



# GIRTON

## Parish News



December 2021

*Great response to St Andrew's Mitten Tree project! See page 27*



*Get ready for Thornton Advent Window Festival!*

*See page 30*

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

A copy of the magazine is available on the Girton website at [www.girton-cambs.org.uk](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.

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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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## Girton Poppy Appeal raises over £9,500!

This year Girton raised the magnificent sum of £9,730.78. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthwhile cause again in any way. From the volunteers who sat in Sainsbury's foyer at Eddington, to the businesses in the village that had collecting boxes on display and to all those who donated money. The Royal British Legion was formed in 1921 as a charity to raise funds for ex-servicemen who had been disabled in the Great War of 1914 – 1918. One founder of the charity, Field Marshal Douglas Haig adopted the Poppy as the symbol of the Royal British Legion which we all recognise today. Originally, the black centre of the Poppy was stamped with 'Haig Fund', but this changed to 'Poppy Appeal' in 1994. Although a Century has passed since the formation of the Royal British Legion 'Poppy Appeal', the work carried out by the charity continues to be as relevant today as it was 100 years ago. Support and assistance continue to be provided to our Armed Forces Personnel following further conflicts throughout the world.

*Wendy Ripley*

*Poppy Appeal Organiser for Girton*

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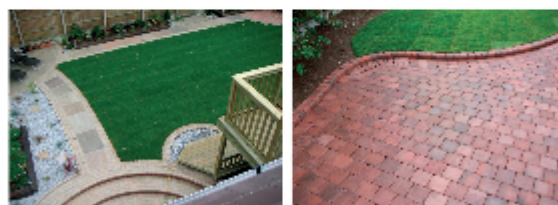
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## Girton Parish Council

Matters discussed at November's meeting included: review of COVID safety measures at council meetings; reconsideration of the Parish Office location with a decision to reopen the pavilion office once communication utilities have been restored; appointment of chair of the finance and resource committee; a range of measures to improve operational efficiency and governance; formation of a task and finish group to review standing orders and policies and permission to approve the appointment of a contractor to conduct a survey of all trees on Parish Council land. It was also agreed that we should consider village participation in the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in 2022 including the 'Queens Green Canopy' initiative.

We will be reviewing the response to our Oakington Road bridge path widening consultation at the next meeting but have noted that to date several responses, including that of one of our district councillors, are conflating the issue of the pathway widening with the problems of flooding being exacerbated by the bridge. These are in no way related, and any of the current proposals will make no difference to any flood mitigation measures under consideration now or in the future.

It was also noted that following the very sad loss of George Thorpe we are in need of a volunteer to lead the Green Team which was established and led by George for a number of years. Anyone who feels they could step up to this role is encouraged to contact the clerk or chairman.

Residents will be aware that we have begun to make use of our speed monitoring/recording equipment which we initially located on Cambridge Road. This was provided by the County Council and we are allowed to use it for up to four weeks in any single location. It measures and records vehicle speeds in both directions of travel to provide data to support any speed restriction proposals. We will be moving it about the village in the coming months.

Reinstatement of solar stud lighting along the section of Oakington Road from the bridge to the business park was promised for the 18th November but then delayed by red tape in obtaining permission for the work to go ahead. At time of writing we do not have a confirmed date for the work but we are pressing the Council on the urgency of the matter.

It was most encouraging to note very high attendance at the Remembrance Ceremonies held at the War Memorial on the 11th and 14th November. Thanks

go to Wendy Ripley, who has again managed the Poppy Appeal in the village, and who organised the participants and wreath layers on the Sunday.

**The Chairman, Councillors and Staff of Girton Parish Council wish all residents a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.**

### Next meetings

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). The next in-person meetings will be on **Tuesday 14th December** (note the earlier than usual date to accommodate Seasonal activities) and Tuesday 18th January at St Vincent's Close Community Centre.

## Carol Singing in Girton 2021

This year we are planning to sing carols around the streets of Girton on Tuesday 21st, Thursday 23rd, and Friday 24th December. Our chosen charity this year is the Arthur Rank Hospice. Full details of the routes for each night can be found on our website: [girtoncarolsingers.org.uk](http://girtoncarolsingers.org.uk), or you can find us on Facebook.

We start at 6.30 pm and sing for around two and a half hours, but there is no need to come for the whole time - you can leave early or join us part way along the route. We always need plenty of singers and collectors! Children are very welcome but should be accompanied by an adult. The starting points for each evening are as follows:

Tuesday 21st: Meet by St Andrew's Church bus shelter: singing in the North end of the village

Thursday 23rd: Meet at the Girton Rd end of Thornton Rd: singing in the Thorntons

Friday 24th: Meet at the sensory garden on Girton Rd: singing in Wellbrook Way and Weavers Field.

Dress for the weather, and bring a torch!

For more details contact Helen on 01223 276940 or email [info@girtoncarolsingers.org.uk](mailto:info@girtoncarolsingers.org.uk).

## Girton Parish Council - meet the clerks!

I am pleased to introduce myself as your new Girton Parish Clerk. My name is Yvonne Murray and I joined Girton Parish Council taking over from Susie Cumming on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Huge thanks to Susie for her time in the role of Parish Clerk, a role which has changed out of all recognition in the last few years.

Girton is where I grew up. My mum's family came from Girton, and my Grandad was a Groundsman at Girton College. I have many great friends here having attended Girton Glebe and then Impington Village College.

Since 1991, I have lived in Histon. Since 2019 I have been vice-chair of Histon & Impington Parish Council. A role that has taught me a lot about how much a proactive Parish Council can bring to a village and how important it is to work with and listen to the Community who know it best. You are all in the best position to know what you need in your neighbourhood, your street, your village, and I hope to hear from many of you.

I am really pleased to be working with Angie, your Assistant Clerk and Chris Wilson as Groundsman. As a Parish Staff team working with your Parish Councillors, we will do all we can to ensure that you find Girton Parish Council relevant, supportive, and most importantly working on your behalf.

Please do contact me by emailing [clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk](mailto:clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk). I would be pleased to hear from you. Angie, Chris, and I will also be looking for new ways to keep you better informed. Any ideas you have on what you would like to hear about, please let us know.

*Yvonne Murray*

*Girton Parish Clerk*

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



I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Assistant Clerk for Girton Parish Council at our office in the Pavilion. I am a resident of the village and have great memories of growing up here. I attended Girton Glebe Primary School, where my son now attends too.

After being a manager at Girton Colts football club over the last few years I have gained valuable insights into the running of the sports and recreation facilities available in Girton, which will no doubt prove helpful in my new role.

Yvonne and I have made a fantastic start and I am sure we are going to make a great team. We have been brainstorming some exciting ideas to help and inform our local community, especially to enable us all to move forward in this digital society where we now live. Plans for new and improved facilities are on the horizon and I look forward to being part of the process.

For details on booking the pavilion and all other facilities e.g., sports areas, pitches and recreation grounds, enquiries can be made by emailing [admin@girton-cambs.org.uk](mailto:admin@girton-cambs.org.uk).

*Angie Vidler*

*Assistant Clerk*

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



### The Cotton Hall Survey

The Trustees wish to thank everyone who completed a survey form, or contacted us concerning the hall's future. It has given us much to think about on how to incorporate some of the suggestions.

We wish all our current users a Happy Christmas, and a steadier 2022. New Users always welcome. Anyone wishing to hire the Cotton Hall should contact the Booking clerk on 07759 983 420 or [cottonhallclerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cottonhallclerk@yahoo.co.uk).

# FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

## County Councillor Edna Murphy

A key area of concern is the trees planted as part of the A14 project. Many residents have noticed the poor state of trees which were planted in numbers adjacent to the A14 including the 'sound barrier' near Washpit Lane and Weaver's Field. Newly-planted trees are failing to grow or have died and so many of the plastic tubes are just filled with weeds.

National Highways (formerly Highways England) has a contractual obligation to replant for a period of 5 years. They say they are addressing the backlog of dead saplings and replanting them, but they are moving far too slowly. Right now they're trying to work out how many have died, and making a list of how many to replant. But it is getting late for this year's tree planting season, and even if they are replanted it is not clear that newly planted trees will have a better fate.

It could be National Highways is just inefficient, or they could be wasting time until the obligation to replant times out. I am working with colleagues who are similarly concerned to challenge National Highways to grasp the problem and address the fundamental issues so tree planting happens now, and can be successful. We are calling upon them to publish their data on progress with tree planting and explain when replanting will happen and how they will ensure these saplings will thrive. There are so many reasons why the tree planting must succeed. I will be reporting on progress in future editions of *Girton Parish News*.

In other news... a number of important decisions have been made recently by the County Council, including support to rethink the 20mph policy and the rules around introducing it. The County has had an overly restrictive policy on introducing 20mph which has limited progress on this front. The Highways Committee will consider more detailed policy proposals in their December Committee meeting. The intention is to make it easier to reduce speed limits, including 20mph. This has potential to support aspirations to manage speed reduction in a more holistic rather than piecemeal way.

We have previously committed to continuing the holiday support programme for children from disadvantaged families. But at the recent Full Council it was approved to create a fund to support children from disadvantaged families, particularly bearing in mind the combined effect of changes to Universal Credit and increased cost of living. The

fund will help with access to education and sport and other ways to enhance their life chances.

Also note that the County Council was successful in applying for Enhanced Response Area funding from the government. This provides additional funding for the County to help deliver more vaccinations and boosters, to tackle the very high levels of infection.

*Cllr Edna Murphy*

01223 577005

[Edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## District Councillor Tom Bygott

### Widening of the cycleway at Oakington Road Bridge

In last month's edition of the *Girton Parish News*, a consultation was called on the above project. The aims are to widen the shared use cycle/footway by narrowing the road and to repair a crack in the wall, called a parapet, next to the footpath. Having thought about this and consulted with some of the nearby residents, I have decided to oppose this scheme for the following reasons.

1. Flooding - In October 2001 and again in July 2012, residents of Dodford Lane, Fairway, Northfield and Oakington Road suffered from devastating flooding. Duck End and Gretton Court are also at risk for the next flood. The Environment Agency's Floodline issued alerts in Nov and Dec 2012, Feb 2014, Apr 2018 and on Christmas Eve last year. The Oakington Road Bridge is the cause of these problems, having too small an opening underneath and a base, called an invert, that is too high, with insufficient fall in the watercourse upstream. For decades, the Environment Agency and the County Council have "kicked the can down the road", hoping that the problem will go away. It is predicted that climate change will lead to higher rainfall in the UK; at some point this bridge must be replaced. Making minor cosmetic changes to the top of the bridge without fixing the major problems underneath is sending a message to our flood-prone neighbours that they are "out of sight, out of mind".
2. Poor cycleway strategy - Cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders, motorists and public transport each need their own networks. For too long the County Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership have been trying to shoehorn infrastructure into places where there is simply not enough room. The side of a road is the most expensive, the most dangerous and most polluted place to build a cycle path - we should be building an off-road route up to the Guided Busway instead.

3. Pollution - Only a tiny proportion of the cars on our roads have regenerative braking. According to the latest data from the SMMT (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders) even most new cars don't have it. Every time such cars stop, their kinetic energy is wasted. Road obstacles may slow the traffic, but they come at a terrible cost in pollution and wasted fuel. It is unfair for the residents who live along Oakington Road to be subject to this additional noise and pollution.

*Cllr Tom Bygott*

*cllr@bygott.net*

*07765 475 513*

## **District Councillor Corinne Garvie**

Bridget Smith, the leader of the SCDC and Councillor Pippa Heylings went to COP26 in Glasgow. Pippa spoke at the conference about how acknowledgement must be made that local authorities and municipalities play a vital role in driving the changes needed in the climate emergency.

Instead of climate change being a separate part of the Council services, mitigating climate change underpins all district services.

### **Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Consultation closes 13<sup>th</sup> December**

From 2020 to 2041, 58,500 jobs and 44,400 homes, have to be delivered across the area. Cambridge is a growth area. 3720 houses are already planned and are being developed, mostly in Northstowe and Waterbeach New Town and these will meet the majority of the Councils' objectively assessed needs.

Local Plan homepage -

[www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan). Please read this report, if you have time and comment. There is a quick questionnaire to make it easier for you.

### **Transport Consultation**

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has published its latest proposals on the future of transport for the area. It has gathered the wishes of people from focus groups and previous consultations. Among the proposals is a doubling of public transport with the revision of the bus network which has not changed in 30 years. Do you think cars ought to be charged to pay for a better bus service? To find out more contact [www.greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021). It needs you to give them feedback on the proposals.

It has come to the end of my first six months. I have learnt a lot, one of which is I can do my best but not always get what I want. Also I have learned how hard working and helpful the officers are. Covid has made their work more difficult and most of them are still working from home.

In the Planning organisation, there had been a backlog in validation. This was cleared nearly 6-8 weeks ago. That backlog is now working its way through the case officers' desks. The planning service is short staffed which is a national problem. Ours are carrying workloads that are 200+% more than they should have.

I hope you have a good and Covid free Christmas. It will be better than last year when relatives could not stay overnight.

Best wishes for the New Year.

*Councillor Corinne Garvie*

*Cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk*

*07780 932267*

## **Low cost car parking**

Rotary, with a number of Girton residents as members, will again be opening two central university sites to raise much needed funds for good causes and to contribute to the festive season. Cash donations of £7 (or more) are welcome and this covers parking for the rest of the day until the site closes. The Downing and Chemistry sites are open for business on these days:

**Saturday 27th Nov then 4th, 11th, 18th Dec**

**Sunday 28th Nov then 5th, 12th, 19th Dec**

**Monday 27th to Friday 31st December**

**Downing Site, Tennis Court Road, CB2 1GA**

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**Department of Chemistry, Lensfield Road, CB2 1EW**

Entry from 10am, except on Sundays when it is 11am.

Exit by 5pm.

[www.cambridge-southrotary.org.uk](http://www.cambridge-southrotary.org.uk)



## Girton Cottontails Preschool

As we move closer to the end of term, we are very busy at preschool preparing not only for our Christmas celebrations, but also for our move to Girton Glebe school. In January

we'll be ready to open in our new premises, exactly the same Girton Cottontails Preschool as we are now, just in a new location.

This year, we have our fingers crossed that we'll be able to invite parents and carers back in to watch the Christmas performance. The children have been practicing enthusiastically!

At Forest School we've been enjoying the lovely Autumn weather, we've been for walks, been identifying the different types of fungi found around the woodland (and talking about the risks of touching unknown fungi) and we've been building bridges and ladders.

The children have been working hard sweeping the leaves at preschool. This seems to be a very popular job, which is brilliant and then there is additional fun to be had by jumping in the piles of leaves we've created afterwards!



