



# GIRTON

## Parish News



NOVEMBER 2016



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... see page 19

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## Publication Information

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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.

All substantial articles in the magazine are 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.

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

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*Webmasters* Andrew Haylett, Paul Greaney

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

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## The Village Diary

### November

- Wed. 2** Club 55, Lunch, 12 for 12.30pm  
Girton Golf Club  
**Girton WI**, Abbeyfield, 7.30pm  
Christmas Baubles – Barbara Redman
- Fri. 4** Rotary Memory Café, 10am–12 noon  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
- Sat. 5** Girton Walking Group, 10am–12 noon  
Walk to Swavesey – meet at Over Church
- Sun. 6** Girton College Music Society, 2.30pm  
Duo Karadys (viola and piano), Stanley Library
- Mon. 7** Girton College Music Society, 8pm  
A Bachiade (music by Bach), Chapel
- Wed. 9** Talk on Lasting Powers of Attorney  
The Pavilion, 2–4pm
- Thur. 10** Girton Glebe School, 2–3pm and 6–7pm  
Open Afternoon and Evening  
Girton Garden Society, St Vincent's Close, 7.30pm  
Garden Quiz Night
- Sat. 12** Table Top Sale, 2–5pm  
The Restaurant, Abbeyfield Girton Green
- Wed. 16** Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
- Fri. 25** Meet Our MP Heidi Allen in Girton, 7–9pm  
Phone 276103 for details  
Impington Music Society, IVC, 7.30pm  
Oakington Singers
- Sat. 26** FOGG Christmas Fair, 2–4pm  
Girton Glebe School

### December

- Fri. 2** Rotary Memory Café, 10am–12 noon  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre

### Contact numbers for bookings

Cotton Hall	07759 983420 (new number)
Orchard Close	277164
Pavilion	472182
St Vincent's Close	276447

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**Copy date for December issue: Wed. 16 November.**  
**Issue date: Sat. 3 December. Covers 3–30 December.**



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## Girton Parish Council

The following are amongst items discussed at Parish Council meetings and information received by the Clerk. The full minutes of Council meetings are published on the village website: [www.girton-cambs.org.uk/Council.html](http://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/Council.html).

A number of residents have written to the Council in favour of retention of the railings at Mayfield Close. The major concern is to prevent parking on the grass and to safeguard children from running into the road. The best solution may be to retain rails on the main road side but to simply have posts (as is currently the case on Smithy Green, opposite the church) on the Mayfield Road side. This will meet the safety concerns while still allowing contractor access without dismantling of rails. Quotations for all options are being obtained and will be discussed at next month's meeting. No clear preference has been expressed in relation to the Mayfield bus shelter so any decision on this is likely to be based on relative costs.

Our recent meeting resolved to ask our County Councillor Lynda Harford to explore the feasibility of installing some sort of pedestrian crossing near the Co-op store. This would alleviate the issues of safe crossing for the less nimble, vehicles speeding along this stretch of road and make inconsiderate parking a much more serious traffic offence. We have also received complaints of problem parking near The George and would urge that those responsible ensure they leave adequate room for buses and emergency vehicles to pass. Our PCSO has reported that he will be spending more time in the village and will therefore be able to pay more attention to such issues in future.

A parishioner has reported a problem of dog waste and general litter along the Woody Green/Weavers Field footpath. Would all walkers please ensure they take their litter home and all dog walkers ensure they are vigilant in cleaning up after their animals. We are aware that not all read this page very carefully so would urge those that do to pass the message on as appropriate.

Further to our item in last month's Girton Parish News, we've been pleased to receive a couple of requests from groups who'd like to use the phone kiosks at Girton Road and Cambridge Road which the Parish Council can adopt providing that BT decides to decommission them. We look forward to these groups bringing their business plans to a future Parish Council meeting.

The last month has also been a busy one in terms of planning matters. The proposed development of 16 dwellings behind properties in Pepys Way was strongly opposed by local residents, 25 of whom attended a Parish Council meeting where the developers were present. The Parish Council Planning Committee unanimously rejected the application on the grounds of housing density, flood risk and increased traffic,

amongst other planning issues. The application from Anglia Ruskin University to develop their sports field at Howes Close has also met with local opposition, with a group of residents attending Parish Council meetings. The application was rejected by the Parish Council Planning Committee, as inadequate reasons have been given to justify developing on the greenbelt. These applications will now be considered by South Cambridgeshire District Council, and we await their decisions.

### Next meetings

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 16th November and Wednesday 21st December, both starting at 7.30pm at St Vincent's Close Community Centre. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings, and to speak in the open session at the start.

*Parish Clerk*

*Please see page 34 for a full list of councillors.*

## Carol Singing in Girton 2016: Collectors & Singers Needed!

Traditional Carol Singing will again take place around the streets of Girton in the run-up to Christmas Day! This year we are collecting for two charities: Phoenix Trust at Milton, which supports young adults with learning disabilities to get work experience, and the Cambridge Singing for Breathing group, which helps people with breathing conditions. Last year the generous people of Girton donated £1060 for the Sick Children's Trust at the Rosie, which was matched by the Girton Town Charity. Can we do even better this year? To do that we need Singers and Collectors, and preferably lots of both! Please come and join us.

Singing will start at 6.30pm on the following nights:

**Wednesday 21st December** – meeting outside the Church at 6.30pm, and singing in Church Lane, Hicks Lane, Cherry Bounds, White Gate Close, Sterndale Close, Redgate Road and Marks Way.

**Thursday 22nd December** – meeting at Girton Road end of Thornton Road, singing in Thornton Road, Thornton Close and in the courtyard of Thornton Court.

**Saturday 24th December** – meeting at the Girton Road end of Wellbrook Way, singing in Wellbrook Way and Weaver's Field.

- Wrap up warmly in light coloured or reflective clothing.
- Wear comfortable shoes with good grip (in case it's icy).
- Bring a torch.
- Children under the age of 11 should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Any enquiries – please contact Helen Wilson (276940) or Jerry Harrison (276459). Maps and details of previous charity collections on [www.girtoncarolsinging.org.uk](http://www.girtoncarolsinging.org.uk).

# From Our Councillors

## County Councillor Lynda Harford

All the County Council's service committees are now beginning their consideration of budget proposals for 2017/18. There is still a way to go until Council is presented with a budget proposal (will it take 12 hours to get it through as it did last year?) but budgets are currently framed on the assumption that the Council will levy the 2% allowed by Government for Adult Social Care but not increase its portion of general Council Tax. The Council has made £68m worth of savings over the last 2 years. Total savings required over the 5 year period (to 2021/22) of the business plan amount to £99m with £29m being required in 2017/18. Despite this, at this first stage some proposed savings have proved to be unacceptable to some of the service committees. Requests have been made to have grant funding for voluntary organisations and community transport reinstated. Both of these support community resilience, which is a big part of the County Council's strategy for transforming the way it works. The Children & Young People Committee gave its 'strongest support' for pursuing the achievement of a realistic budget for Looked After Children and also asked, in relation to Children's Centres, that more detail on the precise nature of where potential reductions would fall should be brought back to a future meeting before any budget decisions are made.

With regard to grant funding: the Government has launched a technical consultation on the 2017/18 local government financial settlement. It contains a proposal to introduce a referendum requirement for large parish councils that increase council tax above a (to be determined) threshold. It would appear that no parishes in South Cambs would be caught by the requirement as proposed, but views are being sought on widening this requirement to all parish councils.

The City of London Police, in partnership with Get Safe Online, has put together a **National Cyber Crime Survey**. Its purpose is to learn about people's awareness of online safety and experiences of cybercrime, with a view to improving its knowledge and understanding and to help provide an improved response to victims. The results will help police forces gain a better idea of the challenges they are facing. If you have a few minutes to spare please go to: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CybercrimeSurvey2016](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CybercrimeSurvey2016).

This weekend is the 185th anniversary of the **Special Constabulary**. They are a much valued and well trained resource and in the 12 months to March this year Specials worked nearly 10,000 shifts in Cambridgeshire, amounting to just over 66,000 hours of duty. Times have moved on since the longest serving Special first started 37 years ago. He was given his uniform on a Tuesday, sworn in two days later and was on football match duty

at the weekend. Given no training he was handed a truncheon, a pair of handcuffs and a whistle! Today's Specials are properly trained to do the same job as regular officers.

Many parish councils and local community organisations have now installed life-saving defibrillators. Recently the Government has warned that a relative few have been shown to have a design fault and has urged that checks are made on the functioning of two types of widely distributed models made by the same US manufacturer: Physio-Control. The models which may be affected are LIFEPAK CR PLUS or LIFEPAK EXPRESS.

