

# GIRTON Parish News

February 2022



# Your Parish Needs You!

Council calls for new councillors to step forward – see page 3

A life lived to the full – remembering Dave Peat – see page 9



Girton Colts' generous donation to Jimmy's – see page 19

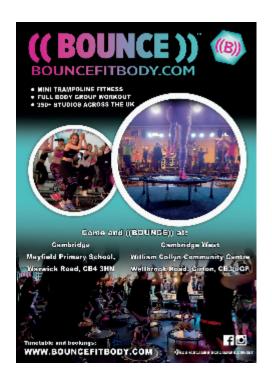
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The editorial team reserves the right to edit, accept or reject any material submitted for publication. The views expressed within the magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team.

A copy of the magazine is available on the Girton website at *www.girton-cambs.org.uk*, 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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and many others. If you are interested in becoming involved in any capacity, please contact the Editor.

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#### **Parish Council Elections**

To find out more about the workings of your local Council and to see if you would like to become a councillor

please contact Yvonne Murray, Parish Clerk on

clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk

Tel: 01223 618619





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Cover photos by Stephen Dobbyne and Yvonne Peat

Copy date for March issue: Wed. 16 Feb. Issue date: Sat. 5 Mar. Covers 5 Mar. - 2 Apr. 2022.

February 2022







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#### **Girton Parish Council**

#### **Remembering Jane**

Our first meeting of 2022 opened with Councillors remembering Councillor Jane Buckler who very sadly passed away shortly before Christmas. Tributes were made to her service as a councillor, her desire to make Girton a beautiful place and her kindness and friendship as a fellow villager. A minute's silence was observed as a mark of our respect and our sincere condolences have been sent to her husband, Keith.

Following the announcement of further Covid restrictions the Parish Council was unable to hold a face-to-face meeting in December and while we did hold a virtual meeting to discuss the issues on the published agenda, we were not able to make binding decisions as this is not allowed by current legislation.

#### Oakington Bridge latest

The public response to the Oakington Bridge buildout was mixed and while there was not very strong opposition there were sufficient safety concerns raised to warrant caution in approving this change. Subsequent discussions with Highways indicate that there are insufficient funds available to divert to these.

The other matters reported last month were revisited in our Covid-secure, face-to-face meeting in January. At this meeting we also discussed the need for coordination of village plans for Platinum Jubilee celebrations and means of raising awareness of the upcoming Parish Council elections in May.

#### Solar stud lighting complete

Reinstatement of solar stud lighting along the section of Oakington Road from the bridge to the business park was completed on the 16th December. The installation of the new street lighting along this section is now scheduled for the second half of March. We have received a plan of the positions of the ten new columns and this will be posted on the website in due course so that all residents can be aware of the proposed works. We shall also press to have work done to cut back the hedge to give a greater width and improve the visibility of the verge side solar studs along the section near Manor Farm Road.

#### Streamlined financial management

Our Clerk, Yvonne, has continued to work with our accountants in transferring our accounts to a new software system and when complete this will streamline our financial management including budgeting and facilitate the production of the Annual Return in a timely fashion. Her initiative to update our policies and procedures will re-energise our committees, and improve our governance and the transparency and delivery of council activities. We are indebted to Yvonne for tackling these substantial tasks so capably and enthusiastically.

#### **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 on page 30). The next in-person meetings will be on Tuesday 15th February and Tuesday 15th March at St Vincent's Close Community Centre.

# Tree shredding event raises over £300 for Girton Glebe

On Sunday 9th January, Friends of Girton Glebe (FOGG) were thrilled to be able to run their first fundraising event of 2022 – the Christmas Tree Shred. Back after a year's break in 2021, it was wonderful to be able to run this community event and the beautiful weather ensured a good turnout.





A big thank you goes to all those who attended with a fantastic £310.82 raised for the children of Girton Glebe! We must also thank Acacia Tree Surgery (https://acaciatreesurgery.co.uk) and Wheelie Fresh Bins (https://wheeliefreshbins.com), without whom we could not have run this event.

FOGG is a registered charity with the purpose of supporting the school. All funds raised go towards the learning and wellbeing of the children at Girton Glebe, and their events help build a vibrant and cohesive community.

Please keep a lookout for future events!

https://www.facebook.com/FOGG-Friends-of-Girton-Glebe-Primary-School Twitter @FOGirtonGlebe

#### From Our Councillors

#### **County Councillor Edna Murphy**

#### **Public health**

There is now evidence that the Covid peak has passed and we are seeing a drop in the number of cases locally, albeit levels are still high. Hospital admissions lag behind cases and there is some evidence that the elapsed time between infection and death is longer for Omicron than Delta, so there may yet be further to go before the immediate pressures on the health service lessen, or indeed Omicron's true severity is understood.

#### Integration with social care

Bringing together health and social care is a huge organisational challenge for the NHS and local authorities, even without a pandemic and acute staff shortages to deal with. At a recent Adults and Health Committee an integrated social care strategy was agreed emphasising the importance of democratic inputs into the new structures, for vigilance not to open the door to privatisation, and that care should be provided as locally as possible. The Committee also agreed to invest a further £4.2m to ensure support to care providers experiencing a number of difficulties – increased costs (staffing, insurance, PPE, cleaning) and overall difficulty retaining and recruiting staff.

#### Enabling greater take-up of 20mph speed limits

This is a policy initiative of the new administration and this month will see the first discussions of proposed policy changes. It has got to become easier to apply for and secure 20mph limits; currently it is an uphill struggle, which is all wrong. It's quite a bureaucratic machine and there are a lot of regulatory issues, so it is not absolutely straightforward, but more information will be available soon.

#### Flood risk consultation

The County is undertaking a consultation to try to gain better insights into the risks from flooding that are present across the County. Obviously flooding is of huge concern to local residents and so it is an excellent opportunity to register these points. But it is important to understand that the consultation will not result in any change to planned works. For example, the work being planned on the invert for Oakington Bridge will remain unchanged (it is a highways maintenance project). An interesting point to highlight is the contribution to flood risk of poor highway infrastructure and the compounding factors of traffic speed and weight – these are cross-disciplinary issues for the Council which need to be co-ordinated better.

#### Dying trees near Washpit Lane and Weavers Field

There is a lot of concern about the way National Highways is approaching the problem that many of the trees planted as part of the A14 project are not thriving. A group of County Councillors – myself, Cllr Firouz Thompson (Longstanton, Northstowe & Over) and Cllr

Ros Hathorn (Histon & Impington) have met with Council officials who have taken on board the need for National Highways to provide factual information on their replanting plans, and to press them into action. There are so many reasons why the tree planting must succeed.