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*Laura Norman and Emma Pell*

*Girton Cottontails Preschool Managing Directors*

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*Phone: 07368 180771*

*Web: <https://www.girtoncottontailspreschool.com>*

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## Girton Walking Group

There was a record turnout for the November walk in Wicken Fen. There are two walks over the festive season.

### Saturday December 4th, 2021

A shorter walk of about 3½ miles through the Coton Countryside Reserve. This will be followed by a "bring and share" lunch at our house to celebrate Christmas and being together after the pandemic. Meet at Coton Church, 74 High St, Coton, Cambridge CB23 7PL at 10 am. This walk could be muddy, although we have worked out an alternative route in case the weather has been very wet. For full details, and to offer a dish to bring to the meal, please email Gina at [ginaklane@aol.com](mailto:ginaklane@aol.com).

### New Year's Day Walk, Saturday 1st January, 2022

Linton – Hadstock – Icknield Way circular walk, 5 miles, 3 hours.

This is a pleasant walk on footpaths through fields in gently rolling countryside with some good views. As it is midwinter, be prepared for muddy conditions! Bring food and hot drinks.

Meet at Linton Industrial Estate. Take the A1307 (Haverhill Road) to Linton. After Linton Village College go through two sets of traffic lights; after the second, take the next right-hand turn signposted to Hadstock, Linton Zoo and Industrial Estate (the road is called 'The Grip'). After a couple of hundred yards the Industrial Estate is on the right, before you get to Linton Zoo. There should be plenty of parking there on New Year's Day.

As it is a little farther from Cambridge than we normally go (and it is the morning after New Year's Eve), we thought we would make a slightly later start at 10.30am. The drive from Girton takes about 30 minutes.

Contact Angela Blackburn if you need or can offer a lift, or need further directions: 07482 222536 / 01223 528278 / [angela.blackburn@cantab.net](mailto:angela.blackburn@cantab.net).



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As another strange year ends and the world continues living with Covid, I am sure many of us will have discovered these last 21 months how many beautiful walks Cambridge and its surrounding regions provide. Our gardens have given us an extra room for family and social gatherings when Covid restrictions allowed. Christmas planning and festivities in December will take up a lot of everyone's thoughts but there are many productive garden tasks we can still do.

December is a good time to tidy up the garden, protect plants from frosts and plan for the spring. Not forgetting cleaning and sharpening any garden tools. Before the soil gets too cold, you can still split plants and replant in the ground or pots. There is still time to plant bulbs in large pots of compost ready to fill any gaps in spring borders for next year. If the ground is workable and you can plant bulbs to the correct depth, you can still plant tulips and daffodils into January! Bulbs planted at the correct depth will develop roots through to the spring and aren't affected by frost.

Cold wet weather can damage trees, shrubs, and garden structures such as trellises. If possible, improve the shelter for your vulnerable plants in the ground. Plants at risk in the ground or in pots can be wrapped in protective fleeces. Greenhouses provide shelter for vulnerable plants. The main loss of greenhouse heat is from draughts through the structure, so seal cracks and replace broken frames and ensure doors and vents fit snugly. A layer of bubble polythene on the inside of greenhouses helps maintain some heat over winter but every layer reduces about 10% of light which can impact on plant growth. On warmer winter days, ventilate your greenhouse to reduce humidity and risk of disease.

Winter pruning is still possible, climbing roses will benefit from removing diseased or damaged growth and tying in new shoots. You can prune your acers and vines as they will bleed sap if pruned later. Winter pruning should be avoided though on wall framed apples and pears, but open grown varieties benefit from pruning as that gives the structure balance and encourages quality fruit production next year.

Clear away large areas of fallen leaves from the lawn or paved areas as they can harbour disease and give a slippery surface in winter months. The leaves will rot down in leaf or compost bins, ready for next year. Take care not to let leaves accumulate around alpines as they will die if left damp for long. Covering bare patches around alpine clumps with gritty compost will encourage regrowth. Hopefully removing leaf debris around plants will prevent slugs and snails from setting up home over winter.


As the nights draw in, houseplants add a touch of seasonal joy but remember they need less water in winter months. Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera*) with their abundant, brightly coloured flowers at this time of year look attractive anywhere indoors. I take cuttings once they have flowered from the end stems, placing cuttings in water for a few weeks until the roots appear, then I plant into smaller pots of well drained compost which you can leave with little attention for next few months, watering spasmodically until they begin to produce healthy growth. Re-pot then into larger pots and by next Christmas you will have a mini flowering plant. If you have a poinsettia over Christmas, protect it from cold draughts and allow them to dry out slightly between watering to make them last the whole Christmas period and well into January.



*Pyracantha bushes*

No front door is complete without a Christmas wreath. Making your own wreath using readily available materials from your garden is fun and one all the family can enjoy. Stems, leaves and flowerheads will make beautiful wreaths or try a living wreath from succulents and grasses too. Cinnamon sticks and baubles can brighten up homegrown foliage if required. Garden foliage can also make an attractive balustrade over fireplaces or up a stairway, using soft garden wire for support and anchorage, adding Christmas decorations if you wish. We have a large holly bush in our back garden, laden with red berries in November and early December but by Christmas most berries have been taken by the birds. However, the pyracantha bushes in our front garden are abundant with orange, red and yellow berries at this time of year and they provide a good substitute for any foliage decoration we choose. All good fun but I must remember to wear gloves to protect my hands from any prickly foliage! Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

*Chris Pittock, Girton Garden Society*



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## Girton's Edgelands

It's easy to envision the ideal English landscape as open fields bordered by ancient hedges, oak

trees standing proud, and the sound of birdsong bathing it in pastoral glory. In most cases, local reality may be somewhat more mundane, but as you walk down the path along Bunker's Hill to Eddington, between the fences, piles of rubble, unpainted tarmac and paths yet to be trodden, there is more than enough of interest and beauty to occupy a naturalist for as long as they have to spare.

The unnoticed spaces within and between buildings, may not draw the human eye but other species regard it simply as habitat to colonise, and in which to flourish. On a larger scale, Girton's own edgelands between the village and Eddington have more to offer than may appear at first. The empty and apparently unloved spaces around urban or even suburban spaces are often seen as something to move through with disdain rather than a place to stop, look, contemplate, and engage with, but they offer much to those willing to look beyond the thinly grass-skinned rubble piles and sense of impermanence. In the space of a few hundred pages in their book *Edgelands*, Paul Farley and Michael Symmons Roberts changed the way I regard these spaces forever. Just as when you stare at a shrub or grass for long enough, the multitude of insect life seems to loom into view from nowhere. I now see these transitional, liminal spaces as a different rather than diminished opportunity to hunt unusual and usual flora and fauna. If you stop and look for more than a few moments, nature does show its hand.

At some point, Bunker's Hill ends and a path begins that bisects some soon to be populated suburban bliss. For the moment, the resident Skylarks and Pied Wagtails don't complain about the slow progress of the development as they claim the space as their own, unchallenged. As the Kestrels shift their static positions westwards using their enhanced vision to spot fresh animal trails, they care nothing for the unopened units around Sainsbury's, their hearty lunchtime options available all day without the need for a mask or a Nectar card.

In a strange way, I like the fences along the path. It provides habitat for wildlife to remain undisturbed, beyond our reach, even temporarily. Soon enough we'll take the space back, so even if it's not the bucolic idyll we might prefer, let's still enjoy what it can give to us rather than passing through as quickly as possible.

