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Parish News



May 2020



Some Memories – pages 18-20

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GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

As you will no doubt expect this month's report centres on the Girton response to the Covid-19 Lockdown. With the help of Andrew Haylett, the village webmaster, we have set up a system on the village website for calling for volunteers and putting them in contact with those who request help. Please see www.girton-cambs.org.uk/helping. Contacts are Parish Clerk Susie Cumming and Cllr Shahila Mitchell. We have had a good response from volunteers but as the lockdown period extends we will need more so please volunteer if you are able. The system also allows for anyone with concerns for the welfare of someone who may not have access to the internet to print off a leaflet and post this through their door. We identified that residents of the sheltered housing in St Vincent's and Orchard Close may fall into this category so leaflets have been distributed to all of these properties.

Additionally South Cambs District Council have provided a list of some 650+ residents who are aged over 70 and/or potentially vulnerable, and we are in the process of identifying likely candidates for assistance and delivering leaflets to these asking them to indicate their needs or otherwise. Hopefully this will ensure that no-one slips through the net.

We are very grateful to all those who have registered willingness to help on the 'Helping Girton' website, and through the Girton Coronavirus Support Facebook page. We know that there are also several WhatsApp groups offering support to neighbours in individual roads and streets in the village. As we move to a system of Street Coordinators, we'd be most grateful if you

could please make the Clerk aware of the areas these groups are operating in, to avoid duplication.

The Clerk has been participating in daily conference calls with South Cambs District Council, and additionally District Councillors, County Councillor Harford, Parish Councillors and the Clerk have been similarly involved in a weekly call with South Cambs. The greatest task facing the latter group is to establish a local food distribution hub and identify parishioners who will become needful as the consequences of lockdown have an economic effect. The help of anyone with experience of such an initiative would be very welcome. An offer to distribute surplus near-end-date food from the Co-op has been taken up by a representative of Foodbank.

In addition to the closure of the Parish Office and Pavilion/Recreation Ground facilities we have closed the three children's play areas.

Finally, no doubt as a result of closure of Council waste recycling/rubbish sites, we have had an incident of fly tipping at the Pavilion. We were able to identify the culprit and get the matter resolved. However we cannot emphasise enough how seriously the Parish Council takes such antisocial behaviour and the severe penalties available for fly tipping.

Public Council meetings are suspended until further notice but we will be holding them remotely via teleconference at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of the month. If Parishioners have any issues they wish to raise with the council please submit them by email or telephone to any member of the Council or the Clerk.

LET NO ONE BE ALONE

**If you need or can offer help in the current Coronavirus Crisis
please either visit the Girton website**

www.girton-cambs.org.uk

or if you do not have access to the Internet please contact:

01223 526013, clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk
or

01223 277448, helpinggirton@gmail.com

and help will be directed to where needed.

**If you fall into the increased risk category please contact us anyway
so that we know that you are aware that help is available.**

Copy date for June issue: Wed. 20 May. Issue date: Sat. 6 June. Covers 6 June–3 July.



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From Our Councillors

County Councillor Lynda Harford

Thank you to my District Council colleagues for sharing their reports with me prior to me writing mine. Right now it is important to maximise our opportunities to provide information, so I hope to supplement and not duplicate their contributions which provide both factual information and some very insightful encouragement at this challenging time. It is more than ever a time for us all to work together and I applaud all those in Girton who are working together to support the community.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) as the lead authority is working closely with the District Councils and a hub structure has been established to coordinate the work that is being done at each level. Responsibility for supporting the 'shielded' group (the 1.5m people nationally who have been asked to shield for 12 weeks) remains with the County Council and the District Councils are collaborating with Parish Councils and other local groups to provide support to the even larger group who are self-isolating. CCC is continuing to maintain its critical services effectively and those staff who can are working from home. Some staff have been redeployed to support services such as re-ablement where staff work in the community to support patients discharged from hospital. This is a vital service in the current emergency as hospitals seek to free up beds as quickly as possible to treat Covid-19 patients.

CCC is also responsible for ensuring that, despite general closure, the number of schools that are open each day provides sufficient places to accommodate the children of key workers and those known to the Council as being vulnerable. Teachers are working hard to provide this essential resource, even through the Easter holidays, despite the unique challenges they are presented with in the current situation.

Latterly my own concern about how young people who are care leavers are being supported to cope with the challenges presented by the current lockdown has been picked up by the media. Whilst nationally there may be some concerns, I am reassured that locally this group is being supported. Community donations from individuals and organisations have contributed to the relief hampers distributed by the Council to these young people and funds have been secured which with

future donations will help this to continue. Limited by the current restrictions to essential face-to-face visits only, the Council's support team is contacting each young person at least once a week by phone or Skype, and is putting them in touch with other trusted support groups and with on-line educational resources. Funding has also been secured to ensure that each one has the technology to allow them to study and stay connected.

Concern is building that recently people have not been coming forward early enough with symptoms of other serious illnesses – heart attacks, strokes, cancer symptoms – as they are concerned that there is not enough capacity in the system due to Covid-19. This is not the case and people are urged to seek help with these symptoms at an early point, just as they usually would.

There is a wealth of helpful information available on the County Council's website: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus You can also subscribe there to receive the emailed updates that the County Council sends out each day to Parish and Town Councils.

As always I am happy to help and can be contacted by email: lyndaharford@icloud.com; or phone: 01954 251775 / 07889 131022.

Please look out for each other, take care and stay safe.

Lynda

A View From the District

Paradoxically the lockdown has meant that I have become much more involved in the Council, now that almost everything is being done remotely. Less than a month ago we were only issuing general advice about working from home (WFH); a week later almost all of our staff were WFH. Many of course were also in self-isolation, and we had to make major cuts to our waste collection service as a result. We hope to continue blue bin collections but black bins must be our first priority.

All meetings of Council, Cabinet and Committees are now cancelled, though Chief Executive meanwhile has full powers to keep the Council running.

Officers have risen to the challenge of a completely new way of working and most of our services seem to be working well. We have also been busy exploring ways in which we can help to ease the problems which the lockdown has produced. I hope the list below will be of use to you.

Waste services

We are stretched almost to breaking but will do our best to maintain fortnightly black and blue collections. Please do try to minimise your waste to help our staff, and ensure that only recyclables go in the blue bin. A tip for food waste: keep it in a sealed container in the freezer until the day of the black bin collection.

Planning

The Government wants us to continue to assess planning applications in a timely way. However, we cannot do the normal advertising at the site or even post details on Parish noticeboards. However our planning website has details of recent applications: the weekly list is at

applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/search.do?action=weeklyList&searchType=Application or tinyurl.com/we4vz3o. Officers will continue to assess straightforward applications; others may have to wait. If you have planning problems please contact me directly.

Money

You should, even as I write on Easter Monday, have received your council bill and no doubt have noticed the increases. Please, if paying the bill will create hardship for you, let us know! Both our Council and the national Government have schemes to help. See the contact details below.

We can also offer grants to help community groups support people in their villages particularly hit by the crisis. See the contact details below.

Businesses

You should have heard directly from the Council, but if you do not pay business rates we may not know that you exist. We want to do all we can to keep you afloat. See the contact details below.

Taxi companies should have heard directly from the Council: we have extended your ability to drive for 3 months, and postponed the implementation of the CCTV which was agreed at the last Council meeting.