Cllr Edna Murphy edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 01223 577005

#### **District Councillor Corinne Garvie**

#### **Household Support Fund**

Letters have recently been sent out to approximately 6,000 South Cambs residents who have been identified as eligible for Cambridgeshire County Council's Household Support Fund grants. The letter includes reminders of existing financial support that is available during the year (such as Discretionary Housing Payments or the Council Tax hardship fund). The letter will also encourage residents to contact South Cambs' Welfare and Money Maximisation Officer, who can discuss residents' circumstances and signpost any support that may be suitable to them.

Further information on the Household Support Fund can be found here: <a href="https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund">https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund</a>.

#### Omicron business support grants now open

Applications are now open for the latest business support grants for businesses impacted as a direct result of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) supports eligible rate-paying businesses in the hospitality, accommodation and leisure sectors with one-off grants of up to £6,000 per premises (depending on rateable value).

They can receive further funding through the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme. This is a limited fund that the Council will use to provide discretionary one-off grants to support eligible businesses that do not have a rateable value and/or are ineligible to receive the OHLG but nonetheless operate in the supply chain to OHLG businesses. Contact the business pages of South Cambs District Council or contact me for the link.

#### **Buses**

Stagecoach have chronic driver shortages so they have had to change some services. The number 5 bus will be every 30 minutes and visit Girton and Oakington on its way to Bar Hill. It will take 4 minutes longer because there is an additional stop at Manor Farm Road. The number 6 will be reduced to services at the beginning and end of the day. This starts on 23rd January. If you wish to comment about these changes contact *cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com*.

Corinne Garvie Cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk 07780 932267

#### **District Councillor Tom Bygott**

#### **Platinum Jubilee**

February 6th marks one of the most important milestones in British history, being the 70th anniversary of our Queen Elizabeth II ascending the throne. She is our longest reigning monarch; the first to celebrate a platinum jubilee and only the second, after Victoria, to have celebrated a diamond jubilee. The record for the longest documented reign in a fully sovereign state is held by Louis XIV, who was King of France for 72 years and 110 days.

The celebrations will be held in the summer, especially over a special extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June 2022. A website <a href="https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk">https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk</a> has been set up to coordinate and advertise local events. Groups of neighbours who plan to hold street parties can upload details of the events to be shown on the map, and other local community organisations can list all kinds of other celebrations and activities.

#### Green bin collections starting up again

South Cambridgeshire District Council paused green bin collections on December 13th citing Covid issues, including sickness and self-isolation, "along with a continued national shortage of HGV drivers, plus a lack of agency staff because of demand for them elsewhere such as in supermarkets and at online delivery services".

The advice to residents is to put bins out on collection days as published in the South Cambs Magazine and on www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins. The council has warned that "there are still staff absences and vacancies, despite an ongoing recruitment campaign at Greater Cambridge Shared Waste, any green bins that are missed will not be emptied until the next scheduled collection in February. This is because there are not enough waste crews to return to empty these missed green bins. Any homes that are unfortunately missed will be prioritised for the subsequent collection."

If your household is struggling to find space to store rubbish for collection, it is possible to order additional bins at <a href="https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/report-or-request/request-a-bin-or-sack">www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/report-or-request/request-a-bin-or-sack</a> or by calling 01954 713 000. Households are allowed up to four blue and four green bins and one black bin. A second black bin is only permitted to those with six or more in a house or with two or more children in nappies. There is no charge for the extra blue bins and the extra green bins cost £40 annually per bin.

Waste collection and recycling are amongst the main services for which we pay our Council Tax. I would rather South Cambs went back to being one of the top recycling councils in the country. In 2010, the council set itself the target of "meeting or surpassing a 65% recycling and composting rate by 2012" and by October 2010 achieved a monthly rate of 63.7%. However, in the

2019/20 English rankings for recycling and composting, www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/2019-20-overall-performance, the Greater Cambridge waste service only achieved a rate of 49.3%. Coming 92nd out of 341 is a mediocre result that we can't be proud of.

Cllr Tom Bygott cllr@bygott.net 07765 475 513

# Cannabis plants dumped down Washpit Lane

Anyone walking down Washpit Lane in recent weeks may have noticed large quantities of discarded cannabis plants that have been pruned before being thrown into the ditch at the side of the road.



An operative from South Cambridgeshire District Council's waste team has visited the site and what is left of the cannabis plants was due to be removed before the *GPN* went to print.

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing, Cllr Brian Milnes, said: "We hate fly-tipping as much as our communities do and a member of our waste



team has visited the site to investigate and arrange for it to be removed. Given the nature of the fly-tip here, we've also made sure the police are aware."

A police spokesperson confirmed that an investigation is ongoing.

If you come across any fly-tipping, please

report it at www.scambs.gov.uk/report so the council can look into it and, if you see a fly-tip taking place, you can also report it to the police on 999 as an environmental crime.

February 2022





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#### Obituary - Dave Peat April 1960 to November 2021

Dave was born in Slough, Berkshire on 21st April, 1960. The family moved a number of times, finally settling in Trowbridge in 1972. Dave had a lifelong interest in aviation and cars, and from a child loved making model aircraft. It was in Trowbridge he joined the Air Training Corps and gained his wings, first flying in Tiger Moths and then going solo in a De Havilland Chipmunk.

Dave and Yvonne met on Bedford Embankment in February 1981 when Dave gave Yvonne and her sister a lift to an 18 plus event. Although no love at first sight Yvonne soon learned that what Dave lacked in looks he more than made up for in personality: He was fun to be with but also very caring and thoughtful. Dave returned to Loughborough University to complete his degree in engineering. His first job was at Marshall's of Cambridge, starting a lifelong love of the city, with Yvonne joining shortly after.

During the early years of their marriage Dave and Yvonne became very involved with Huntingdon Rotaract, where each eventually served as President. Dave also discovered Amateur Dramatics, first taking to the stage as *The Old Green Grasshopper* in *James and the Giant Peach*.

Dave shared with Yvonne his long-standing passion for classic cars, aircraft, and flying. After much research he bought a bright red MG Midget, with which he loved to tinker almost as much as he enjoyed driving it. He joined a group of like-minded people, the Sporting Bears, and with them used his new car to raise money for children's charities, giving dream rides on various occasions.

Around the same time, Dave discovered the Shuttleworth Collection, where he and Yvonne could combine their interests in antique vehicles and theatre. Together they participated as period actors, first with Dave at the wheel of one of the collection's vehicles, Yvonne at his side; and later reversing roles as both gamely determined to participate in the automobile parades for as long as they could. Dave was also much in demand as a commentator at the vintage air shows, where his deep love and knowledge of the historic cars was on display for all to see and appreciate.

Another aviation link was becoming a member of the De Havilland Moth Club, participating in events and volunteering at the annual Moth Club Rally held at Woburn. Dave loved to fly, and soloed in a glider. He was learning to fly a microlight when the MS started to become more of an issue

In 1994 Dave and Yvonne moved to Girton, little realising how fortuitous this would become only a few years down the line. Almost immediately Dave got involved with Girton Players and at the time of his death was still Chairman of the company. Dave performed in many productions, including a number written by our local playwright and author Gytha Lodge.



