



# GIRTON

## Parish News



# LICHENS ...

March 2017



NATURAL GIRTON, p. 23

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## Publication Information

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

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

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

### Advertisements

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

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

**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

### March

- Thur. 2** **Club 55**, film t.b.a., 12 noon  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre  
**Girton WI**, The Pavilion, 7.30pm  
Annual Meeting
- Fri. 3** **Rotary Memory Café**, 10am–12 noon  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre  
**Impington Music Society**, IVC, 7.30pm  
Stephen Purse Foundation School students
- Sat. 4** **Girton Walking Group**, Wimpole Park walk  
Meet 10am at Wimpole Car Park
- Sun. 5** **Girton College Music Society**, 5.30pm  
Renaissance Music for Voices and Brass
- Thur. 9** **Girton Garden Society**, St Vincent's Close,  
7.30pm, Hanging Baskets – Lamorna Thomas
- Sat. 11** **FOGG Jumble Sale**, 11am  
Girton Glebe School
- Sun. 12** **Girton College Music Society**, 2.30pm  
Quintets ad Trios
- Mon. 13** **Girton Cricket Club**, Quiz Night, 8pm  
The George
- Tues. 14** **Girton Neighbourhood Watch**, meeting  
St Vincent's Close, 7.30pm (all welcome)
- Wed. 15** **Club 55**, 12 for 12.30pm  
Lunch at The George, Girton  
**Parish Council Meeting**, 7.30pm  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
- Fri. 17** **Impington Music Society**, IVC, 7.30pm  
Guitar and Cello
- Sun. 19** **Girton College Music Society**, 2.30pm  
Recitalists in Concert
- Wed. 29** **Huntingdon Road Surgery**, 6.30pm  
Preventing and Managing Diabetes
- Fri. 31** **NW Cambridge Development**, from 8.30am  
Site tours (booking essential)  
**Girton WI Craft Club**, 2–4pm, St Andrew's  
North Room (non-members welcome)  
**Impington Music Society**, IVC, 7.30pm  
'Singing for Fun'

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Copy date for April issue: Wed. 15 March. Issue date: Sat. 1 April. Covers 1 April–5 May.



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## GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

The following are amongst items discussed at Parish Council meetings and information received by the Clerk.

At our February meeting, the Council agreed the new fees structure for Pavilion and sports sites for the coming financial year. The Council also agreed to replace the post and rail fencing at Mayfield Triangle, and approved a contractor to undertake a three-year rotation of hedgeworks at Girton Recreation Ground.

Regarding the Girton Town Charity's plans for the area between St Andrew's Churchyard and the car park, the Parish Council seeks residents' views on the proposal to replace the existing bus shelter. Please get in touch with the Clerk to make your views known, before this issue is discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

### **Traffic issues**

The Council continues to receive complaints about inconsiderate parking in the village, and proposes placing posters in 'parking blackspots' to urge motorists to park responsibly.

Many of the village's grass verges have been damaged by vehicles driving or parking on them. We would ask residents to contact the Clerk with details of damaged verges so we can plan to have them repaired.

Ongoing works on the A14 will mean disruption to bus services to Cambridge Crematorium, where the bus stop is currently suspended. Our County Councillor is investigating this.

At the time of going to press, resurfacing treatment works and pot-hole patching on Girton Road are scheduled for the end of February, and it is hoped that these works will improve conditions for road users through our village.

### **'Wings for Life World Run' through Girton – 7th May 2017**

All residents should be aware that the 'Wings for Life' worldwide running event will go through Girton again this year, with rolling road closures on Huntingdon Road, Girton Road and Cambridge Road from 12 noon until 2pm on Sunday 7th May. The hotline number for queries is 0203 117 2092 and the website is [www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com/gb/en/cambridge/](http://www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com/gb/en/cambridge/) if you'd like more information.

### **Next meetings**

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 15th March and Wednesday 19th April, 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.



## **OPEN DOORS CONSTRUCTION EVENT AT NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT**

**North West Cambridge Development site tours  
Friday 31 March 2017**

The North West Cambridge Development will be participating in the construction industry's Open Doors event, offering the local community the opportunity to see behind the scenes of the University of Cambridge's largest capital development project on Friday 31 March.

The event, organised by the site-wide infrastructure contractor, Skanska, will showcase the development under construction through a walking tour along a designated safe route led by the contracting team. On the day, visitors will receive an introduction to the scheme; a health and safety briefing; a walking tour of the site; and a chance to see first-hand the development under construction.

With over one thousand people working on-site daily to build the new district, and multiple contractors working to complex logistics, the construction of the new district is well underway for the first phase of the North West Cambridge Development. Preparations are being made for the arrival of the first residents in spring 2018.

The Open Doors event will run on Friday 31 March from 8.30am–2pm and will include walking tours at three intervals. Booking is necessary as capacity is limited. Early booking is advisable. Parking is available on the construction site. Due to site restrictions, the site is not fully accessible and age restrictions apply. Please contact us through the booking form to raise an enquiry if you have any questions.

**Booking for tours is required through  
[www.opendoors.construction](http://www.opendoors.construction)**

*For more information, contact Biky Wan, PR Manager for the North West Cambridge Development at the University of Cambridge.*

*T: 01223 332253 M: 07795 580475*

*[Biky.wan@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Biky.wan@admin.cam.ac.uk)*

# From Our Councillors

## County Councillor Lynda Harford

You may recall that last year when the County Council met to set its budget for 2016/17 there was much political divergence and the meeting lasted for the best part of 12 hours before marginal consensus was reached. This year we were better prepared for a long meeting and started 3 hours earlier than usual, and whilst consensus was arrived at more quickly than last year, within 6 hours this time, it was again extremely marginal. The opening position assumed that last year's 2% levy for Adult Social Care would be maintained. A number of proposals for amendment ranged from levying absolutely nothing to the other extreme of opting for the full amount that government would allow: 4.99% (1.99% on Council Tax plus 3% for Adult Social Care). The final decision was to maintain the status quo and levy only 2% for Adult Social Care as last year. However, one of the many amendments put forward, and the one which was finally successful, proposed measures that allow the Council to address some of the concerns voiced by residents. By using funds that would otherwise be transferred to the Council's Transformation Fund the Council will be able to (a) resource the working up of a number of highways improvement schemes – particularly to deal with traffic pinch points and to improve the quality of roads and footpaths – and (b) invest in mental health services. In balancing the budget consideration has to be given to both ensuring the Council's ability to provide the services its residents expect and how much of that resource the Council can expect its residents to supply via taxation. The budget that the Council has now agreed takes both of these factors into account.

Progress on Devolution continues. The Shadow Combined Authority Board met for the second time and confirmed the appointment of the Chairman and the portfolios of the council leaders who will form the Combined Authority's cabinet. It was also confirmed that the Order to form the Combined Authority would be signed by the Minister on 13 March 2017 and the Combined Authority will be fully constituted on 14 March 2017 with its first full meeting scheduled for 22 March 2017. The Returning Officer was appointed and the names of some of the members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee were also confirmed. Arrangements to engage an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Combined Authority for the remuneration of the elected Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were also discussed. The interim Monitoring Officer will now convene this panel of independent members from the whole Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area.

It seems that the Council's new online way to apply for a Blue Badge is really meeting with approval. The new

web application form simplifies the way people can apply for or renew a Blue Badge and even does away with the need for the uploading of documents.

Applying through

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/bluebadges](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/bluebadges) saves time for applicants and money for the Council – around £80,000 a year!

Locally I am working with parents of children attending the University Primary School on the issue of safe access for pedestrians and cyclists. I am too pursuing the issue of the suspended bus stop at Cambridge Crematorium to which I am hopeful of prompt resolution.

If you would like to know more about what's happening at 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

Residents will have noticed that our waste bin collection service has been reorganised. We have combined with the City to produce a service which should be more efficient and save the Councils £200K pa. No doubt there will be teething problems but please bear with us, and report to me any problems you have.

Our Council now shares several services with the City and Huntingdon DC, through a body which calls itself 3C (this does not include waste collection). It has just issued a newsletter lauding 'lots of positive updates on the progress made with implementing our three way shared services'. These include employing many more staff and delaying the introduction of a commercial Financial Management system because of 'issues' in functionality. 'Issues' have also arisen in ICT, and in communication in general with the 3C team. But on the positive side 3C has won a prestigious prize for quality in building control.

