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GIRTON

Parish News



January 2020



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

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

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

Advertisements

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

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

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

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

Distribution Manager Rosemary Jones, tel. 276491

Editors and Proofreaders Chris Bowler, Wendy de Horsey, Mike Fay, Marion Fisher, John Gibson, Alison Giles, Carol Huxley, Jenny Knights, 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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The Village Diary

January

- Sun. 5** **FOGG Christmas Tree Shredding and Repair Café** Girton Glebe School, 12–2pm
- Wed. 8** **Girton WI**, William Collyn Hall, 7.30pm
Members' Night
- Thur. 9** **Girton Garden Society**, William Collyn Community Center, 7.30pm Annual General Meeting and Social Evening
- Sat. 18** **Eddington Feel-good Festival**, 12–4pm
Storey's Field Centre, Eddington
- Mon. 20** **Music at Girton**, Chapel, 8.30pm
King Henry's VIII
- Tue. 21** **Parish Council Meeting**, 7.00pm
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
- Fri. 24** **Megson** (Folk Music), 7pm
Storey's Field Centre, Eddington
- Sat. 25** **Girton Churchyard Volunteers**, Work Party
St Andrew's Churchyard, 10am–12 noon
- Sun. 26** **Music at Girton**, Stanley Library, 2.30pm
Bach and Bagatelles
- Tue. 28** **Music at Girton**, Stanley Library, 6.15pm
Ben Comeau (piano), Alice McCarthy (voice)
- Wed. 29** **Club 55**, Lunch, 12 for 12.30pm
The Three Tuns, Fen Drayton

February

- Sat. 1** **Girton Walking Group**, Fulbourn and Wilbrahams meet 10am at Fulbourn Nature Reserve, Church Lane
- Sun. 2** **Music at Girton**, Stanley Library, 2.30pm
Chamber Music for Clarinet, Violin and Piano
- Wed. 5** **Club 55**, Film, 'Downton Abbey'
William Collyn Community Centre, 12 noon
Girton WI, William Collyn Centre, 7.30pm
Malice Domestic – Mandy Morton & Nicola Upson

Contents

Pages 4 – 6	Council and Councillors Reports
Pages 7 – 9	Forthcoming Events
Page 11	Cottontails
Page 15	Girton Green Fingers
Page 17	Natural Girton
Pages 19	Puzzle Corner
Pages 20 – 21	Girton Youth Project
Pages 22 – 24	Scoreboard
Page 25	Friends of Girton Glebe
Page 27	News from Girton Glebe
Page 31	Girton Garden Society
Pages 32 – 33	Girton Town Charity
Pages 35 – 37	Our Churches
Page 38	Rubbish Collection & Mobile Library

Copy date for February issue: Wed. 15 January. Issue date: Sat. 1 February. Covers 1–28 February.

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

The following are amongst items discussed at Parish Council meetings and information received by the Parish Office.

The copy date for this edition precedes the December meeting, but items on the agenda included consideration of the Girton Bowls Club's proposals in relation to provision of Club Facilities independent of the William Collyn Community Centre; a proposal to widen the scope of proposals to improve the Pavilion building; to review safety matters in the light of the regrettable damage caused to the artistic fence at the pavilion car park; to consider potential involvement in the management of the proposed Country Park at Darwin Green; to agree the next steps in our Local Highways Improvement Grant application; and minor matters relating to dog bins and signage.

The new MUGA carpet installation should be completed very soon. It is already back in use to aid bedding down of the sand but wet weather delayed the incorporation of the final quantities of sand which are required to optimise support to the carpet pile. The new lighting has been ordered and is expected to be installed in the New Year. By the time of publication the access road resurfacing should also be complete.

We can also report that we have received a totally negative response to our pleas to retain access to the A14/M11 at Oakington Road-Dry Drayton Road Junction, to minimise the risk of rat running through the village. This goes to confirm that the assurances given to us in 2015 were simply a smokescreen to smooth the granting of the planning consent.

The Chairman has at last received a communication on our A14 Legacy Fund grant applications but only to discuss progression of the third and most minor of the three submitted. Our request for reconsideration of the other two applications has been reiterated and is under review.

A spate of accidents at the Language School corner of the High Street and Cambridge Road appears to be the result of contamination of the road surface resulting in loss of grip. This has led to an undertaking by Highways to apply a surface treatment to the road to improve this. Thanks to Cllr Lynda Harford for her prompt assistance with this.

I am sure all the village will join us in sending to Lynda our very best wishes for a speedy recovery after her surgery.

Next Meetings

The next Parish Council meetings will be held at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.00pm on Tuesday 21st January and Tuesday 18th February 2020. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings and to speak in the open session at the start.

Due to delays in arranging interviews please note that we are still accepting applications for the position of assistant to the Parish Clerk as advertised in previous editions of GPN.

FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

A View From the District

The Scrutiny Committee on 14 November looked at the Council's progress and plans: in some areas (contact centre, mainly) progress remains abysmal and we asked, as we always have done, for explanations. Plans include significant property investment to provide a replacement income for dwindling Government grants. We expressed concern at the risks but have to accept the opinion of our experienced officers that these are manageable.

An extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 18 November approved a report from the Chief Executive on a major restructuring of our Senior Management team. Details are still confidential but I approve of the approach which I think will provide significantly better service. A new administration inevitably entails change: this is perhaps the only chance we shall have to produce a structure fit for purpose. And I am very impressed at our new Chief Executive's record and her approach to this.

The 28 November Council was an unusual meeting, and difficult to organise, as we had a petition which related to an item of business, an unprecedented situation which our Constitution does not really encompass. The item of business was a new taxi policy, and the petition was strongly opposed to one aspect. In the event, though, we had legal advice that the policy needed more consideration and the item was dropped, though we heard the eloquent petition. We also approved a motion (almost unanimously) which among other concerns about sustainability declared a Climate Emergency; a fact which I hope will strongly influence the developing Local Plan.

The substantive item for the Civic Affairs Committee was a revision of our Constitution. Two issues from the

meeting are worth noting: we took very seriously comments submitted by a member of the public; and the Leader argued for removing the requirement for 100 signatures to a petition. For these and a few other reasons which I had submitted the draft will go back to the Task and Finish Group for more work.

In September I noted that Eddington Avenue is designated 'No Loading' and so unavailable for disabled parking. I advised disabled drivers to stick to the designated bays. But a driver has been issued with a ticket for protruding from the bay. The owner was incensed as the bay is significantly shorter than the vehicle. In a flurry of correspondence with the University I have still not received complete clarification; initially it denied all responsibility as parking control had been farmed out to a commercial company and the bays were compliant with current standards. Now it states that the bays are to be upgraded as the line marking was faulty, and that no more parking tickets will be issued to blue badge holders until then. Yet they also say they cannot interfere with the parking company and rescind fines already levied. I am still in discussion, but it is disappointing that Eddington is so disabled-unfriendly.

On a more positive note I am pleased to see that the latest list of names for future roads in the site includes that of our own Alice Hibbert-Ware.

I am exploring with Cllr Harford and County officers options for replacing the Girton sign at the City boundary and hope we can also replace the one on Oakington Road.

If you would like a fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at scdc@de-lacey.org and I shall add you to the list of recipients. If you have any District Council issues you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to ask me.

Douglas de Lacey

District Councillor Tom Bygott

Best wishes to all for the New Year

I would like to offer my very best wishes to everyone in the village, and hope that you have all had a great Christmas and New Year. I would like to extend this to my colleagues in the District Council from all parties.

The New Year should be a time for optimism. We look forward this year to the completion of the A14. A few weeks ago, the new section from Fen Drayton past Brampton to the A1 opened, and the remaining section from Fen Drayton to Milton is expected to be completed by December 2020.

Another major project, the Cambridge Autonomous Metro (CAM), will take another major step in 2020, with the Outline Business Case providing further detail

on the engineering solutions, capital costs, running costs, timetabling, routes and delivery timescales for CAM.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Anthony Browne as our new MP and wish him well as he heads to Westminster to represent us.

Winter preparations

It is always hard to say whether we will get snow, but sensible to prepare if we do. Advice on how to clear pavements of snow are available on the Government website: www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway

If your neighbours might have difficulty getting in and out of their homes, offer to clear snow and ice around their properties as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather, as extreme cold can make many illnesses worse, for example heart disease.

The County Council is responsible for salting and gritting main roads. There is more information and a map available on their website at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths/. In addition to the M11, A14 and A428, the roads scheduled to be gritted are: Huntingdon Road, Girton Road, Cambridge Road, the High Street from Cambridge Road to Oakington Road, Oakington Road, New Road to Histon and The Avenue to Madingley. The map is a bit out of date, and I assume it also includes the new A1307 local road next to the A14.

Consultation to prepare for the next Local Plan

In my November report I mentioned the Issues and Options Consultation for the next Local Plan. The consultation will commence on 13th January and run until 24th February 2020. When the consultation is completed, the full list of sites that have been suggested will be published. The Plan itself will be drafted this year.

When the consultation begins, it will be available at: www.scambs.gov.uk/Consultations

Climate emergency declared

At November's meeting, South Cambridgeshire District Council voted to declare a climate emergency. This had support from all parties and was only opposed by one Independent councillor. As a result, South Cambridgeshire's next Local Plan will consider how new homes, jobs and services will support that commitment to making South Cambridgeshire carbon neutral by 2050. An audit will be conducted into what steps the District Council can take to become carbon neutral itself by this date and what opportunities there are to meet this target for the entire District.

More information can be found at: www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-as-council-aims-to-make-south-cambridgeshire-zero-carbon/

According to www.climateemergency.uk, 65% of district, county, unitary & metropolitan councils in the UK had declared a climate emergency by October last year.

