



# GIRTON

## Parish News



May 2018

### *Natural Girton*

# *The Carrion Crow*

*Read all about it inside*

*For contents see page 34*



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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. Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by the *Girton Parish News* of the product or service advertised.

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

*Typesetters* Erin Austin, Sam Clift, Claire Lightley, Bill Rothwell

*Distribution Manager* Rosemary Jones, tel. 276491

*Editors and Proofreaders* Chris Bowler, Wendy de Horsey, Mike Fay, Marion Fisher, John Gibson, Alison Giles, Carol Huxley, Jenny Knights, Mike Pearson, Nicola Pearson, Matthew Vernon  
*Webmaster* Andrew Haylett

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

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## The Village Diary

### May

- Thur. 3** **Art Exhibition**, St Andrew's Action Abroad  
St Andrew's, 11am–7pm
- Fri. 4** **Rotary Memory Café**, 10am–12 noon  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre  
**Art Exhibition**, St Andrew's Action Abroad  
St Andrew's Church, 11am–7pm
- Sat. 5** **Art Exhibition**, St Andrew's Action Abroad  
St Andrew's Church, 10am–5pm  
**Girton Walking Group**, Stapleford to  
Wandlebury, Meet Stapleford Granary, Bury  
Road, 10am  
**Girton Garden Society Spring Plant Sale**  
6 Cambridge Road, from 2pm
- Sun. 6** **Girton College Music Society**, 2.30pm  
Recital for Flute and Piano, Stanley Library
- Thur. 10** **Girton Garden Society**, St Vincent's Close,  
Stephen Poyser – Beekeeping and the  
Gardener, 7.30pm
- Fri. 11** **An Evening with Sophie Hannah**  
FOSA, Cotton Hall, 7.30pm
- Sat. 12** **Village Yard Sales**, 10am–4pm  
Locations throughout the village
- Sun. 13** **Girton College Music Society**, 2.30pm  
Recitalists in Concert, Stanley Library
- Tue. 15** **Parish Council Meeting**, 7.30pm  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
- Wed. 16** **Club 55**, Lunch, 12 for 12.30pm  
The Anchor, Sutton Gault
- Fri. 18** **Impington Music Society**, IVC, 7.30pm  
Felipe Rebeiro, Classical Guitar
- Sun. 20** **Girton College Music Society**, 2.30pm  
With One Voice, Chapel
- Tue. 22** **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**, from 7pm  
Girton Glebe School Hall
- Thur. 24** **Club 55**, Film, 'Three Billboards outside  
Ebbing, Missouri', St Vincent's Close, 12 noon
- Fri. 25** **Girton Craft Club**, 2–4pm  
Orchard Close Community Centre, all welcome
- Sat. 26** **Girton Churchyard Volunteers**, Work Party  
St Andrew's Churchyard, 10am–12 noon
- Sun. 27** **Girton College Music Society**, 2.30pm  
Organ Recital, Chapel
- June**
- Fri 1** **Rotary Memory Café**, 10am–12 noon  
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
- Sat. 2** **Girton Walking Group**, Lolworth to Bosworth  
Meet at crossroads in centre of Lolworth, 10am.

Contact numbers for bookings and contents see page 34

**Copy date for June issue: Wednesday 16 May. Issue date: Sat. 2 June. Covers 2–29 June.**



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\*watch this space for further information about swimming coaching.  
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## Girton Parish Council

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

The April meeting was the last of the present Council's term and, as there were fewer candidates than places, there is no need for a Parish Council election on 3rd May. We have received applications from two residents, so look forward to welcoming them as new Councillors at our next meeting. Cllr Doug Whittle is stepping down at the end of term, and we thank him for all his hard work whilst a Parish Councillor, particularly as Chairman of the Finance Committee and as Floods & Drainage Officer. Three retiring Councillors have offered their names for co-option. Any parishioners who would like to be considered for co-option should make their application to the Clerk.

At the April meeting, members of the public expressed concern about speeding on Girton Road/Cambridge Road. They were urged to revive the Speedwatch initiative which has fallen by the wayside.

We've noticed over the winter that the rocking horse at the Recreation Ground is in need of some TLC, so would any residents like to help us spruce it up for Spring? We have the paint here, so if you can help, please contact the Parish Office.

In April, the Post Office which operated from The George closed without warning due, we believe, to the ill health of the operators. In a letter received after the event the Post Office stated that they were seeking applications from anyone wishing to continue the service in Girton. The application website has no such vacancy, however. We have notified the Post Office of this but nothing has yet appeared.

**We hope that you can join us for the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be held on Tuesday 22nd May at Girton Glebe School, with refreshments and village organisations' stalls from 7.00pm, the meeting starting at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome.**

### Next meetings

The next Parish Council meetings will be held at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th May and Tuesday 19th June. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings and to speak in the open session at the start.

