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Parish News

November 2025

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

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

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

Advertisements

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

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

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Puzzle Corner Sian Franklin

Webmaster Andrew Haylett,

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

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GIRTON 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

Contents

Pages 5–7	Council and Councillor's Reports
Pages 9–10	Forthcoming Events
Page 11	Girton Glebe and Cottontails
Page 13	Gretton School and Girlguiding
Page 15	Gardening
Pages 17–19	Girton Precept Survey
Page 21	WI
Page 23	Girton Scoreboard
Pages 24–25	Girton Town Charity
Page 27	Puzzle Corner
Page 29	Club 55
Page 30	Listening Lantern and Walking Group
Page 31	News for Older residents
Pages 32–33	Our Churches

Copy date for December 2025 issue: Wed 19 November. Issue date: Sat 6 Dec. Covers 6 Dec – 10 Jan.



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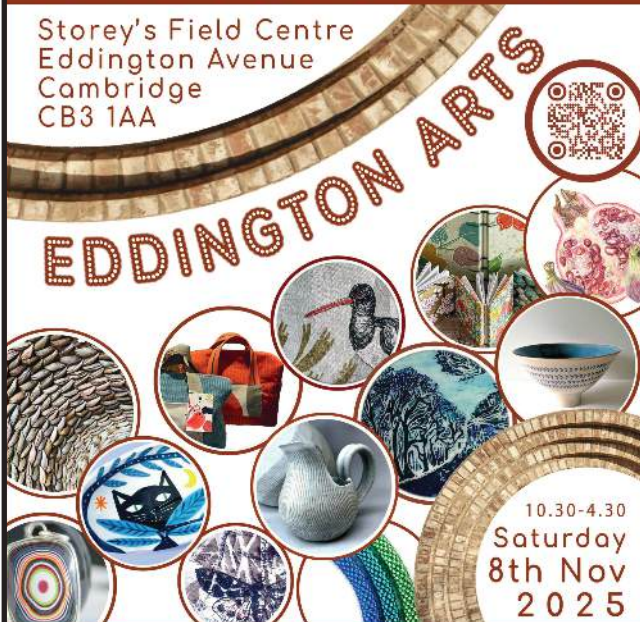
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Girton Parish Council



As Girton Parish Council enters the final quarter of 2025, the message from Chair Stuart Marshall is clear: “Life, like council business, is rarely tidy or predictable” but through communication, coordination, and cooperation, the council continues to navigate complexity with purpose and optimism.

Council welcomes two new councillors

Welcome to Martin Dickson and Con Tasioulas who were co-opted to council at the Full Council meeting on 1 October.

Governance maturity and financial resilience

Councillor Ann Muston’s finance and HR reports confirm that Girton Parish Council is in a strong financial position. The second tranche of the precept has arrived, and budget planning for 2025/26 is well underway. The council is aligning financial decisions with strategic priorities and community needs, supported by insights from the Annual Precept Survey—now in its third year.

The Clerk’s October report highlights proactive responses to external audit feedback, including improvements to risk management and digital compliance. Investments in a new website and partnerships with Breakthrough Communications and WorkNest are helping Girton meet the requirements of Assertion 10 under the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

Valuing Our People

The council unanimously approved increasing the Clerk’s contracted hours from 30 to 37 per week, with back pay for the past three months. As Cllr Muston noted, “Investing in staff is not a luxury—it’s a cost-effective strategy that mitigates key person risk and ensures continuity.” The HR report emphasises the need for fair remuneration, training, and capacity-building to meet the demands of a changing local government landscape.

Community Engagement: Precept Survey 2026/2027

The Council has launched its third Annual Precept Survey, which you can complete by turning to the centre pages of this month’s GPN, aligning with the first 10 phases of Girton’s Great Plan, which include consideration of:

- Pavilion refurbishment and café space
- Inclusive playground and MUGA upgrades
- Active Travel routes and biodiversity enhancements
- Cricket facilities and community hub development

The survey asks for residents’ support in shaping budget priorities and to begin to prepare Girton for governance maturity under the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). It will be also be promoted via social media and the council’s website.

Planning and progress: Groundsman compound

The Council approved multiple quotes to support the planning application for the groundsman compound, including:

- Sustainability Statement
- Tree Survey
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Drainage Strategy
- Planning Application Fee

These reports are essential to meet planning requirements and demonstrate environmental responsibility.

Community Access to Workshop Space

A proposal to include community access to the workshop within the Groundsman Compound was approved. This space could host a tool library, pop-up events, or a volunteer base, aligning with the Council’s mission to build a thriving, inclusive hub for wellbeing, connection, and opportunity.

Benefits include:

- Operational support for Parish staff and volunteers
- Flexible use for events and enterprise
- Enhanced visibility of Parish operations
- Nature-based workshops and collaboration with other parishes
- Designated zones to balance operational and community use

Active travel and highways update

Cllr Dan Carney’s highways and active travel report highlighted progress on several fronts:

- A meeting with the Girton Corner crossing scheme project manager to discuss re-siting the Girton village sign near Eddington Avenue, improving visibility and inclusiveness
- Advocacy for the Girton to Histon & Impington Active Travel link, with representation at the HIPC Highways Committee
- Completion of long-overdue footway slurring on High Street, though communication with the county council remains an area for improvement

Neighbourhood collaboration and regional engagement

Cllr Marshall and Cllr Carney attended meetings at Histon & Impington Parish Council to explore joint projects, including Active Travel routes and the monitoring of the fencing along the Guided Busway. These efforts reflect a growing commitment to regional collaboration and inclusive infrastructure.

Girton Wildlife Festival

The council attended the Girton Wildlife Festival on 12 October. Hosted by the Local Nature Recovery Group, there are lots of opportunities for working together on Nature & Biodiversity initiatives in our village and across parishes.

Looking ahead

The council will have a stall at the George Seasonal Fair on 14-15 November.

ScribeFest

The council attended ScribeFest which highlighted the importance of planning for devolution and local government reorganisation. One of the key quotes of ScribeFest noted the importance of proactivity by all Parish Councils in this process as below:

“We cannot be mere consumers of good governance; we must be participants; we must be co-creators.”
— Rohini Nilekani (Indian writer & philanthropist)

Look out for more information on this next month.



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From Our Councillors

County Councillor's Report

Urgent need to improve support for children with educational special needs and disabilities (SEND)

There is a national crisis for children with SEND and their families and sadly we are no exception here in Cambridgeshire – and many families in Girton will be only too familiar with the problems. The council had an inspection earlier in the year from Ofsted and CQC and received the following result:

The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.

The council has just over two years to make the improvements when it will be inspected again. There is an urgency to address a number of areas. One is in improving the quality and timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), and ensuring good quality annual reviews. Like many other councils, Cambridgeshire is experiencing significant increased demand for supporting children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

Currently, over 8,000 children and young people in the county have EHCPs, compared to 4,667 in 2019. The sharp increase in need gives some insight into the practical issues of responding to the demand.