The rubbish bin at the Girton Corner bus shelter should have been replaced months ago and I was surprised to discover that this has still not happened. I am hoping that by the time you read this it will have been. County officers are also working on moving the old shelter at Thornton Road to opposite the allotments and I have asked for this to be speeded up.

Our concern to control unwanted applications from developers has been dealt another blow: the Inspector has overruled our refusal of a 55 dwelling development

in Over. Once again our failure to demonstrate a 5 year housing supply is the key issue, and this can only encourage other speculative developers. Our political leaders seem incapable of taking any lead in grasping this nettle. This was written just before the publication of the Government's White Paper on housing – more next month!

You may have seen a press release announcing the appointment of a new Chief Executive for the City Deal. This follows a highly critical report on the structure and functioning of the Deal. Our Independent Group remains entirely unrepresented in the City Deal organisation, but the report now amply justifies my concerns. It highlights a large number of problems including in particular the need for more robust governance and a lack of vision. It is scathing about the Deal's project management. Now it is in the open it will be critical to assess the Board's response.

Meanwhile I have written to the Vice-Chairman of the City Deal Board, objecting to the suggestion that a Workplace Levy scheme should include the southern part of Girton. My objection is now firmly in the documentation.

The chairman of the licensing committee has written to all Members concerning media claims that taxi drivers with serious convictions, including murderers and sex offenders, have been granted licences by South Cambs DC. He wishes to assure us that 'There is absolutely no truth in these claims'.

I have been approached by a company making a TV show for the BBC looking into repairing beloved and interesting possessions for people who would like to see them restored to their original working order. In particular they would like to feature items which have a community value. If you have any suggestions please let me know.

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**

### **Bin collection dates are changing**

Girton's bin collection day is moving to Thursday. The blue and green bins and the paper caddy will be collected on Thursday 2nd March, and the black bin on Thursday 9th March. They will then alternate each Thursday.

Bin dates are always published in the centre spread of the South Cambs magazine – it's a good idea to cut this section out and attach it to your kitchen wall or fridge. Information can also be found at any time on the Council's website at [www.scambs.gov.uk/binsearch](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/binsearch).

The reason that this change is being made is that we now have a shared waste collection service between South

Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. This means that areas on either side of the District–City boundary can share the same collection round. The changes will allow the refuse lorries to travel approximately 20,000 fewer miles per year, saving money and reducing traffic and emissions. It will also save £700,000 over three years. Cambridge City's recycling service is also slowly being brought up to the high standard set by the District, although the City Council hasn't yet caught up with our separate paper collection.

### **SCDC again votes against a congestion charge**

Councillors in South Cambridgeshire have reaffirmed that a congestion charge is not the answer to solve transport problems in and around Cambridge.

A motion backed by councillors at a Full Council meeting of SCDC saw the authority reiterate its opposition to a congestion charge, on grounds that it would selectively penalise those residents in South Cambridgeshire who currently have no realistic alternative to using the car.

I voted against a charge and spoke about the parking chaos that would result in Girton as the boundary would likely cut the village in half. I am also opposed to the idea that village residents should be charged for not using public transport while the quality of our transport is so poor.

### **The City Deal makes more mistakes**

Last year there were major public protests against plans to cut all the trees down along Histon and Milton Roads for bus lanes, and also against the unpopular guided busway to Cambourne. In November, the City Deal announced that it had invested, or some might say wasted, £50,000 into research for a 'bullet bus' ([tinyurl.com/bulletbus](http://tinyurl.com/bulletbus)).

This would involve fitting the existing guided busway with a laser guidance system to allow buses to travel up to 120mph. Unless they are also planning to fence the busway off and close all its level crossings, this has the potential to be absolutely lethal. Trams can run at that speed because they use electricity, but buses use outdated diesel engines that are not designed to travel that fast without loud noise, harsh vibration and extremely poor fuel economy.

The bullet bus is also designed to solve the wrong problem. Buses can travel from Oakington to the Science Park in seven minutes, but take almost forever to get into Drummer St or the Station. It is the use of buses in the city centre, caught up with all the traffic, that is the problem. Recent research proving the link between diesel engines and Alzheimer's disease ([tinyurl.com/dieselalz](http://tinyurl.com/dieselalz)) makes the switch to electric forms of transport even more urgent. *Cllr Tom Bygott*  
[cldr@bygott.net](mailto:cldr@bygott.net)  
07765 475513

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## GIRTON COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY

**SUNDAY 5 MARCH** at 5.30pm (until 6.45pm)  
Chapel, Girton College

### RENAISSANCE MUSIC FOR VOICES AND BRASS

Girton College Chapel Choir (directed by Gareth Wilson)

Historic Brass of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (directed by Jeremy West)

Lassus's *Magnificat Octavi Toni* and Cardoso's *Levavi Oculos Meos*

Admission free; retiring collection

[NB: this performance will take place as part of a Chapel service]

**SUNDAY 12 MARCH** at 2.30pm (until 3.30pm)  
Stanley Library, Girton College

### QUINTETS AND TRIOS

A concert of chamber music performed by two ensembles with Girton connections. The repertoire will include Imogen Holst's String Quintet (1982) and works by Schubert.

Admission free; retiring collection

**SUNDAY 19 MARCH** at 2.30pm (until 3.30pm)  
Stanley Library and Chapel, Girton College

### RECITALISTS IN CONCERT

A selection of music taken from examination programmes to be performed by Girton's Music students. The concert will feature works by Bach, Ysaÿe, Telemann, Linde, Guilman, Couperin, and Alain for violin, cello, recorder and organ.

Admission free; retiring collection

## GIRTON WALKING GROUP

**Saturday 4th March** – A walk around Wimpole Park, approx. 5 miles. Meet in the National Trust Car Park at Wimpole at 10am – £2 for non NT members – car sharing possible. Email Claire Nickson at [cnludlow12@gmail.com](mailto:cnludlow12@gmail.com)

Huntingdon Road and Girton Surgeries  
Patient Group  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### PREVENTING AND MANAGING DIABETES IN THE FAMILY



Please join us at our next Patient Group meeting  
on  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in Huntingdon Road Surgery

Led by our speakers:

✦ Dr Sundeep Odedra, GP Clinical Lead for the local Diabetes Prevention Programme

✦ Maria Cowell, Diabetes Specialist Nurse

We will learn about the different types of diabetes and how to manage them in the family. We will also find out about what we can all do to avoid developing type 2 diabetes.



ALL REGISTERED PATIENTS WELCOME  
Light refreshments will be provided

Huntingdon Road Surgery  
Tel: 01223 364127  
[www.huntingdonroadsurgery.co.uk](http://www.huntingdonroadsurgery.co.uk)

Friends of Girton Glebe  
**Jumble Sale**  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
11am

## Girton Glebe Primary School

Café for tea, coffee & cake

Entry: 50p adults, children free

All proceeds going towards interactive technology for our classrooms

We need your jumble! Please donate:

Clothes & Shoes	Accessories
Bedding	Toys & Games
Bric-a-brac	Books
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Donations can be left at the school entrance from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

No electrical items or videos, thank you

Friends of Girton Glebe | Registered Charity 1098145

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



## GIRTON FEAST CELEBRATIONS 2017

**Saturday 1st to Sunday 9th July 2017**

### LATEST UPDATE FROM THE ORGANISERS.

Our theme is now confirmed as 'Transport / Getting About'. Booking and planning continues to go well.

If you have any ideas of what we can include in the week's festivities – perhaps an event that your group would like to hold during the week – or a ride to book for the Big Family Fun Day on Sat. 8th July – do please get in touch and find a date and time in the week's diary.

If you would help by selling Feast Programmes around the village in June please get in touch.

Put the dates in your diary NOW !

See our progress so far on the website [www.girtonfeast.org.uk/](http://www.girtonfeast.org.uk/) or look at our Facebook page.

Contact Carol – [carol.noble@ntlworld.com](mailto:carol.noble@ntlworld.com) – or Helen – [hazeldene@deech.org.uk](mailto:hazeldene@deech.org.uk) – for any detail

## Cambridge Gliding Centre Open Day

**Sunday 9th April, 10am–4pm**

Come and visit Gransden Lodge Airfield to find out about the sport of gliding. All welcome. Trial flights with our qualified instructors available on a first-come, first-fly basis, at discounted rates. Refreshments. Free admission. Free lessons in a realistic gliding simulator. Free talks about gliding and the airfield's wartime history.