Dave as a Cardinal with some of the cast of Lucrezia

Life started to change in 1998 when Dave received his MS diagnosis, but it was only

towards the end of 1999 that Dave and Yvonne began to really understand what the impact of this new reality would be. They took the decision to live their lives together as fully as they could for as long as was possible. So, when in early 2000 a chance arose for them to tour New Zealand in a vintage aircraft, they went for it.

In 2005 Dave became totally dependent on a wheelchair for mobility which necessitated the installation of a lift. It was at this point that Girton Town Charity came to Dave's assistance for the first time by providing 50% funding towards the cost. There followed a number of adaptations to the house, which the Charity assisted with, culminating in providing a grant toward care costs.

Dave always loved to be outside and active and continued to find joy driving a motorised trike when a bicycle was no longer an option for him. He never lost his love of nature and was at his happiest exploring the woods at Waresley on a sunny spring day when the bluebells were flowering.

Dave always loved a party, whether hosting or attending and came alive on the dance floor, not letting the mere encumbrance of a wheelchair get in his way. Another avenue for Dave's love of dressing up was attending Burlesque events, where the dandy in him could be given full reign. Also there was usually an opportunity for dancing and Dave became well known for exuberantly taking to the floor.

Dave also had a great way with words and loved nothing better than to talk to people. As he spent more time at home he started writing, initially about his adventures and then poetry. Singing also became a feature, he even had a few singing lessons with Kay Barrett. Dave and Yvonne combined travel with singing, attending several workshops run by Spooky Man, Stephen Tabaner, most memorably in Latvia when Dave had to be carried up a flight of stairs each day in order to attend!

Throughout his life Dave maintained a wicked sense of humour and a cheeky smile, which will live on in so many hearts.

Yvonne Peat



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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

# "The Yeomen of the Guard" postponed

Girton Musical Theatre is very sorry to announce that the forthcoming production of "Yeomen of the Guard" has been postponed until the Autumn, because of Covid concerns.

We will announce the new dates in due course. We are sorry to disappoint our regular audience members who were looking forward to a night at the theatre, but hope you will support us later in the year.

Any queries can be sent to *info@girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk*.



# Girton Garden Society



**Girton Garden Society** 

#### Gwenda Kydd: Twelve Tremendous Trees Wednesday 9th February 2022

Trees have been used throughout history for a vast range of purposes. Using twelve trees as examples, this talk will explore the lives of trees through a selection of their uses. We will look at their use as materials, to provide food and as sources of medicinal compounds and consider the history of, and the science behind, their uses. Our interactions with trees can tell us a lot about ourselves and we'll also consider their importance to us and some of the folklore we have attached to them.

Non members are welcome but must pre-book at *girtongardensociety@outlook.com*.

www.girtongardensociety.co.uk

# Girton Bridge Club welcomes new members

The club meets every Monday at 7pm in the St Vincent's Close Community Centre and welcomes new members to their small friendly group.

Come along at 7pm or for further details phone Jim on 07387 813871 or Mary on 07879 568733.

# Girton College Music Society Concerts

If you are a lover of classic music it's well worth checking out these free concerts at Girton College this month.

#### Saturday 5 February at 8.00 pm (until 9.30 pm)

Great Hall, Girton College,
Cambridge Orchestral Concert
Girton College Orchestra (conducted by Robert Jones)
performs Liszt's À la Chapelle Sixtine, S. 360,
Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, K. 365
(Sam O'Neal and Emma Scott, soloists),
and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Op. 67

#### Sunday 6 February at 2.30 pm (until 3.40 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College
String Quartets Performed by Members of the University
Instrumental Awards Scheme
Alma Vink, Zelda Brufal, Daphne Delphas, Rhys Lewis:
Haydn's String Quartet in D major, Op. 20 No. 4
Charlotte Howdle, Yaochih Kuo, Louisa Clogston,
Lily Rafalin: Debussy's String Quartet in G minor

#### Friday 11 February at 8.00 pm (until 9.00 pm)

Chapel, Girton College
An Evening of Works for Choir
Works by composers including Bruckner, Stanford
and Lili Boulanger,
directed by Robert Jones, Kevin Loh, Sam O'Neal
and William Want

#### Sunday 13 February at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)

Fellows' Drawing Room, Girton College Award-Holders' Concert A varied selection of music performed by Girton's choral exhibitioners and scholars

#### Sunday 20 February at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College Music for Voice, Violin and Piano Isabel Benson (soprano) Zelda Brufal (violin) Sam O'Neal (piano)

Programme to include Debussy's *Chansons de Bilitis* and works by Fauré and Mendelssohn

#### Monday 21 February at 8.00 pm (until 9.15 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College Sibeliusiade

Girton students and Fellows combine forces to present a programme of works by Jean Sibelius

#### Sunday 27 February at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College
Chamber Music for Guitar – Kevin Loh and Friends
Programme to include the first performance of *Crow*,
a work for voice, flute, guitar and double bass by
Serbian-American composer Dusan Bogdanovic,
with a text from 'Crow' by Ted Hughes

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12



#### **Girton WI**

Having seen 2021 off in style with a wonderful Christmas party in which we were entertained by the very talented (and amusing) Footlights

Quartet, Girton WI started the new year in traditional style, by voting on some New Year's Resolutions.

We were also delighted to welcome our speaker James Irons, from Emmaus, and Ian, one of the current Emmaus Companions. James led us through the history of Emmaus, from the fascinating story of the foundation of the organisation in France (who knew that a win in a French game show, just when more money was needed by the organisation, could have had such an impact!), to the establishment of Emmaus Cambridge, before talking about the way the Cambridge community helps to provide a route out of homelessness, through work, for people today. Ian then shared his own thoughts on the community and read some passages that Terry Waite had written about Emmaus.

We have a number of interesting meetings planned over the next few months, including 'A Life Behind Bars' with David Short on 2nd February, our AGM (and bring and taste recipes – there may well be Jam and Jerusalem) on 2nd March and 'Caring for your Antiques' with Maria Garner on 6th April.

We meet on the first Wednesday in the month, at 7.30pm at the William Collyn Community Centre.

If you would like a night out listening to an interesting speaker or taking part in an occasional craft session and talking to other women (all accompanied by tea, coffee, and cake), then please do come to one of our meetings. There is no obligation to join, and attendance at up to three meetings as a visitor is free. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

For more information about the WI nationally or about Girton WI and our meetings then please contact girtonwi@gmail.com or girtonwisecretary@gmail.com.

Hannah Wyborn Girton WI President

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# What does your stress signature look like?

Your signature is unique. So is your stress signature: how your stress shows itself. Maybe you withdraw, spend more time alone and don't talk to others like you'd

usually do. Maybe you become snappy and irritable. Perhaps your sleep becomes interrupted or you just can't get off to sleep. Perhaps you sleep much more than you would usually do. Possibly you might eat more or drink more alcohol or caffeine than you know is healthy. Possibly you might not eat enough or eat enough of the nutrients your body needs.