Community Support

As noted above we have funds you can apply for. The Parish Council is co-ordinating support within the village, but if you have concerns or a problem please contact me directly. If you want to volunteer to help, please contact the Parish Council.

Fly Tipping

As the recycling centre at Milton is closed please store material you would have taken there until the restrictions are lifted. Sadly, we anticipate an increase in fly tipping; please report any you see directly to me or (preferably) on-line at scambsframwork.egovhub.net/ENVIROCRIMEREPORTINGFORM/launch or tinyurl.com/sarudvj.

Scams

Sadly, we have already seen criminals take advantage of the current situation. Please note that valid agencies will **never** door-knock or cold-call you. Any purported vaccines, cures, or preventatives for Covid-19 are sham; if any is discovered it will be global headline news. If you are worried please contact me or the Council: see the contact details below.

One ongoing scam is people offering to clear your rubbish for you. Please remember it remains your responsibility to see that it is properly disposed: if it is fly-tipped it is you, not they, who will be fined.

Contact options

You are always welcome to email me Cllr.deLacey@scambs.gov.uk or phone on 565219.

The Council has many pages of advice and information but as these may change over time, I suggest you start at www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/ and choose your options from there.

The Government has an automated 'chatbot' on WhatsApp with information on topics such as coronavirus prevention and symptoms, the latest number of cases in the UK, advice on staying at home, travel advice and myth busting. The service will also allow the government to send messages to all opted-in users if required. To use it simply add 07860 064422 in your phone contacts and then message the word 'hi' in a WhatsApp message.

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

Coronavirus pandemic preparations

Last month I wrote that we are very fortunate to live in a village such as ours, and that if we all work together and take care of one another, we will get through this crisis. I am pleased to say that the people of Girton have risen to the challenge. The whole village has been doing the right thing, following Government advice and doing everything required to limit the spread of the virus. There is a strong group of volunteers working hard and helping others.

Every village in South Cambridgeshire has been appointed a 'patch co-ordinator' from amongst the District Council staff. Your District and County Councillors, and the Parish Council, are in regular contact with our patch co-ordinator. The Parish Clerk has been appointed the 'data controller', to keep a list of vulnerable residents and assign volunteers to help them.

You should contact the Parish Council if you need help or wish to volunteer.

Staying happy and healthy during the lockdown

For January's issue, I wrote that the New Year should be a time for optimism and provided a list of things to look forward to this year. So far, the year hasn't quite matched the vision that was in my mind as I was writing before Christmas. The pandemic and its lockdown are one of the strangest and most disturbing experiences that many of us will experience during our lifetimes. However, it is in times of adversity that we most need optimism. I write this during the Easter weekend; a time of rebirth, renewal and a celebration of new life. Whatever troubles that we face during this period, including illness, bereavement, unemployment or loneliness, there is new life waiting for us.

One thing that we can do is to keep happy and healthy, improving both our physical and mental well-being. Key to this is eating healthily, getting good exercise and sleeping well. Staying busy and using our time productively are also important; there are only so many funny cat videos and handwashing song videos that people can watch, and we should try to focus our activity on things that will be of more long-lasting benefit.

In 1665 and 1666, England was in the grip of a bubonic plague outbreak, the worst since the Black Death three hundred years earlier. Just as this year, Cambridge University sent its staff and students home to limit the transmission of the disease. Amongst them was a young man at Trinity College, who returned to his home at Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire. Whilst there, he witnessed an apple falling from a tree, and formulated his theory of gravitation. He also worked intensely, experimenting on optics and writing three scientific papers on 'fluxions', which we know today as calculus. Not all of us have the intellectual potential of Sir Isaac Newton, but we can follow his lead by using our time productively.

Some things that we can do include: teaching our children, tidying, decluttering and improving our house and garden, organising and analysing our personal finances, planning our careers and how to respond to future trends in the economy, learning languages, writing books, researching and outlining ideas, thinking about what we want from life, and how to improve our lives in the future.

Grant funding for local businesses on the way

Businesses in South Cambridgeshire, that are eligible for grant funding under two Government Coronavirus assistance schemes, are being contacted by the District Council and invited to apply.

In response to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Government announced there would be support for small businesses and those companies in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

This support will take the form of two grant funding schemes:

- The Small Business Grant Fund. This fund provides a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses that already pay little or no business rates to help them meet ongoing business costs
- The Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. This fund provides businesses in these industries with a rateable value of under £15,000 with a grant of £10,000. Businesses with a rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000

The Council estimates that a total of around 1,700 businesses in South Cambridgeshire are eligible for one of the grants. These companies are being emailed with instructions on how to apply for the grants online. If the Council does not have an email address for them, they are being sent a letter containing details about applying.

Any business owner who does not receive an email or letter within the next week – but believes they are eligible for one of the grants – should first check the criteria in the 'Coronavirus information for businesses' section of the Council's website, then follow the links to contact the Council if necessary.

Cllr Tom Bygott
cllr@bygott.net
07765 475 513



Girton Parish News is looking for

New Editor(s)

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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
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- Good interpersonal skills

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



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GIRTON FEAST SUMMER FESTIVAL 2020



Despite the Coronavirus pandemic, we are hoping that we may be able to continue with the Outdoor Cinema and Village Fete events this summer (10th and 11 July). We anticipate that sadly all other events may be postponed until 2021.

When our period of isolation has been relaxed, many of us will want to be reconnecting with friends, neighbours and our community. If we are able to go ahead with a smaller scale Feast that will be safe for all of us, we will update you with posters around the village.

We will not be printing a programme this year and all advert costs will be refunded in full. Please look at our website for up to date information.

Please stay safe and we hope to see you in the summer.

If you have any queries, please contact us by email: rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk or helen@girtonfeast.org.uk or alternatively through our website below, or by ringing Carol on 01223 276103



www.girtonfeast.org.uk



Take Away/ Delivery Menu

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Penne arrabiata sauce, garlic, chilli & olives	8.00
Lasagne with beef, tomato & béchamel sauce	8.50
Mix Vegetable lasagne, tom & béchamel sauce	8.00
Spaghetti Carbonara, bacon, black pepper & cream sauce	8.50
Fettuccine amatriciana, bacon, chilli, onion & tom	8.50
Fettuccine, chicken, peas, mushrooms & cream	8.90
Garlic Pizza	4.00
Chips	2.50

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@theoldcrowningirton

~ Drinks Menu ~

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Emma and Laura are back!

When Cottontails Preschool announced its closure, we were as shocked and saddened by this news as the rest of the local community.

We both managed the preschool for many years, worked hard to deliver its excellent early years care and education, built up many wonderful relationships with local families and it meant a lot to us.



Emma is back.

It was therefore important to us both that this would not be the end of the preschool, so we are now delighted to announce that we are taking it over and re-opening the preschool ourselves.

Before the Coronavirus pandemic, our plan was that

we would re-open in September 2020; however, the current situation may unfortunately delay the opening. We are hoping not and we are working very hard to try to still open then, and we will of course keep you updated when we know more.

We will be open to children from the age of 2 and they can remain with us until they start primary school. Our new opening times will be term time, Monday–Friday 9am–3pm, with extended care hours of 8am–9am breakfast club and 3pm–4.30pm after preschool club available too.

Applications for places from September 2020 are now open. We accept 2-year funded, 3-year funded (both 15 and 30 hour funding) and fee paying children. If you would like to apply for a place for your child or have anything else you'd like to contact us about, please email or call using the contact details below. You can also visit our website for more information.