If you would like to know more about the work of Cambridgeshire County Council, please let me know and I will add you to the circulation of the full report I write monthly for parish councils.

*Lynda*

*lyndaharford@icloud.com*

*01954 251775/07889 131022*

*Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo*

## A View from the District

The District Council runs an Elite Athlete Award Scheme to encourage young athletes in their training, and in the latest round of grants Girton's Sophie Lankford has been awarded a £1,000 grant for cycling. Congratulations, Sophie!

Plans for a Parishes' Conference are being finalised. At it the County will launch a £1M Innovation Fund for parishes to bid from in order to set up community schemes 'to help people to stay safe, independent and well, and ultimately help make savings for the taxpayer'. By all means send me your suggestions, but note that this is County money – I asked what chance a brilliant scheme would have if it only saved the District money, and was met with embarrassed silence.

On 13 September I attended a brief ceremony with Haydn Williams to inaugurate the construction of the Wellbrook Way Care Home. No construction vehicles should pass along Cambridge Road; please report to me if you see any. The skip lorries and scaffolding waggons should also be a thing of the past as Chivers have decided not to allow them the use of Grange Farm.

September's Council meeting had a busy agenda. Of note was a proposal to borrow £1.85M in order to lend it to the proposed Cambridge Ice Arena. I found it puzzling that we should fund the total shortfall, and was informed that this is because of our 'benevolent mindset' – though of course we also plan to make a profit on the transaction. I queried the lack of a sound risk analysis.

Those who wrote to me recently asking councillors to

condemn hate crime will be pleased to know that a fellow Independent, Cllr Peter Johnson, proposed such a motion which after some amendment was approved unanimously.

I raised my question about charging for credit card payments which I mentioned last month – how much had we made? The startling answer was that although we took nearly £14K we run at a loss because the system is run by Capita who charge us even more than the outrageous 2.5% we charge you. More questions remain to be asked and I am pursuing this.

With the Leaders of the other Groups I had a session with our departing CEO on 11th October. We discussed Devolution, our shared services, the City Deal and the Police ‘New Way’. The change of government has slowed the devolution process but probably not changed anything in it. With the heads of shared Planning and Legal services now in place, initial feedback and results have been positive. We noted some of the problems in the City Deal; specifically that City members showed little concern for South Cambridgeshire’s green belt areas. However simply scrapping the Deal would spell disaster since the Local Plan would die without it. We noted with concern the removal of the concept of local police officers/PCSOs, and agreed to invite CI James Sutherland to a future meeting.

I am on a Task & Finish Group to provide advice for Parish Neighbourhood Plans, which have much greater weight than Parish Plans in the planning process. The process is complex but well worthwhile for Girton – if we can find people to undertake it! Will **you** help?

I attended a planning site visit at 69 St Vincent’s Close where SCDC has already undertaken major works (which have had a major impact on the next-door neighbour), and found itself obliged to submit a retrospective planning application to itself. The neighbours spoke eloquently at the planning meeting, as a result of which the committee has demanded that officers provide a full structural survey before proceeding with the application.

We have commissioned an independent survey of Gypsy and Traveller needs in the District. The Government has made a significant change in its definition of Gypsies and Travellers, who were up to now regarded as separate races. Now only those who ‘regularly’ travel will be counted as Gypsies or Travellers. It appears we have enough provision for those in the District, though we do need 12 more pitches for Show People.

If you would like a fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at [scdc@de-lacey.org](mailto:scdc@de-lacey.org) and I shall add you to the list of recipients. If you have any District Council issues you would like to discuss please don’t hesitate to ask me.

*Douglas de Lacey*

## **District Councillor Tom Bygott**

### **New Ward Boundaries Published**

The Boundary Commission has published its final Recommendations for the boundary changes for the 2018 elections. This takes into account the consultation carried out since May and will be put before Parliament in the coming months.

The proposed boundaries can be found at: [www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/south-cambridgeshire](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/south-cambridgeshire).

The proposal for Girton would see Madingley and Dry Drayton added to Girton ward, but with no other changes. As small rural villages under threat from urbanisation and potentially being swallowed up by Cambridge, both villages have a lot in common with Girton, so I recommend these boundaries as a good outcome from the review.

Potential dangers such as being joined to a much larger village, such as Histon or Bar Hill, were avoided. The threat of a change to the boundary between Cambridge City and the District has been hanging over the village for many years – this could have involved cutting the village in half at the A14 with the Thornton Road area becoming part of the City. Thankfully, this is off the agenda for another few years, and I will be working to keep it that way.

### **Cambridge Ice Rink**

Construction of a new ice rink on the edge of Cambridge could get underway soon. The 56 metre by 26 metre permanent rink, with room for up to 1,000 spectators, will be built to international standards next to the Newmarket Road Park & Ride site.

At the last Council meeting I voted with most of my colleagues to provide a £1.85 million loan to the project over a period of 25 years. This investment will, if all goes well, generate a profit that will be invested in providing services to local people.

The Ice Arena was given planning permission last year and will be one of the most energy efficient ice rinks in the UK. Much of the funding (£3M) was provided by a bequest, and the loan from SCDC was the last requirement before construction can begin.

### **City Deal Consultation**

The recent consultation into how best to tackle Cambridge’s congestion has now closed. More than 9,000 responses from residents, businesses and organisations were submitted. An interim report is due to be discussed by the Greater Cambridge City Deal board by the end of this year with a fuller report in the New Year.

*...continued on page 9*

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## From Our Councillors

...continued from page 7

As with most large infrastructure projects in the UK, a solution to Cambridge's congestion problems has been paralysed by decades of indecision. The Government's solution to this has been to impose a timescale for building the projects so limited that only short term band-aid fixes can be considered.

For this reason, everything centres on our hopelessly inadequate bus system. The main projects involve cutting down all the trees along Milton and Histon roads to create a concrete urban moonscape. This has been met with a storm of protest from local residents, and is bound to fail, because there simply isn't enough space on existing roads for buses, cars, bicycles and pedestrians in any configuration that allows high speed reliable travel from our villages.

I will continue to push for a rail-based solution, with services every 15 minutes to existing village railway stations, connecting buses from those stations to other villages and an Oyster-style smartcard. In the longer term, we need a railway underneath Cambridge.

*Cllr Tom Bygott*  
*cllr@bygott.net*  
*07765 475513*

## Garden Tip of the month – November

Several people have asked me recently whether to plant now or wait till spring. Unless your plot is very exposed I advise planting now as there is still enough warmth in the soil to start some root growth. I have noticed a big difference in the first year's growth between autumn planting and spring planting, particularly when there has been an awkward cold or dry spell in the spring. There is also the advantage that there is one pot fewer to take care of!

November is a good time to sow early crops for next year like broad beans, peas and garlic. I have often noticed that the over wintered broad bean plants are sturdier, and shrug off cold, dry and aphid attack better than the fast but vulnerable early spring sowing. If you still have bulbs to plant do get on with it!

Plenty of pruning to do in the coming months, including gathering holly berries before the birds scoff the lot! If you have a windy garden shortening some plants will make them less vulnerable to wind rock: lavatera, buddleia, and roses spring to mind. Bear in mind if you are tempted to hard prune an evergreen shrub now it may not start to leaf up again till next May. Better to wait till next April or May when the greening up should start within a month rather than 6 months.

*George Thorpe*



**Girton Feast  
Committees  
2016 & 2017  
Fri 14 Oct 2016  
at the Cotton Hall**

The Feast Committee, who co-ordinated the terrific ten days of events this July, were delighted to say thank you in person to some of the hundreds of folk who made it all possible. The lovely nibbles and superior beer on offer were very well received. The records are now ready to create the foundation for July 2017 and show that almost £3000 was raised for a wide variety of charities by the organisations who had a stall at the Big Family Fun Saturday. Any profit raised centrally from the activities will all be put back into the village, e.g. underwriting next year and also sponsoring such things as roadside flower tubs and the Girton Glebe School.



**Sat 1st to Sun 9th July 2017.** Dates for Your Diary!  
The new committee are already planning and booking for next year – it's important to book early to secure the best! We are always keen to hear if you have any good ideas or can spare some time to help out – especially during the Big Family Fun Day, Saturday 8th July 11am–5pm. Our working theme is 'Transport/Getting About'.

Contact Carol for any details:  
[carol.noble@ntlworld.com](mailto:carol.noble@ntlworld.com)

## Girton Glebe Primary School Jumble Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated and came along to our sale, we really appreciate your support and we raised nearly £1100 for the school!