Extra investment is needed to enable us to improve our support for children as quickly as possible, delivering better outcomes for their education, health and care. So far in the last year the council has made specific investments totalling £1.5m in improving its service to SEND children and their families, and this week agreed to endorse a further investment of £780k to support EHC Plans that can be turned around more quickly. But what is really needed to enable councils to meet the needs of children and young people is strong, clear Government action, backed with funding. The Government has promised a White Paper which transforms SEND and addresses a system which is not working for children, families or schools. It is due this autumn. It had better be good!

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

The Government has announced there will be funding for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme for the next three financial years (from 2026/27) with funding levels broadly the same as previous years.

The HAF programme is well-established in Cambridgeshire and provides enriching activities and nutritious meals supporting health, wellbeing and learning readiness as well as supporting parents and carers during the Easter, Summer, and Christmas holidays.

The multi-year commitment to funding is particularly welcome. In the past we have kept the programme going by plugging funding gaps as funding announcements have been stop/start or announced very late.

Meet your District and County Councillors! We will aim to be at the Turtle Doves Pop up Café in Cotton Hall on Fridays 11.30-12.30 - if there are issues you are concerned with; we will do our best to help. And please do also feel free get in touch with me directly on:

edna.murphy@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Edna Murphy, County Councillor for Bar Hill Division

Do you want to join a community orchestra?

Eddington Community Orchestra (ECO) invites new members. This term they are working towards a selection of pieces from the Nutcracker with a concert scheduled for December 13 at the Storey's Field Centre in Eddington.

Formed in the autumn of 2024 with 20 musicians aged 8 to 74, ECO practises most Sundays during term time from 3-4.30 pm under the direction of Laurie Friday. Membership is free, and no audition is needed. Free parking is available at the local park and ride. It's a very relaxed and flexible group, so check if you have any special needs or questions.

Come and join! Email *eddingtonorchestra@gmail.com*.



Puzzle solution (see page 27)

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

District Councillors' Report

Consultation on proposed changes to Council Tax support

Each year SCDC considers whether it should change the Council Tax Support scheme for working age applicants in the district. The council has put together a number of proposals on which it would welcome the input of residents, and a public consultation has just been launched to do this. The changes (which would come into effect from 1 April 2026) aim to streamline administration, improve efficiency and align with other local authorities to prepare for future changes to local government. In brief, the proposed changes are to:

- Change the levels of discount available and change the income levels used to determine the level of support awarded to simplify the scheme.
- Extend the period for which an application for support can be backdated.
- Make changes to the level of non-dependant deductions.
- Align the amounts allowed in relation to both Carer's Premium and Disability Premium.
- Use the Universal Credit award notification received from the Department for Work and Pensions as both application and award date for Council Tax Support. A fuller explanation and link to the consultation can be found here: <https://shorturl.at/vxIas>
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-the-local-council-tax-support-scheme>

A finalised scheme based on the outcomes of the consultation will be presented to a Full Council meeting in February – when Councillors will decide whether to adopt it.

Consultation on the District Council's Corporate Plan

The District Council has begun a six-week public consultation, inviting residents to share their views on its proposed plans for 2026/27.

The consultation is based on the Council's Corporate Plan 2025-2030, which was agreed earlier this year (2025) and sets out a long-term vision for a fairer, kinder, and greener South Cambridgeshire. It focuses on five key priority areas:

- Healthy and supported communities - Supporting and engaging with our communities is key to tackling the challenges we face as a district. Our diversity is our strength and helping everyone live freely and independently is essential to promoting healthy and supported communities.
- Sustainable homes and vibrant places - A home is more than a roof over your head; it is the foundation on which people build their lives. An affordable home is essential for people to live happy, fulfilling lives. Considering the housing crisis, we are committed to strengthening our communities by delivering sustainable, affordable homes and vibrant places to live.

- Being green to our core - Being green is at the heart of everything we do. We're tackling the climate and ecological crises head-on, ensuring our district is ready for the challenges of climate change.
- Helping businesses to thrive - Already recognised as a nationally significant area for development, helping local businesses thrive is key to the development of our district - bringing new jobs and opportunities into people's communities.
- Financially secure and fit for the future - We have a duty to provide high quality cost-efficient services. Being open, transparent, and inclusive and letting evidence guide our decisions is critical to putting residents first.

The Council is now asking for comments on how these priorities should be delivered in the year ahead, through its annual Corporate Action Plan.

Every year, the Council sets a budget and a Corporate Action Plan which details how progress towards its key aspirations will be achieved. The consultation on these topics will help local communities to have a say in the Council's upcoming priorities.

- The consultation will run until the end of the day on Sunday 16 November and responses will help inform the final action plan for 2026/27.
- To find out more and take part, visit: <https://shorturl.at/Rkx3j> or www.scams.gov.uk/consultations

Six Free trees

South Cambridgeshire District Council is again inviting parish councils to take part in its popular Six Free Trees scheme, which has already helped plant 758 trees in communities since its launch.

The initiative offers each parish or town council the opportunity to claim either six small trees (whips) or one large pot-grown tree, with a choice of native species.

Generally, free trees given out as part of the scheme can be planted on parish land or school grounds, and schools interested in participating are encouraged to contact their parish council to apply on their behalf.

The District Council will also consider providing free trees for other publicly accessible locations that are not on parish or school land. This is subject to permission from the landowner and the District Council's approval. If you know of a good site for a tree, contact the Parish Clerk.

District Councillors:

*Cllr Corinne Garvie 07780 932267,
cllr.garvie@scams.gov.uk
Cllr Richard Stobart 07950 934793,
cllr.stobart@scams.gov.uk*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



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.



If interested, please contact Patsy Smith at:
- 07503 282199
- patsysmith27@gmail.com



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Free carousel rides at FOGG Christmas Fair

Girton Feast is providing free carousel rides to children at the FOGG Christmas Fair on Saturday 6 December from 2-6pm, as a thank you to Girton Glebe school for supporting Girton Feast.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MUSIC AT GIRTON COLLEGE – NOVEMBER 2025

Chamber Music for Voice, Violin and Piano

Sunday 2 November, at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm), Stanley Library, Girton College. Greg Burford (baritone); Freya Sutaria (violin); Rufus Jasko, Oscar Gardner and Morvern Scrivener (piano)

Programme to include Elgar's *Une voix dans le désert*, Haydn's F minor Variations, Hob. XVII:6, and works by Debussy, Brahms, Rachmaninov and Franck.

Admission free; retiring collection. To be followed by afternoon tea in Old Hall for regular supporters of Girton College's Sunday afternoon concert series; those wishing to attend the tea are asked to register at one of the October concerts.

Girton Jazz presents Polly Gibbons and Band

Friday 7 November, at 7.30 pm (until 9.45 pm), Old Hall, Girton College.

Girton Jazz is proud to present UK jazz and soul vocal star Polly Gibbons, for a concert of classic and original material with her long-time collaborators James Pearson (piano), Loz Garrett (bass), and Saleem Raman (drums). "Gibbons has got such a gorgeous sound, range and swinging sense of time that she could probably set the house on fire with nothing more than a book of nursery rhymes." (BBC Music Magazine). Tickets from: www.girton.cam.ac.uk/girton-jazz

Girton students: £5; Girton Fellows and staff: £15; Cambridge University students: £10; general public: £20

A Concert for Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 9 November, at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm), Chapel, Girton College. Margaret Faultless and Rachel Stroud (violins); Andrew Skidmore (cello); Martin Ennis (harpichord and organ). A programme of elegiac music by J. S. Bach, Purcell, Muffat and Lombardini performed on period instruments. Admission free; retiring collection.