Laura is back

We are both so excited to be bringing back this wonderful preschool and for the future. We look forward to delivering excellent early years education to your children and having lots of fun too!

Emma Pell and Laura Norman

Girton Cottontails Preschool Managing Directors

Web: www.girtoncottontailspreschool.com

Email: girtoncottontailspreschool@gmail.com

Phone: 07368 180771

Phone: 07368 180771

Garden Tip of the Month

May in the garden can be a bit mad, trying to keep up with the rate of plant growth. Some seedlings perhaps not doing well; are they too dry? too wet? too cold? not enough zip in the compost? Other seedlings doing very well, but are they getting too leggy? And what about putting them out to harden off, and then having to bring them back in because the temperature is dropping again tonight. What a lot of decisions!

A couple of general points may help a bit: using water that is at the same temperature as the plants is preferable to chilly water from the tap or outside water butt, so after watering refill the can and leave it to warm up a bit before use. Secondly some hardening off does make establishing your new plants go better, particularly if they are going to an exposed place, as on the allotments. Take care not to let them be easy picking for pesky pigeons though; I once lost the best of my brassica seedlings that way!

May is a good month to prune broadleaved evergreens, like bay and laurel, although exercise some caution to avoid exposing a bird nest. As we don't yet know when the green bins will be collected best have a plan where to put all the stuff till you can dispose of it. Chopping it into a big builders bag is a good interim measure (I've got a few to spare if you're in need).

George Thorpe

Mini Show 2020

Girton Garden and Allotment Societies Feast Week Village Fete Saturday 11th July

This may go ahead subject to Government advice - more information nearer the time.

So get planting now so that you have carrots, beans, potatoes, beetroot, onions, rhubarb, soft fruit and summer flowers. For children, try planting some different coloured vegetables and enter your funniest carrot, your longest bean and an animal modelled from vegetables, fruit and flowers.

The full list of categories is available on the GGS website on the Diary for meetings and events page at girtongardensociety.co.uk Details before then available from either society:

Girton Garden Society Kay Green 01223 276819

Girton Allotment Society Patsy Smith 01223 575288

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GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Tennis Club

In line with government and LTA guidance, we officially closed the courts for use by members on March 27th. As this coincided with the renewal of our membership year (from April 1st), we will be inviting all members to renew their membership as soon as the government and LTA restrictions are lifted. You will all be aware that the Wimbledon Championships have now been cancelled for this year which means that all ballots for tickets, including our own ballot, have been declared "null and void". We are assured that the LTA will have issued face value refunds to all those who had already paid for their tickets by the time that you read this article.

It is important for the whole family to keep active during this rather strange time. With this in mind, the LTA has compiled 12 fun activities and exercises that parents and children can play at home to hone their tennis skills while getting crucial exercise. Please visit www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/lta-youth/tennis-at-home where you will also find tennis related challenges and teaching aids.

Many of you are already finding ways to keep doing some tennis-related exercise and I have seen a few examples of chalked courts and family fun in progress when on daily exercise walks around the village. If any of you would like to email me a photo of your tennis-related activities I will try to get a few into the next online publication of this magazine. My email address is a42franklin@gmail.com. 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 at info@girtontennisclub.uk.

Alan Franklin



Girton Golf Club

Well, here we are with wonderful weather for golf and we are barred from playing at our, or any other, course. Understandably as we battle against this pandemic but frustrating nonetheless. Particularly as our course is looking so wonderful. However, we did have a couple of bits of good news this week.

The first piece of great news is that one of our own, Seniors Captain Chris Stanton, and his wife Diana, who have both been suffering pretty badly with coronavirus for the past few weeks, are on the mend. Chris tells me that in just about 3 weeks he lost over a stone in weight and had a temperature of 39.1 for 4 days, couldn't eat or drink as everything tasted foul and he slept constantly. Recovery

started when he managed to keep down an egg and bacon sandwich, and they are now up and about pottering in the garden.

Chris has asked me, on his behalf, to thank everyone at Girton Golf Club for all their messages of support. You will never know how motivating they were.

The second piece of good news is that Girton Golf Club has been accepted into The Golf Club Network. What that means is that when we are back playing again we will have over 60 clubs that our 5 and 7 day members can play at for FREE in addition to the existing Smart Golfer Network. What a great opportunity to play courses both locally and further afield for nothing, just the cost of a Girton Golf Club subscription.

Membership is still available at Girton and although our club house is closed our office staff are picking up messages regularly and will contact you should you be interested.

Follow the rules, and stay safe and sane when isolating.

Alan Henderson-Smith Tel: 01223 276169

www.girtongolf.co.uk



GIRTON WI

The doughty members of the Women's Institute have traditionally been 'good in a crisis' (all those comforting pots of tea, all those cheering home-made cakes!) and so it is proving during the pandemic.

Approaching the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, we think of our 'jambuster' forebears setting forth with their saucepans and Kilner jars to help feed the nation. But the need now is to support our wonderful medics, and Girton Women's Institute is once again rising to the challenge. We have been collecting donations of cotton/polycotton bedlinen and at time of writing are forming a 'scrub hub' to sew scrubs for local doctors and nursing staff. Although physically apart now, we're working together and 'doing our bit' to help – as we've always tried to do.

In the absence of our usual WI outings and meetings, we're keeping in touch and keeping cheerful. The Girton WI Facebook group and emails help to amuse us and allow us to share suggestions of how to make the most of enforced time at home. Through the wonders of Zoom, we held our first virtual tea-party – complete with posh hats and pearls, as befits the WI! Our 'Tea at Three' was again supporting local medics, with donations towards Addenbrookes Hospital's fundraising for frontline staff: www.act4addenbrookes.org.uk/events/tea-at-three Although this 101st year of Girton WI is shaping up a bit differently from expected (!), much of what is important to the WI remains the same. We are still enjoying fun and friendship, and working together to support our community – fortified, of course, by tea and cake !

Susie Cumming

Doreen Piggot – Remarkable Lady, an Inspiration to Us All

At the beginning of March Doreen Piggott, one of Girton's long-term residents, celebrated her 100th birthday.



Surrounded by flowers and cards, including one from her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, she was applauded by over 60 of her friends and family at her birthday celebration, which was buzzing with conversation.

Many people travelled from all areas of the country, and from as far afield as Australia, to share Doreen's special day and show love to a unique lady.

Doreen has led a remarkable life; to mark International Women's Day she was nominated by Cambridgeshire Live as one of the 32 most brave, brilliant and game-changing women in Cambridgeshire right now – something we have known for a long time. Doreen reads the paper every day from cover to cover, ensuring that she keeps up with the news and is able to converse on any subject with up-to-date knowledge. She has a remarkable memory, particularly for any form of sport, being able to recall facts, figures and faces from both recent times and past events, ensuring she can hold her own in any sporting conversation. She enjoys watching all sports on her rather large TV screen, sometimes becoming so excited that it sends her heart rate soaring!

Doreen Pamby was born in Waterbeach on 3 March 1920. She attended Waterbeach Junior School and lived a carefree, outdoor life enjoying riding her bicycle with friends and taking her beloved pet dogs on long walks.



Doreen on a bicycle with friend Betty, 1930s

At the age of eleven she moved from the small junior school to the Cambridge County High School for Girls. Travelling there by bus she met Phyllis, who boarded the bus at Milton, also on her first day, and they have remained firm friends ever since. Phyllis will celebrate her 100th birthday in August, a remarkable pair of ladies. Doreen can remember another classmate, P.D. James, also born in 1920.



