

# **GIRTON**

## **Parish News**

January 2026

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

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

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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 February 2026 issue: Wed. 14 Jan. Issue date: Sat 31 Jan. Covers 31 Jan – 28 Feb.**

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# Girton Parish Council



## What you told us:

Over the last three years we've asked the same questions in our annual precept survey. In 2025, 201 residents responded - thank you! Here's what matters most to you:

- **74%** want the pavilion improved or extended.

*"The pavilion should be reinvented for the future—encouraging sports and outdoor play, as well as a hub for the community."*

- **68%** asked for better communication.

*"Please tell us what's happening without making us trawl through 20 sets of minutes"*

- **Top priorities:** safer walking and cycling routes, modern play areas, and spaces for families to meet.

*"Make cycling safer—please fix the Girton College end."*

## What we've done:

You said "make it easier to know what's happening"—so we've:

- Published monthly updates in **Girton Parish News** (thank you to the GPN team for making this possible!).
- Created a **phased plan** for improvements: play areas, active travel, pavilion upgrades.
- Appointed a **Parish Ranger** and invested in equipment to keep Girton looking its best.

## What's coming in 2026 – and why it matters to you:

- **Monthly newsletters** after every meeting and workshop updates.
- **Noticeboard themes** posted across six sites so you know what's coming.
- **Safer spaces for children:** new play equipment, inclusive design, and regular safety checks.
- **A pavilion that works for everyone:** more flexible space, a café, and better changing facilities.

## And behind the scenes:

- Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Managing Safely training for staff means safer facilities and fewer risks for residents.
- The Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification for the Clerk unlocks the General Power of Competence (GPC).

## Why does this matter for you?

GPC gives the council the same legal capacity as an individual, allowing us to:

- Act faster on community priorities.
- Partner with local businesses and charities.
- Access funding streams that bring money into Girton without relying solely on your precept.

## Why now? Local Government is changing.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) could mean fewer councils and bigger authorities. If we're not ready, decisions move further away from Girton. By stepping up our governance, Girton keeps control of its future.

## Managing risk – what's AGAR and why it matters

Every year, councils complete an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - a legal health check for finances and risk. AGAR Assertion 10 says councils must manage risks effectively. Without a general risk assessment, we risk wasting public money and failing to protect residents. That's why:

- We're embedding a risk register.
- Training staff to spot and manage hazards.
- Building governance capacity so every pound is spent wisely.

## Join Us.

We have three councillor vacancies. If you've ever thought:

*"I don't understand opportunities and challenges,"* now is the time to turn that into *"I know - and I can help."*

Working with this team is special. It's not just about meetings—it's about shaping a village where future generations will make their own memories.

*"What do we build next that can capture future memories?"*

See you at the January meeting! Come and hear:

- Our 2026/27 budget intent.
- Progress on Girton's Great Plan.
- How you can get involved.

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# From Our Councillors

## County Councillor's report

### New highways maintenance team established in the county

Highways maintenance – looking after roads, pavements, cycle paths, crossings, drains, signs, lines, signals, trees and more – is a council service that has been under a huge amount of pressure for a long time. Highways maintenance funding comes from the Government (via the mayor), and for years it has been insufficient. Over time the condition of the highways has become progressively poorer and more prone to damage or breakdown. We are not unique in having this problem. Alongside this a lot of highways infrastructure is maintained by National Highways, who are very difficult to deal with - they do not relate to local residents or the council.

We have been working for some time to turn the situation around. It takes a lot of time and money to do this, and while there are still many issues and some way to go, there has been some notable improvements.

Part of the solution has been additional investment into the service. In addition to what we receive from the Government we have put council resource in too – in the region of £20m pa for three years. Another important factor has been a significant restructure within highways and ensuring we have the right staff to respond to the problems we have. There has also been investment in the systems used which simplify and speed up the processes involved. There is still work to do in terms of renegotiating the major outsourcing contract, which delivers most of the work for the council, which comes up for renewal in the next couple of years. We want to secure more quality outcomes and better value for money, as well as allow services to be returned in house where appropriate. There is now a team of highly qualified highways maintenance officers who support the local area, and we meet regularly with the parish councils to address all issues arising. It's not perfect, but it is starting to improve.

### Getting tough with contractors

When Cadent overran their contracted works and failed to restart work as planned after Remembrance Sunday, it caused huge problems – to buses and local residents as well as other utilities. The council took action, withdrew the permit to operate, and issued six fines.

In 2024-25, Cambridgeshire County Council issued fines totalling £483,000 to utility companies and developers for non-compliant and over-running roadworks. The council processed more than 32,000 street work permits last year, regulating when and how works can take place on the highway.

### Tiger Bus Pass - update

Many young people in South Cambridgeshire have benefitted from the Tiger Pass which allows under 25s to travel for £1 on any local bus. This successful scheme has been funded up to now by the mayor's transport budget.

We have a new mayor who is telling us the Tiger Pass may no longer be affordable in its current form. He is wanting to spend transport funding on subsidising free parking in St Neots and Peterborough, rather than things like the Tiger pass that will benefit the whole county and particularly young people. We are challenging the mayor to try to ensure that our young people do not lose out.

Please do write to me about suggestions for improvement or concerns on: [edna.murphy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:edna.murphy@hotmail.co.uk). Best wishes for 2026!

## Happy New Year to you from the Neighbourhood Plan Team

2025 was a slow year. After engaging the Girton community, we shared an early draft of the Girton Neighbourhood Plan (the NP) with SCDC in May but were unable to have a meeting with them until October. It was by then clear that the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service (the combination of Cambridge City and SCDC in terms of Planning), were issuing their new Greater Cambridge Local Plan in Draft in December. This is now out for public consultation until 30 January 2026. See the link to see and comment on the emerging Local Plan - <https://shorturl.at/JBLJn>. Despite it running to nearly 800 pages, plus supporting documents, do take a look and comment to the councils as you see fit.

