



# GIRTON Parish News

August 2025



For all the fun of the  
Girton Feast  
see page 17

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## Publication Information

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

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

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

### Advertisements

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

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

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

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*Puzzle Corner:* Sian Franklin

*Webmaster:* Andrew Haylett

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

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**GIRTON**  
**Parish News**

## How you can support the GPN and help secure its future

Two years ago you, our amazing readers, raised an incredible £4,000 through a fundraising appeal to help safeguard the short term future of the GPN. The money has helped to put the magazine on a more even footing and was greatly appreciated. However, with advertising income only just keeping pace with printing costs we're continually battling to break even.

It's because of this challenging financial position that we have decided to offer readers the chance to make a regular contribution to the GPN. This could just be £5 or £10 a year, or more if you felt comfortable doing so.

### How can you donate?

#### 1. Online banking – GPN bank details are as follows:

Sort code: 60-04-23

Account No. 54490391

Account name: Girton Parish News

#### 2. Cheque – these can be posted to our Treasurer, Marion Fisher at 117 High Street, Girton, CB3 0QQ

#### 3. Get in touch – if you need help donating then contact our Secretary, Sheila Bowler on 276914.

The GPN provides a unique insight into what goes on in our precious village and we are hopeful that with your valued support we can continue to document life in Girton for years to come.

*Rob Neal, Editor*

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**Copy date for September 2025 issue: Wed 20 Aug. Issue date: Sat 6 Sept. Covers 6 Sept – 4 Oct**



## Girton Parish Council

### Girton Feast

Girton Parish Council thank Girton Village Celebrations for the opportunity to join the Feast on Saturday 12 July. We had great fun

and it was excellent to chat to so many of you on the day.

Our Feast stall focused on the topics of Girton's Great Plan and Local Highways Initiative. Our stall had over 100 visitors and we will be presenting results of what you all told us were your top priorities on the day. A link to these results and an opportunity to make a choice of priority, if you could not make the Feast, can be found on the links below.

### Girton Parish Council priorities – Girton's Great Plan and local highways initiative

<https://shorturl.at/llhaw>

### What is your favourite option for refurbishing our pavilion and what local highways initiative has the most impact for you?

<https://shorturl.at/AlnmY>

### Council facilities and infrastructure

**Pavilion refurbishment:** Maintenance works have progressed, including deep cleaning of changing rooms and chairs. The pavilion is being increasingly used by community groups, and its accessibility is being improved.

**Public Toilets Access:** Council approved a trial opening of pavilion toilets during school holidays. Monitoring and feedback will be provided to assess feasibility for permanent access.

**Recreation Ground:** External power works approved and scheduled for early July to support events. Two new outdoor signs approved to improve navigation and visibility.

**Risk assessment and insurance review for cricket usage underway.** A £1,800 spend was approved for a boundary assessment to ensure safe and legal use of the grounds.

Council approved support for Girton Bowls Club, including a £100 contribution for accessibility improvements and insurance coverage for equipment stored on council land.

### Governance and Administration

The 2024/2025 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for Girton Parish Council was approved at the Extraordinary Meeting on 23 June. A Public Rights Notice has been published, and the internal audit highlighted the need

for improved budget oversight, which is being addressed.

A data analysis project is underway to consolidate three years of Council decisions and agenda items. This will support strategic planning and improve transparency. Over 77,000 data points have been extracted, with 607 decisions identified.

The council continues to operate with nine members and six vacancies. Quorum is being maintained, and councillor engagement remains strong.

### What's going on at Crafty Folk?

Have you heard about our new Crafty Folk get-together in Girton on Tuesdays? We meet at St Vincents Close community room, 10am to 4pm. It's an arts and crafts drop-in but you don't have to sew, knit or paint to join in. We have free refreshments in a lovely warm space and everyone is welcome to pop in for a chat.

Parish council chair Stuart, pictured with his vintage Singer, would love some tips from you. So if you can show him the ropes or have an older machine that's still working beautifully, do come along.



Meanwhile, watercolourist Tony, also pictured, loves the light here at St Vincents Close community room and has become a regular face at our weekly drop-in.



### Girton Community Hub is a new service running in the village on Tuesdays.

Run by volunteers, with help from local charity Cambridgeshire ACRE, it offers a warm and friendly space, with free refreshments.

It's open on Tuesdays, from 10am to 4pm at St Vincents Close community room

Come and have a brew and get help, advice and information with things like:

- health and care services
- cost of living
- energy bills and saving money
- community transport
- connections to local groups
- help applying for benefits, food vouchers, Blue Badges or bus passes

Whether you are new to Girton, have a young family, care for someone, or have a friend or neighbour that just needs a listening ear, we're here for you. All our

information and advice is free, independent and confidential.

If you're anxious about bills or need some help with online forms, bus passes, transport or health and care services? Come and talk to our new village agent Kari, at Girton Community Hub on Tuesdays. She'll be there on August 5, 19 and 26, from 12pm-2pm. She works for local charity Cambridgeshire ACRE and all their information and advice is free, independent and confidential.

*Girton Parish Clerk, 01223 237173  
clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk  
See full list of Councillors on page 34*

## From Our Councillors

### District Councillors and County Councillor Reports

#### Cambridgeshire County Council Holiday Schemes

Children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals can access a fully funded place at participating holiday schemes for up to 64 hours in Cambridgeshire. The Summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme will run from 24 July to 29 August 2025. Recently arrived refugee families, as well as families struggling financially are also eligible. Further information can be found here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

#### Consultation on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy was approved by the combined authority (CPCA) last month. There will now be a period of eight weeks' public consultation commencing on 18 July. The CPCA will be informing Parish and Town Councils of the consultation and publicising it to the wider community in July. The link to the draft strategy is: <https://shorturl.at/4JBZ6>

#### Postal Vote Expiry - 15,000 Voters Affected in South Cambridgeshire

Following a change to the law as part of the Elections Act, postal votes no longer apply indefinitely. They now expire after a period of three years. Due to the timing of the reapplication legislation, around 15,000 South Cambridgeshire

postal votes are due to expire at the end of January 2026. The SCDC Elections Team has just started the process of contacting those residents whose postal vote will be expiring. We will explain to these voters that to keep their postal vote in place they will need to make a fresh application. We also plan to include an article in South Cambs Magazine in Autumn 2025. We appreciate your support to residents with this process. If you have any questions, please email the elections team at: <https://shorturl.at/VLSTN>

#### Faster Planning Appeals Process

On 25 June, the Government announced new regulations to streamline the planning appeals process. These changes aim to make planning processes faster and more efficient, benefiting councils, communities and developers. The new regulations will speed up planning appeal decisions, reducing delays and uncertainty over planning applications. The new process of written applications will only accept evidence put before the local planning authority during the application. This will help reduce additional bureaucracy, speeding up decision-making while keeping decisions locally based. The new regulations are expected to be implemented by the end of 2025. More details will be provided in updated guidance once the final draft of the regulations is received.

#### Plaudits for SCDC's Contact Centre

A mystery shopper exercise at SCDC's Customer Contact Centre was recently carried out by an independent team of researchers by external provider Insight. The exercise involved 400 undisclosed calls made at various times during the Council's busiest time of year (during the release of Council Tax bills). The calls tested the Contact Centre's responsiveness, professionalism, and knowledge across a wide range of services. The results showed that 98% of the council's advisors answered enquiries to a high standard with an average customer satisfaction score of 81% across all service areas compared to a benchmark score of 68% amongst other councils. An explanation of the mystery shopper process and more details of the findings can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/vvyk5kfb>. Meanwhile, SCDC is now using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ensure that telephone callers are efficiently routed either to the most appropriate advisor or to provide an immediate answer if the caller prefers. This helps to free up time for call handlers to deal with more complicated inquiries where knowledge and experience (and the human touch) is important.

