



# GIRTON

## Parish News



June 2020



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inside*



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## GIRTON FEAST SUMMER FESTIVAL 2020

The Feast Committee regrets to announce that it has made the decision to cancel this year's Girton Feast. It is unlikely that we could apply social distancing rules at these events or meet government requirements.

We will be contacting all stallholders, entertainers, caterers and others involved.

We will meet later this year in the hope that we can plan Girton Feast for 2021.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer and please stay safe and well.

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



[www.girtonfeast.org.uk](http://www.girtonfeast.org.uk)

### Publication Information

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Cover picture: Matt Pratt, Deputy Head Green Keeper at Girton Golf Club, putting the flags in for the restart of golf.

## Do you love your

# GIRTON Parish News?

I am stepping down from the Editor's role at the end of this year.

A wonderful team of volunteers work on the magazine each month, but someone needs to take the helm. Are you that person?

- Well organised?
- Energetic?
- Interested in what goes on around you?
- Computer literate?

It can be fun, it can be time-consuming, it can sometimes be stressful, but it is never boring!

Contact Angela Blackburn  
Email: [gpned@girton-cambs.org.uk](mailto:gpned@girton-cambs.org.uk)  
Tel: 01223 528278

### Coronavirus Crisis

#### 'Helping Girton' Gift Card Scheme

Have your circumstances changed?  
Are you in severe need with no access to food and essentials?

Girton residents can apply for bridging help via a gift card scheme operated with Girton Co-op.

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Copy date for July issue: Wed. 17 June. Issue date: Sat. 04 July. Covers 4-30 July.



  
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## GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

During the coronavirus crisis, according to government guidelines for local governance, Girton Parish Council meetings are being held by video-conference, whilst the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting sadly cannot take place as usual during May. In the absence of an AGM, all Council and Committee Chairs were confirmed for a further 12 months at the virtual May meeting.

In the absence of an APM, please note that reports will be posted on the village website in the Parish Council section. A summary of the Chairman's report follows.

'Helping Girton' activity is now extended to include provision of financial help for cases of Emergency need. Please see separate notice in this issue. This is intended as a stop gap for individuals who suffer delay in obtaining relief through the usual channels.

Limited reopening of the tennis courts and Bowls Green is being agreed with the respective Clubs under strict controls. Until Government restrictions are raised the play areas and other Pavilion facilities remain closed.

A Local Highways Improvement Grant application to provide road narrowing and a pedestrian crossing near the Co-op village store was approved for submission at the Parish Council's May meeting.

An expression of interest application for funding from the Cambs County Council Communities Capital Fund for an extension to the Pavilion building which would provide a more accessible Parish Office on the ground floor, a larger hall and a separate hireable meeting room was also given the go-ahead.

Sadly, the past month has seen several incidences of the dumping of garden waste and foliage in village ditches, drains and watercourses, severely increasing the risk of flooding. Riparian owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to keep these watercourses clear from debris.

Under current circumstances, the next Girton Parish Council meetings will be held via video conference on Tuesday 16th June and Tuesday 21st July. Residents are asked to present concerns or issues to any Councillor and these will be raised at the next meeting.

*Please see page 30 for a full list of councillors.*

## GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL:

### Chairman's Annual Report, May 2020

#### Summary

Any report covering the activities of the last year is inevitably going to be overshadowed by the events of the last two months lockdown following the spread of the Covid-19 virus. For the Parish Council this has meant closure of all facilities with Office staff working from home. Our groundsman has continued with the various tasks he can safely perform outdoors.

A help system has been established to put volunteers in touch with those in need and the burden of maintaining this has fallen mainly on Susie Cumming, our Clerk, and Councillor Shahila Mitchell, to whom we should all be eternally thankful for their sterling efforts.

Council meetings continue as video conferences.

Significant events of the year include the retirement of Linda Miller after 18+ years with the PC in various roles. Very best wishes Linda for a happy retirement.

The year has also seen the completion of a number of projects including:

- Provision of a new bus shelter at Mayfield;
- Resurfacing the road adjacent to the Pavilion Car Park;
- Launch of the new Girton Village website;
- Replacement of the MUGA carpet and lighting;
- Securing of funding for a reduced speed limit zone in the village, provision of speed monitoring equipment and improvements to the footpath from the Church to Girton Wood;
- Provisional planning for improvements to the Pavilion building to provide an accessible Office and enlarged Hall and meeting room/storage facilities has also begun.

In the next year we hope to see improvements implemented to the pedestrian/cycleway along Oakington Road, provision of an off-road route for horse riders near Manor Farm road, an application for funding for a crossing near the Co-op Store and establishment of a sound basis for planning, funding and implementing improvements to the Pavilion.

*Haydn Williams  
May 2020*

*This summary is published in the absence of an Annual Parish Meeting. A Full Report is available on the village website.*

## FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

### County Councillor Lynda Harford

On Tuesday 19 May Cambridgeshire County Council will hold its first virtual Annual General Meeting. With possibly 60 members attending, the requirement for all votes to be taken audibly by a process of roll call is, I feel, going to add to the complications that accrue from this new style of meeting. Goodness knows how many prompts we shall hear of 'you've muted yourself' although in order to improve the smooth running of the meeting, each group has been asked to nominate just two speakers on each agenda item in addition to the proposer and seconder. The meeting will be held via Zoom and live streamed to the web via YouTube. One item may require the council to go into closed session and, should this be necessary, the meeting will be adjourned and transferred to the Teams app which is deemed to be more secure for confidential matters. There are varying views about this new way of conducting meetings; some members are desperate to get back to physical meetings whilst others, particularly those with long journeys I suspect, would like to see the current format continue. Virtual attendance is permitted until March 2021 and it is unlikely that this will change given that the rules on shielding are likely to persist. Further complications will arise when a mixture of attendance options becomes available.

This year in addition to changes to membership and chair appointments there is a change to some of the service committees and their responsibilities. Two existing committees are very closely related: Highways & Infrastructure and Economy & Environment. Following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and its commitment to the development of its Climate Change & Environment Strategy, it has reviewed its committee structure to give greater focus on addressing climate change. Economy & Environment committee will be abolished and two committees with a new focus will be created: Highways & Transport and Environment & Sustainability.

Much of my time this month has been taken up with the issue of Covid-19 testing for care homes. It is a relief to note that local outbreaks in care homes for the elderly and those suffering from dementia have been far lower than in some other parts of the country. However, there is a disparity between the extended testing service now being offered to these

homes and those that cater for people with disabilities or learning difficulties. I am grateful for the support of the Leader of the Council as I liaise with senior officers in both public health and the clinical commissioning group to ensure that the local interpretation of national guidance allows for the right priorities to be set. The County Council has set some very high standards for the support it offers to care homes which, in addition to cash funding, includes the provision of PPE and the redeployment of some of its own staff to support settings where staffing has presented a particular challenge.

I share the excitement of the many residents who have contacted me since the announcement of additional funding for enhancements to active travel facilities and we are all eagerly waiting to hear what sort of share might come to Cambridgeshire.

