



GIRTON

Parish News

March 2022



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

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

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

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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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Storms hit Girton

February's storms have battered the village with substantial damage to trees.

The roots of a mature tree on the edge of the recreation ground have been ripped out of the ground with the tree lodged against an electricity pylon.



Another tree in St Andrew's churchyard has been badly affected with branches causing damage to the graves below while another tree at the junction of Girton Road and Mayfield Road was also damaged.

The storms caused damage throughout the village and in another incident a car port was ripped away from a wall and blown over the roof of a house onto the opposite side.

You can follow Girton Parish Council on Facebook and Twitter to ensure you stay up to date with major incidents such as the storms.

Twitter: @GirtonPCouncil

Facebook: Girton Parish Council and Girton

Notice of Public Meeting

'What can we do to enhance biodiversity and wildlife in Girton?'

Come along to hear about the current state of biodiversity in our village, and share ideas about what we can do to improve it

Wednesday 23 March 7.30

Gordon Hall

William Collyn Community Centre

Wellbrook Way, Girton
Cambridge, CB3 0GP

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Cover photos courtesy of Girton Parish Council

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We need you - come and join your Parish Council

The Girton Parish Council is in need of new councillors. We currently have three vacancies and not all current councillors will stand again when the council is due for re-election in May 2022. As a councillor who has worked with this group since 2010, I wanted to share with you the value of becoming involved with your village. If you care about our environment and you want to ensure it is fit for you and your family, why not come along to a council meeting, and see what it is all about. I guarantee you will make new friends, you will understand much more about your village, and you will help to steer the plans for the future.

The need for the Parish Council becomes apparent when “something must be done,” everyone tends to look to the council to do it - whatever it may be. That is on top of the usual business of providing and maintaining recreation and open spaces in the community such as our recreation ground and pavilion, play areas, cutting the grass at the churchyard and more. We also actively support services in the community.

With significant grant funding from the county council, we are currently about to begin work on improving our pavilion by enlarging the hall to allow wider usage and creating improved sports changing facilities. Importantly we will also be creating a parish office accessible to all on the ground floor of our building. We will also create an extra meeting room and add value to the facility. We hope to have a stage in the main hall as part of this ambitious plan, and an improved kitchen facility for all users.

Girton has a very active sport facility with football pitches envied by visitors. We also have tennis courts, a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area, which is an all-weather surface arena for sport), outdoor gym equipment (trim trail) and of course a bowls green at Wellbrook Way. The council operates a number of committees responsible for various aspects of council activity. For example, we have a sport and recreation committee which assists the development of sport and leisure in our village, and the environment committee looks after the management of our open spaces and footpaths.

The council is also the primary point of contact for county, district, and others. So should your interest be pathways through and around the village, highway safety, potential flood risk or rewilding, you can become more involved and link with county and district to learn more and help influence our future.

Once every four years we have an election, when the whole council is elected by you, the residents of Girton. So, it is a very opportune time to offer yourself for election and to make a difference.

This year's election will run alongside district council elections. However, while the district council elections will be fought on party lines, membership of the parish council is not political, and most councillors do not disclose their political leanings. Councillors are there to take decisions in the best interests of the community.

We are pleased to say we have recently appointed a new clerk and an assistant, and this has allowed us to develop a robust approach to the challenges we face. Both these people are very approachable for you to talk to. Our chair and I as Vice Chair are also very willing to give you an overview of what this commitment means should you wish to consider standing for election.

So, the new council will be an interesting and exciting team of residents who care, who want to make a real difference for the community. We need you to be part of that; anyone over 18 and registered to vote and resident within one mile of the village is eligible to be a parish councillor. We need key people from all backgrounds and ages who can bring a range of skills, experience, and enthusiasm to maintaining Girton as a truly wonderful place to live.

For more information contact Yvonne Murray at the Parish Office. (*See details below*)

Gill Cockley, Vice-chair, Girton Parish Council

Girton Parish Council

The chairman, with the support of County Councillor Edna Murphy, recently presented to the Highways Panel, our application for double yellow lines at the major road junctions of Thornton Road, St Margaret's Road and Weavers Field. This appeared to be well received but the outcome will not be known for some time. We have also received confirmation that the much heralded new lighting along Oakington Road is to be finally installed in the second half of March.

This represents the culmination of a council aspiration dating back many years, revived in earnest in 2019 and made possible by an ultimately successful application for funding by the A14 Legacy Fund. Details of the installation appear elsewhere in this edition of GPN.

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 15th March and Tuesday 19th April at St Vincent's Close Community Centre.

Parish Office Contact details

Yvonne Murray, email: clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk,
Tel: 01223 618619,
The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road,
Girton, CB3 0FH.

From Our Councillors

County Councillor Edna Murphy

As we approach spring the hope is that Covid infections, illness and deaths will decline and the disruption to education and our lives will reduce. Although we may be losing Government-imposed restrictions this does not mean we should stop doing things we know help keep our family, friends and neighbours safe, such as mask-wearing, limiting time indoors and taking LTD tests before meeting people. We need to use common sense and continue to act cautiously until the level of infections is reduced further. Covid still has potential to cause harm and it is not done with us just yet.

Bus routes “merged”

Residents have been dismayed by the recent news from Stagecoach that they will ‘merge’ routes 5 and 6 producing a slower service and with some elements no longer provided (for example to the Crematorium). Stagecoach says they are struggling to find drivers and also passenger numbers are down. But they also said they didn’t believe there would be many complaints. They are planning to get feedback in person and are arranging a meeting.

Water contamination

Reports of local water contamination have caused concern. It is vital to be able to understand any potential long-term health implications of any level of exposure. I support the call for the Drinking Water Inspectorate and the County Council’s Director of Public Health to investigate the incident and issues surrounding it, and for these bodies and Cambridge Water to make the information public. We are pushing for Cambridge Water to dramatically improve the way it keeps residents informed and updated as this has not worked well recently.

Setting budgets

In the last fortnight the county, fire authority and police have all set their budgets for next year. In very difficult circumstances the county will increase the Council Tax by 4.99% but there is help for those who are in financial difficulty. The county’s budget manages to absorb (and not pass on) many cost increases but also does make provision for support for care leavers, establishing a Just Transition Fund (to support inequality and tackle the climate emergency) and increase support for biodiversity. It allows for flood resilience schemes to be

extended and provides the Household Support Fund for a further year.

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any concerns or questions.

Cllr Edna Murphy

edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Councillor Corinne Garvie

Post Office in Girton

The van visits the car park at the back of the old Scallywags nursery in Orchard Close on Fridays, 1.30-2.30pm. It provides over-the-counter services but will also get cards and stationery items for you. You can also pay in cheques to your bank if you have paying in slips. The post mistress is very helpful and friendly.

I would like to thank the Social Club for offering her the use of their facilities if needed.

