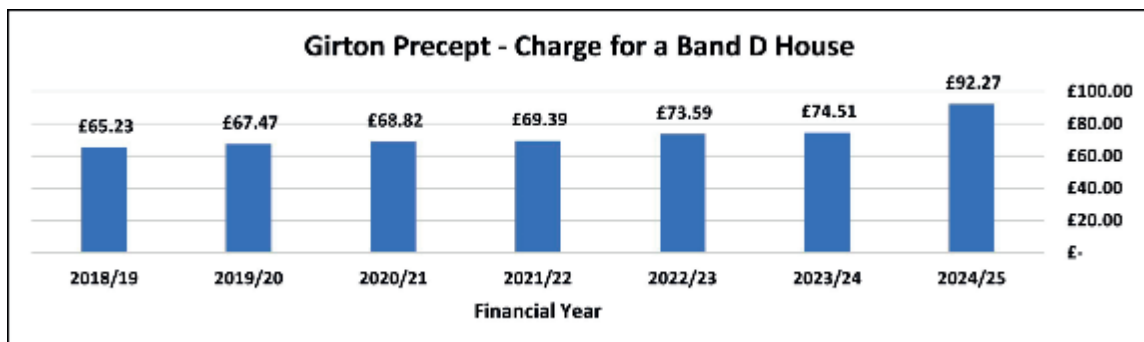
How does Girton's precept compare nationally?

National government data on deprivation shows that Girton is the 32,314th least deprived area out of 32,844 in England. While many of the areas in England do not have a parish-level layer of government (and therefore no parish precept), the mean parish precept in 2023/24 was £79.35. So, despite being one of the most affluent and well-resourced parts of England, Girton residents have been paying a below-average parish precept. Obviously, some residents are better off than others, but that is the case in other parts of the country.

What income does Girton Parish Council receive other than the precept?

As a council we receive money from our many recreation ground users and use of the pavilion.

For 2024/25, the council will work with our recreation users to review how much we are subsidising all the different sports groups and how much this subsidy benefits the village. The council is also considering projects which could bring in additional revenue in future years so allowing us to keep any further increases to the precept to a minimum.



What is the planned spending for Girton Parish Council for 2024/2025?

Theme	Planned Projects
Governance/Stepping up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Council Award Scheme (Foundation Award Scheme)Staff trainingBook of work/projects/3-year planIncreasingly detailed finances, budget & precept settingCompletion of asset register
Community Engagement	<p>Councillors to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">visit organisations in village to understand their prioritiesincrease attendance at eventsincrease staff accessibility in office
Asset Management	<p>Parish Ranger to maintain assets throughout the village</p> <p>Maintenance projects to take place throughout the village</p>
Key New Projects	<p>Bowls green club house and toilet block, and pavilion refurbishment</p>

What reserves does Girton Parish hold?

The council has reduced its general reserves recently. Significant investment has been made on facilities for Girton bowling green and the council is working closely with Girton Bowls Club to agree terms for these facilities.

The council currently also holds the following reserves:

Reserves

Games surface reserves	£21,604.41
Pavilion fabric reserves	£275,972.00
Play equipment reserves	£10,952.00
Total	£308,528.41

The council also has £45,000 of Section 106 money received from Cambridgeshire County Council funds from the Northstowe Development. Some of this money, £20,000, will fund the joint Local Highways Improvement Bid for Girton/Oakington & Westwick to implement a speed limit of 30mph.

And finally, please get involved in plans for your village!

Girton Pavilion Refurbishment Working group will be working hard this year to work with residents in the refurbishment of the sports pavilion. We are listening and are now taking steps towards engaging you in this project. We would really like to include young people's ideas and aspirations. It's your future and the council would like you to lead the way.

Please watch out for further details about how you can get involved.

Where can I find more information on GPC's budget and precept?

More information on GPC's budget can be found here: www.shorturl.at/bjpyG.

Girton Parish Clerk
01223 237173, clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk

See full list of Councillors on page 30.

From Our Councillors

County Councillor's Report

County budget 2024: toughest year ever

It is budget time in councils and this year has been one of the toughest budget setting rounds on record. So many councils face an uncertain future, with the majority of well-managed county or unitary councils reporting they do not know how they will balance their budget in two years' time. It is of course a legal requirement to balance the budget and failure to do so leads to a s114 notice being issued, which is a bit like the council becoming bankrupt. The situation is serious. When the majority cannot balance their budget there really is something wrong with the system.

The main issue driving the problem is the huge rise in the costs of care compared to the income we receive. We must provide this care, and it forms the majority of our expenditure, so huge increases in costs are hard to manage. This is the same for all authorities who have this responsibility – so for example county councils and unitary authorities.

However, Cambridgeshire County Council is planning to set a balanced budget and we are determined to combine good financial management with continuing to push forward with our priorities. Despite the constraints and pressures, we are campaigning to invest more in the condition of the roads, pavements, and cycleways to ensure safe surfaces for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians. To date we have cleared out thousands more gullies than had been done previously, and this helps reduce flood risk, and we want to continue to do this. The cost of living has been – and continues to be – hugely challenging for so many families. We are calling for more support for children and families with a continuation of the Household Support Fund, and potentially rationalizing the Council's use of property to be more cost effective.

Additional investments such as these would be difficult, as it would be despite enormous pressures from rapid rises in costs for social care and home to school transport, following central government decisions, but with no support to help pay for the additional costs.

One problem that has troubled us for years is that Cambridgeshire receives less central government funding per head of population for public services than most other areas across the country. We desperately need this to be reviewed and we hope this is on the agenda for any government, whether outgoing or incoming!

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

District Councillors' Report

Rail Station ticket office closures

Government has announced a welcome abandonment of this plan.

Frozen bins

Some people did not have their bins emptied during the cold snap at the end of 2023. The Waste Department have some useful tips for next time which may help:

Wrapping food waste in paper. Putting a piece of cardboard at the bottom of the bin when empty (in cold spells only - normally cardboard should go in the blue bin).

If possible, store the bin somewhere less likely to freeze in cold weather, e.g. a garage or sunny spot.

Put your bin out at each collection even if it is only half full. This reduces the likelihood that you will be left with a full bin.

Leaf Mould on the cycle lane on Huntingdon Road

There have been complaints about the leaf mould on the cycle lanes making cycling hazardous.

The Council will divert a small sweeper there as soon as they are able. The larger sweepers are too big and heavy to drive along these cycle lanes and they only have two small precinct sweepers for pavements and cycle ways.

Civil Parking Enforcement update

From 1 February 2024, Cambridgeshire County Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers will issue penalty charge notices which include a fine for parking on restrictions such as double yellow lines. The fine will be between £50 and £70, depending on the severity of the offence. For more information visit:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cpe.

Road changes

Church Lane There is a Road Traffic Order which is to stop any vehicle from proceeding along Church Lane, Girton, as lies between Cambridge Road and Lees Way. Access will be maintained to properties. The order is made to facilitate water connection and associated works. It will come into operation on 19 February 2024, and continue until these works have finished, or on the 18 August 2025, whichever is the earlier. It is anticipated that these works will be carried out between 19 February and 22 February 2024.