I am greatly impressed by the work of the Parish Council and other local organisations that are providing support for the local community. It is just amazing to see the inherent community spirit in our villages demonstrated in some very practical ways. Take care. Stay safe.

*Lynda  
lyndaharford@icloud.com  
01954 251775/07889 131022  
Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo*

### District Councillor Tom Bygott

#### **SCDC adopts new, undemocratic planning arrangements**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is facing strong opposition to a new scheme of planning delegation which it adopted at its council meeting on 21st May. Planning delegation is the system by which decisions are taken as to which planning applications will be decided by the council's planning committee, made up of (currently 11) elected councillors, and those which are delegated to planning officers to decide.

I support a system in which a parish council or a councillor can call a planning application in to the planning committee if their view of the matter differs from that of planning officers. The most controversial matters should be decided by a large group of people who are directly accountable to residents for their actions. No one person or group of people has a monopoly on the truth, and none of us are infallible. My group proposed an amendment



to this effect but were defeated along party lines at the meeting.

In the new scheme that has been adopted, a single member of the council's staff will have the final decision on which applications are to be determined by the planning committee. This is not a democratic way of operating and could lead to the views of local residents and parish councils being ignored.

### **Northstowe Consultations**

There are currently two consultations open on major planning applications at Northstowe. Phase 3A is for 4,000 dwellings and its consultation closes on 6th July 2020. Phase 3B is for a further 1,000 dwellings and closes on 23rd June. These dates will be kept under review in light of current restrictions on movement and might be extended if necessary.

To have your say on these applications, go to the SCDC planning portal at:  
[www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/)

Phase 3A can be found by entering the reference number 20/02171/OUT. The reference for Phase 3B is 20/02142/OUT.

I am not aware of any other method of viewing the documents – there are 294 for Phase 3A and 236 for Phase 3B – or to provide feedback. However, I am becoming increasingly concerned by the trend towards only making consultations available over the internet, thus disenfranchising anyone who doesn't have access to it or would prefer not to use it.

*Cllr Tom Bygott*  
[cllr@bygott.net](mailto:cllr@bygott.net)  
07765 475 513

## **A View From the District**

I had intended this to be 'A Farewell to the District': that at the Council Annual Meeting I would announce my resignation. This is for many, mainly personal, reasons. But this year there will be no annual meeting (at which I could resign) nor elections (at which I could be replaced). So the Leader has persuaded me that this is not the time for major changes, and I shall stay on as long as I can, as your Councillor and as Chairman. I shall not be able to commit myself 100% but shall do all I can.

As Chairman the only thing I have done this month was to put out a statement for VE Day. Finding nothing suitable I enjoyed the challenges of writing

a poem, learning how to do a video of myself, and producing it for the Council. It went out on our various social media channels and I have received some gratifying responses.

Otherwise we have all been busy helping in local support groups, and the Girton one is working well. If you are aware of anyone who might need help please contact the Parish Clerk ([clerk@girton.cambs.org.uk](mailto:clerk@girton.cambs.org.uk)).

As a District Council we have received and disbursed significant sums of money to local businesses, all of whom should now have heard from us; and we are grateful to our MP Anthony Browne for his lobbying on our behalf. It is disappointing that some local businesses do not meet the criteria but we are hopeful that they too can be helped somehow.

Our waste service has worked tremendously hard on green bin collections, and I congratulate them. At present only monthly but we are working on restoring a full service. At one stage I feared even for the blue bins, but that service is doing well; people are applying for a second bin and the tonnage of recycled material has increased over the past 7 weeks. And a project steered by our planning team, jointly with the City, has won three prestigious awards for the co-housing development at Marmalade Lane. Despite the lockdown our planning team continues to work hard, and has launched a consultation on the next phase of Northstowe. To get involved go to [www.scambs.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/consultations/) or contact me.

Stagecoach has announced that its drivers will no longer handle change; if you do not have the exact fare the difference will be donated to good causes. From my observation social distancing is not a problem on the Citi 5 and 6 services but do protect yourself if travelling.

If you would like a fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at [scdc@de-lacey.org](mailto: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*

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## Skylarks



*Photo by Garth Peacock.*

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The drop in the background noise from the A14 meant that in early May I heard Skylarks in my garden in Thornton Road for the first time ever. A sound to lift the spirits of anyone, captured so eloquently by John Clare with a resonance for current times.

### John Clare – The Skylark

Although I'm in prison  
Thy song is uprisen,  
Thou'rt singing away to the feathery cloud,  
In the blueness of morn,  
Over fields of green corn,  
With a song sweet and trilling, and rural and loud.

When the day is serenest,  
When the corn is the greenest,  
Thy bosom mounts up and floats in the light,  
And sings in the sun,  
Like a vision begun  
Of pleasure, of love, and of lonely delight.

The full poem and more by John Clare are available wherever you can find his life-enhancing works. I am particularly fond of a collection called *The Wood is Sweet* as somewhere to start. Jonathan Bate's biography is well worth a read if you want to know more about Clare's life.

*James de Winter*  
[ng@cambridgescience.co.uk](mailto:ng@cambridgescience.co.uk)





Strange times for everyone. Garden centres and DIY stores closed to the public 23rd March, only some offering restricted supplies online. DIY stores gradually re-opened throughout April, garden centres only opening on 13th May. Our existing garden supplies or ordering online has been our only option.

Seedlings and bedding plants were difficult to source, encouraging many to grow their own. Not everyone has abundant seed trays, so toilet rolls, folded newspaper, washed plastic food containers all make good substitutes. A decorative teacup or mug filled with herbs, small cacti, or flowers on a windowsill makes an attractive flowerpot too. Established plants in June can be planted directly into healthy soil, planters, garden pots or your own creations. An old white ceramic sink filled with herbs supplies our garden every year.

If space is limited on your terrace, think vertically. Our fence has a decorative metal plant hanger, holding three removable pots containing assorted sempervivum plants (see photo). Shallow wooden boxes attached to fences or walls serve well, but make sure plant pots are securely fixed. Try allowing climbing roses or clematis to grow over a fixed object in your garden. In our garden a thornless blackberry grows over an old abandoned steam roller (see photo) giving a wild hedgerow effect, bringing much conversation with visitors.



A sturdy wooden pallet can make a good vertical plant holder for trailing plants, e.g. lobelia, aubretia. Use the side with the most slats as the back. Cut weed control fabric to cover the back and sides, folding excess fabric over at the corners and nail securely. Have your planter in situ before you fill with soil and plants. Depending on pallet size you can have 4–5 layers of plants with 2–3 plants in each row. Fill the lowest layer with soil, then add your plants so they are well rooted but hanging forward. Continue adding soil and plant layers, keeping the longest trailing plants for the top layers. Water regularly and it will look stunning and healthy all summer.



Using an old book as an indoor planter looks effective and made me smile. Open the book and cut a hole in the pages, fill the hole with plastic sheeting to prevent water and dirt deteriorating the rest of the book. Trim excess plastic and add soil. Ideal for cacti or succulents as they are slow growing and require less watering. The unused open page if decorative can be kept on show or if not discarded. A good use for that boring autobiography.