Road Surfaces

We reported the pot holes in Thornton Road, and it is planned for the road surface to be repaired at the end of March. Signs will be erected nearer the time. The pavement surfaces in High Street and Bandon Road have also been reported.

Business Support

I have been endeavouring to contact businesses in Girton to make sure they are aware of the business support from the Council. The latest edition of the business support newsletter is online now. You will find it on the South Cambs website.

Buses

Local bus services have been changed. The number 5 from the city centre now goes through Girton and Oakington on its way to Bar Hill. This makes the journey from Girton to Bar Hill longer, and, in my experience, more crowded. The number 6 has been changed to two journeys per day and goes to Madingley rather than Bar Hill.

The County and District Councils want to encourage the use of buses so that cars are used less, and it has been worrying that some people have said they will use their cars instead of the new bus services.

Another concern is that there is now no bus going to the Crematorium.

I understand that there is a shortage of drivers and this is the reason why Stagecoach has reduced the services. I have been in correspondence with them and will continue to pressure them to improve the services.

Meanwhile, I heard that some people, who have no car, cannot get to the Crematorium so I contacted the Town

Charity. The Trustees recommend residents experiencing difficulty getting to the Crematorium to apply for an Individual Grant-in-Need for taxi fares. To contact them you can call 01223 276008 or email gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk.

Other work for Girton

There is a cover missing from a stop tap at the bus stop near Thornton Road. This is a trip hazard so I have reported it to the Council and the Cambridge Water Company whose property I think it is.

Finally I had reported a blocked drain in Girton Road. It has been inspected and will need further work to clear the blockage.

The Parish Council has been concerned about the broken doggy-poo bin near Hicks Lane. A resident tried to free up the lock which was rusty but could not get it to move, so I ordered a new one from Waste Services.

Corinne Garvie

Cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk

07780932267

District Councillor Tom Bygott

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

This grant is aimed at businesses within the hospitality and leisure sector which were trading as registered business rate payers in South Cambridgeshire on 30 December 2021. These businesses could be eligible for a one-off payment of up to £6,000 depending on the rateable value of each business.

There is also Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) top-up payment, which is a limited, one-off fund and it is the council's intention to make use of this by providing support to eligible businesses that do not have a rateable value and/or are ineligible to receive the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) but nonetheless operate in the supply chain to OHLG businesses.

If you think you know someone who could benefit from this please check www.scambs.gov.uk/omicron-grants. Questions can be asked via

BusinessGrants@scambs.gov.uk or calling 01954 713 000. The deadline to apply for both grants has now been extended until Friday 11 March 2022.

Five Year Land Supply

The Five Year Land Supply is a concept in the English planning system that requires local authorities to have allocated enough sites in their Local Plan to satisfy five years' worth of demand for housing. If this measure falls below five years, property developers can appeal

when their schemes are rejected and have decisions overturned..

At a recent planning appeal the five year land supply was challenged but the planning inspector found that the council does have a supply still. The inspector found 'the council's housing land supply as at April 2021 was 5.6 years, a slightly improved position compared to 5.07 years at the time of the last appeal.' This is a relief but no doubt eyes will be closely peeled on the next published figures.

Civil Parking Enforcement

South Cambridgeshire is one of only a few places in the country where a local council doesn't have the powers to deal with illegal and inconsiderate parking. The district and county councils are working together with the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) on a civil parking enforcement plan that would involve responsibilities for dealing with the illegal parking shift from the police to the county council. This will mean drivers parking illegally, such as on double yellow lines, could be issued a ticket by civil enforcement officers and ordered to pay a penalty charge.

The county council will now prepare an application to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area, via the Department for Transport, to introduce the scheme. Subject to the approval of this application, it is expected that civil parking enforcement could begin in South Cambridgeshire in the autumn of next year.

Cllr Tom Bygott

cllr@bygott.net. Tel:07765 475 513

Let there be light

A long held aspiration to bring street lighting to a dark and apparently neglected part of the village will reach fruition shortly. Following a protracted negotiation with the A14 Legacy Fund the installation of 10 street lighting columns between Gretton School and the entrance to Camboro Park business park is scheduled to take place between March 14th and 31st. Traffic control measures using lighting or stop go boards will be used temporarily to facilitate the work but it is hoped that inconvenience to residents and road users will be kept to a minimum.

Nearer the time details of the work will be shown on the One-Network roadworks map at <https://one.network/uk/cambridgeshire>.

The Cotton Hall is open for business!

The Cotton Hall, next door to the church, is very much open for business and happy to welcome new customers. We're really grateful to everyone who gave us feedback on how we might use the space last year. The biggest request was for a cafe and so it's good to

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have Lexi's pop-up cafe on site on Fridays (9am-4pm), with "Green Blue You" setting up shop in the room next door with their amazing range of eco-friendly products.

The Cotton Hall Foundation is set up to support things to do with education and children in the village, and so we particularly welcome groups who have those things as a focus. However, the hall is available for hire (at very reasonable prices) for anyone who wants to use it. At the moment we host a Bridge Club, Tai Chi group, Kung Fu classes, Brownies, Youth Group, Bobtails, Art Therapy, children's acting classes, Finnish language classes and more!

It's available to regular users, or for one-off use. At the moment there's availability during the day on Mondays, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday day-time and most of the day on Thursday. Saturdays and Sundays are often booked for parties, but please get in touch to check availability.

There's some information about us at www.cottonhall.co.uk but the best person to contact is our Bookings Clerk, Wendy (cottonhallclerk@yahoo.co.uk / 07759 983420)

We're always looking for people willing to contribute as Trustees. If you want to know more, or have ideas, please contact the Chair (chair@cottonhall.co.uk)



Girton Garden Society

Geoff Hodge: Gardening in dry and drought conditions

Wednesday 9th March 2022

With weather conditions changing and warmer, drier summers on the cards, it pays to change your gardening habits and rely more on drought resistant plants. Whether you are looking to create a Mediterranean or drought garden or just want to spend less time watering your garden and giving yourself more time to relax and enjoy it. There are numerous plants that have developed clever adaptations that help them reduce how much water they need and their overall dependence on water. So what are these adaptations, and which are the best plants to help you reduce your summer watering regime? This illustrated talk will explain.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome (£2 per session or £10 per year).

www.girtongardensociety.co.uk
girtongardensociety@outlook.com



Nothing is so beautiful as Spring (especially with a glass of wine in hand!) ...

As we start to put away our winter coats and our thoughts turn to spring, it's also a great opportunity to put the heavier winter wines to one side and try something a little lighter wine-wise, too. Here are a few suggestions to savour as you enjoy the thrill of the new season and prepare for the first lawn mowing of the year!



Paco & Lola, Albariño, Rías Baixas, 2020 (Spain)

With its Atlantic climate, moderate year-round temperatures, ocean mists and above-average rainfall, the Rías Baixas region of Galicia in the north-west of Spain is more reminiscent of Ireland than the sun-drenched beaches of holiday-destination Spain. But despite the dampness, the area is also blessed with many hours of warm sunshine, enabling the Albariño grapes to ripen and produce wines that are naturally high in acidity, with floral aromas, and citrus and stone-fruit flavours.