The NP Team is now having to re-boot as the Girton Neighbourhood Plan needs to sit alongside the Local Plan. It seems sensible to work with this new draft, rather than the 2018 version. We therefore are now in a position of having to hit a moving target! Our project timetable is therefore having to be re-drawn significantly to produce Girton's Draft Neighbourhood Plan for your consultation.

New year, new beginnings. If anyone wishes to join the team to add to our current strength, then do please get in touch. Whilst we report to Girton Parish Council, we are a separate open group welcoming all with an interest in Girton's future direction where planning policy plays a role.

*Andrew Muston*  
*Neighbourhood Plan Team Lead*

## Puzzle solution (see page 23)



## District Councillors' Report

### South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Local Plan.

The consultation on the new local plan is now open. We believe this is the greenest local plan in the country, putting the environment and nature at the forefront of all decisions about where new housing and employment should go.

By limiting new housing to in and around Cambridge and the big new towns, including Cambourne and Northstowe, and those few villages with main line stations, we are reducing the need for more car journeys which cause congestion and air pollution. This plan also protects our villages, including Dry Drayton from over-development which leads to greater strain on our doctors' surgeries and village schools.

How to Take Part:

- Visit our website:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4kxfahch>
- Paper copies available at council offices and libraries.
- A programme of in-person and online events will run during the consultation.

### Fly Tippers are always prosecuted

A North London resident has been ordered to pay more than £9,000 and has a criminal record - after his waste was found illegally dumped in South Cambridgeshire.

The District Council is advising residents that you can report fly tipping on its website where you can also book a District Council bulky waste, white goods, or hazardous electrical goods collection.

### 80 more children to receive free school meals

More than 80 extra children in South Cambridgeshire are now receiving free school meals, thanks to a pioneering initiative which uses smart technology and innovative data-sharing between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify families eligible for support - but not currently claiming it.

The additional free school meals are expected to be worth more than £314,000 to the 66 families over the lifetime of their claims – if they claim from now until their children reach the end of year 11. Additionally, it is expected to be worth more than £1 million to local schools in government funding in the process.

For each of the 81 extra children now claiming free school meals, South Cambridgeshire schools will also receive extra funding called pupil premium, aimed at improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. The additional funding schools will receive is worth £116,555 in its first year alone and is expected to be worth more than £1 million (£1,020,560) should families claim from now until each child reaches year 11.

### Crime never pays

A man who fraudulently claimed to be homeless to secure council housing – while renting his privately owned property for financial gain has been found guilty of fraud after an investigation was launched to recover financial losses to South Cambridgeshire District Council. He was sentenced to nine months in jail suspended for two years. He must pay a total of £29,877.58.

### A new project is bridging the digital divide by providing laptops to disadvantaged young people and digital skills workshops for older residents in South Cambridgeshire.

A project for pupils allocates £21,000 to ensure young people have access to the technology they need to thrive in education and beyond. A further £5,000 has been dedicated to supporting older residents in sheltered housing, helping them to get online and build essential digital skills.

The initiative is part of a commitment to ensure no one is left behind in the digital revolution, giving everyone the opportunity to stay connected.

The project is being delivered thanks to the District Council partnering with Cambridge Online: <https://tinyurl.com/mptfax46>, a local charity dedicated to reducing digital inequality.

Under the scheme, Cambridge Online will deliver laptops to young people and run training sessions throughout the remainder of the school year, helping them make the best use of the devices.

The project aims to reach up to 25 students across different schools.

For the older residents' project, the charity will visit sheltered housing schemes across the district to deliver training sessions helping residents to use their devices to access and navigate the internet safely.

*Cllr Corinne Garvie 07780 932267,  
cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk*

*Cllr Richard Stobart 07950 934793,  
cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### MUSIC AT GIRTON COLLEGE – JANUARY 2026

#### Album Launch

Sunday 25 January, at 2.30 pm (until 3.30pm),  
Stanley Library, Girton College.  
Matthew Schellhorn (piano)

Former Music student Matthew Schellhorn returns to Girton College to launch his new solo album, *Odd Sympathies*, featuring works by Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Jeremy Thurlow and Tim Watts.

Admission free; retiring collection

#### Award-Holders' Concert

Sunday 1 February, at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm),  
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## Girton Cottontails Preschool

Happy New Year to you all! At time of writing, we are having a wonderful time at preschool with lots of end of term festive fun.

At preschool, we have been given a wonderful stable, handmade for us by Girton resident John at Gretton Court. The preschool children have really enjoyed adding figures from the nativity story and playing with the stable. We would like to say a huge thank you to John, for all the hard work that clearly went into creating this lovely gift.



At Forest School, the children have been working hard for weeks now, sawing, chopping, shaping and gluing, to create wonderful wooden log snowmen!

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  
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## Girton Glebe

It's been a wonderfully busy and festive few weeks at Girton Glebe as we've been getting ready for Christmas! You may have spotted our brand-new Christmas lights sparkling away outside the school

– a huge thank you to Richard Reeves and the Girton Parish Council for funding these. They've made the school look absolutely fantastic and have definitely helped us get into the festive mood.

We also had an amazing time at the Christmas Fayre. A big thank you to FOGG for organising such a brilliant event, complete with a whole carousel of activities that kept everyone smiling throughout the day.

Our Christmas Concert was another highlight of the season. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support our talented musicians and choir. The children took to the stage with confidence and joy, performing a wonderful mix of songs that filled the hall with festive cheer.

We were also fortunate to visit St Andrew's Church, where the children told the story of the Nativity and joined together in singing Christmas songs. It was a truly special moment and such a lovely way to embrace the spirit of the season.

And of course, our Reception and Year 1 pupils delighted us all with their heart-warming performance of The Twinkly Nativity. They shone brightly on stage and made us all very proud!

*Chris Butler, Headteacher*



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We hope you've all had a lovely Christmas and a very happy New Year. As we dive into the months ahead, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on all the

wonderful things that have happened here at Gretton and within our local community. And while many of us are ready for that fresh-start feeling, we simply can't move forward without looking back at Christmas - our biggest event of the academic year!