Schubert's *Winterreise*

Sunday 16 November, at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm), Stanley Library, Girton College.

Lydia Baldwin, Olivia Napier (sopranos); Poppy Dawid (mezzo-soprano); Archie Glover, Greg Burford (baritones); George Akka (bass); Morvern Scrivener (piano). Schubert's *Winterreise* is one of his most emotionally charged works – a journey of desolation, longing and inner turmoil; traditionally performed by one male singer, this interpretation reimagines the protagonist's voice across a range of registers, offering a more inclusive exploration of the work's psychological depth. Admission free; retiring collection.

Oscar at 100! Oscar Peterson meets the saxes, Part II

Wednesday 19 November, at 7.30 pm (until 9.45 pm), Old Hall, Girton College.

Cambridge International Jazz Festival presents The Tim Boniface/James Pearson Quartet. Tim Boniface (saxophones); James Pearson (piano); Jeremy Brown (bass); and Steve Brown (drums).

To mark the centenary of Oscar Peterson's birth, this popular quartet presents music from Peterson's collaborations with

jazz's greatest sax players; early booking strongly advised. Tickets from: www.cambridgejazzfestival.info
General admission: £20.00; students: £15.00

Music for Piano

Sunday 23 November, at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm), Stanley Library, Girton College.

Nina Savicevic (piano)

Manchester-based pianist Nina Savicevic, a prize-winner at national and international competitions, performs Chopin's Fourth Ballade, Op. 52, Mozart's C minor Sonata, K. 457, and works by Mendelssohn and Field.

Admission free; retiring collection.

Cole Porter: *Kiss me, Kate*

Monday 24 November, at 7.30 pm (until 9.30 pm).

Tuesday 25 November, at 7.30 pm (until 9.30pm).

Wednesday 26 November, at 3.00 pm (until 5.00 pm), Old Hall, Girton College.

Gracie MacLean (director); Immie Graham (musical director) Girton College Music Society presents three staged performances of Cole Porter's multiple-award-winning musical *Kiss me, Kate*. When divorcees Fred and Lilli clash in rehearsals for Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, offstage and onstage drama begin to overlap. A comic tale of gangsters, gambling debts and second chances in love, *Kiss me, Kate* is widely seen as Cole Porter's finest theatrical achievement. Come and enjoy the musical's scintillating texts and catchy tunes.

Admission: £5 students and children; £10 others; ticketing arrangements to be announced in the autumn.

Save the dates for Girton carol singing!

This year the Girton Carol Singers will be singing around the village on Monday 22, Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 December from 6.30 pm to around 9pm. We welcome singers and collectors of all ages, although children should be accompanied by an adult. This year we are collecting in aid of Arthur Rank Hospice. More details to follow next month, or contact Helen

on info@girtoncarolsingers.org.uk or see



our Facebook page or website.



Eddington Winter Welcome

Step into the season at Eddington's Winter Welcome on Saturday 29 November. Enjoy an afternoon of festive fun with live entertainment, activities for all ages, delicious food and drink, and the Knight Park Festive Market.

For more details on this free to attend event, visit: <https://eddington-cambridge.co.uk/whats-on>



Celebrating Black History at Girton Glebe Primary School

Among other celebrations this month - including school residentials, music visitors, and recycling workshops - Girton Glebe Primary School marked Black History Month with a week full of rhythm, creativity, and inspiration.

The celebrations began with a whole-school assembly focused on famous Black Britons, exploring stories of courage, creativity, and achievement in line with this year's national theme.

Later in the week, pupils were treated to an energetic visit from Oddey, a local dance teacher and former member of the dance troupe Flawless, who wowed audiences on *Britain's Got Talent* back in 2009. Now teaching at Bodyworks, Oddey led a morning of Afro Dance workshops, getting pupils across the school moving, smiling, and learning about the rich cultural heritage behind the dance style.

As part of the school's art initiative, pupils also took part in a collaborative project titled *Recreating a Masterpiece*. Each class contributed to a large-scale recreation of Lynette Yiadom-Boakye's *Condor and the Mole* (2011). Yiadom-Boakye, a British artist of Ghanaian descent, is celebrated for her powerful figurative paintings that explore identity and representation.

To bring this project to life, the original artwork was divided into sections, with each class recreating their own piece using a medium of their choice. Once assembled, the finished artwork formed a striking whole-school display - a vibrant reminder of creativity, teamwork, and the importance of representation in art.

Throughout the week, pupils also learned about inspiring Black figures from history, including the bravery of Rosa Parks, the pioneering science of Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, and the sporting heroism of Walter Tull, one of Britain's first Black professional footballers and army officers.

It was a joyful and thought-provoking week at Girton Glebe Primary School - celebrating not only the achievements of remarkable individuals but also the diversity, culture, and creativity that continue to enrich the school community.

Chris Butler, Headteacher



Girton Cottontails Preschool

This is a very late 'welcome to the new preschool year' article. This first half term has flown by with us busy settling in to a new term, embracing the Autumn weather both at preschool and of course at Forest School. We've been learning about Harvest with a lovely visit to Saint Andrews church where we enjoyed looking at the harvest displays and having a story. At Forest School we've been making conker necklaces and of course picking blackberries and apples for our snack.

At preschool, we have started having preschool dinners, provided by Girton Glebe Primary School. This is going really well and we are pleased to be able to offer the children the choice of having a hot meal during the day.

Construction and building has been very popular, from some small lego constructions that the rising 5s have been making, to the huge aeroplane construction with bricks and wood that was made!



We've also been kept very busy, because in September we opened our second preschool setting in Oakington. This has been a very exciting time for us and we are looking forward to our preschool becoming part of the Oakington community too. If you have any interest in our Oakington preschool, you can contact us at Girton using the contact information

below and we'll direct you to the right place.

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://tinyurl.com/4yps7pfr>

We welcome children from the age 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, or get in touch using the contact details below.

Laura Norman and Emma Pell

Girton Cottontails Preschool

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- Jill - Histon



We are well underway into this academic year and dare we say it, it is already flying by! Our learners have returned full

of energy and curiosity, and we wanted to share some of the highlights so far.

In September we welcomed current parents to our Open Afternoon, a chance to meet class staff and get to know their child's new setting. It's always a pleasure to connect and share our school community with families.



The term has already been buzzing with activities. Learners took part in our "Jeans for Genes" day, supporting a great cause. We have also recently had a Halloween Spooktacular event in our spookily decorated dining hall. We played Pumpkin Eyeball Ping Pong, Spaghetti Cauldron - find the spiders and Witches Hat Hoopla and had a go at Apple Stacking.

We've also had some great help at our Gardening Club (new this year), and it was inspiring to see so many eager hands ready to dig into the world of gardening. Throughout the year, learners will be planting and growing, taking part in crafts and nature projects such as composting, learning about pollinators, building bug hotels, and creating garden features. We're also collecting plastic bottles, plants, or any gardening-related items for a sustainability project in support of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and our Preparation for Adulthood sessions - any donations are much appreciated.