These light, fresh, lower alcohol Albariño wines make for an ideal aperitif. And given their maritime context, they are also a perfect partner for seafood.

This example from Paco & Lola is a fresh, lively wine, with zippy acidity and a lovely long finish. It has aromas of lychees, apricot and peach on the nose, and flavours of lime, lemon, peach and a hint of minerality on the palate.

Available from Tesco and Sainsbury's (£12-£14)



Chapel Down Rosé Brut NV (England)

Made from Pinot Noir grapes grown in Kent, Sussex and Essex, this rosé sparkling wine from one of England's finest wine producers was a Platinum Award winner in the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021.

An elegant wine, it has aromas of fresh strawberries, rhubarb, redcurrants and gooseberry, with a hint of croissant in the background, and flavours of strawberry, raspberry and lemon sherbet. Light, delicate and fruity, with a crisp acidity and a fine mousse, this is a little gem.

This is an ideal sparkling wine to enjoy with family and friends as you welcome the new season. It goes well with smoked salmon and light pasta dishes and is a perfect match for rhubarb crumble.

Available from Grape Britannia (£29.99)



Mud House Pinot Noir 2020 (New Zealand)

If you prefer a red wine, a Pinot Noir is a very good choice for this time of the year with red fruit flavours which may be complemented by subtle oak-derived notes of smoke and cloves. A versatile grape, Pinot Noir pairs well with a variety of dishes – from salmon and tuna to

roast chicken, lamb and duck. It also goes well with a tomato-based pasta dish or pizza.

The Mud House Pinot Noir 2020 hails from Central Otago in New Zealand. This wine has red cherry, raspberry and bramble aromas, with a hint of peppery spice on the nose and fresh fruit flavours of raspberry and redcurrant on the palate. It is a well-balanced medium-bodied wine with medium tannins and a medium finish, which can be drunk by itself or with food - it goes particularly well with lamb or duck.

Available from Majestic Wine and Waitrose (£10.99-£13.99)

Martin Nuttall

www.itmustbewineoclock.com

Wild Girton

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in Western Europe. The causes of this sorry situation are many and complex, but it does mean that any minor change we make to reverse this trend can help. The key lies with our outdoor spaces.

With the pressures on land use elsewhere, any improvements we can make in our gardens and other outdoor spaces will have an effect on our fightback against biodiversity loss, however small.

So where to start?

At its base, soil health is critical for a biodiverse garden. Any experienced gardener will tell you that the regular addition of organic material such as farmyard manure or well-rotted compost will improve the quality of soil, particularly with our challenging clay soil.

Next, planting shrubs, hedges, and trees to attract wildlife. Reducing the number of exotics in a garden and instead planting more 'native' plants will lead to an increase in the number of insects, butterflies, and bees. The Royal Horticultural Society has a database of 'Plants for pollinators' <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators> which is a great resource when trying to decide what to choose for your garden or outdoor space.

If you have a balcony, planting pollinators in pots such as lavender and mint will attract bees. Adding a climber against a wall such as honeysuckle will also act as an insect magnet.



Go 'wild'

Leaving a bit of the garden to go 'wild' can also improve biodiversity. Though it goes against gardening orthodoxy, leaving patches of nettles and ivy helps butterflies and birds. Or turning over part of your lawn to a wildflower meadow. Adding a pile of dead leaves can attract amphibians and wood mice if you are lucky.

With the pressure on natural habitats, we can help by putting up artificial homes for bats, birds, and bugs. When trying to decide where to locate your box, think about shelter and climate. South facing walls are usually best but, if it is a bat or bird box not in full sun or too close to an existing bird feeding station.

Finally, if you are lucky enough to have the room, digging a pond is one of the most effective actions you can take to increase biodiversity in a garden or outdoor space. It can attract damselflies, dragonflies, and other invertebrates. Join the conversation about wildlife and biodiversity in Girton on our new Twitter page twitter.com/Wild_Girton. Share your sightings, photos, and queries. Use the hashtag #WildGirton. And come along to a public meeting – details below.

Keith Honnor

Beltane3659@gmail.com

Dismay over axing of Citi 6 route

Stagecoach's decision to axe the Citi 6 bus route in January has been met with dismay by many residents. The only bus service coming through Girton now is the Citi 5 which runs from Cambridge, through Girton and on to Bar Hill, Longstanton, Willingham, Over, Swavesey, Fen Drayton and Fenstanton.

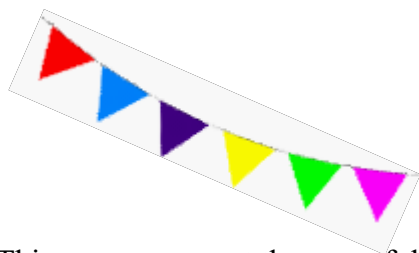


One resident in Hicks Lane said: "I would like to suggest the parish council, or our county councillors, on behalf of the village, ask Stagecoach to reinstate the Citi 6 service. The Citi 5 is usually late and overcrowded, as Stagecoach are trying to make one service cover two quite different routes."

Another resident in Dodford Lane added: "The problem living this end of the village is that the Citi 6 service was, and to others, an integral lifeline to travelling into Cambridge or to go further afield."

The latest timetable for the Citi 5 route can be found on the Stagecoach website at <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables>. Make sure your location is set as Cambridge before searching, then enter "5" in the download bus timetable pdf box. The current Citi 5 timetable has two stops in the village, Girton Corner and St Andrew's Church, with buses running both ways every half hour from just before 6.30am through to 10.30pm.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



GIRTON FEAST

2022

OUR MARCH UPDATE



This year to support the cost of the Feast we are producing a Platinum Jubilee Souvenir Calendar that will be delivered free to every home in Girton during May. The calendar will run from June 2022 to August 2023. If you have any information or photos that we could use in the calendar, please contact us via email using the contact information below. These will need to be submitted by 31st March.



A new event for this year's Village Fete (Saturday 9th July) will be a **Family Fun Run** of 1 mile, with medals and prizes.

Registration will be via our website or on the day.

There are many ways in which you can take part. Please contact us via our website: www.girtonfeast.org.uk all queries will be answered – or contact Rowena: rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk, Carol: carol@girtonfeast.org.uk or Helen: helen@girtonfeast.org.uk.



Girton Walking Group

Saturday 5th March.



A walk of six miles touching on the villages of Dry Drayton and Madingley.

We will meet at Bar Hill at 10am. You will find parking in Viking Way, CB23 8EL. This is reached by **not** turning into the Tesco car park at the roundabout but taking the next left, largely empty on a Saturday. We will take a break so do bring a drink and snack. Expect mud as it is March.

This walk will be led by Ann and Ian Jerram. Email Ann.Jerram@gmail.com.