I have been asked several times why a Conservative would support the principle of becoming carbon neutral. It is a misconception that there is a trade-off, in Cambridgeshire at least, between economic growth and carbon neutrality. Our local economy is not dependent on either the oil or coal industries, both of which are becoming obsolete. Our main local industry is technology and there are a large number of local businesses developing green technologies, which will be greatly in demand on the path to carbon neutrality. It is a win-win situation for South Cambridgeshire as this growth will be accompanied by lower levels of air pollution, which will make us healthier and increase the average lifespan. Diesel fumes in particular, containing high levels of PM2.5 (particulate matter of 2.5 micrometres or less in diameter), are known to increase the risk of lung cancer, lung diseases such as COPD, heart disease and Alzheimer's disease.

With our windy location in the North Atlantic and shallow coastal waters, Britain will, over the coming decades, achieve full security of energy supply, and also has the opportunity to become a major exporter of electricity from offshore wind turbines, generated more cheaply than using fossil fuels.

Cllr Tom Bygott
cldr@bygott.net
07765 475 513



Cambridge Pinks

The Regional Group for Breast Cancer Now, Cambridge Pinks, held their fourth walk along the towpath on Sunday

17th November 2019. This walk was postponed from October when the footpaths were water logged after heavy rain.

The footpaths on Sunday were all quite muddy and the puddles were easy to navigate. The weather was overcast so not too cold and it didn't rain. We are grateful to the Wardens at Milton Country Park for allowing us to use the park for our registration station.

We set off from Milton Country Park at 11.30am and had a lovely wayfaring 1¼ hour walk to Cow Hollow in Waterbeach for a hot drink and a snack at the car in the muddy car park. The meadow was damp so we didn't

picnic there this year. After a twenty minute cool down we set off for our 1¼ hour walk back to Milton Country Park.

These are a few of our wayfaring highlights this year:

One level crossing with its Christmas lights on
Two Christ's college rowers
Three trains on tracks
Four swans a swimming
Five family dogs
Six cows mooing
Seven sheep bleating
Eight King's College rowers training
Nine family cyclists
Ten fungi
Eleven joyful joggers
Twelve anglers fishing

Lots of cool flora to see too. Our photos are on our Facebook page, please pop across and have a look at facebook.com/groups/cambridgepinks/

With a total raised of £80.70 for Breast Cancer Now, a very rewarding day. We shall be walking again on Sunday 20th September 2020. If you liked what you read and would like to join our waterside wayfaring walk, then please do get in touch with either Avril on avrilwilliams04@gmail.com or Jo on jo@hartmcleod.co.uk

Avril Williams

Girton Parish News is looking for

New Editor(s)

Be at the heart of what's happening in your village!

The volunteer job involves co-ordinating contributions each month from the village and liaising between typesetters, proofreaders and printers to make sure that the magazine comes out complete and on time.

Be part of a fun and friendly team of active locals. Hours vary depending on production schedule, but typically average 4-5 hours per week. This could be a team job. Experience in publishing, print or design an advantage. Full training offered by the present editor.

Requirements:

- Good organisational skills
- Familiarity with computers
- Eye for detail
- Good interpersonal skills

For more information, please email Angela at gpned@girton-cambs.org.uk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

 **Love Your Village, Love Your Village Hall!** 
Celebrating 100 Years of Village Halls

'Wonderful Villages' Photo Competition



Starts 15th December 2019!

Win up to £1000 for your Village Hall and £500 for the photographer!
Plus other cash prizes.

Open to ALL RURAL UK Village & Community Halls.
Entry is FREE. No purchase necessary.

Details of prizes, theme and entry dates are in the **RULES** available from our Facebook page:
 <https://facebook.com/AlliedWestminster>
AND on our website detailing free rebuild valuations:
 <https://villagehallsurvey.com>

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TRIBE

CHRISTIAN YOUTH GROUP
Hang out at the William Collyn Centre in Girton for food, fun, games and teaching // Years 7-11 all welcome

Every other Friday 7pm-9pm
Details on our website newlifechurchcambridge.org

THE EDDINGTON 'FEEL GOOD' FESTIVAL

Saturday 18 January, 12noon-4pm
Storey's Field Centre, Eddington

Now in its second year, the festival provides an afternoon dedicated to helping you relax, unwind and get ready for the New Year. Join in with a host of free activities to make you feel good. A selection of different activities for you to try out such as Yoga, meditation, barre ballet and dance sessions. There will be health talks and blood pressure checks available.

Don't forget our chill out area in the foyer where you can get free refreshments served by Eddie's Cafe. Free event, but please book at:
bookwhen.com/camsport

Megson

Friday 24 January, 7pm
Storey's Field Centre, Eddington

An infectious mix of heavenly vocals, lush harmonies and driving rhythmic guitars. Megson have gained fame on the British folk scene, not only for their arresting and intelligent song writing, but for their exquisite musicianship and northern humour.

£17.00 – Book at: tiny.cc/megson

GIRTON GARDEN SOCIETY

Thursday 9th January 2020
William Collyn Community Centre
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
With social evening and light buffet

Competitions
A foliage plant
A photo of a plant or of your own garden

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GIRTON FEAST SUMMER FESTIVAL 2020

NEW FOR 2020 -

- Events from mid June to mid July
- Programmes will be free and delivered to every home
- Childrens' rides to be subsidised
- Bands & entertainment throughout the day at the village fete

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Outdoor cinema – Friday 10th July
- Village fete day – Saturday 11th July

PROMOTING AMATEUR SPORTS WITH OUR OLYMPIC THEME: (Summer Olympics in Tokyo 2020)



- Cycling, running, walking – would you like to help us put on amateur sports events between mid June to mid July?

- Other ideas for amateur sports would be welcomed

Other ways you may be able to help:

- Local businesses – please advertise in our programme, over 2000 copies will be printed and distributed
- Please provide sponsorship by donating a raffle prize
- Why not book a stall to sell goods or promote your local club, charity, society or business

Please contact us via our website:

www.girtonfeast.org.uk – all queries will be answered –

or contact Rowena: rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk or

Helen: helen@girtonfeast.org.uk



Lets Get Quizzical!

Wednesday 12 February At The George, Girton
Arrive 7pm for 7.30pm Start Teams of up to FOUR people



KEEP CALM

IT'S

QUIZ NIGHT

AT

THE GEORGE

The event is a fundraising of 5 funds for:
The Royal Anglian Regiment
Benevolent Charity
www.royalregiment.org.uk
The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent
Charity Registered charity number 1066360

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The George, 71 High St, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0QD Tel 01223 276197

CAMBRIDGE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Cambridge PPF Winter Walks

Winter Tree Walk at Wandelbury Country Park

Wednesday 16 January: 10am to 12 noon

Join one of our Wardens for a gentle guided walk around Wandelbury to learn how to identify winter trees. Meet at the notice board in the car park. Free but donations welcome.

Healthy Walks – Thursdays every week

Details at www.cambridgeppf.org/walking

Volunteer Work Parties – Tuesdays every week

Details at www.cambridgeppf.org/volunteer-outdoor-work-parties

Winter Flowers

Details at www.cambridgeppf.org/things-to-see-do-at-wandelbury

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MUSIC AT GIRTON

**MONDAY 20 JANUARY at 8.30 pm
(until 9.10 pm)**

Chapel, Girton College

King Henry's VIII

Music for the season of Epiphany performed by an octet made up of leading choral scholars co-directed by Girtonian Ben Thurlow; the concert will feature carols from the Renaissance to the present day including Tallis's *Videte Miraculum*, Warlock's *Bethlehem Down* and works by Rathbone and Mäntyjärvi
Admission free; retiring collection

**SUNDAY 26 JANUARY at 2.30 pm
(until 3.30 pm)**

Stanley Library, Girton College

Bach and Bagatelles

Award-winning guitarist Kevin Loh plays a programme of Bach transcriptions and bagatelles for guitar by Walton William and Fernando Sor
Admission free; retiring collection

**TUESDAY 28 JANUARY at 6.15 pm
(until 7.00 pm)**

Stanley Library, Girton College, Cambridge

Ben Comeau (piano), Alice McCarthy (voice)

Ben Comeau returns to his *alma mater* for a programme of jazz standards, French chansons and original compositions given with Alice McCarthy; this concert forms part of Girton College's 150th anniversary celebrations

Admission free; retiring collection

**SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY at 2.30 pm
(until 3.30 pm)**

Stanley Library, Girton College

Chamber Music for Clarinet, Violin and Piano

Madeleine Morris (clarinet)

Leo Appel (violin)

Sam Rudd-Jones (piano)
and others

Programme to include Stravinsky's *Histoire du Soldat*,

Bartók's *Contrasts* and Rudd-Jones's *July*

Admission free; retiring collection



News for Older Residents

Wishing you a healthy and active new year

Continue to do the Super Six Strength and Balance exercises throughout this year in order to stay Stronger for Longer.

New Age Kurling

Why not try out a new activity in this year? New Age Kurling is based on the Winter Olympic game and can be played either sitting or standing.

Sessions will continue every Friday morning from 10.30 to 11.30am in the William Collyn Hall. The weekly charge is £3.

Or what about Singing for Breathing?

This is for anyone with asthma, COPD or any lung condition, for singing is a great way to improve lung health. The British Lung Foundation supports these classes.

Kay Barrett runs the Cambridge Singing for Breathing group on Thursdays from 2.30 to 4pm in Brown's Field Centre, Green End Road, Chesterton CB4 1RU. For more information look at

www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com or contact Kay by telephone on 07845 726 975 or email her at singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com.

Let's Get Healthy and Moving

I am delighted about the Let's Get Healthy and Moving event which South Cambs District Council is organising alongside various local organisations. It will be on Wednesday 18th March in the William Collyn Centre with the aim of helping us all enjoy healthier lives.

There will be health checks, fitness MOTs, healthy eating, weight management, falls prevention advice as well as healthy food and tasters of New Age Kurling, Boules, Fitness Steps and T'ai Chi.

I will have more information for February's Parish News but, in the meantime, keep this date free.

This year I plan to continue the same pattern of working. So, I am **available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. It is always good to hear from you with any questions, opinions, feedback and advice so please continue to phone or email me or stop me when you see me out and about. I appreciate your support.

Patricia Johnston, Older Residents' Coordinator

Tel: 07469 660 866

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk





Arlington Manor Open Day

**Saturday 18th January
10am – 4pm**

Join us at Arlington Manor to see for yourself why we are a care home with a difference.