Waterbeach Primary School with Doreen in the front row

Doreen and Phyllis often travelled home together. Once whilst waiting for the bus they bought a pomegranate from a traeger [I had to look this up – it's a hand cart], found a comfy place to sit out of the public eye, and had a competition to see who could spit the seeds the furthest! Doreen had a distinct twinkle in her eye as she recalled this memory!

From an early age Doreen demonstrated great sporting ability. Once at senior school she soon earned her sporting colours and was selected to play for the first teams in tennis, hockey, netball and rounders. This is where her sporting career started; they knew a natural talent when they saw one.

Doreen recalls that when she and friends played tennis in the school playground, the boys from the technical college would hang out of the windows and wolf whistle, including her best friend's brother. I am not sure that she objected too loudly!

Doreen went on to play netball, tennis, badminton and hockey at County level; her achievements were reported in the local papers. She, and her husband Paul, regularly travelled up and down the country to sporting fixtures on their motorbike, sometimes arriving stiff and cold but always keen and ready for the match that was to come. Doreen seemed to have the knack of being in the winning partnership on many occasions, or perhaps it was her partner who was lucky? Doreen has remained firm friends with many of her fellow team mates, and her competitors, several of whom joined in her birthday celebrations.



Doreen playing netball

Doreen has fond memories of family holidays spent in Hunstanton. Doreen played older sister and confidante to her brother Clifford and Cousin Audrey, and they remained firm friends and companions throughout their lives.



Doreen and Clifford on the beach at Hunstanton

Doreen started working for the Fire Service in East Anglia in 1941, becoming, aside from Control, the first female uniformed member of regional HQ staff. Administration Assistant Group Officer Pamby (A.G.O. Pamby), together with the Operational Assistant Group Officer, took it in turns each morning at 09.00 to lead the other female staff on a marching drill in Church Street, Cambridge. This was not a favourite duty.

She also represented the Fire Service on the sporting field, her team winning the All-England Netball Competition in 1946. Following on from the end of the war this was an important and prestigious occasion.

Doreen also took part in the Regional Hose Laying Competition, Doreen remembers that the hose was so heavy that it nearly killed her; needless to say her team won.

The regional Fire Service group disbanded in 1948 and she was transferred to Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, where she was Personal Assistant to the Chief Fire Officer.



Hose Laying Competition

To mark her milestone 100th birthday, Station Commander for Cambridge Danny Kelly, and firefighters from Red Watch Cambridge, paid Doreen a special visit and presented her with a card and flowers on behalf of Chief Fire Officer, Chris Strickland.



Honoured by Fire Brigade

Doreen's future husband Paul served overseas during the war. He was awarded the Military Cross for bravery, for rescuing a colleague whilst under heavy fire. Doreen has donated Paul's medal to his regiment.

Doreen and Paul were married in May 1947, but, despite having purchased a plot of land in Thornton Way, they were unable to secure a building permit until 1951.



Thornton Way house in construction

(Continued next page)

(Continued from page 15)

Doreen recalls that only four permits were granted each week. In the meantime they lived with Paul's parents in Windsor Road. To save money on the building permit, Doreen and Paul laid their own concrete paths, mixing concrete by hand, a backbreaking job. The saved allocation could then be spent on fittings inside the house. Theirs was the third house to be built in Thornton Way; Doreen has lived there ever since. Doreen and Paul were influential in the wider sporting life of Cambridge, helping to steer the amalgamation of several tennis clubs, including the De Freville Club, to form the Cambridge Lawn Tennis Club, where they remained active members for many years. Paul was also Chairman of the Kelsey Kerridge Trust Committee. He and Doreen were directly involved in raising funds to help finance the building of the sports hall, which included holding various stalls on the weekly market. They were honoured to be presented to Princess Anne when she opened the sports hall, in the mid 1970's, on which occasion Paul gave the welcome address.



Doreen being presented to Princess Anne
Doreen was no stranger to meeting royalty, having met the Duchess of Kent in her mother's flat, when she officially opened Denis Wilson Court, Trumpington, around 1981. Her mother was 95 at the time. Doreen was a well-known figure as she walked her cocker spaniels around the streets of Girton. Lifelong friendships were forged along the way, as she was always ready to stop for a chat and to admire other doggy friends. A particular bond grew up between her and her young friend Jenny – they simply enjoyed each other's company. She no longer has a dog as her companion, but many friends remain in contact with Doreen, ensuring that she leads a happy and chatter-filled life.
Happy 100th birthday, Doreen.

Karen Richardson

Spotted Flycatchers

Have you got this increasingly rare bird breeding in your garden? Let us know!
In recent years many Cambridgeshire community and parish newsletters, magazines and websites have helped with a County-wide survey of Spotted Flycatchers. These are attractive migrant birds, about the size of a Robin, which are summer visitors to village gardens and churchyards. Although they breed with us, they spend up to nine months of the year travelling as much as 16,000 miles between here and their wintering grounds in Southern Africa – Angola and Namibia. This is an increasingly dangerous journey for them, and sadly they are in deep decline. Widespread losses amounted to a 50% decline during 1995–2010, continuing a 90% decline since 1970.



Only a few hundred pairs remain breeding in Cambridgeshire, but most villages still have a pair or two; they rarely breed out in the wider countryside. We are continuing our work to find and monitor nesting pairs. It's almost certain that there are many additional pairs out there of which we are not aware. Do you have flycatchers in your garden? Will you see one this year, or have you in recent years? The few that remain are here from mid-May to September. And there's lots more to read about our project and Spotted Flycatchers in general at bit.ly/SpotFly

Please email: spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk with any sightings.



The allotment site has always been a valued place and haven to us plot holders and Society members. That value has burgeoned enormously since

the government's edict on lockdown and self-isolation. As soon as lockdown was decreed, allotmenters, while fully recognising the need for self-isolation, immediately wondered about how the rules would apply to travelling to, and working on, their allotment plots. Immediately, Michael Gove announced that allotments were approved for going out and exercise.

"For this relief much thanks"! I'm confident to say that the site has never been so populated and busy. Let me assure readers that all precautions are being observed: a minimum of 2 metres separation; using gloves when touching the entry keypad; sanitising handled items; and everything else we can think of.

The site covers 6 to 7 acres. For exercise I have wandered around the perimeter and along the paths zigzagging between the plots. (Again I assure readers that I divert to avoid workers on their plots.) And what an eye-opener these strollings have been. For ages I have tended to stick around the area near my own plot, watching and discussing the progress on nearby plots. But now I've taken in the whole site and have been incredibly impressed by the labour that has been put in. So many wonderfully tended plots, dug, raked, planted; fleece cloches and fruit cages tidied up and ready to serve; greenhouses and lean-to shelters full of seed trays and pots with germinated seedlings, carefully labelled, vegetables and flowers. The wide public tracks mown by our contractor, and many of the narrow, twisty paths between plots neatly shorn. I mustn't exaggerate ... it's not a perfect heaven ... there are areas of weeds and plots needing attention. But, risking going a bit over-the-top, I'm saying that observing the whole site gave me a sense of pride in being part of the Girton Allotment Society.