## Message from the County Council - PR1132 Proposed Waiting Restrictions - Various Roads, Girton

For more details, please visit the online traffic portal at <https://shorturl.at/k87P9> and select the Order “DoSC CEA WRSP Order 2023 Am 18 Girton”. In summary, the proposal is as follows:

To introduce a prohibition of waiting (double yellow lines) at the following locations in Girton:-

1. High Street near Cambridge Road.
2. Pepys Way/St. Vincents Close junction.
3. Girton Road/Weavers Field junction.
4. Thornton Road near Girton Road.
5. Pepys Way near surgery. This is no waiting between 6.30 to 8.30 a.m.
6. St. Margarets Road near Girton Road.
7. Thornton Road near Huntingdon Road.

If you wish to make any comments they should be submitted in writing, as explained in the public notice, to be received no later than 30 July 2025. The easiest way to respond is via the above online traffic portal.

### Action on the Thorntons

Following concerns raised by residents we contacted officers within the County Council who sent a team to visit the Thorntons. They identified a total of 23 road and footpath defects. They have then raised orders for these to be dealt with and marked them up. The orders were for ‘21 day’ tickets which means they will be dealt with reasonably quickly. In addition, the faded road markings at the junctions of Thornton Road / Huntingdon Road, Thornton Road / Way and Thornton Road / Girton Road have been reviewed, and officers have committed to ensuring these are repainted.

### Progress on highways across the county

There has been an increase in money invested and work done on highways, to combat years of underinvestment and subsequent problems such as potholes and generally poor condition of the roads, pavements and cycle paths. While there is still some way to go, some highlights to report are:

Since 2023-24, the amount of capital funding we spend on highway maintenance has increased by £35m, from £24m to £59m.

The Council has allocated more than £73m for highways maintenance in 2025/26 inclusive of revenue funding.

Over the last five years, we have repaired an average of 55,400 individual potholes each year.

In 2024/25 we:

- Spent more than £30m improving over 145 kilometres of roads county-wide.
- Reconstructed or resurfaced 166 roads.
- Spent more than £4.5m repairing 52,229 potholes across the county.
- Received 16,371 potholes reports from our residents.
- Spent more than £5m improving over 120km of key walking and cycling routes county-wide.
- Reconstructed or repaired 241 footpaths.
- Emptied and cleaned more than 35,000 drains.
- Upgraded 31 traffic signals.
- Recycled 41,000 tonnes of material and saved over 735 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent, through various sustainability and carbon reduction processes.

In 2025/26, we have planned the following improvements:

- 259 schemes to repair 135km of road (with over 60% being preventative treatment work).
- 253 schemes to repair key walking and cycling routes county-wide.
- 5 bridges will be upgraded.
- 20 traffic signals will be replaced/upgraded.

We hope you find these items of interest. If you have questions or comments, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us by email or phone. Also, please feel free to get in touch with our Member of Parliament, *Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk*. Ian is active across the constituency, holds regular surgeries, and welcomes correspondence from residents requiring his assistance.

### District Councillors

Corinne Garvie, 07780 932267,  
[corinne.garvie@councillor.online.gov.uk](mailto:corinne.garvie@councillor.online.gov.uk)

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

### County Councillor

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

## OBITUARY



### Jenny Knights

A former trustee of Girton Town Charity and the founder of Girton's yard sale trails, which raised over £7,000 for charity, has passed away suddenly but peacefully at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Jenny Knights, who lived in Girton for 47 years, living first in Dodford Lane and later Fairway, died on 7 July. Her, and her late husband Noel, were active members of the Girton community.

For over 20 years Jenny was one of the trustees of the Girton Town Charity, overseeing many initiatives that supported families and individuals in the village. Jenny was also an active member of the WI for many years, serving on the committee as well as contributing to the monthly meet ups.

Until very recently Jenny helped run the Messy Church activities at the Baptist Church, which she enjoyed immensely. She was also an active member of St Andrew's Church and was often seen serving coffees or acting as a sideswoman.

After her husband Noel passed away, Jenny organised the yearly Girton yard sale trails, compiling the map and coordinating the day. Over the five years of the sales, more than £7,000 was raised for the Arthur Rank hospice.

Jenny followed in her husband's footsteps and volunteered at Jimmy's Night Shelter serving the dinners. She was passionate about the charity and even after she stopped volunteering she still collected warm clothes and sleeping bags from the people of Girton for the charity every winter.

Jenny even found time to be a valued proofreader for the Girton Parish News and was a long standing distributor.

Her daughter Laura and son Tom would like to thank the wonderful community of Girton for all their support and kindness during this difficult time. Jenny will be sorely missed by her family and friends in Girton and beyond.

Jenny's funeral is at 11am on Wednesday 13 August at St Andrew's Church followed by a reception at Cotton Hall. Family flowers only please, with donations to either the Book Trust or St Andrew's Church.



### Letter to the editor

During these three heat waves we have endured, my mind has gone back to times when we were working in hot Arabian or Indian countries. My husband was working on irrigation canal rehabilitation and I was teaching English. I was impressed then by the design and structure of houses we lived in. In some countries the walls were much thicker, made of mud brick so better insulated like the wattle and daub thatched houses in Girton. These and other houses were often built round a courtyard for cultural reasons as well as to increase ventilation. Windows with open lattice work, no glass, on the outside walls allowed cooler night air to be drawn in and up the courtyard 'chimney', creating a cooler current of air both night and day with no electricity required.

Our well insulated home in Girton has an attic window which serves the same purpose. Open for the last two weeks, this window allows air to be drawn up the attic staircase and vented out. Bedroom windows can be opened to create a through current of air going up and out that window, drawing in cooler night breezes. Even in daytime, open windows draw in air from behind the curtains drawn to keep the sunshine out. Not a solution available to families who are out all day, but windows can be opened in the early evening to get the upward breeze going.

We are all needing to adapt our homes to counter the impact of climate change, which is bringing hotter and drier summers. Water butts to store winter rainfall, more insulation for our walls and attics, solar panels and so on. A window in the attic is just one more idea.

*Christine Bromwich*  
Address supplied

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## Girton Walking Group



### 5 July

A small group set off from Huntingdon Road. Thankfully, it was not too hot. The group took the footpath to Madingley and stopped for a short break to look around The American Cemetery before making the return journey via a different footpath to Huntingdon Road.

### 2 August

Holywell and Needingworth Circular Walk, five miles with an option to shorten it to three miles after about an hour. Meet at Millfield Car Park, Mill Way, Needingworth, PE27 4TF. The car park is on the left after the width restriction and both 40 mph speed limit signs. There's a signpost to Playing Fields on the right.

This walk is full of history and beautiful scenery along the Ouse. This is a mostly shaded walk but with a bit of road at the end. It could be muddy after rain and there are nettles at the side of the paths, so appropriate footwear and long trousers, rather than shorts, are advisable.

We have booked lunch for the group at the Queen's Head in Needingworth, about a fifteen-minute walk from the start point. If you want to have lunch there, please let Gina and Paul know on the email address below. We hope people will welcome the chance of a summer get together.

For those wanting a shorter route, the Old Ferry Inn in Holywell is the point at which the three-mile option returns to the start (the pub serves coffee!).

This walk is led by Gina and Paul Lane. For more details contact [ginaklane@aol.com](mailto:ginaklane@aol.com).

### 6 September

This walk skirts the National Trust Reserve at Wicken Fen cutting across to Wicken Lode, a channel probably dug by the Romans. The walk is approximately six miles long but if part of the group would prefer a shorter walk, a smaller circuit can be done of around three to four miles. The Fen is such a lovely opportunity to see what the landscape looked like before the fens were drained for farmland. This

walk will be led by Rachel Thomas and Elisabeth Kron.

Please meet at the Wicken Fen (CB7 5XP) carpark at 10am.