Alongside our high quality care, residents can also enjoy our range of inclusive services and varied dining options as part of our wellbeing programme. So if you haven't come to see us yet, now is your chance.

Pop in on Saturday 18th January or speak to Lisa, Arlington Manor's Customer Relationship Manager, on **01223 814900** for more information or to make an appointment to talk to one of our dedicated team.

Arlington Manor Care Home, Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire, CB3 0FW
www.hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk



Cottontails

It's been yet another jam-packed fun-filled month. In fact as the magazine goes to print, we are in the midst of our Christmas celebrations and events. Yet again our chocolate tombola at the FOGG Christmas Fair was

incredibly popular, as was our face painting and festive kids' craft stall at Arlington Manor Care Home's very first Christmas Bazaar.



In other news, we said a fond farewell to Laura, our Pre-School Manager, who after more than a decade with Cottontails has moved on to exciting new challenges with higher education students. The children presented Laura with chocolates, a bunch of flowers and a fabulous picture of their handprints with the



words 'Nature is one of our best teachers ... and so are you', to remind her of all our forest school sessions. We truly wish her all the best!

Excitingly our newly appointed Pre-School Manager, Sharon, joins the team in January. I'm sure the team and children will give Sharon a very warm welcome and make her feel right at home. Until then, we've been very grateful to our deputy Irina who has stepped into the role as Acting Manager.

Our regular inter-generational sessions at Arlington Manor continue to be popular, so popular in fact that as of January we will be extending our time there from one morning to a whole day. The benefits of inter-generational care to both children and older people have been widely researched and publicised – and are clearly visible during our own fun-filled sessions.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Girton Co-op who presented us with a giant cheque for the money raised from the Co-op community fund. We are also ever so grateful for South Cambridgeshire District Council's Community Chest Grant and to local estate agents Cooke, Curtis and Co for their generous community funding donation. This money makes a huge difference to us as a small charity and truly anchors Cottontails as part of the local community.



If you would like to get involved at Cottontails and have a little or a lot of time to spare we'd love to hear from you. We currently have some opportunities available to volunteers – whether helping set up our materials/furniture for the day (8–9am), helping supervise lunch (12–1pm) or joining in with our sessions (9am–12pm or 12.30–4pm). Email chair@cottontailspreschool.org if you would like to join us as a volunteer or join our committee.

If you would like any further information about Cottontails, please visit our website www.cottontailspreschool.org or contact us on 07935 224607 or info@cottontailspreschool.org.

Ruth Wilson



Burns Night Dinner at Girton Golf Club

Saturday 25th January 2020

6:30 for 7:00pm

Featuring Piper

Linda Carpenter

MENU

Cockaleekie Soup

Haggis, Neeps and Tatties

Cranachan

**Tickets for this great event
Just £25 members - £30 non members**

**Contact Catering or Bar at
Girton Golf Club
Dodford lane Girton Cambridge CB3 0QE
01223 276169 www.girtongolf.co.uk**



New Community Warden

Hello to all in Girton! My name is Fiona Bennett and I work for Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as your Community Warden. I'm here to offer support to people living at home to retain their independence and ensure their safety and well-being. This can be to help with things that

might be starting to become a challenge such as getting small items of shopping, collecting prescriptions, helping with phone calls or letters and making connections with other services of support as appropriate. I would phone you in the morning to make sure everything is all OK and if you need anything that day. You may just want a chat over a cuppa as it can certainly help if the day ahead seems long. The service is from Monday to Friday but I can ensure things are set in place for the weekend if you wish. I'm very flexible in the support I offer and ensure this is fitted around your needs. All of this can make things a little easier helping independence and life at home a lot more comfortable. We offer a two week free trial and then there is a small weekly charge for the service to continue.

If you are interested in knowing more about this or would like to receive the service please do give me a call on 07979 333963, I look forward to hearing from you. Alternatively you can email wardens@ageukcap.org.uk and I will get back to you.

Fiona Bennett



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Jimmy's are asking for sleeping bags, blankets and rugs to hand out to their rough sleepers over the winter months. If you can help by donating any, that would be marvellous. Last year we were able to pass on 48 blankets and 15 sleeping bags from Girton – let's see if we can do as well this year!

N.B. They can't take in pillows or duvets unfortunately, because of fire regulations.

Please contact me and I am happy to come and collect your donations from you. If you are unable to get hold of me then please leave your donations in the back of St Andrew's Church and I will collect them from there.

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A bit of whimsy to begin with: I was listening recently to *PM*, the Radio 4 early evening news magazine programme. They sign off the

programme with a bit of gentle nostalgia. This particular evening, they chose some archive of *Farming Today* of 40 or 50 years ago which precedes the *Today* programme at 6am. (I've always wondered why farming still gets this morning slot. Why not *Banking Today* or *Car Making Today*? But I'm glad it does.) The nostalgia began with a bit of the theme tune, 'The Jolly Ploughboy' and continued with the daily reading out of the early morning wholesale vegetable prices from (presumably in those days) Covent Garden. I enjoyed hearing in the list the stuff we Allotment Society members produce ourselves, and thought how in those days such items on the radio kept the public in touch with the supply chain, farm to market to home, in contrast to today's largely mindless trek to the shops.

What does this have to do with a GPN article for the Allotment Society? The point is: vegetable prices. I want to tell you about a plot holder who might be deemed obsessive. (I have his approval for telling of his obsession, but he shall remain anonymous). Throughout the year this member tracks on-line the major supermarkets' selling prices for the vegetables and fruits he grows, and averages out the range. He weighs each harvesting. Then, using Excel spreadsheets, he keeps a running valuation of the crops he has grown and harvested. On the other side of the 'profit and loss' statement is the expenditure of the horticultural project – seeds, plot rental, compost, depreciation of equipment, etc. I have the spreadsheet in front of me on my computer screen; I would like to import it into this article but it is too large and the words and figures would be too small to read. (Anyway it might be classed as industrial espionage and divulging of sensitive information!) Let me give two significant bits of data: there are 40 types of produce in the calculations; for the 'fiscal year' April 2019 to March 2020, a profit of £378 is recorded so far, with leeks, chard, parsnips, broccoli still to be harvested.

I can almost hear readers' critique: no account is taken of the hours and hours of labour that have gone into the production. Those hours, however modestly valued, would change the so-called profit into a thumping loss. To which Mr. X and I would reply: first, no one is actually paid for the labour ... it is a hobby, freely taken on and enjoyed; secondly if the health and satisfaction benefits could be quantified and priced, and added into the income side of the equation, there would remain a significant surplus.

Anyway, in my opinion Mr. X's obsession is a fascinating angle on allotment activity. I'm thinking there are others of us, each with our own individual

oddities in our approach and involvement in our hobby.

Now for a bit of the outdoor allotment stuff ... the weather, the soil, the crops, the work. It sometimes seems to me that time is compressed by having an allotment plot. It feels so recent that the grass paths were baked hard and scorched by the summer's heat. But now we have been through spells of prolonged and heavy rain, turning the paths into squelchy soft muddiness. Vehicle tracks embedded in the soft earth; care needed not to slip when walking on the paths. Then between the spells of rain, severe frosts making the paths hard again and glistening white before the sun gets on them.

Nevertheless work continues. Unless it is pouring, from the vantage point of my study, I see that there is nearly always someone at work: digging the heavy wet earth; some have elected to have their plots ploughed; covering and uncovering young shoots of peas, broad beans etc.; general maintenance and tidying. I've been doing some of these tasks, but I have to say one has to grit one's teeth before dressing up and getting out there.

As I write, the heart of the festive season is drawing close with the special pleasure of enjoying our own vegetables with the Christmas dinner, especially the traditional parsnips, carrots, red cabbage, Brussels sprouts (the last of these the British have now learned to cook properly, not like our grandmothers' boiling them seemingly for three days!) A few growers experiment with summer planted seed potatoes in an attempt to have new potatoes at Christmas. I haven't heard whether any have had success. 2019 was my first year of a much reduced plot. Whilst I have enjoyed having time freed up for other activities, I'm feeling a twinge of regret that we shall have to buy some of the main Christmas veggies.

In recent articles I have threatened to write about the composition and treatment of soil, and about carbon transfer. I'm afraid that when I began, I became daunted by the technicalities and the science. I am determined to learn about such things!!

Graham Jones, Girton Allotment Society

Girton Walking Group

Saturday 1st February: A walk from Fulbourn through the Wilbrahams. 6 miles. Meet 10am by the gate at the entrance to Fulbourn Nature Reserve in Church Lane. Considerate roadside parking in Church Lane and Station Road. This route could be muddy. In bad weather, if you are not on the emailing list, please check with Gina Lane before setting out. Contact: ginaklane@aol.com.



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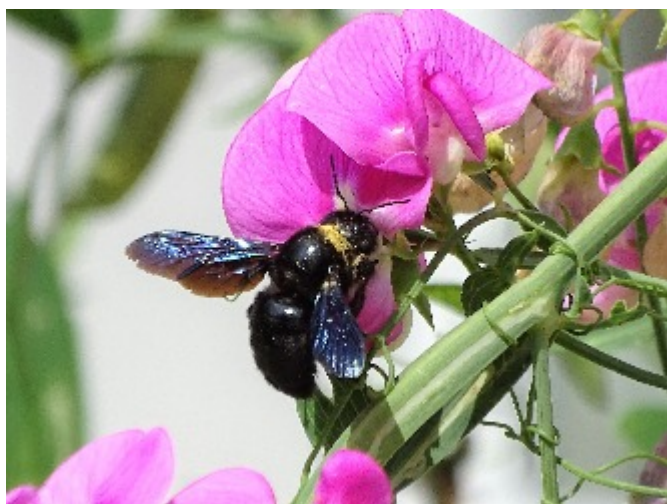
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The ability to identify a rotund, buzzing, rather fluffy flying insect as a 'bumble bee' is for most amateurs the limit of their skills in melittology – or the study of bees. Even the term 'bumble bee' only

slims down the options to around 250 species of the genus *Bombus* worldwide, and it describes one of the four types of bees with pollen baskets (the other three are honey bees, orchid bees and stingless bees). Similar to the perceptual experience of staring at a lavender bush and noticing the bees multiplying before my eyes, the more research I do into bees the more I discover species I never knew existed. Of the 250 UK species, some are larger, more exotic and more beautiful than others, and the largest of them all is the striking, very dark blue-black Violet Carpenter Bee. Over the summer it made rare visits to our garden, and others on the west side of the village.



