



# GIRTON

## Parish News



May 2021

### *Signs of the times*

- *Girton's long awaited 20mph zone launched*
- *Call for volunteers to monitor speeds and operate mobile sign*



*Confusion as signs flash 30mph*



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

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

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

### Advertisements

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

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

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

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*Puzzle Corner* Sian Franklin

*Webmaster* Andrew Haylett

and many others. If you are interested in becoming involved in any capacity, please contact the Editor.

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## Editor's View: Let's help to make the village roads even safer

It's great to see that Girton's long awaited 20mph zone is now operational. It's taken a lot of hard work from the parish council and county councillor Lynda Harford who supported the successful application for a Local Highways Improvement (LHI) grant.

Reducing speed through the village was the highest priority of residents who attended a consultation event in the village in early 2018 and this was later endorsed at the annual parish meeting.

However, painting 20mph in big white numbers and letters on the road is not suddenly going to make motorists slow down. While some are abiding by the new speed limit, others are speeding through the village well over the new limit. This is especially a problem at the northern end of the village where traffic whizzes straight into the new 20mph zone from Oakington Road, which granted is not part of the scheme.

The problem is further exacerbated by the fact that the speed limit reminder sign near Gretton School is still set to 30mph rather than 20mph which is simply going to confuse drivers!

What is not in doubt is the need for us all to help police the new limit and a mobile vehicle activated sign that can monitor speed and traffic volumes throughout the village is ready to be deployed. It just needs volunteers to step forward and get it out on the roads.

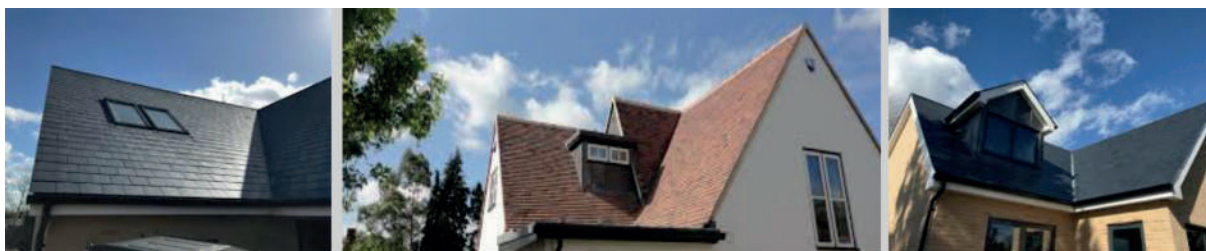
Please contact the parish clerk, Lynda or the *GPN* if you can spare some time. Your village needs you!

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## Girton Parish Council

The deadline for submissions to this edition falls before the April meeting, but items on the agenda include the siting of benches on Mayfield Triangle to be donated by Girton Town Charity as part of the Parish Council's rewilding project. Also under discussion are arrangements for the re-opening of the pavilion and sports facilities following the reduction of lockdown restrictions. We are also considering how the 'helping Girton' initiative can be adapted to the post Covid situation as an ongoing community service to the village.

It is very disappointing that some of the recently-updated dog walking signs and guidance map at the recreation ground have been vandalised and stolen, incurring costs to repair and replace. Vice Chair Gill Cockley has written separately on this subject elsewhere in this issue.

Plans for the pavilion refurbishment and extension continue, with the recent appointment of a project manager. A detailed project timeline is in preparation and the construction tender process set in train. The storage container and rubbish skip have been delivered and the latter is being filled with redundant material. The delays in progression of the project mean that we shall probably be able to allow pavilion hall use until the end of the summer term. Plans of the changes are still available on the village website and any suggestions are welcomed.

Our latest Local Highway Improvement application, originally for a pedestrian crossing near the Co-op but modified to two informal crossings near the A14 Bridge and Pepys Way, with double yellow lines at Weavers Field, did not receive a high enough score to be progressed. In the light of the recent introduction of the 20mph zone and the limited nature of the improvement it

is not surprising that it was deemed to provide insufficient added value. Proposals for this year's application are being considered and will be finalised after the Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April. Contenders include provision of double yellow lines at problematic road junctions in the village, possible extensions to the 20mph zone and permanent speed reduction along Oakington Road. Any suggestions with supporting evidence of benefit should be forwarded to the clerk.

### Village litter-picking scheme

There has been a pleasing response to the appeal to help keep our village clear of litter. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. We can provide litter-grabbers which can be used as you exercise! More volunteers will be very welcome so please let Cllr Douglas de Lacey know on (01223) 565219 if you can help.

### Next meetings

Girton Parish Council meetings are currently being held via video-conference until May 7th. Unless further legislation allows, meetings will revert to 'face-to-face' after that date. Residents are encouraged to contact Parish Councillors directly if there are concerns they wish to raise (please see the listing of Parish Councillors elsewhere in this edition). Any member of the public who wishes to attend any meeting may do so by prior arrangement with the Clerk. The next meetings will be on Tuesday 4th May (AGM) and Tuesday 15th June provided Covid restrictions allow.

*A full list of Parish Councillors can be found on page 30.*

## GIRTON FEAST SAVE THE DATES 2021:

At the time of writing (mid-April), we are hoping, if restrictions continue to be lifted in line with the Government's Roadmap, that we will be able to hold the Girton Feast, if only in a limited format. Please put these dates in your calendar and we will let you know in the June edition if we will be able to go ahead:

**OUTDOOR CINEMA — FRIDAY 9th JULY**  
**VILLAGE FETE — SATURDAY 10th JULY**

In the meantime, we will start our planning during April and if the restrictions are lifted on May 17th, we will publish more details in June.

If you have any queries, please contact us as follows: Rowena: [rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk](mailto:rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk)



# FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

## County Councillor Lynda Harford

### Roads & Transport

Girton's long awaited 20mph zone has now been installed. The traffic regulation order was implemented at the end of March and is now enforceable. I'd like to thank the parish council for its efforts in achieving this. I have noted that at least one other village is somewhat envious of this success. It has, I understand, been trying for a long time to achieve a similar scheme - without success.

Reducing speed through the village was the highest priority of residents who attended a consultation event in the village in early 2018 and this was later endorsed at the annual parish meeting. The parish council acted on that feedback and I supported its successful application for a Local Highways Improvement [LHI] grant. I very much hope that the scheme will have a marked effect on road safety in Girton. Its design has been carefully engineered with a combination of roundels, repeater signs and additional speed humps to restrict speed.

There is one location that could perhaps still be improved - around the Co-op. Here it is extremely difficult to install engineering features due to the number of property accesses. Further improvement would have to be considered as a new and challenging project.

The important thing now is to measure the success of the new scheme. A mobile vehicle activating sign was also supplied as part of the LHI bid. This can be used to monitor speed and traffic volumes throughout the village. However, a volunteer is needed to manage its deployment. If you can help, please contact the parish clerk or me.

In other road news, we now have confirmation that dualing of the A428 from the A1 Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet will go ahead. Highways England's development consent order application has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate. I encourage local responses to the consultation particularly supporting the county council's vigilance to ensure that HE delivers a scheme that limits any consequential adverse impacts elsewhere. More information can be found at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/frequently-asked-questions/#pre-exam>

East-West Rail [EWR] has also moved to its next stage of consultation. The northern route option, which would have a disastrous impact on our immediate area, has been discounted. There will though be an opportunity for those who oppose the preferred options to comment on the dismissal of the northern route, as EWR has a legal obligation to 'back check' on the work it did to reach that decision, and take into account any new information.

Again I would encourage local responses to the consultation. See:

[https://communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation-feedback/survey\\_tools/feedback](https://communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation-feedback/survey_tools/feedback)

### Household Recycling Centres

From 1st April until 30th September all sites will operate for the longer summer opening hours. Details here:

<https://bit.ly/3uoJhcc>. Site management still requires two metre social distancing, and the booking system for all users remains in place. Information: <https://bit.ly/3fM1ite>.