On a wider scale, our Headteacher and Deputy Head recently attended the National Association of Special Schools (NASS) Conference in Bristol, where they led a workshop on "Embedding Relational Practice." This was a wonderful opportunity to share the journey that Gretton School has been on, and it was an honour to speak with fellow professionals who are equally enthusiastic about supporting children and young people with special educational needs.

We were also delighted to welcome Chris Bonello to Gretton this October. Chris is a renowned autistic advocate, speaker and author who spent the day with us delivering talks to learners across all key stages, before concluding with a session for staff during after-school training. At Gretton, relational practice forms the foundation of everything we do, and sessions like these provide valuable



opportunities to reflect on our approaches, celebrate best practice, and ensure we continue to support our autistic learners to confidently take their next steps beyond Gretton. It was an engaging and inspiring day for both learners and staff alike.

Looking ahead, we have our annual Christmas Fair to look forward to, supporting Jimmy's Homeless Shelter. Last year, we raised an amazing £1,000, and we hope to surpass that this year. We love getting our local community and businesses involved, and we would really appreciate any donations you might have to help us raise funds, whether that's raffle prizes, crafts, or items we can sell on the day. Please get in contact with:

sarah.overton@grettonschool.com if you feel you can help in any way.

Even sooner, our Children in Need Bake Sale will be happening, featuring a very special guest - Pudsey Bear! We'll share more on this in the next newsletter.



Girton Brownies have had a fantastic start to the year. After wishing our older Brownies well as they moved onto Guides, we were delighted to welcome lots of new Brownies into the unit. This term we have been considering positive changes we can make; we have made Impact O-meters to track our progress and considered changes we could make to the village to make it the greatest place on earth, photo included of our ideas. Two weeks ago, we were delighted to welcome Tara from Cambridgeshire Wildlife Care who came to give the Brownies a talk on how to look after local wildlife, it was a fantastic evening enjoyed by all.

Girton Brownies is part of Girlguiding, the largest youth organisation dedicated completely to girls. We are always looking for new volunteers to give girls the opportunity to know that they can do anything, find out more about Girlguiding at: www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved





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Climate Change Gardening

I'm writing this after an excellent afternoon at the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Local Climate Action conference. It was a really good opportunity to meet up with people from all over the SCDC area and find out more about what everyone is doing. We were also able to contribute to their consultation about the new SCDC climate and nature strategy. If you're reading this early in the month there is still time to contribute to the consultation here: <https://shorturl.at/kLaLy> - it closes on November 5.

One of the exhibitors at the conference was Climate Change Gardening, a charity set up to encourage gardeners to make a difference to climate change. As they point out, "private gardens are the third largest UK land use sector, and in urban areas they form 25% of the landscape. Together, gardens have the potential to help mitigate climate change impacts, and also to enrich our increasingly threatened wildlife. With over 20 million people identifying as gardeners, our choices of plants, cultivation techniques, composts, watering, wild areas, and many other details, can make an important difference, locally and nationally". The charity has loads of information and links on their website at www.climatechangegardening.org. As it's a great time of year to plan any changes to the garden, here are a few ideas based on the site to get you started:

- Create mini-habitats in your garden for minibeasts - this could be a log pile, a leaf pile or a bug hotel. If you're tidying up your garden you can just put what you're sweeping up into a pile somewhere and see what moves in!
- Put some water in your garden - this doesn't have to be a big pond, a washing up bowl or a bird bath is still really helpful for wildlife. If you can fill it with rainwater (either from a water butt or by just waiting for it to rain) then that's a bonus.
- Create an area of shade, either by planting a bush or tree or by making a heap of earth which will be shaded on one side. Shade is increasingly important as summer temperatures get hotter.
- Experiment with creating your own compost and mulches rather than using peat-based compost - this can also help reduce the amount of garden waste which goes into your green bin.
- Harvest rainwater using water butts or other containers - this is a good one to start in the winter so that you can take advantage of the wet weather to build up your stores for when you need them.

Even if you don't have a garden of your own, you can help to garden for wildlife in the village by joining the Hibbert Ware garden volunteer group - contact us at lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk to find out more. We'd also love to hear about any changes you make to your garden or any interesting wildlife you spot around the village!

Alison Giles - the LNR steering group

A fact that newcomers to the site may not know, but old-timers do, is the effect of the apparent rain shadow across Girton. This contributes to our lack of rain and so to excessive hand pumping of water for our plots. Asking an Artificial Intelligence program 'Why is Girton in a rain shadow?' gave the reply that Girton was not in a rain shadow because of a lack of nearby hills.

Those familiar with the situation will have seen rain clouds approaching from the Dry Drayton direction. When approaching Girton, the cloud splits, with one band going west of the site and the other to the north. I have partially experienced this once when at Oakington Garden Centre. Heavy rain was heard on the roof and then out on the road back to Girton. But, on reaching the turn to Histon the road became dry.

One of our plottolders has been so curious about this recently that, having seen the clouds do this split, he got in his car and did a north to east to south trip around the local villages, ending at the A10/M11 junction. He saw wet roads all the way but dry ones on returning to Girton. We know that there are hills to the west of Girton. They can be easily seen but are they high enough to cause an effect? Is there a climatologist reading this who can explain the phenomenon?

Asian hornet - Vespa velutina



On a totally different topic, I've been reading about Asian Hornets. These predators are not welcome in Britain as they predate on honey bees. So they are especially not welcome in our gardens and the allot-

ments as we need all the pollinating bees that we have (imagine no local honey!). There are plenty of pictures of them on the Internet, and instructions on how to report a sighting. They seem to be spreading up from Kent and the nearest sighting to us, on the latest map that I saw, was in Ilford, Essex. So, keep a look-out for this yellow-legged intruder. It could be that the queens are now looking for cosy spots to hibernate – your compost heap?

Note from the editor: anyone sighting an Asian hornet should take a picture of it if possible and report the sighting by email to the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology at alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk.

John Gibson, Girton Allotment Society



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With the new government having made significant changes in the Autumn Budget, it is very likely your current financial planning strategy will require a full holistic review to ensure it continues to meet your financial needs and objectives.

Whether it's passing money to loved ones and the impact of the pension changes or Agricultural Property Relief to Inheritance Tax, the increase in Capital Gains Tax or you're a business owner affected by the Budget, we can help evaluate your unique situation. Now is an ideal time to start updating strategies ahead of the tax year end on 5 April 2025 to ensure your future needs continue to be met.

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Girton Parish Council Survey

We can do better with your help

Please help complete the following community survey. Many Thanks for your continued support in identifying what you want to see delivered in Girton.

The closing date is Sunday 1 December 2025.

To return the completed survey please post or deliver to Girton Recreation Ground Pavillion, Cambridge Road, Girton, CB3 0FH or email clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk and we will pick up.

More information and online versions can be found at www.girton-cambs.org.uk.

A few questions about you

Where do you live?	Girton	Oakington	Westwick	Other

What is your post code?	
How many People live in your household?	
What is your age?	
Are you a business organisation, club or society?	

Contact Details (please complete if you would be interested in being contacted further)

Contact details	
Full name	
Email address	
Address	
Telephone number	

Girton Precept Survey

How should your money be spent?