The key to identifying your own stress signature is knowing when things have changed – it's not how much sleep you get, it's how much you need normally and whether that has changed.

Listing your stress signature and sharing it with those close to you who you trust can help you and others to spot those signs and symptoms as early on as possible so that you can get some help. The help might come from simply telling someone how you're feeling. Or it might be that you do something which you know is good for you in relieving stress: mindfulness, walking, gardening, listening to music. Or maybe a conversation with your GP is needed.

#### **Signposting**

Picture books are not just for children. Many people will be familiar with the author Michael Rosen. Did you know he has written a book called Michael Rosen's SAD book, illustrated by Quentin Blake? The marriage of words and illustration communicate a touching message of what it's like to be deeply sad. Adults and children alike may find this useful and if you can't buy it, try reserving it at the library.

#### **Suicide First Aid**

As I write this article I am preparing to deliver my next open Suicide First Aid lite course. I prepare the resources and the presentation slides, I set up the videos and I check that everyone has been sent joining instructions. To keep everyone safe, the joining instructions ask the learners to prepare before they even come to the course by reflecting on their own thoughts and perceptions already and identifying someone they trust and who they can turn to during or after the course should they feel the need to.

#### Juliet Adloune

Juliet Adloune, a longstanding Girton resident, is 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.julietadloune or mhfa.julietadloune@gmail.com.







Allotment Working
Party – Coppicing
the Hazel Trees,
Sunday 8th January





# GREEN FNGERS

In January I saw a lovely clematis called Winter Beauty flowering in a Girton Garden Society member's garden – delicate white bell-like blooms and just delightful. There are hundreds of varieties of clematis so it is possible to have them flowering for 11 months of the year. Some are scented and there is a clematis for everyone's taste, colour scheme and garden. On the whole clematis are hardy and seem to cope with all but the worst frosts and droughts. Monty Don wrote that "even if your garden is full of clematis, get another one!"

Most clematis are climbers and so supports such as trellis, wires or screens are needed, or they can be grown up the stems of another plant like a rose or trees. Other varieties can be grown in herbaceous borders or in containers. They seem to mostly like the sun but their roots need to be in shade which either means planting behind other plants or with roots shaded by pebbles/ slate, etc. When buying, choose plants that have more than one stem to create fan-shaped bushy plants. Plant about 18 inches from the base of a wall or fence so that the roots can develop and the plant can benefit from rain, and plant deeper than the plant pot in a moisture-retentive soil with manure or garden compost. Water well, especially in the first year.

The needs and vigour of different types vary, and pruning instructions differ. Keep the label, and you will get to know your plant and its flowering and growing habit over time. There are three pruning groups:

Group 1 includes early flowering clematis which grow on shoots produced in the previous season such as *Clematis alpina, Clematis montana* and *Clematis macropetala*,

Group 1 require little annual pruning other than to trim back after flowering in late spring once the risk of frost has passed and tie in stems as needed. Cut back by around half to rejuvenate every 3 to 4 years. Montanas are beautiful and vigorously clothe an old shed or wall and so need to be attacked with shears every couple of years. Apparently the simple gardening rule is 'If it flowers before June, do not prune'.

Group 2 includes clematis with larger flowers in May/June such as *The President, Nelly Moser* and the purple *Jackmanii*. These can be pruned lightly in February or after flowering or can be left unpruned but the aim is to ensure that the plant does not just flower at the top but retains a bushy growth. Give a more thorough pruning every 3 or 4 years.



Clematis montana

Group 3 flower on this season's growth and include the *Clematis viticellas, Clematis tangutica*, and *Clematis texensis* and are late flowering. These can be pruned hard in February or March; cut all stems to above a pair of healthy buds/nodules around 8–12 inches from the ground.

In winter clematis such as *Clematis cirrohosa* give shelter for insects. Bumble bees are the earliest pollinators and benefit from spring flowers such as primroses, hellebores, hyacinths and crocus and so all of these will find a place in my garden. Winter seed heads such as from asters, cardoons, pennisetum, phlomis russeliana, sedums and teasels are important for birds including the 'disappearing from our gardens' sparrows. Maintenance of hedges and trees should be done in very early spring and before the bird nesting season starts in about April.

February is also the time for pruning roses, except for the rambling varieties. Monty Don says that "There is no mystery to pruning roses and there is practically nothing you can do the plant will not recover from. So relax and enjoy!" His main advice is to use sharp secateurs and to cut cleanly above a bud or leaf with the aim of removing crossing, weak or damaged stems and to retain a good shape.

Shrubs to prune in February include buddleia, cornus, salix, spiraea, deciduous ceanothus and *Fuschia filgens* and *Fuschia magellanica*.

Ruth Reynolds Girton Garden Society

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Please see website for up to date details of Clubs and Classes www.williamcollyn.co.uk Information correct at time of going to press.

In line with government guidance the Centre expects all visitors to wear a face covering at all times whilst in any communal area of the building.

#### 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

6.00 - 6.45pm Bounce

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

Sunday

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP

01223 279587

info@williamcollyn.co.uk www.williamcollyn.co.uk

# News for Older Residents



#### **Hope Again**

The 2022 spring and autumn programmes for Hope Again have been organised. This is group bereavement support, coordinated by an experienced counsellor. The sessions will be held on six Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm in the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Histon. The dates for the next two series are:

3rd March to 7th April 15th September to 20th October

For more information phone 07707 263353, email *HABG1@icloud.com* or look under Wellbeing on the website *www.hifriends.org.uk*.

#### **Keeping Active**

See www.forever-active.org.uk for the Forever Active programme of classes. There is availability in the Walking Netball class (for beginners) which is from 10–11am on Thursdays at Milton Community Centre.

For further information email *enquiries@foreveractive.org.uk* or phone 07432 480 105.

If you have Arthritis, a useful website is www.versusarthritis.org which has appropriate exercises for you to do, as well as help about managing arthritis and chronic pain.

I have booklets and sheets with exercises for maintaining balance and preventing falls.

#### Request

If you have a toilet frame that you are no longer using and are willing to pass on, please let me know.

Patricia Johnston

Older Residents' Co-ordinator

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk

Tel: 07649 660866

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13	19	2	20	11		19	24	15	20	2	18	25
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Y Z	<sup>13</sup> P	26

#### **CODEWORDS**

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

The solution is on page 30.

#### WORDSEARCH - Our Solar System

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.

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AMALTHEA	Ю	SUN
ARIEL	JUPITER	TITAN
ASTEROIDBELT	LEDA	URANUS
ATLAS	MARS	VENUS
CALYPSO	MERCURY	
DEIMOS	MOON	
EARTH	NEPTUNE	
ELARA	OORTCLOUD	
ENCELADUS	PLUTO	
EPIMETHEUS	RHEA	
GANYMEDE	SATURN	
HYPERION	SINOPE	

# -- GIRTON--scoreboard



#### **Girton Bowls Club**

As the rain continues day after day, it is hard to imagine a lovely summer's evening of bowls but we will get there.