Monitoring of the time residents spend at the sites has led to the ability to increase booking capacity. Every week approximately 1,100 residents book a slot and then don't use or cancel it. Up to 400 residents still turn up each week without making a booking. Currently site staff are able to apply a light touch with regard to enforcing the booking rule but this may not always be the case. The safest way to ensure against a wasted journey is to book a slot. Residents are also asked to ensure that they cancel unwanted appointments to allow them to be reused.

### Covid-19

The welcome relaxation of restrictions reflects the hard work that the vast majority of people have put in during lockdown to allow us to reach this point. We are all though still being reminded to continue to stick to the rules that are in place and to follow the 'hands, face, space and fresh air' guidance. Take care. Stay safe.

Lynda

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

01954 251775/07889 131022

Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo or

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lynda.harford>

## District Councillor Tom Bygott

### Demolition of the Hotel Felix on Huntingdon Road

Last month I wrote that the property developers have submitted their application to demolish the Hotel Felix ([www.hotelfelix.co.uk](http://www.hotelfelix.co.uk)), and that it would take about a month for SCDC's planning department to validate the application as they currently have a long backlog.

The application is now available to view on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website 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). The reference number is 21/00953/FUL, and the consultation deadline has been set to Tuesday 4th May, which is only a few days after the target delivery date for this magazine, so time is of the essence to lodge an objection.

As far as I am aware, this is the most significant heritage building to have been proposed for demolition during my 15 years as a district councillor. This will be a landmark



decision in the protection or destruction of heritage buildings in our area. If we fail to protect this building, it will encourage property developers to actively seek out beautiful historic buildings as profit opportunities for demolition. As this case shows, not all historic buildings are listed, and the national listing criteria need to be changed so that more can be.

### **East West Rail consultation**

The proposed railway line connecting Oxford and Cambridge has taken another step forward with the launch of a consultation on the route between Bedford and Cambridge. The consultation closes on 9th June and the documents can be found at:  
[eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation](http://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation)

Two organisations — the Cam Bed Rail Road (CBRR) and Cambridge Approaches (CA) — have been campaigning for a "northern route" that would pass between Dry Drayton and Madingley and then between Girton and Oakington with a station called Northstowe on the outskirts of Oakington (but far from the town of Northstowe), before entering Cambridge from the north rather than via East West Rail's preferred southern approach.

Fortunately, this northern route has not been included in the consultation. East West Rail has been able to develop new route options that closely follow the A428 dual carriageway (including the new section that will soon be constructed west of Caxton Gibbet) with a station north of Cambourne, while still entering Cambridge from the south. There is an important technical reason why the route can't enter from the north, namely that through trains can't continue on to Norwich without taking a long detour or reversing out of Cambridge. There is not enough capacity on the tracks through Cambridge for trains to reverse out.

I will continue to talk to East West Rail and the other relevant transport authorities to protect the beautiful countryside surrounding Girton, Dry Drayton and Madingley.

### **Five Year Land Supply**

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has published a document called the 2021 Housing Trajectory — [www.scambs.gov.uk/2021-housing-trajectory-published](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/2021-housing-trajectory-published). Every council in the country has a centrally-mandated target of how many houses they are told to build, with the danger that property developers could win cases on appeal if a five-year land supply on these targets is not maintained. The last few years have been a 'white-knuckle ride', and we have only just scraped through again.

One feature of the latest published housing completion numbers that hasn't been widely reported is the ratio of houses built between Cambridge City and South

Cambridgeshire District. Since the two councils combined their planning departments and started to prepare a joint local plan, they are no longer assessed on their targets individually but together.

From 2011 to 2018, the average number of houses built each year in the City was 865 and in South Cambs 669. In 2018–19, 868 were built in the City and 1,146 in South Cambs, and in 2019–20 it was 459 and 1,102 respectively. The proportion of houses built in South Cambridgeshire has thus increased from 44% to 57% and then 71%.

As a professional statistician, I don't want to interpret too much from a trend over only a few years, but there is a danger that South Cambridgeshire could continue having to build additional houses to make up for a shortfall in Cambridge City.

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

## **A View From the District**

I have often been asked to explain District Council policies; as I step back, perhaps I may reflect on some of them. Let's start with licensing. Many activities require a licence, from driving a car (though that is handled nationally through DVLC) to keeping certain animals. Issuing licences helps to ensure that activities are exercised safely and responsibly. Unlicensed activity can result in prosecution and a hefty fine.

You need a licence from SCDC to run a taxi service, to run a lottery, to collect money door-to-door, to sell alcohol, to run certain events such as live music or a play, and for several other activities; but the one which is perhaps most misunderstood is the street trading licence.

Every year we are plagued with unlicensed ice cream vendors who trade at the pavilion. Without a licence we have no control on how frequently they come, how safe their product is, whether they maintain minimal food standards or if they are safe to work with children. Recently I was upbraided for requesting a coffee vendor to apply for a licence before working in Girton.

Requiring a licence is not an attempt to stop trading; it allows the Parish Council (and through it, residents of Girton) to have a say in where and how often such trading should happen, and allows the District Council to maintain food safety and other standards. At present, the only licensed vendors in Girton are the wet fish van and A10 Fish and Chips. Please do not trade with any others until they have a licence. The process is not difficult.

Do you have a question about the working of other parts of our District Council? Do let me know.

*Douglas de Lacey*



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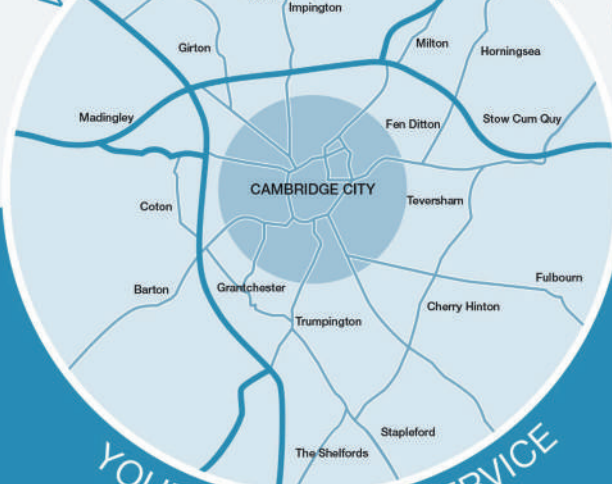


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## There is no health without mental health

In our everyday conversations, people are quite likely to volunteer information about their ‘aches and pains’ - be it

backache, headache, a light sprain or even feeling tired. How often, though, do we share our worries, a low mood, heavy frustration or feelings of sadness and loss? And why may people be more reluctant to do so? My perspective on this hinges on the ‘reaching out AND reaching in’ principle. We should encourage others to express themselves but we can also play our part in reaching in to others – nothing complicated is required, just a genuine ‘How are you?’ and the time to give for someone to really answer that question.

### Signposting

Everyone experiences anxiety at some time. An anxiety disorder, however, differs from normal anxiety in that it is more severe, long-lasting and interferes with the person’s work or relationships. There is support and help at

[www.anxietyuk.org.uk](http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk) - a national charity run by people with lived experience, aiming to support anyone affected by anxiety, including talking therapies and self-help groups.

Meanwhile [www.nopanic.org.uk](http://www.nopanic.org.uk) also has helplines targeted to support adults and young people, as well as resources which can be accessed on the website.

### Becoming ‘Mental Health Aware’

By the time this month’s edition will have gone to print, I will have given my second talk to the Huntingdon Road GP Surgery Patient Participation Group, this time focussing on students. I was delighted to receive the invitation to do this by the new chair of the group, based on the highly attended session last year and my commitment to supporting my local community. You may also be interested in attending the online half day Adult Mental Health Aware course running in June 2021.