This solitary bee is a rare visitor, taking part of its name from its nesting behaviour. A female tunnels into dead wood and leaves her eggs with a pollen ball for the larvae to feed on. Adults emerge later in the summer and hibernate in autumn. At over 20cm they are much larger than the more common forms of our resident bumble bees and solitary bees, and unmistakable when you observe at close quarters the blueish-violet sheen of their wings, which appears very dramatic next to the dark body. It has no warning stripes, but looks quite bee-like, and is not aggressive if left alone.

Summer seems a long way off at the time of writing, but we look forward to welcoming it back to our perennial sweet pea again next year, and if others would like to plan some bee-friendly spring planting in the hope of encouraging a visit, the British Beekeepers Association recommend *Salvia*, *Echinacea*, *Rudbeckia*, *Lavender*, *Cosmos*, *Sedum* and *Verbena* species, as well as sweet peas, particularly *Lathyrus latifolius*. All are beautiful in their own right, as well as being a valuable source of pollen. As a general rule of thumb, they prefer single, open flowers which provide good access to pollen and nectar.

If the unmistakable Violet Carpenter Bee does pay you a visit, please let us know – something to look forward to during the dark winter months.

James de Winter
ng@cambridgescience.co.uk

Thanks to Alice Few who hosted the Violet Carpenter Bee in her garden earlier this year and Roger Few for the striking photo. If you have any interesting natural observations, please do get in touch so we can include them.

The British beekeepers association have lots more detail and planning recommendations: www.bbka.org.uk/

Volunteering is good for you!

If you have 2–3 hours to spare a week why not come and join us?

At Cambridge University Hospital (Addenbrooke's and the Rosie) volunteering is a long-established part of hospital life. We have a wide variety of different roles on offer to suit different interests so there is bound to be a role to suit you. All of our roles are designed to help improve the experience of our patients whether as outpatients or inpatients.

It is well recognised that volunteering is not only beneficial to an organisation, but also to an individual as it can help increase one's physical and mental wellbeing. Some of the many benefits of becoming a volunteer with us include:

- A great way to meet people
- An opportunity to help those in need without requiring any specific skills. All our volunteers have patient facing roles and training is given.
- On-going support through mentoring, training, forums, newsletters and social functions
- A great way to keep fit (we have roles to suit different levels of fitness)
- Use of the on-site sports and leisure centre at staff rates (including large swimming pool) and other benefits.

There are many reasons why people decided to volunteer with us. Maria, one of our Ward Volunteers, explains: 'For me it's very satisfying working with patients. I look forward to coming here and it's nice to be able to help people on wards. I'm very grateful to the NHS and felt I would like to give something back so became a volunteer.' Courtesy Bus and Wheelchair volunteer, Tom, has really enjoyed his time volunteering: 'I've met all sorts of people from all walks of life while volunteering. I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction helping other people and giving a little bit back for the help I've received in the past. I love it!'

Find out more information on our website www.volunteering.cuh.org.uk/ or give us a call on 01223 586616. We would love to hear from you.

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- Jill - Histon

Puzzle Corner



WORDSEARCH - It's Panto Time!

Can you find all these words in the grid? They can read Left to Right, Right to Left, Up or Down or Diagonally. Tick them off as you go.

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

BEAST	GHOSTS	PRINCESS
BOO	GLASS	QUEEN
BOY	HEN	ROSE
CASTLE	HERO	SLIPPER
CAT	HISS	SLEEPING
CLOCK	ICE	SONGS
COW	ITSBEHINDYOU	SPELL
COACH	KING	SPINNING
COMIC	KISS	THIMBLE
DAME	KIDS	WAND
DANCE	MAGIC	WEDDING
FAIRY	MICE	WITCH
FUN	MIRROR	WISHYWASHY



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. (Solution on page 38)

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

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



Girton Youth Project – the not so new kid on the block!

Since 2006, when the group was born and found its feet, Girton Youth Project (GYP) has grown and developed, along with the young people of Girton village. Girton Town Charity, and residents of the village, identified the need for a youth group. This ‘all singing, all dancing’ group would empower the young people of Girton to integrate into their society and enable their voices to be heard. We are very proud that these big goals and dreams have been and are being reached and we endeavour to continue the hard work.

GYP runs two weekly sessions where we play games, try new activities and provide a safe place for the youth of Girton to seek support and just relax. Our group is driven by the wants and needs of the young people who attend, so if they have an idea, you can guarantee we will try our best to make it happen (unless it’s a private jet to America!). Our half-term trips are always great and often include theme parks, water parks, Go-Karting and various activities in London. Again, these ideas all come from our members; we are always open to their suggestions. We have also run courses including the Arts Award and babysitting courses, to support skills development for our members. The group also prides itself on our involvement in the community. We are regular hosts of our infamous Bouncy Castle Day, where we hire the biggest inflatables we can find and

own stamp on the project. GYP was founded in 2006, as one of Girton Town Charity’s first projects after the refurbishment of the Cotton Hall, and Daryll was appointed as leader. Helen succeeded Daryll in 2009 and Sarah and Rebecca filled in during periods of illness. The infamous Tim was appointed in 2010 and kicked off eight years of graffiti workshops, residential trips and much more. GYP supported Tim to gain qualifications in counselling and after a very noble eight-year stint, he passed the gauntlet onto the lovely Rachel in 2018. Despite only being Manager for a year, Rachel’s list of achievements, and her commitment to the group, is endless. She introduced a residential trip for the Monday group and her fierce competitiveness and passion for the project encouraged some great team work and strengthened the ‘family’ vibe present at youth group. And then there’s me, Frances! I was



invite all the children from the community to join in. GYP also supports, and gets involved with, the Village Feast Week. We have also supported the Poppy Appeal by door to door fundraising, and we hope to run some inter-generational projects in 2020. But this is just the ‘tip of the iceberg’ of what we get up to at youth group.

Over the past 13 years, GYP has seen six very different, but equally fantastic, Managers who have all put their

appointed Youth Manager in November 2018 and can safely say the past year has flown by! I am proud to have continued Rachel’s hard work, delivering outreach sessions in Girton Glebe and Gretton School. We also set off on GYP’s first ‘overseas’ residential trip to the Isle of Wight. We are currently on a big recruitment drive to bring new young people into the group and to enable them to benefit from the fantastic things we do at GYP. We have supported 12 wonderful youth workers, many of whom have grown up in the GYP family and they have become part of our paid team. They are a great bunch of enthusiastic young adults who all bring invaluable support and energy to the group. We also have a number of Duke of Edinburgh Scheme volunteers who choose to complete their ‘service’ aspect of the award with us. One of our current volunteers from IVC says, ‘Volunteering at youth group has given me a better sense of the community and understanding of different age ranges.’



Case Study – Youth Worker (and previous member) at GYP

‘Moving into secondary school, I found it very hard to make friends, but my two closest friends introduced me to youth club and I am so thankful that they did. Since I have been here (eight years as a member and four years



working), I have always felt so comfortable, and each member of staff always took the time to get to know each member of the group. It really helped me come out of my shell at secondary school and helped me have the courage to join more clubs, and it allowed me to volunteer at the club on a Monday when I was old enough to, and eventually have the job that I still have to this day and still enjoy here with Girton Youth Project.

‘Every memory I have at youth club is always happy and being here has helped me grow into the person I am now. Youth club has never been a club that I have regretted or felt like a chore to come to and I still and always have looked forward to coming every week.

‘We have an excellent trip list for every Easter and Summer half terms, for all ages, and I honestly

cannot express how much I will always encourage parents to bring their children here; just give us a chance!’

YMCA Trinity and GTC

GYP shares a fantastic relationship with YMCA Trinity and Girton Town Charity. With the support, funding and expertise of both organisations, we are able to deliver the wonderful work we do to the youth of Girton.

‘The Youth Project has made a huge difference to the quality of leisure time for young people in Girton. Our Youth Leaders work tirelessly to create an environment where young people meet friends, share experiences and feel safe. It is a credit that they can engage with young people of all ages and that some choose to stay

on, volunteer and even become paid workers. GTC is delighted to support this project and is proud of its success.’ – GTC.

‘YMCA Trinity are really proud of the work we do with GYP and our dedicated teams have worked hard to create a safe and fun environment. As a youth organisation, we want to give young people the chance to explore new things, enjoy and experience the same opportunities as their peers. YMCA Trinity and GYP gives young people a regular chance to meet friends, play games or just relax in a comfortable atmosphere. We also arrange regular events and trips for all the young people who attend the Projects during school holidays.

‘We cannot do our work without the support of the Town Charity and wider community engagement, so want to get our message out that we are immensely proud of the clubs, the impact, the achievements and engagement of the young people we have attending, but want to grow in 2020. So why not come down and meet the team to see what new experiences you can have!’ – YMCA Trinity.

We are always welcoming new people to join us on either a Monday or Thursday evening, so if you are a young person aged between 8 and 19 and want a place



where you can hang out with your mates and have some fun, check us out on our Facebook page or website:

ymcatrinitygroup.org.uk/family-support/gyp/

facebook.com/girtonyouthproject/

Club times are as follows:

Monday group: for ages 8–11, from 4.30–6pm.

Thursday group is for ages 11–19, from 5–9pm.

Please contact

Frances: frances.roach@ymcatrinity.org.uk

YMCA TRINITY GROUP

GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Bowls Club

The Bowls Club AGM was held at Abbeyfield, Girton Green on 25th November. The Chairman, Dave Fryer, gave his report and summarised the main events which took place this season. One of these being the opening of the William Collyn Community Centre, a wonderful facility which we hope to be able to fully utilise next season. We hosted our first Open Bowls Competition, which proved very successful and hopefully will become an annual event. With this in mind, we have set a date of 13th June for next year's event. Our thanks go to Peasgood and Skeates for their generous sponsorship of the event and for their commitment to future sponsorship.