*James de Winter*

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



## Girton WI

The Festive season came early to Girton WI at our November Meeting. The lovely Cecilia Amies came to show us how to put a foam free, natural Christmas wreath together. She came with an abundance of wonderful foliage, spruce, firs, eucalyptus, berries and much more to adorn the frame in front of her. Cecilia made the whole process look effortless and the end result was magnificent.

She described each stage in great detail and some of our members took kit boxes home that Cecilia had made up, containing everything that was needed to make our own creation, apart from gathering our own foliage, when we are ready. The kits were subsidised by Girton WI as part of the evening, as there was no time to make our own at the meeting.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas Party on Wednesday 1st December to be held at our normal venue The William Collyn Community Centre from 7pm when we will be entertained by 'The Footlights Quartet' and enjoy a festive buffet.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Wednesday 5th January when our speaker will be James Irons from the Emmaus charity.

Please don't forget that you are welcome to just come along to a WI meeting or if you would like more details of what WI is all about email [girtonwi@gmail.com](mailto:girtonwi@gmail.com) or [girtonwisecretary@gmail.com](mailto:girtonwisecretary@gmail.com).

Girton WI is held the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the William Collyn Community Centre.

### Mobile post office confirmed

The Post Office has confirmed they are to open a mobile post office in Girton for one hour a week from 1-2pm every Friday.

The mobile post office will stop in the car park in Orchard Close behind the old Scallywags Nursery starting from 3rd December.

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### TAKE NOTICE

End this year and begin the new year by taking notice – of what you have, of where you are, of whom you're with and of how you're feeling. Appreciation and gratitude are healthy habits.



### LEARN

You may have gained a new skill or qualification this year, at work or at home. Maybe you have a certificate to show for it or maybe you can now do or make something which you couldn't before.



### GIVE

Giving doesn't have to cost money. We can give of our time or give others a welcome. Celebrations in many cultures at this time of year include gift giving which can be as rewarding for the giver as

for the receiver. But maybe you'll also consider donating to a food bank or charity.



### BE ACTIVE

Whilst the wintry weather may deter you from being outside, a short walk in the fresh air and natural light is so beneficial. If you can't get out, armchair or indoor exercises can be helpful too.



### CONNECT

Connection is key to tackling loneliness. We encourage people to reach in for support but we can also reach out – to a neighbour, via a charity, to family.

Connecting by meeting up, sending a letter/card, emailing or texting can make such a difference. Who have you not been in touch with for a while?

*With Season's Greetings to you from Juliet Adlouné, a longstanding Girton resident and a fully qualified and accredited Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor and Suicide First Aid Associate Tutor experienced in delivering the full suite of MHFA and SFA courses and committed to supporting mental health within her local community. Contact her via: [www.facebook.com/listeninglantern.julietadlouné](https://www.facebook.com/listeninglantern.julietadlouné) or [mhfa.julietadlouné@gmail.com](mailto:mhfa.julietadlouné@gmail.com).*



*Starling Murmuration at Fen Drayton Lakes, by Gill Parish*

## Codeword solution - see page 24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
R	E	U	S	A	O	Y	G	B	D	V	X	P	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
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## Twelve wines for Christmas

This past year I have particularly enjoyed exploring English and Welsh wines and it has been a delightful voyage of discovery. So much so that I have included some choice wines from our fair isle in this list of Christmas wines for you to enjoy either with food, or simply when you are chilling out with your favourite film or book over the festive period. Merry Christmas!

### Apéritifs

If sherry is your favourite pre-prandial tipple, **Don Gaspar Dry Amontillado Lustau** has a pleasant nutty and dried fruit flavour, together with a hint of tanginess. Perfect with cured meats, manchego and olives. Waitrose (£11.99)

If you're looking for a refreshing sparkling wine to get your Christmas lunch off to a fine start, **Nyetimber Classic Cuvée MV** is a treat. With flavours of honey, almond and brioche on the palate, this is a very fine and elegant sparkling wine which is consistently judged top of its game. (£32.99, also available as a half bottle).

Or why not try a fresh and light Greek white wine? The **Moschofilero-Roditis 2020** is part of Marks & Spencer's Food range. This dry white wine with Muscaty, honeyed tones and a minerally, lemon tang creates a well-balanced wine with a lengthy finish. Marks & Spencer (£8.50)

### White wines

**Paco & Lola Albariño 2019** is described by Decanter as 'everything you want on the palate, and more'. A fresh, lively wine with flavours of lime, lemon, peach and a touch of salinity is a perfectly balanced wine that will match perfectly with white meat and fish dishes. Tesco, Sainsbury's (£12- £14)

The **Camel Valley Atlantic Dry 2020** is a delightful dry, medium-bodied wine with refreshing acidity and flavours of apple and peach. A perfect wine for a fish or seafood dish. Grape Britannia (£14.99)

**Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Jurançon Sec** is a well-balanced dry wine with flavours of apple, pear and grapefruit. The wine has medium acidity and a medium finish, and will handle the myriad flavours of a festive Christmas lunch well if you prefer white wine with your main dish. Sainsbury's (£9)

### Red wines

With all the complex interplay of flavours associated with a traditional Christmas turkey lunch, a wine with lower tannins will cope better. This **Winbirri Signature 2017** grown in Norfolk has blackberry and cherry flavours, together with a hint of toastiness and spice. It will be an excellent match for your turkey and trimmings. Grape Britannia (£14.99)

A Malbec from Cahors will go well with duck or pork and **Le Grand Retour 2018** is a dry wine with medium acidity and medium tannins. It has flavours of blackberry and jamminess, with a hint of chocolate and liquorice, and is a well-balanced, medium-bodied wine. Majestic (£11.99, Mix Six £9.99)

For something bolder, this **1000 Stories Zinfandel 2018** from California is a very good full-bodied wine with intense black fruit flavours and vanilla and caramel on the palate. A well-balanced wine with a lingering finish, this will hold its own with roast beef or similar strong flavours. Tesco, Sainsbury's (£15).

### Dessert wines

**Taylor's 10-year old Tawny Port** has a fruity, nutty flavour to be enjoyed with cheese or dessert, or post-lunch while watching the Queen's speech. Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Waitrose (£16-£22)

Another treat is the Australian **Campbell's Rutherglen Muscat**. This is a lusciously sweet wine with flavours of fruitcake, dates and nuts, this is a smooth, wonderfully balanced wine. A perfect match for cheese or dessert. Majestic (£14.99, Mix Six £12.49)

Or why not try a Welsh fortified wine? The **White Castle Vineyard 1581** is a cracking way to finish your lunch. Or perhaps with a mince pie later in the day. Well, anytime really – it's a delight. A soft, smooth wine with a long finish, it has rich blackberry and plum flavours on the palate. In a word, heavenly. Grape Britannia (£27.49).

Merry Christmas! You can find more wine suggestions on my blog:

[www.itmustbewineoclock.com](http://www.itmustbewineoclock.com)

*Martin Nuttall*

# GIRTON scoreboard



## Girton Bowls Club

When the nights draw in and it is hard to imagine a lovely sunny evening of bowls, many of our members have chosen to take advantage of the facilities at Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club and play indoor bowls throughout the winter months. To maximise the number of indoor games they play, our indoor bowlers not only play for

Girton but join many of the various friendly leagues that play at Chesterton.



*A lovely autumnal day for a ramble*

The annual Cambridge and District AGM was held recently, and the main item voted for unanimously was the reinstatement of after match refreshments. This hopefully is a trend that will be followed by all the other leagues.