June brings warmer temperatures, extra sunlight, flowers blossoming and the bonus of lots to harvest in the vegetable garden. Remember to water and feed your plants. Prune back bolting plants and keep weeds down, giving our precious plants more access to water, light and nutrients. Enjoy the colourful outdoors and the birds singing without the background noise from road or air traffic. Keep safe and happy summer everyone.

*Chris Pittock, Girton Garden Society*





# *Arlington Manor Care Home*

Arlington Manor is our stunning care home in Girton, Cambridge. Built on over 20 years of experience, Arlington Manor offers a state-of-the-art cinema, therapy room, hair salon and café.

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Get in touch today to make an appointment or for more information. Please speak to Lisa, Arlington Manor's Customer Relationship Manager, on **01223 814900** or email **[lisa.vile@hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk](mailto:lisa.vile@hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk)**

Arlington Manor Care Home, Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire, CB3 0FW  
**[www.hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk](http://www.hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk)**



## What we've been up to at Arlington Manor Care Home

Arlington Manor Care Home, on Wellbrook Way, has been working hard to ensure residents are safe, happy and entertained and the lifestyles team has been creating personalised one-to-one activities for residents at the home based on things they enjoy.

As residents aren't able to make their weekly trip to the local Co-op, the home has created a trolley called 'All Manor of Things' where residents can choose their favourite toiletries and treats from the comfort of their own rooms.



The residents at the home have received some lovely painted pictures and drawings, spreading messages of hope during this time, and the home would like to say a big thank you to all those who have been kind enough to send them in.



Team members at the home have also been very fortunate to receive some kind donations from people in the local community. They received a beautiful hamper from the local Co-op store and a delicious

selection of chocolates from the Cambridge Confectionery Company which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The home would be grateful for people in the local community to send pictures, cards, posters and postcards to the residents during this time to help with social isolation and for residents to continue feeling like a part of the community.

*Lisa Vile*

## Well Done, Posties!



On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th May Heather and Jennifer, the two lovely Posties who deliver to the south-west end of the village, dressed up as a Post Box and The Cat in the Hat and collected for two fantastic charities, Blue Smile (for children) and Age UK (helping older people). They not only raised over £8,200 for the two charities, but brought a smile to the faces of all who came across them as they sped along their rounds! They said:

'We decided what better way to spread some well needed cheer around the streets of Girton than to dress up as Post Boxes whilst delivering all of our post and parcels.

'Thank you to each and every one of you that has taken the time to visit our fundraising page to donate. It really means so much not only to us but to the two amazing charities that we have chosen to support.'

If you would still like to donate, visit [www.justgiving.com/teams/Postboxonthemove](http://www.justgiving.com/teams/Postboxonthemove)

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# puzzle corner

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

A  
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## CLUES

1	14
2	15
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10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

## CODEWORDS

Each number 1–26 represents a different letter of the alphabet. Can you work out which is which? Use your word skills and the clues included. Note that Codewords can include names or well-known phrases. **Solution on page 29.**

## WORDSEARCH

– Theme – Do you know all these Musical Instruments?

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.

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

BASSOON	LYRE	VEENA
BELL	MARACAS	VIOLA
BONGO	MARIMBA	VIOLIN
CELLO	OBOE	
CORNET	ORGAN	
CYMBALS	PIANO	
DOUBLEBASS	PICCOLO	
DRUMS	RAINMAKER	
FIDDLE	SAXOPHONE	
HARMONICA	SITAR	
HARP	SOPRANINO	
HORN	TABLA	
LUTE	TUBA	

## Making scrubs for the NHS

### An interview with Girton resident Gio Gomez

**How long have you lived in Girton and why did you move here?** I have lived in Girton for more than 4 years. We moved to Girton because we liked the area, it is quiet, still fairly close to the city and within the catchment area of the secondary school we selected for my daughter.

**What were you doing before the virus outbreak?** I am a Fashion & Jewellery designer. Before the outbreak, I used to run art and sewing clubs for kids and adults with Gorgeous Little Things (Artastic Kids Club and The Cambridge Fashion & Design Club) based in the William Collyn Community Centre here in Girton and at centres in Eddington and Cambourne.

**What inspired you to start organising scrubs making?** Scrubs for Cambridgeshire/Helping the NHS was created with the intention to work together as community to help the NHS. I noticed that most hospitals and care homes needed a lot of help in these difficult times and I asked my friends working for the NHS if their hospitals were in need of scrubs uniforms or any other item which involves fabrics. Their response made me roll up my sleeves, unpack my sewing machine and start working!

**How did you recruit people to help and how did you build the scheme up to where you are now?** Initially I offered to help with 10 scrubs. However, the demand was much higher than I could handle, and I asked adult students from my sewing clubs for help. They were incredibly happy to join me but we were still not enough to cover the initial requirement of 150 scrubs. Therefore, I decided to ask for additional help using the power of social media and opened a Facebook group, with the objective of expanding our network and increasing the production of scrubs in an efficient manner; utilizing the skills readily available in Cambridgeshire. The response was overwhelming; now there are more than 500 group members and almost 300 people sewing with their soul for this cause. The goal is simple: help Cambridgeshire NHS hospitals, centres, and care homes with as many scrubs, masks, hats and laundry bags as possible.

**Who are the helpers and where do they all live?** Our volunteers are from different parts of Cambridgeshire: Girton, Oakington, Cottenham, Histon, Landbeach, Waterbeach, Cambridge, Cambourne, Godmanchester, St Neots, Ely, and beyond. Amongst our Girton volunteers are Carol Huxley, Chris White and Anne Dobree, who have made sev-

eral scrubs for our team. Also Elisa Pelova, a very talented Bridal Designer from The Bridal Pixie based in Girton (thanks to her we received a generous donation of £500 from The English National Opera). Emori Cordero, mum of three students from my art and sewing kids clubs, is an amazing help to me. She is in charge of co-ordination of the administration of fabric, volunteers and emails. And I also have been making some scrubs and some masks too! We are more than happy to welcome more volunteers from our village.



*Gio Gomez (on the right) with Emori Cordero*

**How many scrubs have you received and which hospitals have received them?** We have made nearly 700 scrubs, having delivered about 550 with 150 ready for delivery. There are more scrubs in production, and we will continue as long as there is fabric available. We have helped and continue to support Addenbrookes, Hinchingsbrooke, Papworth, The Rosie, The Arthur Rank Hospice, and a number of doctors' surgeries, care homes and dental centres.

**What costs have there been and how have you met them?** We supply fabric to the volunteers. To make one set of scrubs we need about 3.5 metres of polycotton fabric. Fabric prices vary from £2 to £3.45 per metre so to make 100 scrubs we need to spend approximately £1100 on fabric. So far we have raised nearly £6000 between our Gofundme, Facebook and Just Giving pages. Distribution of fabrics and collection and delivery of finished items is covered by ALL the wonderful volunteers supporting this cause, in addition to the time spent making them. People have been amazing and willing to help in any way they can.

**What have been the challenges of running the scheme?** Because of the high demand for scrubs,



one of our main challenges has been find suitable fabric. Thinking outside the box and in an attempt to solve this problem, we decided to use recycled material to make scrubs. We asked the community to donate old bed sheets as most of them are made out of the polycotton.

