



# **GIRTON**

## **Parish News**

December 2023

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**Annual Membership**  
Adults £7.50, Senior Citizens £3.25, Armed Forces £1,  
Adults new/lapsed £10, Senior Citizens new/lapsed £3.50

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

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

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

### Advertisements

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

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

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

*Typesetters* Sam Clift, Pat Dickens, Claire Lightley, Shahila Mitchell, Bill Rothwell.

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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.

*Printed by Printerbello Ltd., Girton, Cambridge* Tel: 01223 855195

## Traditional Carol Singing around Girton in aid of Shelter

We are once again singing traditional carols around the streets of Girton on three nights leading up to Christmas and would welcome anyone who wishes to come and sing with us or help with the charity collection.

We are collecting in aid of Shelter this year. Our custom is to move from lamppost to lamppost, singing at least one carol at each stop, while our collectors knock on the near-by doors so that the residents can come out to hear the music and donate if they wish.

We always get more people wanting to sing than collect door-to-door, but collectors are especially important. The more collectors we have the more houses we can visit! And the more singers we have the further the sound will carry!

Please wrap up warmly, with comfortable footwear, and bring a torch. Children are welcome but should be accompanied by an adult. Words for the carols are provided.

Thursday 21 December: meet at 6.30pm by the Golden Goose railings bus-stop near the Rec car park.

Friday 22 December: meet at 6.30pm at the first lamppost on Thornton Road (nearest to Girton Road).

Sunday 24 December: meet at 6.30pm by the sensory garden, Wellbrook Way.

For more information, and detailed route maps, go to our web page: [girtoncarolsingers.org.uk](http://girtoncarolsingers.org.uk) or visit us on Facebook (Girton Carol Singers), or contact Helen on 01223 276940. We will also share these details on village Facebook pages.

*The front page photograph was taken by Allison Holland*

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**Copy date for January 2024 issue: Wednesday 6 Dec. Issue date: Sat. 6 Jan. Covers 6 Jan – 3 Feb.**





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## Girton Parish Council

In the final edition of Girton Parish News for 2023, Girton Parish Council wishes to **THANK** all our suppliers who have done such a great job in supporting our work in Girton, our staff team and councillors who have been working so hard to deliver operational, asset management and capital projects to the village. But most importantly, thank you to all Girton residents for increasingly working with us to provide feedback and insight to allow us to prioritise what you want to see for Girton.

### **Please help Girton Parish Council with two important surveys**

You will see that two surveys are included in the middle of this edition, to give you the opportunity to confirm what improvements you would like to see in Girton. Please do take this opportunity to increase our understanding of your requirements.

1. Cambridgeshire County Council, Local Highways Initiative 2024/2025 - what further highways improvements do you want to see in Girton?
2. Girton Parish Council – budget and precept - what capital projects do you think that Girton Parish Council should be spending your precept on during 2024/2025?

### **Summary of Girton Parish Council's actions for December**

- Girton Parish Council approved up to £2,000 to upgrade Christmas lights in the village. Look out for more information.
- Food trucks will be available on Saturday Evenings up to Christmas. Please do support this new initiative. Don't forget of course food trucks at Cotton Hall on Friday and at Darwin Green from Wednesdays each week.
- Tree Work at Mayfield Road Bus Stop, Weaver's Field and the entrance to Girton Recreation Ground are being addressed.
- Certificate of Lawfulness has been applied for the toilets and club house at Girton Bowling Green.
- Line markings in Girton Recreation Ground are at this time still awaited due to delay caused by the weather.

### **Hope Against Poverty CIC Community Farm Project**

Hope Against Poverty Community Interest Company attended November Full Council to tell us more about its plans for the piece of land behind Girton Recreation ground. There will be a motion at December Full Council to consider support for this plan. You can find more about this initiative here:

<https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Hope-Against-Poverty-CIC-Farm-Project-for-Girton-PC.pdf>

### **Three-year planning, budget and 2024/2025 precepts**

One of the most important pieces of work over the Christmas period for Girton Parish Council will be working on the budget and three-year plan for 2024/2025. Your input to the precept survey will help us with our decision-making.

### **Christmas Fayre at William Collyn Community Centre - 16 December from 11am-3pm**

Girton Parish Council are proud to support the Christmas Fayre at William Collyn Community Centre on Saturday 16 December. We will be raising money to support Hibbert-Ware Garden Crowd Funding which will receive half of the proceeds from the Christmas raffle takings.

And finally, Girton has so much going on over the Christmas period, find out more here:

[www.girton-cambs.org.uk/blog](http://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/blog)

### **Letters to the Editor**

We would like to record grateful thanks to Dr Douglas de Lacey for officiating at the War Memorial. It is so important to gather at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, to remember those who gave their lives for all of us. It is so special to do this. Approximately two dozen people attended.

*Margaret and Celia Sharpe*

We managed to raise a staggering £520 during our fundraising for the Lisa Kent Trust. Thank you to all donors, helpers, and all who supported us on the day. The money will be used to bring electrics to the school.

*Margaret Wheatley and Carol Noble.*





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## From Our Councillors

### District Councillors' Report July 2023

#### Cost of Living

With the weather getting colder and communities spending more on heating, the District Council is beginning a new campaign to urge residents to make full use of the assistance available.

Research suggests that around 25% of some benefits go unclaimed. The Council is therefore encouraging residents to check they are claiming what they are legitimately entitled to.

The campaign also reminds people that local foodbanks - all listed on the council's website - are there when needed, and you don't need a voucher to use most of them.

There is also an appeal for residents to get energy-saving advice and more information on grants for home improvements to cut spending on energy bills during the winter.

Visit: [www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living) to find out more.

#### Flooding

On the South Cambs website, there is a useful list of things residents can do in advance of rainfall under the "Be prepared for flooding" section. This includes signing-up for flood warnings, using the Government's Flood Information Service to check if a property is at risk of flooding, and preparing a flood plan. If you visit the flooding page of our website, there is a list which residents can refer to, to ascertain what would need to be reported in the event of a flood.

There is also a specific section about the provision of sandbags. The Council does not provide a sandbag service to residents. This is why it is important that any residents who think they may need sandbags source them in advance of bad weather.

Build Back Better is a government scheme which can offer up to £10,000 extra to enable property flood resilience measures to be installed following a flood insurance claim. Not all insurers are signed up to this scheme, residents will need to ask their insurers, and if not, shop around for an insurance company which does.

#### New Council Houses

South Cambridgeshire District Council and partners have delivered 22 new build council homes across the

district, further increasing the number of homes that are genuinely affordable for local people to live in.

All properties are built to a high specification with high levels of insulation and double-glazed windows to help reduce monthly costs of keeping the homes warm as winter approaches.

#### Parking Issues

There have been reports of inconsiderate parking in the village resulting in a safety issue for other road users, such as parking on a corner which reduces the visual field for others. Also, in Wellbrook Way parking should not be near the chicane, making it more difficult for others to manoeuvre.

#### Civil Parking Enforcement

The scheme is ready and pending parliamentary approval. This will transfer most of the parking enforcement to the District Council. In mid-December, the scheme will go live, if approved, but until full implementation on 1 February 2024, only warnings will be issued. Fines will be levied from 1 February.

Initial emphasis will be placed on parking hot-spots and schools.

The team has been inspecting roads prior to the scheme being implemented.

#### Christmas Market at Cambourne

SCDC is hosting a Christmas market on Sunday 10 December 2023, from 11am to 3pm, at Cambourne Village College, Sheepfold Lane, CB23 6FR.

#### Famous people from the village in the past

The Blue Plaque committee would like to hear about famous people who need recognising with a blue plaque. Contact Corinne Garvie for more information.

This newsletter refers to information online. Let us know if you would like someone to retrieve the information for you.

*Cllr Corinne Garvie 07780 932267,  
[cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk)*

*Cllr Richard Stobart 07950 934793,  
[cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk)*

#### Answers to Anagrams & Jokes (p. 26)

1.Bauble, 2.Presents, 3.Tinsel, 4.Streamers, 5.Wrapping,  
6.Crackers, 7.Sleigh, 8.Reindeer, 9.Pudding,  
10.Mincepies.