We were able to hold a live AGM this year at the WCCC on 26th November, unlike last year when all business was conducted by email. The usual reports from the chairman, treasurer and secretary, together with those from all the captains, were presented to the meeting. An update on the green and club maintenance was also delivered, followed by the competitions report. The re-election of those committee members willing to stand and election of newly proposed committee members was also put to the vote for approval.

Following a slow response from the Parish Council regarding the lack of toilet facilities at the green, representatives of the Bowls Club decided to attend the full Parish Council meeting to present their concerns in person.



We were proud to be part of the Remembrance Day celebration this year at which we were invited to lay a wreath on behalf of the Bowls Club on the village war memorial.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining Girton Bowls Club next season, please see our website at [www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com) or email our Secretary, Lynne McGill, at [lynnemcgill63@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnemcgill63@hotmail.com).

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

*Lynne McGill*



## Girton Golf Club

As the year drifts towards the end and we all hope that next year will prove better, at Girton Golf Club we keep going. The matches have finished, and the course is now there for our members and visitors to play social golf again, and wrap up warm whilst doing so.

We played a mixed match at Brampton Park in November, starting the game in the most appalling weather. However, after just a couple of holes the torrential rain abated, and we finished in perfectly fine conditions. Surprisingly, we won the match 5-3. I say 'surprisingly' because we were a pair short and two ladies from Brampton stepped in to play for Girton. We were 4-3 up when they came in and they had won so Girton were victorious – fortunate maybe, but still victorious

The last match was in mid-November with the annual Ladies vs Gents competition, which was 18 a side playing 4 ball, better ball. For some time the odds were heavily in favour of a ladies' victory but 4 of the last 5 groups came in with wins for the men's team and it finished in a tie. A very fitting end to the season.

Our very popular quizzes have restarted for the winter and are being held on a Friday evening every 3 weeks. Food is available but that needs to be pre-booked. Teams of a maximum of 6 please. If you would like to know dates and more details, call the club and speak to the office or the bar and catering team.

Remember that membership is still available and makes a great and affordable present for Juniors. Talk to the Pro shop or the office for more information.

All of the staff, directors and members of Girton Golf Club wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*  
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## Girton Colts

Happy December everyone!

Our Under 5 open days were a roaring success in November and we welcome Annie to the club as the new Under 5 manager. We also need to officially welcome Danny as the Under 6 manager too, the

players in his team are loving it and we can't wait to see him bring out the best in this excited team!

The tuck shop has been closed since the beginning of lockdowns and then on hold pending pavilion refurbishment. It has been managed by Sam, who

unfortunately has had to step down. We are very grateful for her contribution as she has overseen the transformation of the tuck shop, from adhoc drinks, to the tuckshop we know and love today. It has become a valuable part of the club as it raises funds that go back into the club to keep all of our membership fees down. So thank you Sam!

Some of you may already know, but the tuck shop has now reopened! Angie has taken on the mantle of tuck shop secretary and we are open again until we get booted out by the builders when the refurb starts. Everyone is welcome, so please come down the rec between 9-11 and you can watch a match and enjoy a hot drink and treat in the knowledge that all profits go straight back into the club! If you're lucky you may get there in time for Rob's special sausage rolls!

### Girls football: years 2-6

Would your daughter like to play football, but doesn't want to learn in a mixed team environment? We are looking to start a girls only session again and would like to gauge interest in this. If you are interested, please register your interest at [www.cognitofirms.com/GirtonColtsFC/GirlsFootball](http://www.cognitofirms.com/GirtonColtsFC/GirlsFootball)

### Kickabout sessions success

The kickabout sessions are running now and offer a great opportunity to get involved in football if you are not part of a team. It's a chance for local non-team members to play football and improve, as well as being a fun hour of sport on a Saturday. Spaces are limited so please register to attend. This session is aimed at Years 2-6, girls and boys. Please contact [teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk](mailto:teamsec@girtoncolts.co.uk) for information.

### Referees still needed... can you help?

The FA are very low on referees this season, so it's all hands on deck for clubs to find referees for matches. We really need a pool of local people who we can call upon. It's important to have impartial referees and not parents as it assists in the depth of experience our players can get from playing matches. Our club is very welcoming, and you will be given full support in learning how to be a referee as well as being paid too! If you're interested, please contact [matchsec@girtoncolts.co.uk](mailto:matchsec@girtoncolts.co.uk)

### A message for all our players...

Well done for the first half of the season. Over the holidays try to practice in the garden or at the rec, so when we come back in January we are all ready to get stuck in again!

### Finally, some team news

#### Under 7s

The team have started their first season of competitive matches with great enthusiasm and excitement. To date we have played 4 league games, winning 3 and drawing the other - our most recent victory being a particularly pleasing team performance at Waterbeach. We look forward to many more exciting matches over the rest of the season. *PG*

#### Under 13s

We have seen some fantastic teamwork in the recent matches which has led to a couple more great goals, chipped into the net by Sunny and Penny. There has been a strong defense as well, with Hannah earning player of the match, and Lottie F and

Cordi also both deserving a special mention for their role in keeping the opposition at bay. Lottie H delivered some impressive corner kicks in our last match, and Cate demonstrated some super passing and long kicks. Having achieved our first draw away against Cottenham in a very exciting game on Saturday, we have scored our first point in the league! Looking forward to scoring more points in the upcoming games. *CL*

Merry Christmas everyone!

*Andrew Hawkes*

*Chairman*



### Girton Netball Club

Last Thursday's Cambridge Adult Friendly League (CAFL) fixture saw the best turnout ever from the Girton side, with a full team, two substitutes and friends and family cheering from the sidelines. Meeting under the floodlights on a cold but dry November night, the energy was palpable and it was an exciting atmosphere in which to play Stetchworth, a professional-looking side in their pale blue customised kit. Despite good organisation from Stetchworth from the whistle, Girton looked strong moving the ball up the court but shooting was hampered by the body-blocking tactics of the Stetchworth goal keeper who was called out on more than one occasion by the referees (netball does not operate a yellow/red card system). Girton averaged four goals per quarter, leading by three goals in the last quarter but the final tally went against us at 14-21. It was lovely to have coach Helen on



the sidelines with her clarion call of 'Run Towards The Ball' driving the team forward.

*The team pose for a post-match picture*

We've had lots of new players join recently, boosting our numbers and making our training sessions even more enjoyable. Our Christmas dinner is arranged for early December at The Boot in Histon.

Training with Helen continues: Mondays, 6.30-7.45pm, Girton Rec. All welcome. Email [girton.village.netball@gmail.com](mailto:girton.village.netball@gmail.com) or facebook: Girton Netball Club.

*Emma-Louise Longden*

# GIRTON scoreboard

## Girton Tennis Club



Our committee would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy Christmas. Maybe a game of tennis would help to burn some of those extra calories that many of us consume over the holiday period!

I know that some of our members managed to navigate the many forms and regulations surrounding overseas trips and took holidays in Spain, Greece and other warmer locations. I chose to stay closer to home this year with visits to Wales and the West Country. Whilst in Cheltenham, I spotted this tennis club sign which I hope you will also find interesting.



### Fun facts

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

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

Alan Franklin

## Girton author's book published – forty years on!

When Jane Bower wrote *Thread and Thrum*, her first novel for children, in the early 1980s, she did not imagine that it would be published forty years later, when she had retired. Her father, Len Bower, was a trained book illustrator before he became an art teacher. Girton residents will remember Len as the subject of Jane's solo show *Daddy's Diaries*, performed for the St. Andrew's makeover. Len illustrated *Thread and Thrum* superbly – but later lost his sight to Macular Degeneration. 30% of the income from the book goes to support the Macular Society.