**Why do you think your scheme has been so successful?** In my opinion, the success of this scheme is due to the support received from the entire community in Cambridgeshire. Scrubs for Cambridgeshire was the first scrubs group set up in Cambridge; we have been using our resources wisely and in this short amount of time we have been able to help many centres in the area. Our group of volunteers are very friendly and supportive; we genuinely want to help and support the frontline workers from the NHS, and it is our way to say 'Thank you'.

**How long do you think your help will be needed by the hospitals?** These are uncertain times for all of us including the NHS. Even when we think our job is done there is always an individual or a centre/hospital asking for support. If we have the resources and the need is there, we will be there to help. There are many other scrubs groups out there trying to help and hopefully, we can all cover the requirements in the region.

**How can people who would like to help contact you?** We still need help to help the NHS! They really need you! We are looking for skilful volunteers able to make scrubs for our heroes. You can see what we are doing on our Facebook page:

*Scrubs for Cambridgeshire/Helping the NHS*

[www.facebook.com/groups/243760926807640/permalink/256483972202002/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/243760926807640/permalink/256483972202002/)

If you would like to help, please contact Emori at [EmoriScrubsforCambridge@gmail.com](mailto:EmoriScrubsforCambridge@gmail.com).

Or you can make a donation in our Just Giving page – any donation will be really appreciated:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/gio-gomez-2](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/gio-gomez-2)

Emori says: 'Gio is an amazingly giving person. She consistently gives her time and energy to different causes. When she heard the NHS was in need of scrubs, she immediately sent out an email to all of her sewers to recruit them to the cause. It has just grown from there, friends of friends, people in the community pulling together to support our NHS. We do not just sew scrubs, but we have become a family of sewers who support each other in our endeavors to help in any way we can.'

## Three Cheers for Girton Scrub Hub!



*Girton WI's Susie Cumming and Narynda Kumar*

It's been a busy month for sewing in the village, and a very productive one! In the last edition of *Girton Parish News*, we reported that Girton Women's Institute was setting-up a Hub (open to WI members and residents alike) to make urgently needed scrubs, gowns and scrubs bags for Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. This has blossomed into the Girton Scrub Hub, where under the excellent co-ordination of Debbie Macklin and Narynda Kumar, around 40 scrubs sets (top and trousers), gowns and over 100 scrubs bags have been made – so far! The new base for the Cambridgeshire hub in Girton means that from now our village volunteers can donate fabric, pick up fabric to sew, and return finished scrubs to Cotton Hall.

A heartfelt thank-you for all those who've been involved in collecting fabric, pattern-cutting, cutting out scrubs sets, transporting and *sewing* – what a fantastic effort, the village is proud of you!

If you'd like to donate towards Girton Scrub Hub, please take a look at the fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/scrubhubgirtoncambridge](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/scrubhubgirtoncambridge)

# GIRTON scoreboard



## Girton Bowls Club

In line with Government and Bowls England guidance all bowls greens have been officially closed. However, throughout the lockdown the green has been regularly maintained by our dedicated volunteers in readiness for receiving permission to play some limited bowls. This opportunity came with the first phase of the easing of the lockdown, as bowls clubs are one of the few sports areas where restrictions have been lifted slightly. This means that by adhering to the guidelines given by the Government and Bowls England, a copy of which has been issued to all members, players are able to use the bowls green safely, albeit in a very limited way. A weekly rota of players will be collated by our Secretary and those wishing to play should contact her directly. There will be a maximum of two players on alternate rinks, with no spectators and social distancing observed at all times, unless the two players are from the same household.



A health and safety review has been carried out and hand sanitiser and antiseptic wipes are available to use before and after entering and leaving the gates. For the full guidelines of how to participate safely, please go to our website.



Obviously all league matches and competitions have been cancelled for the season, but it does mean that those who want to play have a safe opportunity to do so.

The feasibility study into our obtaining our own clubhouse has understandably slowed down, although our team has discovered useful grant options and a skeleton building spec has been produced. The SCDC have been very slow to respond to any planning permission/regulations which may be required; however, we might also look at a timber modular building that, if kept below a certain height, may not require planning permission. We hope to reach some agreement in due course.

If you would like more information or would like to join the Bowls Club, please contact our Secretary Margaret McCall on [margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com) or visit our website at [www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com).

*Lynne McGill*



## Girton Golf Club

Well, here we are in the middle of May and we are finally back on our glorious golf course. During the 2 months that we have been away we have been keeping the golf course in reasonable condition with just 2 of

our green-keeping staff, the others having been furloughed, but now we are getting back to nearly full strength and the track is looking magnificent. Of course, we have had to close the club house and unfortunately all of the bar and catering staff are currently at home, with no idea when we can open again, but sooner rather than later hopefully.

We started play at 8.00am on Friday 15th, members only playing 2 ball groups with tee times every 10 minutes and the tee sheet was absolutely full, as it was on Saturday, Sunday and Monday too with everyone delighted to be back playing. No rakes in the bunkers, no ball washers, benches, waste bins or picking up old balls you may find, but beautiful weather and smiling faces. Social distancing was strictly observed, easier when you slice your shot down the right and your partner hooks into the rough on the left.

Members whose membership expired when we were closed renewed in great numbers and many new faces joined for the first time – in fact 16 joined in the past 2 days. So it looks good for our future; we just need some relaxation now on allowing more than 2 balls to play at a time.



We still have openings for more players of all standards and ages, so if you fancy joining contact the club office or Pro Shop, where we are also taking bookings for coaching on the practice field and also club fitting if you need some new sticks.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*  
Tel: 01223 276169  
[www.girtongolf.co.uk](http://www.girtongolf.co.uk)



### Girton Tennis Club

The restrictions we have all had to face over the last few weeks have meant that playing tennis has been a 'home only' affair with other members of your household. From the 13th May the Government reduced some of the restrictions and

this paved the way to getting some limited outdoor tennis running again in Girton. A neighbour and I dusted off our racquets and checked we could still occasionally hit the ball. This highlighted how useful it is to play on a flat, smooth court surface!



Our committee started discussions with the Parish Council about re-opening the courts on the recreation ground as soon as we knew what the Government and LTA were proposing. It is very important that court use is handled in a safe and responsible manner and a lot of thought and effort has gone into re-opening in the current situation. A detailed Covid-19 risk assessment has been produced and issued to all members with clear instructions about how to book and use the courts. The courts opened again for use by members on Friday 22nd May. Club nights, supervised junior sessions and group coaching cannot take place at the moment.

Our club memberships expired at the end of March so those who were members last year have been emailed details of the fees for 2020/2021 and invited to re-join. If you are not a member of our tennis club, please refer to our website for details of how to join our friendly club and make use the courts.

Details about our activities can be found on our website [www.girtontennisclub.uk](http://www.girtontennisclub.uk) or by contacting our Membership Secretary Kevin Keeves by email [info@girtontennisclub.uk](mailto:info@girtontennisclub.uk)

*Alan Franklin*



### Girton Netball Club

Keeping fit during lockdown has been important for everyone but none more than for your local netball team who have been sorely missing their Monday training sessions and matches.