During the time of writing this article, I seem to have been catching media reports which bolster my belief in the extra benefit of having an allotment plot in these times. The weekend's *Gardeners' Question Time* had an item on the 1940 surge in allotments as U-boats blockaded Britain; in that crisis allotments contributed to food supplies; in the 2020 crisis they are contributing to exercise, fresh air and mental health. This morning's *Start the Week* featured an author whose book scientifically and emotionally extols the benefits of contact with soil, plants, wild life. To fill slack moments, put into Google "Why my allotment is my Covid-19 refuge" for an excellent Guardian article describing the joys of an allotment far more eloquently than I can.

Other bits of news: Some interesting deliveries have recently been made to the site. A skip has been and gone, taking away a full load of rubbish (non-vegetative) after a

big tidy-up operation.



Arrival of practical necessity

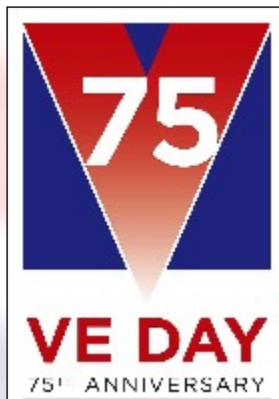
I'm including a picture of the delivery of a portaloos-type toilet. I'll not enlarge on the practical necessity of this for members spending long hours on their plots.



Arrival of vital supplies

I'll say more about the other deliveries. The arrival of lockdown, causing the closure of garden centres, left many members without supplies of composts, seeds and equipment for the new season. A very welcome arrangement was made with Oakington Garden Centre for Society members to order on-line and a bulk delivery to be made. Two such weekly deliveries have been made, and a system has now bedded down for weekly orders and delivery. Our thanks to the centre's family and staff for their efforts on our behalf. I'd like to put in a word for Oakington Garden Centre. All of us Girton gardeners and allotmenters are fortunate to have in a neighbouring village such a high quality, independent Garden Centre. Closure as Spring arrives is a huge blow to the company. No income from people coming to the centre; stocks of seed potatoes unsold; bedding and other plants needing care by a skeleton staff but limited chance of sale. Let all of us gardeners give the Garden Centre every bit of support we can ... when it eventually re-opens; and on-line orders are being taken for home delivery. (But understand that on-line orders are subjecting the staff to great pressure.) We need Oakington Garden Centre to be there for us when we come through the crisis.

Graham Jones, Girton Allotment Society



More VE Day Memories

By Sam Clift

We began talking, my old mate and me, and the subject soon got round to our childhood days during World War II and the VE Day celebrations. We are the same age, from the same village, went to the same

schools, worked together for a while, were members of the same cycle and motorcycle gangs and have known each other since we were six years old. 'Jake', I said, 'What do you remember about World War II?' 'We were in Miss Tabcart's class' was the reply.

Whoosh, and there I was seven years old again, in class, in an old chapel being used as a temporary wartime classroom for our village school. Then we remembered walking hand in hand, two by two, from that old chapel to our school. We couldn't remember exactly why but we did remember the journey. It was a difficult trip, we had to avoid treading on any of the cracks in the footway. Every crack trodden on was a sum wrong in class so they had to be avoided at all costs. Avoiding the cracks, the orderly little group became a hopping, jumping, laughing little rabble until a sharp rebuke from teacher put us back on an orderly path – still avoiding the cracks of course. Then that convoy of American lorries came roaring down the street. 'Give us some gum, chum' was the chorus that rang out from our little group – no luck, they roared by with just a cheery wave. Then if an ambulance went by the shout went up, 'Hold your collar till you see a dog.' What was that all about? Who started that? I've spent hours holding my collar looking for dogs, and they're never there when you want one. What were your childhood superstitions, I wonder? I still touch my collar when I see an ambulance, I don't know why. It must be impressed in my mind from those heady school days. Has the same thing happened to you?

Jake remembered wandering about in the Fens looking for 'silver paper' (tin foil) that had been dropped by the German planes in an effort to avoid our radar. It was a great prize to a young lad. He often found some but only once did he find a leaflet that had apparently been dropped from a German plane. He told me that he couldn't remember exactly what the wording on the paper said but he recalled that it advised us all to give up because we could never win the war. There was a picture of a man on the leaflet but he didn't know who it was. He told me that he showed it to a lady that he knew and asked her, 'Who is this?' She replied, 'He's a real bad man, you don't want to know who he is.' That was a typical Fenland reply – it was a picture of Hitler.

Our chat continued, 'Do you remember the Doodlebugs,' Jake went on 'Mum took me outside one evening to show me a Doodlebug going over, she told me there's nothing to worry about until they begin to splutter and the fire at the back goes out.' He told me that almost immediately after those words came out from his mother's mouth it spluttered and cut out. Fortunately for them it crashed in the Fens without harming anyone. He went on to tell me how ironic it was that whilst he stood there watching that Doodlebug going over his house his father was down on the coast of Kent trying to shoot them down as they came in from the sea and before they got so far inland. I pressed him for more details, 'I was only six,' he said. 'But father told me they shot quite a few down. When they appeared there was great excitement amongst the soldiers particularly if they missed with their shots. They were in a great hurry to reload and fire again but in their hurry to do so they grabbed the empty shell too soon and the recoil of the gun chopped their fingers off. Several men lost the tips of their fingers by acting too soon in the heat of battle,' he said. His father was a gentleman's hairdresser and unlike mine was not on the reserved occupation list, hence he later served abroad.

We remembered our old school friends and the evacuees who heard that their parents had been killed in a bombing raid on London and who were never able to return home. They spent the rest of their lives building families of their own in the village and some are still there today. I related my memories of the huge bonfire in the village centre that was lit to celebrate VE Day. He remembered those very same high jinks and told me that he had been there on that evening with his mother. His father was still serving abroad at that time and would not be home until the January of 1946. Jake went on to tell me that that bonfire was not the only one in the village on that evening. There was at least one other which he was able to sneak away and visit. Children in those days were able to move about safely, parents not having to fear the present day horrific child crimes we hear about in the news.

Another huge bonfire had been built a little further down the road and Jake remembered that it was the first time he had ever seen an effigy being burnt. He told me that he clearly remembers that figure on the bonfire. 'It wasn't in 3D,' he told me. 'It was cut out of a flat board with a poorly painted face that clearly represented Hitler with his little black moustache. I vividly remember that the paint on his face bubbled up in the heat,' he said.

Childhood memories of that era, silly now maybe, but I'm sure that if those of you that lived through those days could dredge through your memories you would find some diamonds to interest us at the GPN.

VE Day in Girton

In those days we Thornton Road residents looked more towards Cambridge ('The Town') rather than to the village to fulfil the needs of daily life. The distance to the town was about the same as to the village and the bus service much better, an important factor in those virtually car-free times.

VE Day was three days after my seventh birthday and I was a bit disappointed that the two events did not coincide. However, the official day off school was welcome compensation, giving us the opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of Cambridge *en fête*: flags and bunting overhead and raucous singing and dancing coming from the pubs. Military bands performed to the delight of cheering crowds, especially the much admired marching of coloured servicemen from nearby USAAF bases. Their exuberant and flamboyant style caught exactly the mood of general rejoicing.

Traders on Cambridge market were quick to exploit the occasion. Sales of 'victory badges' depicting wartime heroes were brisk, especially those of Winston Churchill and Field Marshal Montgomery ('Monty'). However, King George VI badges were less popular and Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, had even fewer takers.