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

	Facilities	A lot more	Somewhat more	Same	Somewhat less	A lot less	Don't know
1	Green Spaces						
2	Sport & Recreation						
3	Girton Pavilion Refurbishment/improvement						
4	Increased maintenance in Village						
5	More support for local businesses						
6	More support for local organisations						
7	Improved Community communication						
8	Net zero initiatives						
9	More longer-term projects						
10	Other						
Please give brief details to support your answer							

2. Would you be in support of refurbishing/improving Girton Recreation Ground Pavilion? (See information given in Girton's Great Plan)

Are you in support of the above?	Yes	No	Maybe
Please give brief details to support your answer			

3. GPC has secured funding for Local Highways Initiatives from Cambridgeshire County Council in the last 2 years. Please rank options below for next year's bid (5 is High, 1 is Low)

Which initiative would you support	5	4	3	2	1
Active Travel Route between Girton & Histon					
Girton Road/Weavers Field. Install bollards either side of Weavers Field junction footway to eliminate pavement parking					
Road crossing near Co-op					
Improved cycle/walking access at Woody Green					
Island at Thornton Road/Thornton Close Corner					
Double yellow lines at Thornton Court/Thornton Road Corner					
Dropped Kerbs: Camboro Business Park/Darwin Green cut through					
Make St Vincent's Close one-way					
Other (Please State):					

Girton Precept Survey

How should your money be spent?

4. Would you be willing to see a precept rise to support more improvements in the village?

Are you willing to see Yes increased precept	No	Maybe
Please give brief details to support your answer		

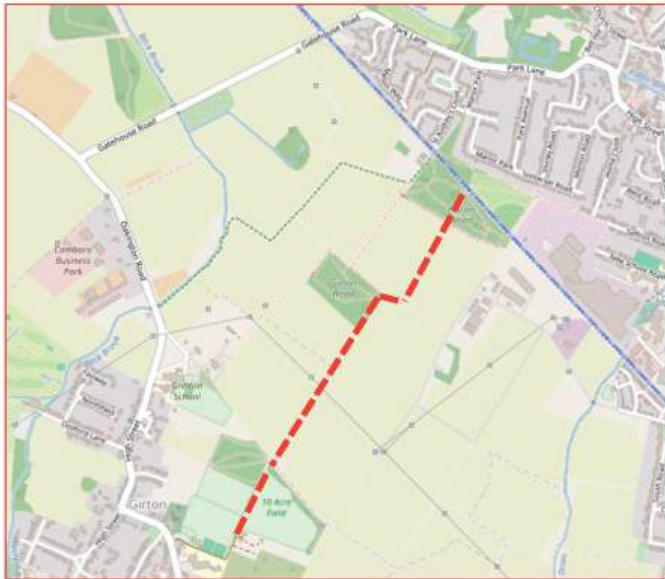
5. How much more would you be willing to pay on your precept to deliver improvements in Girton? What would you expect from Girton Parish Council if your precept was to be raised?

How much more precept would you be willing to pay?	Nothing more	£5	£10	£20	£40	More for improved facilities	Don't know
Please give brief details to support your answer							

6. What is Girton Parish Council doing well?

7. What could Girton parish Council do better?

Girton to Histon & Impington proposed Active Travel route



Why is it needed?

- Link to our 2nd biggest neighbour is poor for walking & wheeling – plus no public transport
- Current routes to IVC, etc. are indirect and could be safer



Why this route?

- Keeps separate routes for horse riders and leisure walkers
- More direct than alternatives
- Entirely on land owned by Cambridgeshire and Girton councils

What are the challenges?

- Plan that minimises environmental impact
- Funding

Who's supporting it?

- Girton Parish Council
- Members of H&I PC
- County Councillors for both Girton and Histon & Impington
- Camcycle



What are the next steps?

- Showing support from residents – is this what people would like?
- Getting backing from all the relevant parties – H&IPC, CCC, SCDC, CPCA





Girton WI

For our October 1st meeting Marion Leeper, a local Cambridge Storyteller, came to our gathering to tell us the tale of

Winnie Cobb, the first woman taxi driver in the city of Cambridge.

Winnie was born in Lolworth and from a very young age she loved anything mechanical and became obsessed with motor vehicles. Not being recognised as a suitable sort of a hobby for a young lady, her father tried to dissuade her from the idea. Her father told her that she had to know a car inside out and how to put it right if it breaks down. A spanner was the first tool that Winnie was given, and she soon became very knowledgeable about the workings of the motor car from under the bonnet. She learned how to change sparking plugs and oil and was not afraid of getting her hands dirty. She became very proficient at it and her ambition was to eventually own and drive a car around the area.

Winnie eventually came to Cambridge to live with her sister Fanny and got a job at Eaden Lilley's sewing curtains. She was not particularly happy still hankering after the motor car. Now at that time in Cambridge there were roughly twenty-seven stationer's stores and on her half days off she would visit these stores. In one store she met Frank Sanderson, who was the oldest of four brothers. By the sounds of it Frank was totally besotted with Winnie from the first moment they met. Love blossomed and soon Frank took Winnie to meet his family who lived at 25, Alpha Road, Cambridge. When they arrived at the house Winnie saw some double doors and was intrigued to know more. Frank opened the doors and there was a Model T Ford inside the garage. It belonged to Frank's dad and Frank was allowed to drive it. Well, you can imagine how delighted she was; finding a man she was very fond of and a Model T Ford. Winnie was warmly welcomed into the Sanderson family and after a short while she and Frank were married. Time rolled on and war was declared. As with most young men of that era, Frank was very keen to enrol and joined the Norfolk Regiment. Winnie heard that there was a shortage of men to drive taxis in the area as so many men had joined up. Here was her chance! She wrote a letter to Percy King of King and Harper Garage in Cambridge to ask if she could do this job. She was called for an interview (took her beloved spanner with her for luck) and told that she would have to

spend a month in the workshop with the men to prove that she could do it. She donned her overalls and worked with the men and passed with flying colours and was allowed to drive the Model T Ford Taxi around Cambridge.

Eventually, call up papers were served and Frank was sent to the front. Tragically Frank came to a horrible end at Ypres with Jock, his best friend, by his side; unfortunately, he put his head above the trench at the wrong moment. Winnie was devastated. Armistice Day was declared on 11 November 1918, with the agreement marking the end of fighting in World War 1. Jock came to visit Winnie with Frank's personal belongings and they started to grow very fond of each other, eventually getting married and having two children: a boy and a girl.

We thanked Marion for her excellent storytelling and the evening ended with the usual refreshments.

Merilyn Burt



Early Birds WI

At our October meeting we had an insight into photography with a talk by Kevin Pigney. Kevin took

up photography about eight years ago. Through his interest, his knowledge grew and was keen to learn all the techniques of photography. With the knowledge Kevin has gained he has now turned it into an income. We learnt in Covid that he set up a zoom site to teach, which took him all over the world, even to places as far away as New Zealand. Kevin explained the best way to extend your knowledge was by joining a camera club. His photos mainly involve wildlife and Kevin explained that wildlife nearly always returns to the same place every year. Patience was something we learnt you needed. It took Kevin five and a half years to catch two hares boxing. Kevin has now branched out in taking photos of people's pets. After visiting an art gallery, he has been inspired by Rembrandt paintings and is now experimenting with including the same poses of people in paintings into his photography.