The Indoor Bowls season is progressing well. Both Girton 1 and

Girton 2 have played nine games with Girton 1 currently top of the 9 teams and Girton 2 in 8th position. There is also a mini-league being played. The team is made up of players from Girton 1 and Girton 2 and they have so far played one match, beating Chesterton 20–6, a great win!

Although we are in the middle of the Indoor Bowls season, members have been asked to state which of the summer leagues they wish to play in and which external competitions they would like to enter. We have had a very good response for the external competitions which will give our newer members exposure to some very competitive bowls.

We have entered a second team into the Ely and District Afternoon League for 2022 which will provide substantially more competitive games for our members to enjoy. With promotion in the Cambridge and District League from Division 4 to Division 3 we expect the forthcoming season to be challenging but also enjoyable.

We are always happy to welcome new members, so if you would like to try your hand next season, please come and join us at one of our Thursday roll-ups when the outdoor season starts again in April. In the new season we expect to have a combination of afternoon and evening Club sessions to give as many people as possible the chance to participate. You can also contact our Secretary Carey Horton at *carey@horton.uk.net* for more information or visit our website at *www.girtonbowls club.weebly.com* to keep up with events and see a photographic record of the Club's activities to date.

Lynne McGill



#### **Girton Golf Club**

Mid-January and the course is open and very often with 18 main greens, although with the heavy frost most nights currently, temporary greens are also coming into play. Greenkeepers have managed to keep the course in amazing condition

though throughout the winter so far - well done them.

The offer of 15 months for 12 for new members that ran in December is still running but now reducing so before



A cold morning in January on the course

the 10th of February it is 14 months for the price of 12, so still worth doing it now if you are thinking of joining. Social membership is still available if you are interested in having somewhere locally where you can go for a relaxed and easy atmosphere with a wonderful view across the golf course and great coffee and lunches (plus a discount on food and beverages). If you might be interested then come down during the day, have a look around, a chat with the staff and enjoy a coffee or a bite to eat, before deciding if you would like to join.

If you have never played before but might be interested, have a chat with the Pro Shop about their Academy and lessons and see how they can help you get started – apparently golfers live 7 years longer on average than the rest of the population, so for the good of your health, mental and physical, think about playing golf.

For regular updates, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Alan Henderson-Smith, Tel: 01223 276169 www.girtongolf.co.uk



#### **Girton Netball Club**

The team are stepping into spring in winning form with a fantastic victory over league leaders Trumpington Tigers in the final CAFL match of 2021. Tigers have proved challenging in previous encounters

so this is a major feather in our cap.

Bad weather has unfortunately led to match cancellations this month, with games in early January abandoned at half-time due to icy court conditions.

In other news, we're really sorry that our loyal and longstanding captain, Mel, will be leaving us this summer to move to Scotland with her family. Mel has been running the club pretty much single-handedly and will be hugely missed (tributes galore upcoming in future issues). We've decided to spread the ongoing responsibilities of running the club between us, with Lucy taking over as treasurer, Bee as kit manager, Paula

and Sally as match coordinators and Emma as Parish Council liaison. We hadn't realised there was so much to it and are so grateful to Mel for everything she's done to keep us going over these past years.

It's been great to have so many new players join over the last couple of months, all bringing new skills and fresh approaches to the squad. Welcome Amy, Amy, Hannah and Holly who get newcomers privileges of choosing their playing positions first!

Training with Helen continues in 2022 on Mondays, 6.30–7.45pm at Girton Rec. New members of any ability always welcome. Email *girton.village.\* @gmail.com or facebook: Girton Netball Club.

Emma-Louise Longden



#### **Girton Tennis Club**

Our tennis club AGM will be held on Thursday 3rd March from 7.00pm at the George, Girton. Thanks to Michelle for agreeing to host us again. Like many voluntary

committees, we are fortunate to have a core group of members who are willing to help keep our club running but we need more volunteers. Being on our small committee is not very time consuming and it gives you the chance to shape the way our club operates. If you are interested in how we operate, please come along to the AGM. The minutes from last year are on our website and the new ones will be published there during March.

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, but note that recently we have had to cancel these evening sessions due to ice and slippery surfaces. Potential new members are very welcome to come along to our Friday club nights for one or two free sessions to check it all out.

Details about our activities can be found on our website *www.girtontennisclub.uk* or by contacting our Membership Secretary by email at *info@girtontennisclub.uk*.

Alan Franklin https://twitter.com/EastRRO



#### Girton Colts Football Club

What a great January with the club returning to playing football after the Christmas break. All the teams are back in action, the ground seems to be holding up and the tuck shop

is back at the rec!

I wanted to take the opportunity this month to thank all of the players that have parents as managers, coaches and committee roles. It's not easy playing on a team when your parent volunteers for responsibility. It can often be tricky for these players as there is an

expectation put on them to behave and perform. We are very lucky at the club that all of these players respect their team and play football and often are the glue holding teams together. But often they are overlooked, maybe because of not wanting to show any favouritism. So here I am saying... THANK YOU... you do a great job, we appreciate your concentration, dedication and respect, so keep up the good work!

#### 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 just 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*.

#### Team news



Under 10s Before Christmas the U10s and their families showed great generosity to fill the boot of manager Stephen's car with toiletries, hot chocolate, marmite, crisps, coffee, tea, long-life milk and nibbles for the people experiencing homelessness over the festive period at Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge. *RN* 

Under 11s Unfortunately for the U11s our December matches were postponed, but we continued to work hard in training, focusing on our positioning and passing. In January our first match was against Shepreth where we put on a great team performance, with goals coming from six different players! Our second match was against Chatteris which we lost by just one goal, despite great possession and many chances. Some eye-catching skills and great development have been on show by many players, including from Finley, Denford, Jessica, Benjy and Lughan. Keep it up guys! *KS* 

Under 13s After a well-deserved Christmas break, the girls returned to training in January with great enthusiasm and excitement that carried through into our first match of 2022 against Royston. During the competitive match, the girls continued to show fantastic perseverance and teamwork. Freya saved a number of attempts on goal in the first 10 minutes which kept up morale. Once the team found their groove, the continuing improvement of all the team was emphasised by the number of attempts at goal by multiple players including Martha, Lottie H, Ellie and Cate. Both Emily and Cordi took home player of the match for superb defensive play. *JA* 

Andrew Hawkes Chairman

# A big thank you from the Girton Carol Singers!

Girton Carol Singers were out singing carols around the village again after a break in 2020. They sang over three evenings before Christmas and collected for the Arthur Rank Hospice.





Thank you to everyone who came out onto their doorsteps to listen and applaud, and to those who gave the singers refreshments along the way, especially the George Inn for providing them with a socially-distanced, ventilated space from which to sing to the pub, and to everyone who donated so generously. A grand total of £915 was raised for the Arthur Rank Hospice.