A. Tinsel-itus!, B. Bark the Herald Angels Sing!

C. A Mince Spy!



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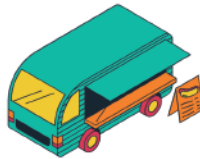
Neil is extremely reliable and efficient. He sorted my laptop out very quickly and efficiently and talked to me in language I understood, which is very helpful as being a silver surfer it can be confusing. I have no hesitation in recommending him to all."

- Jill - Histon

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS

COTTON HALL, CAMBRIDGE ROAD,  
GIRTON



1/12/23 - 5 pm - Jamra Charcoal Grill

8/12/23 - 4 pm - Real Italian Food (tbc)

22/12/23 - 4.30 pm - Pizza Passione

Information correct at time of going to press - please  
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for more info and to order tickets



### Christmas Tree Shredding

Sunday 7th January 2024

09:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Girton Glebe School

*Come and join us for a great  
community event!*

**Tree Shredding**  
by Acacia Tree Surgery

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\* Suggested donation of £2.  
All proceeds go to Friends of  
Girton Glebe, Registered Charity  
1098145



Girton Garden Society

### Girton Garden Society

Visitors and new members are  
always very welcome (£2 per  
session)

7.30pm at William Collyn  
Community Centre

[www.girtongardensociety.co.uk](http://www.girtongardensociety.co.uk)

[girtongardensociety@outlook.com](mailto:girtongardensociety@outlook.com)

### Jim Paine: The Secret Life of Plants

Wednesday 13 December 2023

‘The Secret Life of Plants’ explores some of the latest  
and most remarkable discoveries about the inner  
workings of plants. How do plants tell the time? How  
and why do plants communicate with one another? Did  
you know that plants can generate enough heat to melt  
snow whilst others nourish their young? These and other  
extraordinary stories from the secret life of plants makes  
for a fascinating talk that will enhance your enjoyment  
of the plants in your garden and in the countryside  
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## Girton Garden Society

It is undeniable that we have seen changes in local weather patterns and unpredictable plant behaviours during this summer, and now in the autumn. But at least we can count our blessings that we, in Girton, have not had flash floods or drought!

Gardening in a Changing Climate, a Study commissioned by the RHS in collaboration with the Universities of Sheffield and Reading, presents the results of an extensive survey of amateur gardeners and interviews with industry professionals. It highlights the importance of gardens in terms of their interaction with the natural environment and provides recommendations on how gardeners can adapt to climate change through plant choice and garden design. While there is no clear indication of temperature outlook for December 2023 and January 2024, we can expect it to be influenced by El Niño events. Gardeners should be aware of likely changes so that they can take appropriate measures to protect their gardens through plant choice and garden design. And manage their gardens to enhance carbon sequestration and flood alleviation. So, 'Be Prepared'!



*Flowering crab apple in October*

*Flowering lilac in November*



December is the month for festivities but it's also a good time to take care of our gardens. Here are some garden chores you can do in December.

- Service the lawnmower; clean the blades, change the oil and replace any worn-out parts. And clean and sharpen your hand tools so they're ready to use in the spring.
- Bring plants that are not hardy, including bonsai trees, into cold greenhouses or cold frames or cover with

horticultural fleece to protect from frost.

- Check any vegetables and bulbs that are in storage; use them or dispose that are starting to rot.
- If it's frosty, stay off the grass; walking on frozen grass can damage the blades and roots, so it's best to avoid it altogether!
- Water and fertilise houseplants less in winter because houseplants grow slower in the winter and need less water and fertiliser.
- Plant winter vegetables such as kale, spinach, and broccoli. They can withstand cold weather and will be ready to harvest in the spring.
- Prune trees and shrubs to help them grow better in the spring; remove dead or diseased branches and cut back any overgrown areas. Clean up your garden and remove any dead leaves and garden debris to prevent pests and diseases from spreading.
- Feed the birds! Birds need food during the winter, so put out some birdseed or suet balls to attract them to your garden.
- If you are missing fresh herbs, start an indoor herb garden; you can grow herbs such as basil, parsley, and thyme in small pots on a windowsill or conservatory.
- Start a compost heap and the compost will be ready to use in the spring as a natural fertiliser for your garden.
- Plan for next year: December is a great time for planning for next year's garden. Seed catalogues should start to arrive. After the holidays you can research new plants and flowers you want to grow and make a list of what you need.
- Take a break from your own garden, visit Cambridge University Botanic Gardens for inspiration and to enjoy some beautiful scenery.

This month our Garden Society meeting on 13 December (7.30pm at William Collyn Community Centre) will have Jim Paine talking about 'The Secret Life of Plants', exploring some of the latest and most remarkable discoveries about the inner workings of plants such as: How do plants tell the time? How and why do plants communicate with one another? How plants can generate enough heat to melt snow whilst others nourish their young? These and other extraordinary stories from the secret life of plants should be fascinating and enhance our enjoyment of the plants in our gardens and in the countryside. Please join us.

*Kay Green, Girton Garden Society*

## Puzzle solutions (see page 27)

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

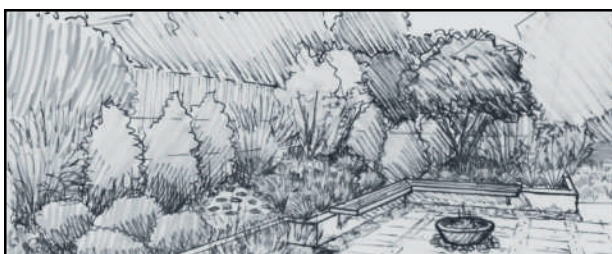


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## Wild Girton

While many plants die back over winter, some keep their foliage, or even flower so winter isn't a time to be a complacent botanist, there is always plenty to see!

### Festive foliage

Holly and Mistletoe are two which are in leaf all year round and are thus used in festive decorations. At this time of year Holly is often covered in red berries which provide a fabulous buffet for some of our winter birds and small mammals. Holly often grows as a small shrub in our gardens, but left unchecked it can grow into a large tree and live for up to 300 years. In spring the Holly Blue butterfly, which overwinters in the ground as a chrysalis, will lay eggs on Holly and its caterpillars will feed on its flowers and leaves. This is the first generation of this butterfly, which will then go on to lay eggs on Ivy for the second generation in later summer.

Mistletoe has increased in abundance in the last few decades and Cambridge is a particular hot-spot for this plant. If you'd like to see some, head to St Andrew's Church where you will see large bundles of it high up in the branches of the Poplar and Lime trees. Mistletoe is a parasitic plant and favours Apple, Lime and Hawthorn as its host plants, but it doesn't do them any harm. Its growth form is very geometric, with each branch bifurcating each season, producing a very spherical body to the plant. Each individual Mistletoe is either male or female, and both have tiny flowers in early spring which are pollinated by insects. Its recent increase in abundance is often attributed to the more frequent overwintering of Blackcap which eat the sticky berries but then wipe the remaining seed onto the bark of a tree with their beak, allowing a new plant to develop.

### Join the New Year Plant Hunt

This year marks the 14th New Year Plant Hunt run by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. Anyone, no matter what experience you have, can join in - all you need to do is take a walk between 30th December and 2nd January and jot down any plants which you see that are **in flower**. Many of those in the previous Top 20 will be ones that you are familiar with (Dandelion, Daisy, Hazel, Ivy-leaved Toadflax) and if you sign up you will be sent a spotter sheet to identify these. Go to <https://bsbi.org/new-year-plant-hunt> to find out more. If you are not very confident in recording but would like to learn how, there will be a group hunt on the 1st January in the West Cambridge area led by the county botanical recorder Jonathan Shanklin (please email [lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk) for details). The purpose of this annual recording is partly to see how changes in our climate are affecting the way in which plants behave, and long-term data sets such as this will be invaluable in future years to map changes in distribution in both space and time.

### Hibbert-Ware Garden needs your help!

Our project to redesign the Hibbert-Ware Garden (opposite the church) has begun! This ambitious project will see the garden planted up with a variety of native plants, a bog garden, Hugelkultur beds, a laid hedge and more. This

garden is in honour of Alice Hibbert-Ware, a self-taught naturalist who lived in Girton, and is being re-designed by local business Purple Flowers Gardens and Mosaics very much with wildlife in mind. It is hoped to be a showcase of wildlife-gardening techniques which we can all use in our individual gardens.