Airfield entrance on the B1046 between Little Gransden and Longstowe, opposite Gransden Lodge Farm (enter SG19 3EB into your SatNav). More information online: [www.camgliding.uk/](http://www.camgliding.uk/) or call the office on 01767 677077.

## ART EXHIBITION 2017

**St Andrew's Church Girton**

**Thursday 4, Friday 5 May, 11am–7pm**

**Saturday 6 May, 10am–5pm**

**Free Entrance**

**Tea and cakes 2–4pm each day**

*Work by local artists*

All funds raised will be used by St Andrew's Action Abroad to aid the work of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt and North Africa, mainly in support of the Anglican Church of Christ the King Tripoli, Libya, and Partners for Change in Ethiopia supporting women and community projects.



## Cricket Club Quiz Night

Monday 13th March, 8pm at The George  
Teams of 4 at £1 each

## Girton Garden Society Spring Plant Sale

**Saturday 29th April 2017**

**2 - 4pm**

**46 Cambridge Rd, Girton**

**Put the date in your diary now!**



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



**Further Advance Warning!**

## **Girton Village Yard Sales**

**in aid of The Arthur Rank House (our local Hospice).**

**Saturday 20th May, 10am–4.00pm**

*What can you sell?*

The idea is that you hold a Garage Sale at your own home. You pay a minimum of £6 donation to get your site marked on a map of the Village. This donation then goes to The Arthur Rank Hospice. If you feel that you would not have enough 'stuff' to sell you could always combine with your neighbours and have one stall between you. You also choose exactly what hours your stall will be open, although most people do the whole period. We advertise on the radio and the *Cambridge News* if they will let us. This means we get people coming from far and wide!

Last year there were 42 stalls in 39 different locations. There was a W.I. cake stall (which sold out quickly!), stalls sold books, toys, refreshments, clothing, CDs and DVDs, some furniture, bicycles, bric-a-brac ... the list goes on. The Youth Club raised money for their residential trip, someone raised money towards their Guides trip to Switzerland and monies were also raised for 13 other charities (apart from Arthur Rank) by stallholders.

You can sell anything you like in your sale and do what you like with the proceeds, e.g. keep it for yourself, give it to any charity you like or you might like to donate it to The Arthur Rank (Gift Aid forms will be available). Last year we raised a staggering £1,292.42 for the Hospice.

Free maps will be available on the day with all the participating sites clearly marked so that people can make a tour of the village and visit lots of different venues.

Registration is from 1st April. If you feel you could help me with the organising please let me know.

**Jenny Knights**

Tel: 276405 or on [jenny.knights@virginmedia.com](mailto:jenny.knights@virginmedia.com)

GIRTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

## COME AND SING!

Girton Community Choir is a friendly, unauditioned 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 events in Girton and the surrounding area, raising money for local charities.

“ It's fun and friendly with a feel-good factor. I love feeling part of our local community. Singing just makes me feel so happy. ”

To find your voice, please join us on Wednesday evenings in Girton Glebe School Hall from 7.30 - 9.15pm. 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



## IMPINGTON MUSIC SOCIETY

Friday March 3rd – Stephen Purse Foundation School students

Friday March 17th – Ian Kelleher and Charles Ellis, guitar and cello

Friday March 31st – Local Group 'Singing for Fun'

Friday April 28th – James Eisner, Music for St. George's Day

Friday May 19th – Palm Court Tree-O, Music for a Summer Evening

Concerts at 7.30 pm in the Brackenbury Room at Impington Village College.

Membership (for season) £15, single attendance £5, under 16s £1.

## TenSing

This month we have our big, annual concert coming up and would love to see you there! It's on Saturday 18th March, from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £6, or £4 for under 16s, and donations will also be taken for the Cotton Tree Children's Trust, who help orphaned children in Sierra Leone. Our theme this year is perspective and it will be a packed night of music, dance, drama and cake! Please feel free to contact me if you would like tickets or have any queries. You can pay on the door, but it is helpful if we know numbers.

Last month we were also busy with a fundraising dinner. We had an Indian themed night with good food, entertainment, a quiz and lots of fun. We're still counting up how much we raised, but will let you know soon! Thank you to everyone who came and helped us raise some money.

Coming up in April, we will be singing at the London Marathon as part of the official entertainment, so if anyone is running, please make sure to tell us, we will look out for you!

TenSing is a performing arts group for year 7–13s for young people, by young people and supported by the YMCA and Histon Baptist Church. Anyone is welcome, and we meet at Histon Baptist Church on Thursday evenings, 7–9pm. For any information please contact me on [lilyduncan@icloud.com](mailto:lilyduncan@icloud.com)

*Lily Duncan*

**Cambridge Ten Sing's Annual Concert**  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**PERSPECTIVE**

**Histon Baptist Church**  
**7:30pm**  
**Tickets: £6**  
**£4 (under 16s)**

For tickets / more information please contact lily:  
07504 493975 or [lilyduncan@icloud.com](mailto:lilyduncan@icloud.com)

**YMCA** **CAMBRIDGE Ten Sing**

## Kiosk Book Exchange



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#### No thanks

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- ✗ Bags of books left on the floor

Any problems or comments email:  
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supported by Girton Town Charity

## Leukemia Care Jumble Update

We wanted to say a massive thank you to all those who donated and turned up to purchase Jumble on the 21st January.

We were overwhelmed with the contributions from both here in Girton and further afield.

We managed to make a grand total of £500 on the day. This will go a long way to helping people with leukemia and on behalf of the charity and ourselves – Thank you so very much.

*Spencer Norman*

## GIRTON GARDEN SOCIETY

Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre

### Hanging Baskets

By Lamorna Thomas

### Competitions:

A pot of flowering bulbs  
Broccoli or Spring Greens

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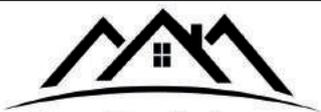
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The Garden Society talk on 9th February was by Jo Cobb on “The Gardens of Murray Edwards College”.

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PATHS! This notice sets the tone of the gardens. They are there for the enjoyment of all. People are welcome to pick flowers, fruit and to enjoy the lawns in whatever way they wish, with but one proviso – no footballs!

The property being 14 acres in extent, the gardens are managed by a team of four. Jo has been head gardener there for 17 years. At first she was daunted by the modern buildings and the strictures: "no pink", "no cherry blossom" and several other "no's". Jo's passion is flowers and those too seem to have been a bit of a "no". Suffice it to say, their cherry trees will soon be flowering and there is a profusion of flowers, ideally concentrated into the three terms – pinks included!

Above all, it is a place for fun, judging by the imaginative creations. Apple Day is a speciality. They even grew a spectacular stand of wheat one year, with a loaf of bread to show for it. The next year, the pigeons were all assembled and waiting ...

Visitors are welcome to visit the gardens from 10am to 6pm.

*Felicia Moor, Girton Garden Society*

### Garden tip of the month – March

Now is a good time to complete your pruning of deciduous subject before they break bud: such as bringing rose bushes down and opening the centre to form a short wine glass shape. For the climbers prune clematis that flowered from mid-summer onward (Group 1) such as *C. tangutica* and *C. viticella* cultivars back to less than metre from the ground, and snip climbing honey suckle back to close to the main laterals.

If your soil is workable many plants can be moved, divided and generally re-positioned in March, but be careful not to let them dry out if there is a rainless spell in April, which occurs surprisingly often, despite that old rhyme “April showers bring forth May flowers”. March is also a good time to apply mulch to beds and borders. It’s a shame that most garden compost, although excellent when dug in as a soil improver has the tedious habit of bringing lots of annual weed seeds, and when applied as a mulch they come up like a rash as soon as conditions are favourable. Leaf-mould is usually less weedy, and bought in organic mulches are often devoid of weed seeds, which saves a lot of time otherwise spent hoeing or hand weeding through the busy growing period.