England Netball have lots of exercise ideas and training tips as part of their *#stayinworkout* programme. Claire, our Goal Shooter supreme, has been sharing these on our team Facebook and What's App group to keep us fit and motivated.

We enjoyed taking part in the *#keeptheballmoving* challenge – passing and catching a ball between our virtual team. You can watch our *#keeptheballmoving* video on Facebook at Girton Netball Club.



*Claire takes part in the #keeptheballmoving challenge*

We don't know when we'll be back on court but take strength from the saying 'We may not be there yet, but we're closer than we were yesterday'.

*Emma-Louise Longden*

## GIRTON GOLF CLUB

Girton Golf Club (GGC) is exactly what is says on the tin, a members' golf club in the village of Girton, at the end of Dodford Lane, just on the outer edges of Cambridge. The golf course has been here for 84 years now, having started life in 1936 as a 9-hole course. It is now a thriving 18-hole test of golfing skill with a comfortable, modern and busy clubhouse.



*Alan Gow*

The original land, 66 acres, was purchased from Mr T.H.M. Searle for the princely sum of £950 by Alan Gow, a Scottish International golfer. In 1906, at age 16, Alan Gow moved down from Scotland and started work as the Assistant Professional at Gog Magog Golf Club, and subsequently became the Senior Professional, being instrumental in the course layout. He moved on from the Gogs and after a number of moves including both America and Belgium, it was whilst working at Woodlands Golf Club in Sevenoaks, Kent that he decided he wanted to be in charge of his own destiny and with a partner looked for land to develop his own course. With help from a local agent, they found the land near Cambridge in Girton and created a 9-hole course on land, part of which was known as Lane Field and Staples Field, with the rest being just arable land. The old clubhouse was completed and a Pro shop, an old temporary First World War bungalow, was erected. Girton Golf Company was established. Full membership was £3. 3s. and the green fee for 18 holes was 1s. 6d.

At this stage the course was 'tricky', as the turfs dried out and gaps as large as 2 golf balls wide appeared on the fairways, and putts jumped from crack to crack on the greens, but 1937 saw the beginnings of a club amongst the players who were encouraged to organise their own competitions and events. Social events held at the clubhouse did much to subsidise the club's fees. The early days saw the first trophies including the Stanley Cup and Bogie Cup, which are still played for today. War broke out and the club managed to avoid the course being ploughed up, but sheep were grazed on the course until 1943 with the greens protected by single wire fences. The clubhouse was occupied by the Pioneer Corps at the time of the Dunkirk withdrawal and the members withdrew to the Pro shop.

It was in 1955 that the playing members' club became Girton Golf Club Ltd, which became more organized with a 14-year lease on the course at an initial £210 a year. In 1958 Girton Golf Club hosted the first postwar County Foursomes after a herculean effort from the members to get the course and clubhouse into shape. It was a huge success.

In 1965 the club had the opportunity to buy the course at the very reasonable price of £7300. With great difficulty they

managed to raise the money for this, and as part of this shift Girton Golf Club Ltd was wound up and Girton Golf Club (Cambridge) was born.



*12th Hole and Pond*

More land was purchased and the course extended to 18 holes in 1979. The current course is highly manicured parkland maintained by a team of green keepers using the latest equipment and machinery to maintain a really high standard of fairway and near perfect greens. The course undergoes continuous improvement and remodelling, with bunkers being replaced, renovated and moved and irrigation systems to greens and teeing areas receiving constant attention. The result of all that is the course is now a visual delight with a profusion of trees and flowering shrubs bordering the fairways and boundaries. Living in this environment is an abundance of wildlife seen both on the ground and in the air above, with the occasional black squirrel to be spotted scurrying across the fairways along with muntjac, hares, foxes and the inevitable grey squirrels and rabbits. Of course on the ground also run the pheasants with regular overhead visits from kestrels and buzzards, plus all of the usual birds to be found in our area – the song is wonderful first thing in the morning.

Our course is flat, understandably given our location, with ditches running across, or alongside, a number of the fairways, giving shape to many of the holes and providing additional hazards for the unwary golfer. But the 6012 yards give any golfer a test with small greens and tight fairways favouring the straight hitter, and penalizing the long, but wayward, ball striker. The 1st and 18th fairways still show the undulations of the drainage system from medieval times, which give golf balls unexpected bounces.



*Dinner Dance Dining Tables*

The clubhouse as you can see it today was relocated and built in 1992. This building, which replaced the old clubhouse which was nearer the 1st tee, has become a centre for a range of events including many fun social nights ranging from singers and



bands, to our fortnightly quiz nights, to Christmas dinners and functions, to BBQs in summer. Two years ago we abandoned the franchising model for bar and catering and brought the whole operation in-house. With Steve Drage, Hospitality Manager, in charge we now have 3 chefs, all of whom are highly regarded, changing the club from somewhere where you can eat, to somewhere to go to eat.

The revenue for the club is derived from membership fees, green fees, societies and bar and catering. Playing Membership can be as a Full Member (7 days), 5-day (Monday through Friday) and Associate (a variation on pay and play), plus we have Social Members who enjoy the benefits of the clubhouse bar and catering and all of the social events at advantageous prices. We are also a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) and run as a not-for-profit organisation with semi-charitable status which brings a few benefits, such as allowing Gift Aid to be applied to a small proportion of the annual fees, and some rates advantages.

The golf club is run by a Board of Directors, known as Council of Management, which manages the financial and legal aspects of the club. Each director focuses on a specific element of the club's activities and 3 sit on committees to act as liaisons between those and the Board. There are then 3 committees of members who have oversight of three areas: the clubhouse, the greens, and Members' Liaison. On a day-to-day basis, the clubhouse is run, very effectively by Steve Drage, our Hospitality Manager, and his staff. The greens are maintained, in line with the overall desires of the playing membership, by Ian Hankin, our Head Greenkeeper, and Matt Pratt, his Deputy. And Members' Liaison work with the members to ensure their thoughts, concerns and ideas are relayed to the relevant people, and help settle any disagreements.

However, most people's first contact with the golf club comes through talking to, or calling into, the office where they will find Jo McEvoy, the Club Secretary, and Nicola Harding, who is primarily concerned with finance but has a host of other duties including our weekly newsletter. All queries come through the office, including bookings by societies, members' queries, subscription renewals, and cash management. As you can imagine, their phones are rarely back on the hook before the next call or the next visitor. They also produce the weekly newsletter that goes out to all members every Friday updating them with all that has happened or is happening at the club.

There is also the Club Captain, the Lady Captain, the Seniors Captain and the Junior Captain. All of these posts are held for a year – this year they are Alan Henderson-Smith, Sarah Pugh, Chris Stanton and Angus White. Their roles are to lead their respective parts of the club particularly through matches and activities and to act as a focal point during their year.

Whilst many of our members play friendly golf in groups, with many joining the roll-ups during both weekdays and weekends (and have great fun and wonderful exercise doing

so), there is also a plethora of competitions. These are for all members of all standards, and matches against other clubs both friendly and competitive fill the calendar. These matches are sometimes standard based, sometimes age dependent, some single sex and others mixed, so something for everybody, if that is what you want – with no pressure to take part.