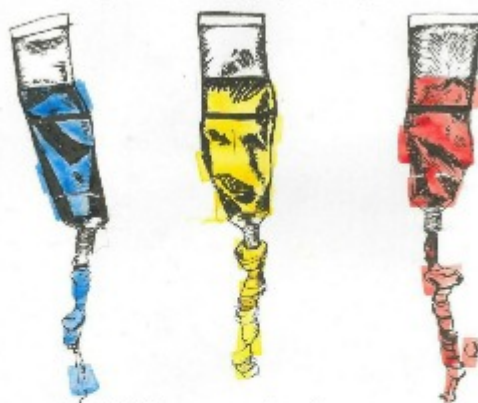
Saturday 2nd April.

A walk of five and a half miles starting in the village of Lode near Anglesey Abbey.

Meet in the centre of Lode village near the church and post office. High St, Lode, Cambridge CB25 9EH. This walk is along fields and Quy Water. Please wear good foot wear as this might be a muddy walk.

This walk will be led by Elisabeth Kron. Email: elisabethkron@yahoo.com.

St Andrews Church, Girton Action Abroad Art Exhibition 2022



Exhibition opening hours:

Friday 6th May 11 am to 7 pm;

Saturday 7th May 10 am to 5 pm

•Free entry •Refreshments

Deadline for exhibitors: 10th March.

Please contact Clare (07787 510886)

clare.conboy@ntlworld.com



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Mini Show 2022

Girton Garden and Allotment Societies

Feast Week Village Fete

Saturday July 9th

Open to the whole Village

Get planting now so that you have carrots, beans, potatoes, beetroot, onions, rhubarb, soft fruit and summer flowers.

For children, try planting some different coloured vegetables and enter your funniest carrot, your longest bean and an animal modelled from vegetables, fruit and flowers. The full list of categories will appear in the May edition of the GPN. It is also on the GGS website on the Diary for meetings and events page at girtongardenociety.co.uk, Details before then are available from either society Girton Garden Society Kay Green 01223 276819 or Girton Allotment Society Patsy Smith 01223 575288.



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Girton WI

The 'thread and the thrum', or how life is often a combination of the good and the bad was the unexpected theme for

Girton WI's February meeting. With our original speaker unable to attend (the bad), we were extremely lucky that children's novelist, actress and art education expert Jane Bower was able to step into the breach, with an excellent talk about the inspiration that led to her first children's book, the newly published "Thread and Thrum", which raises money for the Macular Society.

In an interesting and sometimes moving talk, Jane shared with us her experiences as a primary school teacher, her search for a job in which she could share her passion for art and her move to Cambridgeshire to pursue that dream, and the book written for the very first children she had taught, which had sat, in a drawer, for forty years.

We were delighted when Jane read part of the book, a story about a very unlikely hero, a little wooden bead called Wheatear, and the challenges and adventures of his life in a tin of beads and shared with us some of her father's illustrations. It has certainly inspired us to read the rest of the story and to share it with our children or our grandchildren.

As always, we then enjoyed tea, coffee, and delicious cake, and it was lovely to see so many attendees. If you are free on the first Wednesday of the month (at 7.30pm) and would like to come and join us (even if it is only for the cake!) then please do pop in. We will be holding our AGM (along with a bring and taste recipe evening) on March 2nd, welcoming Maria Garner who will speak about 'Caring for your Antiques' on 6th April, and David Short will be speaking on 'A Life Behind Bars' on 4th May. Our speakers for the next year cover topics as wide ranging as gemstones, the Cambridgeshire landscape, the modern hospice movement, working with textiles and edible plants, as well as a craft evening.

For more information about the WI Nationally or about Girton WI and our meetings then please contact girtonwi@gmail.com or girtonwisecretary@gmail.com. We meet on the first Wednesday in the month, at 7.30pm at the William Collyn Community Centre. There is no

obligation to join, and attendance at up to three meetings as a visitor is free. We look forward to seeing you!

Hannah Wyborn

Girton WI President



Fitting in or belonging?

One of the most read/liked and commented-on posts on my Facebook Business Page this month has been about

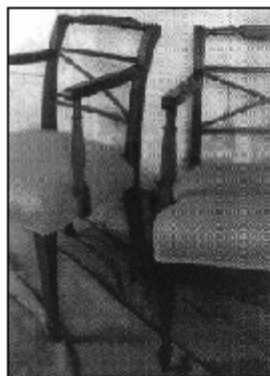
fitting in as opposed to belonging. It obviously struck a chord with many. Children and young people often struggle with 'finding their group' and being accepted. This is usually expressed as wanting to fit in. But if fitting in means being the same as everyone else in order to be accepted, no wonder this is a struggle. Reframing this as belonging might be more helpful. We can be different and yet still belong to a group – we don't have to agree on everything or to follow what the whole group wants or likes.

And here is my challenge: I'm not sure it's necessarily any easier as an adult! Do you feel like you have to have the same shaped handle and be made of the same material? Or is your group one where there are wooden spoons, plastic spatulas and different sized spoons – somewhere where you belong and you are valued for your differences?

Signposting

Taking time to pause may be as simple as setting a five minute timer on your phone, closing your eyes and just breathing. But if you need something more structured then www.headspace.com could be useful. Headspace is an app which teaches mindfulness and meditation principles to improve well-being.

Juliet Adlouné, 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.julietadlouné or mhfa.julietadlouné@gmail.com.



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Microsoft





Sunday 13th February. I'm listening to Gardeners' Question Time on Radio 4. The first questioner describes how she sets up her sowing, potting-on, planting-out, schedule on Excel Spreadsheets. She wanted advice on the difficulty of schedules in view of the shifting patterns of the seasons, unusually early warm spells and destructive late cold spells.

My first response was amusement that I wasn't a lone 'nerd' in bringing Microsoft office facilities into the service of my gardening. Why not use the 'sort' function to list operations into date order? I have also written before about an allotment friend who uses Excel to work out volumes of his produce and profitability.

The GQT panel suggested that, first and foremost, we should use common sense in planning our sowing and planting times, and in all our horticultural activities. We shouldn't be slaves to the instructions on the back of seed packets. Time to sow in Scotland is not the same time as in southern England. Nor have the seed packet dates taken into account the recent and rapid changes in the arrival and departure of the seasons. And we all have our own experiences of varying conditions: remember last spring with its early warmth and encouragement to get underway, only for cold and wet to then take over and spoil or setback our too-early efforts. I bet there are few of us who have not lost young plants, even under glass, to frost; or who have not listened to the forecast and rushed out in the evening to struggle with covering potatoes which have pushed through. The GQT panellists ended by saying "don't put all your eggs in one basket", or rather "don't sow your entire seed packet in one go".