Girton Road / Huntingdon Road Junction When becoming a District Councillor, my main objective was to make this junction safer, having observed near misses with families crossing Girton Road. With the help of the County Councillor, Edna Murphy, the junction is being improved. The road will be closed during this time, I am sorry for the inconvenience, but the junction will be safer.

Bus Survey

The Combined Authority would like your views on how

the buses could be improved.

<https://shorturl.at/bsAOW>.

If you'd like to offer an opinion on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's strategy and budget, please look at: www.shorturl.at/aegsF.

South Cambs Hall

Like most local authorities South Cambs now encourages hybrid/home working which means that large offices are no longer needed in the way they were. Therefore, all council staff will be moved on to the first floor of the Cambourne offices. The council are converting the ground floor as space for businesses and community groups to hold events. It is hoped that this will encourage new start-up businesses, as well as helping existing businesses through a programme of support events and networking. The new space will be open on 24 April 2024.

Could you be receiving benefits that you're not aware of?

South Cambridgeshire District Council is making a big push to raise awareness of benefits entitlement. It's estimated that around 25% of benefits go unclaimed. Here's an easy-to-use online Benefits Calculator: www.entitledto.co.uk.

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

Cllr Richard Stobart, 07950 934793,
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Girton Feast Dates 2023



This year's dates for your calendars:

Planet ABBA Tribute Band concert - Friday 12 July

Village Fete Day - Saturday 13 July

The planning is well underway for this year with entertainers and bands being booked. We would love to hear from your club, society or business on how you would like them to be involved.



If you are a local business we hope you will be able to support the Feast by advertising in our calendar, or sponsoring the costs of bands and entertainment.

We are now taking bookings for stall holders and the booking form can be found on our website: www.girtonfeast.org.uk

Your continuing support will help make this another great event!

Please contact us via our website or:
rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk or
carol@girtonfeast.org.uk

Tuesday 13th February

3.30-5 pm

St Andrew's Church, Girton



Pancake Party!

Drop in after school for pancakes,
hot drinks, crafts and a story

No charge - donations welcome!

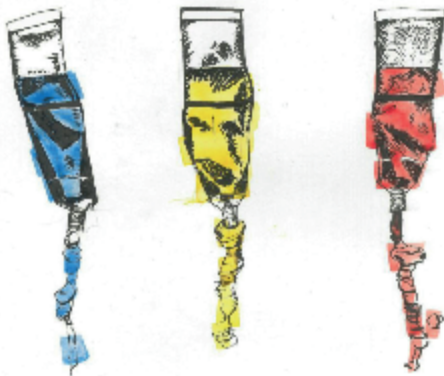
For more information visit www.girton.church



**St Andrews Church, Girton
Action Abroad**

Art Exhibition 2024

Friday 10th May & Saturday 11th May



**Deadline for exhibitors:
15th March.**

Please contact girtonartshow@gmail.com
or call Clare on 07787 510886.



**Girton Garden
Society**



**Wednesday 14 February
7.30pm at William Collin Community Centre**

Changing fashion in plants and gardening
Margaret Nimmo-Smith

The talk will cover changes in fashion in plants and gardening over the last 50 years.

Visitors and new members are
always very welcome (£2 per session).



Tree shredding raises £400 for FOGG

Friends of Girton Glebe (FOGG) held our first event of 2024 on Sunday 7 January - the annual Christmas tree shred. It was a beautiful sunny day, which ensured a good turnout. We were delighted to raise £390.50 for the children of Girton



Glebe! Thank you to all who supported the event. Thanks especially to Acacia Tree Surgery and Wheelie Fresh Bins, without whom this event couldn't take place.

FOGG is a registered charity with the purpose of supporting our school. All funds raised go towards the learning and wellbeing of the children at Girton Glebe, and our events help build a vibrant and cohesive community.

Please keep a lookout for future events!

www.foggpta.org.uk



10th Cambridge (Girton) Scouts Group

Our group started 2024 with a walk around the village delivering leaflets and collecting food for the local food hut. The food hut is overseen by Listening Lantern Mental Health Training and provides free food for those who are struggling to afford to buy food. The group had a very informative talk and discussion about some of the reasons why people are not able to afford to buy food, and are very happy to support this community initiative.

As we enter into spring and before the days start to get longer, we are taking a trip to the Institute of Astronomy to have an astronomy talk, followed by either some stargazing (weather dependent!), or a tour of the antique telescopes. We will be getting creative with some crafting activities, including making a model solar system and valentine's cards for loved ones. At the end of this term we will be finishing off with an escape room activity, where the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers will need to complete the games and puzzles in order to crack the code to escape and win prizes.

For further information, and to come and join in on the fun please contact



Singing for Breathing

Do you have breathing difficulties? Did you know singing can help?

Singing is a great way to improve the way you breathe and get the best from your lung capacity. The Cambridge Singing for Breathing group meets online, using Zoom, on Thursday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.00pm and we're looking for new members!

Kay Barrett, founder of the group, says: "You don't need any singing experience to take part - it's all about what it feels like, not what it sounds like. The camaraderie of the group, the guided relaxation, the breathing exercises, and the singing are so much appreciated by everyone, and the health benefits transfer over into daily life." Being online, singers can join from the comfort of home, even when they are feeling unwell. We sing with microphones turned off, which can be very liberating! You simply sing along with the leader, learning uplifting songs often in call and response style. We also use multi-track recordings so we can enjoy singing rounds and harmonies."

Do I have to pay? Those who can afford it are invited to give a £3.50 donation each week, but this is not essential - we want everyone to be able to come.

Do I have to come along every week? We know that appointments, sickness, family commitments and such can get in the way! Just come along when you can.

I have long covid, can I join? The gentle pace, breathing exercises and relaxation can be very beneficial, but do check with your doctor or respiratory physio, especially if your symptoms are severe.

How do I join? Call Mary on 07972645473 or email: singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com for more information and to receive the Zoom link each week.

You can find out more at:

www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com

or on: www.facebook.com/singingforlunghealthcambridge.


Join our super Volunteers!

"I love volunteering at CUH because I keep learning so much, from the patients, from the staff, and from being involved."

We know just how much our wonderful volunteers can improve a patient's stay here at Addenbrooke's or the Rosie hospital. Volunteers are invaluable to our hospitals. We have opportunities for every age to come and support your community.

Tell a Friend Campaign

Our volunteering force was hit hard by the 2019 Covid pandemic, with over two hundred of our original volunteers leaving and moving on to different things during the time in which volunteering was suspended at CUH. We have been working hard to recover and created a campaign. Our Tell a Friend Campaign is to help us achieve our target of 400-450 volunteers. To support it, you can join us, or spread the word about our wonderful volunteering opportunities by telling a friend.



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I am writing this towards the end of the 2023/4 festive season, and already our gardens have plants in flower both very early and very late: late roses blooming at the same time as early viburnum and hellebores. There might be even more flowering by the time this article appears – or we could have had a sharp frost and be counting the cost in terms of our more susceptible plants such as pittosporum and hebe – I lost several of those last winter.