The centrepiece of the celebrations was a bonfire on Midsummer Common, where a huge pile of flammable material had been assembled. It was said that Marshall's aircraft firm had contributed old wooden packing cases and bits of gliders etc. left over from D Day. An immense crowd of onlookers cheered as army searchlights pierced the sky above the conflagration when it was lit after nightfall.

Cycling back to Thornton Road afterwards in darkness was exciting and we eagerly talked of how wonderful it would be when the elegant gas lighting standards along Huntingdon Road would be turned on again. But that would only be as far as the borough boundary at the Traveller's Rest. Beyond lay the total darkness of still rural Girton!

The excitement of the day was tempered for our parents by the knowledge that the war in the Far East was continuing and many servicemen from Cambridgeshire would not be returning.

Roger Wolfe
(Thornton Road resident 1939–61)

Memories of John Pryor about VE Day, 1945

My school was evacuated to South Wales during the War. This was a mining area. The locals erected an illuminated 'V' sign on top of a slag heap. It took our

minds off being away from home.

A few months earlier the boys had been allowed to search the mountains for escaped POWs. The Germans had tunnelled their way out of a camp at Bridgend. All were caught – about 100 of them.

Mary Parker remembers

For **Mary Parker** (whose Evacuation Memories were published in the April GPN), VE Day was all about noise. 'We were on holiday on the coast, at Dovercourt near Harwich. We'd all been out to see a film – we went out to the films a lot in those days – and when we came out, fairly late, maybe around midnight, the air was full of noise. We wondered what it was all about. All the ships in Harwich Harbour were sounding their sirens. Everyone came out of their houses. The soldiers from the army camp nearby came out, and everyone was making a noise, cheering and shouting and banging saucepans, and the soldiers lit a bonfire. Victory had been declared! It was almost the end of the War. VJ Day (Victory in Japan) came later, but it wasn't nearly so exciting for us. It had been pouring with rain all day, and although we went to a fireworks display at Alexandra Palace (we lived quite near), it was terribly muddy underfoot. The rain put a dampener on things.'

Wartime Memories from Rosemary Jones

The doodlebug droned overhead as we crouched in our Anderson shelter. Then all was quiet and we knew it was about to drop its deadly burden, past us, and on to the houses at the end of the road. We watched from the garden as the flames shot up ...

My mother, with my baby brother in her arms and me clinging to her, dashed across the road during an air raid – my brother now has the piece of shrapnel which fell inches from his face onto the blanket ...

Just two memories before we made the 13 hour train journey from London to Scotland to escape doodlebugs and worse to stay with acquaintances in Ayr for the last year of the war. I remember being scared of the silence during the night – no blitz, no aircraft.

I went to school in Ayr for the last year of the war and was bullied because of my accent and because I was a year ahead in the education stream. I was made to use my right hand and my writing eventually became legible, but on my return to London I naturally reverted to writing with my left hand.

We returned to London on 26th May 1945 (my father's birthday) and I remember a huge street party – trestle tables the length of the road, mothers in pinafores

bringing out sandwiches and jellies and cakes – how did they manage to get the ingredients?

Food was in short supply, my mother calling to me one day, ‘Quick, go and join the queue – the potatoes have come in – I’ll join you when I’ve changed.’ One couldn’t go out of the house in the morning’s work clothes!

A good read, which we can relate to in these strange times, is Hunter Davies’ memoir of growing up in the post-war north, entitled *The Co-op’s got Bananas!*

Rosemary Jones



VE Day Street party York Street, Cambridge

Paul Rayner now living in Histon sent in the photograph above. At the time when the picture was taken he had not yet been born but his mother and older brother are seen in the picture.

Doreen Piggott’s Memories of VE Day 1945:

The one thing that sticks out in my memory in regard to VE Day is the large Tea Party that was held in Windsor Road/Richmond Road area. ... My husband, Paul Piggott, was by then out of the army and back working at Chivers, and we were living with his parents until we could get accommodation of our own. We could not get on the housing list until somewhat later and we actually were awarded a building plot in Thornton Way in 1947 and moved into 1 Thornton Way in January of 1952.

Young Man about Town

My earliest memory of VE Day was the drizzle; it was a day typical of the latter days of the war – grey and uninspiring. There was, however, one major difference – we knew that the unconditional surrender had been agreed the day before and would become effective at 1100hr that morning. I was not going to sit around in my ‘digs’ in Southfields, SW18 – the West End called – even possibly some bright lights although technically they were still forbidden. I had recently celebrated my 16th birthday, having moved down from my North Wales home to start training at the College of Aeronautics. Although known as the ‘Chelsea College’

it was actually located just up Princes Drive from Southfields station (the route taken by tennis addicts to Wimbledon). This was also the terminus for the No. 39 bus which suited me well as it would take me straight to Whitehall.

The crowds built up early that day – everyone intent on being near the front to catch a glimpse of Winston Churchill or the Royal Family. I’m pretty sure that I settled for Whitehall first but I cannot truthfully claim a clear image after all this time. Much better to go round the corner and join the hordes on the Mall.

Eventually one was going to get near the front within clear sight of the palace. It was a

sure bet that patience would be rewarded and it duly was when, around midday, the King, Queen and the two princesses came out on the balcony. The noise was deafening, the flag-waving blinding as the crowd showed its combination of joy and relief. It was not to be the only appearance by the King and Queen but the next appearance was theirs alone. At first this seemed proper but it soon dawned on the crowds beneath that this time the princesses were not going to join them. Why not? Where were they? We learned later that, amazingly, they were actually in the crowd. I failed to get their autographs – or even to see them.

I was ready for some food by now and did just what you did in those days – went to a Lyons Corner House. Here (as everywhere) the price of a meal was limited to five bob but you got your money’s worth and it gave me the strength to continue my wandering – Piccadilly, Trafalgar Square – and to be honest I believe I found it was no longer possible to get a bus home. So I walked.

Hugh Field



CODEWORDS

Each number 1–26 represents a different letter of the alphabet. Can you work out which is which? Use your word skills and the clues included. Note that Codewords can include names or well-known phrases. Answers on page 30.

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

WORDSEARCH

Theme – Things you can do at home!!

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.

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

BALLSKILL	EXERCISES	READ
BOARDGAMES	GARDEN	SAND
CARDS	HOP	SEW
CARE	JOG	SHARE
CHALK	JOKES	SHINE
CLAP	JUMP	SING
CLEAN	KNIT	SKIP
COLLAGE	LEARN	SLIME
COLLECT	MEND	TAICHI
COOK	MUSIC	TALK
CROCHET	PAINT	TIDY
DANCE	PHOTOGRAPHY	WALK
DECORATE	PINGPONG	WOODWORK
DRAW	PLAN	WRITE
DUST	PLAY	YOGA
EMBROIDERY	PUZZLES	ZOOM

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Cleaning and disinfection guidance

If you have a



new and
continuous cough

or



high
temperature

stay at home for 7 days, if you live alone

stay at home for 14 days, if you live with others, including all household members

Only use **NHS 111** if your symptoms get worse or are no better after home isolation

Stop the spread of coronavirus



**Wash your hands
more often
and for 20 seconds**

Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:

- Get home or into work
- Blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- Eat or handle food



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue away straight away



Cleaning an area with regular household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people

The amount of virus living on surfaces will reduce significantly after

72 hours

If an area can be kept closed and secure, wait until this time has passed before cleaning



Wherever possible, wear disposable or washing up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished



Using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water

Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to **frequently touched areas and surfaces**, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles



If an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus, **consider using protection for the eyes, mouth and nose** as well as gloves and apron

Wash hands regularly with soap and water, **and after removing** gloves, aprons and other protection used whilst cleaning

Continuing to support Girton residents

As the impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) continues to affect our daily lives, Ann Bonnett, Chair of Girton Town Charity Trustees gives an update on how it is continuing to help Village residents in these challenging times.