We were thrilled to welcome parents and carers to our Christmas Fair, held in aid of Jimmy's Homeless Shelter in Cambridge, a vital local charity.

Our Rectory site was filled with brilliant stalls, from second-hand treasures and festive face painting to handmade crafts, sweet treats, and of course a few

wonderfully competitive games! But above all, what truly shone through on the day was the atmosphere: the excitement, pride, and joy shared by our learners and staff.

For many of our learners, who are wonderfully unique in the ways they see and experience the world, an event as busy and bustling as a Christmas Fair can be a big challenge. That's why it was especially lovely to see so many of them embracing the day with confidence, curiosity, and genuine enjoyment. Their resilience and enthusiasm remind us why these moments matter so much.

And the festive fun didn't stop there! Our learners worked tirelessly both on stage and behind the scenes to prepare for three fantastic performances of our Christmas pantomime, *The Wizard of Oz*, where music, drama, and art all came together. During one of our lunchtime clubs, learners also enjoyed making Christmas wreaths, which were later sold at the fair. Add to that Christmas Jumper Day and a competition for the best-decorated classroom, and our learners had many opportunities for creative, festive fun.

While it may feel like quite some time ago now, we also enjoyed a wonderful bake sale earlier in the term, when we were joined by Pudsey himself! Once again, our learners and staff came together to support a fantastic cause, raising money for Children in Need through an array of delicious treats and generous donations. It was another brilliant example of our community's kindness and spirit.

Recently, our learners have produced some written work as part of a poetry contribution, for which we wanted to share a snapshot with you:

It's wonderful to see our learners expressing themselves so creatively, and it reminds us that learning at Gretton isn't just about exams - it's about curiosity, imagination, and personal growth. Speaking of curiosity, our science department has been keeping minds buzzing with a fantastic robot-themed week in November! We kicked things off with a machine-building scavenger hunt, and learners enjoyed daily workshops, themed bakes, and some fantastic robotic dress-up.



To make things even more exciting, PrepareRobo visited us to run sessions on building and coding robots! KS2 and KS3 worked on Reptile Bots, while KS4 and KS5 took on Sumo Warriors. There's been so much innovation, teamwork, and fun on display - it's been inspiring to see our learners immerse themselves in science and technology. On top of that, we enjoyed a virtual reality online safety session and a visit from a children's author for an interactive reading experience. What a term it has been!



As we look ahead to the rest of the school year, we're excited to continue celebrating the achievements, creativity, and curiosity of our learners - both big and small. We celebrate the personal milestones of our learners through our 'Magic Moments' on Facebook if you'd like to take a look. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported our events, cheered on our learners, and contributed to making Gretton such a special place. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more 'Magic Moments' and updates on everything our learners are achieving, we can't wait to share the next term with you! Wishing you a happy, healthy, and inspiring start to the New Year from all of us at Gretton School.



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## Wild Girton

One of the many activities Alice Hibbert-Ware, one of Girton's most passionate naturalists (and to whom the garden opposite the church is dedicated), carried out was the undertaking of various 'nature studies,' including her famous study of owl pellets which led to the protection of the Little Owl as a species. She also worked tirelessly to inspire, enthuse and help others in undertaking their own studies of nature, working with children in the local schools and writing regularly in a small journal of the time known as School Nature Studies.



But what exactly is a nature study? Put simply, it is taking the time to understand one aspect of nature by regularly observing it. This could be watching the birds from your kitchen window or taking a walk along a regular route and seeing the sequence at which plants begin to appear and flower

over the course of a year. The important aspect is that it is regular, so you can note changes over time and learn the habits and behaviours of plants and animals.

For example, in the last year one of our group recorded the wild or naturalised plants in their garden throughout the year. In total 244 species were found, of which about a fifth are believed to have been introduced, but that leaves about 200 which have made their own way there. Admittedly it is a large garden, but, in a separate study, several visits to record the plants in the areas around the newly restored ponds at Wellbrook Way yielded a total 87 and 106 species in and around the northern and southern ponds, respectively. These numbers are not necessarily exceptional, but accumulate over regular visits throughout the seasons, taking time to make careful observations.



At this time of year many of us are considering making new resolutions for the year ahead, and here is another idea for you – why not undertake a nature study in 2026? Ideas include looking at plants, birds or butterflies along a regular route once per month (or week if you're keen!). This could be one street, a walk around the block or a more extensive walk taking in some of our green spaces. Or you could watch dragonflies around your garden pond, use a trail camera to

observe nocturnal mammals, or undertake regular moth trapping - an activity which some of our group do too.

We would be very keen to help anyone who is interested in doing a nature study, providing ideas and guidance for how to go about it. Of course you could do it purely for personal enjoyment, taking time to slow down and observe, but if you would like to be more systematic with your observations, write them down, it would be invaluable to us if you could share them to help build up a picture of wildlife around our village. Contact us at: [lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lnrp@girton-pc.gov.uk).



What a difference a few months makes; from dry, dry, dry we are now into wet, wet, wet. We humans may be not too keen but the allotment plants, especially weeds, seem to be loving the weather. Consider for example the state of the autumn raspberries. For years, those on my plot have ripened at the usual time, say, late summer and into October. This year's dryness kept them nearly fruitless and very unhealthy looking until the rain started. Then, very quickly, new growth started and flower buds appeared. By November, fruit had appeared but the weather had turned cold. The cold didn't stop the rush to ripening. Even through the frosts there was a trickle of red berries. And for the first time some have been picked in December.

Even stranger growth is visible on the autumn fruiting blackberries. I might have picked one berry so far and thought that was the full crop for the year. But now, on the 9th of December, there are a few flower trusses open. Does this imply that I might pick some in January!

The grass on the paths is still growing; perhaps it is not yet time to put the mower into hibernation. The weeds I will possibly treat as green manure and leave them until the ground becomes amenable to hoeing.

After also having a poor crop of climbing beans I was very interested to read about a climber of which I had never heard. This is the achocha. It isn't a bean substitute, more of a cross between a cucumber and green pepper. Its nickname of Bolivian cucumber gives an idea of the climate it might like. I'll probably give it a try. To get more beans, I'll try a different variety and possibly more watering.