If you are sowing parsnips the RHS suggest placing a

few seeds every 6 inches along a row, because germination can be patchy. The seeds are cheap enough to allow for wastage, and it’s better than having gappy rows. Besides they are really not worth keeping till next year so you might as well sow the lot, or pass the rest of your packet to a neighbour. They can take quite a while to germinate so mark the line carefully, or sow a few radishes to indicate the row. Remember to thin them once or twice otherwise those that have all germinated will crowd each other and depress growth.

*George Thorpe*



### Listener volunteers needed



This is Lizzie. She is one of our local Healthwatch

Cambridgeshire volunteers and is helping us with a new project to look at how health and care services communicate with people who have a sensory loss.

Lizzie told us: ‘I am a service user myself and have disabilities so I rely on good healthcare and support, such as having a good relationship with the GP.’

Our volunteers are people like you who live or work in Cambridgeshire. You know the place you live and the people in your community. We need your help to talk to more people about Healthwatch and find out what care is like for them.

- You will listen to people within your local community who have used health or social care services. This may be your family, neighbours and friends, or people you meet within your local networks.
- You may visit local groups, chat with people and record what they have to say.
- You might talk to people about Healthwatch Cambridgeshire. This may involve giving a short presentation, or working with us on a display stand.

We will give you training and support, as well as paying agreed out of pocket expenses.

As a Community Listener, you could also train to take part in our ‘Enter and View’ visits to local health or care services. This is our legal right to visit places that provide publicly funded health or care services, to see and hear how people experience care. In the last year, we have visited Addenbrooke’s and Hinchingbrooke Hospitals.

Contact Heather or Elizabeth for an informal chat. Call 01480 420628, email [enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk) or visit [www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk)

## Grants, Schemes and projects to help Girton residents in 2017

Girton Town Charity is primarily an Almshouse charity, with 16 homes in the Village for older residents and for families, but is also committed to helping improve its community through a diverse range of Grants, Schemes and Projects.

### Hospital Taxi Scheme

For Girton residents who have problems using public transport, do not have their own transport or find it difficult to use their own car, the Hospital Taxi Scheme enables them to get to outpatient appointments at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Brookfields Hospital or Chesterton Hospital.

An annual registration fee of £6 is payable and then taxi fares are capped at £7 for each return trip.

### CarePlus Scheme

This is for Girton residents over 18 years of age and their carers and is to assist independent living, providing short-term additional care to suit the individual's need over and above any statutory care to which the applicant is entitled. The Scheme can also deliver convalescent care to help residents returning home from hospital.

Application is through referral from a third party – for example, a GP, our Age UK Older Residents' Co-ordinator, Headteacher or Church Leader – or in the case of residents being discharged from hospital, Care Network.

Following assessment by a care provider nominated by GTC, the Grant is not means tested and will pay for care up to £1,700 per person per calendar year.

### Age UK Activities

GTC supports two Age UK activities: the Community Warden Scheme and Older Residents' Co-ordinator.

As Community Warden, Gail provides contact, support and reassurance to around 20 Villagers who subscribe to the Scheme, working closely with and providing complementary help to the work of the statutory services. This can range from a telephone call to check service users are well, to a regular visit for a chat, arranging for collection of a prescription or a small amount of shopping, or for reassurance about an 'official letter' that might be worrying them.

Patricia is Girton's first Older Residents' Co-ordinator and works to enhance the existing provision in the Village of activities to support older members of the community.



### Outreach Services

GTC funds relationship counselling at a Relate outpost on Wednesdays between 3.00-6.00pm at the Cotton Hall delivering support for individuals and their partners or on your own.

There is also a Citizens Advice Bureau outpost on Wednesdays from 1.00-4.00pm which offers free, impartial, non-judgmental and confidential advice on topics such as housing, employment, relationships and debt.

### Education Grant Scheme

This is open to all individuals leaving secondary education for further or higher education or training, provided the course leads to a formal qualification. The Grant, which can only be claimed against actual expenditure, is a maximum of £250 per year and is intended for books, equipment, tools or other direct costs relevant to the course.

Dr Robin Hiley, Chairman of GTC concludes: "Our Trustees are committed to this range of Grants and Schemes, as well as offering Personal Grants to help residents deal with challenges that can be faced through illness and disability. Grants can be made to adapt homes for health reasons, improve personal mobility and safety and broaden opportunities for children and individuals.

"This year we also have a number of large projects underway that will benefit many different groups within our community including: the new Community Centre at Wellbrook Way, the Sensory Garden at the entrance to Wellbrook Way, the Churchyard/car park boundary Railings Sculpture and replacement bus shelter, Almshouses on the WI Hall site and the High Street development.

Further updates on how these are progressing will be given in *The Parish News* throughout the year."

For more information on any of the above Schemes, contact the GTC office on 01223 276008

*Photo: Girton Town Charity Chairman, Dr Robin Hiley.*

**Open meeting**  
**6.30pm Friday 10th March**  
**in the Cotton Hall**



You are invited to an exhibition of plans for the proposed replacement bus shelter on the Parish Council car park. Representatives from Girton Town Charity, who are funding the project, and Girton Parish Council will be present.

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

Registered Charity No: 1130272

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 Pycock 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  
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e: [gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk](mailto:gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk)  
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## News for Older Residents

### Be Active, Be Healthy

This free 6 week course is on Wednesdays at 2.15pm in St Vincent's Close Community Room. There will not be a session on Wednesday 8th so you can still register for the final 3 weeks, 15th, 22nd and 29th March.

Everyone Health also taught the Falls Prevention class held last autumn which Matthew Courtney-Jones now runs on Thursdays at 10am in St Vincent's Close Community Room. They also offer free screening appointments for over 65s who have had a fall or have a fear of falling. Phone 0333 005 0093 to find out more.

### The Bobby Scheme

Plenty of information and good advice about security was available at the recent Crime Prevention Event. This included The Bobby Scheme, a charity which fits security devices to help people feel safer in their own home. Let me know if you want more information about this. Alternatively, if enough people are interested I can arrange for a representative from The Bobby Scheme to come and talk to a group.

### Equipment

The zimmer caddy is still available. This will be useful to anyone who uses a zimmer frame and wants to transport hot drinks and food safely. I also have a raised toilet seat.

*Patricia Johnston, Older Resident's Coordinator*  
email: [patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk)  
Tel: 07469 660 866

## DO YOU REMEMBER ...?

I am a former resident of Thornton Road and am trying to recall the date of the visit by HM the Queen (consort of George VI, not HM Queen Elizabeth II) to inspect the food storage depot in the years following the end of WW2. The Thornton Court development now occupies the site. If anyone has any information, please get in touch.

*Roger Wolfe*  
[rdandaswolfe.2@btinternet.com](mailto:rdandaswolfe.2@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01473 726649

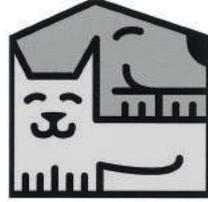


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A friend who has been clearing a relative's shed has shown me some ancient agricultural tools. Two that I accepted for use on my plot are furrowing tools, pictured below. As digging trenches for planting seed potatoes becomes more arduous with the advancing years, I hope to drag out a furrow with these tools for the potatoes. The other piece of equipment is a seed spreader, also pictured. Seed was poured into the reservoir-sack, the spindle turned with string wound round it, broadcasting seed evenly onto prepared soil. I don't plan to use this item; I would resemble a farm worker in a Thomas Hardy novel; and the amount of seed contained in a conventional packet would be lost in the reservoir. A farm museum should welcome this item. It is fascinating to handle these pieces of old equipment, taking us back into our agricultural heritage.



*Furrowing tools*



*Seed spreader*

Date of writing is the weekend of 11/12th February. The raw cold and wet weather seems interminable. It's getting close to the time to get going on the new season's work. But frustratingly we have to hold back. Working outside is so uninviting. The soil is wet and heavy. We are getting hardly anything in the way of warm sun or drying winds. Spring and improving conditions will come; but in the meantime, enthusiastic members are straining at the leash, longing to get outside for fresh air, exercise, digging, planting and the many other operations of our hobby.

This is not to say there is nothing happening. Last year's

leeks, winter cabbages, broccoli, sprouts, parsnips, kale are still being harvested and taken into the kitchen. I used my last marrow only last week. Stored potatoes and squashes remain. And of course there is plenty in the freezer – broad and other beans, peas, tomatoes in the form of sauce. Listening to the alarms over vegetable shortages in the shops (tabloid exaggeration?), we growers cannot help feeling a little smug.