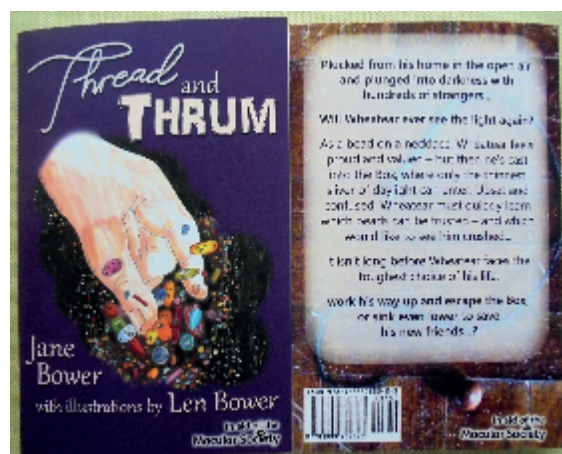
Meanwhile, for Jane, life – and primary teaching – got in the way, and her manuscript and Len's superb drawings languished in a filing cabinet. Lockdown and retirement coincided for her and she re-read it.

"It was staggering how language patterns and attitudes had changed," said Jane. "I had to do a huge amount of rewriting and remove references which were now shockingly non-PC!" The book came out in December 2020, by which time Len, aged 100, was ill. Jane was allowed to see him at Christmas, face to face for the first time in ten months. Len died on January 4th 2021.

The readership Jane had in mind when she wrote *Thread and Thrum* were the very first children she taught. She went on to become an arts specialist, and designed the ceramic courtyard features and wrote and directed a play at Girton Glebe Primary School. She gives regular talks on her book and other subjects.

*Thread and Thrum* is an old phrase meaning the good and the bad together. Suitable for age 7 to adult, this is an exciting and imaginative story designed to be read aloud in schools, read alone, or in book groups, and includes discussion points.

*Thread and Thrum* is available in bookshops and on Amazon.



## **Almshouses are meeting the need for housing in our Village**

In recent years, the scarcity of affordable rented accommodation in the UK has made the role of almshouses increasingly important in providing much-needed social housing for families and the over 55s. In our own Village, Girton Town Charity currently funds 13 almshouses, with a further 15 under construction at Dovehouse Court on the High Street.

Girton has a long history of providing almshouses, stretching back to the start of the 19th century when homes were located at Camping Close in Cambridge Road and between Gretton School Old Rectory site and St Andrew's Church.

As an almshouse charity, GTC provides 100% of the funding, with no cost to the taxpayer, to maintain and build new homes which are made available to those with a Girton connection.

There are currently seven GTC almshouses at Centenary Court in Wellbrook Way, three at Suffolk Terrace on the High Street and three individual houses within the Village.

### **Resident appointees**

All these two and three bedroom unfurnished homes are let as almshouses and are subject to different legal arrangements from private, council or housing association tenancies. Residents are 'appointees', not 'tenants', live in the house under licence and pay a maintenance contribution, not rent. As they are almshouses there is no 'right-to-buy' or opportunity for shared equity.

Vacancies are advertised locally for which residents can apply and be interviewed, with decisions made after careful consideration on the basis of a wide range of criteria.

With GTC almshouses, appointments are initially for three years except for those over the age of 55 or in the case of disability.



### **Suffolk Terrace**

The newest homes in the almshouse portfolio are three terraced properties on the former WI Hall site, which were completed earlier this year. Called Suffolk Terrace as the hut was originally used by the Suffolk Regiment, these two and three bedroom homes each have a private garden and off-road parking space. All include high levels of insulation and energy

efficient heating systems.

### **High Street**

The next major almshouse project is on High Street where work is underway to create 15 homes for the over 55s, as well as a new office for GTC, all built to Passivhaus standards.

Dovehouse Court has been designed to meet the future needs of the elderly, allowing for extended independent living including easy wheelchair access. Homes have individual terraces or balconies, and open onto communal landscaped gardens, an orchard and allotments. Completion is scheduled for Autumn 2022.

### **Contemporary living**

Ann Bonnett, Chair of Girton Town Charity added: "As an almshouse charity, we are committed to providing homes that will meet the needs of our residents, both families and the over 55s.

"With Suffolk Terrace completed and Dovehouse Court underway, we are looking forward to having age-appropriate affordable almshouses that are not only practical and energy-efficient but also enjoyable places to live."

## Educational Grants 2021/22

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 December 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
Andrew Muston	t: 07831 591809
Patsy Smith	t: 07503 282199

**GTC postal address and post box remains at:  
22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.**

**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

## More to see as building work progresses



At Dovehouse Court, works are now entering a more exciting stage, with progress becoming more visible as you pass by the site.

Since the update last month, groundworks have been completed, together with the departure of the last excavators, concrete lorries and stone deliveries.

The last few weeks have seen the installation of the beam & block flooring, followed by the bricklayers getting the remaining blockwork up to base plate level in readiness for the arrival of the timber frames.

Ann Bonnett, GTC Chair said: "More significant milestones have now been achieved and we are looking forward to seeing further visible developments as we come to the end of the year. We hope that residents will be interested to see the installation of the timber frames in early December which will take the construction to the next important stage."



Unfortunately the Girton Youth Group has been paused whilst we appoint new Youth Workers.

### **SESSIONAL YOUTH WORKERS**

We require a number of committed individuals who have the skills to engage positively with young people during youth work sessions on our youth bus or youth club settings.

Some experience of working with young people is essential. Sessions can start at 4pm or 7pm across Cambridgeshire, including Girton. Pay scales depending on experience and qualifications and range from £11.10 to £14.52 per hour.

For more information contact:

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

Alan Webb 07887 947748

Email: [admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk](mailto:admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk)

Please see website for up to date details of Clubs and Classes [www.williamcollyn.co.uk](http://www.williamcollyn.co.uk)

### Monday

9.30 - 1.00pm	Tumble Tots
2.00 - 3.00pm	Kurling for over 55's
6.30 - 7.30pm	Clubbercise
8.00 - 9.30pm	Whole Notes Gospel Choir

### Tuesday

8.30 - 9.30pm	Yoga with Julia Dale
10.00 - 11.00pm	Yoga with Julia Dale
6.00 - 7.00pm	Bounce
7.30 - 10.30pm	Eastern Swing

### Wednesday

9.30am - 12.00pm	Tiny Toes Ballet
5.00 - 6.30pm	Winners Chapel International
7.00 - 10.00pm	The W.I. (monthly - first Weds)
7.00 - 10.00pm	Girton Garden Society (monthly - second Weds)

### Thursday

9.30 - 11.30am	Pilates
5.45 - 6.45pm	Pilates
7.15pm & 8.15pm	Ballroom Dance Classes

### Friday

10.00 - 10.45am	Shake Rattle & Roll for pre-schoolers
9.30am - 12.30pm	Little City Toddler Play (monthly - second Friday)
7.00 - 9.30pm	New Life Church Tribe

### Saturday

9.00 - 10.00am	Bounce
10.30 - 11.45am	Vedanta Wellness Yoga
10.30 - 11.30am	Pilates
1.00 - 3.00pm	Cambridge Jazz Co-op
7.00 - 11.00pm	Eastern Swing

### Sunday

11.00am - 2.00pm	Winners Chapel International
2.30 - 3.30pm	Cambridge Tamil Mandram

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)

## Duty Supervisor

Flexible part-time (mostly evening and weekend work, but some daytime cover required) £7,644 per annum for a 15 hour week. Fewer hours are available.