If you need a lift or would like to join our mailing list for future walks or if you no longer wish to receive members emails, please contact me at: [ann.jerram@gmail.com](mailto:ann.jerram@gmail.com). Note that all walks are at your own risk.



## Girton Musical Theatre

Rehearsals for our 2025 show (the Grand Duke by Gilbert & Sullivan), start on Thursday 5 September at 8pm in Orchard Close Community Centre, Girton. We rehearse every Thursday until New Year, after which we also rehearse on Fridays. The show dates are Thursday 27 February to Saturday 1 March.

If you are interested in joining us and would like to know more, please visit our website:

[www.girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk), find us on Facebook, email us at:

[info@girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:info@girtonmusicaltheatre.org.uk) or phone Helen on 01223 276940.



We last performed the Grand Duke in 2000, and are looking forward to a brand new production!

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## FOODTRUCK FRIDAYS

- 25<sup>th</sup> July - Girton, Sausage and Mash
- 8<sup>th</sup> August - Papas Locas Poutine
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August - Steak and Honour
- 12<sup>th</sup> Sept - Hitwrap
- All serving from approx 5:30pm - 8pm

More to follow.....

## CONTACT US NOW

Phone Golf Reception on 01223 276169

office@girtongolf.co.uk      www.girtongolf.co.uk  
Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QE



## Wild Girton

Hedgehogs are remarkable creatures. A single hedgehog can have between 5,000 and 7,000 spines, which are modified hairs that provide protection from predators. They're excellent gardeners' friends,



consuming vast quantities of slugs, beetles, caterpillars, and other garden pests. A single hedgehog can eat up to 200 grams of insects in one night.

These solitary animals hibernate through winter, emerging in spring to begin their breeding season. They're surprisingly good swimmers and can run faster than you might expect, reaching speeds of up to 4.5mph when motivated.

Like many of the creatures we highlight in this column, the hedgehog population across Britain has experienced a dramatic decline over recent decades. They have declined by 30-75% in rural areas, and the population in England is currently estimated at 1.1 million. This represents a significant drop from historical numbers, driven by habitat loss, urbanisation, and intensive farming practices.

However, there's a glimmer of hope in the areas around us. Hedgehogs are stabilising or improving in urban areas, suggesting that our towns and cities might hold the key to their recovery. Gardens, parks, and green spaces are becoming increasingly important refuges for these nocturnal mammals.

**How You Can Help** Every garden owner can make a difference. Create hedgehog-friendly spaces by leaving wild areas with log piles and leaf litter where they can shelter and find food. Avoid using pesticides and slug pellets, which can poison hedgehogs. Most importantly, check your garden boundaries – a small hole in your fence could be a lifeline for a hedgehog.

Consider building or buying a hedgehog house for your garden and always check areas before strimming or mowing.



Report your sightings! Thank you to all who

visited the LNRP's stall at the Girton Feast this year to tell us what you have seen in the village. Although not a scientifically rigorous survey, it still painted an

interesting picture of local biodiversity. It was concerning to note that hedgehog sightings are few and far between this year and are mainly limited to the Pepys Way neighbourhood only. It is possible that the success of badgers in the village has come at the expense of the already struggling hedgehogs.

**Protection on a larger scale** Many of the Cambridgeshire District Councils now ask developers to put measures in place to help hedgehogs when planning new building sites. East Cambs have gone further and developed a comprehensive Hedgehog Recovery Design Guidance document.

The guidance includes practical measures such as creating "Hedgehog Highways" so hedgehogs can roam freely from one garden to another by incorporating small holes in fences. These simple 13cm x 13cm gaps can make an enormous difference to hedgehog survival, as habitat fragmentation is one of the factors contributing to hedgehog declines.

The future of hedgehogs depends on all of us working together. From councils guiding biodiversity support in planning documents through to the actions we can take in our gardens, we can ensure these beloved creatures continue to shuffle through our landscapes for generations to come.

If you have seen hedgehogs in your neighbourhood or have a project running to support hedgehogs, please contact us at: [lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk)

*Girton Local Nature Recovery Plan Group*




## Bat Safari

Want to find out more about these elusive creatures? Join bat experts & the Local Nature Recovery Team for a tour of Girton from the church to Duck End

### Meet by the War Memorial, St Andrew's Church

Friday 22nd August from 8.15 pm - 9.30 pm  
(Sunset 8.06pm)

All welcome. Young children must be supervised  
Parents with children can leave at their discretion

### Try your hand at a bat detector

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By August many gardens are beginning to look a bit neglected and often overgrown. Gardening pots will soften corners, brighten dull spots and provide easily changeable displays at this time of year. Pots themselves come in a variety of materials, colours and shapes. They can add height and depth, create a layered look or manage specific soil needs. They are useful for seasonal planting changes and containing vigorous plants such as mint.



You can arrange multiple pots to create miniature gardens or themes within your garden. Strategically placed pots can draw attention to specific areas in the garden. Make use of vertical gardening by

mounting pots on walls or fences. Pots can be used to create small ponds which can provide shelter and habitat for wildlife. When no longer of use pots can be broken down for mulch or repurposed perhaps for bird feeders.

By August many older containers are packed solid with roots so need feeding, watering and deadheading. Remove any plants that are past their best and replace. Don't overfill with plants when potting up new ones. Good three plant combinations are *Osteospermum* 'Serenity Dark Purple', Hebe 'Heartbreaker' and a fern such as *Dryopteris affinis*.

Another combination that keeps coming back year after year is *Eryngium varifolium*, Achillea 'Moonshine' and *Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina'. Low watering plants such as Aeonium and Festuca grasses also offer attractive pot fillers. Choosing drought tolerant plants can create a striking display that requires the minimum of upkeep.



Throughout summer cut back spent plants such as astrantia, pulmonaria and hardy geraniums and remove any mildewed leaves to encourage new foliage. Removing seed pods will encourage plants to put their energy into producing more flowers into the autumn hopefully. Now is a good time to collect ripened seed pods from e.g. aquilegia, sweet peas and any runner beans.

As you stroll around the garden, deadhead your roses, dahlias and any summer perennials that still have buds to follow. Dahlias and gladioli will need staking. Once flowered, cut back lavender into a compact shape to prevent it becoming leggy. Lavender flowers on new wood so don't cut back too far. Use cut lavender flowers around the home tied in bunches or in a vase for its attractive aroma. Lavender can even be used in baking too. Lavender scones are delicious especially fresh from the oven.

Pelargoniums and petunias will need a bit of deadheading throughout the summer and regular watering but give bountiful colour in pots and hanging baskets. As you remove died out plants in the garden, fill the gaps with pots of lilies, dahlias or fuchsia. Prune and tie back rambling plants to encourage space for others. A grit mulch around your plants will keep down weeds. Treat all your plants to regular liquid feeding and watering.

Hedges and shrubs can become rather unruly over the summer, and now the birds have fledged it's a good time to prune. Before starting think about how you want your finished hedge or shrub to look. Work from the bottom up in a smooth, controlled motion and prune all sides, finishing with the top. Cut laurel hedges where possible with secateurs to avoid half cut leaves that can turn brown. When pruning larger and prickly shrubs/hedges, wear protective clothing such as an old coat and of course protect your hands with garden gloves. Looking ahead to plants for next year, take softwood cuttings e.g. rosemary and hyssop. Planting hardy annuals now in sunny spots will provide early colour for next year.

Our summers are getting unpredictable with less rain, so water wisely in dry spells to conserve water. Make use of small watering cans to concentrate the water on the plant rather than watering your weeds or paving areas. Keep water baths filled for our garden birds. This year more and more birds have used ours due to lack of rainfall. It has been lovely watching them. Finally check regularly for snails and slugs, especially on damp evenings, if we have any. Happy summer everyone.