# Do wine and chocolate go together well? You bet!

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, let's turn our minds to pairing wine and chocolate. It can be tricky to pair these two successfully because they share many of the flavour components so it's important to choose a pairing that complements the differences between the two.

A dark, bittersweet chocolate together with a high tannin red wine, for example, can be overbearing on the palate and highlight the astringency in the wine, so dark chocolate is best paired with fortified wines. Milk chocolate can easily be overpowered by red wine so a sweet white, a light red, or a sparkling wine work better. And with its creamy, buttery flavours, white chocolate needs something refreshing and light-bodied – an ice wine, a Moscato d'Asti or a Pinot Noir, for example.

Although it's a careful balancing act to get wine and chocolate to work together, once it does, it can be blissful. So, if you are planning to have a chocolate-based dessert this Valentine's Day, here are three great options to consider:



#### Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Pedro Ximénez

Pedro Ximénez (PX) sherries are pure indulgence in a bottle. These intensely sweet wines are aged oxidatively and are deep brown, almost black, in colour. With typical aromas of dried fruits, honey and coffee, and flavours of dried fruit and caramel, there is sufficient acidity to balance the sweetness and create a velvety, long finish. This 12-year old PX from Sainsbury's ticks all the boxes. With honey, raisins, and toffee on the nose, and coffee, caramel and toffee on the palate, this is a full-bodied wine that has been aged in a network of oak casks.

It is a perfect match to enjoy with dark chocolate or a chocolate mousse. Available from Sainsbury's (£8, 50cl)



#### **Hattingley Valley Entice 2020**

Golden in colour, this English dessert wine from Hattingley Valley in Hampshire is a fine example of a wine made from Bacchus grapes which were frozen for two weeks prior to pressing. The result is a sweet, fragrant wine with a refreshing acidity that has aromas of honeysuckle, elderflower and tropical fruits, and flavours of honey, lemon meringue and pineapple. The crisp acidity and fruitiness of this wine will cut through the creaminess of a white chocolate dessert, making it an enticing match for cake, cookies or cheesecake.

Available from Grape Britannia & Ocado (£21.99-£22.50, half bottle)



#### Campbell's Rutherglen Muscat

Campbell's have been producing wine in Rutherglen since 1870 and if you are looking for something to pair with milk chocolate or a milk chocolate pudding, this luscious dessert wine from Australia has stood the test of time. Amber in colour, it is a rich wine made from a blend of vintages of Muscat à petit grains rouges (Rutherglen Brown Muscat) grapes. With aromas of raisins and caramel on the nose, and flavours of orange, dates and nuts on the palate, the sweetness of the wine is balanced with fresh acidity. Health warning – it is wickedly moreish!

Available from Majestic (£14.99, £12.49 Mix Six, half bottle)

Martin Nuttall www.itmustbewineoclock.com

# INTRODUCING A NEW COLUMN ... Wild Girton

In April, a UN meeting of countries organised in China will discuss the biodiversity emergency. An agreement around a "Global Biodiversity Framework" will be pursued to set goals to stop, or at least mitigate, the global biodiversity decline we are facing, where thousands of species are threatened with extinction.

But what does that have to do with us, especially in our community in Girton? Suppose you are not a keen birder, enthusiastic gardener, or outdoorsy person. In that case, the biodiversity decline might seem meaningless. But it is probably more important than you think! The WWF defines it as "all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area; the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even micro-organisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life." Biodiversity is part of nature and an essential part of the proper functioning of natural ecosystems. If healthy, it gives us many "ecosystem services". So thanks to biodiversity, we can breathe clean air, drink clean water, have our crops naturally pollinated, mitigate extreme weather events and offer us health benefits

We should and can support biodiversity recovery locally and the Girton Parish Council is developing a Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP) in line with the UK's Government 25 year Environment Plan. Working together with our neighbouring parishes, the LNRP aims to create more biodiversity-rich habitats in and around our villages. We seek to do this collectively and welcome you to join us!

Our first step will be to check what biodiversity we already have. For example, how much natural and exotic vegetation we have and what animals use these as habitat or food resources. Next step will be planning where and when to plant more wildlife-friendly trees and hedges and provide more artificial habitats, like bird houses, bug hotels, and bat boxes so we can increase the connectivity between vegetation patches, and offer more secure habitat and food resources. There are further steps on the plan, and all involve a collective effort.



There will be plenty to do, from mapping areas to planting trees, community discussions and workshops, citizen science monitoring

(camera traps, for example), promoting forest school and lots of fun activities for all. You can also start recording what biodiversity features you have in your garden and report to us on Facebook or Twitter. The

results will be seen and enjoyed by all of us. We will be acting locally for global biodiversity conservation! For more information, contact the Girton Parish Council.

Dr Marcelo Lima, Vice Chair Environment Committee. Girton Parish Council



# Girton Cottontails Preschool

We've had a brilliant start to the new year and are so pleased to have moved into our new home at Girton Glebe

Primary School. It was a very busy few weeks of moving (literally a whole preschool's belongings!) and getting all set up, but it was all worth it.

We are settling in well and the children have been amazing and so accepting of the move. We must say a big thank you to everyone at the school for accommodating our comings and goings as we were moving in. We've been enjoying creating colourful displays on the walls, the children have made a colour mixing handprint display and also a rainbow fish display with some wonderful and inventive fish.

At Forest School, we have been loving the sunny, frosty winter days. We've been for winter walks and have observed how the frost melts away through the day.

We are so pleased to have been selected as one of the Co-op local causes to receive the community fund this year. The funds will allow us to buy outdoor learning resources for the preschool to enhance both our outdoor play area and our Forest School. Please consider supporting us by selecting us as your local cause every time you shop in the Co-op.

Laura Norman and Emma Pell

Girton Cottontails Preschool Managing Directors Email: info@girtoncottontailspreschool.com

Phone: 07368 180771

Web: https://www.girtoncottontailspreschool.com Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

#### **Girton Walking Group**



The Girton walking group on their New Year's Day walk in Hadstock, Essex.

#### **Girton** TownCharity

#### **Dovehouse Court offers energy-efficient homes for the future**

Girton Town Charity's latest building project – Dovehouse Court on the High Street – which will create 15 almshouses for the over 55s and a new office for its own operations, is being constructed to meet stringent Passivhaus low energy standards. So what is involved?

DOVEHOUSE COURT

The entire process is being closely monitored by Trainee Site Manager Ben Cross who is Barnes Construction's first ever Passivhaus Champion.

Passivhaus is a leading international low-energy design standard, which offers a robust, proven and cost-effective method to help UK construction companies achieve carbon reduction targets set by the Government and local authorities.

#### Sustainable

Helping to create a sustainable future for the environment locally, nationally and globally, Passivhaus was designed in the

early 1990's by Professor Bo Adamson and Wolfgang Feist and is a common method of construction within Germany.