There are many ways in which you can help with this project, from volunteering time to do the gardening, helping with fundraising, donating surplus plants from your gardens or donating towards its costs, please be in touch if you would like to help in any of these ways.



If you'd like to donate plants we're currently seeking the following: Stinking Hellebore, Sweet Woodruff, Wood Spurge, Solomon's-seal, Columbine, Primrose, among others.

If you'd like to donate towards the costs visit the Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nature-in-girton>

If you'd like to donate your time please get in touch with the Green Team: [lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk)



## Regardless of the opinion of some people you may have heard of in the media lately...

People are not homeless as a lifestyle choice. In Cambridge, Jimmy's night shelter in East Road helps as many homeless people as they can, and they are not the only organisation in Cambridge who do that.

I am a volunteer at Jimmy's and see their excellent work at first hand.

Girton residents, over the years, have been exceptionally generous in passing their sleeping bags and single bedding to me but, unfortunately, they cannot take duvets and pillows as their storage space is quite limited. I can, however, suggest where you can take those to where they can be given to others in need.

If you have any sleeping bags, blankets, warm winter clothing (especially waterproof outerwear), single bedding, towels etc. please let me know. I am quite happy to take them to Jimmy's for you. Recently I was given a small two-person tent and Jimmy's was thrilled to take it!

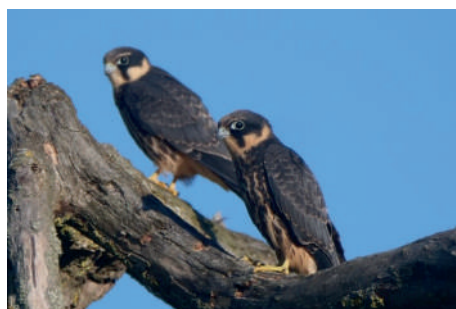
Also, if you would like to consider becoming a volunteer, I am happy to explain how Jimmy's works and the different roles they can offer and who to contact.

Jenny Knights, 01223 276405  
[Jenny.knights47@gmail.com](mailto:Jenny.knights47@gmail.com)



## An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

With the end of the year fast approaching, in this article we will share a brief review of 2023, looking at the wildlife that has been seen on site and the work we have undertaken to improve the reserve for both visitors and nature.



*Young Hobby Falcons that fledged on the reserve – Henry Cook*

We experienced a couple of cold snaps over the early winter period which led to several of the

lakes completely icing over. On the remaining lakes, patches of water were kept open by the ducks and other wildfowl which were all condensed into small areas. This brought in some Smew, scarce ducks from the continent, the adult males dressed in white with neat black trim and the females and youngsters having a chestnut-red head.

Come the spring, the volunteer group had repaired the floating fences which surround several of the islands on Moore and Ferry Lakes and we towed them out by boat. The fences help stop mammalian predators from reaching the islands and taking all the bird's eggs. However, flooding shortly after the fences were moored led to them being damaged and torn apart in places. With that and bird flu it was a tough breeding season for the Black-headed Gulls and Common Terns, but some made it through the other side and even managed to fledge youngsters.

Elsewhere, we were pleased to record several of our target breeding birds in healthy numbers. Two Bitterns were booming from the reedbeds this year and at least three Turtle Doves perched from the treetops. Two of the Turtle Dove males are thought to have found females and raised young. The latter species is declining in the whole of the UK with just 2000 pairs left.

It was a delight to find a nest of Hobby Falcons over the summer. This is an uncommon bird of prey that feeds exclusively on dragonflies and small birds, particularly favouring wetland sites. Whilst we spot the birds each summer, finding a nest was a first for the team. The adults went on to fledge three youngsters. Also rarely observed here are young Cuckoos. We hear the adults for much of the summer but as the youngsters are quiet, they are much harder to see. One near the main car park delighted several visitors before it inevitably departed for warmer climes.

### Wednesday Wander

Ever thought you'd like to know more about the reserve and its wildlife? Volunteer-led guided walks take place once a month, usually on the second Wednesday. To see further details and book, please visit:

<https://events.rspb.org.uk/events/54714>

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

Phone: 01954 233260

Visit: [rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes](https://rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes). The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

## Girton Walking Group

On 4 November six walkers set out from St Ives in very unpromising weather. We tried to take the chosen route but were forced to change it three times due to heavy rain on already soaking ground. Nevertheless, we had a refreshing and interesting walk with the weather improving steadily. We hope to follow the 'real' route on another occasion in 2024 so if you are interested in this RSPB site do look for Girton walkers in the parish magazine. Our next walks are:



### Saturday 2 December: Wandlebury Country Park

Followed by a Bring and Share Christmas lunch at the Blackburn's, 141 Thornton Road, CB3 0NE. Wandlebury Country Park is on the A1307 Haverhill Road, two miles south of Addenbrooke's. We did this short (two and a half miles) but lovely walk this time last year but thought it worth repeating. The walk is mostly on good paths and affords views over the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and (on a good day) as far away as Ely. There is a charge of £3.50 for the car park (card payment only; free for members of Cambridge Past, Present and Future). Meet in the car park at 10am. Those who cannot make the walk are welcome to join us for lunch from 12.30pm; please contact Angela for details, see below.

### Saturday 6 January: Girton to the West Cambridge site and back

This walk (five and a half miles) is all on good paths and so should be ok whatever the weather throws at us in January! We will meet outside the Girton Co-op at 10am and walk down Thornton Road, over to the Eddington playing fields and then to the West Cambridge site via the University Observatory, then back via the Ridgeway in Eddington and footpaths around Girton's NW boundary. There will be options to drop out early if the walk seems too long. Those coming from the Thorntons/St Margaret's Road area are welcome to join the walk at 10.15am outside 141 Thornton Road which we will pass on the outward journey. Bring refreshments for a rest stop.

Both walks will be led by Angela Blackburn, and anyone needing a lift for the first walk please contact Angela at: [angela.blackburn@cantab.net](mailto:angela.blackburn@cantab.net) or 07742 222536.

If you would like to join our mailing list for future walks, please also contact Angela.



## Girton Glebe

Break, an organisation that supports young people in care, leaving care, and on the edge of care across East Anglia, has some thrilling news for Cambridge! Next spring, a magnificent herd of giraffe

sculptures will be installed, towering over the city. This fantastic initiative follows the success of the Cows about Cambridge trail in 2021.

Local schools, including those in the Eastern Learning Alliance, have been given the exciting opportunity to be a part of decorating these beautifully crafted giraffe sculptures that will roam the streets of Cambridge for an incredible ten weeks in March 2024.



Here at Girton, we had the privilege of being the first school in the trust to decorate our Eastern Learning Alliance giraffe, Ela. A group of dedicated art enthusiasts from Years five and six took on the challenge alongside Miss Giraldo-Perez (our Arts co-ordinator), and transformed the

front right leg and base of our Mini G. Their creation showcased stunning continuous line drawings inspired by Girton Glebe. From feathers to books and even a nod to the year 1951 (if you know, you know!), their artwork was truly a sight to behold.

We cannot wait for the whole city to experience the awe-inspiring sight of these Mini G giraffes! It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to not only showcase their artistic talents but also be a part of this exciting city-wide event, supporting the important



work of Break charity while spreading some joy around Cambridge.

We encourage everyone to keep an eye out for these magnificent sculptures when they grace the streets of Cambridge next spring; see if you can spot Ela and find Girton Glebe's designs!

## Remembrance at Girton Glebe

On Friday 10 November, to commemorate Remembrance Day and pay our respects to those who have sacrificed their lives for their country, Year six and the school choir visited St Andrew's Church for a special



Remembrance Service. We were greeted by Eona at the church, who talked about the importance of remembering loved ones and how personal belongings can help us to bring back special memories of those who are not with us any more. After a reminder of the importance of Remembrance Day and

why we wear poppies on this day, the children performed the song 'In Flanders Fields,' beautifully filling the church with their harmonies. We then placed the school's wreath on the war memorial outside, where we held a two minutes' silence to remember those who have sadly lost their lives, as well as those they left behind.