Look out for our next Jumble Sale on Saturday 11th March 2017.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



2016  
Cambridgeshire  
Festival of  
Remembrance

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
2.00pm

The Robert James Hall,  
Comberton Village College,  
West Street, Comberton  
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**The City of Ely  
Military Band**  
Bandmaster: Mr Phil Green

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Skyflight  
Kathryn Johnstone - Piper  
The Drums of 2524 (Oakington) Sqn Air  
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In Aid Of: The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal  
Charity No. 219279

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**Girton**  
TownCharity

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Girton Town Charity

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## GIRTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

### COME AND SING!

Girton Community Choir is a friendly, un auditioned  
choir and welcomes anyone who enjoys singing,  
regardless of ability.

We have a Musical Director and piano accompanist and  
sing in unison as well as learning two, three and four  
part harmonies.

The choir supports local events including Feast Week  
and Christmas music in Girton and most recently, the  
Red Lion Histon Beer Festival.

This term we are learning an *Abba* medley, *A Gaelic  
Blessing* by John Rutter and *Something Inside So Strong*  
by Labi Siffre.

Please join us on Wednesday evenings in Girton Glebe  
School Hall from 7.30 - 9.00pm. Come along for a free  
taster session or, for more information, phone Jane  
01223 474667 or email [info@girtoncommunitychoir.org.uk](mailto:info@girtoncommunitychoir.org.uk)

Supported by Girton Town Charity

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## GIRTON COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY

**SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER at 2.30 pm**  
(until 3.30 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College

### DUO KARADYS

David Earl: Sonata for Viola and Piano  
(written for the Duo Karadys)

Frederick Delius: Viola Sonata No. 3

Carol Hubel-Allen (viola)

Alan MacLean (piano)

Duo Karadys features two highly experienced performers who trained with some of the great names in chamber music (including Sándor Végh and Max Rostal). They come to Girton fresh from the Cheltenham Festival where they performed David Earl's warmly romantic Viola Sonata to great acclaim. Duo Karadys couples this with one of the greatest English sonatas for the combination of viola and piano, the Third Sonata by Frederick Delius.

Admission free – retiring collection

**MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER at 8.00 pm**  
(until 9.30 pm)

Chapel, Girton College

### A BACHIADE

Girton's annual celebration of the music of a single composer.

In this programme, devised and curated by Margaret Faultless, we feature favourite trio sonatas and preludes and fugues, alongside arias and choruses from cantatas – all by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Admission free – retiring collection



## Cambridgeshire Hearing Help

Advice about equipment for deafness is available to all; in addition NHS hearing aid wearers can exchange batteries and have hearing aids re-tubed.

Sessions are from 2pm to 4pm on the third Wednesday of each month at Girton Baptist Church. These are free sessions and no appointment is necessary. Should you require a home visit please telephone 416141 between 9.30am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday.

More information can be found on our website [www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk).

## Annual Village Christmas Evening

**7pm on Friday 9th  
December 2016 at  
Girton Social  
Club**



**Christmas Carols & Songs**

*with our Community Choir*



**Switching on the  
Christmas Tree  
Lights**

*with Mandy Maxwell at  
7.30pm*



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**Christmas Raffle**



**Mince Pies & Mulled Wine**

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*For more information Tel: 07885 190597*



## GIRTON GARDEN SOCIETY

Thursday 10 November at 7.30pm  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre

### GARDEN QUIZ NIGHT

#### Competitions:

1. A flowering pot plant
2. Three root vegetables (may be all the same vegetable)

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## Table Top Sale



**Abbeyfield Girton Green**  
**Wellbrook Way**  
**12 November 2016**  
**2-5pm**

If you want a table, contact Nicky on 01223 276851

## *My Fair Lady*

The Over Players are pleased to announce that 'My Fair Lady' is coming to Over, Tuesday 30th May to Saturday 3rd June 2017

**Why not come and join us?**

We will be one of the first groups in the U.K. to perform this glorious musical in six years, as no-one has been able to obtain the licence - until now! The Cinderella story about the Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle and the appealingly arrogant, Professor Higgins, is an endearing tale that charms audiences with its vivid characters and unforgettable songs, including:  
 "Wouldn't It Be Lovely", "On the Street Where You Live",  
 "I Could Have Danced All Night" and "Get Me To The Church On Time".

**Wednesday 18th January 2017,**  
 Read-through 7.45 pm, Over Church Hall

**Wednesday 25th January 2017,**  
 Auditions from 7.30 p.m. Over Community Centre, The Doles, Over CB24 5NW

Rehearsals will take place in the Church Hall on  
**Wednesdays 7.45 - 10 p.m. Principals also on Thursdays.**

For more information, please contact:  
**Christine Turner (c.turner1@hotmail.com or 01954 201218)**




## Christmas Fair

**Saturday 26th November**  
 2pm to 4pm  
 Girton Glebe Primary School  
 Entry £1 per family (50p individual)

Café

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Lucky Dip  
Santa's Grotto  
Tombola  
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Gift Stalls

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Themed activities  
and much more!

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### Final Performance of Début Farewell Tour!

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**Thursday February 23rd 7.30pm**  
**Friday February 24th 7.30pm**  
**Saturday February 25th 2.30pm and 7.30pm**  
**Girton Glebe School Hall**  
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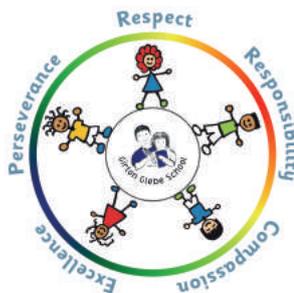
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 Act as an attorney for relatives or friends?

**Pam Nicholas**  
 (Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough)  
 will talk and answer questions on

### Lasting Powers of Attorney

on Wednesday 9th November 2016  
 2pm - 4pm at Girton Pavilion

Patricia Johnston 07469 660866  
[patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk)



## News from Girton Glebe Primary School

### Girton Glebe Primary School Ofsted Inspection

On the 28th and 29th of September Girton Glebe Primary was visited by Ofsted.

The team was very rigorous in its inspection of the school and the two days gave us the opportunity to show HMI the huge progress which has been made since the last report was published in November 2014. We were very pleased with the outcome of the inspection but unfortunately, at point of press, HMI have not yet published the final report on their website ([reports.ofsted.gov.uk](http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk)) so we are unable to share the full details with you. As soon as the report is live I will communicate this with you and will share the full version on the school's website, [www.girtonglebe.com](http://www.girtonglebe.com). Until then, please bear with us as we all eagerly anticipate its release.

### Open Afternoon and Evening

I would like to draw your attention to our Open Afternoon and Evening on Thursday 10th November for present and prospective parents. If you are still considering school places for EYFS children in September 2017 then we would love to show you the wonderful facilities we have to offer at Girton Glebe. There will be an opportunity to tour the school, see our classrooms in action and talk to the Headteacher about school places. We will also be offering opportunities to make follow-up visits to discuss school places in more detail with the Headteacher, which you can sign up for at the event itself.

The afternoon session will run between 2pm and 3pm and the evening session will take place between 6pm and 7pm. I look forward to welcoming you to Girton Glebe Primary School!

### Sporting Success

Our Year 6 pupils recently visited Impington Village College to take part in an Invasion Games Festival where they competed in tournaments against teams from Milton Primary and Histon Junior School.

The children took part in a series of competitive hockey, football and netball games held throughout the morning, proving themselves to be excellent ambassadors for Girton Glebe Primary School with their incredible sporting attitude and teamwork. The children enjoyed a very successful morning with both the football and the hockey tournaments being won by teams from Girton – congratulations to all of the children who took part in this event!

Our Year 3 pupils have also enjoyed time at IVC and they too took part in an invasion games festival in mid October. During their visit, the children played football, tag rugby, and hockey as well as being involved with multi-skills activities.

### The WI Brings Gifts to Girton Glebe

I would like to say an enormous thank you to the ladies of the WI who visited school this month to present us with a batch of books for our school library, which were funded



by the stall they ran at the Christmas Fair. The selection of books is incredibly varied and covers both fiction and non-fiction for pupils in both key stages.

### Ed Williams: Long Distance Swimmer

This week the children were treated to a visit by Mr Ed Williams, who led an assembly with the whole school telling the story of his adventures swimming the English Channel and Irish Sea. The children were very keen to hear of his endeavours at sea and asked lots of questions about the challenge. Many thanks to Mr Williams for sharing his inspirational story with our children.