*Parish Clerk*

*A full list of councillors can be seen on page 34.*

*Cover photo by Garth Peacock:  
[www.garthpeacock.co.uk/](http://www.garthpeacock.co.uk/)*

## From our Councillors

### County Councillor Lynda Harford

Domestic abuse is often hidden behind closed doors but it can be devastating to those suffering its effects. The County Council works with Peterborough City Council in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership and commissions specialist domestic abuse services to support victims. It has recently released two short films in five different languages as well as British Sign Language to help people who are experiencing domestic abuse. The films explain the range of services available and give details for contacting outreach support. These films can be viewed on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership's YouTube channel. The Council is working hard to help anyone who is experiencing abuse to know that help is available if they are fearful of a partner, find themselves 'walking on eggshells' worried about what will happen when a partner returns home or have to cope with having money restricted by their partner. The films provide useful information too for anyone who is worried that a colleague, neighbour, friend or relative may be a victim. There is also information on support for survivors and the friends or family of victims on the partnership's website, [www.cambsdasv.org.uk](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk) Cambridge Women's Aid provides outreach support for Cambridge City and South Cambs and can be contacted on 01223 361214.

The County Council has now appointed a new Service Director for Education. Jonathan Lewis will have a shared role for both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council and his appointment follows the retirement of Keith Grimwade in December. He has said that he wants to bring schools together and help deliver a clear vision for how standards can be improved across our schools. At Girton Glebe we have a Headteacher and Board of Governors who have already significantly improved standards despite the financial challenges that they continue to face. My thanks to them for their tireless work over the past year to build the school's reputation and offer the best educational opportunities to local children.

As we come to the end of the municipal year we will have another election! This year it is the turn of South Cambridgeshire District Council's electors to select their representatives for the next 4 years both for the District and Parish Councils. My thanks for their hard work go to Councillors of both tiers with whom I have enjoyed working for the past 4 years. My very best wishes to all those standing. I look forward to supporting those who are successful to provide the very

best outcomes possible for our villages in the coming year.

Please do contact me about any concerns or questions you have about any local or strategic issue. If you would like to receive a copy of the full report that I write for the division's parish councils each month, please email me and I will add you to its circulation.

*Lynda*

*lyndaharford@icloud.com;*

*01954 251775/07889 131022;*

*Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo*

## **District Councillor Tom Bygott**

### **Storey's Field Centre**

I attended the North West Cambridge Community Group meeting in April. It was held for the first time at the Storey's Field Centre, which has recently been constructed next to the primary school in Eddington. It is designed to be a community facility and meeting place for local people. It is a very impressive building and contains a large hall, a smaller hall and meeting rooms.

Residents of Girton village and Castle ward in the City, as well as residents of the North West development, may book these halls/rooms at a reduced rate, alongside not for profit groups. There is a higher scale of fees for businesses, and organisations wanting to hold conferences.

More information can be found at:

*www.storeysfieldcentre.org.uk*, including a list of the classes and events that are currently scheduled.

### **North West Cambridge Update**

The new development contains approximately 150 properties that are occupied, with a further 250 that have recently been completed or will be completed over the next few weeks. In addition, there are now 325 student rooms in use in Swirles Court. More retail businesses are planning to move in over the summer, and the nursery next to the primary school is expected to open in September. A planning application for the construction of a Hyatt Hotel with 150 rooms and 180 long stay Locke Apartments is expected in September.

The Ridgeway, the main cycleway through the site has been open for a while now from the village via Bunker's Hill to the centre of Eddington. The extension from there to the cycle path connecting the end of Storey's Way to the Astronomy Department and Madingley Road is expected to open at the end of May or in early June.

Planning for Phase 2 of the development, between the centre of Eddington and Girton village, will commence soon, with a decision from the University likely in early 2019. I am assured that this will also involve a plan for the complete removal of the soil piles that have been a longstanding nuisance to residents of Huntingdon Road.

### **Blue Plaques**

In late March, South Cambridgeshire District Council approved a Blue Plaques scheme, as an extension of the Blue Plaques committee currently operating in Cambridge City, and administered by the Cambridge Past, Present and Future organisation. The District will appoint a formal representative in late May to champion plaque suggestions in South Cambs; until then I will continue to do this informally. Since I last mentioned this in the GPN, I have received several suggestions in other villages, and one in Girton. More suggestions are welcome.

People to be commemorated should:

- have been dead for at least ten years
- have been born or educated in South Cambridgeshire, or lived here
- be eminent through their profession or calling
- have made a significant contribution to the life of the district and its residents
- merit recognition because of an outstanding or notorious act.

Events to be commemorated should:

- have occurred at least ten years ago
- be instantly recognisable to the majority of the general public
- have significance in the history of the district or county as a whole

### **National Recycling Award nomination**

The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service, with the University of Cambridge, has been shortlisted for UK-wide awards that showcase the best in recycling and waste management, for work on a large underground bin system.

The service is a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils. Its efforts in helping to develop and collect waste from the largest underground bin system in the UK, at Eddington, have been recognised ahead of the MRW National Recycling Awards 2018.

The scheme sees residents place their recycling and waste into steel bin chutes set into the pavement outside their homes. This falls into large underground chambers, removing the need for thousands of wheelie bins. As a result, residents don't need to store or move

bins or remember when and which ones to put out for collections.