For years, as I survey the allotments from my study window, or while walking around, I am struck by the multiple varieties of methods, constructions, techniques and timing evident over the site. Evidence that common sense, experience, flexibility are our watchwords. I've remarked on this before: so many approaches to cultivating throughout the site, and yet on the whole we all succeed in growing and harvesting fresh, organic vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Girton Allotment Society enjoys engagements with other village organisations and events. Over recent years, the Society has hosted a soup kitchen at the annual Christmas tree shredding, though unfortunately this year because of Covid precautions we couldn't offer

this service. Plans are already in place for the Allotment and Garden Societies' presence at Girton Feast Week's Saturday climax on Saturday 9th July. They are organising a vegetable and flower competition, open to all Girton gardeners (details in May GPN and from the Garden Society website). There will also be a stall selling vegetables, fruit and flowers (a chance for the village to sample what society members produce).

Within the Allotment Society, there are opportunities to socialise. Working parties gather to maintain the site in good order. I squeezed into the February GPN a collage of pictures of coppicing the hazel area. Once a month, on Sunday lunchtimes, members are invited to gather in the communal orchard area, bringing flasks of coffee, getting to know one another, discussing horticultural hopes and plans. These days, there is quite a big turnover of plot holders and so these gatherings help us to get to know each other amongst the comings and goings of membership.

I'll end where I began. You will be reading this at the beginning of March. All of us plot holders will be full of anticipation, studying our seed packets; watching our seed potatoes chitting (growing shoots) as they sit in a sunny, warm situation; writing up our sowing and planting schedules; and getting close to making a beginning to the new season. And, of course, as the weather gets warmer, the soil drying out, the blustery winds calming down, we'll be out there, preparing the ground for the season's planting.

Graham Jones, Girton Allotment Society

Girton Garden Society

Spring Plant Sale

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GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Netball Club

Covid got in the way this month with lots of teammates and their families testing positive, though thankfully with no really serious symptoms. Keeping track of the whereabouts of the kit bag and balls and who was

Covid free and at liberty to attend training and matches has been a challenge.

Hopefully now that most of us have had it, we'll be able to get back to our normal routines.

Despite the difficult month, the team notched up their best score of the year in the CAFL with a 53-10 win against Melbourn. Our highest ever goal tally in a match is 60 goals, so our PB is still out there waiting to be smashed.



Highest score of the year



The Team

Can you help us beat our PB? New members always welcome whether you're looking to compete or just a fun way to get some regular exercise. Training is on Mondays, 6.30-7.45pm, Girton Rec.

Email: girton.village.netball@gmail.com or facebook: *Girton Netball Club*.

Emma-Louise Longden



Girton Tennis Club

By the time you read this our tennis club AGM is likely to have been held (Thursday 3rd March, 7.00pm at the George, Girton).

This meeting is the time when we review the previous year and plan for the next membership year which starts in April. The club has to cover the ongoing costs of items such as court hire and LTA membership and sets annual membership fees accordingly to hopefully balance the books. Current members will be emailed details of the fees for 2022/2023 later in March and the minutes of the AGM (on our website) and posters around the village will also publicise new membership options.

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 or by contacting our Membership Secretary by email at info@girtontennisclub.uk.

Alan Franklin



Girton Golf Club

Our Captains for 2022 finally managed to have their Captain's Drive In on Sunday 13th February followed by a 9 hole Valentines Mixed Competition. A good-sized crowd gathered initially in

the clubhouse to welcome Mike Inglis (Seniors Captain) John Creighton (Club Captain) Eileen Webster (Lady Captain) and Ben Shanks (Junior Captain) into their roles for the coming year (see photo) and to partake of the light refreshments provided. The Captains then drove off the first tee and their drives were measured to ascertain who had guessed correctly the combined distance, a guessing game won by Jason Gordon with an actual combined distance of 609 yards. Unfortunately, due to injury Mike was unable to drive a ball so only 3 drives counted this year. Funds raised will go to the Captain's Charity, which this year is Cambridge Dial-A-Ride.

If you are considering joining Girton Golf Club, then do it quickly because from 1st April the annual rates are going up, so get in before then to avoid the increase. The course, when writing this in mid-February, is immaculate for any time of the year, especially February. That, of course may be totally

different by the time you read this article, but currently we feel very fortunate to have such a pretty course and such a dedicated, talented team of green keepers.



The captains

On a Wednesday at 10.30am we offer a breakfast for the over 55s of a bacon or sausage bap and unlimited tea and coffee, and the opportunity to chat with friends – and friends you haven't met yet – all for the princely sum of £4. Just come down to the golf club and meet up in the bar. All welcome. We are still offering Social Membership too, so for just £15 a year for an individual or £20 for a couple you can join the club, get updates on all that is happening and receive a discount on all of your food and beverage purchases (fixed price events excluded). Currently the discount is 20%, so well worth having. Just pop in or call the office.

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Girton Bowls Club

Once again we have been treated to a masterclass of indoor bowls with the World Championships held at Potters last month, shown on YouTube and then on the BBC.

Many familiar names were bowling, including local lad, Nicky Brett, who unfortunately was knocked out in round 2. Due to the high standard of bowling so many of the matches were decided on a tie breaker, as was the final in which Paul Foster MBE was beaten by Les Gillett.

For any of you who have been watching the Olympics, you will have noticed the many similarities to bowls. A guard stone in curling equates to a blocker in bowls, the head is known as the house, the green is known as the sheet and they aim for the middle of a target known as the button where we aim for the jack.

The indoor bowls season is progressing. Girton 1 remain top of their league whilst Girton 2 in spite of achieving a great 6-0 win against Newnham, remain 9th out of 10 teams.



Indoor match

A combined team of Girton players competing in the Mini League are in first position with 7 wins out of 7 games but are yet to play the team from Romsey who have so far achieved 6 wins from 6 games.

Our C&D finalists for 2021 attended the Presentation Dinner in February which was held

at Girton Golf Club and we are having our pre-season dinner in April at Abbeyfield. We hope as many of you as possible will attend the dinner.

We're in the process of redesigning our club shirts, to display our main sponsors, Peasgood and Skeates. Hopefully these will be ready for the start of the new season in April.

The new season will start towards the end of April and we hope to welcome new members, so if you would like to try your hand, do come and join us at one of our Thursday evening Roll ups. In the new season we expect to have a combination of afternoon and evening 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.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com.

Lynne McGill



Girls Football

Free introductory training sessions for players aged 7-11.

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Continued page 21

A Ring for Her Majesty

Did you hear the church bells on 6 February? There are four bells in St Andrew's tower, all dating from the 1600s. We cannot ring them properly because the



frames are too weak, so we simply strike the clapper on the fixed bell: this is known as chiming. The bell ropes end in an open box at ground level

where they can be pulled to sound the bell. Four bells operated by two hands provide rather limited opportunities for changes. But on 6 February we must have managed every possible option.

To mark the accession of Queen Elizabeth the bells of St Andrew's Church were chimed for 70 minutes -- one minute for each year of Her Majesty's reign. Remembering that this was also the anniversary of the death of her father, King George VI, we began with the traditional way of announcing a death: the Nine Tailors, when the Tenor bell is tolled 9 times in three groups of three. Then we invited those gathered to try their hand.