*Chris Pittock, Girton Garden Society*

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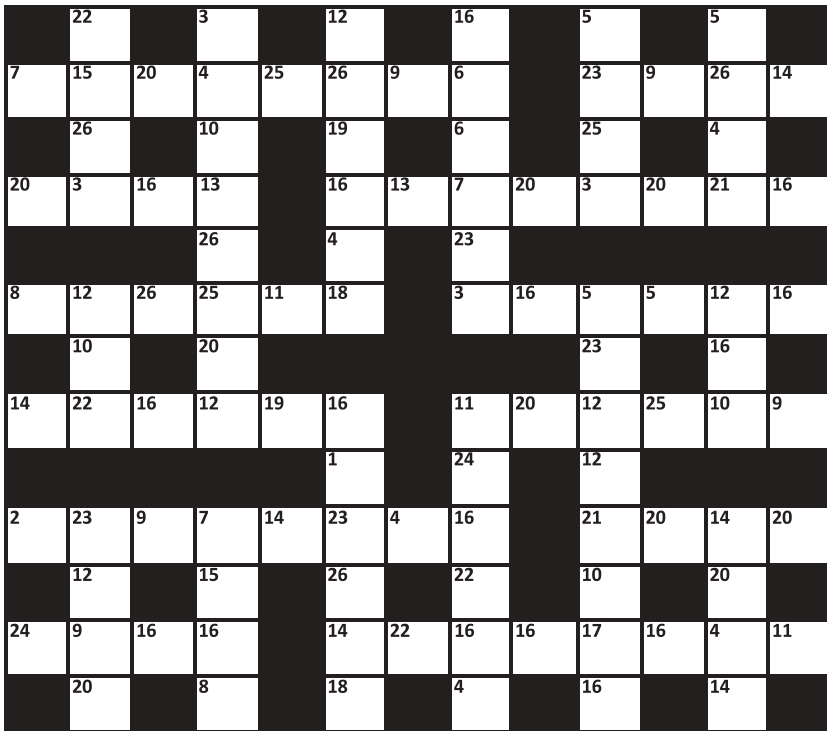
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CLUES	
A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5
F	6
G	7
H	8
I	9
J	10
K	11
L	12
M	13
N	14
O	15
P	16
Q	17
R	18
S	19
T	20
U	21
V	22
W	23
X	24
Y	25
Z	26

**CODEWORDS**

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

Answers are on page 34.

**WORDSEARCH – Your knee bone is connected to your thigh bone.... !**

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.

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

- |             |           |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| ANKLE       | GLANDS    | NOSE      |
| BODY        | GUT       | OVA       |
| CAP         | HAIR      | PANCREAS  |
| CHIN        | HAND      | RADIUS    |
| CIRCULATION | HEART     | RIBS      |
| COCCYX      | HEEL      | SKULL     |
| COLLAR      | HIP       | SOCKET    |
| DIGITS      | HUMERUS   | STERNUM   |
| EARS        | KNEE      | STOMACH   |
| EGGS        | LIGAMENTS | THUMB     |
| EYES        | LUMBER    | TOES      |
| FEMUR       | MUSCLE    | ULNA      |
| GIRDLE      | NECK      | VERTEBRAE |

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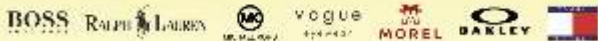
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# GIRTON FEAST 2025



## WHAT AN AMAZING WEEKEND!

Despite the heat, we had a record number of attendances at Girton Feast. Thank you Girton and all the surrounding communities for taking part in Girton Feast Weekend. The Girton Feast Team are delighted that so many people enjoyed the 'This is Queen' tribute band concert and the Village Fete.

We would like to thank all the local clubs and societies, our increasing number of volunteers, our sponsors, and supporters for taking part and making the weekend so successful.

We had 40 runners take part in the Fun Run. Congratulations to the winners: 1st place: Fiorllo Valente (who also won last year), 2nd place: Alfred Schroeder and 3rd place: Nico Beeson.

The Table Tennis tournament was well supported with 25 entrants. The winner of the adults' competition was Anthony Bailey and the winner of the under 15s was Dhruv Ghildyal age 11 yrs. Nas Hayat who organised the competition is delighted that Anthony has agreed to work with him to set up a Table Tennis club in Girton.

Ian Sollom our local MP visited the Fete and spoke to lots of residents and stallholders.

We are already planning it all again for next year. If you enjoyed the event and would be willing to give us an hour or two of your time next summer, please contact: [rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk](mailto:rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk).

See you next year!

*Girton Feast Team*





# GIRTON FEAST 2025





# GIRTON FEAST 2025





# GIRTON FEAST 2025





## Girton Glebe

### Year 6 Residential to France

Our Year 6 students had a fantastic time on their residential trip to France, packed full of exciting experiences and unforgettable memories.

They visited a chocolate factory and a traditional sweet shop, where they watched the owner make sweets and even had the chance to shape their own. A highlight for many was the bakery visit, where a scary but very funny baker helped the children to practise their French while making delicious croissants. They also spent time at a goat farm, where they got the chance to handle and feed the goats, taste freshly made goat's cheese and admire the many other animals living there.

The Battle of the Somme battlefields gave the children a fascinating glimpse into history, especially the huge crater created by a British explosion - so loud it was heard in the UK! They also visited Amiens Cathedral, the largest in France, and ended the trip at a French supermarket. The children were polite, supportive, and a real credit to the school throughout. What a fantastic trip filled with unforgettable experiences and special memories!



**Sports Day 2025** What a wonderful day we had for our annual Girton Glebe Sports Day! The sun



certainly made its presence known, with incredibly hot weather throughout the morning. Despite the heat, the children showed fantastic resilience, enthusiasm, and team spirit. From sprint races to javelin throwing, jumps to team relays,

it was brilliant to see every child taking part with determination and smiles on their faces. Staff made sure there were plenty of water breaks, and it was heartening to see children



looking out for one another, cheering each other on, and coping so well in the heat. The sporting action was followed by a relaxed picnic lunch, and, in the afternoon, the children enjoyed some well-deserved downtime.

Thank you to all the families who came along to support, to the staff for keeping the day running smoothly (and safely), and to our brilliant children for making it such a memorable occasion. We're already looking forward to next year — though perhaps with a little more cloud cover!

**Year 3/4 Girls' Football Glory** Our Year 3/4 girls' football team put in an outstanding performance at the recent South Cambs Football Tournament, held at Melbourn.



They won all six of their matches and, remarkably, did not concede a single goal throughout the entire tournament! This brilliant achievement is a real testament to the girls' teamwork, effort, and enthusiasm. Every player enjoyed equal game time, and it was especially heartening to see some pupils taking to the football pitch for the very first time - embracing the challenge, having fun, and giving it their all. A huge well done to every player involved. We are incredibly proud of you all!

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to Kickstart Active Life for their fantastic coaching and ongoing support - helping our students to stay active, build confidence and enjoy working as a team.

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# Jumble Sale

**Saturday 27th September**  
**Girton Glebe Hall**  
**10.30am - 12.30pm**

Cafe for tea, coffee and cake  
 Entry: £1 adults, children free

- Clothes & Shoes
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Raising funds for Girton Glebe Primary School  
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## Girton Cottontails Preschool

We've had some great activities and learning going on at preschool this summer term. We had a great visit to the art exhibition at St Andrews Church and we had a fun day at preschool with our soft toy dogs, looking after them at the play vets and making dog beds for them.

We've also been growing our own fruit and vegetables. We've had a little success with our raspberries, which the children enjoyed picking and eating for a snack. We had a great crop of potatoes. Our carrots, sadly did not work out, but it's all learning and we'll try again. We also have a few apples on our apple tree which is very exciting.

Through the term, the rising 5s have been having P.E. lessons, ending with a fun, but very hot, sports day. We also went on an outing to the Museum of Cambridge. We took the bus to town, had a tour around the museum, which was brilliant, and had a picnic lunch and a climb up Castle Hill.