### Mumford Theatre Visit

This month some of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils visited the Mumford Theatre to rehearse one scene from their production of 'Much Ado About Nothing'. The visit helped the children to gain an understanding of the size of the theatre and the lighting that would be needed to stage the play. The cast did an excellent performance of their scene and gave positive feedback to the other school that was there. We were really proud of the excellent manners, effort and respect demonstrated by the cast, technicians, stage managers and marketing assistants. Well done all!

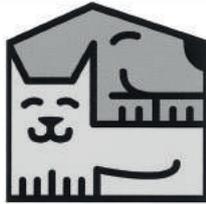
### Mathematicians Wanted!

We would like to raise the profile of maths in real-life contexts by appealing to parents and members of the community who use any aspect of maths in their day-to-day lives to come and talk to groups of children about how this subject area plays an important role in their work.

There isn't a fixed format for these sessions and we are more than happy for volunteers to suggest the amount of time they are able to offer and the number/age of children they feel most comfortable in talking to.

If you are interested in supporting us with this and feel that you could offer some of your time then please see either Mr Simpson or Mrs Whitworth for more information.

...continued on page 15



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## News from Girton Glebe Primary School

...continued from page 13

### Year 6 English Challenge

Our Year 6 recently took part in heats of the annual Year 6 English Challenge held at St Phillip's School. The team took part in several demanding rounds, where their knowledge of book characters, their ability to memorise poetry and their knowledge of grammar were all rigorously tested.

Although we did not progress to the latter stages of the competition, the team were commended on their excellent knowledge of Shakespearean characters, following a 60 second challenge round. They were asked to name as many Shakespearean characters as possible in just one minute. Congratulations to Sam O, Ayesha, Flora and Olivia F for representing the school with such distinction.

### Harvest Festival

Congratulations to all of our children who took part in the Harvest Festival on Friday 4 October. The singing was sensational and the children worked together so brilliantly with their musical collaborations. Our Foundation Stage children did themselves proud in their first Girton Glebe assembly as they performed a story based on *Handa's Surprise*, and it was lovely to welcome so many parents and family members to the school hall to share the occasion with us.

Many thanks for all of the food parcels that were donated, these will be sent to Jimmy's in Cambridge who I know will appreciate your support.

*Mr Andrew Simpson*  
Headteacher

## TenSing

We had a lovely end to October with the annual National TenSing Festival, and this year we had it here at our TenSing. The theme was Harmony, and we learnt songs, dances and dramas, and also spent time thinking about harmony and peace with each other during reflection times. Friendships were strengthened and a lot of fun was had! This month, we have our Team Building Day, where we will be going to Clip 'n' Climb in Cambridge, go out for lunch and play some team building games. Also on 1st December we will be singing at Cambridge train station raising money for a charity called Health Poverty Action. We did this last year and raised lots of money while having some fun too!

TenSing runs on Thursday evenings, 7–9pm, at Histon Baptist Church. Most activities are based around singing, but we also dance, act and play band. Also, if you're interested in tech stuff with sound systems, you

may like to join the tech team for events. The group is for years 7–13 and run by the young people for the young people, with DBS checked adults present. All are welcome to Cambridge TenSing, which is supported by the YMCA and Histon Baptist Church. For any information or queries don't hesitate to contact either me at [lilyduncan@me.com](mailto:lilyduncan@me.com) or our administrator, Terry King, at [jking47@aol.com](mailto:jking47@aol.com).

*Lily Duncan*



Hey,

We are always looking for new and exciting things to do at the Youth Club and as a result, this half term we managed a Graffiti project with our friends at AlFresh.Co, some spray painting at IVC and went to the Horror at Hinchingsbrooke House event just for fun!

However, I would still love to hear anyone else's ideas of stuff to do or an issue you would like to raise to the community. It doesn't have to be about our future plans, it could be about getting involved, offering some experience that might be useful, or simply that you have some concerns that you would like to share with an appropriate adult.

To get in touch, please email me at [tim.shuker-yates@theymca.org.uk](mailto:tim.shuker-yates@theymca.org.uk). Alternatively, call or text on 07775 888904. You can also find out what we do on our website or Facebook page. And remember, Youth Club is on Mondays and Thursdays and everyone is very welcome. The times are:

**Monday 4.30–6.00pm 8–11 year olds (term time only)**

**Thursday 5.00–7.00pm 11–14 year olds**  
**Thursday 7.00–9.00pm 14–19 year olds**

So, if you used to be a regular to the club and miss us or haven't been yet and like the idea of some of the stuff we do, please do come along, we're at Cotton Hall.

See you there!

*Tim Shuker-Yates*

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## Girton Neighbourhood Watch

### Message from our PCSO:

There have been some recent changes in local policing structure.

I am now the point of contact officer for Girton, Histon and Milton; however, the majority of my time will be spent on micro-beats, which are areas that have been identified as hotspots for crime. These micro-beats fall across three villages, three in Histon, two in Milton and one in Girton, and I am responsible for reducing crime in these six streets.

Wellbrook Way is the one street I need to concentrate on the most in Girton and I would like to establish Neighbourhood Watch links in this area please. If anyone is interested in joining NHW, please get in touch with me or the village coordinator.

*Kind Regards*

*PCSO 7009 Bujar MANI*

*Histon Safer Neighbourhood Team*

*T: 101 ext: 7113152 | M: 07525227383*

*Email: bujar.mani@cambs.pnn.police.uk*

## Girton's Phone Boxes

I'm sure I speak for the whole village in congratulating Ann Bonnett and her colleagues for rescuing from dilapidation the phone kiosk at the corner of Pepys Way. Some will cheer the creation of a book exchange. But I shall also cheer the saving of a great piece of British design and heritage. Readers might like to know a little more about these famous kiosks, now sadly disappearing or going to ruin. Perhaps it is especially important to appreciate them since, as Jane Buckler reported in the October issue, the other two kiosks in Girton are at risk.

The K6 red telephone kiosk is a British icon. It was designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, architect of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, Battersea Power Station, and Cambridge University Library. It is a modification of the K2 of 1924, which was larger and mainly found in London. Made of cast iron, on a concrete base, with a teak door, the K6 stands 8ft 3ins tall and weighs 3.5 hundredweight. (Don't expect metric measurements for 1935!) The design is 'stripped' (i.e. simplified) classical, with corner pediments and a dome, set on a podium, as in ancient or Renaissance buildings. But its most distinctive feature (and different from the K2) is the 1930s 'moderne' glazing pattern, the central column of panes being broader than the narrow side strips. The K6 was in production until the 1960s. The embossed crown is picked out in gold, and we can tell from the style of

crown that our 'Pepys Kiosk' dates from 1956 or later, whereas the two kiosks nearby, at Girton Corner and near St Andrew's Church, must date from before 1953. Over 1000 are now officially preserved as 'listed buildings'. Kiosks have been repurposed as book exchanges since at least 2009. There's a great little book about all this, Gavin Stamp's *Telephone Boxes* (Chatto & Windus, 1989).

*Mark Goldie*



## News for Older Residents

Do you know how to give someone the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf? Do you know how to act as an attorney for family or friends?

On **Wednesday 9th November at 2pm in Girton Pavilion** my colleague Pam Nicholas will talk and answer questions on **Lasting Powers of Attorney**. This will be followed by a cup of tea. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age. There is no need to book, just turn up.

A **Table Top Sale** will be held on **Saturday 12th November from 2-5pm** in the Abbeyfield Restaurant in Wellbrook Way. The proceeds will go to charity. To book a table please phone Nicky on 01223 276851.

My sincere apologies to Abigail Whyte and anyone affected by the wrong venue printed in this column last month. Abigail's clinic is on Wednesdays from 3-7pm at **Girton Prime Time Fitness**. For more information and to book an appointment phone Abigail on 03330 050093. Due to lack of interest she has decided to discontinue the local walks, at least for the winter.

But remember the **Exercise to Music class** continues on **Thursday afternoons, 2.30-3.30pm** in the Pavilion. So far the weekly attendance has mostly been good. The more people who go regularly the greater the chance there is of the class becoming permanent. Clare Strongman, the tutor, can be contacted on 07762 914904.

I enjoyed working with local colleagues at the recent Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age event. It was a happy occasion. The next celebratory event will be the **Christmas Party on Wednesday 21st December** from 12.30-2.30pm in the Pavilion. There will be a seasonal buffet, live music and more besides and the cost is only £5 per person.

And, last but not least, a resident who wants more social interaction has asked me if a monthly friendship group could be organised in the village. Do let me know if this suggestion is of interest to you.