In 2013 a new Golf Professional was appointed, Alan Fletcher, and that really proved to be a turning point for the club as his coaching professionalism, enthusiasm and work ethic drove the club forward, attracting other PGA professionals to join his team. Golfers from around the county flocked in for lessons and to buy equipment. The erection of an indoor studio enabled coaching to take place whenever required, whatever the weather, and thus added to their reputation. Alan, Dean and Ollie found themselves becoming really successful with great coaching and retail acumen. This year Alan has also taken on the coaching and retail franchise at Kingsway Golf Centre so the two locations are now closely aligned, focusing on developing young golfing talent and offering a range of opportunities for golfers in the Cambridge area.

Moving forward, Girton Golf Club is looking to be better at what it does, recruiting more playing and social members and continuing to grow closer to the local community. It aims to be a centre for all Girton residents to use, whilst reinvesting any, and all, profits into improving facilities at the course and clubhouse.



*18th Tee*

Coming right up to date, the Golf Club has recently survived one of the most difficult periods in our history with the pandemic closing the club completely for 8 weeks and only opening in mid May under significant golfing restrictions and with no clubhouse activities for the foreseeable future.

Our membership has stood by the club, renewing annual subscriptions when there was no firm promise of a date for starting play again and new members arriving in significant numbers to ensure that the future looks good for Girton Golf Club despite such challenging times for us all. A very social club having to manage in socially distancing times, and succeeding.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*



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## **Progress and Challenges** by Ann Bonnett, Chair of Girton Town Charity

Girton Town Charity has had a very busy nine-month period, with changes to our team, progress on building new almshouses to increase housing provision for residents, growing use of the William Collyn Community Centre and managing our wide range of Schemes and Grants to help all sections of the community.

Inevitably, the impact of COVID-19 in the last quarter has brought additional challenges and we have adhered strictly to Government guidelines to ensure social distancing and the safety of residents. This has included temporary closure of the William Collyn Centre and the stopping of face-to-face activities.

In previous years, we have provided an interim report on GTC's activities for the Parish Council's Annual Meeting in May and although this year, the Meeting will not be held, we thought villagers might appreciate an update. Full accounts for the year to 30th June 2019 can be viewed on the Charity Commission website.



### **Trustees**

GTC currently has a full complement of seven Trustees, with two new ones joining this year: Michael Aston in August 2019, bringing a wealth of experience on planning and development and Debbie Macklin in April 2020, who has been an active participant in the voluntary sector including being a governor at Girton Glebe Primary School.

Two Trustees stepped down: Jenny Knights after 24 years during which she made a major contribution to Village life including delivery of the William Collyn Centre; and Brian Pycok after 11 years as Treasurer, managing the financial activities of the Charity. We owe both of them a huge debt of gratitude.

There was also a change at the helm during the year with Dr Robin Hiley stepping down after 22 years as the longest serving Chair. Under his leadership GTC saw the sale of development land in Wellbrook Way which was used to establish the Endowment Fund, enabling more almshouses to be built and an expansion of our Grants and Schemes. Robin remains as a Trustee and his extensive knowledge is a huge support to me as the new Chair.

The service provided by the GTC Office has been expanded with the arrival of Rachel Allchome in February, joining Gilly O'Brien to give support to Trustees, beneficiaries and suppliers.

Between July and March, the Trustees met eight times to consider the regular business of the Charity and attended an Annual Strategy Day in July to review the Charity's finances and budgeting systems. Most recently we have had to deal with the problem of significantly reduced income from our Endowment Fund, as a result of falls in the financial markets caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This, regrettably, will not allow us to support our grant recipients to the level we had hoped, although funds for our primary purpose, provision of almshouses, have been protected.

### **Almshouses**

There are currently ten almshouses in use: seven in Centenary Court at Wellbrook Way and one each in Girton Road, St Vincent's Close and Fairway. The six former bungalows on the High Street site were demolished in January and February and the site is now securely boarded up and awaiting rebuilding once planning permission has been obtained.

Godfrey & Hicks were appointed to build three new almshouses on the site of the old WI Hall, named Suffolk Terrace in recognition of the Hall being used as an army hut for the Suffolk Regiment during the First World War. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, the site was cleared and piles installed. Contractors returned to site on 11th May to progress construction of the three cottages.



Sadly the redevelopment of the High Street Site has not progressed beyond planning, with the first application refused and revised plans awaiting consideration by South Cambridgeshire District Council. At the time of writing, a virtual Planning Committee has been scheduled for 10th June.

## Grants and Schemes

### CarePlus Grant Scheme

This Scheme helps Girton residents to live independently in their own homes by providing additional short-term care to suit their needs over and above any statutory care to which they are entitled. It particularly aims to assist residents to return home from hospital as soon as possible. Professional care providers nominated by GTC give the support through a grant. In the year to date, 34 villagers benefitted from the Scheme.

### Educational Grant Scheme

Designed to help with the cost of buying books and equipment for study in further and higher education, the Educational Grant Scheme is also available for some apprenticeships and similar qualifications at NVQ Level 4 or above. Awards up to a maximum of £300 per academic year are given. In the year to date, 32 grants were made.

### Hospital Taxi Scheme

This helps people travel by taxi to outpatient appointments at Cambridge University (Addenbrooke's) and Royal Papworth Hospitals, Brookfields, Mill Road and the University Eye Clinic, Bradmore Street when alternative transport is not practical. GTC remains grateful for the full co-operation of the Girton taxi companies: Nelsons and Wendy Barrett. The Scheme operates a 'membership year', with residents signing up to it benefitting from the capped rate of £7 per return journey. In the year to date, 194 villagers are registered on the Scheme.

### Prescription Delivery Service

Run by the pharmacist at the GP practice serving Girton, the Prescription Delivery Service is available for patients who live within the Pepys Way dispensing area and are unable, through reasons of incapacity, to collect dispensed medicines from the Pepys Way or Huntingdon Road Surgeries.

### Youth Project with the YMCA

The Youth Project, which has held evening club nights all year round and additional events and

activities during the Spring and Summer holidays, has sadly seen a reduction in regular attendance over the year and GTC is reviewing the activities with the YMCA to assess future sustainability.

### Cambridge Citizens Advice Bureau

Outreach sessions of CAB have been held at the William Collyn Centre, providing advice for residents on many issues including personal finances, employment and housing.

### Relate Counselling Service

A range of relationship counselling services have been on offer at the William Collyn Centre to help residents address specific difficulties or learn new skills and strategies to deal with particular issues.

### Age UK Activities

GTC supports two Age UK activities. In the Community Warden Scheme, Fiona has provided full-time cover with support from Jane to more than 20 villagers who subscribe. As Older Residents' Co-ordinator, Patricia has worked on a number of initiatives to broaden provision and participation in a variety of activities across the Village. Over recent months these have included: Taster sessions for New Age Kurling and T'ai Chi, resulting in the holding of regular weekly classes and a Breakfast Club at Girton Golf Club.