Hellebores blooming in December



Sweet scented viburnum

Whatever the intervening weather, February tends to be when we start considering what to do in our gardens over the coming months, and, in the cost-of-living crisis that affects so many, how to improve the garden without spending a lot of money. There is a lot of advice online – a simple Google search throws up countless articles of varying value. Here are a few tips to help.

First, be good at DIY or be related to someone who is – it will save you a lot of cash! You won't have to hire a professional. However, if – like me – you are not good at DIY, there are other ways to save money. You can make small changes on a tight budget to enhance your garden, for example by changing the shape of your beds with a sharp spade and some elbow grease. Maybe some sharp lines in some of the newer properties in Girton, or in the older, more traditional (and frequently enormous) gardens, curved beds? Other effective ideas might be painting fences and sheds and putting up a few solar powered lights (though not too many, for the sake of wildlife).

If you want to redesign your garden, there are plenty of places to get advice. Always sketch a plan of your garden first. There are Facebook groups – search 'gardens on a budget' and three at least will come up. There are many helpful websites such as

www.gardenersworld.com. Pinterest and Instagram are good places to search too. There are also free apps you can use to create your own design such as iScape where you can upload an image of your garden and try out designs.

Stocking your garden with plants can be very pricey if you go off to garden centres all the time (and you'd probably buy something that catches your eye that you had not planned on at all!). Joining the Girton Garden Society will get you a 10% discount at both the Oakington Garden Centre and Madingley Mulch. If you do fall for something, you can often divide it into three or four before planting out – the plants will be small the first year, but the next year you'll have four the size of the one you originally bought. Carol Klein, the presenter on Gardeners' World, is a particular aficionada of this method and can probably be found demonstrating online. All garden centres, as well as supermarkets, sell off plants cheaply when they are past their best – but such plants can usually be revived with a bit of TLC. Locally, the Garden Society's annual plant sale in May sells a wide variety of vegetable plants, shrubs and perennials. Look out for the posters and get there early. The cheapest way of making plants yourself is to grow from seeds – one packet gets you a long way. You can also propagate from whatever is already in your garden by taking cuttings and saving seeds (search online for how to do both).

Compost, compost, compost ... This can be very expensive to buy in bags (but see above for the discount at Madingley Mulch). You can make your own compost: South Cambs DC will deliver cheap composting bins (the dalek type) to your home. Search the South Cambs website under Recycling and bins » Reducing waste » Home Composting. If you have the space order more than one – then you can be filling one while the other one gently cooks. (You can buy hotbins which would help with the constant problem of our infrequent food waste collections, but they are pricey and not easy to use.) It's also possible to get free soil conditioner from green waste, by going to the Waterbeach waste recycling centre with a bag and a spade. Check the Thalia Cambridgeshire website for opening hours.

Make your own raised beds cheaply using second hand pallets. There are several sites that offer them cheaply, or ask around for free ones. Check the Cambridge Freecycle group, the Eco Eddington Facebook group, or the Girton Village Community Facebook group. For this and all the other ideas in this article, it's possible to request as well as offer. The Eco Eddington group hosts requests on a Wednesday every week.

However big or small your ideas are for your garden, I hope you have a happy and thrifty year of gardening!

Gina Lane, Girton Garden Society

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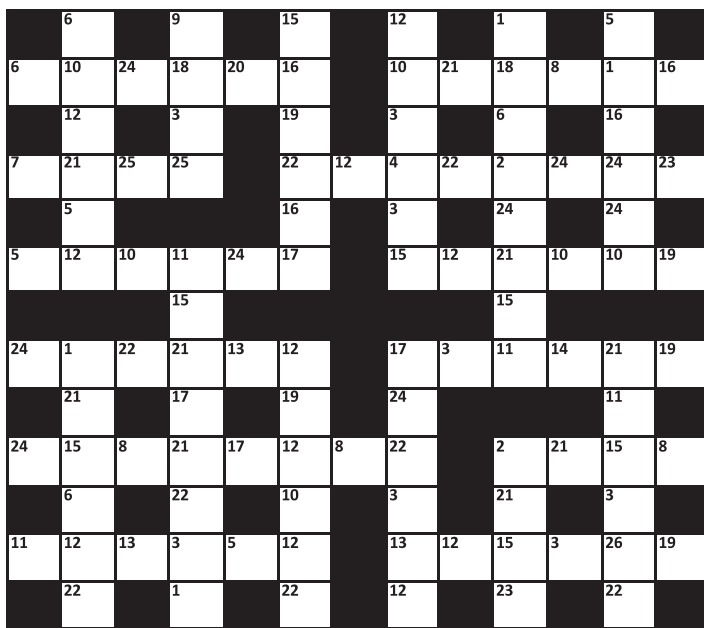
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- Jill - Histon

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

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.

WORDSEARCH – Back to School !! Can you find all these words in the grid ? They can read left to right, right to left, up or down or diagonally. Tick them off as you go.

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

ART	GLUE	RULER
BAG	GYM	RUN
BELL	HEAD	SCHOOL
BREAK	HISTORY	SEAT
COOKING	HOCKEY	SEWING
DANCE	HYMN	SHOW
DESK	KORF	SIT
DRAMA	LUNCH	SPELLING
ENGLISH	MATHS	STORY
FOOTBALL	MUSIC	SUM
FRIENDS	NETBALL	TEACHER
FUN	PAPER	TEXTBOOK
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Work on the Hibbert-Ware Garden project to make it into a better space for nature and to raise awareness of Alice Hibbert Ware and her work is proceeding. We have scarified the grass to create a wildflower meadow, dug beds and planted native shrubs and flowers, and built compost heaps (thanks to all who donated wooden pallets for this!). Over the coming month we will dig a bog garden, and a Hügelskultur bed (a raised bed made from rotting wood), to encourage a greater variety of invertebrates. We will also be putting up bird and bat boxes.

We still need volunteers to help in the Garden, and to donate spare plants. Email: alison.giles@girton-pc.gov.uk for more information or to offer your help.

We plan to (re)open the Garden in May with the support of the Parish Council, and this will be a special event for the village. Keep an eye out for further updates.

Other events for the coming year are being planned for the village including a bat walk, a moth trapping session, and an open day for the Town End Close Nature Reserve. Meanwhile we still want to hear from you about your sightings and receive your photos. Email them to: lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk and please include the time and place of your sighting.

The Winter Garden

‘Build it and they will come!’ to mildly misquote Kevin Costner in *Field of Dreams*, is a rallying cry for anyone pausing for thought this winter season about the plight of nature and the role our gardens might play in providing refuge for the plants and creatures who share them. The call to arms is nothing if not a statement of vision and hope, a belief in a different future, of the will to create a field of dreams.

Yet, even now, our gardens can be full of life. Who among us can be dull to the flutter of brightly coloured wings, or the lyrical call of overwintering songbirds? As the year slowly turns, the buzz and industry of insects, including the iridescent shimmer of dragonflies hovering fitfully over a pond and the rustle of leaves in a gentle breeze continue to reward the senses and help us to feel connected to something bigger than ourselves.