The winners of the National Recycling Awards 2018 will be revealed on Thursday 28 June in London.

*Cllr Tom Bygott*  
*cllr@bygott.net tel: 07765 475 513*

## **A View from the District**

By the time you read this the SCDC election will have come and gone; this may be my swan song. If so may I say what a privilege it has been to serve you over the past ten years; and whatever the result may I thank all those willing and enthusiastic volunteers who distributed my election leaflet in all the three villages which now make up Girton Ward. I apologise if you who read this did not receive one – they did their best.

I also apologise that some over-enthusiastic editing introduced an error into my last month's report: the official in the University who effected the removal of the Athena advertising is of course the Registry, not the Registrar.

You may know that Girton came very close to being flooded again at Easter: I received a flood alert and then a flood warning from the Environment Agency on Easter Monday morning, and spent an anxious time monitoring the Washpit Brook level. I also discovered some significant shortcomings in the SCDC website when I looked for contact details and flood advice. Happily the levels subsided before the brook broke its banks and all was well.

However, this has led me to look at several aspects of our web presence, and I submitted a number of concerns during my regular meeting with our CEO. She was sympathetic and I shall monitor progress – whether or not I remain a Councillor after 3 May.

Meanwhile on flooding I am told that in normal circumstances (e.g. during the working week) it is the householder's own responsibility to protect against flooding, and that sandbags are available at main hardware outlets. We would only step in when this route is not available.

Several residents have asked about the recent tree cutting on the A14 verges on the Co-op side of the bridge, and I received the following reply from the A14 team: 'The clearance I believe relates to work on trial holes. These are required in preparation for a major gas main diversion that is required in this area of the scheme.' However as I write I am receiving reports of more cutting on the other side and at very anti-social hours: I am investigating.

I mentioned a while ago that the Police and Crime

Commissioner had put in a bid to run the Fire Authority. Despite the fact that his ability to run his own organisation must be open to question, the Home Secretary has apparently approved his request. Bang goes another piece of local democracy.

While the Local Plan limps on with no end in sight to its Inspection, one of the perverse effects has been to place us in jeopardy of being 'designated', which means having our planning role removed. This is because we have lost more than 10% of planning appeals, mainly appeals by speculative developers with proposals outwith our Plan. We are in discussion with the Inspectorate to try to prevent this. Designation would be yet another disaster for our Council though the administration seems astoundingly unconcerned. I hope this may change after 3 May.

You may have noticed vehicles pumping sewerage at Oakington Road bridge in April: I gather there was a major power failure at the pumping station. Currently there is a diesel generator there and repairs are ongoing, but these should not need any traffic control and should be over by the time you read this.

Talking of vehicles, we are once again being plagued by ice-cream vans. Please note that none of them has a licence to trade in Girton; so please do not buy from them. Our enforcement team is investigating but cannot sit and wait for a van; I hope their occasional visits will coincide with one.

All those who stood for Girton Parish Council have already been informed that they are elected unopposed; however there are only 11 of us while the full complement is 15. So if you were hoping that there were plenty of residents willing to represent your interests please think again: we are permitted to co-opt 4 more and really need to spread the load.

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*

### **GIRTON GARDEN SOCIETY**

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

**Beekeeping and the gardener**  
by Stephen Poyser

*Competitions:*

A vase of spring or early summer flowers  
Three fresh herbs in a jar



## Upcoming Events at Girton Golf Club

### Three Flavours Of India

Join us at 7.00pm on Saturday 12th May for Three Flavours Of India - Food, Fun & Film!

A sumptuous Indian Buffet Meal including Chicken Tikka Masala, Sweet Chilli Paneer, Chickpea Curry, Chicken Curry, Lamb Curry all served with rice, naan bread, yogurts and salads plus entertainment by spectacular Indian Dancers and Drums. (non curry chicken available for those who prefer)

To round off the evening, take your seats under the stars to watch Slumdog Millionaire on a giant screen. Fire pits, headsets and hot water bottles will be provided!

Tickets are only £22.50 for all Members and only £27.50 for visitors including 12 months Girton Golf Club Social Membership.

### Sunday Roast

Sunday 27th May Come along to the Golf Club for a delicious Sunday roast with choice of meat and desert. Great value at £12.95 less 15% for all members both playing and social. Call to book your table. Warning - these sell out very quickly.

### Mexican Night

Wednesday June 6th Join us for a mid-week fun evening of Mexican Food and less spicy for the less adventurous, with a free Mexican beer for the men and a glass of wine for the ladies – all for £15 per head.

### Sunday Roast – Fathers Day

Treat your Dad to a great lunch at the Golf Club, or bring the family and tell them they are paying. Only £12.95 for 2 courses (less 15% if a playing or social member). Great food, great value.

**To book tickets or make reservation for any of the above contact the office or bar  
01223 276169 Dodford Lane Girton Cambridge CB3 0QE**



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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



## GIRTON FEAST 2018

**Ahoy me hearties.....** There will be lots for everyone at this year's Feast Week. Look out for the programmes that will go on sale at the end of May.