In line with good practice, we have closed our office to all visitors, but Gilly or Rachel are available to deal with telephone enquiries or respond to emails during normal opening hours, Monday-Friday 10.00am-2.00pm. Call 01223 276008 or email gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk if you need help.

We continue to work to current guidelines from the Government and Public Health England and as part of its duty of care to Almshouse residents, and ask everyone to consult these websites for the latest advice and information on all aspects of COVID-19.

gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

Almshouses

Progress on our two Almshouse building projects has inevitably been affected by COVID-19.

Suffolk Terrace – Piling took place between 23rd-26th March within Government guidelines for the construction industry. The site was left tidy and secure by our contractors Godfrey & Hicks, and all work has now paused.

High Street redevelopment – South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee was to discuss our revised plans for the High Street at a meeting scheduled for 8th April, but the meeting was cancelled. We are waiting to hear when it might be rearranged.

Changes to arrangements

In terms of Schemes and Grants, please note the following changes:

Age UK Warden Scheme – the Wardens have been asked to limit home visits to essential tasks such as shopping and picking up prescriptions. They will therefore reduce the number of face-to-face visits, but will increase telephone contact so that all Warden service users receive a daily call.

Age UK Older Residents' Co-ordinator

– will also continue to support residents and other Age UK services by telephone and/or email.



Rachel



Gilly

Hospital Taxi Scheme – Nelsons is following Government advice and will continue taking residents to appointments as required. The service provided by Wendy Barrett has been suspended for the time being.

Prescription Delivery Service – this will continue and has been extended to include Village residents who are unable to collect prescriptions from the Village Pharmacist.

CarePlus Scheme – the Scheme care providers, Avall and Home Instead, are offering a reduced service as a result of a fewer carers available due to children at home or their own health concerns.

CAB and Cam Sight – have closed their face-to-face outreach services but telephone support is available.

Relate – has reluctantly paused its service for the time being.

William Collyn Community Centre – this has closed for the time being. If you need to discuss future bookings please call on 01223 279587 or make an online enquiry at williamcollyn.co.uk/booking

YMCA Youth Group – this is closed for the time being.

Financial implications

In the last *Girton Parish News*, we mentioned the financial impact GTC is experiencing as a result of COVID-19. In addition to the day-to-day challenges

/continued...

caused by the pandemic GTC is experiencing a financial impact too. The sharp fall in the financial markets where our Endowment Fund is invested means that the income which funds our activities – and is used for Schemes and Grants – will probably be significantly reduced. Money for our primary purpose, Almshouse building projects, has been protected from the fall in the financial markets.

Although the Charity has invested wisely and prudently, in the next financial year we anticipate that our income will fall by more than 30% which means that we will not be able to support our major grant recipients to the level we anticipated before this current crisis. We are currently letting these organisations know at an early stage to enable them to put contingency plans in place. Regrettably some of our Schemes as well as grants to Girton residents and organisations may also be affected.

“These are unprecedented times and we hope that all our Village residents will stay safe in the weeks ahead.”

Girton Town Charity exists for purposes which include the relief of need in Girton, either individually or collectively, or the support of any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of Girton.

Enquiries on behalf of individuals or village organisations may be made in confidence and addressed to any of the Trustees below:

Ann Bonnett (Chair)	t: 276354
Michael Aston	t: 07878 319743
Marc Bermann	t: 277319
Colin Carr	t: 276312
Dr Robin Hiley	t: 277296
Patsy Smith	t: 575288

GTC office:

**22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.
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Trying to weave a network

Sam is the typesetter for the May *Girton Parish News*; this is a big task and so he has asked me to lighten his load a little by writing the Club 55 article for May. The words 'poisoned chalice' come to mind since in present circumstances there are none of the usual club activities and little to write about. Therefore, dear readers, be forbearing as I attempt to make bricks without straw (a biblical reference during events which include pestilence!).

Monday 16th March was the last club get-together. By then the full gravity of Coronavirus/Covid-19 was being recognised and social-distancing was approaching. At that morning's Computer section meeting, the regretted but necessary announcement was made that all Club 55 meetings and activities would be suspended for the foreseeable future.

How fondly we look back and remember lunch at the Three Tuns, Fenstanton on Wednesday 29th January, and the film 'Downton Abbey' preceded by fish and chips at the William Collyn Hall on Wednesday 5th February. And, if we consulted our diaries, we suffered the gap left by cancellation of the Helen Mirren film 'The Good Liar' on Thursday 19th March; and lunch at Abbeyfield on Wednesday 25th March.

However, we have not disbanded. Since the suspension of assembling, we have tried to weave a network of contacts through computers, tablets, smartphones and (yes, it still exists) the telephone. On Monday mornings at 10am (to mirror the Computer Club) a few members sit at their computers and can see one another and chat, using software called Skype. (This facility is much valued for virtual get-togethers by widespread families.) We call this Skype gathering a 'Coffee Morning' and some participants actually bring along their morning tipple. It needs a bit of technical knowledge to join the group, but Sam is more than happy to talk people through the process. So far 6 or 7 have joined in, but it could be more. Contact Sam if you would like to join the conversation.

And there are other ways. I have been phoning members from time to time. I usually say 'Nothing special; just a chat to stay in touch,' and off we go. How are you spending your time? Are you going out for exercise? How are you getting your food supplies? Why don't you register for supermarket home delivery? Oh, the difficulty in getting delivery slots! How neighbours have been helpful. Recent developments in 'The Archers'. Gardening matters. Nothing of great moment, but a sense of friendship in action. And I learn during these calls that there is plenty of such communication happening between members. My list of members and phone numbers is not exhaustive, and

if anyone would like to phone me (276491) I love to chat.

One other way we network: I have a group e-mail address for members (again, sadly not exhaustive) and from time to time relevant communications are sent around. For example the (shortlived) home delivery service from the Golf Club; tips on keeping fit; useful websites. Our chairman circulated a mind-stretching quiz. See www.club55.wordpress.com/quiz

To sum up: if boredom or loneliness threatens, get in touch, one way or another.

Sam's number for Skype advice: 07850 740721

Graham Jones, for Club 55



News for Older Residents

Sincere thanks to everyone who is helping their neighbours in practical ways.

I check my emails and phone messages every weekday at the moment, not just on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please feel free to get in touch and I assure you that just wanting to chat is a perfectly good enough reason.

I miss being in the village and hope it won't be too long before we can meet face to face again. In the meantime keep well.

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

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk





The church started in a home

The first Christians didn't spread the word by building churches, or cathedrals or even small chapels. These beautiful buildings only started to be built in the 4th century. The Roman Emperor Constantine had a supposed conversion, and he decided to make Christianity the official religion to unite the Roman Empire. This move compromised the gospel with secular power, and we have been living with the consequences ever since. The first Christians were Jewish believers. Initially they continued to be associated with the Temple worship in Jerusalem, but they also made much use of their homes for their meetings. God worked in families and in people's homes in amazing ways.