This visit was not only an important part of our work to be global citizens, but also links with Year six's current learning on the two world wars; following our visit, Oak Class reflected on their morning and created these beautiful poppy artworks. We have also been decorating classroom entrances and windows with poppies around school. Check out our artwork!

Thank you to Eona and St Andrew's Church. It's always great to connect with the local community and for our children to feel a part of something bigger in the wider community. We are always looking for ways to get stuck in around Girton; please get in touch if you would like to work with the school for any upcoming events

*Chris Butler, headteacher*





## Girton Parish Council 2024/2025 Budget and Precept

### Can you help Girton Parish Council as we decide upon the Girton Parish Council's precept for 2024/2025?

*Note: The precept is the **parish council's share of the council tax**. It is calculated as part of the parish council's budget and is the amount of council tax that the billing authority collects on behalf of a parish council. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, which collects the tax for the Parish Council. The 'Precept' is converted into an amount per Council Tax Band that is added onto the Council Tax bill.*

One of the most important decisions, if not the most important decision that every Parish Council has to make is to plan a budget to cover Operations, Asset Management and New Projects each year. Girton Parish Council wishes to understand better your requirements and needs in order to make better decisions on your behalf.

Girton's precept is currently £74.51 for a band D house and is currently ranked 66 in terms of size out of 103 Parish Councils in SCDC. The precept was raised by £0.92 by Girton Parish Council last year and has seen a rise of £7.03 over the past 5 years. For more information on this see Girton Village Community Website.

This year we want to hear from you in order to ensure that our budget better understands the needs and aspirations of all Girton residents and to allow us to set a realistic, transparent 3-year plan.

### What matters to you in Girton? What should your council be budgeting for in 2024/25 and the next three years?

Please can you fill in our very short survey that you can find in the centre pages of this edition of the GPN or on line at <https://forms.office.com/e/zJw6NaBWj>

As well as the precept survey we would also like you to fill in a short survey about the county council's highways initiative. We will share the results of the surveys with you in due course.

**The deadline for responding is Friday 22nd December.** However, the speedier your response the more that Council can take these into account before we set the precept in early January.

You may remove the centre pages to complete the surveys and post it or deliver it to the Parish Council office at: Girton Parish Council, The Pavilion, Girton Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Girton, CB3 0FH.

For more information on the amount currently spent by Girton Parish Council and your precept please see Girton Parish Council website: <https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/2023/11/15/girton-parish-council-help-us-consider-precept-spend/>

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## Section 1: Limited Information about you

1. What is your postcode? .....
2. Age Group  
Under 18    18-24    25-34    35-44    45-54    55-64    65 & older    Prefer not to say.
3. Are you a business, organisation, club or society in the parish of Girton  
Yes    No

## Section 2: Where Could Girton Parish Council improve spending of the precept?

4. What projects in Girton overseen by GPC could benefit from increased spend?

		A lot more	Somewhat more	The Same	Somewhat less	A lot less	Don't know
1	Green Spaces						
2	Sport & Recreation Facilities						
3	Refurbishing Girton pavilion						
4	Increased Ground staff in the village						
5	More support for local businesses & organisations						
6	Improved communication in Girton						
7	Net zero initiatives.						
8	Planning more longer term projects (e.g. play areas, active travel, traffic control)						
9	Other (please give more detail)						

5. Please give brief details to support your answer (Optional)

.....  
.....  
.....

## Section 3: Would you be willing to see your precept rise to support more improvements for Girton?

6. Would you be willing to see your precept rise to support delivery of more improvements in the village?  
Yes    ☐  
No    ☐  
Maybe    ☐
7. How much more would you be willing to pay on your precept to deliver improvements in Girton?  
None    £5.00    £10.00    £20.00    £40.00    Don't know    Other .....



8. Can you confirm the reason/s for your choice above (Optional)

.....  
.....  
.....

**Section 4: Are you a local resident or organisation who would like to apply for funding for a village project**

9. Are you a local resident or organisation who would like to apply for funding from Girton Parish Council of up to £500.00

Yes

No

Maybe

**Section 5: What improvements could Girton Parish Council make (Optional)**

10. What is Girton Parish Council doing well?

.....  
.....  
.....

11. What could Girton Parish Council do better?

.....  
.....  
.....

**Section 6: Your Contact details:**

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12. Do you wish to provide your contact details?

Yes

No

13. Your Full Name

.....

14. Your Organisation (if applicable)

.....

15. Your email address

.....

## Cambridgeshire County Council Local Highways Initiative 2024/2025

This is a brief survey to collect your views for Girton to apply for further improvements to their Highways under Cambridgeshire County Council's (CCC) Local Highways Initiative (LHI) bid for 2024/2025.

As you may know our bid was successful this year in gaining funding from CCC to improve Girton's highways. With your help we can aim to continue that proactive work on one of the most important areas of improvement to Girton.

The window for the LHI bids was opened on 30th October 2023 and we are now in the position that we can provide Girton residents with a longer timeframe for their input and include the survey in Girton Parish News. The window for Girton Parish Council to submit their response is open until Friday 12th January at 5pm.

**PLEASE can you submit your responses by end of day on 3rd January 2024.**

The above deadline will allow us to submit this proposal to Cambridgeshire County Council. Use of a survey will allow us to collect your feedback quickly for consideration by Councillors.

Our application this year focuses on refreshing and adding more double yellow lines in the village that have been consistently raised by a number of our residents as an issue.

**For more information on this project and a map** please see our Girton Community website:

<https://www.girton-cambs-org.uk/2023/11/15/girton-parish-council-local-highways-initiative-2024-25/>

Please can you fill in our very short survey either in the centre pages of the GPN or online at

<https://forms.office.com/e/LTabQsvUFD>

**Privacy Statement:** If you opt to share your email address with us, we will only use this to inform you of Parish Council surveys. We will not share your email address with any third parties. Please email [clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk) to be removed from our mailing list.

### SURVEY QUESTIONS

#### Section 1: Limited Details about you.

Q1

In which village do you live?

Girton

Eddington

Other

Q2

What is your postcode?

.....

Q3 In what age group are you?

Under 18

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65 and Over



**Section 2: Please rate the following initiatives for inclusion in Girton's LHI Bid this year**

**Note 1 is LOW and 5 is High.**

Questions:		1	2	3	4	5
4	Double yellow line the Northern side of Thornton Road from junction with Girton Road, approximately 65m in length and then double yellow line the Southern side of Thornton Road from junction with Girton Road, approximately 75m in length					
5	Thornton Road from junction with Huntingdon Road, double yellow line the Western side carriageway approximately 55m in length and then the Eastern side carriageway 50m approximately in length.					
6	St Margaret's Road from junction with Girton Road, double yellow line the Northern side of the carriageway approximately 40m in length and then the Southern side of the carriageway 45m in length.					
7	High Street outside Gretton School - Extend double yellow lines to try to prevent parking outside Gretton School					
8	Refresh 20mph road markings at Pepys Way, St Vincent's Close					
9	Girton Road with Weavers Field. Install 6 bollards 3 either side of Weavers Field junction in the footway to try to eliminate dangerous pavement parking near Weavers Field junction.					
10	Road Crossing near Co-op					

Q11 Please briefly note any other LHI initiatives you think Girton Parish Council should be considering:

.....

Q12 Please confirm your rationale for the item you have noted above:

.....

Q13 Add any other comments you wish to make here:

.....

**Section 3: Contact Details**

Q14 Would you like to be emailed when further Parish Council surveys are published?

Yes

No

**Section 4: Email**

Q15 Name, please confirm your full name

.....

Q16 Email Address

.....

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# GIRTON scoreboard



## Girton Bowls Club

With the Indoor bowls season in full swing, some of our bowlers are playing two or three games a day for various teams. In the Indoor/Outdoor League, Girton 1 have so far played ten matches, winning eight and losing two. This puts them in second place on twenty-four points, one point ahead of Cambs and County, who Girton play next. The team in first position is Newmarket who have twenty-seven points. At the moment Girton II are in eighth position out of eleven teams.