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> TO SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
[www.girtonfeast.org.uk](http://www.girtonfeast.org.uk)

**Village Fete Day: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Summer Evening Concert: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Local Bands evening: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

Would you like to compere on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and /or Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July?

Always wanted to use a walkie talkie?

Ever wanted to be in control of directing the traffic?

Fit and able and willing to offer an hour or more of your time?

Enjoy being part of a team?

Would you like to help in the Beer Tent?

By volunteering you will be part of the biggest community event in Girton this year – your village needs YOU!!!!



If you are able to help either leading up to, or during the week, please contact us: Carol 01223 276103 or Rowena 01223 565247.

Friends of St. Andrew's present



An evening with

## Sophie Hannah

International bestselling novelist  
and poet.

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will be available for purchase.*

**FRIDAY MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**  
**THE COTTON HALL,**  
**CAMBRIDGE ROAD, GIRTON.**  
**FROM 7.30P.M.**

Free entry, and a glass of wine.

Donations to

**The Friends of St. Andrew's Church**  
gratefully received

**For more information,**  
please telephone **01223 697988**

## What's On in Girton?

**Do you feel that you have to journey into Cambridge to enjoy yourselves any evening or weekend?** Would you like to see more or different fun events in the village? The Friends of St Andrew's Church (FOSA) already arrange several each year. These range from concerts, talks and soup lunches to wine-tastings and quizzes – even a 60s disco!

We are always looking for new ideas – ones which will appeal to all tastes in the village. So that we can keep these good ideas flowing, we would love to have some new faces join our small team – you don't need to be a churchgoer. Nor do you need any particular skills – just an enthusiasm to get Girton residents to have fun together. That way, we can all get to know each other better, and show that Girton is a friendly and sociable place to live.

Through these events, FOSA raises funds to maintain and improve the fabric of our village church, which has for centuries been part of this community. In recent years, FOSA has helped to finance the construction of the North Room, provide a new storage shed, and much more. But our events take place throughout the village – Abbeyfield, Cotton Hall, the School, the Pavilion, as well as the Church – and we try to offer something for everyone, promoting events throughout the year.

Would you like to join us? If you are interested, and want to know more, why not email Richard at [girtonfosa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:girtonfosa@yahoo.co.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## **GIRTON COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY**

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

Stanley Library, Girton College

### **RECITAL FOR FLUTE AND PIANO**

Jennifer Stinton (Flute)

Martin Ennis (Piano)

Jennifer Stinton, one of the leading UK flautists of her generation, returns to Girton for a recital of music with a French connection. Repertoire to include Poulenc's Flute Sonata, as well as works by Fauré, Debussy, Chopin and Borne.

Admission free; retiring collection

**SUNDAY 13 MAY at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)**

Chapel & Stanley Library, Girton College

### **PART II RECITALISTS IN CONCERT**

Laura Alexander (Violin)

Chris Hedges (Cello)

Music Tripos finalists Laura Alexander and

Chris Hedges perform works from their examination programmes. The concert will feature violin sonatas by Corelli, Biber and Schmelzer performed on Baroque violin, and Britten's Cello Sonata.

Admission free; retiring collection

**SUNDAY 20 MAY at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)**

Chapel, Girton College

### **WITH ONE VOICE**

Tamsin Cowell (cornett)

Holly Slater (soprano)

Gareth Wilson (organ continuo)

London-based ensemble Dixi performs music for soprano and cornett by Purcell, Schütz and Monteverdi. Repertoire to include Monteverdi's 'Pur ti miro' and 'Pulchra es', as well as Schütz's 'O bone Jesu' and Purcell's 'O let me weep'.

Admission free; retiring collection

**SUNDAY 27 MAY at 2.30 pm (until 3.30 pm)**

Chapel, Girton College

### **ORGAN RECITAL**

Stephen Grahl (Organ)

The newly appointed organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, performs a programme including J. S. Bach's Trio Sonata No. 5 and Récit de tierce en taille by Nicolas de Grigny.

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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## Walking Tours of Eddington

The North West Cambridge Development has teamed up with Visit Cambridge and Beyond to provide tours of Eddington.

Eddington comprises 700 homes for key University staff, Swirles Court (a postgraduate student complex for 325 students), and facilities to support the local community, including the Storey's Field Centre, University of Cambridge Primary School, Sainsbury's supermarket, parklands, play areas and sports fields, as well as infrastructure to support connectivity for the development.



Members of the public will be able to book a spot on a tour of Eddington on the second Wednesday and last Saturday of every month. Participants will be asked to pay a refundable deposit of £3 to secure their place.

Tours will include a walk around the public areas of Eddington, with guides providing information about various landmarks as well as origins of Eddington, the development's aims for housing, community and sustainability, and details about the architecture on the

development.

Heather Topel, Project Director of the North West Cambridge Development said: 'We are very proud of Eddington and are very excited to be able to show it to Cambridge residents and visitors. The University's long-term vision for this project is to be a new part of the city with a really strong community and sustainability focus. We hope that members of the public enjoy the tours around the newest area of Cambridge.'