All executive Officers and Committee members were willing to stand for a further year and a new position of Social Secretary was proposed, to ease the work of our standing Secretary Margaret McCall, to which Janet Graff was appointed.

Because of the need to maintain the green to a high standard and the upcoming cost of machinery replacement, it was agreed that the annual subscriptions for full members should be increased from £36 to £45. Discussions are continuing regarding the use by the Bowls Club of the William Collyn Community Centre, and hopefully matters will be resolved in time for next season.

League Captains' reports

Graham Clare, captain of the Business House League, reported that, having been promoted the previous year to Division One, we were expecting some tough games and indeed we did suffer some hefty defeats but in spite of this still managed to finish 11th out of 13 teams.

Paul Tippet, Captain of our Cambridge and District League, reported that we had a very good year, managing to get promoted from Division 5 to Division 4, having finished top of the league with a shot difference of 313, just 200 more than the second placed team.

Dave Fryer, Captain of the Ely and District League, reported that we secured the runners up position in this Division and also were the winners of the Frank Turner League Cup played at Chippenham where we defeated Soham.

Matt Smith, Captain of the Meldreth League, reported that Girton has finished 5th out of 9 teams.

Congratulations go to all our players for a fantastic season of bowls.

The Indoor/Outdoor League, played at Chesterton

Bowls Club, is continuing. The last two results have been a 2-4 loss against Coleridge and a 4-2 win against Willingham. We are currently 5th out of 8 teams. Well done to all the players.

Unfortunately, it has been decided due to lack of interested players, to withdraw from the Short Mat League, played at Cottenham Bowls Club.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our bowlers and family members a healthy, happy New Year and continued success on the green in 2020. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact our Secretary Margaret McCall by email at margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com for more details or visit our website at www.girtonbowlsclub@weebly.com to see all our results and photos of our activities to date.

Lynne McGill



Girton Golf Club

When this is published, we will be into 2020 and a new year will be under way and hopefully the course will be open and busy. At the time of writing, the clubhouse is packed with large numbers of people from companies, societies, clubs and families gathering for a great Christmas meal in a convivial atmosphere at a very competitive price.

Alzheimer's Research UK is Girton Golf Club's nominated 2020 charity and we are proud to be hosting a Dementia Friends Information Session on Thursday 30th January 2020 at 7.00pm. Many of us are now having to deal with the effects of dementia, either for ourselves or for a loved one. Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia, aiming to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition. This friendly and interactive session will increase your understanding of the different forms of dementia, provide ways in which you can make a difference to those affected and offer avenues for support. So we can gauge approximate numbers for the evening, please book either via www.dementiafriends.org.uk or telephone the Girton Golf Club Secretary on 01223 276169. Girton Golf Club has ample parking and wheelchair access and refreshments will be available.

As this goes to press, tickets are still available for our Burns Night Dinner on January 25th (see our advert). To book your seats or table, call the club and choose Catering. There is also a Sunday Lunch on 19th.

Looking ahead, February sees our Valentine's Dinner, with talented singer, Paul Lyon, encouraging all you romantics to get up on the floor for a slow smoochy dance after a wonderful meal. Considering we are local, with extensive free parking and an excellent bar, tickets are a great price at only £50 a couple, including a glass

of something bubbly on arrival. Book now, so you don't forget.

For the over 55s we are still running, in conjunction with AGE UK, breakfast meetings on Wednesday mornings from 9:30am. Just turn up and enjoy bacon/sausage baps or similar, plus tea and coffee (unlimited) for £4.50, and chat with friends and those friends you haven't met before.

Our Professional team at Girton has now been extended even further with the arrival of 2 new great acquisitions in Sam Chipperfield and Jason Boast. Sam started playing golf at the age of 4 and by the age of 18 was playing off 4. He has worked in the golf industry for 6 years now and has started his PGA qualification this year. Jason Boast is really well known in the county, having been a professional for 20 years at John O'Gaunt, St Neots, Hemingford, and Bourn before joining us at Girton, where he will be of huge benefit coaching our members.

Alan Henderson-Smith

Tel: 01223 276169

www.girtongolf.co.uk



Girton Tennis Club

The tennis club committee would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy 2020. Tennis is a great way to stay fit and have some fun so why not

consider joining our club this year?

The multi-use games area (MUGA) has recently had a new playing surface laid and new flood lights are due to be installed this year. Although the tennis club only makes occasional use of this facility, it will be nice to have it back in a good playing condition for 2020.

Tennis coaching proved to be quite popular last year and possibly contributed to the success in our team matches. The committee are busy discussing the best way to make coaching available again this year and details will be announced in future editions of the GPN as well as by email to club members.

Our tennis club has use of the Recreation Ground courts and members who purchase a key have court access during most daylight hours. Club members meet and play from around 7.30pm to 9pm on Friday evenings. 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 Kevin Keeves on 276660 or by email info@girtontennisclub.uk.

Alan Franklin



Girton Netball Club

Dark, cold, frosty nights were made for netball which is just as well as the season continues in full swing.

We are playing with renewed energy following the arrival of new members attracted through our 'Back to Netball' course led by Helen Stepney. Having more people has added to the fun and allowed for more match play where we can put into practice the skills we cover in training.

At a meeting at The George we launched our new termly payment plan to ensure sessions continue to offer great value for money. Our pay-as-you-go model of £5 per session is still available for newcomers and anyone unable to commit to playing every session.

In the Milton Friendly League we lost 18-36 to Witches 2 despite agile work in the D by shooters Mel and Claire and some incisive mid-court turnovers created by Paula. Strong defending in the opposition goal by Mollie led her to be voted Player of the Match by the ladies from Witches 2. Well done Mollie!



Members of the team enjoy Tartiflette at Cafe Foy

Foy (www.cafefoy.com) played host to our team Christmas dinner on Monday 16th December. Located on Quayside, this independent cafe bar is owned and run by our very own team mate Sophie and her brother. Photos to be shared in the next issue!

Happy Christmas everyone and if you're deciding on your New Year's resolution, make joining Girton Netball Club top of your list. We always need new players – all abilities welcome. Contact Melanie Gulston at mgulst@yahoo.com or find us on Facebook.

Emma Longden



Girton Colts

Happy New Year from the Girton Colts! We're all looking forward to some crazy weather over the next few weeks, so if you are able to come and support us through the tough conditions, please do. There is nearly always a match on from 10am every Saturday. Check out our website for listings: www.girtoncolts.co.uk.

Continued Page 24

We are desperately seeking more boys and girls for our Under 5 and Under 6 team as well as any girls between 7–11 years old. Please contact our team secretary for more information:

teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk

Member News

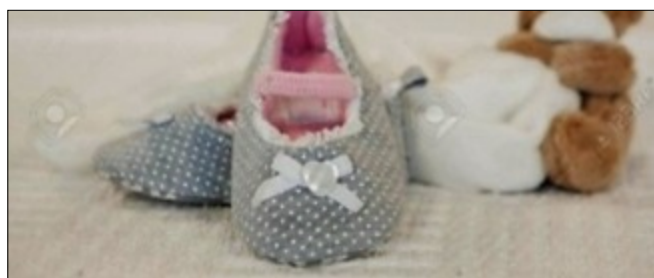
Under 8 Team: The team have enjoyed a well-earned rest over the festive season and are looking forward to the new challenge that 2020 will bring. With the new MUGA down, now training has been really good and it's great to see so many children having fun and working hard within a safe surrounding. (SD)

Under 9 Team: The Colts Under 9s have really made progress over the past few games. What has been great to see is that they are managing to transfer some of the skills learned during training sessions into matches, and are really developing as a team. They continue to give a huge amount of effort to every game, especially for our last match against Red Lodge when we didn't have any substitutes! We're all looking forward to the new set of fixtures in 2020! (KS)

Under 12 Team: The U12s have continued their good form and have now won 6 matches in a row. They extended their cup run with a 13–1 win against Morden Magpies with Zaki, James, Alex, William, Cosmo, Ethan and Dylan all scoring. In the league they beat Cherry Hinton 4–3 in a very tight game. James, Ethan and Maison got the goals but Toby was man of the match for his defensive display. Then in the final game before Christmas, the U12s beat Soham 4–2 with goals from Finley, James and William. (KW)

Andrew Hawkes

Could you help Cambridgeshire Sands support bereaved parents?



"I found out that my baby had died just before Christmas. There are two words to describe the utter despair that I felt." These are the words of a bereaved parent who was supported by Sands.

Losing your much longed for baby during pregnancy or shortly after is the most awful trauma any person can experience. Currently 15 babies a day die in the weeks before or just after birth. And this figure only includes

those who die after 24 weeks of gestation. Many more die in the weeks before that. Sands aims to care for all those families who lose their much longed for baby with practical and emotional support for as long as they need it.

Sands is one of the leading stillbirth and neo-natal charities in the UK. We work nationally to reduce baby deaths through promoting better maternity care and funding research. We have a programme of training designed to support professionals to bereavement care following the death of a baby. We provide resources and equipment to enable hospitals to provide the best and most appropriate care and support to families. Sands provides a comprehensive bereavement support service both nationally and locally through about 100 regional support groups based across the UK, our National Helpline, an on-line forum and now our recently introduced App.

Cambridgeshire Sands is looking for new volunteers to join their Committee or train to become Befrienders so that they can continue to support their local hospitals and bereaved parents.

Befrienders, who are usually bereaved parents or grandparents, are needed to provide support to anyone affected by the death of a baby, over the phone or in person at the Group Support Meetings each month. New Befrienders must successfully complete our Befriender Training and a minimum of two years must have passed since their baby died.

Please contact Cambridgeshire@sands.org.uk



'Can you see the Babe in the Woods?'



A Merry Big 'Thank you' from Girton Glebe Primary School!