On the Jewish festival of Pentecost God baptised the disciples in the Holy Spirit in a home. The disciples, who had been instructed by Jesus to stay in Jerusalem and to *wait for the gift my Father has promised* (Acts 1:4), were gathered together in a house. Then, *suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting* (Acts 2:2).

It is not absolutely certain where this happened, but it is widely believed to be the same upper room where the

disciples were staying in Jerusalem (Acts 1:13). This was a large upper room and most probably the same upper room where the Last Supper was held (Luke 22:12, Mark 14:14–15). Tradition and Scripture at least indicate it was the upper level of the home of Mary the mother of John Mark. Peter, after he was released from prison, *went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying* (Acts 12:12).

This good woman Mary had opened the doors not only of her home but also her heart for the believers to meet there. If we are joining the dots correctly, this was the home Jesus celebrated his last Passover meal, the place where the Spirit was given at Pentecost, and the place where many frequently gathered together in prayer. It was clearly a significant centre of spiritual renewal in Jerusalem. Yet it was a family home, where many involved were family members or extended family. This Mary was the mother of John Mark, who was converted and discipled by Peter (1 Peter 5:13), and who also wrote the second gospel. She was also the sister of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), who was a great man and well known. And we know Jesus' biological family were part of this group (Acts 1:14).

The church is not first of all a building or even an organization, but it started in a home, and God was at work in homes and families. In fact, faith and godliness, which could bring the renewal we so much need in Britain today, has to start at home.

Nick Lowe

St Andrew's Notices

During Holy Week, there were appropriate meditations on the front of our church website, www.girton.church. That will happen for most of the Christian festivals such as Ascension Day, Pentecost, and Corpus Christi. It is a good way to mark the church seasons. Also marking the church seasons – one of the church members changes the altar frontals regularly, so that the colours are liturgically correct. With each change, a photo goes on to the website so that it is possible still to be aware of what should be going on in church.

New Rector: As you may know, we have been without a Rector since June of 2019. Only **just** before the lockdown pronouncement, there were interviews for a new Rector. We are all very happy to be able to say that an appointment has been made. Our new Rector will be Revd Michael Bigg, who is presently serving in the westernmost part of the diocese, in the parishes of Grafham, Ellington and Brampton. He grew up in Cambridge. Before being ordained, he worked in IT and also taught. So he comes to us with some experience of life. He is married with three little boys. There will be a great deal more about him and his appointment to us in a later GPN. Needless to say, although his present post finishes around June, we have no idea when he and the family will be able to make the move

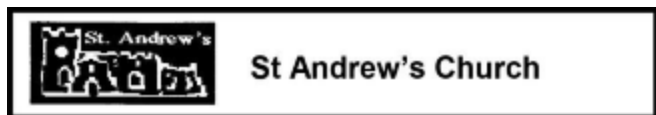
to Girton. Everything just now is corona-virus dependent. However if you would like to see him in action via the internet, go to eastleightonstone.com/servicetimes, which takes you to the website for his current churches. Each Sunday, he and his colleague Jason take a service online.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

The very successful Girton Open Gardens will be held on 21 June 2020, 12–5pm.

No matter if your garden is large or small, wild or formal, please consider entering this hugely enjoyable village event. A chance to catch up with your fellow villagers, and meet other gardening enthusiasts.

If you'd like to open your garden or know more details of what is involved, please contact Mary Rodger on 277316 or mary.rodger32@gmail.com. Closing date for entries is 1 June 2020.



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

St Andrew's Services

Normally this column would list all the services in St Andrew's church over the next month. However, as we know, at this point in time all public buildings are closed which sadly includes our churches. Despite this closure, things are still going on behind the scenes to try and help people feel that they are still able to be a part of the church. Please see the Notices on page 28 for more information.

On our church website you can listen to a weekly podcast by Dugald Wilson: click on 'Services', then 'Podcasts'. The text of his message is also there. If you know of anyone who cannot access things online, please do print off a copy of the text for them. There are also links to other helpful websites, so please do explore them. Just click on 'Sacred Links' or 'Useful Links.'

The Taizé service is now being held remotely using Zoom on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone is welcome. Please email Kay Barrett at singing.kay@gmail.com and she will send the link to you in order to join in. Any problems, please do contact us via the website.

During this time of virus, there have been requests for a suitable prayer; one is written below which I do hope you will find helpful. Please let us have any questions or comments via the website.

'Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow
of your mercy,
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and the fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.'



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

We are holding online services each Sunday at 10.30am using Zoom. If you would like to join us please ring 07751 748757 so we can send you the link for the service. More details can be found on our website at www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk/

We are focusing on prayer at this time and we would invite you to join us in praying to the good Lord for His help at this time of crisis. We suggest the following prayer by Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali who was Bishop of Rochester.

'Good Father of all we thank you for your good creation and are sorry that we have not been good stewards of it and have abused it along with ourselves and our bodies. Please forgive us and protect us, our families and our nations from the worst affects of this virus. Stretch out your healing hand towards those who are ill with it. Restore them to the wholeness of your will for us all. We pray for those who have been bereaved and ask for your continuing and reassuring presence with them. We ask all of this in the name of the one who came to heal and to save, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'



FoodBank

Girton churches being temporarily closed and so the FoodBank collecting points there being inaccessible, Girton Glebe School has kindly set up a FoodBank collection point by the front entrance to the school. Contributions are especially welcome in this time of great difficulty for those unable to feed their families.

Covid-19: People at increased risk

DO

- stay at home at all times – do not leave your home to buy food, collect medicine or exercise
- stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from other people in your home as much as possible
- get food and medicine delivered and left outside your door – ask friends and family to help or register at GOV.UK to get coronavirus support if you need it
- prepare a hospital bag, including a list of the medicines you're taking, in case you need to go into hospital
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- make sure anyone who comes into your home washes their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds

- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- clean objects and surfaces you touch often (like door handles, kettles and phones) using your regular cleaning products
- clean a shared bathroom each time you use it, for example by wiping the surfaces you have touched

DON'T

- do not have visitors in your home, including friends and family, unless they're providing essential care
- do not stop taking any prescription medicines without speaking to your doctor.

For more details go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

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

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

Parish Clerk and Acting Finance Officer

Susie Cumming, Tel: 472181
clerk@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

PLEASE NOTE:

A full list of councillors is available via the website above.

Publication information:

Full details of the publication information can be obtained from:
Editor: Angela Blackburn, 141 Thornton Road, CB3 0NE tel 528278
Email: gpned@girton-cambs.org.uk

RUBBISH COLLECTION

Covid-19: Please note the following important information:

If you're experiencing the main symptoms – a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature – please be very careful when disposing of your personal waste (including used tissues and disposable cleaning cloths/wipes) at home. The advice for disposal of this waste is as follows:

1. It should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full
2. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied
3. It should be kept separate from other waste in suitable secure place on your property for 72 hours before being placed in the black bin as normal

The principle behind this method is that after 72 hours outside the body, the virus is no longer viable. This approach will help keep bin collection crews as safe as possible.

Green bin collections have been suspended until further notice.

Bin collections in May:

Thursday 7 May	Blue bin only
Friday 15 May	Black bin
Thursday 21 May	Blue bin only
Friday 29 May	Black bin
Thursday 4 June	Blue bin only

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

puzzle
corner

Codeword solution

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