A few who snatched the few "windows of opportunity" (oh, jargon!) have sown peas, broad beans and a few other vegetables. There is a patchwork of cloches, anti-pigeon wire netting, fleece and other ground-warming cover. Mice are a problem at this time of year. Hard as we try to exclude them, they squeeze in anywhere, eating seed and biting off young plants. No recent sightings of the muntjak, but there has been a close encounter with a badger.

There is stuff to be done indoors and under glass. Members will have obtained their packets of a wide range of seeds. It's a pleasure to study the packets' information and instructions, and to draw up planting schedules. Seed potatoes are laid out in trays in conservatories, greenhouses, sheds, etc. for chitting. I have written before about the success I have had in using large polystyrene boxes for certain vegetables. Last week, I sowed carrots, mizuna (salad leaves), radishes and spring onions in these boxes in the greenhouse; but at the moment I fear that even under glass, temperatures are too low for germination. Blessed are those who have heated greenhouses! We must patiently bide our time before starting the majority of our seed planting ... warmer temperatures and outdoor soil conditions; and we must judge our timing, so that plants started indoors are ready to go out only when the danger of frosts is past.

Monday 13th February: an update!! At last, a bright sunny day, warmth and a drying wind. Perhaps tomorrow or the next day it might be possible to get going. First task for me will be the sowing of peas. Having dug a 2 inch deep trench, one follows instructions to sow the peas in zigzag pattern, 2 inches apart – meticulously to start with anyway, but then it becomes tedious and one tends to scatter somewhat randomly; but it works. Onion sets (tiny little bulbs) with the tip just showing above the surface. Garlic – this arrives from the supplier similar in form to what one buys for the kitchen. The head of garlic needs dividing up into separate cloves. I remember having to tell one new member that she wasn't supposed to plant the whole undivided head.

By the time I write for the May issue, there will have been much progress. There will be ridged-up rows of potatoes; greenhouses, sheds, window sills will be full of trays of a wide range of vegetable plants; building of structures such as runner bean wigwams and racks will be starting. Here's looking forward to a totally positive report next time.

*Graham Jones, Girton Allotment Society*

# GIRTON scoreboard



## Girton Bowls Club

With Spring just around the corner our groundsman Chris is busy working on the green in preparation for the new season which gets underway with our Open Day on Saturday 8th April. Individual members have already agreed to "own" allocated sections of the borders which they will maintain throughout the coming season.

Our green is already the envy of visiting clubs and the likelihood is that it could be hosting Camb. League and County matches in the near future. Added to this, the build of the Community Hall should be started this season, so hopefully by the start of the 2108 season our overall green and clubhouse will be one of the best in the County.

With this said, the Club are hopeful that the new facilities will help attract new members. However, the committee will not become complacent and are already looking at ways to increase the membership. Our regular Thursday evening roll-ups are to include tuition sessions for both new and existing members, which will cover the basics and the more detailed aspects of bowling.

This season will also see a greater emphasis placed on encouraging the youth of the village to come and 'have a go'. Our plans will include running a one hour session every Thursday starting at 4.45pm. These will be managed by our existing members so all you need to do is turn up in flat soled shoes – trainers are fine – and we will provide all the other necessary equipment. The committee will also be contacting the Youth Organisations in the village with the view to arranging specific dates and times to run bowls sessions.

So, as you can see, there are exciting times ahead and we are hopeful that you will come along to our Open day on Saturday 8th April or the Thursday roll-ups to find out what it's all about.

For any further information please contact our Secretary Margaret McCall – [margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com) – and keep an eye on our website [www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com)

David Fryer

## Girton Colts Football Club



Girton Colts FC have teams in the U9s, U13s and U14s Cambridge & District league this season. The club is always looking for new players, particularly Year 3s who would like to form a new team for next season. Email [kevinrwhite@ntlworld.com](mailto:kevinrwhite@ntlworld.com) for more information.

The U14s are having a good season and currently sit in mid-table in the Saturday 11-a-side league, having won 5 and lost 5. Their recent defeat at home to 3rd placed Hardwick was disappointing, but the previous week's 3–1 win against Saffron Walden was much more encouraging. Daniel Rowland and Geraro Marzotta got the goals in an excellent win.

The U13s are also performing well in their division – they are equal 5th in the Saturday 9-a-side league. Their most recent match was a very encouraging 4–2 win away to Burwell Tigers, with goals from Jake Burton and Ryan Parkinson.



*The Under 9s team after their 6–1 victory against Balsham*

The U9s are a new team that has only formed this season. Before Christmas they mostly played teams that had been together for 2 or 3 years and found it a struggle. Since Christmas results have been more encouraging. This has culminated in the team's first win, a 6–1 thrashing of Balsham. Balsham took the lead early on through a penalty, but Girton soon equalised when Ethan Wilson crossed for Yusuf Hayat to head home. William Hawkes and James Barge added more to make it 3–1. In the second half James ran riot scoring 3 more to make it 6–1. Ethan contributed 3 assists.

Kevin White



## Girton Golf Club

The course has undergone a huge amount of work over the winter period and the results can be seen, with a much cleaner look to many of the holes, with scrub being cleared away and new trees planted in its place. The green-keeping staff have been working extremely hard to get the course in great condition for the coming season, including planting new trees on the 5th and 6th holes, including Acer rubrum (Red Maple), Alnus glutinosa (Alder), Corylus colurna (Turkish Hazel) and Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam).

Saturday, 11th February saw an early-in-the-year mixed, fun, Valentines Greensomes competition over 9 holes (due to the threatening snowy weather) which, in a tight finish, was won by Pat Atkin and Dave Upchurch.

A last reminder for those who have not yet bought their tickets for the Comedy Night at the club on 18th March. Tickets are priced at just £15 for guests and only £10 for members (playing and social). As I write this, the tickets are nearly all sold, so you may be disappointed if you have left it this late. Remember, too,

that social membership is available at just £15 per couple giving you full access to the club house, bars, events and lunches etc., plus discounted tickets for events.

We are running the hugely popular “Learn to Play in a Day” course on 22nd and 29th March. 10–3pm. Come and join PGA Professional Dean Saunders for a day of learning golf. You will be walked through full swing, chipping and putting before lunch and then have the chance to play and experience the golf course. The day includes all coaching, tuition, lunch and practice balls for only £35. If you are looking to get into golf this is a great way to get started.

Plus, if your children would like to try golf then the perfect opportunity is on a Sunday lunchtime at 12.00 noon, when for just £5 your offspring can have 50 minutes to try it out, with all clubs and equipment provided. No commitment, try it and let them see how much fun it can be.

On Mother's Day, 26th March, we are holding our delicious carvery with a raffle for our Captains' charity (Blue Smile) – prizes are wine and a “pamper hamper”. There will also be a special wine of the day offer. Call the club and take Option 4 for Bar and Catering to book a table.

You can follow Girton Golf Club on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/girtongolfclub](http://www.facebook.com/girtongolfclub)) and on twitter @girtongolfclub to keep up with what is happening, as well as our web page [www.girtongolf.co.uk](http://www.girtongolf.co.uk). All members, including Social members get weekly newsletters with updates and early warnings of upcoming events. For more information on any of this, contact the club on 01223 276169 and select Pro Shop or Secretary when asked.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*



## Girton Tennis Club

Our club AGM is on the 9th March, 7.30pm at the George pub in Girton. If you read this before then and want to raise any issues – or maybe join our committee – please either come along or have a word with one of our current committee members. The minutes from last year are on our website and the new ones will be published there during March. Thanks in advance to the George pub for hosting us again this year.

The tennis club has use of the recreation ground courts and members who purchase a key have court access during most daylight hours. Club members meet and play from around 7.30pm to 9pm on Friday evenings.

Details about our activities can be found on our website [www.girtontennis.org](http://www.girtontennis.org) or by contacting our Membership Secretary Kevin Keeves on 01223 276660 or by email at [info@girtontennis.org](mailto:info@girtontennis.org)

*Alan Franklin*



## Girton Cricket Club

As the new season fast approaches winter nets are now in full flow. Time and place: every Sunday, 6.00–7.00pm, at Hills Road Sports Centre on Purbeck Road.