*Many thanks,*

*Patricia Johnston, Older Residents' Coordinator  
patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk, 07469 660866*

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## Mutants and Thieves

Depending on your perspective, it may not be immediately obvious that Girton is overrun with mutants and thieves. However,

the observant – or those who go to great lengths to protect their bird feeders from squirrels – might take a different view of the village squirrel population. It's hard not to be impressed with some of their displays of aerial acrobatics and low cunning as they brush past our best efforts to deter them from bird feeders.



Judith Addison's wonderful photo captures an inquisitive Girton resident making a successful raid on a meal intended for someone else. *Sciurus carolinensis*, the naturalised (extremely) common grey squirrel is native to North America, but since its introduction to these islands in the 1870s has been very successful. For red squirrels this has not been a great biological success story, as since the introduction of the grey, the number of native red squirrels has plummeted, and across England they are now confined to the islands around Poole harbour, the Isle of Wight and some pockets in North Yorkshire, Cumbria and Northumberland. The picture is not much better in Wales, and only Scotland provides a more comparatively stable habitat. The damage they do extends further than displacing the native red squirrel, both in the UK and in parts of Europe, since they can destroy young trees and so have a negative impact upon the development of new woodland. Although the UK government did recently consider a cull, research suggests that there is no viable method for long-term control or eradication of our birdseed-thieving grey 'friends'. Their success is such that researchers estimated that within 10 weeks of an intensive cull, numbers would start to increase. The same researchers did, however, find a potentially successful way not only to reduce numbers of greys, but also to make life easier for red squirrels: the pine marten.

They found that as pine martens are re-introduced to an area, this is followed by a decrease in the number of greys, upon which they predate, and an increase in reds. Pine martens, like red squirrels, have been in significant decline for some time in the UK and since early in the last century have been confined to small but growing populations across Northern England and Wales with, like the red squirrels, a better showing in the Scottish Highlands. Perhaps swapping one invader for two native species may be an answer – time will tell. But not in Girton, as pine forest is not exactly an abundant habitat here.



Often seen in Girton, though, and caught on camera here by Ellie Courtney-Jones, the black squirrel is more mutant than invader or threatened native. The black squirrels that are often seen in the village and were first observed in the early 1900s are a melanistic variant of the grey squirrel, with a pigment mutation that makes them black, rather than being a different species. In North America they seem to thrive in the colder more northern reaches of the grey squirrel's range where the black colour may provide enough advantage in terms of heat loss to help shift the balance, though this would not explain their success here. The UK population of black squirrels is unknown, though it may be as many as 25,000 individuals. Nationally quite rare, they are plentiful in Girton where generous estimates suggest that three quarters of our squirrels are black. Dr Helen McRobie of Anglia Ruskin University has been researching these interesting mutants, mainly from a genetic perspective, but the ARU team may eventually discover more about the exact population distribution.

Mutant or not, birdseed thief or not, it's hard not to enjoy watching some of Girton's most determined and well-known residents.

James de Winter  
[ng@cambridgescience.co.uk](mailto:ng@cambridgescience.co.uk)

### Link:

The 2014 research work from Anglia Ruskin on the Black Squirrels and further information can be found here: [www.anglia.ac.uk/news/secret-of-the-black-squirrel-is-revealed](http://www.anglia.ac.uk/news/secret-of-the-black-squirrel-is-revealed).



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# GIRTON GREEN FINGERS

Time of writing is the weekend of 8/9th October. The end of September and start of October have seen a few beautiful days; warm, blue skied Autumn weather. It was luxurious to work in shirtsleeves. Autumn sunlight played on the more subdued colours of fading and dying flowers and foliage. There is a melancholy air as one strolls around the site: brown, brittle sweetcorn plants; remaining blighted tomato plants; unpicked mouldering tomatoes; runner beans still clinging to their canes, but yellowing and dying, dry pods waiting to be harvested for next year's seeds; bedraggled courgette and marrow plants which have sprawled for yards (although they stubbornly still produce a few fruits so that we are reluctant to pull them up); squashes and pumpkins, multi-shaped and coloured, awaiting harvesting. Clearing such stuff will be priority work in the coming days while weather encourages working out there. Some plots are already cleared and dug over. Some are planted with green manure, to which subject I shall return.

Not everything is finished for the season. Leeks will continue to increase in girth. Brussel sprouts plants are forming their little globes at the joint of stem and leaf. There are fine winter cabbages, some big as footballs. Frost will sweeten parsnips. A few recently planted seed potatoes may provide new potatoes for Christmas dinner, but blight and slugs may defeat such hopes. Broad bean seeds, onion and garlic sets can be planted.



*Late crops*

A few years ago, a visitor to my plot enquired what was the luxuriant growth of weeds covering my plot. As someone who takes pride in keeping a reasonably clean plot, I was slightly hurt. This thick growth was green manure. A definition of green manure on the RHS website states: "Green manures are fast-growing plants sown to cover bare soil. Often used in the vegetable garden, their foliage smothers weeds and their roots prevent soil erosion. When dug into the ground while still green, they return valuable nutrients to the soil and

improve soil structure." I choose to sow field mustard as areas of soil are cleared. (There are many other types.) It grows very rapidly and in five to six weeks it reaches two feet high and provides dense ground cover. I and other members are now scything the mustard down and digging it into our soil. It will have pulled up nutrients which have been leached deep into the soil; it provides other nutrients; it improves soil structure; it helps moisture retention. In short, it will help to provide conditions for successful growing next season. I was surprised to read that sowing and planting can be done after two weeks. I prefer to wait until Spring when the green manure can hardly be detected. I have never done any controlled comparison tests (a hobby can turn too serious!), but I believe my soil keeps in good condition and I don't go short of produce.



*Green manure*

A few members have shown interest in green manure. Mostly it is too late to sow this season – lower temperatures and less daylight work against good germination. However, an internet search suggests that field beans, forage pea and forage rye can just about still be sown. Search the internet for suppliers.

There are other means of enriching one's soil. One long full plot, covered in a thick layer of horse manure, is to be envied. But one has to find a source and to arrange delivery. Many of us compost our spent vegetable remains, grass cuttings, kitchen peelings, etc. Never as perfect as the great Monty Don's, useable, but of course no huge quantities. Soil conditioner, produced from household green bins at Amey Cespa recycling centre on the A10, can be had for free but has to be collected.

This is the time when a few members give up or reduce their plots; new tenants take on the challenge of allotment gardening. We shall welcome new colleagues. Valued new acquaintances and friendships are made through the allotments, and there can be genuine sadness when some of these friends move on to new activities, even to new countries. Thanks to all such for your friendship.

*Graham Jones  
Girton Allotment Society*



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## Festive Football Fun

Many of you may have seen that last year there was an unusual spectacle at Girton Recreation Ground as a team of Santa Clauses and a team of Snowmen took to the football pitch to do battle in a festive feast of football fun.



At the time, this was intended to be a one-off event to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. With typical enthusiasm, Girton residents and those of neighbouring villages flooded out in great numbers to support the day, buying bacon sandwiches, coffee and raffle tickets, and playing and cheering. The support was much greater than expected and it made for a fantastically spirited and Christmassy day for the whole family, ultimately resulting in just over £1,000 being raised for the charity.

The success was such that this year we are pleased to say it's back! This time it's promising to be bigger, better and even more Christmassy than before! The organising committee of one has now swelled to a team of three with Dean Stacey (Girton) and Paul Denman (Newnham) joining Alex to bring some new ideas and open up further opportunities, hopefully helping to make the event even more successful than the inaugural 2015 outing.

It has been agreed that money raised at this year's event will be donated to East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH), based in Milton. They give support to families, children and young people living with life-threatening conditions through a range of services provided at a family home, at hospital, in the community or at one of three hospices (Milton, Ipswich and Quidenham).

The planning operation is now in full swing. Expect hot food and drinks from professional caterers, fun and games for kids and excitable adults, some grand raffle prizes, Christmas gifts for sale and, of course, some more wonderful costumes for all our players and substitutes.

Details are still being finalised, but we can confirm the event will take place on Sunday 18th December, and the venue will be St Catharine's College sports field on Grantchester Road. Food and games from 11am with

the big game kicking-off at 1.30pm.

Starting places are in hot demand but if you would like to play or volunteer your time to help with setting up, cleaning down or any aspects of the day feel welcome to email one of the organisers below.

Please help us make it a success for the East Anglian Children's Hospice. Thanking you in advance with festive cheer.