As things gradually start to awaken in the garden, we should be reminded that just like people through the long winter months, animals need shelter, refuge, and

food. Neither the glorious technicolour of a butterfly’s wings, nor the glossy symmetry of a ladybird’s wing casing could be enjoyed without protective places for them, or their offspring, to hibernate. If we are to enjoy the Midsummer Night’s Dream of dusky perfumed blooms, skittering moths and the call of an owl, it partly stems from choices we make through winter to make our gardens more habitable places for wild friends.

One of the simplest things we can do is to do nothing: to leave the garden be until winters’ end. Tall and hollow stems of grasses provide excellent homes for insects. Similarly, an undisturbed pile of logs for spiders.



Keith Archer
‘Hedgehog House Before’

Such unstained or unpainted wood, if allowed to rot down provides an even rarer habitat for stag and bark beetles and their grubs, and many species of fungi. Ideally partly buried, log, or woodpiles do not take up much room and can easily be tucked away if you consider them unsightly.

A pile of stones hidden behind the shed in a cool and shady part of the garden would make an ideal refuge for reptiles and amphibians: even better if you have a pond nearby where wildlife can enter and exit the water easily.

Whilst this is not the kind of ‘building’ Kevin envisaged, such simple structures and management practices can ensure ‘they’ will come and, what is more, they will stay. Sowing seeds for the future is an act of faith that is good for the soul, and which should ensure a greater abundance of nature on our doorsteps, and it is these direct encounters that are such a source of joy.

There are many more simple steps you can take to enhance the wildlife value of your garden. If you would like to find out more look at these websites from the RHS and the Wildlife Trusts.

<https://shorturl.at/ceuP5>

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Keith Archer
‘Hedgehog House After’

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The Listening Lantern

Food Hut

Just two minutes ago I received the email which allows me to write this exciting section of my monthly article. I am delighted that my application to the Girton Parish Council for a small grant has been approved; this is a process open to anyone in the village and the clerk, Yvonne, will gladly help with applications to further support other community projects and initiatives.

In conjunction with the newly appointed Girton Village Ranger Kevin, by the time you read this copy, a weatherproof Food hut will be in place which will allow me to stock it not only with tins/jars but also packets and some fresh goods. And to add to this, the local



Cambridge 10th [Girton] Scouts Group have chosen to collect goods in January for the Food hut as celebrated in the photograph. What an amazing collaborative community effort!

Please visit to look, to take what you need, or even to drop off a contribution at:

What3words location bits.yours.drama

Postcode location CB3 0PB [St Vincent's Close]

None of us know the true circumstances which others experience and although the Food Hut will not change the world, it may make a significant difference to some people. The beauty of this initiative is that someone in need has no requirement to fill out a form, to be in receipt of a voucher, or to publicly make their collection. Anyone can collect anything they need whenever they need to – no questions asked, no explanation needed.

Signposting

This month's signposting comes in the form of a suggestion to self-reflect:

When you have felt troubled before, who helped you?
Can you ask them for help now if you feel troubled?

When you have been overwhelmed or stressed in the past, which recreational activities helped you to decompress? Can you try one of them now if these feelings have returned?

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Those people who know me often ask why I have not yet trained to deliver Youth Mental Health First Aid Courses. The reason is that I have been firstly building up the full suite of adult courses I am qualified to

deliver, ensuring that I am confident and knowledgeable in one field before broadening my offer. But now is the time! Over March and April, I will be undertaking five full days of learning and study to add yet another string to my bow.

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

Girton Walking Group

For our first walk of the New Year, we stayed close to home, starting at the Co-op and walking around Eddington and the West Cambridge



site. We were glad to be walking on good paths after the exceptionally wet weather we had been having around Christmas! Our photo shows us at the University Observatory which we passed on the outward leg.

Our next walks are:

Saturday 3 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 six 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

Saturday 3 March: Grantchester and back

A five-mile walk along the river Cam to Grantchester and back. Meet at Granta Place at the bottom of Mill Lane at 10am. We will pause in Grantchester for a rest stop. Those who want to try the Tea Rooms are welcome to do so and walk back separately. For those who prefer to bring their own refreshments, we will stop in or near the churchyard. The walk includes going through the Paradise nature reserve. It may be muddy. The walk is led by Gina and Paul Lane, ginaklane@aol.com

If you need a lift for either a walk, or would like to join our mailing list for future walks, please contact Angela at: angela.blackburn@cantab.net

GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Bowls Club

The AGM was held at Abbeyfield on 7th December and was attended by 30 members. After the Chairman's report and those from the Secretary, various Committee members and Team Captains, the meeting was brought up to date

with the Regional competition results for the season. Our players reached 19 quarter finals, 13 semifinals and 9 finals. In the men's singles finals, an all-Girton match, between Trevor Dean and Alan Benton, Trevor Dean managed to take the title. Congratulations were given to all our finalists. In the Cambridge and District League Girton finished in second place in Division 2, receiving automatic promotion to Division 1 for next season.

The meeting then moved on to topics for discussion.

- It was agreed that the annual subscription would remain at £50 and there would be no increase in match fees or roll up fees.
- Since the establishment of the Club 10 years ago the position of President has remained vacant. It was felt that it was time to address this and by unanimous agreement of the committee, the position has now been filled by one of our founding members and former Secretary, Graham Clare.
- It was agreed that our annual Open Triples Competition would be held on 23rd June and we will again join in the Feast celebrations in July.
- A new Auditor has been appointed and the Club constitution brought up to date.
- After an open discussion on Girton entering the County League, a vote was taken and by a unanimous result it was agreed Girton would apply to enter next season.

As we start to look forward to the new season we are reminded of the continued work of our volunteer maintenance team who achieve such a superb standard of bowls green, making Girton one of the best greens in the County.

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 Tennis Club

It is always good to have a few pictures to publish to brighten up our monthly article. This month I have received two pictures that both date from just

before Christmas so apologies for the delay in their publication. Our club night sessions continue throughout the year from 7.30pm on Friday evening and, although the numbers reduce in colder weather, the first picture shows a few hardy members making good use of Christmas hats to keep warm.



Mark Lawton kindly arranged a meal at the Girton Golf Club just before Christmas. Fifteen members of the club enjoyed excellent food and hospitality. Alan Richardson stepped forward to provide the after dinner entertainment with useful information about how to choose the right type of tennis ball for use in colder weather. The

picture shows Alan in full flow!

Here is a reminder about the coaching opportunities that started from January. Please check our website for further details and how to sign up.

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)

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



Girton Cricket Club

Girton Cricket Club traces its roots back to a meeting of subscribers reported in The Cambridge Chronicle and University Journal, Isle of Ely

Herald and Huntingdonshire Gazette on 24th April, 1852. At the meeting, the village of Girton enthusiastically formed the club, dedicated to the promotion of the delightful game of cricket. In a gesture of generosity, Miss A. M. Cotton earned unanimous thanks from the members for allowing her park to serve as the club's inaugural playing ground. The historic first match, on Wednesday, 21st April 1852, marked the foundation of Girton Cricket Club. Since then, the club has endured over the years, evolving from humble beginnings into a family-based institution deeply rooted in community and sporting passion. Today Girton Cricket Club is a cherished part of village life and boasts a rich legacy spanning generations. As it has grown, the club has witnessed players ascend through the ranks, transitioning from friendly matches to proudly representing the first and second teams.