FOGG (Friends of Girton Glebe) would like to thank the whole community of Girton for supporting our Christmas Fair, held on Saturday 30th



November 2019. It was a huge success, raising over **£2200** for the school. Thank you **all** for helping – either in setting up, donating prizes, baking, singing, decorating, organising and tidying, plus people who gave up their time to run the stalls on the day.



We know the children all had a fantastic time, and there was a lovely festive feeling in the hall. It is a lot of work, but so worth it!

FOGG would like to publicly thank the businesses in Girton, Histon, Eddington, Oakington and beyond who made the Christmas raffle such a tremendous success. We could not do it without you.

Advance Performance/Triathlon Running Shop
Hotel Felix
Argos, Eddington
Impington Village College Sports Centre
Bougues UK
Lyndsey McDermott HairDresser, Girton
Cambridge Science Centre
Oakington Dog Day Care Centre
Cambridge United Football Club
Olive Tree Café, Oakington Garden Centre
Co-op, Girton
Peter Graves Florist
Costcutter / BP Garage, Girton
Prime Time Fitness, Girton
Daisy Chain, Histon
Ratatat Music Group
Dion Gallachan Photography
Sainsburys, Eddington
Dumbletons Photography
Smartkidz Play and Learn Childcare

Gin House Flowers, Histon
St Andrews Cafe, Histon
Girton College
Tesco, Histon
Girton Golf Club
The Boot, Histon
Girton Tennis Club
The Geographer, Impington
Histon Chop Shop
The Old Crown, Girton
Histon Sweet Spreads Ltd
Waverley Cottage, East Runton

Remember to support your local businesses where possible!



Also, a special THANK YOU must go to the magnificent Girton Co-op, who raised an amazing £1907 for Girton Glebe from their Community fund. And finally, a reminder that the next community Girton Glebe event is the **Spring Jumble Sale, on Saturday 7th March 2020**. Come and nab a bargain!

Margaret Faulkner



Dear Girton Parish News,

In September, I had a knee replacement. After four days in hospital I returned home. My elderly, very tall husband cared for me beautifully, but after two weeks, the house needed hoovering, the bathroom and kitchen sinks needed attention and he wasn't sure if he could change the beds and hang out the washing without falling over.

Step forward Girton Town Charity. They arranged for two lovely ladies to visit once a week. After their visits we were shining and clean.

Thank you Girton Town Charity for providing the help we needed for those critical six weeks until I was back on my feet again.

Anne Grubb

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News from Girton Glebe Primary School

World Children's Day

On 20 November, our children took part in a range of activities to support World Children's Day; a significant date which marks the day on which the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959. Throughout the day, our pupils spent time studying these rights with their peers and creating pieces of emotive writing which was shared in an end-of-day assembly, plus pupils raised £130 for UNICEF through donations for wearing blue!

We also packed shoeboxes in support of Operation Christmas Child, with 60 gifts collected by the charity to be shipped across the globe; thank you to all who took part.

NAPE Filming

November also saw us enjoying a visit by authors Rosemary Hayes and Gillian McClure, who are working with NAPE (National Association for Primary Education) showing how authors can enrich curriculum teaching. Years 5 and 6 looked at the narrative arc and created their own storylines, Years 3 and 4 discussed and sketched 'The Selkie', whilst Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a puppet show and explored storylines.

Meeting Dame Darcey!

On 29 November, an excited group of star-struck dancers headed to the Stephen Perse School, to perform to Dame Darcey Bussell as part of the DDMix Dance Festival. The group of 35 dancers from Years 4, 5 and 6 were excellent ambassadors for the school and performed their line-dance with real style and grace, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting a Strictly Come Dancing legend.

Performance Central

As GPN closes for the December issue, we have seen Key Stage 1 complete their Christmas performance 'Hey Ewe' to packed halls of proud supporters; Ash Class (EYFS) are busy practising their Nativity, and musicians across the school are getting ready for the Christmas Concert which will see solo musicians, choir and classes entertain with music, poetry and song.

Swimming Success

Early December saw a team of dedicated swimmers from Years 5 and 6 head to IVC to compete against Histon, Milton and Oakington in the swimming gala. Competitors battled it out across individual races, IMs and relays including the famous T-Shirt Race, and we finished in Bronze Medal position, narrowly missing Silver by just two points. Well done to all competitors, you showed excellence and perseverance, particularly on those long 50 metre races!

Enriching the End of Term

After such a busy term, our pupils will finish their last week of school with two exciting events: Key Stage 1 will host a visit from History Off the Page, exploring 'Toys from the Past', whilst Key Stage 2 will head off to the theatre together to see 'The Wind in the Willows'.

We look forward to sharing more of our news with you in 2020, and wish all GPN readers and our school families a very Happy New Year.

Mr Andrew Simpson

Headteacher

@GirtonGlebePS

www.girtonglebe.com

MAMA MELODIA CONCERT

Success is measured in many ways by different people. For me, the twofold success of the Mama Melodia concert at Abbeyfield Girton Green on 7th December 2019 is expressed as follows:

- **Music lifts the soul.** The ladies' choir, which rehearses only for three sessions before each concert and which has an inclusive fluid membership, brought pathos and passion to participants and audience members alike.
- **Music is the gift which keeps on giving.** Beyond the concert, the incredibly generous donations from audience members totalling £200 will go on to support MIND, the mental health charity.

The 18 strong choir performed a range of songs. Highlights included 'Faith's Song' (from the acclaimed TV drama), 'California Dreamin'' (a three part A Capella version) and 'Jesus Was Born in a Stable' (a modern bluesy carol). The choir has developed a strong sense of conveying the meaning of the lyrics through their voices; performing its parts is a skill, but the choir is also mastering the challenge of pure, beautiful unison singing.

Audience membership comprised over 20 residents from Abbeyfield plus double the number of friends, family and neighbours of the choir members. This truly was a community event.

Juliet Adlouné

Director and Founder of Mama Melodia

j.adlouné@ntlworld.com


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Our Christmas Activities

I am pleased to be writing this Club 55 article for January in order to give Sam Clift a modicum of relief from his tireless work for the club. His organisation of the Christmas lunch came to a successful conclusion this afternoon (11th

December); he has been planning the Christmas party for weeks, with another week of intense work to come (more of both these events shortly); throughout 2019 the Computer Section has met weekly, and the Film and Lunch Sections monthly; and it is Sam's turn to typeset this Girton Parish News. What a great character Sam is, and I take this occasional opportunity to say a huge "Thank You" to him on behalf of members for another year's enormous efforts for Club 55.

Christmas Lunch

Just minutes ago I got home from the Club 55 Christmas lunch at Girton Golf Club. The attendance of 56 was by far the highest we have ever had at our monthly lunches. We could choose to embrace the seasonal spirit by selecting turkey and Christmas pudding, or to go for the all-the-year-round menu dishes.



En route to Christmas Lunch by Taxi

Each month it can be a difficult choice when pre-ordering from the menu of the next venue.



Men debating when to pull their crackers

Today the staff of the Golf Club did an outstanding job in catering for the large number, both the cooking and the service. The comfortable golf club lounge/dining



Crackers Pulled

room was full of friendliness and festive good cheer. Safe to say all Club members greatly enjoyed the occasion.

Christmas Party

Thursday 19th December will see the Club's annual Christmas party at the William Collyn Hall. It takes place after the deadline for submission of material for this GPN edition, but be sure there will be an eye-opening (or eye-watering?) account in the February edition. Here is a trailer: replacing the pantomimes of past years is a musical revue with a clever comical twist in which members will recognise themselves; a bingo session; a buffet; a raffle; choir and singing; and of course awards of the Golden Girties (Girton's Oscars without the cringe-making speeches).

And other events

In retrospect: on 21st November the monthly film was the 2019 "The Lion King". Disney described this adaptation of Kipling's "Jungle Book" as "technologically groundbreaking". Also breathtaking as we watched a panoply of African animals acting the parts so absolutely realistically. The film was preceded by fish and chips (in paper as in the old days) and Black Forest gâteau.

On 29th of November I deputised for Sam on the Morrisons trip. Only 4 others in the minibus, but there was friendly conversation and banter on the journeys, and a useful opportunity to shop in the large supermarket. However, because of insufficient numbers, that was the final trip.

Graham Jones

For your diary:

Wednesday 29th January 2020 12 for 12.30pm.

Lunch at the Three Tuns, Fen Drayton

Wednesday 5th February 2020 12noon William Collyn C.C. Fish & Chips plus film: Downton Abbey £10.

To see more details go to:

www.club55.wordpress.com where you can see diary entries, menus, order meals and pay online.

Contact: Sam Clift Tel: 07850 740721

A Pantomime on A14 Street

By Sam Clift

By now you should be aware that a section of the new A14 bypass from Swavesey to Ellington opened at 5am on the 9th December, one whole year ahead of its due date. You will also have heard the news about queues forming at various locations, mainly caused by driver confusion when faced with the changes to the road layouts. I have an enormous amount of sympathy for those drivers involved and hope that Highways England are right when they say 'Things will eventually calm down'



The busy section of the old A14 between Godmanchester and Spittals will be closed at Christmas to allow for the removal of the Huntingdon Viaduct. This work is not expected to be completed until some time in 2022, a couple of years away – so let's hope traffic flow will be much better when it is actually finished.

You will recall that I wrote an article some few months back describing how one would be able to travel from Girton to Tesco's at Bar Hill where one could gorge on a Sausage Bap before returning home.

I was quite happy with the plans that showed the new layouts of the roads and could see from them exactly which routes I would need to take.

Simple I thought! Not the case! I had completely underestimated the sneakiness of the traffic management operatives who were clearly playing the part of the Wicked Fairy in this pantomime. They were determined to stop me from gorging my prize Sausage Bap. My wife of fifty eight years, playing the part of the Good Fairy, had decreed that we should make our way to Bar Hill through those wicked road works to do the shopping and of course, under her spell, I had no option but to do so.