*Juliet Adlouné, a longstanding Girton resident, is a fully qualified and accredited Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor experienced in delivering the full suite of MHFA courses and committed to supporting mental health within her local community. Contact her via*

*[www.facebook.com/listeninglantern.julietadlouné](https://www.facebook.com/listeninglantern.julietadlouné) or [mhfa.julietadlouné@gmail.com](mailto:mhfa.julietadlouné@gmail.com)*



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## Sandstone in my blood

Teacher, actress and author Jane Bower is providing an illustrated talk on Zoom on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm to raise funds for Christian Aid. Jane spent her first nine years at Ashwood, the fascinating historic home of the Victorian Poet Laureate, Alfred Austin, in Headingley, Leeds. The talk offers humorous and poignant portraits of both Austin and Ashwood, is illustrated throughout with photographs and lasts one hour.

Book now here: <https://www.downingplaceurc.org>. Details on how to donate will follow

## Codeword solution - see page 25

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

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The summer term has begun well at preschool, and we have been making the most of the lovely spring weather by spending lots of time outside. The children love water play and we've been catching

sea creatures with fishing nets in the water tray, and using funnels and waterwheels in there too.



In the role-play area, we have had a science laboratory. The children used test tubes and pipettes and experimented with mixing different coloured water and exploring different media such as shaving foam. We also made some weather-themed sensory bottles. For each bottle we added different items to represent a different weather including snowflake sequins, a yellow pompom sun and blue glitter rain!



At Forest School the children have been finding insects and observing them closely in our new insects viewers. Since joining in the bird watching activity a few months ago, the children have continued to take notice of the birds that they see and hear around us. They have learnt some of the most common birds and can name them when they see them. Blackbirds and magpies are spotted most.

During recent weeks, we have been disappointed by the state of the woodland area and pathways between the trees around the edge of the trim trail field where we hold our Forest School sessions. Every week when we go, we find litter, and sometimes there is a vast amount in a small area. We find this very sad, and I'm sure others who use and enjoy this space would feel the same. We urge everyone to please be respectful of the environment and take away any litter you have to dispose of it correctly.

We are a community interest company, so non-profit making and we greatly appreciate any support you can give. Please take a look at our gofundme page and our Amazon wish list:

[www.gofundme.com/f/emma-amp-laura-are-reopening-cottontails-preschool](http://www.gofundme.com/f/emma-amp-laura-are-reopening-cottontails-preschool)

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We have places available for September 2021 now. We welcome children from the age of 2 upwards. We accept 2 year funded, and 3 or 4 year 15- or 30-hour funded children. Please contact us if you would like to apply for a place.

For further information about the preschool and what we have to offer, you can visit our website, follow us on social media and get in touch using the contact details below.

*Laura Norman and Emma Pell*

*Girton Cottontails Preschool Managing Directors*

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“I pity the man who has completed everything in his garden”. Thus wrote Alexander Pope, the 18th century poet and garden lover. Perhaps a few might say “chance would be a fine thing”. But we allotment members know that there is no danger of Pope’s pity being required. Now that the new growing season is underway, it’s a case of busy, busy, busy. A pivotal point has been reached, with the frustration of wishing to do more in the early weeks of the year changing to panic at the amount of work now requiring to be done.

Greenhouses, conservatories, airing cupboards, windowsills are bursting at the seams with seed trays. Watchfulness is required to keep them warm and moist enough, and for the emergence of tiny green shoots. Trays must be moved to where they get good light levels and can be tended. For some types, delicate seedlings must be pricked out and potted on to grow until they can be planted out, in most cases after danger of frosts is over. I have been doing a lot of potting on and concur with what gardening writers and broadcasters say about the well-being intimate connection to soil and plants brings. The more advanced young plants can be put out during the day to harden off (become acclimatised to less-protected environment) for eventually existing outside.

Outside, plots are being dug, rotavated, raked, manured and edged. Seed potatoes are, or are about to be, planted. Protective tunnels, fleece coverings, supporting cages and racks are being prepared. Cutting of grass paths has started; our contractor on his sit-on mower has already made two visits. And members have had their mowers out, cutting narrow awkward paths where the big serious machine cannot get. As I write, I look out and see a member mowing with big snowflakes swirling around him ... an example of this April’s early weather.

So, Mr Pope, don’t worry about us: we’ve never completed our allotment work. I sometimes fondly imagine finishing all the planting-out by early summer and sitting out by my plot, relaxing, reading, drinking tea or wine. But it never seems to happen ... sit down for a few minutes but then spot weeds or tying-in to be done. And off we go again.

It is hard to get used to the fact that we won’t be seeing Ray Gordon out on his plot and chatting to him, now that he has moved away to be nearer his family. Our site manager, Malcolm Frew, wrote a worthy tribute to Ray in last month’s GPN, acknowledging his enormous efforts for the allotments over many years, and indeed for Girton as a whole.

Two months ago, I wrote about certain birds which I haven’t seen on the site over recent winters. One of those birds is the redwing. In response to my article, a reader sent me some excellent photographs of a redwing, taken in his garden. I am attaching one of those pictures to this article so that non-ornithological readers can see what a fine bird it is.



*Redwing*

A second picture this month is of our aforementioned site manager and chairman up a tree. I wasn’t present so I don’t know what Malcolm was up to. Was it tree surgery? Or was it a reversion to childhood love of tree-climbing? My guess would be probably both.



*Malcolm up a tree*

In March I mentioned paddy-field conditions when it was hard to imagine ever having to carry water to our plots again. Now we are commenting to each other how dry the soil is, to quite a depth. The pumps are already in use, and water butts, which had collected water from our shed and greenhouse roofs, and overflowed for weeks, are already being emptied. Long gentle showers would be much appreciated before the big planting-out time starts at the end of May.

In spite of uncomfortably cold days at the start of April, there has been plenty of presence on the site, and as always it’s been so enjoyable to take up again conversations with friends and acquaintances, discussing horticultural matters, and life in general. Chatting out there, which was part of getting through lockdown days, is now intensified as there are more people to talk to. Still at 2 metres apart of course.

*Graham Jones, Girton Allotment Society*


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## Natural Girton: Moss

I'm sure it will be familiar to many that though you can look at a shrub in the summer and see nothing, a bee catches your eye and in a moment your vision comes alive, seeing apparently hundreds that have apparently appeared from nowhere. Once you have seen one, your brain gets a 'search image' and suddenly your brain interprets the sensory data overload in a different way. In a similar way, the paths on my daily walk have come alive since reading Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Gathering Moss* (a natural and cultural history of moss). Uneven and cracked tarmac that I barely gave a moment notice to have suddenly become a feast of interest, causing me literally to fall to my knees and investigate a new world that has been opened for me. In a similar way, the bricks underneath my water-butt have now exploded, at least in my eyes, into biological beauty.



Liverworts, hornworts, and mosses are sometimes grouped as bryophytes, plants without a vascular system to move water and minerals around the plant. They need to manage water in a different way to catch, collect and keep it where it is needed. As well as the characteristic sponginess that allows them to hold many times their own mass in water, some mosses have leaves that are the perfect size to exactly match the perfect distance whereby the capillary forces between water molecules can form a bridge, holding them in place without collapsing and the water running away. Given some of these properties, it comes as no surprise that moss has been used for bedding for many years — apparently Linnaeus carried a rolled-up moss mattress with him sometimes.

Knowing that water collection and retention is key to their survival explains part of the fondness of moss for dark, damp spaces. Their height above the surface they grow on varies depending on the flow of air. The stiller the boundary layer of air, the taller the species that will flourish, so the height of the mosses you see can tell you something about how sheltered an area is.