*Paul, Dean and Alex*

*Alex Rodger: alexrodger123@gmail.com*

*Dean Stacey: deanstacey7@hotmail.co.uk*

*Paul Denman: hogi08@gmail.com*



**Girton Garden Society**

**Indoor Plants – a talk  
by Lamorna Thomas  
on 13th October at  
St Vincent's Close  
Community Centre**

If you are ever tempted to buy yet another indoor plant, consider Lamorna's 3 bedroom semi which has 119! She turns and waters them systematically, using a bucket of rainwater that lives in the kitchen all year, fortified with Phostrogen in the summer. The dining room table is frequently sacrificed as a propagating centre. Obviously, light is a high priority, overcome with a bit of ingenuity, in giving plants "holidays" and alternating them weekly if necessary.

Tradescantia tolerates lowish light and, in general, foliage plants are happier than flowering plants in such conditions. The famous Aspidistra is one such plant, though it does indeed flower outside, where slugs pollinate the ground-level flowers.

A common fault of many of us is overwatering, especially in winter, sometimes being deceived by drooping leaves, an occasional sign of overwatering. When briefly standing African Violets in water, it is fine if the surface remains dry.

Air humidity, or lack of it, is important. Our houses can be as low as 30% – desert conditions. One solution is to clump plants together and to mist them – with fertiliser, maybe, as for cymbidiums. Brown leaf tips can be a sign of dry air.

The cossetting of Lamorna's plants extends to a carpet on the greenhouse floor so that no plant stands on a cold floor!

Lamorna can be consulted any Saturday in Scotsdales Garden Centre where she is the "Gardening Angel".

*Felicia Moor*

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# GIRTON scoreboard



## Girton Bowls Club

Our next event will be the Club AGM 2016 on Friday 25th November at 6.30 for 7.00pm in the Abbeyfield main hall. Come and hear the plans for next year and give your opinions and vote in our new committee. Light refreshments will be available.

The Bowls Club Christmas Dinner 2016 will be at Abbeyfield on Friday 16th December at 7.00 for 7.30pm. A lovely menu has been agreed with drinks on a BYO basis. Ticket enquiries to Dave Fryer.

The new Wellbrook Way Community Hall – members were delighted to attend the public meeting on Wednesday 12th October to see the confirmed plans and hear the timetable for the build. Hopefully by the end of Summer 2017 we will be moving in!

The Green is now closed for its Winter maintenance. Many thanks to all of you that were part of the working party to treat benches, weed the edges and repack the container.

For any information do contact our Secretary Graham – [grahamclare71@virginmedia.com](mailto:grahamclare71@virginmedia.com) – and keep an eye on our website [www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com).

*Sian Franklin*

## Girton Netball Club

What a great way to begin the autumn season! Our team took part in the annual tournament to commence the Adult Friendly League, which takes place through the winter months. We played matches against six teams with each match lasting only 5 minutes and after winning three and drawing the other three it was our most successful tournament to date. As a result, Girton has been placed in Division A of the league.

Helen Stepney at South Cambridgeshire District Council has realised that there are several clubs in the area with no coach at the moment, so has organised four training sessions, which we were invited to attend alongside the other teams. These sessions have been brilliant so far and we hope that she will organise some more in the spring as the input from a professional coach has already had a positive effect on our play.

Monday evening training sessions are continuing (7.30pm at the recreation ground) with club members taking turns preparing to lead each session. Please feel free to come and join us if you want to get back into playing netball. We usually have a lot of fun and soon warm up in the cold evenings.

For more information contact Mel at [girton.village.netball@gmail.com](mailto:girton.village.netball@gmail.com). Also find us at: [www.sites.google.com/site/girtonnetball/](http://www.sites.google.com/site/girtonnetball/) and [www.tinyurl.com/girton-netball](http://www.tinyurl.com/girton-netball).

*Mel Gulston*



## Girton Golf Club

The seasons are moving on and this week Autumn is well and truly here with work being done on the greens, drainage lines being filled and warm jackets worn as the temperature has dropped significantly.

November sees the 80th anniversary of Girton Golf Club and there will be events on the 19th to celebrate this “birthday” including a competition with teams consisting of a male, lady, junior and senior member.

Important news at the club has been the appointment of Alan Fletcher, our Head Professional, as the new Director of Golf with responsibility for leading and co-ordinating green-keeping, administration, catering, bar, pro-shop and hospitality staff and facilities, ensuring members and visitors get the best possible experience at Girton Golf Club.

Congratulations Alan, no doubt you will make a huge success of the new role.



*Alan Fletcher*

Christmas parties are getting booked but there are still some places at lunchtime and evenings left – call the club for details and to book a table. Family get-togethers are particularly welcome – with or without disco.

Competition winners have included:

Men – Peter Adams (Veterans Salver), Mike Inglis (Seniors Autumn Meeting), John Creighton, Chris Bowler, Hugh Carlisle, Barry Tiplady (Colin Jeeps Memorial), Tommy Wilkinson, Peter Adams.

Ladies – Sue Leadbeater (Granny’s Salver), Linda Pauley (Doris Duke), Claire Tonner (Saddington Bowl), Louise Lloyd, Caroline Turner, Pauline Downes (Past Captains), Claire Tonner.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*



## Girton Tennis Club

Girton Tennis Club has use of the recreation ground courts and members who purchase a key have court access during most daylight hours.

Club members play from 7.30pm to around 9.00pm every Friday evening (under floodlights now). Although our supervised sessions for juniors have now stopped until the Spring weather returns, we suggest adult members continue to encourage their children to try playing tennis with them.

Tennis is an excellent way of getting some exercise and having fun. Details and application forms can be found on our website [www.girtontennis.org](http://www.girtontennis.org) or contact our Membership Secretary Kevin Keeves on 01223 276660 or by email at [info@girtontennis.org](mailto:info@girtontennis.org).

*Alan Franklin*

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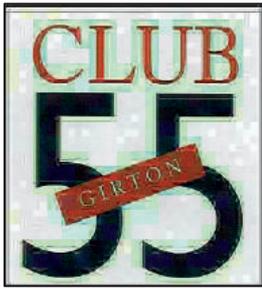
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## The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP & Minister of State visits Girton's Computer Group.

'Get Online Week' got off to a good start at Girton on

Monday 17th October when The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP and Minister of State responsible for Digital Policy in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport visited our computer group at the St Vincent's Close Community Centre.

Adam Mickelthwaite of UK Get Online was another distinguished visitor, having travelled down from Sheffield to be with us on the first day of the national 'Get Online Week'.

The visit was requested by Cambridgeshire County Council, and Cllr Ian Bates accompanied by officers of the Council also attended. The press and others were present – a real event for the computer group.



Adam Mickelthwaite deep in conversation with Daphne Rayner



Matt Hancock MP discusses the finer points of computing with Joan Bland aged 93

The dignitaries spent around 30 minutes talking to our members in a fact-finding mission while promoting the national 'Get Online Week'. Of course tea and coffee and our most expensive biscuits and cakes came out and everyone really enjoyed the morning.

Our prime object is to help our members with their computing requirements and problems, but there are 'spinoffs', friendships develop, loneliness disappears, people who have suffered a recent bereavement find some solace amongst friends and it gets them started into the digital world. If you are over 55 or disabled you are very welcome to join us or to just drop in on a one off basis to seek help. If you would like to help do come along. *We are open Mondays 10am to 12 noon.*

### For your diary:

**Thursday 8th December:** 12 noon - Film at St Vincent's Close Community Centre **Joyeux Noel** (*Merry Christmas*), Academy Award Golden Globe and BAFTA nominee for best foreign film. True life story of the spontaneous Christmas Eve truce declared by Scottish, French and German troops in the trenches of World War 1. (*In three languages with subtitles*)

**Wednesday 21st December:** Christmas Party at the Pavilion, Girton 12 noon for 12.30pm. Arrangements are in hand for a Party for the over 55's with a Christmas themed buffet,

mulled wine, seasonal music including a duo of harpists and other music, a quiz with prizes and most importantly time to reminisce. Entry £5 but free for Carers. If you would like to come along let us know and we will make arrangements to get you there and home if you can't make it under your own steam. If you know someone who might benefit from this please help them to come along.

**Thursday 26th January 2017:** Film **Learning to Drive**, a comedy starring Patricia Clarkson and Ben Kingsley.

For more details or to book any event contact:

*Sam Clift Tel: 01223 564808*

## New Community Centre unveiled at Village meeting

Thirty villagers attended the meeting held at Girton Glebe Primary School on Wednesday 12th October to hear about the new Community Centre and see for the first time what facilities it will offer.

Dr Robin Hiley, Chairman of Girton Town Charity which is building and will run the Centre, told the meeting that this was an end to a long process which started back in 1999.

In September, the final part of the Planning Permission was granted which means that the project can now proceed and it is hoped that work will start on site in Spring 2017. The estimated cost of the Centre will be £2.5 million.