Girton Cricket Club warmly welcomes aspiring cricketers of all ages. The club extends an open invitation to those with a passion for the sport, whether young or seasoned, to join its ranks and contribute to its enduring legacy. In addition to the thrill of the game, Girton Cricket Club fosters a sense of community and camaraderie and embraces the spirit of socialization, gathering after each game at the local pub, The George Inn, which generously sponsors the club year after year. Beyond the boundaries of the cricket field, these moments of camaraderie and fellowship further solidify the club's sense of community, making The George Inn an integral part of our shared journey. As we play and celebrate together, the club thrives on the synergy between sport and social bonds, creating lasting memories both on and off the pitch. If anyone would like to join the club, please get in touch with any of our committee members.

Andrew Burton

Email Girtoncc@hotmail.com

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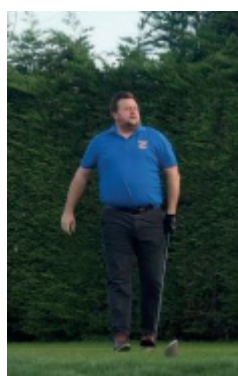
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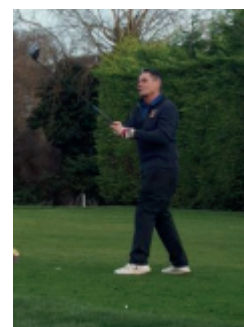
Girton Golf Club

A cold and wet start to the New Year but on 1st January, in dry weather, we held our Captains Drive In with our new Men's Captain, Chris Tuck, and Senior's

Captain, Kevin Julien. Our Junior Captain for 2024 is the very talented Aryan Alwala, who, although just 13 at the time, won the Club Men's Shearline Trophy in 2023. The Drive In was followed by a fun 9 hole competition and the competition to guess their combined driving distance was won by Stuart Spink.



Captain Chris Tuck



Senior's Captain Kevin Julien

Quiz nights continue for another couple of months, the last two for this year are on 16th February and 15th March, food available from 6.30pm. Just call the club and book your meals. Remember also that the clubhouse is open every day so if you fancy a coffee or lunch then just pop down and enjoy our relaxed atmosphere. Social membership is also available for only £10 per individual and that gives you 10% off food and beverages.

If you would like to take up golf, or are thinking about it, then contact the office and discuss the Girton Academy offerings, and what membership options are right for you. Our Club Professional Paul Trujillo is on hand to lead you through the early stages of enjoying your new golfing pastime.

Alan Henderson-Smith

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February Wine Selection

Here are three interesting red wines to brighten up your February!



Feuerheerd Reserva Douro 2020 (Portugal)

A smooth, expressive red wine from the Douro, Portugal. Though this wine comes in a bottle wrapped in thick grey paper and has a label tied round the neck with string, do not be misled by the gimmicky packaging!

This Feuerheerd Reserva Douro 2020 is an expressive red wine, aged in carefully selected old oak barrels, and is a very good example of the high-quality, good value red wines produced by Feuerheerd, a renowned Port producer. A blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz grape varieties, this is a smooth, elegant, well-balanced wine with medium tannin, medium acidity, and a long, silky finish.

With plum, cherry and vanilla on the nose, and blackberry, chocolate, liquorice, and a touch of spice on the palate, this is an excellent match for a grilled or roast meat dish, or with roasted vegetables. It will also go well with a strong cheese.

Available from **Sainsbury's** (£10)



Saint-Chinian, Domaine Raynier 2022 (Southern France)

A great value wine from Languedoc-Roussillon. This very pleasant Saint-Chinian wine from The Wine Society offers excellent value for money. The wine is produced from grapes grown in the vineyards of Languedoc-Roussillon in southern France, at the southern end of the Massif Central and just twenty miles from the coast. This enables the grapes to benefit from long, hot summers and mild winters, resulting in a smooth, rich, full-bodied wine.

A blend of Grenache and Syrah grapes, this is a dry wine with medium acidity and medium tannins. Herby aromas of the garrigue together with plum and blackberries on the nose lead to a palate of vibrant black fruits, with liquorice and a hint of spice, and a lingering finish.

A wine to enjoy by itself or with food. It's a very good match for lamb, or a casserole.

Available from **The Wine Society** (£7.50)

Halfpenny Green Penny Red 2022 (Staffordshire)



An appealing blend from the Black Country. This very appealing red wine from Halfpenny Green Wine Estate in the heart of the Black Country in the West Midlands is a fine example of a wine produced by one of the country's largest vineyards.

Established in 1983, Halfpenny Green benefits from well-sheltered south-facing slopes and light, sandy free-draining soil to grow a wide variety of grapes.

The Penny Red is a blend of Rondo, Regent, Triomphe d'Alsace, and Divico grape varieties. A smooth, velvety, well-balanced wine with soft tannins and a long finish, it has aromas of bramble, plum and blackcurrant, and flavours of forest fruits and cherry.

A wine to enjoy by itself, with grilled meats or vegetables, or with cheese.

Available from **Grape Britannia** (£12.99)

Martin Nuttall

www.itmustbewineoclock



Girton WI

Following our Christmas break, we welcomed Jason Middleton who came along to give us a most fascinating and interesting

talk on the topic of gemstones along with a spectacular PowerPoint display. For the last 15 years he has had a highly rewarding career in the jewellery industry working as an international gemstone buyer for a respected jewellery company. Jason has recently started his own company supplying the jewellery market with loose and finished gemstones specialising in pearls and semi-precious stones. The talk explained how pearls are produced and the fascinating history line from early civilisation to pearls found in jewellery today. Jason passed around a number of objects such as host rock, cut and polished gemstones and jewellery for us all to have a closer look. At the end of the talk, he welcomed any questions we may have, and a few members were keen to find out more relating to jewellery they had themselves.

We thanked Jason for coming along to give us a most interesting talk.

Sue Jiggins

Press and Publicity Officer

GTC team is here to help

In Girton Town Charity's new office at Dovehouse Court, there's a team of people to offer assistance and advice to almshouse residents and villagers requiring advice on schemes and grants. Here we meet the three and outline some of the ways they could help you.

Office Manager Rachel Allchorne and Office Administrator Carol Robinson share the task of supporting GTC Trustees with day-to-day administration, as well as helping almshouse residents to ensure the Charity's 28 properties are kept in good repair by liaising with the Maintenance Supervisor in their team.

First port of call

Rachel says: "In addition to helping our residents, we are also the first port of call for enquiries about our Schemes and Grants which range from financial help with educational materials through to short-term care for someone returning home from hospital. These requests can come via email, telephone or in-person and if the request falls outside GTC's remit, we often signpost residents to external agencies and advice organisations."