The dates for upcoming tours are: 28 April, 9 May, 26 May, 13 June and 30 June.

Tours are subsidised by the University of Cambridge

and the refundable deposit has been applied in order to manage the bookings process. The deposit is refunded by Visit Cambridge after registration at the booked tour and after the tour has taken place.

Groups who wish to book a private tour of Eddington can also do so through Visit Cambridge and Beyond. Private tours cost £75 for a group of up to 20.

To book visit [visitcambridge.org](http://visitcambridge.org) or call 01223 791501.

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Girton Youth Project is now back from Easter and clubs are running as normal on both Monday and Thursday evenings.

For information about things going on at Youth Club or becoming a member please feel free to email on [rachel.rason@ymcatrinity.org.uk](mailto:rachel.rason@ymcatrinity.org.uk) or call Rachel on 07771 357187.

We do have to apologies for the cancellation of our bouncy castle day that was supposed to be held on Monday the 9th April, however, due

to the great British weather it was deemed too wet. This will be rescheduled for the summer; a date will be announced in the Parish News.

*Easter fun at Legoland with Girton Youth Project*

Despite this setback Easter was brilliant fun, with many trips still going ahead regardless of the weather.



## Garden Tip of the Month – May

Stuck for inspiration for the topic of a tip I consulted a May copy of *The Garden*, and I'd like to share a couple of points with you from their list for jobs for May.

There is a dilemma for those with broadleaved evergreen hedges and shrubs: May/June is often a good time to trim them, but there may be birds nesting in there. I have come a cropper once when cutting an overgrown *Lonicera nitida* hedge back firmly, but as far as I know when trimming I have been sufficiently aware of nests to have enough time to skirt round them. So trim with caution, but if you are cutting back harder apply heightened caution! The same would apply later in the year for yew, Leyland etc. The late Alan Mitchell, author of the brilliantly concise *Collins Field Guide to Trees of Britain and Northern Europe*,

praised the often-despised Leylands for the number of roosts and nest sites they provide!

Spireas can be thinned removing up to a third of stems: as usual pick on the oldest, the dead and the crossing. This will allow more light and air through the shrub.

May usually sees the first waves of aphids; though by the time you read this it may be an event already endured. My usual ploy is to wash them off with a hose jet if feasible, or soak them in soapy water applied from a hand sprayer. For best results use soft (rain) water. Leaves that have had a foliar tonic such as seaweed extract have some resilience to aphids and also fungal attacks like mildew. A medium or fine rose on a watering can is a quick applicator for short(ish) plants.

*George Thorpe*



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My article originally began with the next paragraph. I felt it was so gloomy that I considered

scrapping it. Then I heard on the national news (Sunday 15th) that English asparagus will be 3 weeks late in the shops and market stalls; and that many commercial potato growers had not yet planted. I decided that my article properly reflected recent conditions and concerns.

The editor's reminder of the deadline for May articles has arrived, so I am commencing the Allotment Society article on Wednesday 11th April. I cannot begin with anything but a message of doom and gloom. Late afternoon and a heavy mist has descended over the allotment site and this seems to exemplify our mood in relation to hopes and expectation for our allotment hobby.

I don't like repetitive writing about problems of the weather, nor the stereotype of the moaning farmer, gardener and allotmenteer. But unfortunately, since the turn of the year, the weather has been the story of the allotment.

The gales, rain, frost, snow during January and February were to be expected and were not a long-term worry. But by mid-March we could reasonably have hoped for gradual warming, spells of dry weather, and drying of the soil. There have been a very few Spring-like days when there was new season activity out there. But such better days were quickly reversed by wretchedly cold days and nights, and frequent and prolonged rain.

Take recent days: last Thursday, Friday and Saturday (5th–7th) were warmer and drier. The soil became just about workable. On Friday and Saturday, I planted four rows of early potatoes, accepting the satisfying aches and pains from early season efforts. I thought: this is it – we can progress now into the usual annual programme. But Sunday dashed those hopes with a day of continuous and heavy rain. The ground became sodden again, and temperatures returned to winter-coat conditions.

That pattern of last week describes the last couple of months. There has been so much rain that the main track across the site is boggy; members were asked not to drive their vehicles onto the site after one van had to be 'rescued'. The ditch between my back garden and the allotment had several inches of standing water in it, something I have seen only four or five times in 20 years. Typical daytime temperatures have been 8 or 9 degrees Celsius (45 degrees Fahrenheit to us old-timers).

So what's the problem? Many seeds are best started under glass in pots and trays. Most packets state the required temperature range for successful germination, to be maintained day and night. For example, courgette, marrow, squash, cucumber, runner beans require 15–20°C; sweet corn warmer still. The 7am temperature in my conservatory attached to the house has been 5°C and usually struggled to reach 10°C during the day. Free-standing greenhouses were colder. Seed packets suggest a sunny indoor window sill, but we don't have unlimited lengths, and some house-proud partners don't allow it. There are heated propagators and greenhouse heaters but providing power sources is complicated, and such devices can turn a pleasant hobby into too serious and expensive an activity. So do we wait, hoping seed has not rotted in cold wet compost? Or do we sow again? Or do we accept it's going to be a poor or delayed year, missing some of our usual produce?