Our winners and runners up in this year's Cambridge and District League Competitions will be attending a Presentation dinner at the Girton Golf Club in February, where they will receive their prizes.

Our AGM will be held on 7th December, at Abbeyfield, when reports will be delivered by our Chairman and various members of the Committee. Everyone is welcome to attend.

In the latter part of this year's bowls season we were pleased to enjoy a much more positive and productive relationship with the WCCC, in no small part due to the arrival of the new manager, Tom Lee, who has gone out of his way to accommodate the bowls club where possible and we extend our grateful thanks and appreciation for all his efforts.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2024.

*Lynne McGill*

## Girton Tennis Club



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

The tennis courts remain available for booking over the winter period but we would ask all members to check the surface conditions and to only play when they feel there is sufficient grip for their game. It is surprising how long an overnight frost can take to burn off, even in bright sunshine.

We have had quite a lot of rain this autumn and this

has made outdoor tennis a bit challenging. Although the MUGA is designed as an 'all weather' playing surface, the picture shows that in heavy rain it can also become unusable. Fortunately most of our matches and club nights have managed to miss the worst of the weather.



Our committee are hoping to be able to introduce new coaching opportunities from January 2024. Members will be emailed details in the New Year and anyone else interested in our club and future coaching opportunities should check our website.

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

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

*Alan Franklin*



## Girton Golf Club

Our AGM was held in early November and despite the quite healthy state of the club there is a dearth of people prepared to stand for office, so an interesting period of time now looms as the club works out how to operate efficiently with fewer volunteers in key roles.

A new Head Coach has been appointed and that man is Paul Trujillo. He told members:

*I am delighted to have the opportunity to join Girton Golf Club as your new golf professional. As I step into this role, I am filled with an immense sense of anticipation for the journey that lies ahead. Golf has been my lifelong passion, and to be able to share my expertise and love for the game with all of you is an exciting prospect. I believe that golf is not just a sport but a way of life. It teaches us valuable lessons about patience, discipline, and camaraderie, while providing an escape from the demands of everyday life. It is my utmost priority to foster an environment where each member feels a sense of belonging, and where newcomers are warmly welcomed into our golfing family. With my experience and training as a golf professional, I am committed to providing you with the highest level of service and instruction. Whether you are a seasoned player or new to the game, my goal is to help you improve your skills, achieve your golfing aspirations, and most importantly, ensure that you enjoy every moment spent at Girton GC. I extend my thanks to the club's management and members for offering me this opportunity.*



*I look forward to meeting you so please do not hesitate to ask any questions, make suggestions, or simply share your love for the game over a chat.*

*Paul Trujillo*

The course is standing up pretty well despite the currently pretty inclement weather and the new winter greens are starting to get plenty of use as consistent rain creates inevitable problems on the main greens. Praise, as ever, is due to the greens team, who always take flack if the course is closed in wet weather, but also if it isn't in great condition when the rain stops.

Competitive golf is now over for the year but plenty of friendly golf and winter leagues taking place and membership is still open so contact the office for more information whether as a player or social member.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*

*Tel: 01223 276169*

*[www.girtongolf.co.uk](http://www.girtongolf.co.uk)*



## Cambridge Aid

In 1880 there were 260 people in the Cambridge Union Workhouse, with many more in other neighbouring workhouses. The local charity, the Cambridge Mendicity Society, had just closed its doors.

Fortunately, two prominent Cambridge Victorians decided to take action. The philosopher Henry Sidgwick and his wife Eleanor founded a new charity, The Cambridge Charity Organisation. They were given permission to distribute bread to "wayfarers" and received support from Cambridge colleges and churches in the town.

Over the decades, the focus of the charity's activities changed as new legislation was introduced. The need for workhouses decreased with the introduction of unemployment benefits and the state pension. During its long history the charity helped with funding for a range of needs, including health care for children until the creation of the NHS. In 1917 the name of the charity was changed to the Cambridge Central Aid and Charity Organisation Society.

In 1939 the Citizens Advice Bureau began providing help to the people of Cambridge and CCACOS formed a partnership with the CAB that is still as important today.

In 2016 the name of the charity was simplified to Cambridge Aid, and today we operate by providing emergency grants of up to £200 to people who are referred to us by over 40 agencies in Cambridge and the surrounding villages. These agencies include Citizens Advice, local councils, NHS support teams, women's resource centres and a range of charities including Jimmy's and The Red Hen Project.

Cambridge Aid has no employees or premises and is entirely run by volunteers. As a result, our overheads are less than 1% of our income and 99p of every pound donated is passed on as grants.

This year, for the first time in our history, we anticipate that we will provide over 1,000 grants.

If you would like to support the work of Cambridge Aid, please visit our website: [Cambridgeaid.org](http://Cambridgeaid.org) or telephone me on 01223 236889.

I am available to give talks to interested groups about the work and history of Cambridge Aid.

Thank you,

*Ken Smith*

Trustee (Community Liaison)



## Huge debt of gratitude as Robin retires after 25 years

Trustees past and present – colleagues and other Village residents – gathered recently to mark the retirement of Dr Robin Hiley after 25 years' service with Girton Town Charity, during which he was instrumental in seeing through a range of important initiatives to improve life in Girton.

Following refreshments and speeches, Robin was presented with a sculpture of a Girton Goose made by Matthew Lane Sanderson who created the Village's Sculpture Railings.

A short summary of Robin's achievements was given by GTC Chair Ann Bonnett.

### Endowment

Shortly after becoming a Trustee in 1998, Robin became Chair and led the Charity's decision to sell its land on Wellbrook Way, resulting in a significant endowment from which the interest could be used to increase the provision of almshouses and range of schemes and grants to help residents.

Under Robin's leadership, awards were made to numerous Village projects and Schemes and Grants introduced to enable all ages to benefit, from pre-school and primary age children's projects, through to a Youth Group, a Hospital Taxi Scheme, a short-term Care Grant, the Age UK Warden Scheme and Older Residents' Coordinator.

### Developments

Further properties were built for almshouse use, the Sensory Garden was created, the Goose Sculpture Railings were installed and the William Collyn Community Centre built and named after the charity's founder.

Then Trustees also took the huge step to develop the site at Michael's Close, with discussions going back to 2006 and resulting finally in the completion of Dovehouse Court earlier this year.



### Huge contribution

GTC Chair Ann Bonnett said: "In listing just some of the many achievements during Robin's time with GTC, we can see what an enormous contribution he has made to our community and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. I'd also like to thank his wife Sheila for her support, not least for allowing her home to be the office for many years and taking endless phone calls. In conclusion, we all wish him a wonderful retirement and a happy 75th birthday which he is celebrating today."

Messages were also received from other friends and colleagues unable to attend. These included Brian Pycock and Rowena Barnes who said: "Robin has been key in supporting so many developments in Girton, championing almshouses and providing facilities for use by Girton residents."

Douglas de Lacey added: "I'd like to express my thanks and my very best wishes for your future. Through your work with the Charity, the whole Village has been the beneficiary."



## NOTICE

### Vacancy for a Trustee

Girton Town Charity, is registered with the Charity Commission. The Charity's primary purpose is provision of Almshouses within the Village and relief of the needs of our elderly residents. In addition GTC offers a range of Schemes and Grants to help both individuals and groups.

There are seven Trustees: five are appointed by Trustees and two by the Parish Council.

The Trustees of Girton Town Charity wish to be representative of the residents of the Village and welcome expressions of interest for a new member. As a Trustee you must be prepared to take an active and hands-on part in the running of the Charity which will involve working on specific allocated responsibilities. We have a monthly meeting to discuss the routine business of the Charity with additional meetings and activities on a regular basis. New strategies are developed at an annual all-day meeting.

If you are interested in the position, please contact the Chair or any other Trustee to talk about what is involved in carrying out the work of this vibrant charity.

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
Colin Carr	t: 276312
Gill Cockley	t: 276703
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](mailto:gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk)  
[www.girtontowncharity.org.uk](http://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](http://www.williamcollyn.co.uk)  
Information correct at time of going to press.