My love of moss has only just begun, so I may return to share more as I learn. In the meantime, maybe I can nudge you to move from seeing them as a nuisance to be scraped and expunged from between the cracks or raked away from the lawn to admire and enjoy the majesty of evolutionary adaptation and beauty that they are, finding a home where others see nothing.

Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass* book is also highly recommended for those that want more of the majesty of plants. I would also suggest seeking out her on various podcasts — her gentle tone and deep wisdom is enough to draw anyone in. The British Bryological Society ([www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/](http://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/)) will provide more information including their splendid Field Guide.

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

## George's Gardening Tip: May

The merry month of May is generally the most hectic for gardeners. The lengthening daylight allows extras hours in the garden, sometimes to the point of exhaustion, and the feeling that what should be a pleasant hobby is becoming a big chore. Fortunately, a sense of positive enjoyment is usually buoyed up by the pleasure of seeing plants grow, whether old friends in the garden, or the recently germinated annuals of this season. There are so many relevant topics to address that to share practical tips on each would require more than a short article, so I'll confine myself to two. Try to avoid stressing seedlings, so check them regularly particularly for watering, and before planting out try to harden them off with a few daytime outings to get used to the outdoor environment.

Last spring gardeners were encouraged to try 'No Mow May', which surveys found achieved a tenfold increase in the number of insects visiting nectar rich flowers. You don't need to make over the whole lawn, but spare a thought for bees and others and find a part of your lawn you could let grow more flowers by only mowing it once a month. By the way, if you're worried that your mower may not be able to cope with four weeks growth you can improve your odds with a bit of strategy; wait for the sward to be completely dry and overlap your strips more than usual, so in effect the mower only has to cope with, say, half the amount of growth and, if feasible, go more slowly!

George Thorpe

# GIRTON scoreboard



## Girton Bowls Club

From Monday 12th April England's lockdown eased significantly and by the time this GPN issue is published we will have played our first few friendly matches and our first league match – the first since September 2019 – at home to Comberton on Tuesday 27th April.

To enable us to do this safely we have had to adhere strictly to the Government guidelines. This includes providing sanitising gel for everyone to use and cleaner for the mats, cot and pushers, and any other equipment used, along with anti-bacterial spray for the toilets. Clubhouses and changing rooms must at present stay closed and no after-match refreshments will be provided. Unfortunately, no car sharing is allowed outside your family group and at the moment no spectators may attend.

All players on rinks have to walk either on the right- or the lefthand side only. All four rinks must walk on the same side to allow for social distancing. Each club will decide how they are going to address this. Scorecards must be kept as a record of attendance in case anyone contracts Covid, and if this happens the clubs concerned must be informed.

Hopefully as the season progresses, and if there are no setbacks, there will be a continued easing leading to a complete lifting of restrictions by 21st June.

At our recent committee meeting, discussions were held regarding opening the bowls green on Saturday afternoons in order to encourage younger people to come along and give bowls a try.

We have secured a meeting with the Girton Town Charity to explore whether we can work out an alternative way forward regarding access to the toilet facilities at the WCCC whilst the bowling green is in use, and to discuss their feedback on our proposed new clubhouse.



*The bowls green*

The bowls green has undergone a regime of scarifying, cutting, spiking and the spreading of three tons of topsoil during the past month. We now wait for the grass seeds to take root, with the help of, hopefully, some warmer weather.

*Lynne McGill*



## Girton Golf Club

At the golf club we are starting to get back to something approaching normal, and hopefully come mid-May we will be even closer to being back in full flow. We returned to playing at the end of March

(see photo of Captains and Chairman) and have also started to serve our members, and now visitors, with food and drink, be it only outside. When this edition hits the doormats, we should be getting close to opening the clubhouse doors again, still adhering to all the Covid legislation but offering our usual mix of drinks and meals to our members and visitors.



*Left to right: Alan Henderson-Smith (Club Captain) John Fuller (Club Chairman), Sarah Pugh (Lady Captain), Chris Stanton (Seniors Captain) and Ben Drage (Junior Captain)*

Golf is really coming out of hibernation, with our first medal on Saturday 10th April, won by Joe Fulcher, and our first inter-club Gents match played at Ely on Tuesday 13th in which we were beaten by a better team on the day, on their course. We had a bumper entry for the medal as our members flooded back to competitive golf, and all of our competitions appear to be proving incredibly popular including the Seniors Strokeplay, also on 13th, which was won on count back by Jon Daly with a terrific score of a net 5 under par. Jon beat 36 competitors in that particular game.

New membership is still growing, and Sam Beckett and I recently wrote to the 130 most recent new members to invite them to new members' evenings in the coming weeks so we



can help them integrate better into the club, and potentially gain handicaps so they too can enter matches and competitions in the coming months. Whilst there are many pleasing aspects to so many new people playing golf at Girton, the greatest is how many are under 40, an age group that golf has had difficulties attracting in the recent past.

Our Head Professional Sam Beckett will be running specific coaching for juniors in his Junior Academies in the coming weeks and months so any locals who are interested in getting into golf should contact the Pro Shop and have a chat with Sam or Fin. Sam will also be running Academies for all age groups so if you want to get started come down and have a chat with Sam and the office during any weekday. Joining Girton as a junior is only £65 a year, a great present for any young man or woman.

As we move towards full opening, we are planning for more of our supper evenings and Sunday Carveries. Call the office or check our adverts in future magazines for dates, but upcoming soon are a Fish and Chip Supper on 21st May and a Curry Night on 18th June, with an Italian Night and a Pie 'n Mash nights to come later, plus Carveries on Sundays 13th June and 11th July, with dates following monthly.

As we are now open for catering outdoors and soon to be inside, I hope to see many of you enjoying the clubhouse and patio atmosphere with a glass or cup of something pleasing, and perhaps a bite to eat. Social membership is open – ask at the bar or call the office for information.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*  
Tel: 01223 276169  
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### Girton Colts

And we're back! What a huge task our managers have gone through in April to pull the teams back together after the long-extended break. The FA have decided to extend the season, normally ending in mid-

May, through to the end of June, which means full-on matches every weekend. I and the committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the managers, coaching staff and parents for coming together, adhering to our constantly-evolving safety

rules and actually getting very good quality football back on the pitch for the kids of our village. Not only are they enabling football, but they are also continuing to make it fun and fulfilling too. Good job, everyone! And not forgetting a double thumbs up for Chris, our expert groundsman – thank you.

### New players needed

Our teams have all come back strongly, whether just training or playing matches. However, as our teams get older they do need more players, so if you fancy coming to play for Girton, please do get in contact and we'll see if we can squeeze you into a team. Please contact [teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk](mailto:teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk).

### Referees

A quick thank you to Charlie for being our referee over the past months, and a welcome to Stanford who has joined us and is working with Scott, our Referee Secretary. We could still do with more help in the refereeing and this position is a paid one, so if you have any spare time on a Saturday morning to referee matches please do get in contact: [teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk](mailto:teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk)

### Member news

Our brand new **Under 5s** team started before Christmas and are now continuing with their journey. If you have a child who could be interested to join this fun group, get in touch: [teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk](mailto:teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk)

*Andrew Hawkes, Chairman*



### Girton Netball Club Returns

Training has resumed and we're delighted to be back playing netball again. Coaching with Helen is on Mondays from 6.30 to 7.45pm on the tennis courts at Girton Recreation Ground.

We're a mixed ability team playing for fun and fitness and are always on the lookout for new members. Want to know what position you might play? Check out this fun quiz <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/get-inspired/48824020>.

For all enquiries, email [girton.village.netball@gmail.com](mailto:girton.village.netball@gmail.com) or see Facebook: Girton Netball Club.