The soil is sodden most of the time. Either we don't step onto it, thus getting behind with our tasks, or we do try to work on it, but thus compacting the soil into sticky big clods, difficult later to break down to fine tilth. And we stand 2 inches taller 'cos of the mud clinging to our boots. Outdoor germination is held back like the indoor. I sowed peas at start of February, and this week was about to dig them over and sow again, only to notice there were at last green shoots appearing. Onion sets planted a month ago, usually shooting almost immediately, have not yet begun to grow.

I try to compare notes with plenty of other members and the consensus is that we are some weeks behind in our usual seasonal progress; that things are difficult and generally will happen later this year; but that in the end 'all things shall be well and all manner of things shall be well' (and that's a quote from Julian of Norwich, truly an agricultural county)

This morning (Sunday 15th) I watched a brimstone butterfly fluttering outside my window in sunshine. My spirits were raised and I felt all manner of things shall be well.

*Graham Jones, Girton Allotment Society*

### **CALLING ALL GARDENERS**

Girton Open Gardens will be held on 8 July 2018, 2–5pm, as part of Girton Feast Week.

No matter if your garden is large or small, wild or formal, long established or still in development, please consider entering this hugely enjoyable village event.

If you'd like to open your garden or know more details of what is involved, please contact Mary Rodger on 277316 or [mary.rodger32@gmail.com](mailto:mary.rodger32@gmail.com). Closing date for entries is 20 June 2018.



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## Carrion Crow

In recent months I'm delighted to say that sightings in Girton of black squirrels have increased significantly. Along with that, I have

observed more corvids (e.g. Crow, Rook, Magpie) hopping around our garden with a confidence



bordering on arrogance as if they own the place. In terms of brain power, they pretty much outclass all other garden visitors. A graph of brain mass against body size puts them only just behind Primates and above most mammals, so perhaps it should be no surprise. In their recent – and highly recommended – book *Gifts of the Crow*, John Marzluff and Tony Angel describe and wonderfully illustrate their amazing behaviours. From bending wires, to making hooks, to the lift test – where they pick up discarded wrappers and drop them, watching how quickly they fall to see if there is food inside – they seem to possess an intelligence and ingenuity that is quite remarkable. However evocative the book or the garden visitors are, it is an episode of the 1970s children's TV show 'Fingerbobs' that provides the most enduring memory of the wisdom of crows and perhaps my first natural history memory. As a child I was enthralled by the story of a crow putting stones into a half-full jug of water to get a drink, little knowing that this is quite a basic corvid intelligence test.

My treasured 1886 copy of *The Folk Lore and Provincial Names of British Birds* by The Rev. Charles Swainson provides some wonderful and evocative tales. He notes the Westmorland name for the Carrion Crow as the 'Black Neb', helping distinguish it from

the Rook (which is however not known as the 'White Neb'). However, the story of Corvina, the crow stone, is the most intriguing. It is perhaps not an activity to be recommended on the 1st April but it is one of many stories about birds and fabulous stones, an arcane area of folklore I never knew existed.

*On the Calends of April, boil the eggs taken out of a Crow's nest, till they are hard; and being cold, let them be placed in the nest as they were before. When the Crow knows this, she flies a long way to find this stone; and having found it, returns to the nest; and the eggs being touch'd with it, they become fresh and prolifick. The Stone must immediately be snatch'd out of the nest. Its virtue is to increase riches, to bestow honours, and to foretell many future events. (Leonardus Camillus 1750)*

The Rev. Swainson closes with a short poem which he suggests is 'an old Suffolk song for a bad singer':



*There was an old crow  
Sat upon a clod:  
There's an end of my song,  
That's odd.*

*James de Winter  
ng@cambridgescience.co.uk*

If you want to see or relive the drinking crow puppetry then a search for 'Fingerbobs – Stones' on YouTube should take you right back to 1972.

'A Survey of Birds and Fabulous Stones' by Christopher J. Duffin from the journal *Folklore* collects some of the best stone stories.

*Photos by Garth Peacock: www.garthpeacock.co.uk/*

# GIRTON scoreboard



## Girton Bowls Club

Having just returned from 2 months in South Africa, I can report that the game of lawn bowls is very much alive and well there. Whilst we were there we were able to play at the local club

which made us very welcome, and which enjoyed a regular turnout on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons of over a hundred players. The afternoon's play was always rounded off with a drink from the bar, the winners on each rink buying the first round. As a bit of fun they also had a small fine at half-time tea for those players who had bowled the wrong bias.

It was a bit disappointing therefore on my return to have our first Roll-up of the season here cancelled due to excessive water on the green. Nevertheless, I am sure it won't be long, now the weather is improving, before we are all out there playing again. I hope some of you managed to come along to watch the home pre-season friendlies we traditionally play before the official start of the season. If your appetite has been whetted by watching these or the Lawn Green Bowls in the Commonwealth games recently and you fancy having a go, come along on any Thursday evening at 6.30pm. All you need to play are flat-soled shoes. We have a selection of bowls available for you to use.