The William Collyn Community Centre has a vacancy for a Duty Supervisor. The Duty Supervisor will assist the Centre Manager with the efficient and effective day-to-day running of the Centre.

The William Collyn Community Centre is a purpose-built community facility for the residents of Girton, owned and managed by Girton Town Charity.

The main elements of the role include: setting up for events and activities, reception, caretaking and cleaning duties. You will need to be flexible in terms of your working hours and have a friendly, customer-focused approach to your work. Previous experience of working in a community facility or entertainment venue, with experience of the set-up, delivery and clearing up of events would be desirable.

You will contribute to facility management, be safety aware and able to work irregular hours including split shifts, evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays.

The post is for flexible hours with an immediate (or soon as possible) start.

For full job details and to apply please email a copy of your CV together with a covering letter to: [wccmanager@williamcollyn.co.uk](mailto:wccmanager@williamcollyn.co.uk).

The closing date for applications is Friday 12 November 2021

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Max Ruddock, William Collyn Centre Manager, on tel: 01223 279587

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

## 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 15.

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

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

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

## WORDSEARCH

### The Twelve Days of Xmas !

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.

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

BIRDS	HENS	RINGS
CALL	LADIES	SEVEN
DANCE	LAY	SIT
DAY	LEAP	SIX
DOVES	LORDS	SWANS
DRUM	LOVE	SWIM
DRUMMERS	MAIDS	TEN
EIGHT	MILK	THREE
ELEVEN	NINE	TREE
FIVE	ONE	TRUE
FOUR	PARTRIDGE	TURTLE
FRENCH	PEAR	TWELVE
GEESE	PIPE	TWO
GOLDEN	PIPERS	XMAS



## News from the Co-op

It has been a while since my last update which was back in summer this year so let me bring you up to speed with our Co-op and community updates.

In September we held a raffle for our charity partner Mind. The raffle included Co-op own goodies and two hours free service donated by Liesbeth who runs a local gardening business called Purple Flowers. Thank you for your kind donation.

With the help of our amazing Girton community we have managed to raise £170 which we are very grateful for. The winners of the raffle, Francesca and Phil, have received their garden service.

In October, FOGG - the Friends of Girton Glebe School - which is one of our local causes, held a virtual balloon race to raise funds for the school. We were happy to donate a Co-op goody hamper. Congratulations to the winners.

The Co-op Local Community Fund supports thousands of causes each year and this would not be possible without our Co-op members who contribute through their membership. This year members have raised £100 million for local communities across the UK. Thank you so much. It's a membership that really does make a difference.

The fund for this year ended on 24th October with BEFA raising £1,759, FOGG raising £994 and Girton Colts raising £890. The three new causes for 2021/22 are FOGG, Girton Colts FC and Girton Cottontails Preschool.

I would like to wish you all an early Merry Christmas and very happy 2022!

*Sadaf Safian*

*sadaf.safian@coop.co.uk*

*Twitter @SadafSafian*



## News for Older Residents

Please join me in looking out for those who have moved to live in Girton during 2021. Our restrictions have meant that it has been particularly difficult for them to meet people and make friends. Now that more events are taking place and clubs are resuming face to face meetings, we have the chance to help them settle in their new surroundings.

### Dog Walking Offer

We all know that any exercise does us good. For those of us with dogs it means daily exercise as they need regular walks. Sometimes for a variety of reasons, walking the dog can be problematic. Let me know if you find yourself in this situation and your dog is well-trained, sociable and child friendly. Thank you to the local mum who is offering to exercise a dog when she takes her children for a walk.

### Items for giving away

The following items are still available... the two shopping trolleys, a zimmer frame, a (freehand) tray and the pedal exerciser.

### Annual Leave

Please get in touch with me (for jigsaws and anything else) early this month as I will be on leave on Tuesday 21st December as well as Tuesday and Wednesday 28th and 29th December. Currently, I am planning to work on Wednesday 22nd December, but this might change nearer that date.

### Last but by no means least....

Happy Christmas and all good wishes for this festive season. Someone I knew loved this little poem. It's trite, yet a reminder of the importance of each day.

*Yesterday is history  
Tomorrow is a mystery  
Today is a gift  
That's why we call it the present!*

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TownCharity

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# CLUB 55 GIRTON

## I hope you are not getting bored but....

We are going back to Abbeyfield for yet another lunch. To start our new year off we thought it might be nice to have a little lunchtime party and where better than somewhere

local. What about giving something back? Abbeyfield will supply our lunch with three choices of each of three courses. Coffee, soft drinks and wine will be included in the price as will a performance by a guitarist playing music to suit our age group. Over and above the cost of the meal and performer we are going to add a £2.50 fee per person which at the end of the day will be forwarded to the local Macmillan Cancer Care. On this occasion we are asking for the support of our village and local members and really hope that Abbeyfield residents will join us on this one-off venture to try to raise money for this charity. If you are over 55 years old and live in South Cambridgeshire you qualify. If you haven't been before, now is a good time to give us a try – let's aim to have a good time and raise £200. Hope to see you there!

Whilst on the subject of Abbeyfield a visit to the carvery meal there on Armistice Sunday really impressed – the food was gorgeous. Keep an eye out for the next one it's worth a try and very good value, you can also book in and eat there at other times but the carvery was great.

Our fish and chip day on 17th November went down very well with all our members, the fish and chips alone



*Oh yes! Fish, chips and mushy peas.*

were delicious but adding the mushy peas took them to a whole new level.

An excellent cheesecake and wine enhanced the afternoon. There were moans about the scarcity of the

red wine. Checking that the correct thing to drink with fish was white wine I ordered some Chardonnay, then I thought that some people might like to buck the trend and drink red wine so I ordered some red wine as well. Then it struck me that some people might not know which to drink so I ordered some rose wine for the doubters. I thought I had covered all bases – apparently not – they all wanted red wine – I just can't win!

We are off to Fen Drayton by bus on 8th December for a Christmas-style lunch at the Three Tuns public house and will be eating in a shed, I wonder if it's a stable?

It just remains to wish you all a very merry Christmas and hopefully we will see you in the New Year.

If you would like to come to any of our functions contact us on the number below.

*Sam Clift*

Tel: 07850740721 or email: [samclift@ntlworld.com](mailto:samclift@ntlworld.com)

## Mitten Tree

We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of Girtonians in supporting the Mitten Tree Project in St Andrew's Church. Since October the tree has grown scarves, gloves, hats and socks - all for the benefit of the homeless in Cambridge.



At a count on the day this photograph was taken (14th Nov) there were 27 pairs of mittens, 13 pairs of socks, 19 pairs of gloves, 32 scarves and 54 hats. The donations have been of remarkably high quality as well, so will be a real treat for those receiving them. The outstanding kindness of people here has been a great encouragement - huge thanks to all who donated, you know who you are! Huge thanks also to Sharon Priestly for having the idea and making it happen.

The Mitten Tree remains in the church until 5th December, at which point the donations will be taken to Jimmy's Night Shelter. A final tally will be shared in January's GPN.

### Christmas is about...

Have you ever played the game in which you type the start of a sentence into Google (other search engines are available) to see the suggestions? This afternoon I typed in "Christmas is about" and discovered that Google prompted me with 3 main suggestions: family, giving and Jesus. As a vicar I'd obviously hoped that Jesus would be higher up the list, but I do want to commend the other two as well.