*Emma-Louise Longden*

*continued on page 19 ...*

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## Girton Tennis Club

We are delighted to have our tennis courts back in use and to see so many club members enjoying outdoor sport again. Thanks go to Alan Richardson for getting the nets out of storage and making sure that the courts were ready to use from the 29th

March. The picture shows him untangling the first net!



Our first post-lockdown club session ran on Friday 2nd April but the following week's session was rained off. However, a supervised session for junior members started again on the 9th April and it has proved to be very popular despite the variable spring weather.

Coaching sessions are now available for members to book and we hope to encourage more ladies to take up, or improve, their tennis by running a ladies-only 6-week course of coaching from the 12th June. This course is likely to be offered to members first and should be free of charge. More details will be announced soon.

The Club membership year starts in April and those that were members last year should have received emails with details of how to renew their memberships. Our fees are very good value and, as a member, you can purchase a court key which enables you to access the courts whenever there are no prior bookings. We would encourage you to join our friendly club soon and enjoy some outdoor exercise.

The tennis club has use of the recreation ground courts and members who purchase a key and have a confirmed booking have court access during most daylight hours. Club members meet and play from around 7.30 to 9pm on Friday evenings. Potential new members are very welcome to come along to our Friday club nights for one or two free sessions to check it all out.

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

*Alan Franklin*



## Girton Women's Institute

Well, this has certainly been a year like no other in Girton Women's Institute's 101-year history! Although we've missed being together, we've kept active within our community...

- Making masks, scrubs sets, scrubs bags, and gowns for Girton Scrub Hub and Scrubs for Cambridgeshire, supporting healthcare workers in hospitals, surgeries and care homes throughout Cambridgeshire.
- Thanks also to all those members who recently generously supported Scrubs for Cambridgeshire's appeal for face cream, hand cream and shower gel for healthcare workers.
- Zoom tea parties in support of "Tea at Three" at Addenbrooke's Hospital.
- Members have been assisting within our community as "Helping Girton" and NHS volunteers, and have also helped at Arthur Rank Hospice and with the distribution of FoodCycle food parcels.
- Thanks to Judith for daily cheering posts on the Girton WI Facebook Group page and President Susie for keeping us updated about online events and talks which we might like to take part in.
- Knitting, crocheting and crafting Christmas decorations together with St Andrew's Church, which were given in goody bags for pupils and parents at Girton Glebe School.
- Supplying gift bags and shoe-boxes of festive gifts and helping with distribution of Christmas dinners to vulnerable and shielding village residents.
- Thanks to the Committee for organising and distributing Christmas "Meeting in a Bag" Goody Bags for members, containing cards, gifts... and the bonus of a socially-distanced chat on the doorstep in many cases!
- Taking part in online events from a tour of the National Gallery to Ukelele Strum-alongs via Denman at Home and Cambridge Federation of Women's Institutes, and enjoying being able to join other WIs for Zoom events across the UK, including with our friends at Cambridge EarlyBirds WI.

Quite a year! And now we're looking forward to summer meet-ups outside, then hopefully back together for meetings at William Collin Community Centre.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact [girtonwi@gmail.com](mailto:girtonwi@gmail.com) or check out @GirtonWI on Twitter and Girton WI Facebook Group. Hope to see you again soon!

*Susie Cumming*



# **Girton Golf Club**

**The Networked Golf Club**

**Join as a 5 day or a 7 day Member**

**and Play Over 60 other UK Courses for Free**

**Low membership rates for juniors, students and the under 30s**

**Ask for details of Sam Beckett's new Junior and Adult Academies**

**Our Club House is Open Daily 9 am to 4 pm**

**Outside tables only until May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Please wear your masks when inside after May 17th**

**(all assuming Covid rules do not change)**

**Breakfast/lunchtime menu with daily specials**

**Call in for tea, coffee or something stronger**

**Girton Golf Club**

**Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0QE**

**Tel: 01223 276169 [www.girtongolf.co.uk](http://www.girtongolf.co.uk) [info@girtongolf.co.uk](mailto:info@girtongolf.co.uk)**

**Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**



## Girton Walking Group

The Girton walking group may be able to re-start later in the summer, possibly in June or July if the “roadmap” goes to plan. I’m certainly looking forward to returning to walking with other people!

This notice is really to assess the level of enthusiasm for resuming the walks. One key change is that Paul and I really don’t want to have to lead all the walks, so if it is to resume, other members will be asked to commit to leading walks. (This wouldn’t be a *requirement* of coming on the walks.) I would anticipate that this would be a once-a-year commitment, and that you would choose a month to do it and organise it.

This message will be sent to existing members who are on my email list, but if anyone else would be interested in joining the group (even if you are not confident enough to lead a walk yet), please contact [ginaklane@aol.com](mailto:ginaklane@aol.com). It’s a friendly group, and we walk on the first Saturday of the month, from 5-7 miles, and within easy reach of Girton. Before the pandemic, we used to car share – this won’t be possible yet unfortunately.

*Gina and Paul Lane*



*Dear Girton Parish News*

### Missing Bracelet

A few weeks ago I found a bracelet (photo below) in Pepys Way. If you recognise it please contact the GPN editor who can put you in touch so that I can return it.

*Vivian Beck  
Pepys Way*



*Dear Girton Parish News*

### Jimmy’s Night Shelter

Thank you so much for all the things that you have passed over to me this Autumn and Winter. Apart from the warm clothing and toiletries I have been able to deliver 47 sleeping bags and 65 rugs/blankets. All of these have been most welcome and provided much that has been useful to the residents at their main shelter in East Road, Cambridge, as well as some of the things being able to be passed on to their ‘guests’ in other premises.

If you have anything you think might be useful please give me a ring or email and I can come and collect your donations from where you live or you can drop them off at the back of St Andrew’s Church and I will collect them from there if you let me know.

If you wish to consider helping as a volunteer please do get in touch with me and I can give you some more information and tell you who you need to go and see.

*Jenny Knights  
Fairway  
Tel: 01223 276407*

*Dear Girton Parish News*

### New dog walking signs on Girton Rec

The aim of these signs is to help protect those using this area for sport and recreation from risk of infection or unpleasant interaction with loose dogs, and also to protect dog owners themselves, who risk prosecution if their animal causes a significant problem to others.

So what are the infection risks from dog faeces? There are obvious gut organisms such as campylobacter, salmonella and E.coli. E.coli is probably of most significance as some strains can be extremely harmful, eg E.coli 0157 which can cause life threatening illness. There is also the roundworm parasite toxocara which in rare cases may cause blindness. These are the reasons for asking you to follow the dog walking route and pick up after your dog.

Most people will accept that it is sensible to try and minimise contact with dog faeces as far as is reasonably possible, particularly where children may be present.

Loose dogs away from the owners side can be quite intimidating, and there have been some cases of uncontrolled dogs being a nuisance.

So what happens if you get it wrong and your dog causes a problem? You can get an unlimited fine or be sent to prison for up to six months (or both) if your dog is dangerously out of control. You may not be allowed to own a dog in the future and your dog may be destroyed. If you let your dog injure someone you can be sent to prison for up to five years or fined (or both). For more details visit the YouGov website.

The Parish Council has a duty of care to the village to help maintain a safe environment for those who live here. The signs are designed to be polite, low key and advisory, to help keep members of the public safe and dog owners free from prosecution. They merely replace older signs that had been in place for many years.

*Cllr Gill Cockley (Vice-Chair of Girton Parish Council)*



## New Trustee brings additional expertise

Girton Town Charity has recently welcomed a new Trustee to its team, expanding its expertise to deliver the broad range of projects currently underway. Here we talk to Dan Buck about becoming a Trustee, what it means to him and how he sees his skills helping the Charity.