*Achocha*

There is still plenty of work to be done before hard frosts or snow appear. Such as planting out and protecting early peas and cauliflowers. Also, a big net over the purple sprouting broccoli to dissuade our muntjac and pigeons.

*John Gibson, Girton Allotment Society*

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**GIRTON LETTERS**

**Letter to the editor**

I would just like to place on record how grateful many Girton residents are to Neil at Cottenham Computers for the excellent and timely service he has given us over the years.

Neil is retiring and moving North to be nearer his family. We wish Neil and his wife every happiness in their new life with grandchildren to play with!

*Christine Bromwich*



## Girton WI

Being December, it was our Christmas party time and the turn of our visitor speaker Sue Baker, from The Buckleton Belly Dance School, to show our members the ancient art form of Belly Dancing. As we soon learnt, Sue was extremely good at explaining and performing the different types of belly dance. Sue revealed a beautiful turquoise glittery dress from under her normal clothes and got us to scatter around very colourful, sequined scarves that could be used to tie around ourselves to get into the mood for the dance lesson which came later.

Belly dancing is a very ancient art form and was, and is, considered to be an empowering celebration of womanhood regardless of age and shape. There was evidence of it in the pyramids; in the tomb of Nebamun, who was a steward of one of the wives of pharaoh Thutmose III in 18th Dynasty to (1350BC), – the dancers are shown naked, although this may have been the wish for the afterlife not the reality! Who knows!

There is evidence in the Roman Empire, a 2<sup>nd</sup> century mosaic panel in the Vatican museum illustrating a belly dancer with finger cymbals. The dance is music led, initiated from the core of the body, it's relaxed and extremely controlled at the same time. There are many different dance styles in different countries. For example Egyptian dance styles include modern, classical, folkloric, Baladi and pop to name a few. The dance is connected by a few core moves which are altered to reflect the style being danced. In a lot of cases the dancers were not given money for their performances but were paid with livestock and corn. The dance was widespread through the Ottoman Empire too. In all these various places different music was used which of course was a very important and necessary part of the dance. After quite some time of explanation and demonstration Sue thought our members should tie the colourful scarves around their middles and get dancing. A lot of us got up and tried...some of us stayed on the side lines and watched!

We ended the evening with our Christmas party buffet, a raffle, and a glass of sparkling pop. We thanked Sue for her informative talk and tuition. The members of Girton WI would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

*Merilyn Burt*



It has been a busy few weeks for the Girton Brownies. We had fun at Halloween with a best dressed Mummy competition, and finding coins in jelly filled with (plastic) creepy crawlies to buy the ingredients to make smores (two chocolate biscuits with a melted marshmallow in the middle).



We are working on our future badge and have been learning and sharing skills such as how to tie our shoelaces, and how to use flint and steel to light a fire.



We had lots of fun on our sleepover where we learned to use a saw to make a picture frame, decorated owl biscuits, and made an indoor campfire which we enjoyed singing around and drinking hot chocolate with marshmallows.



As Christmas approached, we made reindeers and went carol singing at Arlington Manor Care Home. We are looking forward to more Guiding adventures in 2026.



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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved)

**GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**NEW YEAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
 Wednesday 14 January • 7:00 PM  
 Girton Pavilion

- Have your say on priorities: safer routes, play areas, pavilion hub
- Projects for consideration in January: play areas, active travel, pavilion updates
- 2026/27 budget — explained in plain English
- CILCA + General Power of Competence: keeping decisions local
- 3 councillor vacancies — find out how to join the team

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**Girton Parish Council Precept Survey (2025-2026)**  
 Top 5 themes asked for by you

Plan longer-term projects (play areas, active travel, traffic)	58%
Sport & Recreation Facilities	55%
Green Spaces	44%
Refurbishing Girton pavilion	44%
More support for local business & organisations	38%

Source: Girton Parish Council precept survey (2025-2026). Percentages show the share of respondents who selected "Somewhat more" or "A lot more" for each theme.

**GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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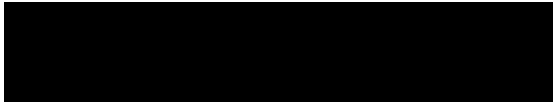
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### Girton Tennis Club

Our committee would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy 2026. Tennis is a great way to stay fit and have some fun so why not consider joining our club this year if you are not already a member? We are past the shortest day and on dry winter days there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy a friendly outdoor game of tennis. Members just need to access the booking page on our website to reserve the courts.



I've included a seasonal photo from 2020 and I am pleased to say that most of those in the picture are still members of our tennis club. Can you recognise them all?

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.

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

*Alan Franklin*



### Girton Golf Club

Firstly can we wish all playing and social members, visitors, both current and future, and occasional users of our facilities a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all as often as possible in 2026 on the course for golfers, on the practice field for beginners and in the clubhouse for visitors enjoying our coffees, lunches and events. Membership is still open for both golfing and social activities so talk to our golf reception, or ask at the bar in the clubhouse for more information.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Quiz nights in 2026 starting in January on Friday 16th. Put the date in your diaries and gather your team together.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*



### Girton Bowls Club

The AGM was held on 8 December and was very well attended by twenty-eight members and one social member. Apologies were received from twelve members and one from the Parish Council.

The Chairman reported that it had been another very successful year for the club. In the Cambridge and District League our second team were promoted from Division 4 to Division 3 in their first year of playing. Our county team achieved promotion to Division 1. Girton were champions in the Business House Men's Pairs and in the Ely and District League our Pumas team were the winners of the Knockout Cup.

The County league, usually played on a Thursday evening, has now been reduced to one division for the coming season and teams will only play each team once per season. This will result in far fewer County games, which has presented an opportunity for the resumption of a Thursday club night when members can roll up and have a social evening.

The meeting was given a breakdown of the club's finances supported by a report from the Treasurer. The general message was that the club was in a healthy position but it had been an above-average year in respect of outgoings, with rising costs having to be met. The cost of the annual club subscription was discussed and it was agreed that the annual subscription would be increased from £50 to £60 per year.