Gillian Taylor

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GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Bowls Club

The indoor bowls season is now well underway and Girton have made a great start with Girton B having played 1 game, gaining a 4–2 win over Willingham, and Girton A winning their first two games putting them top of the league.

Our annual end of season Presentation Dinner was again held at The Plough in Coton and was attended by 39 members and partners. This event proved as popular as ever as it provides an opportunity when we can all get together to celebrate the end of another very successful outdoor bowls season. Our thanks go to all the staff at The Plough for a lovely meal enjoyed in a great atmosphere. The presentation of trophies was made by the Chairman, Dave Fryer.

The bowls green has now been shut down for the winter and the extensive programme of maintenance has begun. This will be carried out by our volunteer maintenance team under the guidance of our professional advisor Steve.



Winter maintenance under way

This year's AGM will be held on 8 December at the Bowls Club at 7pm, to which everyone is welcome.



If you are interested in finding out about joining Girton Bowls Club, please see our website www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com or contact our Secretary, Margaret McCall, at margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

Lynn McGill



Girton Tennis Club

Our Friday evening supervised sessions for younger members have now finished for 2025 but we look forward to running them again when the weather improves in the spring. Many thanks to Victor,

James, Alan R. and a huge number of parents and club members who have helped to keep this activity running so well.

We managed to enter three teams in the LTA Summer League this year and it was lovely to have one of our junior members join the mixed team. This team won 3, lost 3 matches and ended up in second position out of seven. It's been a few years since we last entered a ladies' team and they came back in force. They ended up in second position in their league, winning 4 of their 5 games. The only loss was to the team that won in their league. The men's team finished in 4th position in their league (out of 8) having won 3, lost 3 and drawn one match. Many congratulations and thanks to all those who played and helped to organise our teams.

Flushed with success from the Summer League, we have entered three teams in the Winter League. Matches are starting to happen so, if you would like to consider playing a few matches, please make contact via our website. We are particularly keen to find a few extra ladies to take part.

It's that time of year when we start to find mince pies and tinsel in the shops. The tennis club are delighted to announce that the Christmas meal for members (and their guests) will be held at the Girton Golf Club on Saturday 13 December at 7.30pm. Menu options, costs and booking arrangements should be available on our website by the time this is published. We look forward to a jovial gathering again, with a suitably short address from our Chairman! Please come and join us.

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

Alan Franklin

Centre's new Art Display Wall celebrates local talent

A designated display space to celebrate local artists has been introduced at the William Collyn Centre, with a rolling programme of works by different art groups which can be viewed by the public during opening hours.

The inaugural exhibition features work from the Pavilion Art Group, based in Cambridge, bringing colour to the Centre's corridor space.

Launch event

To celebrate the launch, a special event was held during September when members of the community, local artists and supporters gathered to enjoy the unveiling of the display.

There was also the opportunity to meet the artists, discuss their work and share in the sense of community spirit that the project has inspired. The event was well attended and reflected the enthusiasm for making the Centre a more welcoming and creative space.

Community spirit

Max Ruddock, Deputy Manager, said: "The Art Display Wall is already proving a wonderful way of bringing people together and has been well received by members of the community popping in to take a look. We look forward to welcoming everyone to visit and view the current exhibition, stay for a coffee and a chat and if you find an artwork you like which is for sale, you can purchase it by contacting the artist directly. Also we're keen to hear from individuals and community groups who might be interested in displaying their artwork in our new space."

Local artist Denise Spalding added: "It's such a privilege to be the first group to exhibit here. We hope our work inspires others in the community to get creative and we're delighted to see our art become part of the Centre's welcoming atmosphere."

Next exhibition

The current display will change in December when an exhibition of work by Girton Glebe School pupils will be installed.

The Centre's public open hours are 9.00am-2.00pm and 5.00-9.00pm.

For further information visit <https://williamcollyn.co.uk> or call 01223 279587.



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:

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 Rachel Allchorne t: 276008
 Marc Bermann t: 277319
 Colin Carr t: 276312
 Gill Cockley t: 276703
 Lynn Henderson t: 276008
 Andrew Muston t: 07831 591809
 Patsy Smith t: 07503 282199

GTC office:
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Cambridge CB3 0PU.
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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 ability
 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 Cinema Club 55
 6.00 - 7.00pm Pilates with Wendy Jane mixed ability
 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
 2.15 - 3.45pm Silver Swans ballet mixed ability
 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 (2nd in month)

Sunday

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

William Collyn Community Centre

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP

01223 279587

info@williamcollyn.co.uk

www.williamcollyn.co.uk

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

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272



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CODEWORDS

Each number 1-26 represents a different letter of the alphabet. Can You work out which is which? Use your word skills and the clues included. Note that Codewords can include names or well-known phrases. Answers are on page 7.

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

A	1	14
B	2	15
C	3	16
D	4	17
E	5	18
F	6	19
G	7	20
H	8	21
I	9	22
J	10	23
K	11	24
L	12	25
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WORDSEARCH

How are you topping up your essential Vitamin D, now the strong Summer sun has waned ?

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.

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

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| AIR X2 | LOWMOOD | SALMON |
| AVOCADO | LUNGS | SKIN |
| BLOODPRESSURE | MAGNESIUM | SLEEP |
| BONES | MELATONIN | SOY |
| CEREALS | MILK | SUNLIGHT |
| COD X2 | MINUTES | TROUT |
| EGGYOLK | NUT | TUNA |
| FAT | OAT | ULTRAVIOLETB |
| FIGS | OIL | VITD |
| HAIR | OPEN | WATER |
| HAZEL | PILL | |
| HERRING | PRUNES | |
| LIVER | RICKETS | |

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Always check your calendar or diary ...

I didn't check mine, which is why I missed the submission date for last month's article in the Girton Parish News. With that confession out of the way here is what Club 55 members have been up to, and what

we have to look forward to.

Forty-two members enjoyed watching the film *The Quartet* at William Collyn Community Centre on September 23.

Although some had seen it before a few years ago the comment was made "Now we are nearer the age of the characters in the film, I could relate to many scenes." There certainly was the atmosphere of being at the cinema "proper." The wide screen, the seating arrangements and the shared laughter made all the difference to the afternoon, so much so that we are planning another similar event.



The second enjoyable event was a superb meal on October 7 at Abbeyfield Restaurant, where the chef served up forty-five delicious meals for us. Everyone agreed the quality of the food and service was excellent and portions generous. Trudy helped arrange the event and served the meal, assisted by other Abbeyfield staff, with a smile and a warm welcome. Forty-five lunches served all at one sitting is no mean feat so heartfelt congratulations to all concerned and to the Club 55 members attending who all helped make the occasion a success.

So, what's happening next?

Chris Cowood is running another handcrafted card-making session at Abbeyfield alongside the computer support group on Monday 10 November 10.00 – 12.00.