More than a dozen people came, not all Girton residents, and enjoyed the opportunity to ring. Some of us were pretty old, some very young. Some rang fast, some slow,

some loud and some soft. We probably had all possible variations on the sequences possible with four bells. Several parishioners also dropped in just to listen or to find out what the ringing was all about, and stayed to chat. We made the local press, radio and TV, but our major concern was to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee and, in the words of Psalm 100, to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord'.

Douglas de Lacey



Girton Cottontails Preschool

At preschool this month we've enjoyed lots of fun activities including hairdressers' role play, exploring foam in the messy tray, and ball games. We had Chinese New Year activities, including trying Chinese writing and using chopsticks to eat noodles.

The children have been having a great time in our mud kitchen outside and spend lots of time there creating 'delicious' mud creations. We've added lavender and herbs to the kitchen, which are popular and give more ideas to the children about what they are making.



At Forest School, we've had a few weeks of windy weather and we also took inspiration from the RSPB big garden birdwatch and had a bird watching session of our own. We spotted a robin, magpies, blackbirds and a pigeon. We listened to the calls of the different birds too when we could hear them over the wind!

Laura Norman and Emma Pell

Girton Cottontails Preschool Managing Directors

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CODEWORDS

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

Answers on page 27

WORDSEARCH – The Winter Olympics.

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.

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

AIR	DOG	PANDA
ALPINE	DOWNHILL	RACING
BANDY	FIVE	RED
BBC	GREEN	RINGS
BEIJING	ICE	SKELETON
BIG	JUMPING	SKI
BINGDWENDWEN	LUGE	SLED
BLACK	MAN	SNOWBOARDING
BLUE	MEDAL	SPEED
BOBSLEIGH	NONE	TOKYO
CROSS	NORDIC	TWO
CURLING	OLYMPIC	YELLOW
DANCE	PAIRS	

CASUAL STAFF CATERING DEPARTMENT
Wash-Up Staff Bar Staff (must be 18 years +)
£9.50 per hour



The College holds a list of registered casual staff for the Catering Department. Casuals are called upon when extra catering staff are needed at large functions e.g., Formal Halls, weddings, conferences etc.

We are currently looking for wash-up staff for the College kitchens. You would work mainly in the wash up area cleaning pots, pans, cutlery, crockery, and glasses using the large industrial machines provided.

We are also recruiting for casual bar staff (aged 18 years plus).

Both positions will be mostly evening and occasional weekend work. Experience is not necessary – training is provided. If you would like to register, please request an application form from recruitment@girton.cam.ac.uk and return via e-mail or post to the HR Department, Girton College, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0JG.

- Please note the College has a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK.
- The College is an Equal Opportunities employer encouraging diversity and inclusion.



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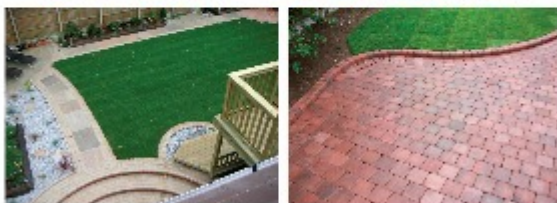
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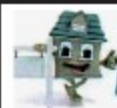
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Here we go again!

We are going to open again after our second close down caused by the Coronavirus. As I write this in mid February, we hope to continue our Computer group on Monday 7th March from the restaurant at

Abbeyfield. The session will

begin at 10am continuing until midday and will open every Monday thereafter – except for bank holidays. Everyone is welcome to bring along their laptops, tablets and mobile phones for any advice that we can offer. The sessions are free but coffee and other drinks or snacks must be purchased from the restaurant counter. You may also come along and join us for a coffee even if you are not interested in computing but would just like to chat or make new friends.

We have been extremely concerned about the transmission of the Coronavirus especially amongst people in our age group but it seems that everything is about to re-open and that it is safe for us to set our next lunch date for the 30th March at the Three Tuns in Fen Drayton. You must of course make up your own minds about Coronavirus safety at these events and be responsible for your own decisions on this matter. I hope that in April we will return to Abbeyfield for a lunch and on 25th May will eat fish and chips out of paper in the William Collyn Hall followed by our homemade film ‘Cinderella’. Probably the worst pantomime ever seen, it was filmed in the Club 55 ‘Paracetamol’ studios, St. Vincent’s Close Community Centre and on location in Girton some four years ago - doesn’t time fly. In that passing of time two of our actors have died and some have moved on due to age related ill health but all will be fondly remembered. All the above dates have yet to be confirmed but we are giving you a glimpse of our possible activities so if you are over 55 years old and haven’t joined us in the past but would like to come along just contact us on the number below.

Our trip to The Three Tuns in March may be limited to 36 members so please order as soon as possible. A coach will pick up around the village between 11am and 11.30am returning around 3.30pm. There will be a choice of foods from a menu to be supplied by the public house and that will be obtainable by contacting us on the number below. The cost is likely to be £30 for a two course meal and £35 for three courses both prices will include the bus fare.

If you feel that you would like to help organise events at Club 55 please contact us.

Sam Clift

Telephone 07850740721
or email samclift@ntlworld.com



News for Older Residents

Kurling is based on curling!

If you have been watching any of the Winter Olympics, you may well have seen some curling as there has been extensive coverage of the UK teams in action. Do you know you can try kurling every Monday afternoon from 2–3pm in the William Collyn Hall. It is a target game without the ice or heavy stones that are essential in curling. Another important difference is that kurling can be played sitting down as well as standing, so it is accessible to everyone.

Fit as a Fiddle

This strength and balance class is resuming on Thursday 3rd March from 10.30–11.30am in The Cotton Hall and costs £5 per session. Clare Strongman, the tutor will include some chair-based exercises. For more information, please phone Val on 01223 276372.

Singing for Breathing

Singing for Breathing is particularly beneficial for those with any kind of respiratory problem. The sessions are on Zoom each Thursday from 2.30–4pm. To access these classes, contact Kay Barrett at singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com or by phoning 07845 726975.

<https://www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/singingforlunghealthcambri dge/>

The Forget-me-not Journey

A fortnightly meeting has just started on Tuesdays from 2-3 pm in Histon Salvation Army Hall. It is a “mutual support group for those living with dementia or memory loss and those who journey with them”.

Dementia Carers Count

Dementia Carers now has a Virtual Carers Centre which provides practical information and coping strategies as well as guidance and support from experts. It can be accessed at dementiacarers.org.uk

Girton Memory Café

This meets the first Friday of every month from 10am to noon in St Vincent’s Community Room.

Thank you to those who responded to my request for a toilet guard rail. Consequently, I now have a guard to pass on to anyone who can use it. I also have a request for a toilet raiser seat.

Unopened packets of Tena and Always discrete overnight pads are available.