The rainbows have been practicing their dressing skills with putting on shoes, coats and dressing up clothes, working on managing these things independently. They have also been working on moving and using their bodies in different ways, using the play equipment to climb, balance and crawl. The children all showed noticeable progress every week.

At Forest School, we have worked hard on our summer project. The children used tools including a saw and a hammer, and new this term, they also used a hot glue gun. They moulded clay, crafted and created, and all made these brilliant owls, pictured, twit-two!



We have some very exciting news to share that Girton Cottontails Preschool is expanding. In September, we will be opening our second setting, Oakington Cottontails Preschool. Both preschools in Girton and Oakington will be run by us, Laura and Emma, both of us sharing our time between the two sites. With the support of our excellent staff team, we are really looking forward to this expansion.

We are a community interest company, so non-profit making and we greatly appreciate any support you can give. Please take a look at our Amazon wish list: <https://shorturl.at/rqxFZ> and our [Go Fund Me page](https://shorturl.at/KNPT2): <https://shorturl.at/KNPT2>

We welcome children from the ages of two years and upwards. We accept government funding for two, three, and four-year-olds and we accept the government tax-free childcare scheme towards any fees. Please contact us if you would like to apply for a place.

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

*Laura Norman and Emma Pell*

*Girton Cottontails Preschool*

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**1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Scouting are hoping to open a new section!**

Squirrels is for children age 4-6

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Priority will be given to children with an adult who is keen to be a leader



Pupils doing their Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award at Gretton School are being celebrated for the amazing impact they have had on the local community.

They have spent weekends volunteering at Barnardo's Charity Shop in St Ives, offered tours of the school to prospective parents and learners, and supported staff during key events such as Pride celebrations and the Christmas Fair. Many have taken the initiative to run and promote lunchtime clubs for their peers, contribute to site-wide gardening and litter-picking projects, and act as mentors for younger KS2 learners during reading, PE, and art sessions. Beyond the school grounds, learners have



also volunteered at local stables and farms, and supported their wider community by offering dog walking and grass cutting services to neighbours.

David Watkins, KS4 Lead & Exams Officer at Gretton School, said: "Seeing so many learners embrace the Duke of Edinburgh award by coming out of their comfort zones, particularly the volunteering section, is so rewarding for staff from a perspective of seeing them thrive in a new environment that isn't the classroom. It isn't easy for our learners to begin with, but when they get going and feel the sense of collaboration, teamwork, increased confidence and sense of purpose, these lifelong skills contribute to their unique talents as they prepare for adulthood."

Ruth Marvel OBE, CEO of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, said: "We're absolutely delighted to see the impact that young people at Gretton School have made through their DofE volunteering. Volunteering is a great way for young people to build confidence, develop work-related skills and use their passions and talents to benefit others. It changes lives and communities for the better – that's why it's an

integral part of the DofE programme. We're so proud of all the young people at Gretton School who have dedicated their time and energy to helping others in their communities."



Every year, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) inspires hundreds of thousands of young people, from all walks of life, to explore who they are, grow in confidence and develop the skills they need to successfully navigate life. We help them build life-long belief in themselves, supporting them to take on their own challenges, follow their passions, and discover talents they never knew they had. The DofE is delivered in schools, colleges, community organisations, hospitals, prisons and more, all over the UK.

Find out more at [DofE.org](http://DofE.org).

### 2524 (Oakington) Squadron Air Cadets

is actively recruiting both cadets and volunteer staff. Our next open evening for new cadets is on the 23rd September 2025, and we are always seeking to recruit new staff.

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# GIRTON scoreboard



## Girton Bowls Club

In spite of the soaring temperatures, Girton bowlers have been playing even more bowls than usual with the league matches well under way, as well as the internal and external competitions. Some members are playing 9 matches a week!

In the Cambridge and District competitions, Girton are progressing well and have reached several quarter and semi-finals. They are also involved in two Ely and District League competitions, the Gordon Bridges Cup, where both Girton teams are through to the semi-finals and the Bill Bayes Trophy where the Girton ladies are through to the quarter finals. The Cambridge and District finals will be held this year on 13th September at Haddenham.

In the Business Houses League, Girton have a men's pair and a mixed pair through to the quarter finals and a ladies' pair through to the semi-finals.

We recently held our popular annual Open Triples Competition in which eighteen teams from Cambridge and beyond competed. We were blessed with beautiful weather marred only by the gusty wind which damaged three of the gazebos erected to provide shade for the spectators. In the semi-finals, Haddenham beat Coleridge, 8-3, Cambs and County beat Milton 14-0. In a close final, Cambs and County went on to win against Haddenham 6-3. The prizes were presented by Peasgood and Skeates, who very generously sponsored the event.

We were delighted to be part of the Girton Feast again this year with a tombola stall and a target bowls competition. In spite of the heat, both stalls once again proved very popular. Thank you to all our volunteers who manned the stalls all day and to our members for providing the prizes for the tombola. Thanks to the Girton businesses for all the target bowls prizes which they kindly donated.



Target bowls

On 13th July Girton played host to the area final of the men's Top Team bowls competition between Fordham and Buckden. The format was eleven players taking part in Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours.

In the Cambridge and District League Division 1, Girton are in 6th position out of eleven teams and in Division 4 they are in 2nd position out of eleven teams.

In the Ely and District Afternoon League, Girton Tigers are in 3rd position out of thirteen teams and Girton Pumas are in eighth position.

In the Cambridge County League, Girton are top of the League, 26.5 points ahead of their nearest rival.

If you are interested in finding out about joining Girton Bowls Club, please see our website [www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com) or contact our Secretary, Margaret McCall, at [margaret.mccall@nthworld.com](mailto:margaret.mccall@nthworld.com). We are always pleased to welcome new members.

*Lynn McGill*



## Girton Golf Club

A really busy June and July at Girton Golf Club with internal competitions, matches and a number of county competitions taking place. My apologies for no report last month – I was away on holiday at the crucial time.

We have a new Ladies Club Champion with Jessica Hollingworth, following on from County Team selection, storming to victory over 36 competitive holes.

The County Seniors Championship was held at our course and Girton had really good representation with Craig Russell, our Competitions Secretary, winning his age group and finishing second overall, and Doug Bottomley securing second place behind Craig in his age group. A really great result for the Girton Senior golfers.

Away from the course our Club Secretary Nicola Harding and Bar and Catering Manager Emma Shanks raised £1595 for the club charity, East Anglian Air Ambulance, by tackling the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge in truly horrendous weather. A great achievement!

Girton Golf Club's Scratch team, the best of our best, has won promotion to Division 1 of the County League after a series of great results against local clubs throughout this season, culminating in a 4-2 win over Gog Magog to confirm promotion. With one more match to go, a win or draw against Newmarket Links would mean we end the season as Champions. Watch this space!

The clubhouse refurbishment is complete, the course, whilst dry, is in stunning condition, and our catering is receiving huge plaudits from visitors and members, so all is moving in the right direction at GGC. Come down for a coffee and chat about membership options. Whether playing or social, become part of our friendly club and social hub.

Follow us on social media where frequent postings now happen to keep you up to date.

Alan Henderson-Smith  
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 www.girtongolf.co.uk



### Girton Tennis Club

Our 'Rocket Cup' competition has been running during July and there have been lots of exciting and very close matches. Thanks to everyone who has taken part in this friendly local competition. I should have the final result to publish by next month.

The tennis courts were open on Saturday 12th July in support of the Girton Feast. Thanks to several club members who helped run this Open Court session and for their help with many other Feast activities. It was really nice to see so many people enjoying the hot sunny weather and taking the opportunity to try out some tennis.