### Grants to external charities

GTC supports charitable organisations outside the Village with grants based on the number of Girton participants in their activities. These have included Macmillan Cancer Support, Cambridge Dial-A-Ride, Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, East Anglian Children's Hospices, Cambridgeshire Headway and Relate.

### Grants to local schools

Girton Glebe Primary School has received substantial financial support for intervention, as well as for educational enrichment activities and provision of wrap-around support for the children of families-in-need. GTC has also supported School Trip costs that could not be met by the families of the children concerned. The Be-A-Buddy Scheme provided by Relate at the School was also awarded a grant to cover increased costs.

Before it was closed, Cottontails received a grant towards Forest School activities.



## Grants to village organisations

Grants were given to organisations based in the Village including Club-55 Girton and Girton Colts.

## Grants to individuals

Grants to individuals are given to cover costs such as modest fees for activities that were otherwise unaffordable, support for those in need of respite breaks and contributions towards household items such as support chairs, cookers, fridge/freezers and beds. In the year to date, 23 grants were made to individuals.

## Future focus

In six months' time, Girton Town Charity will see its 500th anniversary, having been established in the reign of King Henry VIII by the generosity and social concern of William Collyn. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we will enter that year with a very different social landscape from previous years.

Unquestionably, the pandemic has forced many changes to our everyday lives and activities and as we move forwards, our Trustees will be focusing on how best to support Girton residents as we adapt lives and working environments to comply with new social distancing requirements to keep us all safe. This will run in parallel with other important tasks to complete the new Suffolk Terrace development and the replacement for the High Street bungalows to ensure that we can futureproof our provision with truly affordable housing that many of our residents need.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our Trustees for their huge contribution and also our Administrators who support us and run the office so efficiently. The next year will undoubtedly bring fresh and difficult challenges – just as the last few months has done – but GTC is in an excellent position, with a very strong and skilled team to find solutions to take us forward

## 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.

\* Terms and conditions apply

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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
Debbie Macklin	t: 07804 764878
Patsy Smith	t: 575288

### GTC office:

22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.  
Open 10.00am–2.00pm Monday–Friday.

01223 276008

email: [gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk](mailto:gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk)  
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## Post War Potatoes

*By Sam Clift*

It's strange how memories come flooding back from two small words written in a village newsletter, particularly when you are least expecting that to happen. In his Greenfingers article published in the March Girton Parish News, Graham Jones mentioned 'chitting potatoes'. It was those two words that set me off on a journey down memory lane that took me back to the late 1940's; the time just after the end of World War II.

All through the war I had lived in the Fens, most of that time in a farm bungalow situated in the corner of a field, some two miles from the nearest village and about a quarter of a mile from our nearest neighbours. No electricity, gas or running water. Our fuel was wood, coal or coke from the gas works in the winter and paraffin in the summer. We caught rain water from the roof and stored that in a 200 gallon tank at the side of the bungalow to be used sparingly when needed. I often think of that water when I visit the drinks aisle in the supermarket and see all those bottles of water with a hint of lemon or some other exotic fruit. The water from our tank was very meaty, full of gnat larvae in the summer and the taste had a hint of the pigeon poo that had washed down from the roof. Perhaps that's why Fen men are so tall.

The farmer just down the road had a large greenhouse with double doors at each end. It was wide enough for a horse and cart to drive through and to allow the storage of rows of potato chitting trays on each side. During January tons of Scotch seed potatoes would arrive in sacks. These potatoes were transferred to the wooden chitting trays that were piled 10 feet high along each side of the greenhouse. There they stayed until little green shoots (chits) began to appear. Potato planting, or as we knew it 'Tater setting' time, always coincided with the Easter school holidays and it was a time for us young lads to help out on the farm. Primrose and I were designated the task of 'dibbing', the placing of equally distant indentations in the soil into which the seed potatoes could be placed. The distance between each of the potatoes was important; economy of the seed and later when the seed germinated overcrowding of the plants, so equally, 'dibbing' was an important task for a young boy. Farmers were able to calculate the quantity of potatoes required reasonably accurately by knowing the spacing of the potatoes but clearly the size of the potato came into the equation. A hundredweight of smaller tubers would cover a larger area than the bigger ones because there were more of them. There was, however, always an element of guess work involved in these

calculations but the experienced farmer usually got it right.

Primrose was a huge Shire horse mare and she couldn't have cared less about how many 'taters' were set or how they were spaced, she was just interested in going home at half past three for her dinner. Every morning she would be harnessed into the dibber. This was a machine with shafts for the horse to pull it and had three very large iron wheels at the rear. These wheels were spaced to fit exactly into bottom of the hollows between the potato ridges. Located and adjustable on those iron wheels were a number of egg shaped spikes which made indentations into the soil as the wheels went round. Primrose and I would arrive in the field to find that it had already been prepared with granulated or farm yard manure and that ridges had been drawn out for the potatoes. We would walk up and down the field following the ridges with Primrose pulling the dibber which in turn left indentations in the bottom of the gullies. Each time we travelled the length of the field we left three rows 'dibbed' so it was necessary to get a good head start on the women workers. They arrived at 8am to do the planting and there could be as many as eight or nine of them, so once up and down the field for them, was three times up and down for Primrose and me.

The 'chitted' potatoes were brought by horse and cart from the greenhouse to the field in their 'chitting trays' and handed down to the women workers. The trays were long enough to fit nicely on the top of two adjacent ridges leaving just one gully down the middle. The women would work in groups of two or three. If there was an even number of women they would work in twos and if the number was divisible by three in threes.



If the number was odd but could not be divided by three they would always be in pairs with just one group of three on one side or the other of the group.

It wasn't complicated – one tray would be held by two women each holding one end with one hand and planting the potatoes with the other, leaving the gully down the middle for the third woman. Working in pairs they would overlap the rows.

It was hard back-aching work for the women who worked for six hours a day with only half an hour's break to take lunch or in Fenland terms 'Dockey'. The term 'Dockey' is thought to originate from the early eighteen hundreds around the time of the Napoleonic wars when the Fens were used as a bread basket to feed our troops abroad. Farmers told their workers, 'If you stop work to eat food I shall "dock ye" money from your pay'. "Dock ye" became "dockey time" meaning that it was an unpaid time when meals were taken. For Primrose and me it was a leg-aching eight hour walk up and down the field on that oh so tiring soft fen soil. Dockey time was very much appreciated, paid or not paid.

Do you have such memories? Please let us know.



### Stay Safe

Although we have been locked down we have been running a virtual coffee morning for our computer group every Monday morning at 10am. This has allowed us to keep in touch with each other and to keep up with the gossip, what little there has been. Patricia Johnston has been able to pop in and chat with our members and she has been very welcome. Not much else has happened due to the virus but we will do our best to help where we can if you are lonely.

If you need over the phone help with your computers or tablets or mobile telephones Monday mornings between 10am and 12md is a good time to contact us.

Our virtual Coffee Morning is also open during that time. You would be welcomed to join us using the Zoom app. The i/d number for the meeting is **218 933 7550** and the case sensitive password is **0HmM3E**. You may join us for a chat or for computer, laptop or iphone advice – it's all free, including the virtual coffee.