The minutes from the meeting will be issued to club members in due course.

Both indoor bowls teams, Girton 1 and Girton II, are continuing to play their indoor league matches at Chesterton Bowls Club. At the moment Girton 1 are in second position in Division 1 and Girton II are second in Division 3.

Our outdoor season will begin in April and if you would like to find out more about joining Girton Bowls Club next season, please see our website [www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com) or contact our Secretary, Margaret McCall, at [margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com).

*Lynn McGill*

## Generation Game course develops skills to help elderly residents

The Connections Bus Project which runs the Girton Youth Group is holding a ten-week course to develop skills useful for visiting older people.

Girton Generation Game is offering 15 young people the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and confidence to be a safe, caring and supportive visitor for older people through practical hands-on experience.

### THE CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT

#### Relevant topics

This tailor-made course will explore topics such as: how to be a good visitor to the elderly, what it's like to live with dementia, how to help people who live in care homes and how similar or different hobbies and interests are compared with an older person.

Each week will be very different with activities, games, visitors and the chance to put new skills to the test by visiting a care home.

At the end of the course, participants will have a portfolio of their work, a Dementia Friends and First Aid Certificate and valuable additions to their CV and work for Duke of Edinburgh qualifications.

#### Useful skills

Patsy Smith, Trustee at Girton Town Charity which supports the Girton Connections Bus Project, says: "The Generation Game course is an ideal opportunity for young people to acquire useful skills for engaging with our older residents, making a real difference to the community and expanding their own knowledge too."

The Girton course runs on Wednesdays 4.00pm-5.30pm at the Cotton Hall, starting on 14th January. The 15 places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The cost for the ten-week course is £20 and participants can sign up by visiting [www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk](http://www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk) or calling Andrea Cowley, Project Leader on 07863 129423.



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 residents of Girton.

Enquiries on behalf of individuals or village organisations may be made in confidence and addressed to any of the Trustees below:

Ann Bonnett (Chair)	t: 276354
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:

22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.  
01223 276008

email: [gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk](mailto:gtc@girtontowncharity.org.uk)  
[www.girtontowncharity.org.uk](http://www.girtontowncharity.org.uk)

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272



## Assistant Manager

The William Collyn Community Centre is a purpose-designed facility in the heart of Girton, available for use by individuals and village groups as well as outside organisations and companies.

We have an opportunity for a confident, self-motivated and innovative person to join our small team and support the Centre Manager in the efficient and effective day-to-day running of this vibrant Community Centre.

**Responsibilities include:**

- **Act** as Duty Officer delivering a professional and friendly customer service to all visitors
- **Prepare** space, furniture and equipment for hirers following health and safety procedures
- **Operate** audio-visual equipment
- **Take** responsibility for the building including secure opening and closing
- **Assist** with day to day administrative tasks including responding to enquiries, making bookings, issuing hire agreements and invoices
- **Help** to keep the Centre's website and social media channels up to date
- **Maintain** a tidy and organised environment

**Hours:**

- **Flexible** 20 hours per week including some early mornings, late evenings and weekends

**We are looking for someone who:**

- Is confident and welcoming
- Has good organisational skills
- Has customer-facing experience
- Is reliable and punctual
- Has GCSE English and Maths or equivalent.
- Has strong communications skills
- Is able to multi-task
- Has IT and social media skills (Microsoft Office or similar)

The position offers flexible working in a supportive environment with a friendly team. Full training on all aspects of the Centre function given. A competitive salary and pro rata holiday entitlement included.

**Applications to:**

**The Manager:** contact information opposite.

Closing date 23 January 2026



<b>Monday</b>	
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
<b>Tuesday</b>	
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
<b>Wednesday</b>	
10.30am - 1.30pm	Falls Prevention Clinic
1.45 - 2.45pm	Pre-Fit 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)
<b>Thursday</b>	
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
<b>Friday</b>	
10.00 - 11.00am	Crumb & Bass (under 5 years)
7.30 - 10.30pm	Easton Swing (3rd in month)
<b>Saturday</b>	
9.00 - 10.00am	Bounce
10.30am - 1.00pm	Cambridge Jazz Co-op
2.00 - 4.00pm	Farmers Market (2nd in month)
<b>Sunday</b>	
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

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info@williamcollyn.co.uk

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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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## CODEWORDS

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

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

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

## WORDSEARCH

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.

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

- |            |          |             |
|------------|----------|-------------|
| BACKGAMMON | KICK     | THE         |
| BEETLE     | LADDERS  | TIC         |
| CAN        | LOTTO    | TIDDLYWINKS |
| CANASTA    | LUDDO    | TOE         |
| CARDS      | NAME     | TRIVIAL     |
| CHARADES   | MONOPOLY | TUNE        |
| CHESS      | PURSUIT  | TVSHOW      |
| COPBIT     | PUZZLES  | TWISTER     |
| CRIB       | QUIZ     | UNO         |
| DRAUGHTS   | ROCK     | WAR         |
| ISPY       | SNAKES   |             |
| JACKSTRAWS | SNAP     |             |
| JENGA      | TAC      |             |

# Our kettles work around the clock.

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## Happy New Year!

### Tuesday Connections

Flukes entertained us well at our last gathering of 2025 and Tom did a sterling job with setting up the hall.

This new year starts with local resident Richard De Horsey talking about significant aspects of his life. Nearly 15 years ago Richard started the monthly Rotary Memory Café in Girton, which has been appreciated by significant numbers of people in this village and the local area. Richard will include the background to this venture in his talk. This is on Tuesday 13 January, from 2pm to 4pm in the William Collyn Community Centre. The talk will be followed with refreshments and plenty of time to chat.

December's GPN magazine will have raised more awareness of Hope Farm, Girton, and Hope activities throughout South Cambridgeshire. On Tuesday 10 February several representatives of Hope will present the work of the charity.