Victor encouraged those waiting to get on court to try a racket skill game which involved hitting a few balls into a small bucket – much harder than it sounds! This is shown in the picture. If you enjoyed this open session and would like to play some more tennis, do get in touch with our



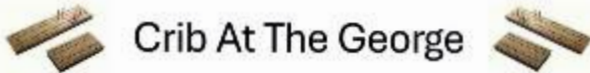
Target tennis

Membership Secretary (details below).

The tennis club has use of the recreation ground courts and members who 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 these club nights for one or two free sessions and check it all out. Junior members meet from 6.30pm on Friday evenings for a supervised hour.

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




## Crib At The George

Come join The George Crib Team, a friendly chatty group that play in the Tuesday League.

The team play every Tuesday. The season starts in September and ends in May. The team play at the George and away alternate weeks at opposing pub teams.



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## First Village Babysitting Course is a success



In March, Girton Town Charity announced its support for a new ten-week Babysitting Course to be organised by the Connexions Bus Project and open to Village residents aged 14-17 years. The first course has recently been completed and received very positive feedback from participants.

The sessions covered such topics as: what makes a good babysitter, the law and what we expect, building effective relationships and learning, listening and communication skills.

There was also guidance on what a baby needs, with practical advice on handling babies, changing their nappies (including gathering all the equipment beforehand), feeding them and putting them to bed, as well as toys and activities, accident prevention, creating a babysitting checklist to prepare and dealing with challenging situations



### First Aid essentials

An important element of the course was a two-hour Basic First Aid Training session, delivered by TJ Training, an external provider who tailored the content to include resuscitation techniques for babies, children and adults. It also covered choking, bleeding and other essential life-saving skills to equip participants with knowledge that will benefit them throughout their daily lives.



Ten young people took part in the first course and shared their feedback through a short survey. Most joined hoping to gain knowledge, experience and confidence in looking after children, with specific interests in First Aid, baby care and managing difficult situations. Their responses showed they learned a wide range of useful skills and many also developed a better understanding of safety, fairness and resilience.

### Learning valuable skills

Ellen Fisher, who ran the course said: The First Aid session stood out as the most enjoyable and memorable part of the course, along with activities like nappy changing, role-play scenarios and group discussions. When asked if they would recommend attending, the answer was a definite

yes they described it as fun, informative and confidence-boosting, with valuable skills for anyone interested in babysitting. Overall, the course was seen as both educational

and enjoyable, helping young people feel more prepared for real babysitting situations.

It was a pleasure to see all the young people gaining skills that will help them be fantastic babysitters, as well as better members of their communities, at their school and in wider society. They have also grown in confidence and responsibility and I am excited to hear where our course takes them!

### Coming Soon

GTC is also planning to support a Generation Game course in early 2026 to help young people work with older residents. More news soon!



**Jenny Knights: GTC Trustee from 1995 to 2019**

Jenny Knights, who has died suddenly at the age of 74, was a stalwart and valued Trustee of GTC for almost 25 years. GTC has much reason to be grateful for the part Jenny played in its development. During her time as Trustee, GTC grew from a small organisation with six outdated almshouses, and a very low income, to the major contributor to Girton life that it is today.

When Jenny joined the Charity, Trustees were considering how it might make better use of its assets. She thought she had been chosen to help design the fit-out for the Village Hall (especially choosing the curtains!), but was immediately plunged into controversy as the ideas for funding included the possibility of selling a part of the allotment land to finance new activities.

Fortunately, that crisis passed and Jenny was an active and thoughtful contributor to discussions on how to release the value of the land at Wellbrook Way and use those proceeds for exciting new directions. She was a strong advocate in Trustee meetings on behalf of those in the Village who applied for help, and was both an active promoter of the Educational Grants Scheme and a vocal supporter of the Charity's Youth Scheme. The reason for her appointment in 1995 bore fruit, nearly 25 years later, when Jenny had important input into the equipping of the William Collyn Community Centre, particularly the kitchen facilities.

Jenny was always modest about her contributions, but this was not justified. She brought a compassionate touch to her work for GTC and was full of ambition for the Charity and its work. It was a privilege to have Jenny as a colleague during these exciting times for GTC.

**Robin Hiley GTC Chairman 1995 to 2020**

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22 High Street, Girton,  
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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

**WILLIAM COLLYN**  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Monday**

9.30am - 12.30pm	Tumble Tots (school term time)
1.30 - 2.30pm	Kurling for over 55's
5.45 - 9.00pm	Relationship Counselling Cambs
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane mixed
7.30 - 9.30pm	Whole Notes Gospel Choir

**Tuesday**

9.15 - 11.00am	Yoga with Julia Dale
10.30 - 11.30am	Strength & Balance
11.15am - 12.15pm	Yoga with Jess
2.00 - 4.00pm	Tuesday Connections AgeUK (monthly)
1.00 - 4.00pm	Cinemas Club 55 (starts September)
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane mixed
7.30 - 10.30pm	Easton Swing

**Wednesday**

10.30am - 1.30pm	Falls Prevention Clinic
1.45 - 2.45pm	Pre-Ffit Strength & Conditioning
6.10 - 7.00pm	Bounce
7.30 - 10.00pm	The W.I. (1st in month)
7.30 - 10.00pm	Girton Garden Society (2nd in month)
7.30 - 9.30pm	Bookworms Book Club (4th in month)

**Thursday**

9.30 - 10.30am	Pilates with Wendy Jane intermediate
11.00am - 12.00noon	Pilates with Wendy Jane beginners
2.00 - 3.30pm	Silver Swans ballet mixed
5.45 - 6.45pm	Pilates with Jax Eades
7.15 - 8.00pm	Ballroom Dance Class
8.15 - 9.00pm	Ballroom Dance Class

**Friday**

10.00 - 11.00am	Crumb & Bass (under 5 years)
7.30 - 10.30pm	Easton Swing (3rd in month)

**Saturday**

9.00 - 10.00am	Bounce
10.30am - 1.00pm	Cambridge Jazz Co-op
2.00 - 4.00pm	Farmers Market (September 2nd Sat)

**Sunday**

9.00 - 11.00am	Football Fun Factory (18mths - 5yrs)
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Information correct at time of going to press.

**William Collyn Community Centre**

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)



William Collyn  
Community Centre



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

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## News for Older Residents



### Tuesday Connections

My apologies for publishing the wrong date for our July get-together. Tuesday Connections is on the second Tuesday of the month whatever copy I send to this wonderful magazine! On Tuesday 12 August come along to the William Collyn Community Centre for a drink and a chat and optional random activities from 2pm to 3pm. If the weather is hot, I will understand if people choose to stay at home. Having said that, I am aware of those who want to be out and about more. Taking the first step can often be hard to do, as can entering a new and unfamiliar situation. Consider coming on 12 August to this smaller informal group. Alternatively, on a Monday go to the Abbeyfield Restaurant where people meet alongside the Club 55 Computer Group. This is every Monday morning (not 25 Aug) between 10am and 12.

The TC dates for the next few months are 9 September; 14 October; 11 November and 9 December. September 9 will be the chance to learn about woven tapestry art with Matty Smith, more details in the next Parish News.

**Exercise Classes** - "Exercise is as important as taking medication." Lorraine is back taking the Wednesday afternoon Pre fFit class. She will be on holiday for one week in August. Fred is taking time off in August, but the Tuesday morning Strength and Balance class will be back to normal in September.

**Singing for Breathing** – another form of exercise. This is a fun activity for anyone with a respiratory condition and no singing experience is necessary. The sessions will restart in September on Mondays from 11am to 12.30pm in Brown's Field Community Centre in Cambridge. On Tuesdays at 2pm there will be a session on Zoom. The charge is £6, or whatever you can pay. For further information and to book your place email: [singforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com](mailto:singforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com). (Let me know if you are interested but do not use email.) I first met Kay, who lives in Girton, when she was leading this group.