Regarding the Indoor season over the Winter, we have had a good season even though we have suffered some heavy defeats and finished bottom of Division 2 of the League. Everyone taking part seems to have enjoyed the matches, which is the main thing. Since Christmas, we have played 10 matches, losing 6 and winning 4. We seem to have come good towards the end of the season. Overall, during the season, we played 40 rinks, won 8, drew 1 and lost 30.

The following is an update from our chairman on the progress of the green management. 'From the Autumn of last year we took over responsibility of our green maintenance and, with professional help from Steve Kane, we are beginning to see the fruits of our labour. The application of lawn sand and slow release fertilisers added to a controlled programme of aeration and scarifying has decimated the moss growth. We are now lowering our mower cutting heights to give us the bowling surface for the coming bowls season.'

Following our three home friendlies, the league programme starts on Monday 30th April when we are away to Soham, followed on Tuesday 1st May by our first home match against City Bowls. For any further

information, please contact our Secretary, Margaret McCall at [margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com).

The Bowls Club will be supporting the Village Yard Sales again this year in aid of The Arthur Rank House and we will have a stall at the Club selling bric-a-brac, together with tea and cakes. Please come along and join us – we will be there from 10am until 4pm.

*Lynn McGill*



## Girton Colts Football Club

Since the start of the year, Girton Colts Under 15s haven't had too many games, given the weather and the Duke of Edinburgh weekends.

Having said that, the team's last two games have been competitive and resulted in draws. It still means that Girton Colts are at the top of the league leading into the last few games of the season. With a 10 point lead, winning the league is in their own hands and hopefully over the next few weeks they can clinch the title.

The U10s have had two matches in the last month. The first was played in snow and biting cold away at Histon. Girton had the best of the match but failed to score and trailed for most of the game. However, late goals from James and William salvaged a deserved draw. The second game was at home to Newmarket and resulted in a 4-2 defeat.

The U8s have only had one game due to the snow and the Easter holidays. It was a close affair, as they were edged out 3-2 by Saffron Walden despite leading 2-1 at one stage. New signing Lex scored his first goal for the club and Freddie got the other.

Girton's new U6 group have been training for just a few weeks. There has been a lot of interest with the group having 14/15 children. Even in just a few weeks there has been a great improvement in their play. Hopefully they will have their first match sometime in May.

*Kevin White*



## Girton Golf Club

I started writing this in early to mid-April, thinking when, oh when, will this rain stop and allow us back onto the golf course in short sleeves without waterproofs and umbrellas?

Well, today the sun is shining strongly from a pretty clear blue sky and it promises to stay there for the time being. Last week we had to postpone the County Ladies Foursomes, where 120 ladies were due to play our

course, because of the continued downpour. Don't you just love our weather.

The rain did pause briefly on Saturday 7th April for the Club Professional's Charity Texas Scramble where £710 was raised for Save the Children, part of our Director of Golf Alan Fletcher's year-long charity fund raising activities. This was a great fun round with over 140 players on the course, the winning team being Paul Tuite, Jack Kenyon, Matt Johnson and John Johnson, who finished in a net 56.

On Saturday 14th April we saw the opening of our splendid new 1st tee that was funded by a generous donation from the late Cal Crompton a long-term, and much missed, member of Girton Golf Club. The new tee was opened by Cal's son Michael (pictured) who played in a four-ball along with Steve Andrews, the Club Captain, followed by a four-ball led by Club Ladies Captain Kim Andrews.



Congratulations must go to club members Phillipa Towlson and Kerry Mulbregt for cycling 250 miles in the most dreadful conditions from London to Paris raising £1440 plus £320 gift aid for MacMillan Cancer Support. What a great effort!

Upcoming events, which are open to all members and non-members alike, include our 'Three Flavours of India' night with sumptuous food, dancers, drums and outdoor movie on 12th May and our Chef's Sunday Roast on 27th. Tickets for the India Night are still available – call the clubhouse to book yours – and places for Sunday lunch are limited so early booking is always advisable. On Wednesday 6th June there will be a Mexican Night at the Golf Club with great food at a cost of £15 a head. Please book at the club as soon as possible as places will be limited.

As well as all of our special events, remember the club house is open every day and is a great place to stop for a coffee and cake or a really good value lunch.

*Alan Henderson-Smith*



## Girton Tennis Club

Our club membership year started from the 1st April so now is a good time to renew your membership or consider joining us if you haven't already done so. We play on the

Girton recreation ground courts and members who purchase a key have court access during most daylight hours.

The club started running their popular supervised sessions for juniors on Friday evenings from 20th April (6.30–7.30pm). This is a facility for club members and it will continue every Friday during the Summer – weather permitting. Adult club members play from 7.30pm on Friday evenings.

Over the Winter our team members had coaching sessions with Mariona del Peral, an accredited coach and former WTA player. Shortly after our last session she flew to Valencia to officiate in the Davis Cup and was then working with top players such as Rafa Nadal. We hope some of her coaching will help our local team to great success this Summer.