I do keep an eye on the scheduled works and closures on the A14 but not every day. Not having a carriage and six white horses I thought it best to go by car. We left via the Huntingdon Road and rounded the first almost completed roundabout, then under the M11, carrying straight on at the second roundabout to the Dry Drayton junction. On negotiating this third roundabout, I noticed to my right a large sign denoting that the road to the A14 was closed; so I returned along the new stretch of road back to the second

roundabout. Ah ha! I thought the Wicked Fairy has opened the new slip road directly onto the A14 without letting me know – I was right. Gleeefully Good Fairy and I set forth happily joining the A14 from that new slip road for our very first time.

Our next objective was to leave the A14 at the Bar Hill slip off. Keeping to the nearside lane because it was coned off on the approach to the village, we continued. If I get in the wrong lane here we will finish up in Scotland or somewhere north of that, I thought. Surely enough the cones were there, keeping us in the nearside lane – and we did exactly that, only to be turned off at the Dry Drayton turn with no option to continue along the A14. We were back where we had started from. It was then that I noticed that it was only the slip road onto the A14 that was closed and that I could go over the bridge towards Oakington; so I selected that route.

At the partly finished roundabout just over the bridge I was surprised to see that the new non-motorway road between the Dry Drayton to Oakington Road and Bar Hill was now open to two-way traffic. I had been using this section of road in a one-way system to get me home from Bar Hill. Now filtering in with the other traffic we made our way along this section of new road, eventually turning right to move up onto the new large roundabout over the A14 at Bar Hill.

Following other vehicles we turned left onto a two lane section of road approaching the roundabout keeping to the nearside lane – we found them – more cones! Unable to change lanes the Good Fairy and I found ourselves travelling back to Cambridge on the A14.

I've got it now, I thought: we need to go back to the Dry Drayton turn, over the bridge on the Oakington Road, follow the new two way road to the Bar Hill roundabout, get in the right hand lane and this will take us to Tesco's. Starting again from the Huntingdon Road we made it to the Dry Drayton turn and over the A14 bridge to the new two lane section of road to Bar Hill. To my horror, just in front of me on the roundabout, was the slowest moving road-sweeping machine that I have ever seen. Please don't go to Bar Hill I thought, but alas he did and happily crept along seemingly gloating as he passed the plethora of 'no overtaking' signs placed along the road.

Hoping that there was a German Messerschmitt left over from World War II with a pilot that hated road sweepers and who was patrolling in that area ready to blast any such machines to smithereens, we followed that sweeper all the way to Bar Hill – no planes in sight.

At last we made it back over the A14, noticing as we did so that the slip road from the A14 into the village is now closed. The Good Fairy and I had overcome adversity. We had faced the Wicked Fairy's nasty tricks and were now safely parked in Tesco's car park, albeit that we had used a whole tank of fuel, travelled three times the distance and had still to find our way home. Then to top it off, at the cafe counter I ask, 'Could I have a Sausage Bap please?' The reply, 'Sorry Sir, we just sold the last one to a German pilot!'



Girton Garden Society

At the Girton Garden Society's December meeting on Thursday 12th at the William Collyn Hall Andrew Sankey gave an excellent talk on 'A Cottager's Christmas'. This northern hemisphere midwinter festival has ancient origins, celebrated by the Romans, Celts and Christians.

The Romans had a festival of light – Saturnalia – held in honour of the god Saturn and leading to the winter solstice. It was held on the 17th December of the Julian calendar and later expanded with celebrations through to the 23rd December. There were abundant candles, symbolising the quest for truth and knowledge. The renewal of light and the coming of the New Year was celebrated in the Roman temple on the 'dies natalis solis invicti' – 'the birthday of the unconquerable sun' – on the 23rd December.

As the Roman Empire came under Christian rule, many of its customs were recast into, or at least influenced, the seasonal celebrations surrounding Christmas and the New Year. One custom concerned 'the yule log', which was dragged to burn indoors to symbolise fire, light and warmth. Poor people made do with a bundle of faggots – the ashen faggots.

Apart from the candles, greenery, preferably with red berries, featured everywhere. Holly, as male, and Ivy, as female, were displayed from Christmas Eve until Twelfth Night. Our oldest carol, 'The Holly and the Ivy', predates Christian tradition. Mistletoe, from pagan, Celtic and Druid traditions, was a symbol of fertility – a plant of the gods. As for kissing under the mistletoe, that had a Scandinavian origin.

With regard to food and feasting, plum pudding originated as frumenty and developed over hundreds of years. It was boiled in the copper. Mince pies started as Pluck pies made with offal. It was said that one should never refuse a Pluck pie.

Boxing Day was when the servants had the day off and could take some of the food home with them, and Twelfth Night marked the end of the festivities and the return to normality.

Felicia Moor

Garden Tip of the Month – January

Planting a tree is both a simple task and an act of significance. The recent election promises from the competing political parties focused briefly on how many million trees they were going to plant each year for the next few years. I was sceptical that they could mobilize that scale of work that quickly, but it's a great ideal. Closer to home the Woodland Trust encourages people to get involved in tree planting projects. On such a scale the trees are often one-year-old conifer 'whips' that are planted with two deft thrusts of a sharp spade and they

have a pretty good survival rate. Street trees are usually planted much bigger, several feet high, but other than cherry they have had survival rates as low as one in three. Happily, this has been improved by the adoption of water 'gators', tough 20 litre slowly seeping bags, which are filled every couple of weeks when conditions are dry.

A couple of hints for tree planting then. Is the tree right for the space? Try using a stick as a marker and visualise how it will fit in. Is the soil suitable? Some trees are fussier than others. When planting a tree do dig the (square) hole at least a bit bigger than the rootball, break up the soil at the bottom and add some bonemeal. For the backfill, don't add more than a third organic material because it gradually shrinks and slumps, and to prevent this affecting the tree's health make sure that the nursery mark (the soil level stain) is level with surrounding soil, not lower. If you add fertilizer to the backfill avoid much quick release feed, better to use a slow release fertilizer. Firms like Carbon Gold sell some excellent tree planting additives, including my favourite: biochar. The perfect present for a keen gardener! Think whether a stake to prevent root rock is a good idea; the RHS suggest a firm tie at 60 cm. Happy New Year.

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A significant contribution to Village life

At the end of 2019, Jenny Knights stepped down as a Trustee of Girton Town Charity after 25 years of service. Here we take a look at her considerable contribution to GTC's activities and to Village life.

Jenny has lived in Girton for 43 years, settling here in 1976 with her late husband Noel and bringing up her son and daughter in the Village.

Her initial introduction to GTC was in 1995 when Jenny was asked by Gill Scrine to help choose the curtains for the proposed Community Centre – which in fact took rather longer to be completed than was envisaged! The William Collyn Community Centre was finally opened in 2018.



Memorable milestones

Jenny says: "Looking back, there have been many milestones along the way which have been particularly rewarding for me. These include the refurbishment of Cotton Hall, the launch of the Educational Grants Scheme – as well as other grants and schemes – and the building of the almshouses at Centenary Court.

"That's not forgetting our Youth Group, the creation of the Sensory Garden at Wellbrook Way, the William Collyn Community Centre, the Sculpture Railings and help with setting up the Bowls Club.

Responsibilities

"When I started as a Trustee in 1995, GTC had fewer projects on the go. This all changed with the selling of our land on Wellbrook Way which transformed the range of activities we could undertake. As a result, we all took on many more tasks and responsibilities.

"I have really enjoyed being a Trustee and seeing

GTC expand in such an exciting way. Together with Gilly, our Administrator, we all work really well together – a jolly bunch!

Rewarding

"I would strongly encourage others to consider being a Trustee and using their own particular skills to benefit the Village as a whole. There's a great sense of achievement when projects go well and it's extremely rewarding to see how we have been able to transform the lives of so many individuals and families with our range of grants and schemes.

"Going forward I feel it is very important that we continue to provide quality housing for our Village residents as the need is so great. Plans in the pipeline to increase housing provision with the High Street development and the former WI Site will play a key part in delivering the housing we so clearly require.

Volunteers

"I think it's important for everyone to remember that GTC Trustees are volunteers, giving their time and energy for the good of the Village and what we do benefits all our residents. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be able to contribute and I wish GTC every success for the future."

Dr Robin Hiley, Chairman of GTC added: "I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jenny for her sterling service as a Trustee. There have been many changes and developments over the last 25 years and she has played a key part in enabling us to deliver the wide range of grants, schemes and activities we do today. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude."

Sculpture Railings

As Village residents will be aware, the Girton Goose Sculpture Railings were damaged in December, following an incident with a car manoeuvring in the adjacent car park which fortunately did not result in any injuries.

The Sculpture Railings were designed to be of a robust construction and comprise separate sections, several of which have been affected by the incident and will be removed and repaired as quickly as possible.

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:

Dr Robin Hiley (Chairman) 1 Fairway Girton CB3 0QF t:277296
Ann Bonnett (Vice Chair) 41 Church Lane Girton CB3 0JW t:276354
Michael Aston 148 Blinco Grove, Cambridge CB1 7TT t:07878 319743
Marc Bermann Huntingfields Huntingdon Rd CB3 0LH t: 277319
Colin Carr 10a Duck End Girton CB3 0PZ t:276312
Patsy Smith 27 Woody Green Girton CB3 0PG t:575288

or the GTC office:

22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.
Open 10.00am – 1.00pm Tuesday-Thursday.

01223 276008

email: gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk

www.girtontowncharity.co.uk

Educational Grants 2020

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

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

Next payment date for grant applications received will be July 2020.

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

Contact the GTC office for an application form.
22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.
Open 10.00am – 1.00pm Tuesday-Thursday.