I have annual leave to take, so I am reducing my weekly hours throughout this month. This may mean you may have to wait a bit longer for a response to your email or phone call.

Patricia Johnston Older

Residents’ Coordinator

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk

Tel: 07469 660 866



Schemes and grants supporting residents

GTC is primarily an Almshouse Charity but also provides schemes and grants to enable residents to lead as full a life as possible in the comfort and safety of their own homes.

One of the main ways the Charity can offer assistance is in the form of Personal Grants so that you can pay for things to enable you to do this - whether it is providing a disabled shower, helping fund some training for a career change in later life or buying equipment for a member of your family with additional needs.

Requests for assistance are assessed on need and eligibility. However, GTC is not able to duplicate help that is available from other sources such as local or national government or your employer.

Almshouses

GTC almshouses are intended for Girton families either to help them save and move on to their own home, or for active retirees who can live independently. Appointments to family homes are for three years and for over 55's or people with a registered disability, a permanent appointment is made.

Hospital Taxi Service

Renewals for the Hospital Taxi Service will be sent out at the end of March. This scheme continues to help residents who have problems using public transport or do not have access to a car to attend outpatient appointments. It enables them to get to Cambridge Biomedical Campus including Addenbrooke's Hospital, the Rosie and Royal Papworth Hospital, as well as some of the pandemic-designated satellite outpatient clinics.

Currently the scheme has over 200 subscribing members who pay an annual registration fee of £7 each April and then taxi fares are capped at £9 for each return trip.

Educational Grant Scheme

This is open to all young people in the Village leaving secondary education for further or higher education leading to a formal examination at degree level BA, MA, PGCert or NVQ Level 4. This Grant can be claimed against actual expenditure on books, equipment, tools or other direct costs for a maximum of four years.



Care Plus Scheme

GTC's Care Plus Scheme, which is to assist Girton residents and their carers to live independently by providing additional short-term care over and above any statutory care to which they are entitled, continues to meet demand. The Grant aims to help residents return home from hospital as soon as possible, responding quickly at time of need. Application is by referral from a health professional with care provided by one of three care companies designated by GTC.

Older residents

Working in partnership with Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, GTC funds the provision of a Community Warden Scheme and the unique role of Older Residents' Co-ordinator.

Warden Fiona is currently supporting households in Girton with daily telephone calls or essential home visits, as well as helping users to get regular shopping in place, either online or via a local shop.

During the pandemic, Patricia as Older Residents' Coordinator, has worked tirelessly to encourage older residents to participate in safe social activities including doorstep welfare visits and being inventive at finding creative ways to keep active. As pandemic rules relax, Patricia will continue to encourage activities - look out for Tea Dances, Kurling and film shows at the William Collyn Centre.

Ann Bonnett, GTC Chair said: "Our range of Schemes and Grants is designed to help Girton residents of all ages - from young students undertaking academic courses through to older people who need assistance with living independently. In addition to our established schemes, we welcome applications from individuals who require help in the form of a Personal Grant. We know from feedback what a lifeline this can be so please contact our office for further information."

NOTICE

A family home available for a limited term appointment

A two-bedroom family home located at Centenary Court, Wellbrook Way, is available for a three year appointment.

Centenary Court almshouses include fitted kitchen, living room, small garden, an off-road parking space and an energy-efficient heat recovery system.

Applications are invited from residents of Girton or those having a close connection with the village, who meet qualifications laid down by the Charity Commissioners.

Request an application form from the GTC office, complete this and return together with your written expression of interest to Ann Bonnett, Chair of Trustees.

Closing date 31st March 2022.

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 office:
22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.

01223 276008

email: gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk
www.girtontowncharity.org.uk

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272

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

The Centre continues to ask all visitors to wear a face covering whilst in any communal areas

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

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP
01223 279587

info@williamcollyn.co.uk

www.williamcollyn.co.uk

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

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Girton Social Club

48 Cambridge Road, Girton, CB3 0PJ. Tel: 01223 276890

We are a family social club situated in the village of Girton.

We hold various events throughout each month including:

Play Your Cards Right
Discos, Karaoke and Live Music
Fortnightly Bingo on Fridays

We have a modern pool table - 50p per game (free Wednesday evening),
3 dartboards, skittles and a juke box updated twice weekly.

We now have Free wi-fi and BT Sports

Children are welcome Dogs are welcome on a lead

Opening Times

Monday to Thursday: 7.30pm to 11pm, Friday: 12 to 3pm, 7.30 to 11pm,

Saturday: 12pm to late, Sunday: 12pm to 3pm

Annual Membership: Adults £10, Senior Citizens £3.50, Armed Forces £1



New Directions

On the route from Girton to Cottenham, the traveller will pass a grassy area in front of houses, where some amazing sculptures are on display. These impressive works of art, presenting a wide variety of subjects, were designed by the late Tony Hillier, formerly a fellow and teacher of the University of Cambridge.

Remarkably, these sculptures were created from steel sheets with a patina of rust. Devoid of painted decoration, they illustrate the gratifying idea that aged and often discarded materials can take on a completely new purpose and display a beauty normally overlooked. These are not old structures patched up to prolong longevity. They are whole new entities destined for fresh artistic significance.

Back in March 2011 a mysterious gift was left on a table in the Scottish Poetry Library in Edinburgh. It was a finely crafted paper sculpture of a tree growing from an old book. It was anonymously donated by a lady who wanted to highlight the national treasure we share in libraries full of books and educational benefits. In the following year, ten more intriguing sculptures were found in different locations around the city. These were not old books with new covers. Instead, butterflies and birds took flight, flowers bloomed and tiny characters rose up from old pages. As international attention marvelled at the ingenuity of this delicate craftsmanship, the Scottish Book Trust commissioned five new works representing the classic titles of Tam O'Shanter, Whisky Galore, Peter Pan, Lanark and Treasure Island. The identity of the artist remains hidden, but these iconic creations have blossomed into what has been described as an attempt to communicate the transformative magic that happens when a book is read.

Across our landscapes, other transformations are taking shape. Those who manage the productivity and health of our crop growing areas are increasingly mindful of the value of older, natural systems that can inform and enhance the welfare of the land. The returning care of wetlands, the replanting of forests and hedgerows, rewilding of seeded fields and riverbanks all contribute to the protection of habitats so recently in danger of losing vital species of wildlife. Old docklands have become pleasant marinas and walkways, coal blighted beaches cleaned once more. Community parks are growing from wasteland and redundant warehouses become refurbished apartments.

The message of renewal and rebirth has always been a central theme of Biblical text, applied not simply to the environment, but particularly to people. The Scriptures record many stories of lives completely changed by a faith encounter with the risen Christ. The Apostle Paul who pursued and persecuted the early converts to Christianity, experienced a complete transformation of the heart and

mind. He declared, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5 : 17).