Dan lives in Girton with his wife and son, and a new baby expected later in the year. He works in Finance, mainly from home these days, but previously in London and Zurich.

### Giving back

So what made him become a GTC Trustee?

Dan says: "I wanted to give something back to the Village and form a connection with the people in my local community. Having settled here four years ago following stints in various locations around the world, I wanted to make Girton my home and play a part in Village life.

"I first became interested in GTC following a lockdown walk when I encountered Dr Robin Hiley and we got talking about Suffolk Terrace almshouses on the High Street, which were being built at the time.

### Almshouses

"In terms of my personal skills and contribution, I have experience in Finance and Project Management, but I'm happy to lend my hand to anything if I can make a difference to people's lives. At the moment I am particularly interested in our new almshouse project on the High Street, from the perspective of seeing them designed and built. I've always been a closet architect at heart!

"I am very supportive of the Charity's work to help a wide range of people within our community. This includes enabling young people to save for a deposit for their own home by offering the chance to live in one of our almshouses on a three-year appointment, assisting students with educational grants and also a



scheme to deliver additional care to Village residents, over and above any statutory provision.

### Making a difference

"I am really looking forward to contributing to the Charity's projects going forward. Getting involved in something different is a big factor, but for me it's mainly about making a difference to people's lives."

Ann Bonnett, Chair of GTC added: "We are delighted that

Dan has become one of our Trustees, further enhancing the considerable range of skills and experience within the team to deliver our busy programme of projects.

"We currently have a further vacancy for a Trustee. If you are interested in the role and would like to find out more, please contact me for an initial discussion."

### William Collyn Centre

Following changes to Government guidance, the William Collyn Centre opened to more activities on 12th April when Centre Manager, Helen Johnson and her team were pleased to see both the return of familiar faces and also new people.

From 17th May, it is anticipated that many more groups will be permitted to return and the Centre staff are looking forward to resuming a varied programme of events for everyone in the community. These activities include: Clubbercise on Mondays, several sessions of the very popular Bounce classes, Tiny Tots ballet on Wednesdays and West Coast Swing, as well as Girton Bowls Club when their match programme re-starts.



## Educational Grants 2021

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 2021.

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

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

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

Ann Bonnett (Chair)	t: 276354
Marc Bermann	t: 277319
Dan Buck	t: 07775 839703
Colin Carr	t: 276312
Dr Robin Hiley	t: 277296
Patsy Smith	t: 07503 282199

**GTC office:**  
**Open 10.00am–2.00pm Monday–Friday.**

**01223 276008**  
**email: [gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk](mailto:gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk)**  
**[www.girtontowncharity.org.uk](http://www.girtontowncharity.org.uk)**

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272

**The Centre is looking forward to welcoming groups and activities back from 17th May.**

**Now booking: Visit website for details**

### Monday

6.30 - 7.30pm	Clubbercise
8.00 - p.30pm	Whole Notes Gospel Choir

### Tuesday

6.00 - 7.00pm	Bounce
7.30 - 10.30pm	West Coast Swing

### Wednesday

9.30am - 12.00pm	Tiny Toes Ballet
7.00 - 8.00pm	Bounce

### Thursday

9.45 - 10.45am	Bounce
7.15 - 8.15pm	Body Control Pilates

### Friday

10.00 - 10.45am	Shake Rattle & Roll for pre-schoolers
9.30am - 12.00pm	second Friday of the month Little City Toddler Play
7.00 - 9.30pm	New Life Church Youth Club

### Saturday

9.00 - 10.00am	Bounce
----------------	--------

 @williamcollyncc

 @williamcollyncc

 @williamcollyn1521

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP  
01223 279587  
[info@williamcollyn.co.uk](mailto:info@williamcollyn.co.uk)  
[www.williamcollyn.co.uk](http://www.williamcollyn.co.uk)

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

## **An update from Fen Drayton Lakes**

Close your eyes and picture a lake under a clear, blue sky. Ducks, geese and swans are out on the water, many of which have paired up and may even have a brood of ducklings, goslings or cygnets with them. Great-crested grebes are performing courtship dances or disappearing from sight under the surface as they dive for a meal and along the lake-edges a heron stalks through the shallows.

Turn your vision now to the north where an expanse of wet grassland habitat, containing ditches and shallow depressions, spans the northern side of the lake with a peninsula extending down towards the central island. The soft lowing of cattle can be heard as they graze this area to maintain the vegetation for breeding waders. Overhead, displaying lapwing can be seen with their wavering, up-and-down flight and characteristic 'peewit' call as they lay claim to the best nesting habitat whilst redshank, the 'sentinels of the marsh' watch on, ever vigilant for danger.

In the north-west corner a reed fringe to a smaller water body provides cover. Reed, sedge and Cetti's warblers can be heard singing from within the reed as water rail and coot call from the base. Look closely and you may be lucky enough to see a bittern skulking along as it blends into the background. Dragon and damselflies are in abundance as they dart around on the hunt and perch on the reed and other vegetation.

Back out on the water are the tern rafts. Constructed and deployed to imitate small shingle islands, these provide the perfect conditions for nesting common tern and black-headed gull. Watch as they build nests, incubate eggs and then bring small fish in to their chicks.

All around are the sights and sounds of nature, offering a chance to forget for a time the stresses of life and to connect with the great outdoors. However, this tranquillity can be quickly shattered as wild creatures are easily disturbed and can be put off from using areas where people and dogs regularly go. This reduces the habitat available for them to use and the amount of wildlife for us all to enjoy. You can help wildlife flourish at Fen Drayton Lakes by not entering areas that are reserved for nature and by keeping dogs on a lead or under close control on the public footpaths. Please help us help nature thrive. Thank you.

### **Events**

Under current circumstances, we are not running any events at present.

Email: [fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk](mailto:fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk)

Phone: 01954 233260

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

Singing is a great way to improve the way you breathe and get the best from your lung capacity.

Kay Barrett, who lives in Girton, has been leading the Singing for Breathing group for local community music charity Talking in Tune since May 2016 and would very much like local Girton residents living with breathlessness to benefit.

Kay said: "You don't need any singing experience to take part. It's all about what it feels like, not what it sounds like. The camaraderie of the group, the guided relaxation, the breathing exercises and the singing are so much appreciated by everyone, and the health benefits transfer over into daily life."

"The move to meeting online has worked really well for us. Singers can join from the comfort of their own home, even when they are feeling unwell. You need to turn off your microphone when we sing together, but that can be very liberating! You simply copy what you hear the leader singing, call and response style. We also make use of multi-track recordings, so we can continue to enjoy rounds and harmonies."

### **Do I have to pay?**

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

### **Do I have to come every week?**

We know that appointments, sickness, family commitments and such can get in the way! Just come when you can.

### **I have Long Covid, can I join?**

The gentle pace and the breathing exercises and relaxation can be very beneficial, but do check with your doctor or respiratory physio, especially if your symptoms are severe. Do call Kay if you are unsure.

### **How do I join?**

Simply contact Kay at [singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com](mailto:singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com) or call 07845 726975 for further information and to receive the Zoom link each week. The sessions are held on Thursday afternoons, 2.30 – 4.00pm. You can find out more at [www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com](http://www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/singingforlunghealthcambridge/>



## CODEWORDS

Each number 1-26 represents a different letter of the alphabet. Can You work out which is which ? Use your word skills and the clues included. Note that Codewords can include names or well-known phrases. Answers are on page 9.

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

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

A  
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Y  
Z

## WORDSEARCH Animals & their Offspring

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.