**Hope Again** The Autumn bereavement peer group course starts on Thursday 25 September and runs to 30 October from 2 to 4pm in the Methodist Church Hall in Histon. For more information and to register phone 07707 263353 or email: [HABG1@icloud.com](mailto:HABG1@icloud.com). Peter, who organises the group, is always pleased when Girton residents take part.

*Patricia Johnston*  
Older Residents' Coordinator  
Tel: 07469 660 866



Club 55 members would like to send their congratulations to the organisers of this year's Girton Feast. There were many of us out enjoying the atmosphere, clapping our hands, and dancing to the Queen tribute band on Friday as well as enjoying all the events on Saturday.

On Monday 14 July members enjoyed another card making session with Chris, whilst computer and phone support was being given to other members.

The computer support group will still meet at Abbeyfield during August, although not on August Bank Holiday. If you are bringing along your phones, iPad or laptops please remember to either fully charge them before you come or bring your charger with you. Please note that you can just call in for a coffee and find out what it's all about.



On Tuesday 23 September, Club 55 and the William Collyn Community Centre (WCCC), are hosting a film event with refreshments available, arrival at 1pm. The film we are showing is *The Quartet*. It is based on a stage play and is a wickedly comedic film about redefining old age and growing old with hope. It is one of those films that even if you have seen it once you want to see it again for the quality of the acting, the music excerpts, and comedic lines.

Cast members include Maggie Smith, Tom Courtney, Billy Connelly, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon. Dustin Hoffman directs it. Lifelong friends Wilf and Reggie, together with former colleague Cissy, are residents of Beecham House, a home for retired opera singers. Every year on Giuseppe Verdi's birthday, the residents unite to give a concert to raise funds for their home. As old grudges threaten to undermine past glories and theatrical temperaments play havoc with the rehearsal schedule, it becomes apparent that having four of the finest singers in English operatic history under one roof offers no guarantee that the show will go on.

Please come along and support this event, we hope it can become part of a regular joint venture. The cost is £5, plus a small voluntary contribution towards the refreshments would be appreciated. More information will be given in the WCCC section of the magazine, and I will email those of you whom I have email addresses for. New members are always welcome. To help with catering and ensuring we have put out enough seats please contact me on the details below or respond to my email when you receive it. Bring along another family member or friend if you wish.

[patdickensclub55@gmail.com](mailto:patdickensclub55@gmail.com)  
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## Girton WI

On Wednesday 2 July, Andy Malcolm came to speak to our members and guests on “The Fishermen’s Mission”. His opening words were: “Hello,

and what a lovely evening it is!” He continued in this jolly vein during his talk and sang us a couple of sea shanties...more of that later. Andy told us that he loves his work, raising awareness and raising funds for this very worthwhile charity. Being at sea is viewed as one of the most dangerous occupations there is in the UK with some fishermen paying the ultimate price.

The Fishermen’s Mission Charity was set up in 1881 by Ebenezer Mather. He had been affected by watching 189 fishermen die close to the shore at Eyemouth; wives and children were also in attendance. The principle aim of the charity is to support active and former fishermen working on UK fishing vessels, also helping migrant fishermen working on UK vessels. They provide a 24-hour emergency response to any boat working in UK waters, assisting with injury, illness, or loss at sea. Their purpose is to provide practical and emotional support around the whole UK coastline by making a positive difference to people’s lives.

Health and wellbeing also plays a large part in what they do...they run a Seafit programme (in partnership with the Seafarers Hospital Society), which holds events around the coast. These events can offer dentistry, health check-ups, sight tests and physiotherapy all on the quayside. Andy explained that it is extremely difficult for fishermen to make and keep health and dentist appointments because they are nearly always at sea! So, these important check-ups get missed.

The Mission is also there to help widows and their children who are struggling after the loss of their loved one and breadwinner. They provide educational costs (trips, uniforms, laptops, and transport costs). Their staff are trained to offer a listening ear and support when life is a struggle after bereavement in the form of practical, financial, or pastoral. Families know they can turn to the Mission for help, which means a great deal to them. Andy told us a couple of sad tales of trawlers sinking and fishermen lost. Also, of a retired fisherman who lived in Hull, in what he described as a very gloomy home. An offer of help in the form of a new home was given to the retired fisherman, who gratefully accepted, but unfortunately before all could be put in place for him, he passed away. An extremely hard

life was portrayed with many challenges; what these courageous people do for catching the fish that land on our table; it certainly got us all thinking.

Enough of the hard stuff – I said earlier that Sea Shanties featured in this talk. Andy, who we thought had a very good singing voice, sang two Sea Shanties to us “Men of the Sea” and “Rolling Home”, the lyric of this one goes like this – *Call all hands to man the capstan, see the cable run down clear, heave away and with a will boys, for old England we will steer, and we’ll sing in joyful chorus, through the watches of the night, etc*

and we, the audience, were encouraged to sing the chorus which went – *Rolling home, rolling home, rolling home across the sea, rolling home to dear old England, rolling home dear land to thee, etc.*

At the end of the talk question time followed, and goodies bought. We thanked Andy very much for his interesting and informative talk and jolly good singing.

*Merilyn Burt*

## Early Birds WI

In July, we had Amanda Sutherland come in and give us a talk called “Make do and Mend.” Amanda did BTEC and HND in fashion design at the London College of Fashion and has been Head buyer at London's Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Amanda gave us a talk on how to give your tired clothes a new look. A poncho made into a skirt; a corsage made of a man's tie and a jacket used for a wedding. The jacket had a man's shirt attached with cuffs and sleeves and a band to attach the jacket to the shirt. The pockets of the jacket were turned into a handbag, the strap was made from a man's tie, and the bag lined with a shirt. It was certainly an eye opener and made you think what you can do with your own clothes before rushing to your local charity shop.

*Gillian Taylor*

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## **Paddle or Swim**

August arrives with a confection of delights. Schools are out for the summer break, the chaps in white play cricket on the green and punts float gently down the Cam. There are village feasts and fairs, ripe strawberries and cream, ice cold drinks under the shade of a tree. Overhead, the skylarks wing upwards in song, glorious sunsets paint the evening skies and the heady fragrance of roses in full bloom graces the senses. It is a brief interlude of peace and normality in a troubled world.

Before the era of package holidays, August was the time when three generations of families would pack up and join the exodus to favourite seaside venues. Reunited with friends they could reminisce on childhood memories of picnics on the beach, building sandcastles and collecting shells or exploring rock pools stocked with marine treasures. Lapping waves invited everyone to venture into its cool vibrancy, but to be alert always to its shifting power.

When the Children of Israel encountered the Red Sea, it was with a sense of fear and a strong test of faith in God. Behind them, the chariots of Egypt were in hot pursuit and the prospect of a return to the captivity from which they had escaped must have burned in hearts and minds. They had to exercise total trust in the protection and provision of God who was their only hope of salvation. Against all the odds, Moses followed divine instructions, raised his staff over the depth of water, and watched in wonderment as the waves rolled back to form towering walls of water on both sides of a pathway of dry land.

Would they take the route to safety? Would they step beyond the shores and totally trust in the mercy of God to deliver them safely to a place of freedom and prosperity? How did they comprehend the miracle that had been worked on their behalf and how could they adequately compose a song of thanksgiving? Exodus ch.15.

In our own times and circumstances, we too may come upon seemingly insurmountable problems and failing resources. But God's pathways are trustworthy and devised on his wise counsel and foreknowledge.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." Psalm 32 v 8.

"The Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him." Psalm 32 v 10.

"There is never a life so darkened,  
So hopeless and unblest  
But may be filled with the light of God  
And enter His promised rest." *Anon*

There remains an important question. How far and how deep will our trust take us as we step out in faith and vision? "Faith gives substance to what we hope for and certainty of what we do not see." Heb 11 v 1. Will we stay in the shallows, paddling along the shore, or will we go deeper where steps are shaky perhaps but strengthening in confidence? Then will we have the spiritual courage to plunge into the swirling foam and give ourselves to the ebb and flow, feeling the exhilaration of swimming in an ocean of possibilities, miracles, and revelations?