### CCC AHC 3-year strategy

Cambridgeshire County Council launched its Adults, Health and Commissioning 3 Year Strategy in October. This sets out the shared vision for supporting residents to live healthy, safe and independent lives. The full strategy can be read at: <https://shorturl.at/AyM4m> or the easy read summary at <https://shorturl.at/LU3kp>

### Moments That Matter

This is a free, eight-week programme, organised by the Fitzwilliam Museum for over 65s who are socially isolated or coping with mental health challenges. The creative activities each week will be inspired by the Museum's collections. It runs from 10.30am to 12.30pm, Tuesday 10 February to Tuesday 31 March. For more information and to book, contact Libby Beckett at: [eeb40@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eeb40@cam.ac.uk) or phone 01223 332897.

### Carents

This may be a new word for you, as it recently was for me. Carents, a national organisation founded in 2020, is dedicated to supporting adult children who care for their ageing parents. Apparently, over four million people in the UK are the carers for their parents. The website - [carents.co.uk](http://carents.co.uk) - is full of information, guidance and support. Have a look at their Welfare Officer!

*Patricia Johnston Older Residents' Coordinator*  
Phone: 07469 660866  
Email: [patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk)



## New Year Predictions 2026

Very few of my New Year resolutions last as long as they ought. However I am confident in making a prediction that Club 55 members will continue to meet up for various events throughout the year. In last month's edition of the Girton Parish News, I hoped that members would have enjoyed our film event. That prediction seemed to come true and there was a lovely atmosphere of happiness and friendship shared at the William Collyn Community Centre (WCCC).

December is the quieter month for Club 55 events as there are so many other local activities taking place, but here we are now in January ready to begin again. Happy New Year to you all and a new date for your diary is Tuesday 20 January, for our next film showing at WCCC.

The film is *The Hundred-Foot Journey*, starring Helen Mirren who, at the start of the film, portrays an icy proprietress of a Michelin Starred Restaurant in France. When she hears of an Indian Restaurant opening in the same village just 100 feet from her own, her protests escalate to an all-out war. As the two differing worlds, tastes and cultures collide, however, there is a very touching source of compromise and respect. The film is described as an uplifting and feel-good comedy. I thoroughly enjoyed it and hope you will too. Watching a film on a large screen with friends adds another dimension to the experience.

The arrangements are the same as before. The cost is £5 on the door (cash or card) which covers the license fee for showing the film and the hire of the hall. Refreshments will be provided separately by Club 55. The film will start at 1.30pm with the doors not opening before 1.00pm. Please let me know if you intend coming so we can ensure enough seats and refreshments are available.

The Computer Support Group will continue to meet on Mondays, other than Bank Holidays, between 10.00am – 12.00pm at Abbeyfield Restaurant. We must finish by 12.00pm so the restaurant can be ready to serve lunches. We can only offer support within the restaurant, but this can be with regard to the use of iPads, iPhones, PC's, or laptops.

If you have hardware issues it is unlikely we would be able to help and a trip to your service provider may be necessary. If you would like to join our volunteers please pop along and see what issues, we deal with. You can purchase refreshments at the restaurant and enjoy a chat with other members. Our start date for the New Year is January 5.

[patdickensclub55@gmail.com](mailto:patdickensclub55@gmail.com) 01223971596



## The Friends of the Rosie

We wish all our customers and supporters a happy and healthy New Year. With your help we are raising money to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. You can find out how we spent your donations at our Annual General Meeting on 9

March 2026

We are sharing our extensive catalogue on our RosieinStitches Facebook page so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts and warm clothing and accessories for special friends and family.

You can shop for new items at [www.rosieinstitches.org.uk](http://www.rosieinstitches.org.uk) or for donated items in our rosieinstitches2010 eBay charity store, and for vintage knitting patterns on our Facebook page. If you don't find what you are looking for we do accept commissions.

For all your other online shopping, please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop. This means you can raise FREE donations for The Friends of the Rosie Hospital no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely free. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forh](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forh)  
Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all the best for 2026.

Avril Williams  
07493692010  
[avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk](mailto:avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk)

Jo Hall  
01954 780304

## Thermal imaging for cosier homes

Cambridge Carbon Footprint are offering residents and organisations across South Cambridgeshire the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free.

Join a one-hour online training session to learn how to interpret thermal images, identify draughts, gaps in insulation, and heating problems, and to make your home cosier and more energy efficient. Great for homeowners and renters alike. The group are also encouraging individuals, organisations and community groups to undertake training to survey multiple properties within their community.

Last year, volunteers from communities across Cambridgeshire undertook surveys of more than 100 neighbouring homes and community buildings, adding to more than properties that were surveyed by individuals who had attended the training for their own homes.

The group only lends cameras to people who have attended the training. Loan periods are: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, and cameras can be picked up from volunteer camera hosts around South Cambridgeshire.

Upcoming thermal imaging training dates are:

Wednesday 7 January 7:30-8:30pm

Monday 9 February 7:30-8:30pm

To sign up visit <https://shorturl.at/1Y4kh> or for more information contact

[fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](mailto:fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org)

## New funding to help young Cambridgeshire entrepreneurs turn business dreams into reality

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has partnered with SWEF to offer grants of up to £2,000 for aspiring business owners aged 18-30.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation is proud to announce the launch of SWEF grants in Cambridgeshire, offering vital funding to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds start and grow their own businesses.

Research shows that 79% of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds cite lack of funding as the biggest barrier to starting a business. SWEF exists to tackle this challenge, providing grants of up to £2,000 to young entrepreneurs aged 18-30 who are taking their first steps in business.

Since its launch, SWEF has awarded over 1,000 grants nationally, with an impressive success rate – 9 out of 10 applicants who reach the interview stage receive funding. Now, young people across Cambridgeshire will have access to this life-changing opportunity.

Two grant types are available:

- Start-up grants (up to £500) are designed for those in the pre-revenue stage or just starting to trade, covering essential equipment, marketing materials, set-up costs and training.
- Business grants (up to £2,000) support established businesses trading for less than 2 years and generating £500+ per month, funding equipment, marketing and expansion costs that will transform and grow the business.