"We are finding that with an ageing population, most requests come from older residents seeking additional care and assistance to stay in their own homes. We also have families affected by the cost-of-living crisis asking for financial support to help their individual situation."

In-person help

Carol continues: "With the Trustees being volunteers, we maintain an open-door policy within the office Monday to Friday to enable residents to access information and support. It's often helpful to have face-to-face conversations to deal with their queries and problems."

"As with any role, there are challenges and often we have to juggle the many priorities and urgent tasks against an ever-growing to-do list, but working closely with the Trustees and having an interface with Village residents makes the job both enjoyable and highly rewarding."

Managing maintenance

The third member of the team at Dovehouse Court is Maintenance Supervisor Fred Stevens who is responsible for managing both pre-planned and reactive maintenance for the Charity's 28 almshouses, office and grounds. This entails liaising with contractors and residents to ensure all work is completed to a good standard, and keeping track of jobs by using the Charity's Maintenance software.

Fred says: "Every day is different but generally I start by checking to see if there have been any new maintenance issues that have come in overnight. If so, I investigate and either carry out the repair myself or arrange for relevant contractors to be booked in. I also have a list of scheduled tasks that need attention."



"My role mainly benefits the residents of GTC almshouses but I also have a wider remit in the Village, looking after a number of wooden benches in different locations, as well as the Church Lane Bus Shelter and the Goose Sculpture Railings to ensure everything is in good order."

"I am really enjoying my role which is all about fixing things for people. Being able to achieve that is very satisfying and I often get residents thanking me for my efforts."

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: www.girtontowncharity.org.uk

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272

WILLIAM COLLYN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Weekly Activities

Monday

9.30 - 1.00pm	Tumble Tots (school 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
10.45am - 1.45pm	Hartbeeps (school term time)
11.15am - 12.15pm	Yoga with Jess
2.00 - 4.00pm	AgeUK Tuesday Connections (monthly)
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane
7.30 - 10.30pm	Easton Swing

Wednesday

9.30 - 10.30am	YogaBright: baby and post-natal yoga
10.30am - 1.30pm	Falls Prevention Clinic
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 & 8.15pm	Ballroom Dance Classes

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Monthly health checks for people aged 40-74 in partnership with **Healthy You** are available to book at the Centre.

Information correct at time of going to press.

Photographs used with permissions from the activity organiser.

William Collyn Community Centre

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP

01223 279587

info@williamcollyn.co.uk

www.williamcollyn.co.uk

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

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272



Meetings - Seminars - Presentations



Yoga - Pilates - Exercise - Relax



Parties - Dance Classes - Celebrations - Fun



@williamcollync



William Collyn Community Centre



@williamcollyncentre



To Spy or not to Spy?

We have a few things coming up in the Abbeyfield restaurant during February and March so it might be worth making a quick note of them so that you don't miss out. Firstly on 5 February at 10.30am Chris, one of our

members, is coming along to demonstrate how she creates hand-made greetings cards. She will be at the table with four or five participants showing how she does it and I am sure you will be as surprised as me to find out exactly what it is that she uses. Call in and watch, have a coffee and a chat whilst there. I am sure that this will be very enjoyable to watch and it's something you might like to do at home.

On 12 February at 10.30am Nick Leader a former employee at the Government Communications Headquarters, GCHQ, and author is coming along to give a talk entitled 'To spy or not to spy' and it sounds all very exciting to me. Come and listen, maybe we could learn how to infiltrate the Parish Council or Girton Town Charity. It could be that we already have a mole in there deep undercover. Oh, my imagination! Again this is all for the price of a cup of coffee and maybe a piece of cake.

At 12 for 12.30 pm on Thursday 22 February at the William Collyn Community Centre it's Fish & Chips out of paper boxes followed by the acclaimed film 'The Great Escaper' starring Sir Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. Cost of food, film and coffee £11 but you must order in advance. Enquiries using the details below.

On 4 March the Flukes Ukulele Group will be in the restaurant to entertain us with a fun morning. There will be a collection on the day to go towards their costs and of course coffee and cakes will be available for purchase. All in all these are cheap events that will get you out of the house to meet people, chat and enjoy a coffee during the winter months. Don't forget that on the second Tuesday of every month at 2pm 'Tuesday Connections' run by Patricia Johnston our Older Residents Coordinator in the William Collyn Community Centre (see her column for details).

Last month I spoke about Reynard our shoe stealing fox and as a result of that I have heard that there are badgers in the village. I have heard this from various sources and have been sent some recent photographs showing that they are around. So if you have seen 'Brock' the badger anywhere, or know of his existence please let us know.

I have included some great photographs taken by Aadya to show that they are around but we don't want to give away the location of their set, however it would be nice to collect a bit more evidence of their existence in the village. Can you help, does 'Brock' the badger visit your garden?

We would also like to know if you have shoes missing



Girton Badgers – photo by Aadya

as the odd shoe is appearing on the allotments. Is Reynard planting shoes there with a view to harvesting booties in the spring? Well, someone has to look after his cubs' feet. Where does he live? Has he got a home in your garden? Have you noticed the Red Kites circling over Girton, and 'no' I mean the birds not those noisy aeroplanes sneaking into our local airports. I have noticed that the black squirrels are still quite prevalent around the village, has anyone seen grass snakes in the village or any other wild animals worthy of mention?

Pantomime: I am aware that a number of groups within the village are interested in producing a village pantomime around Christmas time this year. Very early enquiries are in hand to find out whether there is enough enthusiasm within the village to make a project of this nature viable. The idea is to bring village clubs together with a view to producing a typical pantomime but with references to local clubs and amenities hopefully drawing attention to them.

Some local groups have already indicated that they would be interested but we need more support if the project is to get off the ground. We would need players, artists, seamstresses, writers, singers, sponsors and more so if your club, group or you as an individual would be interested please let us know using the contact details below.

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News for Older Residents



Tuesday Connections

Thank you for the supportive comments I have received about these monthly get-togethers.

Keeping Active and Healthy is the theme on Tuesday 13 February from 2pm to 4pm in the William Collyn Community Centre. Ben Truett, the Physical Activity Coordinator for South Cambs District Council will talk and answer questions on the benefits of exercise for our physical and mental well-being. He will also update us with all the relevant classes and activities in the local area.

As usual, there will be plenty of opportunity to chat over a cuppa.

The March meeting will be on Tuesday 12 March. See the next magazine for more details!

Off-line and Overlooked

Public services are rapidly going digital. Consequently, Age UK CAP is supporting the national campaign to ensure that everyone can access the public services they need. Being off-line should not mean being overlooked.

For various reasons, plenty of people prefer to handle their finances, bills, and health matters in person or over the phone. Access to these services should be fair and inclusive regardless of one's digital preferences and capabilities. More information can be found about this campaign and the petition is on the Age UK website - www.shorturl.at/hsGN1.

I have a copy of the petition. Let me know if you would like to sign it, or you can request a copy to sign by writing to Freepost Age UK Campaign (no stamp needed).

Forever Active

The decision has been taken for Forever Active to come under the management of Living Sport. FA classes and tutors will be continuing as usual.