The key features of a Passivhaus Home centre around high levels of insulation, resulting in low energy costs and improved indoor air quality, all made possible by installing energy-efficient windows and doors, with stricter levels of airtightness, mechanical ventilation and heat recovery.

Achieving all these objectives starts at a very early design stage, as Ian Bramwell, Director at Mole Architects explains.

#### Sustainable

He says: "By adopting a Passivhaus approach to building, you can maximise the free energy provided by the sun and as a by-product of living – from



Barnes Passivhaus Champion, Ben Cross on site at Dovehouse Court..
Opposite: Ben carries out a regular quality check to veriify workmanship of the build process.

sources such as fridges, washing machines and TVs – which minimises the energy required to heat a building.

"This means we use less fossil fuels and also mitigate against sharp increases in heating costs, which helps reduce fuel poverty for occupants if inflation in the cost of fuel outstrips pension increases.

"Construction to meet the Passivhaus standard must be considered from the outset.

Designing buildings carefully with simple and compact shapes, good orientation for maximum solar gain in the Winter, minimal overheating in Summer and

thicker walls to allow for additional insulation are all important factors to achieve comfortable homes that are draught-free and warm.

"Incoming air is filtered and pre-heated by extracting the heat from the stale air being pumped out. We have found that Passivhaus is the best way to minimise the performance gap between the energy requirements estimated at the design stage and the actual usage of a built house."

#### Stringent standards

For Passivhaus Champion Ben Cross, meeting the stringent standards involves paying great attention to detail throughout a building project. It includes checking drawings and specification and undertaking regular quality assurance audits to monitor the storage and installation of materials, as well as the moisture content of the building.

#### **Girton** TownCharity

The recent construction of the timber frames at Dovehouse Court also involved close scrutiny of the materials being used and undertaking regular quality checks to verify the workmanship of the build process.

Ben says: "In addition to keeping a very close eye on materials and installation, I am also responsible for communicating with new employees, giving Toolbox Talks to the workforce, carrying out Health and Safety inspections and holding weekly meetings with subcontractors. I have also been recording the entire build process with photographs which I can then log on the Passivhaus QA forum.

#### Qualification

"To equip me for my role I undertook a training course held by WARM – which specialises in Passivhaus training – which helped me to understand and learn about the requirements. Further down the line I plan to study for a Passivhaus qualification so I can pass on my knowledge to other members of the team and also work on future projects."

Ian Bramwell concludes: "There is no justifiable reason why all new building shouldn't be built to meet Passivhaus standards. It makes good sense and the rewards are significant for occupants and the preservation of our climate, and with Dovehouse Court, Girton Town Charity really is leading the way."



#### **Educational Grants 2022**

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 June 2022.

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.

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

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 www.girtontowncharity.org.uk

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#### Waiting to see

I recently read an article about the Omicron variant of the Covid virus which has given me some hope that the present pandemic may be coming to an end. I hope that I have correctly understood it. It appears that the present Omicron variant, although

very transmissible, is much weaker than the first waves of Covid and people who test positive are much less ill – some having very few or no symptoms. It seems, however, that the virus does leave those who catch it with antibodies in their system which gives them some protection against future waves of the virus. Coupled with vaccinations and the booster people are much more protected. The apparent weakening of this virus has been seen in other viruses and has signalled the end of those particular pandemics. I hope this virulent Omicron variant and its 'weakening', for want of a better word, is signalling the end of the present pandemic.

Because of the uncertainty about all this and the age group we find ourselves in, we have decided to wait for a while before re-opening our Computer mornings at Abbeyfield and organising more trips out to lunch. I am sure you will understand our reasoning.

On a brighter note, I hope we will be up and around soon and will be able to begin our activities in early March – see the March issue of this newsletter for more news about this.

#### **Ivy Jaggs**

Ivy lived in Church Lane, Girton until last September when she moved into a nursing home in Cambridge. Ivy and her late daughter came to some of our functions but when Janet fell ill and died, it became too much for Ivy.



Ivy celebrates her 101st birthday

The pair of them were always good fun and I remember one particular minibus trip out to lunch at Scotsdale's garden centre in Shelford. Janet was in a wheelchair and after lunch I pushed her around the store. Whilst I was doing so she asked me to show her the

animals. What animals? I thought, this is a garden centre – perhaps they have some rabbits, guinea pigs and the like. I searched for the animals to no avail, then asked an assistant where the animals were only to be told there were none. 'Not real animals', said Janet, 'the models'.

Now understanding exactly what we were looking for we quickly found them, life-sized chickens, sheep, dogs and a three foot high donkey. I glanced at the prices and winced. 'I like that donkey – I am going to buy it', said Janet. I stood there aghast, Janet is in her wheelchair, I've got to get her back into the minibus with a full sized, very expensive donkey – how on earth am I going to do that. 'Should we really buy that; Janet, how are we going to get it home?' I mumbled. 'I'll get it delivered', she said. My panic was over. I visited Ivy and Janet at their home many times and every time I saw that little donkey in their garden I thought, 'You little blighter, you certainly raised my blood pressure'. I believe the donkey is still in that garden and I am sure both Ivy and Janet had a great deal of pleasure from it.

Ivy's birthday was on the 20th January and she spent a very happy afternoon at Quy Hotel with her family. She was full of life and mischief and thoroughly enjoyed herself.

Many congratulations from all your friends at Club 55, we send best wishes from all.

Sam Clift

Tel: 07850740721 or email samclift@ntlworld.com



# Play Rounders this summer

Jesus Green Rounders is a group of local rounders teams who play together

on Jesus Green each summer, May to September. We're looking for new teams to join the group for the 2022 season.

Rounders is an accessible game that can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. If your child can stand and hold the bat, they're big enough to play and very welcome. Whoever you are, we'd love to hear from you. If you're new to the game of rounders, this website explains it all: www.roundersengland.co.uk/play/rounders-rules.

Matches are held on Thursday evenings from 6pm to 7.30pm followed by drinks and pizza in The Maypole (optional, but one of the best bits).

If you can find 9 willing players, can be available fairly regularly on Thursday evenings throughout the summer, and can find your way to Jesus Green, please contact me about becoming part of Jesus Green Rounders.

Emma Longden, The Independents emma.longden@gmail.com

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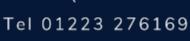
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#### Church can change your perspective



# Old and new, and everything in between

It's one of those primary school songs that comes back to me fairly often. "One more step along the world I go..." that leads into the chorus: "And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you".

Life is always a balance of old and new. If we always try to stick with the old then, while it may be comforting and familiar, we never really go anywhere and risk missing out on opportunities. If we are always seeking the new then life can be exciting and challenging, but we might miss the stability provided by the old (and constant newness can be *exhausting!*)

Sometimes we need to abandon old things to move into the future. At other times we need to rediscover the things of the past to help us move into the future. Towards the beginning of a new year, I wonder what there is in your life that is old and can be abandoned. I wonder what old things you might helpfully return to. I wonder what new things you might be called to move into.