Cost: free to all members or £2.50 for non-members. All welcome.

We're on the lookout for players of all abilities. We run 2 Saturday teams and 1 midweek and are hoping to add a Sunday friendly team too. If you're interested in playing, don't hesitate to contact me on 07841 625675.

*Dean Stacey*

## Girton Netball Club

**Adult Friendly Winter League.** Our first match of the year was against Coton Cougars and did not start well. Before we knew what was happening we were 4–0 down, but after a few deep breaths we calmed down and pulled it back to 4–all by the end of the first quarter. The second quarter was very evenly matched and the half-time score was 9–all. In the third quarter Coton again took a commanding lead, with the score at 18–14 for the start of the final quarter. With amazing shooting and strong supporting play Girton managed to perform a brilliant turn around and we eventually won 20–23. It was a very exciting match and meant that we remained at the top of the league, equal with one other unbeaten team.

**International netball.** No-one from Girton Netball Club plays in the England team (yet), but at the beginning of February eight members of our club went to Wembley Arena to watch the England Roses team play against Australia Diamonds and New Zealand play against South Africa. The first match was shown on BBC2, so some readers may have seen it. The atmosphere in the arena was electric as England Roses performed a brave late rally and only narrowly lost 47–46.

**Training sessions.** Do you fancy joining our club? Everyone is welcome to come, whether you have played netball before or not. It's a great way to keep fit and make friends. Monday evening training sessions start at 7.30pm at the recreation ground, with club members taking turns preparing to lead each session.

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)

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*Mel Gulston*

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I have a friend who calls himself a necrogeographer and so I've spent a fair amount of time wandering around graveyards. Even so, it is only in the last few months that I've paid the slightest attention to one of the most abundant living things in most English graveyards – lichen. They might look insignificant – even the great botanist Linnaeus referred to them as '*rustici pauperrimi*' (the poor little peasants of nature) – but they have had many and varied historic uses. From an alternative to hops in Siberian monastery beer to a winter food for Swedish pigs, a source for many natural dyes (including the original Harris Tweed) and some dubious medical treatments, it transpires that the poor little peasants are actually quite remarkable.

To begin with, it turns out that lichen is not merely one 'thing' at all, but rather at least two things working together in a complex ecosystem. In simple terms one could consider lichen as a cooperative although not wholly equal partnership between a fungus (called the mycobiont) and a photosynthesising partner – an algae or cyanobacterium – (called the photobiont). The fungus forms most of the main body of the lichen (called the thallus) and provides a cover for the algae, protecting it from extremes of temperature and drought. Since the fungus cannot produce food itself, the algae uses photosynthesis to produce nutrients for both parties – payback for the protection. The extent of this protection can be considerable: in the Antarctic 28 species have been counted at 78° south, and even as far south as 86° two species hold on. In the 19th century opinion was divided about whether the internal relationship of lichen was parasitic or symbiotic. The naturalist Reverend James Crombie described it poetically as '*a romance of lichenology, or the unnatural union between a captive algal damsel and a tyrant fungal master*'. Though nutrients may not pass back from the fungus and there may not be equity in the relationship, working together they can successfully colonise places that neither would reach on their own.

There are many beautiful species of lichen, and the old gravestones in St Andrew's churchyard are good places to spot some. *Xanthoria parietina* is one of the most common and recognisable with its golden colour that varies according to light levels, from a bright orange in the sun to a duller yellowy-grey in shady areas. Lichens are fond of graveyards because they are generally left alone, and being rather sensitive to air pollution, the air quality is often better. As an organism, they are in no hurry to colonise, often only



*One of the many lichen at St Andrew's*

growing a few millimetres a year. Their growth rate is predictable and thus the size of a lichen can be used as a dating tool, often used to date the last period of glaciation, when the ice melted sufficiently for lichen to form on clear rock. Reproduction can be unpredictable, since the fungus produces spores that need to germinate and find an algal partner before they can form a new lichen. A simpler alternative for some involves small fragments with the fungus and algae that can spread and colonise new habitats much more quickly.

Tread carefully and poke carefully, but a whole multitude of riches await your next visit to St Andrew's.

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

The Field Studies Council have an excellent 'Guide to Common Churchyard Lichens' available for a few pounds and well worth it.

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**For more information, please contact Mel:**  
[girton.village.netball@gmail.com](mailto:girton.village.netball@gmail.com)



## Girton WI

At the January meeting, Dr John Walters who set up the English Spirit Distillery spoke about the spirits he made, and we got to taste them too. They make the flavours from natural ingredients.

The company makes a gin, a single malt whisky, rum, sambucco (which is made from elderflower blossoms, but he adds star anise rather than aniseed because it has a better flavour), lemoncello, a toffee liqueur, and other flavours like a rhubarb liqueur. All the flavours were lovely.

He told us about the drinks. He said that when Nelson died at Trafalgar, his body was sent home in a barrel of rum, but when the barrel arrived all the rum was gone because the sailors had drilled holes in it to drink it.

He said the proof of a drink had been gauged in rum by adding a tablespoon of rum to a tablespoon of gunpowder and if it exploded it was proved to be rum!

He left us order forms so we could order for next Christmas.

*Corinne Garvie*



## Gretton School are leaping for joy!

The Froglife Trust has been awarded a £19,836 grant from the Postcode Local Trust to develop an unused and publicly accessible area of Gretton School's grounds into a vibrant wildlife area and outdoor classroom.

The amphibian and reptile conservation charity Froglife will be working with the school to create a network of ponds, providing stepping stone habitats for wildlife and linking to the surrounding countryside. A fire pit, wooded area for den building, natural seating areas for learning and a wooden hut will also be included in the project. Community involvement will be encouraged through wildlife workshops and an open day.

Assistant Headteacher Victoria Howe explains: 'Gretton School is a specialist school for children with high functioning autism. The children prefer to learn in a kinaesthetic way and having an outside area which they can have safe access to would motivate and inspire them to embrace the outdoors and to be able to practise invaluable life skills.'

'Leapfrog Girton' was developed from these ideas and aims to support children with additional needs to engage with the environment around them whilst also creating valuable habitats for wildlife and raising awareness among the school and local community about amphibians, reptiles and conservation efforts to protect them.

Froglife will be delivering the year-long project through their Leapfrog Schools Programme which offers schools a range of accessible and inclusive options to help them learn more about amphibians and reptiles. Froglife's Head of Learning and Communications, Jenny Tse-Leon, said: 'We're hugely grateful to the Postcode Local Trust for awarding us this grant so that we can create this community resource. We are delighted to be working with Gretton School on this project and have been impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment.'

You can find out more about Froglife's Leapfrog Schools project on their website [www.froglife.org/leapfrog-schools/](http://www.froglife.org/leapfrog-schools/).

*Jenny Tse-Leon*

*jenny.tse-leon@froglife.org; Tel: 01733 602102*



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***Relate Cambridge would like to thank Girton Town Charity for their recent offer of a further 3 years of funding.***

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Relate Cambridge has been fully supported by the Girton Town Charity specifically to offer services to the local community, and particularly welcomes Girton Residents to the funded outpost.

The sessions run from 1.45 – 6.30 pm every Tuesday at Cotton Hall.

For more information or to book an appointment, contact Relate Cambridge on 01223 357424

Mon-Thur 8am-10pm, Fri 8 am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm (confidential answerphone at all other times).



The last month has been an incredibly exciting time at Girton Glebe Primary School and the classrooms have been their usual hive of activity. We are very fortunate at Girton Glebe that not only do our children experience such an engaging curriculum within the classrooms, but they are also exposed to an exciting array of educational trips and visitors that support topic work. Please read on for a round-up of our recent highlights!

### **Young Voices at the O2 Arena**

On Tuesday 7 February our Year 5 & 6 pupils travelled to the O2 Arena in London accompanied by an army of dedicated staff and volunteers to take part in the Young Voices school choir concert. The concert was the culmination of months of practise and our pupils joined 7,000 children from other schools across the south of England to perform in front of a packed house of parents and friends.

The Young Voices events are recognised as the largest school choir concerts in the world and children from all over the UK have been taking part in performances in January and February at venues in London, Manchester, Sheffield and Birmingham.