For the Christian, Christmas *is* about family. It's about *a* family; a young, unmarried, pregnant girl and her faithful, slightly bemused, fiancé travelling together to a small town where they find little welcome and unexpectedly become the start of a whole new family. The birth of Jesus is a decisive moment in the great drama of creation; the moment at which God becomes one of us in all of our weakness and frailty. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God inaugurates a whole new creation in which, by God's grace, we become brothers and sisters of Christ and so children of God. A whole new, global family, in which the bond of our common baptism in water is as thick as the blood of human families. So yes, Christmas *is* about family. A whole new family centred around Jesus.

Christmas *is* also about giving. But not just the giving of presents. At Christmas we remember God giving *us* a gift – his own son. And it wasn't a cheap gift either; the gift of that child at Christmas was the most precious thing God had to give. Christians gratefully receive God's gift of Jesus, his son, because (like all good gifts) this present reveals the depth of the giver's love for us. So yes, Christmas *is* about giving. God's gift to us. Our gifts to one another are right and good, but they pale in comparison to what God gives to us.

So come and join us this Christmas as we "unwrap" God's gift to us. Because Christmas *is* about Jesus, as well as spending time with family and giving gifts. There are lots of opportunities to join together with the rest of God's family and spend time with his gift.

Come to the Carol Service (19th Dec at 6pm); or there are still a few spaces left at Christmas Dinner and Carols at the Old Crown (15th Dec); why not bring the kids to Christingle on Christmas Eve

(11am and 3pm – please book in advance, see the website).

You could come to the hush of midnight mass on Christmas Eve at 11:30pm, or just come and enjoy Christmas morning (10am)! If you genuinely can't get to anything over the Christmas holidays, then why not come along and hear our children's choir church sing (they are great!) on 9th Jan at 4pm as we remember the visit of the Three Wise Men.

May God bless you with peace and joy this Christmas!

*Michael Bigg*

*Rector*

01223 202145

### From the Registers:

#### Funerals and Burials

29th October - Dorothy Gibbs

8th November - George Thorpe



The Friends of St. Andrew's Church  
invite you to a  
**Festive  
Coffee & Cake  
Morning**

**& Luxury Prize Raffle**  
(To be drawn at 12 noon)

**Saturday 11 December. 10.30 – 12.30**  
**The Cotton Hall, Girton**

**Entry, including drink & mince pie:  
£2.00**



## St Andrew's Church

**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 : December

<b>5th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>5:00pm</b>	Advent Readings
	<b>7:30pm</b>	Taize Service (Online)
<b>12th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Nativity Service
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Evening Prayer (BCP)
<b>19th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Carol Service
<b>26th</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)

### Weekday Services : December

<b>Tues</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Morning Prayer (said)
<b>Weds</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
	<b>9:00pm</b>	Compline (said) (Online)

### Other Services

<b>Tue 7 Dec</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	Abbeyfield Holy Communion
<b>Thu 23 Dec</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	Gretton Ct Holy Communion (BCP)

### Christmas Services

<b>24th Dec</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	Christingle Service
	<b>3:00pm</b>	Christingle Service
	<b>11:30pm</b>	Midnight Communion
<b>25th Dec</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Xmas Day Family Communion

You are welcome to join us for worship in person or remotely at <http://bit.ly/GirtonParishLive>. Please check the church website for up to date information over the Christmas period. ([www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church))

On 5th December at 5pm, we hold our popular Advent Readings service, when we have religious and secular readings and poems about Christmas.

The Taizé service continues to be held remotely using Zoom. All are welcome. Please email Kay Barrett at [singing.kay@gmail.com](mailto:singing.kay@gmail.com) for details.

*God of love, open the hearts and minds of many this Christmas time to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ; that those whose lives are insecure, or empty, or aimless, may find in the one born in Bethlehem all that they need today, and much more besides. For your name's sake. Amen*

## Girton Baptist 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; December (All at Girton Baptist Church and on Zoom)

<b>5th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Communion, led by Nick Lowe
<b>12th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Led by Nick Lowe
<b>19th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Communion, led by Nick Lowe
<b>19th</b>	<b>4pm</b>	Carols By Candlelight, led by Nick Lowe
<b>25th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Christmas Family Service, led by Nick Lowe
<b>26th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Led by Christine Kimmitt

Masks are optional and we have space for those who wish to social distance.

Thursday 9th December is Messy Church with a Christmas theme begins from 3.30pm. Messy Church is for parents and their children, with craft activities based on a Biblical theme, a story and a meal together. All are welcome. If you wish to find out more please contact us. For the link for Zoom or more information about Messy Church please ring 07751 748757 or email [pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk).

### Other services

<b>5th 4pm</b>	Christmas Carols at Abbeyfield followed by refreshments
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The words of the Christmas Carol below by Christina G. Rossetti, first published in 1885, called *Love came down at Christmas*, encapsulate the message of the Incarnation, celebrated at Christmas:

*Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.  
Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?  
Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

The Apostle John tells us in his first letter:  
"We love because he first loved us."

We pray you would experience God's love this Christmas and invite you to join in with our Christmas services.

**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

Daniel Carney, 28 Cambridge Road, Tel: 07986 592507

Douglas de Lacey, 9 Woodlands Park, Tel: 565219

Marcelo de Lima, 45 Thornton Close Tel: 276859

Val Godby, 38 Woodlands Park, Tel: 276372

Andy Griffin, 298, Wellbrook Way, Tel: 07956 447642

Anne Kettle, 11 Redgate Road, Tel: 277505

Ann Muston, 59 Thornton Road, Tel: 07796 430345

Mary Rodger, 11 Fairway, Tel: 277316

John Thorrold, 53 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276760

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

**District Councillors**

Tom Bygott, Tel: 07765475513 [cldr.bygott.net](mailto:cldr.bygott.net)

Corinne Garvie, Tel: 01223 276184

[cldr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk)

**County Councillor**

Edna Murphy, Tel: 01223 577005

[Edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Parish Clerk**

Yvonne Murray Tel: 237173

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

**Assistant Clerk**

Angie Vidler Tel: 237173

[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

## Thornton Advent Window Festival

The residents of Thornton Way, Road and Close are once again being encouraged to take part in the Thornton Advent Window Festival.

On each day in December, a different household designs and unveils a festive window display. The display should include the number of the advent day but otherwise can be as creative as you like providing it's on a Christmas theme. There are no prizes, it's just for fun and to mark the countdown to Christmas.

If you'd like to do a window, please WhatsApp Emma Longden on 07572 107690 letting her know your name, house number and street. You will then be allocated a day in December which will be your window day.



## Bin collections - December

Thursday 2 December Blue and Green bins

Thursday 9 December Black bin

Thursday 16 December Blue and Green bins

Thursday 23 December Black bin

**Tuesday 4 January Blue bin**

## Mobile Library

### Thursday 23 December 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 Collin

Community Centre 279587

## The Girton Chiropodist

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WWW.GIRTONGOLF.CO.UK

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Village Institute, Cambridge Road, Girton.  
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New members £10 / £3.50 concessions

Renewals £7.50 / Armed Forces £1

EVENTS in December:

Bingo every other Friday.

18<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Raffle

Christmas Eve - Dave Cass Human Jukebox

New Year's Eve - Goldie's Disco Dylan + Josie

Enquiries: GirtonSocialClub@gmail.com

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