#### Monday

9.30 - 1.00pm	Tumble Tots (term time)
2.00 - 3.00pm	Kurling for over 55's
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane
8.00 - 9.30pm	Whole Notes Gospel Choir

#### Tuesday

9.00 - 11.00am	Yoga with Julia Dale
11.15am - 12.15pm	Yoga with Jess (Hatha)
10.30am - 2.00pm	Hartbeeps (term time)
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane
7.30 - 10.30pm	Easton Swing

#### Wednesday

6.15 - 7.00pm	Bounce
7.30 - 10.00pm	The W.I. (first in month)
7.30 - 10.00pm	Girton Garden Society (second in month)

#### Thursday

9.30 - 11.30am	Pilates with Wendy Jane
5.45 - 6.45pm	Pilates with Jax Eades
7.15pm - 9.15pm	Ballroom Dance Classes

#### Friday

9.30 - 10.20am	Optium Women's Fitness
9.30am - 12.30pm	Little City Toddler Play (second in month)
1.30 - 3.30pm	Falls Prevention Clinic
7.30 - 8.30pm	Easton Swing (third in month)

#### Saturday

9.00 - 10.00am	Bounce
11.00am - 1.00pm	Cambridge Jazz Co-op (monthly)

Check website for more information.

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP  
01223 279587

[info@williamcollyn.co.uk](mailto:info@williamcollyn.co.uk)

[www.williamcollyn.co.uk](http://www.williamcollyn.co.uk)

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



## The Friends of the Rosie Maternity Hospital

We wish all our customers and supporters a very Merry Christmas and all the very best of health throughout 2024. We will be stall No. 12 at the Virtual Shop Local - East Anglia Online Christmas Market:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/778630486315024/?ref=share>

The Christmas Market runs until Christmas Eve, so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts for special friends and family. We are also sharing our extensive catalogue on our RosieinStitches Facebook page.

By using our online store, you will be avoiding the crowded shops and keeping yourself safe. You can shop for new items at: [www.rosieinstitches.org.uk](http://www.rosieinstitches.org.uk) or donated items in our rosieinstitches2010 eBay charity store, and vintage knitting patterns on our Facebook page. Please look at our extensive selection of jumpers and cardigans, ideal for keeping babies and children up to four years old, toasty, and warm through the winter using coupon sleeves50.

Thank you for supporting our charity at the recent village events. We shall be showing off our tree ornaments at the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints' Church, Landbeach, on Saturday 2 December and Sunday 3 December, from 11.30am to 5.30pm.

Come and see us in person at:

Cambourne Christmas Market  
10 December 10am to 3pm.

Waterbeach Community Market  
Sunday 17 December 10am to 3pm.  
Aurelia London is offering a complimentary Miracle Cleanser when you spend £40 (worth £22); click on the link on our website.

A fundraising platform we are now using is: *Benevity*  
<https://causes.benevity.org/causes/826-1036092>

By signing up to support Friends of the Rosie Hospital, Cambridge, England (for free), on <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forh>, you can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 7,500 brands including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, M&S and more. This will make a real difference to us during this busy shopping month.

We are continuing to accept donations of unwanted crafting materials for our crafters to use or for us to sell on eBay. We are still recruiting new crafters to our team.

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters, or display a small selection of our wares. Further details are given on our website volunteering page. Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

Avril Williams, 01954 782431, [avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk](mailto:avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk)

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## Christmas Anagrams

1. LEABUB
2. STEERSPN
3. SILNTE
4. MESSARETR
5. PRANGIWP
6. SKARCECR
7. HISLGE
8. EREDRINE
9. DNUPGDI
10. ISEIMENPC

## Christmas Cracker Jokes

- A. What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations ?
- B. What Xmas Carol do dogs like best ?
- C. Who hides in a bakery at Christmas ?

(Answers on Page 7)

## CODEWORDS

Each number 1-26 represents a different letter of the alphabet. Can You work out which is which ? Use your word skills and the clues included. Note that Codewords can include names or well-known phrases. Answers are on page 11.

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

## WORDSEARCH –

### Christmas Time Celebrations !

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.

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

ALE	HOLLY	PUDDING
BAUBLE	ICE	RED
CAKE	ICICLE	SAGE
CAROLS	IVY	SANTA
CHRISTMAS	MINCEMEAT	SNOW
CINNAMON	MISTLETOE	SPROUTS
CRACKERS	NUTS	STAR
CRIMSON	OLIVE	SUP
CRUMB	PAPERCHAIN	TINSEL
ELVES	PARSLEY	TREE
FAIRY	PARTY	WHITE
GAME	PIES	WRAPPING
GIFTS	POTATO	YUM



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## When is cake more than “just cake”?

Well, to be honest, a cake is usually enough just as it is – like this homemade cherry and almond bejewelled rich fruitcake filled with plump raisins, winter spices and crystalised ginger. But yes, cake can be more than just cake:

When it is shared with friends and family.  
When it is made with love.  
When it evokes memories of people, places, and occasions.  
When it is made by someone else (and they wash up!).



For me, 2023 has been so very difficult but scrolling through my gallery of photographs I am reminded that there have been many good times, positive memories, achievements, and progress. And it is sometimes something as simple as a cake that can remind us of this amidst other challenges and sadness. What would be the photo (real, or in your mind) that evokes these warm thoughts for you?

### Seasonal Support

There are times in the year when there are events and celebrations which may be family based, cultural or religious. Expectations around these events can be challenging for some people. If you are struggling with expectations, you are not alone - there is always someone to connect with:  
Samaritans. Phone: 116123 (24/7)  
Shout. Text: 85258 (24/7)

### As a new year approaches, new training is on offer

By the time this goes to print I hope to have qualified to deliver yet another Mental Health First Aid course: Mental Health Skills for Managers, a four-hour course to help managers:

- Identify if a team member may be experiencing poor mental health.
- Confidently have open conversations about mental health at work.
- Appropriately signpost team members to available support and know where to go to for support and guidance for yourself.

Maybe, if you are working, your workplace managers would benefit from commissioning a closed course. You can do so by contacting me using the email address below.

Thank you to the readers in 2023 who have shown their appreciation of Listening Lantern – through GPN articles, the Facebook business page, the Food Hut, and individual support or signposting which I've been able to provide.

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



## News For Older Residents

### Tuesday Connections

I am looking forward to Tuesday 12 December at 2pm when the Girton Glebe School Choir is coming to entertain us. The afternoon is bound to include plenty of enthusiasm and festive cheer. Tell me if you'd like to be accompanied home afterwards and I will do my best to arrange this.

On 9 January, our Winter Warmer will be a singalong of well-known songs with words on the screen, so everyone can join in. There will also be poetry readings, so I need your help asap with

1. Suggesting poems, serious or light-hearted, but preferably shorter rather than longer.
2. People who would be willing to read a poem that they, or someone else has chosen.

### Essentials Electric Cooker

This cooker was bought from Currys a few months ago but is unsuitable for the purchaser, who is now offering it for free. The rings have been used a few times, but the oven and grill are unused.  
Contact me for more information.

### Girton Community Warden

Sarah Stuart can be contacted on 07979 333 963.

### It is now December so Happy Christmas!

I find it difficult to believe that this year is nearly over. A big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported me in 2023.

I will be on annual leave from Wednesday 20 December until Wednesday 3 January.