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

BUCK	DEER	GOAT	OWL
BULL	DOE	GOOSE	OWLET
BUTTERFLY	DOG	GRUB	PUP
CALF	DRAKE	HARE	PUPPY
CAT	DUCK	HEN	RAM
CATERPILLAR	DUCKLING	HORSE	SWAN
CHICK	EGG	KID	TADPOLE
CIGNET	EWEE	KIT	TOM
COB	FAUN	KITTEN	
COCKEREL	FOAL	LAMB	
COLT	FOX	MARE	
COW	FROG	MICE	
CUB	GANDER	NANNY	

A vacancy has arisen for the position of  
**Secretary / Trustee**

within

## **The Cotton Hall Foundation**

(Charity No. 311356)



The job entails working alongside the current Trustees and assisting with the efficient administration of the charity.

The core duties include:

- ☐ Preparing agendas and attending meetings (either face to face or by Zoom)
- ☐ Taking minutes and distributing them once typed.
- ☐ Drafting correspondence
- ☐ Reviewing and updating documents

Hours are variable and a modest remuneration is offered, which could be Tax Free depending on status. An introduction to the role and support will be given.

The Cotton Hall is situated in Cambridge Road, Girton, adjacent to St Andrew's Church. Built in 1847, it was the village school until 1959.

The primary aim of the charity is to promote the wellbeing and education of young persons within the village by renting the hall out to child orientated groups, although it is available to hire for private parties and village functions.

For further details please contact the Booking Clerk:

*Wendy Ripley*

*Mobile: 07759 983 420 during office hours*

*Email: cottonhallclerk@yahoo.co.uk*



## **News for Older Residents**

### **My mobile number**

Sincere apologies to anyone trying to contact me during the last month, as my phone number was incorrect in April's magazine. The correct number is **07469 660866**.

### **Hope Again**

Hope Again is a programme of 6 weeks of peer support for the bereaved. It is held in Histon and the next course starts on Thursday 6th May and finishes on Thursday 10th June. Each session is from 2pm to 3:30pm. Please note that registration is necessary.

For more information contact Peter on 07707 263353, email [HABG1@icloud.com](mailto:HABG1@icloud.com), or look under Wellbeing on the Histon and Impington Friends website, [www.hifriends.org.uk](http://www.hifriends.org.uk).

A further course is planned from 2nd September to 7th October 2021.

### **Scams**

The past year has unfortunately seen a proliferation in scams and frauds, so it pays for us all to be continually vigilant. A friend of a friend was nearly caught out, and recently the BBC reported on a former police officer of 25 years who was defrauded of a significant sum. In both cases the source was a text message purporting to come from Royal Mail.

To check whether a phone number or an email address has been involved in a data breach use the website [www.haveibeenpwned.com](http://www.haveibeenpwned.com).

Action Fraud want people to report fraud and cybercrime allegations. To do so see the website [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or phone 0300 1232040.

### **The Way Forward**

As restrictions are eased, I welcome hearing your opinions, thoughts, dreams as well as any issues and difficulties you may be having.

### **Is your chair at the right height?**

Chair raisers are available. Adjusting the height of a chair can make it considerably easier to stand up and sit down.

*Patricia Johnston Older Residents' Coordinator*

*Phone: 07469 660866*

*Email: [patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk)*

supported by  
**Girton**  
TownCharity





## Knowing me, knowing you

At the beginning of George Eliot's novel, the main character Silas Marner is introduced as a lonely weaver, home-working like many of his time. Shunned in love and falsely accused, he exiles himself and toils constantly at his loom. His one consolation in life is the accumulation of gold coins he earns from his skills. Then one terrible day, catastrophe strikes. He is robbed of his treasury, leaving him in utter despair, bereft of his security and the legacy of his work.

At the end of the novel, Silas discovers the answer to the mystery of his devastating loss, and he is confronted with a deeper assessment of the person he had once been. The unexpected, life-changing developments between these two bookends of his life transform his understanding of what really matters in terms of love, relationship, sacrifice and happiness itself. It is a story of redemption, healing and renewal.

Another story of recent times features a young boy sent to England by his father, to live with his extended family. The plan was to provide life-enhancing education and opportunity, but in fact, none of his relatives can afford the extra expense. One day, aged eleven years, he wanders the streets with his few possessions in a bin bag, feeling the despair of one who feels himself an unwanted burden. In a churchyard, however, he is found by a concerned youth worker, who takes him into the loving care of his own family home. Encouraged to develop his musical talent, he grows in confidence and skill. Now he sings the music of the heart that knows the healing power of love and redemption. It is well with his life, and well with his soul.

The Apostle Paul, who called himself the “chief of sinners” knew that there would come a time when he would no longer “see through the glass darkly”, but would be brought into the crystal clear understanding of how his freewill choices had been interwoven with the foresight and protective guidance of God. “Now I know in part, then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known”. (1 Corinthians 13.12). What will he know? The power of the Creator to make all things new. When will he know? At the end of earthly days when all tears are wiped away. Yet how would God manage to take him through the map of his pilgrimage without provoking tears of regret and self-recrimination? Simply this: the triumph of God's grace and the totality of atonement made for Paul and for us, through “the

love of Christ that surpasses knowledge”. The bookends fit into place, enclosing another story of faith, trust, endurance and revelation.

Back in 2020, our frenetic activities, lists, routines and expectations were suddenly robbed of stability. Our targets were put on hold, our time schedules disrupted and re-ordered. Even the fragility of life presented challenges that had lurked, unanswered at the back of our minds. What have we learned about ourselves? How have these long months changed our outlook? The stories of our experiences and anxieties stretch along the shelf towards the bookend. We can ask ourselves, is it personally true that we have learned truths more valuable than gold and have we gained treasure that will endure beyond our troubled times? Until then, God will still strew our pathway with abundant tokens of his redeeming grace.

*Iris Niven*

## **Girton-Based Cambridge String Quartet announces *Notes of Beethoven: A Virtual Wine Tasting***

Music was not always about sound for Ludwig van Beethoven. As his ears began to fail him, he also used the senses of sight and touch when he was composing. The Cambridge String Quartet, based at the Girton home of first violinist Paula Muldoon, invites you to experience Beethoven's music through another sense: taste!

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May we will be joining forces with local wine company Grape Britannia to put on a virtual event combining wine and music. Grape Britannia owner Matt Hodgson has paired four of his finest British wines with Beethoven's String Quartet in A major, Op. 18. No. 5, and will lead listeners through a virtual tasting in dialogue with Beethoven expert Professor Nicholas Marston of Kings College, Cambridge. The Cambridge String Quartet will offer a fresh take on this fizzing, theatrical quartet, performing each movement alongside a different wine and offering listeners an enriching experience for all the senses!

Tickets start at £10 (excluding wine) and can be purchased through [cambridgestringquartet.co.uk](http://cambridgestringquartet.co.uk). There is limited availability as wine will be delivered locally so book soon!

## The Friends of the Rosie

We hope that all our customers have managed to enjoy Easter with their families, are all in good health and looking forward to another unusual summer.



The Friends of the Rosie are enthusiastic volunteers whose aim is to improve the services the hospital provides by raising money for items that the NHS does not buy.

We are selling new items on our [rosieinstitches.org.uk](http://rosieinstitches.org.uk) website and Facebook marketplaces and second hand items in our rosieinstitches2010 charity store on eBay.

If you have been tidying another cupboard, we are still welcoming donations of craft materials

We need to find alternative storage space for the items we have for sale. If you have a garage or a shed that you are not making full use of would you consider letting it out to our charity.