Young people interested in applying should visit [www.cambscf.org.uk/funds/swef](http://www.cambscf.org.uk/funds/swef) to find out more about eligibility and how to apply.



## Listening Lantern Listening Lantern in Action!

Years ago, when deciding on a name to represent both my sole trader business and my community support intentions, I revolved around a number of options ranging from 'Silver Birch' (a tree representing light

and new beginnings) to 'Window on the World' (to reflect the unique frame of reference we all have). However, I settled on 'Listening Lantern' based not only on the pleasing alliteration but the fact that through the Mental Health and Suicide First Aid training I deliver and through community communication/connection/action, we should all be encouraged to keep our ears and eyes open for each other.

So, it was with great delight that Listening Lantern was invited to switch on the village lights in mid-December 2025 - lighting up the school, the Cotton Hall, and the trees by the Church. A few words before the obligatory countdown allowed me to remind everyone to use the illuminations as a prompt to look out for others and ourselves - and this remains my wish for us all in the new year ahead.



### Signposting

Emmaus have partnered with mental health charity CPSL Mind (Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and South Lincolnshire Mind), to host a series of Good Mood Cafés at Joan's Coffee Shop. The Good Mood Café initiative provides an inviting, informal space where people can meet others, share interests, exchange skills, and discover simple wellbeing tips designed to boost mood and connection, especially important during the more isolating winter months.

**Day:** Fridays

**Time:** 1.30pm – 3pm

**Location:** Joan's Coffee Shop, Green End, Landbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9FD.

**Cost:** Free – water is provided free of charge and other refreshments are available at a small cost from the coffee shop.

**Contact:** 01223 863 657 [info@emmauscambidge.org](mailto:info@emmauscambidge.org) (If you wish to check it is running in advance of visiting the café)

### Dates for the diary

Do you work with or support children/young people in your job? Are you a parent/carer? Maybe the 6 and 13 February 2026 are dates you'd like to hold in your diary - Listening Lantern will be running a youth Mental Health First Aid course in Papworth. Over these two full days, you will learn to: explain what mental health is; describe how to look after their own mental health and wellbeing; describe the signs of poor mental health in young people; explain some of the risk factors associated with poor mental health in young people and demonstrate how to apply the Youth MHFA action plan (ALGEE®) in a Youth Mental Health First Aid conversation.

Contact: [mhfa.julietadloun@gmail.com](mailto:mhfa.julietadloun@gmail.com) for more information.

*Juliet Adloun, 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.julietadloun](http://www.facebook.com/listeninglantern.julietadloun) or [mhfa.julietadloun@gmail.com](mailto:mhfa.julietadloun@gmail.com)*

## Girton Walking Group

### 6 December

Our pre-party walk took us around Darwin Green, exiting close to the Primary School and then along Carisbrooke Road to Histon Road. We turned into Franklin Gardens eventually ending up on the old path back which ends in Thornton Close. After that followed a celebration party for another successful year of walking. Perhaps at this point in the year a few more Girton residents might think of the many benefits of regular walking (and talking) to our physical and mental health. New members always welcome.

### Saturday 3 January

A change of heart and direction for this walk because the lakes at Hinchingsbrooke frequently flood in rainy weather so DO NOT go to Huntingdon. However, there are lakes guaranteed not to flood much closer at hand. We will park in the Park and Ride at Longstanton (CB24 3DS Section B) for 10am and walk around the lakes at Northstowe. All paths are easy going underfoot and the walk will be around three and a half miles long. The path loops back a few times so if you choose you can take a seat and wait for the rest of the group to return. Do bring a drink and a snack for a short break to enjoy the water birds.

### Saturday 7 February

A return to Coton Nature Reserve and the nearby viewpoint.

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: [ann.jerram@gmail.com](mailto:ann.jerram@gmail.com).

Note that all walks are at your own risk.

### New Year, New Tools — But the Same Human Heart

As we step into a new year, many of us will make resolutions—some ambitious, some modest, some abandoned before February. Traditionally they revolve around willpower: getting fitter, decluttering the house, calling family more often. But 2026 arrives at a moment of remarkable technological change, inviting us to rethink our resolutions in the light of a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence.

AI now drafts our emails, suggests recipes, streamlines admin, and answers questions at remarkable speed (and even wrote a credible first draft of this article!). For many, this feels both useful and unsettling. Will machines take over the tasks we once took pride in? Will they erode the value of our own judgement, patience, or skill?

David Goodhart's *Head, Hand, Heart* offers an illuminating framework. He argues that our society has leaned too heavily on “head” skills—analysis, exams, abstract reasoning—while undervaluing the “hand” skills of practical workmanship and the “heart” skills of empathy, loyalty, and care. AI is likely to supercharge this imbalance unless we intentionally redress it. Machines are becoming proficient thinkers; it is in the realms of hand and heart where humans remain not only useful, but irreplaceable.

Girton village life is a daily testament to that truth. Our community works well not because someone has mastered an algorithm, but because people show up; the neighbour who checks on someone lonely; the person who goes out and picks litter; the volunteer who listens kindly, the carers who bring humour and dignity into challenging days. These actions are stitched together by presence, patience, and relationship—qualities no machine can replicate.

The Christian tradition casts a generous light on this. It reminds us that people are valued not for their intellectual output but because they bear the image of God. The Gospels honour “heart” and “hand” virtues: the Good Samaritan tending wounds; Jesus washing dusty feet; the early church sharing so none were in need. These stories make clear that compassion, practical service, and the lifting of burdens are not small tasks but central ones.

And into this, Christianity also places something our wider culture often struggles with: forgiveness. We live in a time when mistakes—spoken hastily, typed clumsily, captured on social media—can be met with harsh judgement. Yet Christian teaching insists that faltering, learning, and beginning again are woven into what it means to be human. As we navigate new technologies, misunderstandings, misjudgements and missteps are

inevitable. A village community shaped by patience and forgiveness becomes a countercultural force: a place where people are allowed to be imperfect, to apologise, to grow, to try again.