01223 276008

email: gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk

* Terms and conditions apply

Now booking: Visit website for details

Monday

10.00 - 12.00am Flukes Ukulele Group
6.30 - 7.30pm Clubbercise
7.45 - 9.30pm Whole Notes Gospel Choir

Tuesday

9.15 - 10.05am Holistic Core Restore Workshop
5.00 - 6.00pm Pilates based clinical rehabilitation
7.30 - 10.30pm West Coast Swing

Wednesday

9.15 - 10.15am Barre Class
1.00 - 4.00pm Citizens Advice Bureau Drop In
3.45 - 4.45pm Artatic Kids Art Class
4.45 - 6.15pm Kids Sewing Class
7.00 - 9.00pm Adult Art Class

Thursday

9.30 - 11.30am Adult Sewing Class
11.00am - 3.00pm Relate Counselling
11.30 - 12.30pm Tai Chi
5.30 - 6.30pm Yin Yoga
7.15 - 7.45pm Strong 30
7.45 - 8.45pm Body Control Pilates

Friday

10.30 - 11.30am Indoor Kurling
5.30 - 6.30pm Pilates Explore
7.00 - 9.30pm New Life Church Youth Club

Other regular groups:

Girton Bowls Club, Girton WI, Club 55,
Girton Garden Society

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

William Collyn Community Centre

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP

01223 279587

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

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St Andrew's Church Makeover

In 2016 St Andrew's started a project to reorder the village church to (a) improve the heating and (b) make it more accessible to a wider number of village groups, people and activities. The project was started as a shared vision of our previous rector and the Parochial Church Council (PCC). As with design and planning any developments for all ancient buildings, progress through the hoops has been slow, although our reordering team has continuously worked very hard.

Many of you will be aware that our rector, the Revd Mandy Maxwell, has now left the parish and we are currently without a rector. The PCC has found itself facing the following: First, a time of interregnum, as it is called, is testing for any church community. Second, we were advised by senior clergy that attempting to carry out a reordering project in an interregnum may be

too heavy a burden for those involved. Waiting for the new incumbent to bring his/her vision to the project was advisable. Third, we have recently received the tender and work schedule from the contractors. The current schedule from the preferred contractor implies a church closure of several months. This closure would increase the stress on the congregation and the St Andrew's Ministry Team. And fourth, having raised £400,000 and fundraising is ongoing, we currently face a shortfall of £200,000 for that preferred tender.

Carefully considering all these facts the Parochial Church Council has decided unanimously to postpone the project until a new rector arrives. This is NOT a project cancellation: it is a postponement.

In time, with a new rector, we will resume our vision of creating a church fit for the 21st century capable of satisfying all that the congregation and village expects of it – a building of faith, hope, and constancy, while showing a modern vision for this challenging world.

A fuller version of this announcement is available on the church website.

The Cotton Hall, Girton

The Cotton Hall Trustees are delighted to announce a planned upgrade of the Hall security systems. In line with its major modernisation in 2007, and to bring it in line with all the other major halls, shops and public buildings in the area, a comprehensive security camera system is to go live at the beginning of the Summer Term (20 April



2020) covering the internal and external main public areas. The Hall was rebuilt while retaining the charming historical front façade and its railings and establishing four well appointed, flexible rooms of different sizes, plus a kitchen and a

secure outdoor space. It is open for hire Mon.–Sun. 8am to 12pm and has become a great place for special occasions, parties, meetings, activity groups and classes. In addition, regular customers can apply to the Trustees for allocated storage space, and also Hearing Loop equipment is available.

Recently, after a series of minor, but expensive to mend, incidents of damage it has been realised that this innovation is essential for the security of the building and the convenience of its customers. The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to assure everyone that any video taken will be stored safely and it will only be viewed by nominated and police checked (DBS) Trustees if it is necessary to fairly attribute responsibility should a future incident happen.

If you have any queries or comments about any aspect of the Hall please contact our

Secretary, Sian Franklin, 01223 276986.

If you have any interest in hiring time at the Hall please contact our

Booking Clerk,

Wendy Ripley,

07759 983 420

cottonhallclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Mon.–Fri. during usual working hours

DRAGON SLAYERS

‘Whatever happened to my 20:20 vision?’ the girl wondered mournfully as she viewed the results of an eye test. Fortunately, new spectacles were readily available to balance the shortfall and focus was restored. If only the dysfunctional visions of life could be so easily corrected!

20:20 is a measure of visual acuity, standardized by the Snellen’s Test which records clarity of vision when identifying black letters of varying sizes on a white background at a distance of 20 feet, imperial measure. Since its invention in 1862 by the Dutch ophthalmologist Herman Snellen, vision testing has become more complex and sophisticated, noting that other elements affect the interpretation of optical perception. Peripheral vision, depth, speed of movement, colour reception, eye coordination and even emotional reaction all play a part. We have heard the phrase, ‘I just don’t see things as you do. I have a different perspective.’

This is the year when we will all find a more urgent need to coordinate our vision. We live in a world of abused resources, bespoiled beauty and flagging soil energy for crop growing to feed expanding populations. We can no longer wear the rosy coloured spectacles that our citizens wore as they emerged from a devastating war and gazed towards a brave new world with resolve and hope for prosperity. Those rose coloured lenses can blur the stark reality of social ills like poverty, conflict and wastefulness. How dismayed we may feel when a worthy campaign for justice and human rights morphs into militant entitlement demands and public sympathy leaks away.

The advent of social media has encouraged a spy-glass scrutiny of society, feeding the media with sordid gossip and pitching us into the habit of mockery and criticism that overshadows the genuine kindness of friends and neighbours.

How much more peaceful it could be if we put down the magnifying glass that expands the differences between us and distorts our ability to safely uphold the principles of democracy, the privilege of free speech and the exhortation to make every effort to live at peace together.

In the old tales of our childhood storybooks, there were usually some dragons around, living in caves, breathing fire and threatening the destruction of whole communities. Perhaps they are not so mythological after all.

Have we not encountered the dragon with the sad, empty eyes of depression that confiscates so many of our young people, depriving us of much needed talent and future potential?

We are all familiar with the wide-eyed dragon of consumerism that feeds on our supposed need for constant

renewal and restless dissatisfaction with what we already possess.

*‘The world is too much with us
 Getting and spending
 we lay waste our powers.’*

The dragon with designer shades closes uncaring eyes to moral decline and libertine life choices, heedless of the emotional wreckage left in his wake.

Then the dragon with hooded eyes shuffles past like a Pied Piper leading his deluded followers into a haze of narcotic escapism and abandons them, sucked dry of the vigour of life.

Do we have the courage, the fortitude and the enduring resolve to still be dragon-slayers?

In the Beatitudes, Jesus gave us a precious blueprint for living with honour, at peace with ourselves, with our fellow humans and with our Saviour God.

With the Ten Commandments, God shone a laser beam of warning onto the destructive quicksands that consume any society given over to corruption and the abandonment of Divine precepts.

In the prophecies, God has recorded the long-sighted view of what is yet to be.

As we enter the year 2020 we should take a really close look again at these priceless gifts and embrace their wisdom for safekeeping, guidance and redemption.

Happy New Year to you all.

Iris Niven





Rector: Vacancy

For general enquiries, email:

b.hunter3@ntlworld.com

Website: *www.girton.church*

Associate Priest: The Revd Christine Barrow

Tel: 575089 Email: *mcbarrow@me.com*

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Mr Dugald Wilson Tel: 276940

Mrs Christina Deacon Tel: 525337

Churchwardens:

Mr Bruce & Mrs Wendy Hunter

Tel: 503958

Sunday Services: January

5th	10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) (Revd Chris Barter)
12th	10.00am	All Age Service (Archdeacon Revd Alex Hughes)
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
19th	10.00am	Holy Communion (CW) (Revd Janet Glover)
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
26th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd Tom Ambrose)
	10.00am	Morning Prayer (CW)

Weekday Services: January

Wednesdays

10.15am Silent Prayer in the North Room

Tuesday 14th

11.00am Service of Holy Communion at
Arlington Manor (Christina Deacon LLM)

2.30pm Service of Holy Communion at
Abbeyfield (Revd Christine Barrow)

Thursday 30th

11.00am Service of Holy Communion (BCP)
at Gretton Court (Revd Christine Barrow)



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe

219 Wellbrook Way, Girton CB3 0GL

Tel: 279289

Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith

Tel: 926807

Website: *www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk*

Sunday Services: January

We welcome families with children of whatever age. Classes with interactive activities are available for children each week during the morning service. Tea and coffee are served after the service.

All services are led by Revd Nick Lowe, unless otherwise stated.

5th	10.30am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship with Communion
12th	9.00am	Prayer Breakfast
	10.30am	Morning Service
19th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by John Searle
	6.30pm	Evening Worship led by Christine Kimmitt
26th	10.30am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship led by Iris Niven

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

Chairman

Haydn Williams, 40 Church Lane, Tel: 474667
chairman@girton-cambs.org.uk

Vice-Chairman

Gill Cockley, 73 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276703

Councillors

Jane Buckler, 28 Girton Road, Tel: 277636
 Julie Dashwood, 36 High Street, Tel: 276590
 Douglas de Lacey, 9 Woodlands Park, Tel: 565219
 Val Godby, 38 Woodlands Park, Tel: 276372
 Andy Griffin, 1 Churchfield Court, Tel: 07956 447674
 Roger Hickford, Manor Farm, Manor Farm Road, Tel: 07985 770082
 Anne Kettle, 11 Redgate Road, Tel: 277505
 Shahila Mitchell, 18 Northfield, Tel: 07519 265755
 Rachel Thomason, 168 Wellbrook Way, Tel: 07896 980799
 John Thorrold, 53 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276760
 Mary Rodger, 11 Fairway, Tel: 277316
Formal correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk.

District Councillors

Tom Bygott, Tel: 232966
cldr@bygott.net
 Douglas de Lacey, Tel: 565219
scdc@de-lacey.org

County Councillor

Lynda Harford, Tel: 01954 251775/07889 131022
lyndaharford@icloud.com

Parish Clerk and Acting Finance Officer

Susie Cumming, Tel: 472181
clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk

Recreation Centre Bookings Administrator

Linda Miller, Tel: 472182
admin@girton-cambs.org.uk

Website: www.girton-cambs.org.uk/council.html

Postal address: Girton Parish Council
 The Pavilion, Girton Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0FH

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St Vincent's Close	12.05 – 12.30
Gretton Court	12.35 – 13.00
Churchfield Court	13.05 – 13.30

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Codeword Solution (See page 17)

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

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