The Girton Glebe choir sang magnificently well and were fabulous ambassadors for the school. It was an incredibly long day, with coaches arriving back at school at 11.30pm, and I must extend enormous thanks to Mrs Whitworth and all staff and volunteers involved in accompanying the children on the day. It was a mammoth task but the children had such an amazing time – I am sure that they will remember this experience for a long, long time!

### **Bright Energy UK**

Children in Maple, Cherry and Birch have been working on writing 'Balanced Arguments' in their English lessons recently. As luck would have it, a rather contentious issue arose locally as Bright Energy UK announced the siting of a new wind farm on the recreation ground in Girton.

Whilst the children supported the green initiative in principle, many were horrified to think that they were about to lose their recreation ground to the new 12-turbine project. The chief executive of Bright Energy UK, along with a member of the parish council and local residents, kindly agreed to speak to the children about their plans and opposition to the scheme. As you can imagine, the writing produced has been highly charged and it has been interesting to read their thoughts on both the pros and cons of the scheme.

(We can, of course, now announce that the proposed wind farm will **NOT** be going ahead!)

### **Artscapers Project**

Under the guidance of Miss Street, our Year 3 & 4 pupils have just begun taking part in an Artscapers project led by Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination. The project is aimed at helping pupils relate to how their city is growing through art, and encourages children to help others to think creatively about these changes.

In early February, our pupils spent the day at the Artscapers site in North-West Cambridge where they completed a range of drawing, scaling, leaf rubbing and texturing activities in a project entitled *Conkery and Gongga*. The children had a fabulous time and were suitably shattered on their return after walking the 4 mile round trip! Many thanks to all staff and volunteers who supported our pupils on this trip!

A link to the children's work can be found below:

[www.cambridgecandi.org.uk/projects/reimagine/artscapers#conkery-and-gonga](http://www.cambridgecandi.org.uk/projects/reimagine/artscapers#conkery-and-gonga)

The team from Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination will be returning to Girton Glebe Primary School after the half-term break to continue this work with our children.

### **SingFest**

During the first week of February, Ash, Oak and Willow were treated to a singing session led by a specialist music teacher from Cambridgeshire Music. This lesson was part of the SingFest programme which is a vocal project designed to help, support and develop singing in schools. Our children sang a range of songs, including one about finding and catching a buzzy bee which they found very funny. The children had lots of fun developing their singing voices and were very eager to continue learning more songs!

### **Key Stage 1 Topic Work**

Our Key Stage 1 pupils have been learning all about Louis Braille in their topic work. They have been exploring the ways in which his work has transformed the lives of millions, and even wrote their own names in Braille using raisins. With Mrs Boorman, the children discovered how difficult it is to play musical instruments without being able to see, and tried it for themselves using xylophones.

### **Caretaker**

We are looking to appoint a new Caretaker for the school. If you are interested, please see the ad on page 28.

*Mr Andrew Simpson*  
Headteacher

Peter Graves  
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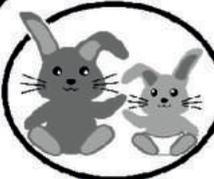


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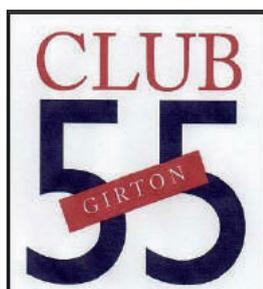
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## Spring

It's a time for new life. Birds, animals and plants are all brushing themselves down after the 'winter blues' and are preparing for the wonderful months ahead. Just because you've got a few miles on the clock and a few years under your belt it doesn't mean that you have to be a lonely old stop-at-home especially now that the better weather is promised.

It might be that you have lost a long-term partner or friend and are finding it difficult to go out by yourself; or you might not know where to find new friends easily. Well, here we are, regularly going out to lunch, running monthly films shows with buffets, meeting every Monday morning to play with our computers; and above all making friends and chatting our heads off. Tea and coffee is never far away. Film club days cost £5 for a substantial buffet, computer days are free, our lunch dates are reasonably priced and we help get our members to and from venues. We'll make friends with anyone – the rest is up to you!



Rosie and Bonnie Scott (pictured above), the two young harpists who entertained at our Christmas party, present a cheque for the amount we collected there for ACT (Addenbrokes Charitable Trust). Well done girls, and thanks again to all who donated.

Following a visit to our first Computer session in January by a representative of Virgin Media (our broadband provider), a report appeared on the Virgin Media website. It presented a lively description of the vitality of the group, which gave members a feeling of satisfaction. A link to the report can be found on the Club 55 website

The film shown on 26th January was 'Oklahoma', a feel-good old musical. Attendance was good and the buffet was enjoyable as ever. Actually 'Oklahoma' was a replacement for the originally planned film which, the planners thought, contained material 'unsuitable for over 55s'!! Enjoyable as 'Oklahoma' was, I suspect a vote might have favoured the first choice!!

The latest lunch meeting was on Wednesday 8th February at The Rose & Crown, Histon. During the excellent meal, we experienced the attributes of Club 55 described above: warmth, new contacts, laughter, friendship, conversation serious and light-hearted. Being the nearest-to-Valentines lunch, red roses were given to the ladies.

Recent lunch gatherings have been in the warmth of restaurants and pub bars. Hard to believe at the moment, but in the Summer we should be enjoying our meals and company in the sunny outdoors.

Sam Clift is enjoying a well-deserved holiday. Hence this deputy writer. Club 55 members owe a big debt of gratitude to Sam for the huge efforts he invests in organising the club programme.

**Weekend Trip:** There was not enough support for the proposed weekend away to the North Norfolk coast in April of this year so reluctantly it has been cancelled

### For your diary:

**Wednesday 15th March, 12 for 12.30pm:** Lunch at The George, Girton – Something a little different, try a Thai meal.

**Thursday 6th April, 12md:** Film 'The Secret Life of Pets'. Buffet £5.

**Wednesday 19th April, 12 for 12.30pm:** Lunch to be arranged.

**Thursday 4th May, 12md:** Film 'La La Land'. Buffet £5

For more details or to book any event contact: Sam Clift, Tel: 564808

*Graham Jones*



## SCHOOL CARETAKER

**Girton Glebe Primary School** is seeking to appoint an energetic, enthusiastic and conscientious person as a full time Caretaker. You will play a key role in maintaining our site to ensure a welcoming and safe environment for the whole school community. You will be part of a small team providing site support duties, with a strong commitment to safeguarding and health and safety. Main responsibilities include: general maintenance and cleaning, decorating, locking/unlocking the site, portage duties, swimming pool management (full training provided), and contributing to the day to day smooth running of the school site.

**Salary:** Scale 3 Point 13–14 (£16,191 to £16,481)

**Appointment:** 35 hours per week. 52 weeks per year with 28 days holiday.

The post holder should be available to work a shift pattern, with core hours 7.30–10am and 3–6pm with flexibility to agree the remaining hours. The role requires the post holder to work evenings and occasional weekend hours by arrangement.

**Closing Date:** midday, Friday 10th March 2017.

**Interviews:** week commencing 20th March 2017.

**Contact** the School Office on 01223 276484 or email [office@girtonglebe.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@girtonglebe.cambs.sch.uk) to request an application pack.

Further information and application forms are available from [www.girtonglebe.com/jobs](http://www.girtonglebe.com/jobs).

Visits are encouraged and welcomed, please arrange with the School Office.

Girton Glebe Primary School is committed to safeguarding, including the Prevent agenda, and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This school actively promotes equality of opportunity in employment to reflect the communities we serve. We follow Safer Recruitment practices, which include, but are not limited to, applying for an enhanced DBS check, right to work in the UK and qualifications check, satisfactory references and medical clearance for all newly appointed staff.



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## Ray Gordon

Ray Gordon is a familiar face to many people in Girton. Apart from stints in the army and the police force, he has lived in the village since his birth in Church Lane in 1938. He has fascinating memories of going to school in the Cotton Hall (at a point when the Hall and the church were the biggest buildings he'd ever seen) and paying the rent for his dad's allotment in the corrugated iron 'cookery room' near the church. The link to the allotments proved an important one and he is now the only Allotment Society committee member who was also a member of the original committee in 1993. I caught up with him – after sunset so as not to take up valuable daylight for gardening – to find out about his time here and the many contributions he has made and continues to make to village life.