Last but not least, unfortunately my email address has been printed incorrectly for a while. My apologies to anyone affected by this. There is a dot between my names - [patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk)

Patricia Johnston, Older Residents' Coordinator  
Tel: 07469 660 866  
Email: [patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk)

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TownCharity



## A selection of wines to enjoy this Christmas

### *Grove Mill, Wairau Valley, Marlborough 2021 (New Zealand)*

This aromatic Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand will get your Christmas festivities off to a great start. Pronounced aromas of elderflower, peach, lychee, and guava on the nose herald flavours of lime, nectarine, and passion fruit on the palate. The layers of fruit are well supported by the bright acidity and lasting finish, and a hint of minerality adds a further level. This delightful wine is perfect by itself or with a seafood dish. Available from **Co-op** (£10.50)

### *Lyrarakis Assyrtiko 2022 (Crete)*

This Assyrtiko wine from Crete is a dry wine with a crisp, refreshing acidity. It has pronounced aromas of honey, together with apple and peach, on the nose, and flavours of apple, pear, and peach on the palate. It is a well-balanced, medium-bodied wine with a long finish that can be enjoyed as an apéritif and is also an excellent match for seafood. Available from **Majestic** (£12.99, Mix Six £10.99)

### *Les Hauts de Saint Martin, Saint Chinian 2021 (France)*

This Saint-Chinian wine from the Languedoc-Roussillon region of southern France is a smooth, rich, full-bodied wine. A blend of Syrah, Grenache, Carignan and Mourvèdre grapes, this is a dry wine with medium acidity, medium tannins, and a lengthy finish. With bramble, plum and cherry on the nose, and an array of red and black fruits, and a hint of spice on the palate, this is a very appealing wine that pairs well with a roast meat dish, or roasted vegetables. Available from **Co-op** (£10)

### *Radlow Hundred English Red NV (Herefordshire)*

This smooth, silky red wine from Radlow Hundred Vineyard in Herefordshire is a blend of Pinot Noir, Regent, and Rondo grape varieties. With aromas of raspberry, cherry and plum on the nose, and plenty of red fruit flavours, notably cherry, on the palate, this is a well-balanced wine with medium tannins and a hint of pepper on the finish. It is an ideal match for the complex blend of flavours associated with a traditional Christmas lunch. Available from **Grape Britannia** (£16.99)

### *Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Pedro Ximénez (Spain)*

This Pedro Ximénez (PX) from Sainsbury's is a full-bodied, lusciously sweet wine with a long, velvety finish. With aromas of honey, raisin, and toffee, reminiscent of a mince pie, on the nose, and coffee, caramel, and toffee flavours on the palate, this is a perfect match for Christmas pudding or other rich desserts and mature cheeses. Available from Sainsbury's (£9)

### *Campbell's Rutherglen Muscat (Australia)*

The lusciously sweet **Campbell's Rutherglen Muscat** is another treat for the palate. Made from a blend of vintages of Muscat à petit grains rouges (Rutherglen Brown Muscat), it has flavours of fruitcake, dates, and nuts, and is a smooth, wonderfully balanced wine. It is a perfect match for cheese or dessert. Available from **Waitrose** (£13.99)

Merry Christmas! Look out for more wine suggestions from around the world in 2024. Cheers!

Martin Nuttall, [www.itmustbewineoclock.com](http://www.itmustbewineoclock.com)

## Thermal imaging for a cosy home

Cambridge Carbon Footprint are once again delighted to offer to Girton residents, and organisations, the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera, for free, to help create more cosy and efficient homes.

You can learn how to interpret thermal images, to discover draughts, gaps in insulation and heating problems. Having this information is great for deciding on home improvements, and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters. The project also encourages individuals or organisations to undertake training to survey multiple homes. In 2022 a councillor in another South Cambs village borrowed a camera and undertook a survey of 20% of the village's homes and intends to do more this year.

### Training Sessions

Three free training sessions will take place online from 7:00-8:30 pm on: Thu 14 Dec, Mon 22 Jan and Thu 29 Feb. To book go to:

<https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events/>

### Camera Borrowing

Cameras are only lent to people already trained. Free loans of 14 cameras are available till early April. Each loan is Friday pm to Monday am, or Monday pm to Friday am, from 14 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs and Cambridge. See locations here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1VtzOsPB8We6pPGmSt2o3jjATgHDUEMI>





### Computer help at Abbeyfield

I thought it might be an idea to talk about our little computer group which we operate from the restaurant at Abbeyfield Girton Green every Monday morning from 10am to 12pm except on bank holidays.



One to one help is available and in the picture to the left Pat Dickens helps Elizabeth with a problem. Wifi is available in the restaurant so you can bring your

own computers, tablets or phones and we will do our best to help you.

If you are having problems with emails, or with updates in programmes or want to learn how to connect photos or files to an email and send it then we can help you. We will also



*Daphne & Jean busy at the group*



*Another busy visitor*

be able to help you with the Microsoft Suite of programmes, Word, the spreadsheet Excel and Power Point for producing presentations. It might be that you want to know about 'the Cloud' or how to store or enhance photographs so don't be afraid to pop in and see us. There is no charge unless you

buy a cup of coffee from the counter. At least two of our lady helpers are quite fluent with Apple products on laptops, iPads and iPhones.

**Dates for your diary:** Let us wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024. We start our year off on Wednesday 24th January with a visit to Girton Golf Club for one of their very tasty lunches. Then a film on Thursday 22nd February at the William Collyn Community Centre accompanied by fish and chips out of the paper with salt and vinegar or Tartare sauce and if you are really, really good, tomato sauce.

*Sam Clift*

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



### Girton Poppy Appeal 2023

The amount raised so far at time of going to print is **£12,562.07**

This is a magnificent sum, which will be used to help provide continued support and assistance to our Armed Forces Personnel in many different ways following conflicts throughout the world.

Money donated using the QR code on the collecting boxes has not yet been calculated by the RBL Head Office, however, I will publish an update as soon as I am informed.

Thank you again to everyone who supported this worthwhile cause again in any way. From Sainsbury's who allowed us to collect in their Foyer at Eddington, and the volunteers who sat in Sainsbury's foyer, to the businesses in the village that had collecting boxes on display and to all those who donated money or laid wreaths.

Anyone reading this who may be interested in becoming involved with organising the 2024 appeal in Girton, or wishes to volunteer collecting donations at Sainsbury's, please contact me at [girtonpa@yahoo.com](mailto:girtonpa@yahoo.com)

*Lest we Forget*

*Wendy Ripley, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Girton*





### How do we know?

Christmas season is rolling around again. As I write (in mid-November) the shops have been full of Christmas goodies for weeks, and every other advert on the TV is a schmaltzy Christmas offering. So, this year I've been pondering what it means to really enter into the "Christmas spirit"? What does it mean to "know" about Christmas?

There are different kinds of "knowing". There's mathematical knowledge, which is mostly quite abstract and "pure". There's scientific knowledge, which looks at the world and seeks to understand it through observation and experiment. There's historical knowledge; considering evidence from the past to try to understand what happened and why. All these kinds of knowing are useful and good in helping us to live well.

But there is also what one might call "relational" knowledge. Many of the social, political, moral, and cultural questions of the day are fundamentally "relational" and "inter-personal" in nature. Of course, these kinds of questions can (and should) be informed by other forms of knowledge, but the "answers" are not so straightforwardly discerned.

Christian faith (and, by extension, the Christmas story itself) is also profoundly and fundamentally relational and personal in nature. It is rooted in and informed by the historical events of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, but to think of Christianity purely in historical terms is a category error. As Lesslie Newbigin put it:

"The fundamental and unifying fact is the personal nature of God and [humanity]. Only in the light of this fact... do we see God's revelation [through Jesus] not as a piece of information, but as the love which discloses its nature in the act of seeking its object, and [our] response not merely as the mastering of an advanced lesson in metaphysics, but as the answer of heart and mind and will to the love that is seeking [us]."

The personal, relational nature of Christian faith is why we don't just gather like a book club to practice our faith. Christian faith has generated a huge range of artistic, poetic, and musical attempts to articulate what God has done through Jesus. A central part of Christian life is to gather around God's table to share bread and wine. We don't just know about Jesus; we seek to know Jesus. This Christmas there are lots of opportunities to explore what it means to know God at both of your local churches. Quite soon you should get a postcard through your door with all the details. You could join us for food and singing at the Old Crown (19-20 Dec). You could experience Christmas through jazz music and fellowship (9 Dec). You could maybe meet God through the mystery of Carols by Candlelight (18 Dec), or through oranges and sweets at Christingle (Christmas Eve). Come and meet with the God who wants to meet with you! Full details of Christmas events and services are at: [www.girton.church/christmas](http://www.girton.church/christmas)

*Revd Michael Bigg, Rector*



### Mitten Tree Project 2023

*An invitation from St Andrew's Church, Girton*

**Who?** To those who wish to help others

**What?** Donate newly-knitted or purchased socks, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for adults or children

**When?** 6th November – 16th December 2023

**Where?** St Andrew's Church, Girton

**How?** Come in and hang new items on the Mitten Tree whenever the Church is open

**Why?** Donations will be given to those in need of warm clothes via suitable charitable bodies (with priority given to local charities where possible).