Perhaps our New Year's resolutions, in an age of AI, could reflect these truths. Rather than aspiring to machine-like efficiency, we might resolve to deepen our human gifts: to use our hands more, to invest in our relationships, and to cultivate the courage to forgive and to be forgiven.

AI may help us think faster, but only we can help each other live well.



**ST ANDREW'S GIRTON**

**BOBTAILS**

Bobtails Playgroup is a friendly space for anyone caring for a baby or child under 5

**Tuesdays 10-11.30 am (term-time only)**  
**at the Cotton Hall, Girton**

Drop in for free play, crafts, healthy snacks, songs and a Bible story

Suggested donation £2.50

### Mitten Tree Project

Over 100 items have been donated via the St Andrew's Mitten Tree to the homeless and others in need. These include scarves, gloves, socks and hats for children and adults.

The Rev Kristian Hewett of the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project came to St Andrew's Church on 7 December to thank the donors and collect the items.

Once again the people of Girton have shown great generosity, and many thanks are extended to all those who made the Mitten Tree Project such a success again.



St Andrew's Church

**Rector:** Revd Michael Bigg  
**Tel:** 01223 202145 **Email:** [rector@girton.church](mailto:rector@girton.church)  
**Website:** [www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church)

**Associate Priests:**  
Revd Christine Barrow  
**Tel:** 01223 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: January 2026

**4<sup>th</sup> Jan 10:00am** - Holy Communion (+ activities for children)  
**7:00pm** - Contemplative/Reflective Service

**11<sup>th</sup> 8:00am** - Holy Communion (BCP)  
**10:00am** - All-Age Communion  
**6:00pm** - Evening Prayer (BCP)

**18<sup>th</sup> 10:00am** - Holy Communion (+ activities for children)  
**6:00pm** - Evening Prayer (BCP)

**25<sup>th</sup> 8:00am** - Holy Communion (BCP)  
**10:00am** - Morning Prayer  
**5:30 pm** - St Andrew's Youth Group

**1<sup>st</sup> Feb 10:00am** - Holy Communion (+ activities for children)  
**7:00pm** - Contemplative/Reflective Service

### Regular weekday Services: January

**Tues 9am** Morning Prayer (said)

**Weds 9am** Morning Prayer (said) (Online)

**Thurs 9am** Morning Prayer (said) (Online)

### Other Services

**14<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm** - Abbeyfield, Ecumenical Holy Communion

**20<sup>th</sup> 2:45pm** - Arlington Manor, Ecumenical Holy Communion

**29<sup>th</sup> 11:00am** - Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

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](http://www.girton.church) )

O God, who by a star led the wise men to the worship of your Son; we pray you to lead to yourself the wise and the great of every land, that unto you every knee may bow, and every thought be brought into captivity through Jesus Christ our Lord. [*Church in Jerusalem and Middle East*]

### From the Registers

#### Funeral

**12<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Anne Lorimer

Girton Baptist Church



**Minister:** Revd Nick Lowe  
**Church Tel:** 07483 334860  
**Church Secretary:** Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith  
**Tel:** 01223 520442

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

### January Services at Girton Baptist Church

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

**11<sup>th</sup>** Morning Service, at 10.30am

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

**25<sup>th</sup>** Open 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:** This month's TAF is on Tuesday 2 January, beginning at 2:15 p.m. There will be a talk by Peter Rootham-Smith called "Travels and Food in Japan."

We warmly invite you to join our Bible study. Whether you're curious about the Bible or wish to delve deeper into the Christian faith, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would be delighted to share more information with you.

All are welcome to the services and events that we provide.

For further details about any of the above, including the online Zoom link for any of the services, please ring 07483334860 or email:

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

### A Short Devotion

January once more ushers in the beginning of a new year—closing the chapter on what is past and opening the doors to what is yet to come. The great Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon once said: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

His encouragement rests upon the deeper truth found in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am doing a new thing." (Isaiah 43:19) Whether young or old, let us not allow yesterday's failures—or even successes—to define our tomorrow. Let us step forward in faith to embrace this new thing.

**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)  
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 Con Tasioulas, [Con.tasioulas@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Con.tasioulas@girton-pc.gov.uk)

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

**District Councillors**

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**County Councillor**

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**Parish Clerk and Finance Officer**

Yvonne Murray Tel: 01223 618619  
[clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk)

**Facilities Manager**

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

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

**Postal address**

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

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



**Bin collections January**

Thursday 8 January Blue and Green bins  
 Thursday 15 January Black bin  
 Thursday 22 January Blue bin  
 Thursday 29 January Black bin

**Mobile library**

**Thursday 22 January**

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 Centre	279587

**VIOLA QUINTETS with  
CAMBRIDGE CHAMBER COLLECTIVE**

**Music by Mozart & Brahms**  
 Saturday 7 February 2026 at 4:00pm • St Andrew's Church, Girton  
 Admission from £12 • Carers & under-18s free!  
<https://bit.ly/3XZKY0R>



# Girton Social Club

48 Cambridge Road, Girton CB3 0PJ

girtonsocialclub@gmail.com Tel 01223 276890

## NOTICE FOR MEMBERS!

**It's that time of year again. Renewal fees are now due.**

**Existing members. £7.50. Senior £3.25. Education full/part time £3.25. Armed forces £1.**



**A members club. Run by the members. For the benefit of the members.**

**There's something for everyone at Girton Social.**

**Family friendly. Dog friendly. New members always welcome.**

## 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.

# See it for Yourself

Start the new year with family and friends in mind. Pop in and discover a new way of living. You might be surprised by what you find.



Sit back, relax and observe in comfort



Nibble on tasty treats as you take in the surroundings



Take a look around and get a taste of life in our home



**HALLMARK**

ARLINGTON MANOR  
LUXURY CARE HOME

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Join our Taster Day

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2 - 5pm

**RSVP to Martin Dickson, Customer Relationship Manager:**

[hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk/arlington-manor](http://hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk/arlington-manor)

Arlington Manor, Girton, CB3 0FW | 01223 080 138