### **How many different organisations have you been involved in during your time in the village?**

The allotment society was the first thing I got involved with in Girton, although I had previously been Chairman of the Histon and District Angling Society and am still a life member and trustee of that organisation. Then I was on the Parish Council for 9 years after I went to a meeting as a member of the public and realised that no one on the council had lived in the village for any real length of time, so I thought my input would be useful. That got me into the Town Charity, which I'm still carrying on with, and as Chairman of the Environment Committee one of my main projects was the building of the Bowls Green on Wellbrook Way. I played with Cottenham Brass Band for 36 years and did 3 or 4 years with what was then Girton Operatic, but the rehearsals were the same night as the band so I couldn't do both. Time is always a

problem – in all my time on the allotments I've never been free on the right evening to go to the Garden Society! I was also involved in the Girton Show until they ran out of people for the committee. It's very sad when that happens.

### **How did you become involved in Girton Town Charity?**

At the first or second Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council appoints some of the trustees, so I put my name forward. I enjoy it because you can do some good. As a trustee of the Girton Town Charity my main project has been the planning and building of the Community Centre on Wellbrook Way. Full planning has been approved and the construction will go out to tender in the next two months and hopefully the building will begin in late Spring this year.

### **What does a typical day involve for you?**

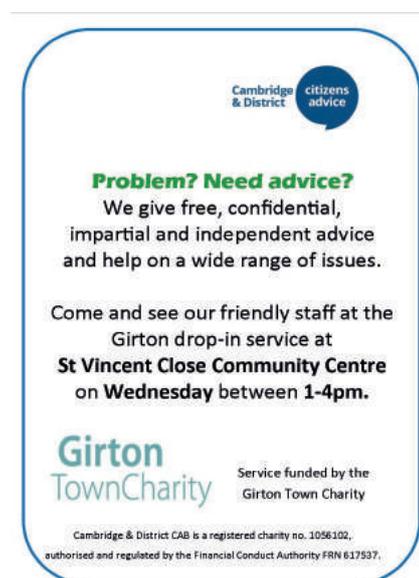
I'm normally up at 6 or 6.30 – once you're in the habit you keep getting up early, and our two cats don't allow me much longer anyway. Looking after my wife Diane, who has mobility problems, is a priority for me. I'll usually go up to the Co-op for a newspaper to read, and then if I don't have any meetings (there are quite a lot of meetings for the Town Charity) then I'll usually be out in the garden or the allotment. I think it's good to get involved in as many things as possible because you get a lot out of it.

### **What do you feel has been your greatest achievement in the village?**

That's a difficult question! I think the one project that I will have seen all the way through with Girton Town Charity will be the Community Centre at Wellbrook Way.

Many thanks to Ray for taking the time to talk to me, and for all the work he has done for the village.

*Alison Giles*



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## A STONE OF DESTINY

A wise woman journeying through the mountains discovered a precious stone in a stream. The next day, she met a traveller who was hungry, so she offered to share her food. When she opened her bag, the traveller spied the stone and without threat asked the woman to give it to him. Without hesitation, she did so. The traveller then departed secure in the knowledge that he now possessed a lifetime of provision. Yet, a few days later, he returned to the wise woman and said, 'I am giving back the stone in the hope that it may be exchanged for something much more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone.'

How do you react to the story? Are you thinking that it is too simplistic, or that it is a morality tale that bears little resemblance to interactions in the real world? Would you consider the woman to be naïve or impossibly void of ambition, or are you wondering if the stone was cursed and would bring only disaster in its wake? Put yourself in the place of the hungry traveller. Maybe you could sell the stone, keep the revenue but donate a little to charity or help someone in dire need. Would you disappear with the stone, delighted that fate had generously smiled upon you?

As we face these soul-searching questions, the answers extracted will reveal much about the attitudes and value systems under which we operate. What is it that enables some souls to hold so lightly onto material things and invest their resources in the welfare of others rather than in personal comforts? Sometimes an event happens in life that compels us to deeply examine our priorities and the residing place of our most precious treasure.

The wisdom of Solomon came brilliantly into focus in a dispute between two women over the parenthood of an infant son. Long before the advent of DNA testing, the king sat in judgement to deliver a verdict. 'Bring a sword,' he ordered. 'You may each have half of the child.' Immediately, the true mother pleaded to save the life of the infant, offering to give up her claim in order to protect his life. Solomon rewarded the mother's instinctive reaction and returned the child to her care, she who had been prepared to part with her most precious treasure for the little one whom she loved (1 Kings 3).

Musing on our own journey of life, we can revisit the crossroads and decision points that warranted an examination of conscience. Our memories store an astonishingly diverse range of impressions, a stock of

decisions made, dilemmas solved, and chapter upon chapter of the book of our stories. Sometimes we wish we had followed the higher moral calling. The record remains as witness and jury as to who we really are.

'What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?' This was the piercing question that Jesus put to his audience, having first asked it of himself. Viewing the landscape's far horizons, he faced the temptation to use the powers vested in him to possess and conquer. Instead, he turned to the way of the cross. The Apostle Paul explains it thus in Philippians ch. 2:

*'Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.'*

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*'Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour  
All for love's sake becomest poor  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.'*

Arthur Nixon, former lay pastor, had a favourite hymn that informed all his thinking:

*'May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day.'*

He had found the secret of happiness.

*Iris Niven*



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 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: 277674 Email: [mcbarrow@me.com](mailto:mcbarrow@me.com)

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

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

### Sunday Services: March

<b>5th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>7.00pm</b>	Taizé Worship
<b>12th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	BCP Holy Communion
	<b>10.00am</b>	All Age Family Worship
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Evensong
<b>19th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	BCP Holy Communion
	<b>10.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Evensong
<b>26th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>10.00am</b>	Morning Prayer

### Weekday Services: February

<b>14th</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	Service of Holy Communion at Abbeyfield
<b>22nd</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Service of the Word at St Vincent's Close Community Centre
<b>30th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Service of Holy Communion (BCP) at Gretton Court

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

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

### Sunday Services: March

(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>5th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship
	<b>6.30pm</b>	Evening Worship with Communion
<b>12th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Evening Worship at Landbeach Baptist Church (Note earlier time)
<b>19th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship with Communion
	<b>6.30pm</b>	Evening Worship Led by John Searle
<b>26th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship
	<b>4.00pm</b>	Songs of Praise (Note earlier time)



**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](mailto: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  
Julie Dashwood, 36 High Street, Tel: 276590  
Douglas de Lacey, 9 Woodlands Park, Tel: 565219  
Val Godby, 38 Woodlands Park, Tel: 276372  
Anne Kettle, 11 Redgate Road, Tel: 277505  
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](mailto:cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk)  
Douglas de Lacey, Tel: 565219  
[scdc@de-lacey.org](mailto:scdc@de-lacey.org)

**County Councillor**

Lynda Harford, Tel: 01954 251775/07889 131022  
[lyndaharford@icloud.com](mailto:lyndaharford@icloud.com)

**Parish Clerk and Acting Finance Officer**

Susie Cumming, Tel: 472181  
[clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk](mailto:clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk)

**Recreation Centre Bookings Administrator**

Linda Miller, Tel: 472182  
[admin@girton-cambs.org.uk](mailto:admin@girton-cambs.org.uk)

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

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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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 Scheme Provider  
 Taxi-card Vouchers Accepted

Short or Long Distance Travel

Local  
 Reliable Comfortable  
 Affordable

Phone: 528675  
 or 07815 057 202  
 Email: wb9wg@yahoo.co.uk

**DIRK RUSSELL**  
 repairs and maintenance for  
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handyman services  
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**DIRK'S HOME AND GARDEN SERVICES**

**Your local language school open all year  
 Is looking for homestays in Girton and Oakington**

**All year round**

- For students aged 17+
- For professional students aged 25+
- January-May & Summer young students aged 14+
- Good weekly rates – twin room up to £280 per week

**Interested in becoming a host?**

Call Lesley for a friendly chat on 277229/277230 or email her at [lesley@cambridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:lesley@cambridgeacademy.co.uk)





**Cambridge Academy of English** 

*"A great way to make international friends and supplement my income at the same time." CAE host*

*"My host was very friendly and helpful. I was treated like a real family member." CAE student*