When the religious teacher Nicodemus visited Jesus secretly to question him, he was baffled by the words, "You must be born again." (John ch.3) He associated birth with the natural process of an individual becoming a newborn creation. Later he realised that the inner being, the spirit and soul of a grown adult could be cleansed, renewed and quickened into a whole new dimension of eternal life through faith in Christ as Redeemer.

The Apostle Peter wrote (I Peter 1 : 3), "In his (God's) great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

King David, who had fallen so far from grace, pleaded, "Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51)

Thousands of years later, God is still renewing hearts and minds from the hopelessness of addiction, bitterness, malice, self-harm and dysfunctional practice into new purpose, new hope and changed attitudes. He reconciles us to himself.

The book sculptures wanted to spotlight the power of words to change lives. Jesus said, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life." (John 6 : 63).

Iris Niven



St Andrew's Church

Lent

This year's Lent course starts on Wednesday 9th March and will run for 5 sessions. We will be following St Winefride, patron saint of North Wales, whose life has relevance to many issues we face in today's society. Please check the church website for up to date information.

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that by the observance of this Lent we may advance in the knowledge of the mystery of Christ, and show forth his mind in conduct worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Gelasian Sacramentary, 5th century)

From the Registers

Funerals

Gillian Jackson -	5th January
Evelyn Dodsworth -	18th January
Tom Gracey -	10th February
Mary Collacott -	16th February

puzzle
corner

The solution

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



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The role is available for someone to work 2-3 days
per week (inc. Sunday mornings) at a generous pay-
scale of £25,000-30,000pa (pro rata).

Full details are available at www.girton.church
or by contacting the Rector (01223 202145)

Closing date for applications: Monday 14th March

As part of the safer recruitment process this role is subject to
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St Andrew's Church

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 & Mrs Wendy Hunter Tel: 503958

Sunday Services:

March

6th 10am - Holy Communion
7:30pm - Taize Service (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 Prayer
4pm - Contemporary Style Worship
3rd Apr 10am - Holy Communion
7:30pm - Taize Service (Online)

Weekday Services:

March

Tues 9am Morning Prayer (said)
3:45pm Choir Church
Weds 9am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
Thurs 9am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
9pm Compline (said) (Online)

Other Services

9th 2pm - Abbeyfield Holy Communion
15th 2:15pm - Arlington Manor Holy Communion
31st 11am - Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

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. (www.girton.church)

The Taizé service returns to be held remotely using Zoom. All are welcome. Please email Kay Barrett at singing.kay@gmail.com for details. Please join online from 7:30pm for a start at 8pm.

This year's Lent course starts on Wednesday 9th March and will run for 5 sessions. We will be following St Winefride, patron saint of North Wales, whose life has relevance to many issues we face in today's society. Please check the church website for up to date information.

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 at Girton Baptist Church at 10.30am and on Zoom)

March

6th With communion, led by Nick Lowe
13th Led by Nick Lowe
20th With communion, led by Nick Lowe
27th Visit of 4H (mission to Hungary), led by Nick Lowe

All are welcome.

Messy Church is on Thursday 10th March 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 "When spring unlocks the flowers" by Reginald Heber (1783-1826) are about the joy of spring and point us to our Creator. Here is the first verse:

*When spring unlocks the flowers
to paint the laughing soil;
When summer's balmy showers
refresh the mower's toil;
When winter binds in frosty chains
the fallow and the flood;
In God the earth rejoiceth still
and owns his maker good.*

And a prayer for springtime:

Springtime!

*Your message of hope to a world tiring of winter's
starkness, longing for that first crocus to push
through snow's icy blanket
and spread its leaves, like arms outstretched,
to its creator.*

Springtime!

*Our yearly reminder, if we needed one,
that to a world that was dark and cold,
a world devoid of love's sweet warmth,
you sent your Son to break through sin's icy blanket,
and, arms outstretched on a cross, he brought us
hope.*

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

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
Corinne Garvie, Tel: 01223 276184
cldr.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

Mobile Library

Thursday 24th March 2022

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

Bin collections

Thursday 3 March	Black bin
Thursday 10 March	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 17 March	Black bin
Thursday 24 March	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 31 March	Black bin

Contact numbers for bookings

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

Events at Eddington

Storey's Field Centre is at the civic heart of the Eddington neighbourhood with a beautiful main hall and two multi-purpose rooms. This month, it welcomes St Augustine's Singers and Brass on Saturday 12 March and Lucy Cavendish Singers on Sunday 13 March.

The Storey's Field Centre events and activities programmes also caters for families, hosting Little Dream Babies, Woodcraft Folk: Evergreen Elfin and Woodcraft Folk: Pioneers every Wednesday.

Turing Locke, the hotel complex at Eddington also offers events: one regular monthly event is a 90 minute Flowing and Restorative Yoga class which is bookable through their website. The hotel restaurant, KOTA, is open daily. Every Wednesday evening, from 5pm to 10pm, they offer a Bring Your Own wine night. Bring along a bottle of your favourite vino and enjoy it whilst you dine at KOTA, with no corkage fee.

We have a range of events at Eddington: follow us on our social media handle @Eddington_Camb on Twitter and Instagram for the latest news and updates that are happening on your doorstep.

School Crossing Patrol Officer

Cambridgeshire County Council is looking for a reliable School Crossing Patrol Officer to assist pupils & adults cross the road safely from around 8:00-8:45am, near the University of Cambridge Primary School, at Eddington.

If you are interested, please contact Andy Swallowe on 07788565502 or email Andy.Swallowe@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

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Email: louieholliday@icloud.com

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Give the office a call for
further information:

01223 276169
or email

office@girtongolf.co.uk



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www.girtongolf.co.uk

Join us to celebrate a

High Tea Party

in honour of

Mothers Day Sunday 27th March 2022

12:30pm - 2pm
Whispers Bistro
Only £20pp

Whispers Bistro
Wellbrook Way
Girton CB3 0GQ

Bookings at
01223 277188

Bookings are essential - Book before 18th March with a £5 deposit

Afternoon Tea

Bottom Tier

Selection of sandwiches: pick 3 : Crab, Ham & Mustard, Coronation Chicken, Egg & Cress Quiche, Sausage Rolls, Salmon Blinis
Mini Yorkshire Pudding Filled with Beef and Thyme

Middle Tier

Homemade Scone, Homemade Rhubarb Scone served with fresh Clotted Cream and Jams.

Top Tier

Selection of Homemade Sweet desserts: Chocolate Mousse, Mini apricot sponge cake, Strawberry Choux dessert, Fruit tart & Elderflower Jelly

Glass of Bubbly on arrival plus a choice of Re-fillable Tea & Coffee







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2 Course Set lunch £12
(Tue - Fri, 12 - 5pm)

Cocktail Happy Hour
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Wednesday Night from 5.30 pm
Pie & Pint £14
(or 125ml house wine)





Follow us on facebook & instagram for our latest offers.

Telephone: 01223 277271 Email: info@theoldcrowngirton.com