On Tuesday 25 November we are showing another film at the William Collyn Community Centre. I was hoping to get a National Theatre Live recording, but at the moment, the show I had previously mentioned was not available for our planned date. Instead, we will be showing a film - *Swimming with Men*.

The film, which is a comedy, is loosely based on a true story about a group of Swedish men who formed a synchronised swimming group. However, *Swimming with Men* is based in England where a ramshackle group of men, going through a mid-life crisis, find a purpose in life. Using synchronized swimming as a vehicle they expose their feelings (and paunches) and connect with each other. The cast includes Rob Brydon, Jim Carter, Daniel Mays (of *Fisherman's Friend* fame), and Jane Horrocks to name but a few. It goes without saying with those characters there is comedy and action combined in this smart, funny, and moving film. The director Oliver Parker also directed *Dad's Army*, *Johnny English Reborn*, *the Importance of Being Earnest* and the *Dorian Gray* films.

The hall is used by another group before us so please do not arrive before 1pm to give us time to set up. Refreshments will be served from 1pm- 1.30pm . We will start the film showing around 1.30 pm.

I am sure we will enjoy it. Add the date to your diary and please contact me to book a place so we know how many chairs and refreshments are needed. The £5 fee, paid on the day directly to the Centre, covers the cost of the licence to show the film and hire of the hall. Club 55 will have a contribution box for those wishing to support some of our Club 55 on-going costs.

patdickensclub55@gmail.com 01223 971596

**Girton Poppy Appeal 2025
(25 October to 9 November)**

Please could any organisations wishing to lay their wreath at the Remembrance Service on November 9 and who have not yet contacted me, do so as soon as possible.

There are still slots available to cover the stand at Eddington Sainsbury's if anyone would like to volunteer their services to support this worthwhile cause.

I still have a very limited supply of both VE and VJ 80 Anniversary lapel badges, plus the dated Poppy badges. If anyone would like one, please contact me.

The Royal British Legion provides support for our Service Personnel and their families in times of need with funds collected during their Poppy Appeal campaign. For more details, please contact:

Poppy Appeal Organiser Wendy Ripley- Mobile 07885190597 or email girtonpa@yahoo.com



Lest we Forget



Listening Lantern



Days to remember

3 November : World Jellyfish Day

6 November : National Saxophone Day

12 November : Mental Health

First Aider Day [England]

13 November : World Kindness Day

21 November: World Hello Day

28 November : World Buy Nothing Day



Within this list of ‘celebration days’ in November will be examples which are curious, others which are unusual and maybe one which amuses you! But nestled in the middle is a brand-new day – for the first time, 12 November 2025 marks Mental Health First Aider Day in England. And the hundreds of MHFAiders I have trained over the years are celebrated on this day, marking the time they’ve given, the non-judgemental listening ear they’ve offered, the signposting they’ve done and the empathy they’ve shown.

Maybe you’re not a MHFAider but just look – you can also celebrate your kindness and the connection made by saying hello in November too!

Signposting

How to Keep Warm in Winter. Age UK offers advice, particularly for older people about keeping warm as the autumn into winter temperatures drop.

Maybe this is useful for you directly, or maybe you could spend time with a neighbour or relative to share the support/signposting.

Training

When a learner writes in their feedback after an MHFA course, “I felt invested and engaged throughout both

days.” it makes the significant time, effort, passion, and energy I put into my work, worthwhile.

Listening Lantern Mental Health Training delivers accredited training in Mental Health and Suicide First Aid. In addition, I can build bespoke training packages, courses, and workshops to meet specific needs so do get in touch if you think I might be able to support you, a group/organisation you belong to or your workplace.

Juliet Adlouné, a longstanding Girton resident, is a fully qualified and accredited Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor and Suicide First Aid Associate Tutor experienced in delivering the full suite of MHFA and SFA courses and committed to supporting mental health within her local community. Contact her via: www.facebook.com/listeninglantern.julietadlouné or mhfa.julietadlouné@gmail.com

Girton Walking Group

4 October

Despite a strong breeze the weather was pleasant as we walked along the Roman built dyke into Swaffham Prior and eventually arrived at the churchyard. This unusual site bears two major churches, one of which is no longer in use though still carefully looked after. Field paths by the river supplied the return section of the walk.

1 November

A walk round the historic Mill Road area of central Cambridge. This walk is being designed and led for us by Cambridge Living Streets. In return we have agreed to lead a walk in Girton for them.

We have been asked to meet at 10am at Donkey Common, by the side of the Parkside swimming pool. The walk should last between one and a half and two hours. Thanks to Gina and Paul Lane for arranging this.



6 December

Our Christmas tradition consists of a short walk and a long lunch, but more of that to follow.

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. Note that all walks are at your own risk.

News For Older Residents

Thank you to those who wanted to know why I was missing from the October GPN. It is nice to be missed!

Tuesday Connections

We meet on Tuesday 11 November, a day synonymous with the remembrance of war. Remembering the fallen will take place, as usual, at 11am at the war memorial at St Andrew's Church. That afternoon, at Tuesday Connections, we will be continuing the theme of remembering and reminiscing. Our memories and reflections will be on other aspects of our lives, namely childhood and remember when?

At the beginning my colleagues Sarah, Marion, and Antoinette, the Girton Warden, will take a few minutes to talk about the benefits of the Age UKCAP Community Warden Scheme. They will explain Antoinette's role and answer any questions you may have. Antoinette is available on weekday mornings and can be contacted on 07979 333 963 or by emailing: antoinette.deirmand@ageukcap.org.uk Then on 9 December, Flukes, our local popular Ukulele group is coming to entertain us again. The meetings are at 2pm in the William Collyn Community Centre. Let me know if transport is a problem and I will do what I can to help. Recently, several people asked if they could come to Tuesday Connections. My answer is always yes, everyone is welcome.

55 Film Club at William Collyn Community Centre

The first event with the film Quartet was well attended and enjoyed. The next session will be on Tuesday 25 November at 1pm with the film 'Swimming with Men'. See the Club 55 column for more details.

Caring Together Carers Support Group

This group meets in Arlington Manor on the third Tuesday of each month, so the next meeting will be 18 November, from 11.30am to 1pm. For more information contact Becca Browne on 01480 499090 or 07702 552363.

Patricia Johnston Older Residents' Coordinator

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Remembering War and Building Peace

Each November, as we gather in quiet reflection at our village war memorial, we remember the lives lost in conflict and the courage of those who served. The act of remembrance is not only about honouring the past - it is also a call to shape the future. True remembrance asks us not only to say, "never again," but to live as people who mean it.

Working for peace is rarely straightforward. Peace is not simply the absence of war; it is the presence of justice, understanding, and goodwill. Around the world, we see how fragile peace can be when mistrust, division, or fear take root. Building peace demands effort - patience to listen, humility to admit when we are wrong, and courage to reach out to those with whom we disagree. It begins with good faith: choosing to believe that others, too, want a better world, even if their path looks different from ours.

Here in Girton, we are fortunate to see what peace in practice can look like. People of different nationalities, beliefs, traditions, and politics, by and large, rub along together remarkably well. This doesn't happen by chance. It's supported by the effort and commitment of those who keep our local institutions alive - the sports clubs, the WI, youth groups, churches, the Girton Feast team, the Parish Council, and countless others. These groups create spaces where people meet, work side by side, and learn to understand one another. They show that peace grows from participation - from showing up, lending a hand, and sharing in the life of the village.