The Christian faith is premised on the idea that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God was doing a radically new thing. God was inaugurating a new creation and a new way of being, firmly rooted in what had come before. Paul describes the process of baptism (or Christening) as dying to an old life and being raised into a whole new life; we become a new creation, the old has passed away and the new has come!

There's a common perception that the church is "stuck in the past". That's sometimes fair, but the truth is that the church is in a constant process taking the best of what we have received, that which has sustained generations of faithful people, and using it as a platform for branching out into new ways of encountering God.

Our ways of doing things can seem old fashioned, but they have nourished people for centuries and we throw them away at our peril. But that doesn't mean that we don't move on and try new things.

At the moment our new thing is to be much more creative in our work with children. That's why we were pleased to accept the invitation from the old Bobtails committee to take over their excellent work with parents and toddlers in the past and look to build on it for the future. Any mums, dads, carers, grandparents or childminders with children under 5 are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings during term time! Please see the advert for more information.

Another new thing for us is to try a more modern, and informal style of worship on a Sunday afternoon. This

is happening on the fourth Sunday of the month. Please join us if you'd like to – there's more information on the church website.

May God bless you as you set out from the old to travel to the new this year!

Michael Bigg Rector 01223 202145





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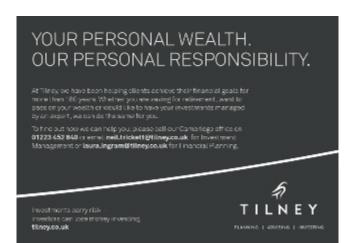
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**Rector: Revd Michael Bigg** 

Tel: 01223 202145 Email: rector@girton.church

Website: www.girton.church

Associate Priest: The Revd Christine Barrow Tel: 575089 Email: mcbarrow@me.com

**Licensed Lay Ministers:** 

Mr Dugald Wilson Tel: 276940 Mrs Christina Deacon Tel: 525337

**Churchwardens:** 

Mr Bruce and Mrs Wendy Hunter Tel: 503958

#### **Sunday Services: February**

6th 10am Holy Communion
 7.30pm Taizé Service (live/online)
 13th 10am All-age Communion

6pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

20th 10am Holy Communion 6pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

27th 8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Morning Prayer4pm Contemporary

#### Weekday Services: February

Tues 9am Morning Prayer (said)

Weds 9am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
Thurs 9am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
9pm Compline (said) (Online)

#### **Other Services**

8th 3:45pm Choir Church

9th 2pm Abbeyfield Holy Communion

22nd 3:45pm Choir Church

**24th 11am** Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

You are welcome to join us for worship in person or remotely at <a href="http://bit.ly/GirtonParishLive">http://bit.ly/GirtonParishLive</a>. Please check the church website for up to date information (<a href="https://www.girton.church">www.girton.church</a>).

For this month only to celebrate Candlemas, the Taizé service will be held jointly online and live in St Andrew's Church. Next month the Taizé service returns to be held remotely using Zoom. All are welcome. Please email Kay Barrett at singing.kay@gmail.com for details.

Joy with peace, amendment of life, time for true repentance, the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, and perseverance in good works, grant us, O almighty and merciful Lord. (Enriching the Christian Year)

#### Girton Baptist Church



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe Tel: 01223 279289

Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith

Tel: 01223 520442

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

#### Sunday Services: (all starting at 10.30am at Girton Baptist

Church and on Zoom)

6th With communion, led by Nick Lowe

**13th** Led by Nick Lowe

**20th** With communion, led by Nick Lowe

**27th** Led by Nick Lowe

All are welcome.

Messy Church is on Thursday 10th February 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. For further details please ring 07751 748757 or email pastor@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk.

These words from the hymn "Here is love" by William Edwards (1848-1929) remind us of the Christian message:

Here is love, vast as the ocean, loving-kindness as the flood, when the Prince of Life, our Ransom, shed for us His precious blood. Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise? He can never be forgotten throughout heav'n's eternal days.

St Columba, who lived centuries before Edwards, prayed,

Kindle in our hearts, o God,
The flame of love that never ceases,
That it may burn in us, giving light to others.
May we shine for ever in your temple,
Set on fore with your eternal light,
Even your Son Jesus Christ,
Our Saviour and our redeemer.
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* 

#### Vice-Chairman

Gill Cockley, 73 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276703

#### **Councillors**

Daniel Carney, 28 Cambridge Road, Tel: 07986 592507 Julie Dashwood, 36 High Street, Tel: 276590 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 447674 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: 07765 475513

cllr@bygott@net

Corinne Garvie, Tel: 01223 276184 *cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk* 

#### County Councillor

Edna Murphy, Tel: 01223 577005 edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

#### **Parish Clerk**

Yvonne Murray, Tel: 01223 618619 *clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk* 

#### **Assistant to the Parish Clerk**

Angie Vidler, Tel: 01223 618619 admin@girton-cambs.org.uk

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

#### Postal address

Girton Parish Council

The Pavilion, Girton Recreation Ground

Cambridge Road, Girton

Cambridge CB3 0FH

#### **Contact numbers for bookings**

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

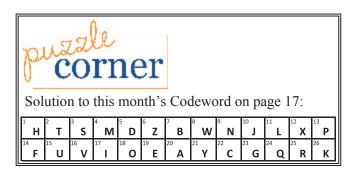
#### **Meals for Mums**

Do you enjoy cooking? Would you like to help out parents with a new baby?

Meals for Mums has been running in Girton for many years. Having had a break during the worst of the pandemic, we are now keen to get the scheme up and running again but need more help. We need volunteers to cook a simple and nutritious meal for parents and families with a new child.

Those first few weeks or months with a new baby are hard! Simple tasks like preparing dinner can feel overwhelming. Meals for Mums organises a rota to cook and deliver meals for new parents for a couple of weeks. Volunteers usually cook just once every few months so it's not a big commitment but of course the more volunteers we have, the fewer meals we each need to cook. If you would like to help, please email mealsformums@gmail.com.

If you are expecting a baby, or have a recent little addition, congratulations! If you would like some meals delivered to your door please get in touch with us at *mealsformums@gmail.com*. All we ask is that when things have settled down and you are back on your feet you return the favour! Some volunteers are still cooking for us while their 'babies' are now teenagers — it's such a lovely thing to do and so appreciated.



#### **Mobile Library**

#### Thursday 24 February 2022

Thornton Court	09.40 - 10.00
Abbeyfield	10.05 - 10.50
Cotton Hall/Church	11.00 - 11.30
Orchard Close	11.35 - 12.00
St Vincent's Close	12.05 - 12.30
Gretton Court	12.35 - 13.00
Churchfield Court	13.05 - 13.30

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31 February 2022



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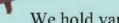


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