For help with Zoom or other Club 55 matters please contact:

*Sam Clift Tel:07850740721*



### News for Older Residents

I hope everyone is keeping well. It will be

great when I am once again publicising events in Girton and the local area. That day will come. In the meantime, can I help put your ideas and dreams into plans of action for when life becomes more normal? Perhaps your ideas could benefit others too.

Currently, I am checking my emails and phone messages on weekdays and visiting (at a distance). Let me know if you'd like me to call, otherwise I may just turn up. And thank you for the thoughtful messages I have received in recent weeks to enquire about my well-being.

For a friendly, daily phone call and a visit (at distance), Mondays to Fridays, I suggest you get in touch with Fiona, the Girton Warden. She will be very happy to chat and be of help in whatever way suits you best. Her phone number is 07979 333 963.

Lastly, I have 2 toilet seat raisers and a pair of crutches to give to anyone who can use them.

*Patricia Johnston Older Residents' Co-ordinator*  
Phone: 07469 660 866  
Email:  
[patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk)



*Capturing a swarm of bees in Girton. A tale of two distances – the beekeepers are attempting to maintain social distancing, while the bees are clearly not!*





## St Andrew's Church

### Chance to change

During 'lockdown,' possibly you, like us, found a favourite walk. Simply around your local area perhaps, or in a nearby park, woodland, nature reserve. Somewhere that you could get yourself 'lost' for a little in taking your daily exercise. Hopefully though, not as lost for as long as a certain group of people whose story is told in the Old Testament section of the Bible!

This story is about a large group of people, the Israelites, who were taken for a walk on the Sinai peninsula. They were going from Egypt to what would be their Promised Land; a place where they could settle, raise their animals and children and live peaceably together. There were about 600,000 of them, so no small feat of direction for their leader, one Moses. Their amble lasted for about 40 years.

When we read of these things, we tend to think of an amorphous group of people, lumped together, all shambling around, trying to do things together at the one time. But that cannot be so. They would be a real mixture, similar to any group of people anywhere.

There would be some real characters who would want to do their own thing. Others would just get on with life, doing what they always did. Then there would be those who would moan a lot; especially about their food! Not that they went hungry. Simply that it was much the same fare each day and they got bored with it. Some might get depressed or ill, others would set up their equivalent of school or U3A and encourage people to take up new hobbies. There would have been all sorts in this group. They were exiles together, though, journeying towards a whole new world; but this new world would not be the end. As the journey would have its challenges and opportunities, so too, would the new country they would inhabit.

During their journey, it would be quite normal for feelings of emptiness or distress to arise. There would have been seemingly overwhelming challenges, as most familiar reference points would have all but disappeared. They would be longing for a whisper of hope in the darkness.

On pondering this tale, it felt to me rather like our situation just now. We may not be making a physical journey, but a journey it is, nonetheless.

Like the Israelites, we do not know when this will end. In a lot less than 40 years, we hope!! Also, as for them, it is a quite alien situation. One in which part of our society appears to be deconstructing and will need rebuilding; in probably a very different manner from what we have considered to be the norm. They must have felt that there were aspects of their lives over which they no longer had any control; and many here have been feeling that for weeks now. Sometimes, for months or even years at a time, they were not moving at all. They were just camped in the one place, with no clue where they were headed. Those unsettling interludes were probably when their leaders came in for most aggro – familiar?!

There are other common factors. Not least, that God was with the Israelites for the whole time; even when the going was rocky. He especially looked out for them then. God is also with us during this time. He does not and will not abandon his people in times of need.

One can imagine that in the desert ramblings, there were those showing acts of kindness to one another. That has certainly happened here; and is something that we all may be grateful for.

When we do 'come out of the other side' as it were, it will not be an ending. It will be a chance to reconstruct our lives differently. To see where helpful alterations might be made. To think creatively.

Sadly, there will be gaps; within both our friends and families.

With those who have lost loved ones, we will have to be patient and understanding.

Hopefully we can carry on being kind to one another.

We have to live day-to-day just now, so what I would urge is that you might enjoy the little things that you can; for some day, you may look back and discover that they were really the big things!

*Christina Deacon.  
LLM, St Andrew's Girton*

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Associate Priest: The Revd Christine Barrow

Tel: 575089 Email: [mcbarrow@me.com](mailto: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.

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. You can also listen to the weekly podcasts by telephoning 01223 755091. 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](mailto: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: 01223 279289

Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith

Tel: 01223 520442

Website: [www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://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, and all are welcome, please ring 07751 748757 so we can send you the link for the service. There are further details on the website at [www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk/](http://www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk/) and opportunities to listen to the sermon online.

Ken Smith, a member of our congregation, shared a story and a prayer with us recently:

76 years ago, my Mum's friend, Cyril Barton, was the pilot of a Halifax aircraft sent to attack targets in Europe. The mission was a disaster, with huge RAF losses. All forces personnel were required to have on file a final letter home. Cyril managed to fly his aircraft back to Yorkshire, but he was mortally wounded and died in the early hours of 31 March (Mum's birthday). He was 23. Cyril's final letter reflected his deep faith and the struggle to maintain it in war. It includes the words, 'All I can say about this is that I am quite prepared to die. It holds no terror for me. I know I shall survive the judgment because I have trusted Christ as my own Saviour. I have done nothing to merit glory, but because He died for me, it's God's free gift. I commend my Saviour to you.'

'Heavenly Father, guide and strengthen those who put others' lives before their own. In the darkness of the current situation, your light shines as the sacrifices of those who risk their wellbeing to nurse the sick. We raise them up to you and give thanks. Amen.'

#### CodeWord solution (see page 13)

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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](mailto: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**

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Douglas de Lacey, Tel: 565219

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**County Councillor**

Lynda Harford, Tel: 01954 251775/07889 131022

[lyndaharford@icloud.com](mailto:lyndaharford@icloud.com)

**Parish Clerk and Acting Finance Officer**

Susie Cumming, Tel: 472181

[clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk](mailto:clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk)

**Assistant to the Parish Clerk**

Laura Lawrence, Tel: 472182

[admin@girton-cambs.org.uk](mailto:admin@girton-cambs.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.girton-cambs.org.uk/council.html](http://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/council.html)

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

## 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.

### Bin collections June–July

Thursday 4 June	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 11 June	Black bin
Thursday 18 June	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 25 June	Black bin
Thursday 2 July	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 9 July	Black bin
Thursday 16 July	Blue and Green bins

**\* Please put your green bin out every fortnight. We will guarantee to empty your green bin every four weeks, but we will empty it every fortnight if we can.**

## Mobile Library

**All library services have been suspended and the due dates of items will be extended until at least the end of the Government advised lockdown for shielded individuals.**

## Contact numbers for bookings

Cotton Hall	07759 983420
Orchard Close	277164
Pavilion	472182
St Vincent's Close	276447
William Collyn	
Community Centre	279587



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Girton CB3 0PN

Tel: 01223 520077  
Mob: 07703 292354  
e-mail: [erica.n@me.com](mailto:erica.n@me.com)

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