And....

I will be on annual leave on Wednesday 7 February. Sarah Stuart, the Community Warden, can be contacted on 07979 333963.

Patricia Johnston, Older Residents' Coordinator

Tel: 07469 660866

Email: Patriciajohnston@ageukcap.org.uk



*Photo courtesy of the SAS
Regimental Association*

SAS founding member dies in Girton aged 103

Major Mike Sadler, a founding member of Britain's Special Air Service, has died in Girton aged 103. The World War II navigator died at Arlington Manor Care Home on 4 January. His death was confirmed by John

Allcock, the secretary of the Special Air Service Regimental Association, an organisation that represents the veterans of the elite unit to which Major Sadler belonged. He was the last surviving founding member of the SAS and the last survivor of the Long Range Desert Group (LDRG), a reconnaissance unit based in the North African desert.

Major Sadler joined the SAS in 1941 and became a navigator who used the skies to find his way across the Libyan desert. In December of that year, he was part of the first successful SAS raid on Wadi Tamet where his team destroyed 24 aircraft and a fuel dump. He fought with the SAS in Italy and France after his time in the desert. He was later parachuted into the Loire after the D-Day landings in 1944, where he participated in sabotage operations behind enemy lines.

On one occasion, Major Sadler guided a group of men who escaped a German unit through the desert on a five-day trek that covered 100 miles. The group did not have a map or any food but managed to link up with the army.

Abbott Joseph Liebling, American war correspondent, saw Major Sadler arriving from the desert, writing: "The eyes of this fellow were round and sky blue and his hair and whiskers were very fair. His beard began well under his chin, giving him the air of an emaciated and slightly dotty Paul Verlaine."

He was awarded the Military Cross and later served in MI6 before retiring in 1984. In 2018, he also received recognition from France when he was awarded the Légion d'honneur.

Historian and broadcaster Dan Snow said: "Sad news about the death of another legend. Mike Sadler, last of the SAS Originals. He was so generous with his time and so descriptive with his recollections. A wonderful life."

In 2022, his story was featured in an episode of the BBC drama SAS Rogue Heroes, a six-part series which told the story of how the unit formed during the war. He was played by Tom Glynn-Carney.



Eric Whitehead 1930-2023

Eric Whitehead passed away on December 7, 2023, at the age of 93. He lived in Woodlands Park, Girton for over 60 years, before moving to Devon in

2020 to live closer to his family.

Eric was born in 1930, growing up in Halifax, where he attended the Crossley and Porter Grammar School. He was a keen rugby player, playing hooker for his school team, the Pellon under-18's and later for the Old Crossleyans where he was a life member. When not in school and not on the rugby pitch, Eric was scouting, something he did for most of his life.

Leaving school, Eric trained as an analytical chemist and became a public analyst in Halifax. He met his future wife Olive when they were both visiting the Isle of Man. They were married in March 1954, and then lived in a small house in Luddenden Foot, which, according to Eric, had the best view in the world. In 1958, Eric left Yorkshire to join the Cambridge Public Analyst laboratory, and the growing family moved to Woodlands Park.

It did not take long for Eric to get involved with scouting in Girton. His Scout Master Warrant was issued in October 1960. His tenure as Scout Master spanned much of his life, shaping generations of young minds and fostering enduring friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Eric would often say "there's no such thing as a bad kid" – showing his faith in young people.

He contributed significantly to the local community, notably being part of the team constructing the Girton Glebe School swimming pool, a testament to his belief that every child should have the opportunity to learn to swim. He was a keen swimmer himself, and a certified life saver. A highlight for him in 2021 was to return to the village to join the 60th anniversary celebration of the opening of the pool.

With the Girton Entertainments Committee, Eric helped organise events like the Girton Village Fete and the November village bonfire. He was particularly proud of the village Over 60's Christmas lunch, which was cooked by the Scouts, served by the Guides, and washed down with some of Eric's home-made wine.

Tragedy struck in 1978 when Eric lost his son Adrian to leukaemia, followed by the passing of his wife Olive to cancer in 1980. Eric channelled his grief into a creative endeavour, designing and having installed a

weathervane on St Andrew's Church in their memory.

In 2020, Eric moved to Abbotsham in Devon, where Eric made new friends, whilst still maintaining the independence of his own front door. Even in mid-2023, in his 90's, he was still using his trusty laptop to check solutions to the Daily Telegraph crossword, look at his emails, and to join in on Zoom calls with his old scouting friends. He was quite happy to ring for the taxi to go shopping. TV became his friend, particularly enjoying rugby, snooker, and cricket.

His own strongly held views and ways could make Eric a challenge to live and work with. Nevertheless, he will be missed by many as someone who helped, inspired, supported, and entertained in his own quirky way. He was known for his unbeatable memory and sharp wit. His repertoire of sayings, often laced with odd humour and Yorkshire charm, became an integral part of his persona, leaving a lasting impression on those who knew him.

Some of you may remember Eric for one of these sayings. Here is one to close with: "You die if you worry, you die if you don't, so why worry?"

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News from Girton Glebe Primary School

Girton Glebe

Young Writers Success!



Just before Christmas, our wonderful Cherry Class (Year 4), entered a Young Writers' competition where they had to write an imaginative and creative 100-word saga about a

fictional monster. When we returned to school in January, we received the incredible news that ALL the entries from Cherry Class would be published in a book called Crazy Creatures - Amazing Imagination.

According to Grace and Charlotte in Year 4, "The whole competition was amazing, and we enjoyed writing our stories and can't wait to share the book with the rest of the school!". The book will be displayed in our school library where all our children can read Cherry Class's super stories! A huge well done to everyone that entered: the pupils all tried extremely hard, and we are extremely proud of their efforts as only 60% of entries were selected to be published. We look forward to receiving the book and sharing it in the library in March!

RHS Gardening Award!

Outside of the classroom, our school gardening club, set up by awesome volunteer Alison in the Autumn term, have been awarded the RHS Level 1 Gardening School Award!

After months of hard work in the pond and forest area, the gardening club have been recognised for their efforts to make an accessible growing space and for beginning to understand the benefits of gardening.



So far, our Key Stage One and Key Stage Two clubs have cleared the pond area and planted a variety of herbs and flowering plants such as cyclamen and grape hyacinths. While it's still very much winter, they have enjoyed planting both in school and in pots to take home. Alison and the children can't wait for Spring to see the fruits of their labour!

We are at the very beginning of our gardening journey at Girton Glebe. With raised beds for each class funded by FOGG, we can't wait to expand the joys of gardening to children all around the school. The RHS award has nine levels in total; we are excited to keeping working outside to earn more of these!

Bike Ability Around Girton

The beginning of January was a busy (and cold) time for Oak Class (Year 6) as they completed their Level 1 & 2 Bike Ability training. Starting on the playground, the children got to grips with how to ride, signal and manoeuvre safely, before taking to the roads of Girton. It's fair to say everyone was *wheelie* excited but a little nervous about being out in the icy cold all week! The children did a fabulous job, learning about road positioning and the Highway Code and gaining confidence in skills such as crossing roads and overtaking parked cars. This training was not only great fun but an important life lesson for our Year 6 pupils, and we are grateful to all the instructors from Outspoken for helping to keep our children safe on the roads. Thank you also to all the members of the local community who looked out for our children and supported them during this important training.