Remembrance reminds us that peace is precious and must be tended to, day by day. It cannot be imposed from above; it is sustained and built by the small, steady choices of ordinary people. As we stand in silence this year, let us remember not only those who gave their lives, but also our own responsibility to continue their work - to build communities where understanding replaces suspicion, and hope triumphs over hostility. So perhaps the question for each of us is this: what might *you* do to help sustain peace and harmony in this community?

An Act of Remembrance will start at about 10:45am on Sunday 9. After the communal remembrance, a service will continue in the church. Children are very welcome to attend and there will be Remembrance activities in the Cotton Hall while the service happens in church.

There will also be a short Act of Remembrance at the war memorial on Tuesday 11 November, starting shortly before 11am.

Curry and Carols - 16th and 17th Dec



An evening of delicious food and singing, hosted by The Old Crown and St Andrew's Church.

£35/head for a three course meal and a great social evening - call The Old Crown on 01223 277217 to book in!

www.girton.church/christmas

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If you can hold a tune we'd love you to join our choir for this year's carol service - last year was a great success!

This year we will perform the **world premiere** of a newly commissioned Christmas carol!

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from late October and the service itself is on **Saturday 20th December (7pm)**.

For more information see: www.girton.church/christmas

Contact Michael for info:
rector@girton.church / 01223 202145



Mitten Tree Project 2025

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? 27th October – 7th December 2025

Where? St Andrew's Church, Girton

How? Come in and hang new items on the Mitten Tree whenever the Church is open (usually 9am-4pm)

Why? Donations will be given to those in need of warm clothes via the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project (with priority given to local need where possible).

Thank you!





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Tel: 01223 202145 - Email: rector@girton.church
Website: www.girton.church

Associate Priests:
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Tel: 01223 575089 - Email: mbarrow@me.com
Revd Marie Lucchetta-Redmond
Tel: 07841 665832 - Email: marie@girton.church

Curate: Revd Kevin Parks
Tel: 07961 916021 - Email: curate@girton.church

Licensed Lay Ministers - Email: 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

Churchwarden: - Email: wardens@girton.church

Sunday Services: November

2nd Nov 10:00am - Holy Communion (+ activities for children)

4:00pm - In Memory Service
7:00pm - Contemplative/Reflective Service

9th 8:00am - Holy Communion (BCP)
10:45am - Remembrance Service
10:45am - Children's activities in Cotton Hall

16th 10:00am - Holy Communion (+ activities for children)
6:00pm - Evening Prayer (BCP)

23th 8:00am - Holy Communion (BCP)
10:00am - Morning Prayer (+ activities for children)

5:30 pm - St Andrew's Youth Group

30th — No services in Girton

7th Dec 10:00am - Holy Communion (+ activities for children)
7:00pm - Contemplative/Reflective Service

Regular weekday Services: November

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

Other Services

12th 2:00pm - Abbeyfield, Ecumenical Holy Communion
18th 2:15pm - Arlington Manor, Ecumenical Holy Communion
27th 11:00am - Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

On 9 November we celebrate Remembrance Sunday. The service will start at 10:45am around the War Memorial and continue in the church after the two minutes' silence. There will be activities for children in the Cotton Hall at the same time.

On 30 November there will be no services in Girton, but we will be having a joint service in our sister church in Madingley. The service starts at 10:30am.

For up-to-date 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 information (www.girton.church).

Grant, O Lord, for the sake of those whose lives were lost to war, and for the sake of the generations to come, that the nations of the world may learn your way of peace; and that all may have a chance to enjoy the life you have given them, free from war, tyranny and oppression.

[Roger Tomes]

From the Registers

Funeral
15 Oct Nora Rutherford
Interment of ashes
16 Sept Pauline Lee



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe

Church Tel: 07483 334860

Church Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith

Tel: 01223 520442

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

November Services at Girton Baptist Church

2nd Morning Service with Communion, at 10.30am

9th Morning Service at 10.30am

16th Morning Service with Communion, at 10.30am

23rd Open Service at 10.30am

30th Morning Service at 10.30am

Other Events

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

Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group: TAF this month, on Tuesday 4 November starting at 2.15pm with a Quiz, followed by refreshments. We also welcome you to our Bible studies. If you are curious about the Bible or want to explore the Christian faith more deeply, feel free to reach out to us. We would be happy to share more with you. 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

A Short Devotion

“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.” — 1 Peter 3:14

We all know what it feels like to be misunderstood, mistreated, or pushed aside; and how it hurts especially when we are trying to do the right thing, such as standing up for someone, telling the truth, or refusing to go along with something that seems to be wrong. But, instead of praise we are met with silence, or even worse, rejection.

The testimony of the Scripture, however, tells us plainly, that sometimes doing good will hurt. But it also says something deeper, which brings hope. It tells us that this kind of suffering isn't wasted. It can shape us, soften us, and even bless us. So, if you are hurting for doing what is right, don't give up. You are not alone. And your pain may be planting seeds that can't yet be seen – seeds of justice, compassion, and change.

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

Chair

Stuart Marshall, stuart.marshall@girton-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair

Daniel Carney, daniel.carney@girton-pc.gov.uk

Councillors

Archie Bajpai, archie.bajpai@girton-pc.gov.uk
Victoria Brown, victoria.brown@girton-pc.gov.uk
George Crawley, george.crawley@girton-pc.gov.uk
Martin Dickson, martin.dickson@girton-pc.gov.uk
Nas Hayat, nas.hayat@girton-pc.gov.uk
Patrick Linton, patrick.linton@girton-pc.gov.uk
Ann Muston, ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk
Richard Reeves, richard.reeves@girton-pc.gov.uk
Walter Richards, walter.richards@girton-pc.gov.uk
Con Tasioulas, Con.tasioulas@girton-pc.gov.uk

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

District Councillors

Corinne Garvie, Tel: 07780 932267
cldr.garvie@scambbs.gov.uk
Richard Stobart, Tel 07950 934793
cldr.stobart@scambbs.gov.uk

County Councillor

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

Parish Clerk and Finance Officer

Yvonne Murray Tel: 01223 618619
clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk

Facilities Manager

Angie Vidler, Tel: 01223 618619
admin@girton-pc.gov.uk

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

Postal address

Girton Parish Council
The Pavilion, Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road
Girton
Cambridge
CB3 0FH

You can also use these QR codes to contact us:



Bin collections - December

Thursday 4 November Black bin
Thursday 11 November Blue bin
Thursday 18 November Black bin

No more dates available at time of going to print

Mobile library

Thursday 26 June

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

**Remembrance Day
11 November**

There will be a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11am on Tuesday 11 November.

This is in addition to the Service of Remembrance in the church on 9 November.

**MacMillian coffee morning at
The George raises over £600**

A huge thank you to all who donated, helped on the day, bought raffle ticket and supported the day. We raised the princely sum of £626.50. Well done everyone

Margaret Wheatley



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.**



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

Agewell Osteopathy Clinic

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www.agewellosteopathy.com

Email: Clinic@agewellosteopathy.com

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