Architect Nick Twitchett, who also worked on the GTC almshouses at Centenary Court, showed residents the different spaces within the Centre, enabling them to 'walk' through the building with the help of 3D graphics.

### Layout of the building

A number of people asked questions about the final layout of the building and the range of uses for which it is suitable. Dr Hiley outlined the extensive research GTC Trustees and their advisors had undertaken to maximise the ways it could be used by community groups within the Village, as well as perhaps being hired out for private functions.

The new Centre will have excellent 'green' credentials and be heated with an Air Source Heat Pump, in addition to having photovoltaic solar



panels installed on the roof. A carefully-designed Stormcell system will help manage surface water run-off into the local drainage.

The Hall will be fitted with a high-quality sound system, data projector and screen as well as upgradeable hearing loops. Accessibility is also top of the agenda, to ensure everyone can use the facility.

Dr Hiley said: "The Community Centre promises to be an excellent space for a wide range of uses and we are delighted that so many people came along to the meeting for a preview of the facilities. A great deal of research and discussion has gone into ensuring we create a Centre that is at the very heart of our Village and used by the widest range of community groups. We hope to update residents on progress as the project proceeds."

## Family home available for limited term appointment

A three-bedroom house situated in Centenary Court, Wellbrook Way is available for a three year appointment.

This property is suitable for a family. It has fitted kitchen, large living room, three bedrooms and a small garden. Green features include solar panels, triple glazed windows, enhanced thermal insulation and a heat recovery system.

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

Further information if required, may be obtained from the Chairman, Robin Hiley or any other Trustee. Applications should be made in writing either by letter, or using the application form available from the Charity Office. These must be returned to the GTC Office by 7 November 2016.

GTC Office  
22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.  
Open 10.00am – 1.00pm Tuesday-Thursday.

Tel 01223 276008  
email [gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk](mailto:gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk)

## Educational Grants 2016/17

Applications for an Educational Grant are invited from young people leaving secondary education and moving on to further or higher education or on to training schemes.

The Grant covers books, equipment, tools or other direct costs relevant to the course and is a maximum of £250\* per year for up to four years. Payment date for grant applications received will be 30th November 2016.

Applicants must have lived in Girton for a minimum of two years immediately before leaving secondary education.

Contact the GTC office for an application form. 22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU. Open 10.00am – 1.00pm Tuesday-Thursday.

Tel 01223 276008  
email [gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk](mailto:gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk)

\* Terms and conditions apply

The 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.

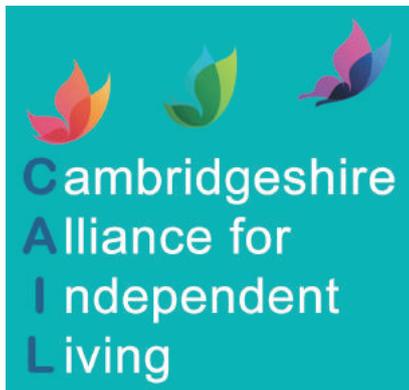
Enquiries on behalf of individuals or village organisations may be made in confidence and addressed to any of the Trustees below:

Dr Robin Hiley (Chairman) 1 Fairway Girton CB3 0QF t:277296  
Ann Bonnett 41 Church Lane Girton CB3 0JW t:276354  
Ray Gordon 10 Pepys Way Girton CB3 0PA t:276933  
Chris Green 43 Fairway Girton CB3 0QF t:276819  
Jenny Knights 47 Fairway Girton CB3 0QF t:276405  
Brian Pycok 49 Cambridge Road Girton CB3 0PN t:565247  
Patsy Smith 27 Woody Green Girton CB3 0PG t:575288  
Pippa Temple 10 Cambridge Road Impington CB24 9NU t:07775 446443

or to the Town Charity office:

Girton Town Charity 22 High Street Girton Cambridge CB3 0PU  
t: 276008  
e: [gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk](mailto:gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk)  
[www.girtontowncharity.co.uk](http://www.girtontowncharity.co.uk)





**Do you want to have a say in improving services from Health or Social Care?**

Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living is a local independent charity that works to improve services by raising the voice of people living with all disabilities.

One of the ways we do this is by bringing people with all disabilities and carers (called Independent Members), Health and Social Care teams, and voluntary sector organisations (such as Age UK, Voice Ability, Cam Sight and the Carers Trust) together at 'Partnership Board' meetings.

The Partnership Boards are opportunities for you to have your say about what is good about Health and Social Care services, such as home care and day centres, and what you would like to improve or where you would like to see changes. Recent activities by the Partnership Boards include raising concerns about home care, which are now being examined closely by the County Council, involvement in helping to develop a new Carers Strategy and involvement in the process for choosing organisations to run Carers Services.

Interested in getting involved? We are looking for new Independent Members to join our boards. We offer full training and support, out of pocket expenses and reimbursement of travel. If you think this could be you, please contact Leisha O'Brien, Development Officer at Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living by phoning 0300 11 2301 or email [leisha@cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk](mailto:leisha@cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk).

To find out more, take a look at Partnership Board pages on our website: [www.cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk).

## Kiosk Book Exchange



**Now Open**

### Girton Community Book Exchange

The kiosk on Girton Road at the junction with Pepys Way has been renovated to its original condition and converted into a community book exchange.

Please use it as often as you like. Book donations can be added when there is space on the shelves.

The kiosk is being managed by volunteers. If you would like to help email [girtonkioskbookexchange@gmail.com](mailto:girtonkioskbookexchange@gmail.com)

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### Just Rewards

I suspect that some people think that Vicars don't own worldly things like Loyalty Cards. Wrong! I have a selection from Waterstones, Boots, Tesco and my favourite – the Nectar Card. I get a strange sense of satisfaction from seeing the points tot up, especially at Christmas, when you can cash in on your loyalty throughout the year and extend your purchasing power. The Loyalty Card has been to my rescue on more than one occasion. I did hear that some stores might be reconsidering the Loyalty Card system because they can no longer afford it – I hope not.

From our school days onwards we are conditioned to expect a system of reward for loyalty, diligence and good behaviour. Certificates of merit are handed out to primary school children on Fridays to celebrate particular achievements made during the week. Correspondingly, disruptive behaviour meets certain reprisals – missing playtimes, and time deducted from the 30 minutes of 'Golden Time' awarded to children at the end of the week. Hard work in GCSE and A-Level classes is rewarded with good exam grades, the opportunity to go to university, and eventually, find a good job. In work, the reward system continues; toe the line, take initiative, go the extra mile and a promotion may be in the offing. Well, sometimes ...

We are conditioned into the mind-set of merit and reward so strongly that it comes as a shock to know that in our approach to God we have to recalibrate and realise that nothing we can ever do earns us merit points with God. Nothing we can do will ever put God in our debt or earn his gratitude because even the best and most devoted Christian service is nothing more than God is entitled to expect. In our service and devotion we are only giving back to God what is God's by right. This is a lot to take in.

There is always the temptation to compare ourselves with others and make a tally of good works, worship and devotion, crossing them off on the score chart and giving ourselves 10 out of 10. There is the mistaken belief that an extra set of prayers before bedtime will give you a higher rank at the heavenly banqueting table. And there is the worrying, but possibly true thought, that the people you had written off might be sitting next to you. Such is the love of God.

God's love for *everyone* is wildly extravagant. There are no credit scores with God. In fact, some of us might think the love of God unjust and certainly unfair. It is,

and thankfully, there is nothing we can do to change God's crazy, prodigal economy.

One thing we can do is to respond to God's generosity through living with an 'attitude of gratitude' (to borrow a much-used phrase). It won't earn us any gold stars, but being truly thankful for what we have helps us to deal with the times when we feel unrewarded, or that life is unfair. Gratitude helps us to gain a proper sense of priority and releases us to develop and enrich the gifts we do have.

*Mandy*



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**An extra 50p for each additional child**

**Come and Play!**  
**[www.girton-bobtails.org.uk](http://www.girton-bobtails.org.uk)**



## Notices

### Services

Our annual **All Souls' Service** will take place on Sunday 6th November at 6pm. All are welcome to come and light a candle to honour the memory of a loved one.

On **Remembrance Sunday**, 13th November, all are welcome to the village Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.50am, followed by a Remembrance Service at 11am in St Andrew's.

There will be **Advent Readings** at St Andrew's on Sunday 11th December, 6pm. All are welcome to this informal evening of advent readings and carols.

### St Andrew's Churchyard

Are you interested in the churchyard looking kempt? Do you want to be part of a team on the last Saturday of every month where we care for the churchyard? If so, a working party will be organised from 10 to 12 noon and there will be a list of the sort of jobs that need tackling on the church porch noticeboard. Just turn up in suitable clothes with gloves if you would like to be involved.