The Rosie Hospital has started accepting donations, telephone reception on 01223 217617 to arrange a time to deliver your donation.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make a big difference during this difficult time by raising donations for us. If you are not supporting Friends of the Rosie Hospital yet, please sign up now. It takes 2 minutes and 4,500+ shops will donate to us for free every time you shop with them! Visit:

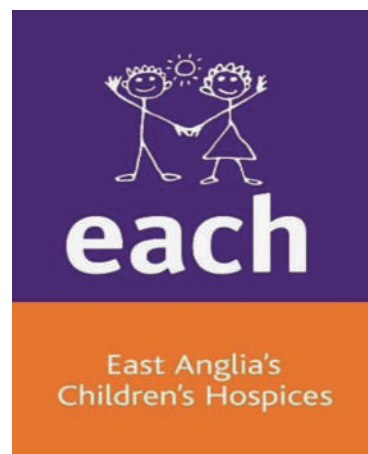
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forh/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forh/)

Our profits for 2021 are currently £252 from online sales.

We are still unable to run our Friends of the Rosie tea bar in Clinic 21 due to Covid19. We are unable to say when our tea bar will be able to open again as most of our volunteers are of retirement age or older. We will provide you with regular updates when we know more. We would be able to open sooner if our volunteers were younger. We also need more volunteers. If you know of anyone who might be interested. Please contact Ann Laskey ([annlaskey@icloud.com](mailto:annlaskey@icloud.com)) for more details of what would be involved.

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of knitters, provide transport for our volunteers, display a small selection of our wares or to help on the Rosie tea bar. Contact Mary Sanders on 01223 356615 further details are given on our website [www.rosieinstitches.org.uk](http://www.rosieinstitches.org.uk).

All the very best. Thank you for your continued support.



## EACH in call for volunteers

With many of its shop volunteers currently unable to lend a hand due to the pandemic, the number of hours' support it normally receives is down more than 50%.

EACH is facing a financial deficit over the next 12 months, following disruption to fundraising and retail, and at the same time its care and support is more important than ever as vulnerable families become exhausted from shielding.

It is very important the charity can manage its retail activity back to sustainable levels of income, but it will not be able to do this without more volunteer support.

Might you be able to help? Just a couple of hours a week can make a difference.

There are so many ways you can support, from sorting donations and dressing windows to running the till and listing items on the eBay shop.

Why not pop in to the local EACH shop in Histon Road, chat to the team and arrange a taster session? A full list of shop locations and phone numbers can be found here: [www.each.org.uk/retail-volunteers](http://www.each.org.uk/retail-volunteers).

Alternatively please contact EACH Volunteer Services on 01223 205183 or at [volunteerservices@each.org.uk](mailto:volunteerservices@each.org.uk).





**Rector: Revd Michael Bigg**

**Tel: 01223 202145**

**Email: [rector@girton.church](mailto:rector@girton.church)**

**Website: [www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church)**

**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**

#### **Sunday Services : May**

<b>2nd</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>7:30pm</b>	Taize Service (Online)
<b>9th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	All-age Communion
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Evening Prayer (BCP)
<b>16th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Evening Prayer (BCP)
<b>23th</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
	<b>10:00am</b>	Morning Prayer
<b>30th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Holy Communion

#### **Weekday Services : May**

<b>Wednesdays 9:00am</b>	Morning Prayer (said)
<b>Thursdays 9:00am</b>	Morning Prayer (said)
<b>Thursdays 9:00pm</b>	Compline (said) (Online)

<b>13th</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Ascension Day
<b>27th</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP) (TBC)

Thanks be to God! From Easter Day services in church have resumed. We are doing everything we can to make it a safe environment. Face masks should be worn properly as much as possible, and social distancing is to be maintained, even outside when we might be tempted to discuss the sermon! For those who wish to continue to worship remotely, Sunday morning services will continue to be streamed on YouTube for the foreseeable future. You may tune in at <http://bit.ly/GirtonParishLive>.

St Andrew's is also open daily for personal prayer. All care must be taken regarding cleanliness and touching any surfaces. There is hand sanitiser available. If there is anyone else in the church, please respect social distancing. And may you find peace and comfort in this sacred space.

The Taizé service is being held remotely using Zoom usually 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.

Please check the church website for up to date information at [www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church)

**Minister: Revd Nick Lowe**

**Tel: 01223 279289**

**Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith**

**Tel: 01223 520442**

**Website: [www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk)**

#### **Sunday Services : May, all starting at 10:30am:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>** Girton Baptist Church, and on Zoom, with communion, led by Christine Kimmitt
- 9<sup>th</sup>** Girton Baptist Church, and on Zoom, led by Nick Lowe
- 16<sup>th</sup>** Girton Baptist Church, and on Zoom, with communion, led by Nick Lowe
- 23<sup>rd</sup>** Girton Baptist Church, and on Zoom, led by Nick Lowe (Pentecost)
- 30<sup>th</sup>** Girton Baptist Church or William Collyn Centre (TBC), and on Zoom, led by Nick Lowe For the link for Zoom please ring 07751 748757 or email [pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk).

Please use the church website for booking for in-person services. Masks and social distancing will be needed because of COVID.

#### **A Bible verse**

*"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting."*  
(Acts 2:1-2)

#### **Some words from a Pentecost hymn**

*Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

#### **A prayer for the coming of the Spirit**

*Creator of everything in heaven and on earth, we pray that from Your glorious, unlimited resources You will empower us with inner strength through Your Spirit. May our roots grow deep into Your word and keep us strong. As we experience the incomprehensible love of Christ, may we be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from You. Amen.*

**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

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 Councillor**

Tom Bygott, Tel: 232966

[cldr@bygott.net](mailto:cldr@bygott.net)

**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

## Girton Neighbourhood Watch

### WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



**Why not become a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator?**

Members work together, alongside the police, sharing concerns and observations, reducing crime and fear of crime and looking out for each other.

For emergencies, dial 999

For non-emergencies, dial 101

**For next meeting see GPN Calendar**

*All Welcome!*

#### Girton Neighbourhood Watch Committee

**Chair:** Val Godby  
[v.godby897@btinternet.com](mailto:v.godby897@btinternet.com) (01223 276372)

**Secretary:** Margaret Wheatley  
[wheatleymargaret606@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wheatleymargaret606@yahoo.co.uk) (01223 527093)

**Vice-Chair:** Geoff Varley  
[geoff.varley3522@btinternet.com](mailto:geoff.varley3522@btinternet.com) (01223 276772)

**Communications:** Sandy Couch  
[sandy\\_couch@hotmail.com](mailto:sandy_couch@hotmail.com) (01223 277782)

### Bin collections - May

**Friday 7 May**

Thursday 13 May

Thursday 20 May

Thursday 27 May

**Blue and Green bins**

Black bin

Blue and Green bins

Black bin

### Mobile Library

**Thursday 27 May 2021**

Thornton Court	9.40 -10.00
Abbeyfield	10.05 -10.50
Cotton Hall/Church	11.00 -11.30
Orchard Close	11.35 -12.00
St Vincents Close	12.05 -12.30
Gretton Court	12.35 -13.00
Churchfield Court	13.05 -13.30

### 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 Social Club



Be part of history and join Girton Social Club which meets in this lovely old building, the Village Institute:

Monday – Saturday 7.30 pm – 11.00 pm  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12.00 noon – 3.00 pm

For this year only new members will pay half price at £5.00 / £1.75 concessions.

Current members will have their 2020 membership extended until February, 2022, at no extra cost or loss of continuity. Lapsed members start again at £5.00. Members must be over 18. Accompanied children are very welcome as are dogs.

Extra tables have been set up for people wishing to stay outside but we will be able to sit inside at tables in groups of no more than six from 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. Amenities offered are: soft and alcoholic drinks, snacks, pool table, darts board, juke box and television. Free wi-fi available.

See our Facebook page. Enquiries: [GirtonSocialClub@gmail.com](mailto:GirtonSocialClub@gmail.com)

Tony Bennett - Chairman, Girton Social Club. Tel: 01223 276890





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[WWW.GIRTONGOLF.CO.UK](http://WWW.GIRTONGOLF.CO.UK)