As the hymn of assurance says:

"Have faith in God my heart  
Trust and be unafraid  
God will fulfil in every part  
Each promise He has made."

Enjoy the sunshine!

*Iris Niven*



## **St Andrew's Church**

*Thank you, Father, for the rhythm of rest and Sabbath at the heart of creation. Bless those who are on holiday now; may they be refreshed and re-created, and come home with new vision, energy, and contentment.*

*[Angela Ashwin]*



## St Andrew's Church

### Rector: Revd Michael Bigg

Tel: 202145 Email: [rector@girton.church](mailto:rector@girton.church)  
Website: [www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church)

### Associate Priests:

#### Revd Christine Barrow

Tel: 575089 Email: [mcbarrow@me.com](mailto:mcbarrow@me.com)

#### Revd Marie Lucchetta-Redmond

Tel: 07841 665832 Email: [marie@girton.church](mailto:marie@girton.church)

### Curate: Revd Kevin Parks

Tel: 07961 916021 Email: [curate@girton.church](mailto:curate@girton.church)

### Licensed Lay Ministers: Email: [llm@girton.church](mailto:llm@girton.church)

Mr Dugald Wilson, Tel: 01223 276940

Mrs Christina Deacon, Tel: 01223 525337

### Children and Families Minister: Dr Eona Bell

Tel: 07305 201419 Email: [cfm@girton.church](mailto:cfm@girton.church)

### Churchwarden: Email: [wardens@girton.church](mailto:wardens@girton.church)

### Sunday Services: August

3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00am Holy Communion (+ activities for children)

7:00pm Contemplative/Reflective Service

10<sup>th</sup> 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am All-age Communion

6:00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

17<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Holy Communion

6:00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

24<sup>th</sup> 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Morning Prayer

31<sup>st</sup> 10:00am No service in Girton

10:30am Joint Holy Communion at Madingley (+ activities for children)

7:00pm Contemplative/Reflective Service

7<sup>th</sup> Sept 10:00am Holy Communion (+ activities for children)

7:00pm Contemplative/Reflective Service

### Regular weekday Services: August

Tues 9am Morning Prayer (said)

Weds 9am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)

Thurs 9am Morning Prayer (said) (Online)

### Other Services

13<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Abbeyfield, Ecumenical Holy Communion

19<sup>th</sup> 2.15pm Arlington Manor Ecumenical Holy Communion

28<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

To celebrate the end of our sermon series on the parables of Jesus, the morning service on 31 August will be at Madingley at 10:30am.

For information about all these events please see the church website. You are welcome to join us for Sunday morning worship in person or remotely at <http://bit.ly/GirtonParishLive>. Please check the church website for up-to-date information ([www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church))

## Girton Baptist Church



### Minister: Revd Nick Lowe

Church Tel: 07483 334860

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

### August Services at Girton Baptist Church

3<sup>rd</sup> Morning Service with Communion, at 10.30am

10<sup>th</sup> Open service, followed by a shared lunch, at 10.30am

17<sup>th</sup> Morning Service with Communion, at 10.30am

24<sup>th</sup> Morning Service, at 10.30am

31<sup>st</sup> Morning Service, at 10.30am

### Other events

**Coffee morning:** Would you like a chat and a coffee on a Thursday morning? Why not try our friendly and buzzing coffee morning at Girton Baptist Church, from 10am?

**Invitation to Prayer:** Every Friday, 7.30pm, at the church.

All are welcome to the services and events.

For further details about any of the above, including the online Zoom link for any of the services, please ring 07483 334860 or email:

[secretary@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk)

### A Short Summer Devotion

As summer unfolds, many of us find space to step back from the usual pace of work and responsibilities. It's a time when holidays are taken, timetables eased, and even our church calendar reflects this, with fewer activities this month. Jesus valued rhythms of rest too.

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So, they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. (Mark 6:31-32)

No, we may not be able to quite picture Jesus lying on the beach or setting up camp under the Galilean stars. But we do see that he made space to rest, for himself and his disciples. If rest was necessary for him, how much more vital is it for us?

This rhythm of work and renewal is built into our lives, and even into the fabric of creation. So, as summer, and our culture, invites us to take some rest, may it also draw us toward a renewed spiritual refreshment and clarity.

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

**Chair**

Stuart Marshall, [stuart.marshall@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.marshall@girton-pc.gov.uk)

**Vice-Chair**

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

**Councillors**

Archie Bajpai, [archie.bajpai@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:archie.bajpai@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Victoria Brown, [victoria.brown@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.brown@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 George Crawley, [george.crawley@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:george.crawley@girton-pc.gov.uk)  
 Nas Hayat, [nas.hayat@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nas.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)  
 Ann Muston, [ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk)

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

**District Councillors**

Corinne Garvie, Tel: 07780 932267  
[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 and Finance Officer**

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

**Facilities Manager**

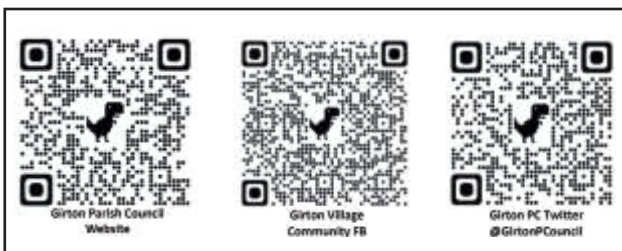
Angie Vidler, Tel: 01223 618619  
[admin@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@girton-pc.gov.uk)

**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 CB3 0FH

**You can also use these QR codes to contact us:**



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To book an appointment  
Call: 01223 792226 / Email: [counselling@rc-qa.org.uk](mailto:counselling@rc-qa.org.uk)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE OF OUR WEBSITE

**Mobile Post Office**

Opens every Friday 1.30-2.30pm in the car park in Orchard Close behind Girton Village Day Nursery.

**Mobile Library**

**Thursday 28 August**

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

**Bin Collections**

Thursday 7 August	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 14 August	Black bin
Thursday 21 August	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 28 August	Black bin
Thursday 4 September	Blue and Green bins

*puzzle*  
**corner**

Solution to this month's Codeword on page 15.

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



# Girton Social Club

48 Cambridge Road, Girton CB3 0PJ

girtonsocialclub@gmail.com Tel 01223 276890



**A members club run by the members for the benefit of the members.**

Girton Social Club operates as a not-for-profit organisation. All bar staff, cleaners and maintenance personnel are volunteers. We have an elected committee and all policy decisions reflect the wishes of the members. New members are always welcome so why not come along and be part of our growing community?

## EVENTS THIS AUGUST



**Saturday 2nd**

**KARAOKE**

8pm

New singers welcome.



**Saturday 9th**

**DAZ KING SINGS**

**ELVIS**

8.00pm



**Saturday 16th**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

8.30pm

£2.00 per player.  
Cash prize.



**Saturday 23rd**

**DISCO**

8.00pm



**Saturday 30th**

**RACE NIGHT**

8.00pm

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.** New £10 Senior £3.50 Education full/part time £3.50 Serving armed forces £1

## Agewell Osteopathy Clinic

“Keeping you as active and strong as possible”



28 Woodlands Park, Girton.

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

Email: [Clinic@agewellosteopathy.com](mailto:Clinic@agewellosteopathy.com)

Mobile: 07746 173007

Matthew Courtney-Jones: qualified in 1996. Girton resident since 2000

Helping with joint and muscle pain, strength and mobility

Consultation by appointment only.

# Swap chit chat for chiffchaffs.

A busy social life is all well and good, but sometimes it's nice to have a moment's peace and quiet.

We offer rooms with a garden terrace, so you can take a break from the hubbub and listen to what the birds have to say instead.



Every moment.



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