**Thank you!**



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Phil Merriman // piano Will Todd  
Ed Babar // bass "Tuneful, sincere and  
Jon Ormston // drums exciting, and it swings"  
The Jazz Journal

**Saturday 9th Dec | 7:30pm**  
**St Andrew's Church, Girton. CB3 0PN**  
**Tickets £16 (£10 under 16)**

Book online at <https://bit.ly/girtonjazz>  
or scan the QR code below



[www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church) [www.timboniface.co.uk](http://www.timboniface.co.uk)

SCAN ME



## St Andrew's Church

**Rector:** Revd Michael Bigg  
**Tel:** 01223 202145  
**Email:** [rector@girton.church](mailto:rector@girton.church)  
**Website:** [www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church)  
**Associate Priest:** The Revd Christine Barrow  
**Tel:** 575089 **Email:** [mcbarrow@me.com](mailto:mcbarrow@me.com)  
**Licensed Lay Ministers:**  
**Mr Dugald Wilson** **Tel:** 276940  
**Mrs Christina Deacon** **Tel:** 525337  
**Children and Families Minister:**  
**Eona Bell** **Tel:** 07305201419  
**Email:** [cmf@girton.church](mailto:cmf@girton.church)  
**Churchwardens:**  
**Mr Bruce & Mrs Wendy Hunter** **Tel:** 503958

## Sunday Services: December

3rd Dec 10:00am Holy Communion (+StA4K)  
 10th Dec 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
           10:00am Nativity Service  
           6:00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)  
 17th Dec 10:00am Holy Communion (+StA4K)  
 24th Dec 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
           10:00am Morning Prayer  
 31st Dec 10:00am Holy Communion  
 7th Jan 10:00am Holy Communion (+StA4K)  
 \* StA4K is St Andrew's for Kids in the church North Room unless otherwise stated.

## Regular weekday Services: December

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

Except during the week after Christmas.

## Other Services:

13th 2:00pm Abbeyfield Holy Communion  
 14th 3:45pm Messy Church  
 19th 2:15pm Arlington Manor Holy Communion  
 21st 11:00pm Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

## Christmas services

10th Dec 10:00am Nativity Service  
 18th Dec 7:00pm Carols by Candlelight Service  
 24th Dec 3:00pm Christingle Service  
           11:30pm Midnight Communion  
 25th Dec 10:00am Christmas Day Family Service

Please note that we will be holding our Carols by Candlelight Service on Monday 18 December. On Tuesday and Wednesday, 19 and 20 December, there will be a Carols at the Crown meal at 7:00pm. For places or tickets, please contact The Old Crown on 01223 277217.

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

## Girton Baptist Church



**Minister:** Revd Nick Lowe  
**Tel:** 01223 279289  
**Secretary:** Mr Ken Smith  
**Tel:** 07860 736536 01223  
**Website:** [www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk)

## December Services

(all at Girton Baptist Church, and on Zoom)

3rd 10.30am Morning Worship with  
 Communion, led by Nick Lowe.  
 10th 10.30am Morning Worship, led by Nick  
 Lowe.  
 17th 10.30am Morning Worship with  
 Communion, led by Nick Lowe.  
 24th 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight, led by Nick  
 Lowe.  
 25th 10.30am Christmas Morning Worship, led by  
 Nick Lowe.  
 31st 10.30am Morning Worship, led by Nick  
 Lowe.

Messy Church is on Thursday 14 December from 3.30pm. It is for parents or grandparents and their children, with craft activities based on a Biblical theme, a story, and a meal together. This month the theme will be "Christmas". If you would like to find out more, please contact us or just come along. Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group Christmas Party is at 2.15pm on 5 December, with speakers Geoff and Jane Mann, along with the singing group.

All are welcome to any of the services and events.

For further details about any of the above, including the online link for the service, please ring 07845 568127 or 07860 736536 or email: [secretary@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk)

Luke 2:9-12 (NIV)

*<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*



**If you would like to discuss any Parish Council issues, please contact the following:**

**Chairman**

Daniel Carney, Tel: 07986592507  
[daniel.carney@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.carney@girton-pc.gov.uk)

**Vice-Chairman**

Ann Muston, Tel: 07796 430345  
[ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk)

**Councillors**

Gary Betts, Tel: 07950 526349  
[gary.betts@girton-pc.org.uk](mailto:gary.betts@girton-pc.org.uk)  
 Victoria Brown, [victoria.brown@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.brown@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Andrew Clare, [andrew.clare@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.clare@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Alison Giles, Tel: 07855 184549  
[alison.giles@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:alison.giles@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Nas Hayat, Tel: 07917 204126     [nasir.hayat@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nasir.hayat@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Leslie Lampe, [leslie.lampe@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:leslie.lampe@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Patrick Linton, [patrick.linton@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.linton@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Stuart Marshall, [stuart.marshall@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.marshall@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Haydn Williams, Tel: 07831 858584  
[haydn.williams@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:haydn.williams@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Carolyn Wright, [carolyn.wright@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.wright@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Richard Reeves, [richard.reeves@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:richard.reeves@girton-pc.gov.uk)

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

**District Councillors**

Corinne Garvie, Tel: 07780 932267 & 01223 276184  
[cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk)  
 Richard Stobart, Tel: 07950 934793  
[cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk)

**County Councillor**

Edna Murphy, Tel: 01223 577005  
[edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Parish Clerk**

Yvonne Murray Tel: 01223 237173  
[clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk)

**Facilities Manager**

Angie Vidler, Tel: 01223 618619  
[admin@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@girton-pc.gov.uk)

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

**Postal address:**

Girton Parish Council, The Pavilion, Girton Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3



**Bin collections December**

Thursday	7 December	Black bin
Thursday	14 December	Blue & Green bins
Thursday	21 December	Black bin
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29 December</b>	<b>Blue bin</b>
Thursday	4 January	Black bin

**Mobile library**

**Thursday 14th and 28th December.**

Thornton Court	9.40-10.00am
Abbeyfield	10.10-10.50am
Cotton Hall/Church	11.00-11.30am
Orchard Close	11.35-11.55am
St. Vincent's Close	12.00-12.40pm
Gretton Court	12.50-1.15pm
Churchfield Court	1.20-1.45pm

**Contact numbers for bookings**

Cotton Hall	07759 983420
Orchard Close	277164
Pavilion	618619
St Vincent's Close	276447
William Collyn Community Centre	279587

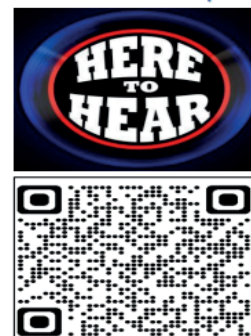


**The A10 Fish & Chip Van**

Visits Girton most Thursdays

Church Yard	3.50 – 4.10
Orchard Close	4.15 – 4.30
Wellbrook Way	4.30 – 4.45
St. Vincents Close	4.45 – 5.30
Church Lane	5.30 – 5.45
Hicks Lane	5.45 – 6.00
Duck End	6.00 – 6.30
Gretton Court	6.30 – 6.45
Woodlands Park	6.45 – 7.00
Dodford Lane	7.00 – 7.15

**Girton Parish Council**  
 At Lexi's Pop-up Café  
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Girton CB3 0PN

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or contact [alison14.lloyd@gmail.com](mailto:alison14.lloyd@gmail.com)

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**THE COGWHEEL CANTER RUNNING FESTIVAL**

With 200m mini-run, 2K, 5K & 10K Stride  
An end-of-year running festival for all the family

**Sunday 31st December 2023**  
**10.30am, Girton Recreation Ground**

Register online for 5K and 10K at  
[www.cogwheel5kcanter.co.uk](http://www.cogwheel5kcanter.co.uk)

On-the-day registration for 200m mini-run and 2K

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Quote: SCM/12 before 31st January 2024 and get the joining fee for free



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**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November: 1.30 - 3.00pm**

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