Getting Active @ Girton



With a new year, we are excited to have introduced new early morning, lunch time and after school clubs to get our children involved in a range of extra-curricular activities. With new sports clubs such as Tennis and Triathlon, returning favourites such as Coding, Magic, Gardening, Taekwondo, Netball and Street Dance and musical clubs from Ukulele to Choir, there is something for everyone! We are very excited for the upcoming Girls' We are very excited for the upcoming Girls' Football Competition and our return to the second round of a local Netball Tournament, too!

Chris Butler
Headteacher



Ten Sing

We ended 2023 by performing at the Choir 2000 Advent concert, performing some Christmas songs, which the group pulled off with energy and gusto, and I think the audience appreciated the effort they all put in. The Christmas Party was good fun; we repeated the performance of Christmas songs to family members, as many had not been able to get to the concert. This was much appreciated, and the young people sang even louder than at the performance!

Now the focus is on the concert, which is on Saturday 16 March 2024. Watch out for posters with information for tickets, the event will be at Histon Baptist Church, start time 7.30pm. We already have songs, a dance, a signing song, and other performances planned. It should be a lovely evening, and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Who do we trust?

As I write it's the second week and I'm already busier than I'd like to be. Little jobs tend to pile up over the Christmas season and then in January it all races to the fore again.

There are some big strategic things on my mind. What is the church going to do in 2024? How can we use the resources we have in our wonderful people and building for the best? How do we organise our growing team of brilliant volunteers well? Then there's the regular stuff like: "What are we going to do at Easter?" and "Who is going to clean the windows?" (which is no minor task with all the individual panels that need to be gently cleaned inside and out). Then there's the three funerals and a wedding already booked in over the next month. Today I need to find someone to play the piano on Sunday as an organist has Covid. I haven't even started on the domestic side of things – you don't want to see the pile of clean laundry to sort out, with the follow-up task of getting the children to put their own clothes away. (And then, as I sat down to write this, I realised that my son's trumpet lessons start at school again today, so I had to rush out and drop off his instrument!)

But this isn't a "woe is me" column. Sometimes it's easy to look at all the things going on in the world and feel overwhelmed and unable to begin. It's easy to feel powerless in the face of forces we can't control or understand. And that's when I like to look back and take stock.

2023 was a challenging year in lots of ways. We had major building work to do. Finances are tight. We had almost double the number of funerals that we'd done in 2022. Some key people moved on to pastures new. But looking back, the building work was finished. We ended the year with a modest cash surplus. We got to know loads of new people. Wider relationships have grown and flourished. Regular Sunday attendance at church is up about 20% on where it was in January 2021. You were lucky to get a seat at the Christingle Service and Carol Service before Christmas. God is building his church in Girton!

In the busyness of life, it's easy to miss the bigger picture. One of the habits of the ancient Israelites was to look back at everything God had done for them in the past and so take confidence to trust him for the future. At a time when trust in institutions is collapsing (including trust in the church) I take increasing comfort in being able to trust God. It won't always be easy, but God is faithful.

You are always welcome into the church, whether at a service or just to sit in the quiet with God!



Other news...

It was great to see the Royal Coat of Arms going back up in December after six months of restoration work. And, thanks to everyone who contributed to the Mitten Tree before Christmas. In total 182 items of warm clothing (hats, scarves, socks, etc) were donated (97 for adults and 85 for children). All will go to local charities supporting people in need.

Michael Bigg



St Andrew's Church Notices

There will be an After-School Pancake Party on Tuesday 13 February, 3.30pm - 5pm in church. Children, parents, and carers are invited to drop in for pancakes, crafts, and a story.

Then Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday service on 14 February. We will celebrate this with an evening communion service at 7pm. All are welcome. And if you cannot manage the evening service, there will be a service of reflection during the day, from 12 noon (TBC).

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: www.bit.ly/GirtonParishLive. Please check the church website for up-to-date information (www.girton.church).



St Andrew's Church

Rector: Revd Michael Bigg

Tel: 01223 202145 **Email:** rector@girton.church

Website: www.girton.church

Associate Priest: 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: Dr Eona Bell

Tel: 07305 201419 **Email:** cfm@girton.church

Churchwardens:

Mr Bruce and Mrs Wendy Hunter **Tel:** 503958

Sunday Services: February

4th	10:00am	Holy Communion (+StA4K)
11th	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10:00am	All-age Communion
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
18th	10:00am	Holy Communion (+StA4K)
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
25th	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10:00am	Morning Prayer (+StA4K)
3rd Mar	10:00am	Holy Communion (+StA4K)

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

Regular weekday Services: February

Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer (said)
Weds	9.00am	Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
Thurs	9.00am	Morning Prayer (said) (Online)

Other Services

8th	3:45 pm	Messy Church
14th	2:00 pm	Abbeyfield Holy Communion
	12:00pm	Ash Wednesday Reflection (TBC)
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday
20th	2:15 pm	Arlington Manor Holy Communion
29th	11:00 pm	Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. May the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

[Michael Perham]

Girton Baptist Church



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe

Church Tel: 07483 334860

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

February Services

(all at Girton Baptist Church, and on Zoom)

4th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Nick Lowe.
11th	10.30am	Morning Worship, at 10.30am led by Christine Kimmitt.
18th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Nick Lowe
25th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Nick Lowe

Messy Church is on Thursday 8 February 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 "Hannah and Samuel." If you would like to find out more, please contact us or just come along.

Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group meets on 5 March at 2.15pm.

All are welcome to the services and events.

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

Psalm 92:1-3

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp."

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

Chair

Daniel Carney, Tel: 07986 592507
daniel.carney@girton-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair

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

Councillors

Gary Betts, Tel: 07950 526349

gary.betts@girton-pc.gov.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

Nas Hayat, Tel: 07917 204126

nasir.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

Richard Reeves, richard.reeves@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: 01223 276184, 07780 932267

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 and Finance Officer

Yvonne Murray Tel: 01223 618619

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 Rd, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0FH

You can also use these QR codes to contact us:



Girton Parish Council Website



Girton Village Community FB



Girton PC Twitter @GirtonPCouncil

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS

COTTON HALL, CAMBRIDGE ROAD,
GIRTON



9/2/24 - 4 pm - Tradizioni

16/2/24 - 4.30 pm - Papas Locas

23/2/24 - 4.30 pm - Pizza Passione

Information correct at time of going to press - please check for updates on our website or Facebook page.

Some traders accept food orders in advance.



WWW.COTTONHALL.CO.UK

Mobile Library

Thursday 8th and 22nd February

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

Bin Collections – February

Thursday 1 February	Black bin
Thursday 8 February	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 15 February	Black bin
Thursday 22 February	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 29 February	Black bin

Contact numbers for bookings

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



Solution to this month's Codeword on page 13:

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

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