### St Andrew's Parish Registers

#### Funerals

**Beryl Joyce Hall** on Wednesday 19th October 2016 at 10.45am at Cambridge City Crematorium. Minister: Revd Mandy Maxwell.

**Heather Mills** on Monday 24th October at 3pm at St Andrew's Church, followed by a burial in the churchyard. Minister: Revd Mandy Maxwell.

**Mary Hesse** on Tuesday 25th October at 12.30pm at St Andrew's Church, followed by cremation at Cambridge City Crematorium. Minister: Revd Mandy Maxwell.

### For Hire: North Room adjoining St Andrew's

#### What is available?

A modern centrally heated room linked to the rear of the church. Ideal for meetings of up to 12 with tea/coffee making facilities, toilet facilities and adjacent car parking at the Recreation Ground.

The charges: £10 per hour.  
Contact details: Bookings via the Rector on 01223 276235.



## Notices



*Coffee Morning*  
Come and join us for a chat over a cup of coffee and some biscuits!

**Every Thursday 10:00 - 12:00**

Girton Baptist Church  
Growing Believing Communities

*Come along and bring a friend!*



**I AM The Good Shepherd**  
Thursday 10 November  
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[www.girtonbaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.girtonbaptistchurch.co.uk)



**Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group**

Come and join us at 2:15pm on

**1<sup>st</sup> November – Operation Christmas Child**  
*(Meeting at Orchard Close Centre)*

**15<sup>th</sup> November – Passing the Baton**  
*(Iris Niven)*

*For more information or to arrange a lift please call*

Christine Kimmitt - 01223 575881 or Chris Whitby- 01223 276044

Girton Baptist Church  
Growing Believing Communities



## St Andrew's Church

**Rector: The Revd Dr Mandy Maxwell**  
 The Rectory, 42 Church Lane, Girton CB3 0JP  
 Tel: 276235  
 Email: [girtonstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:girtonstandrews@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.girton.church](http://www.girton.church)

**Associate Priest: The Revd Christine Barrow**  
 2 Cockerton Road, Girton CB3 0QW  
 Tel: 575089  
 Email: [mcbarrow@me.com](mailto:mcbarrow@me.com)

**Licensed Lay Ministers:**  
 Mr Dugald Wilson Tel: 276940  
 Mrs Christina Deacon Tel: 525337

**Churchwardens:**  
 Mr Bruce and Mrs Wendy Hunter  
 Tel: 503958  
 Mrs Alice Few Tel: 276072

### Sunday Services: November

<b>6th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>6.00pm</b>	All Souls' Service (All are welcome to light a candle in memory of a loved one)
	<b>7.00pm</b>	Taizé Worship
<b>13th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	BCP Holy Communion
	<b>10.50am</b>	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
	<b>11.00am</b>	Remembrance Service
	<b>6.00pm</b>	BCP Evensong
<b>20th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	BCP Holy Communion
	<b>10.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>6.00pm</b>	BCP Evensong
<b>27th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	BCP Holy Communion
	<b>10.00am</b>	All Age Family Worship

Please note that All Age Family Worship will move from the 2nd to the 4th Sunday in November, owing to the Remembrance Service on 13th November.

### Weekday Services: November

<b>8th</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	Service of Holy Communion at Abbeyfield
<b>23rd</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Service of the word at St Vincent's Close Community Centre
<b>24th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Service of Holy Communion (BCP) at Gretton Court

All are welcome to any of our services.

## Girton Baptist Church



**Minister: Revd Nick Lowe**  
 219 Wellbrook Way, Girton CB3 0GL  
 Tel: 279289

**Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith**  
 Tel: 926807

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

### Sunday Services: November

(There is an All Age Service the first Sunday of the month and Sunday School is available the following weeks during the morning service. Tea and coffee are served at the end.)

**All services are led by Revd Nick Lowe unless otherwise stated.**

<b>6th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship
	<b>6.30pm</b>	Evening Service with Communion
<b>13th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Evening Worship at Landbeach Baptist Church (Note earlier time)
<b>20th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship with Communion
	<b>6.30pm</b>	Evening Worship Led by John Searle
<b>27th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship
	<b>6.30pm</b>	Evening Worship Led by Tom Carbonaro

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

**Chairman**

Haydn Williams, 40 Church Lane, Tel: 474667  
*chairman@girton-cambs.org.uk*

**Vice-Chairman**

Andy Griffin, 1 Churchfield Court, Tel: 07956 447674

**Councillors**

Jane Buckler, 28 Girton Road, Tel: 277636  
Tom Bygott, 9 Station Road, Oakington, Tel: 232966  
Douglas de Lacey, 9 Woodlands Park, Tel: 565219  
Val Godby, 38 Woodlands Park, Tel: 276372  
Anne Kettle, 11 Redgate Road, Tel: 277505  
Lee Taylor, 296 Wellbrook Way, Tel: 07791 179546  
Mark Taylor, 16 Mayfield Road, Tel: 276563  
John Thorrold, 53 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276760  
Douglas Whittle, 23 Fairway, Tel: 704747  
Lyndsay Williams, 51 Weavers Field, Tel: 07970 101578

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

**District Councillors**

Tom Bygott, Tel: 232966  
*cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk*  
Douglas de Lacey, Tel: 565219  
*scdc@de-lacey.org*

**County Councillor**

Lynda Harford, Tel: 01954 251775/07889 131022  
*lyndaharford@icloud.com*

**Parish Clerk and Acting Finance Officer**

Susie Cumming, Tel: 472181  
*clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk*

**Recreation Centre Bookings Administrator**

Linda Miller, Tel: 472182  
*admin@girton-cambs.org.uk*

**Website:** *www.girton-cambs.org.uk/council.html*

**Postal address:** Girton Parish Council  
The Pavilion, Girton Recreation Ground  
Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0FH

**Girton Neighbourhood Watch**

Chair: Val Godby  
*v.godby897@btinternet.com*, tel. 276372  
Vice-Chair: Geoff Varley  
*varley3522@btinternet.com*, tel. 276772  
Secretary: Margaret Wheatley  
*wheatleymargaret606@yahoo.co.uk*, tel. 527093  
Police non-emergency number: 101. To report fraud or cyber crime, visit *www.actionfraud.police.uk* or telephone 0300 123 2040

**John Charles Kennedy**

John passed away peacefully at home on 29th August aged 80 years. Some people will remember him when he worked as a bar steward at Girton Social Club, but most people will remember him as the caretaker at Girton Glebe School. John was a very likeable, friendly person who seemed to be loved by all.

My sincere thanks to Huntingdon Road Surgery whose staff have been so supportive, especially the District Nurses who helped to look after John; we could not have managed without you all.

The Community Wardens continue to be a great support. They are a fantastic asset to our village and their visits have been much appreciated. And Girton Town Charity – I wanted to thank you for funding John's care. Also Andrea and Chris, thanks for all your hard work in organising the food at John's wake.

The afternoon tea was so amazing and enjoyable. Thank you so much. John would have been so proud of everyone for all your love and support you have given to me and my family.

The cards, messages and flowers have been overwhelming. We miss him so much.

Rest in Peace John.

*Sue Kennedy*

**Rubbish Collection – November**

Tuesday 1 November	Blue and Green bins
Tuesday 8 November	Black bin
Tuesday 15 November	Blue and Green bins
Tuesday 22 November	Black bin
Tuesday 29 November	Blue and Green bins

**Mobile Library**

**Thursday 24 November**

Thornton Court	09.30 – 09.50
Abbeyfield	09.55 – 10.30
St Vincent's Close	10.35 – 11.10
Orchard Close	11.15 – 11.35
Hicks Lane	11.40 – 12.00
Gretton Court	12.05 – 12.35
Playgroup/Church	12.40 – 13.00
Churchfield Court	13.05 – 13.30

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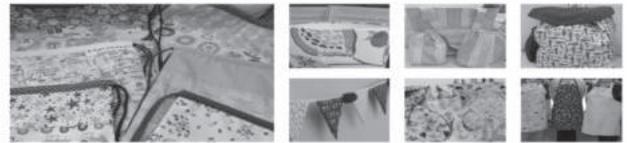
## Sewing Club

Mondays 7pm-10pm

Orchard Close Community Centre

More details from Julie Miles 07806 819283

Or at [www.escapeandcreate.co.uk](http://www.escapeandcreate.co.uk)



**Oakington Dog Day Care Centre**



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Academy of English

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like a real family member."  
CAE student