We were allocated five pairs of Wimbledon tickets to offer to those club members who are LTA registered this year. Kevin ran our local ballot on Mon 16th April in the George

Inn, Girton and we are grateful to Michelle for picking the names out of the hat and for hosting us at the George. One pair of tickets is for the Men's final and we hope that all those successful members will have a great day out at Wimbledon.



Tennis is an excellent way of getting some exercise and having fun. Details about our activities can be found on our website [www.girtontennisclub.uk](http://www.girtontennisclub.uk) or by contacting our Membership

Secretary Kevin Keeves on 01223 276660 or by email at [info@girtontennisclub.uk](mailto:info@girtontennisclub.uk).

*Alan Franklin*

*More Scoreboard on page 21*

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# GIRTON scoreboard

Continued from page 19



## Girton Netball Club

We came third!! We are so proud of our team for coming joint third in Division A of the Cambridgeshire Adult Friendly Winter League. We were out in freezing temperatures training hard and our competitive spirit got us in the top three. We played our first match of the Summer League in 20+ degrees and won 27–23 against Ely5.



We came third!

Our 'pocket rocket' Lisa Le Moal was voted Player of the Match and thanks to the wildcard, where the umpire swaps our positions, Lisa discovered she is a shooter as well as an attacker. Wildcards focus on the fun aspect of playing netball and can include swapping the netball for a tennis ball, moving one position up the court every goal and walking instead of running.

As always, we welcome new members to our club whatever your previous experience of netball may be. Training sessions are run on a pay and play basis (first session is free) so you can come as and when you're able. Our training sessions are held in Girton Recreation Ground on a Monday evening (7.30–8.45pm) – if you would like to come along, please contact Mel at [girton.village.netball@gmail.com](mailto:girton.village.netball@gmail.com) or see our Facebook page at [tinyurl.com/girton-netball](http://tinyurl.com/girton-netball) for information on when and where we'll next be meeting.

We are a super friendly and welcoming group and every training session contains much laughter.

*Claire Chapman*



## Girton WI

'The Yanks are Coming' was the title of our talk and they certainly were, or one of them at least, a bubbly lady called Linda Scoles

bounced onto a small stepladder to be the speaker for our April Meeting. Linda is an American who came to England 1971 with her husband Jim, an American Air Force Officer, and their three children. They settled in Great Barton and stayed when Jim retired (he passed away in 2001).

Linda gave us many humorous anecdotes from her life, from her journey here when the family had to board and re-board the plane a number of times before it actually began its journey to RAF Mildenhall, to the people they have met and who introduced them to the English way of life, such as traditional Sunday lunch and the men's tradition of going to the local pub while the women cooked the said Sunday lunch. Many of her amusing tales were of Jim and we all had a good giggle.

Linda was thanked by Mary Oriss. Tea was then served. As WI is very environmentally friendly we now use PG Tips teabags as these are the only ones that do not contain any plastics, therefore biodegrade among the compost.

The meeting ended with the raffle being drawn and some brief reports from our new President Susie Cumming, followed by a report from Mary Oriss who is Girton WI's representative for outings/craft workshops held by CFWI. She reported that all the outings and craft days have been well attended by Girton WI. Mary has done a sterling job for ten years and was given a hearty round of applause.

*Wendy Hall*

## Girton Walking Group

**Sat. 5th May** – a 6.5-mile Roman Road circular walk from Stapleford to Wandlebury.  
Meet at 10am by Stapleford Granary, Bury Road.  
For further information please contact Claire on 01223 276487.

**Sat. 2nd June** – a 6-mile circular walk from Lolworth to Childerley, Knapwell and Bosworth.  
Meet at 10am at the crossroads in the centre of Lolworth. (No parking on the Green.)  
For more information please contact Claire on 01223 276487.

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**Recipe from the Girton Golf Club chef:**

**IRISH STEW**

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 450g / 1 lb mutton or lamb cutlets (bone removed) cut into 2" / 5cm chunks
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 2lb / 1 kg potatoes, peeled and cut into quarters
- 1 cup / 115g onion, roughly chopped
- 1 cup / 100g leeks, cleaned and finely sliced
- 1 cup / 170g carrots, roughly chopped
- 1½ pints / 750 ml dark beef stock
- 2 or 3 cabbage leaves, thinly sliced
- Salt and Pepper

**Method:**

Heat the oven to 180C / 350F / Gas 4

In a large frying pan heat half the oil to hot but not smoking. Add half the lamb pieces and brown all over by turning in the hot oil. Remove the lamb with tongs and



place in a casserole, cover with a half of the quartered potatoes, onions, leeks and carrots.

Add the remaining oil to the frying pan, heat again then add the remaining lamb and brown all over as before. Add to the casserole and cover with the remaining vegetables.

Add the flour to the frying pan and stir really well to soak up any fat and juices. Cook on a gentle heat for 3 minutes then add stock a ladle at a time until you have a thick, lump-free sauce. Pour this sauce over the lamb and vegetables.

Add the remaining stock to the casserole, cover with a tight fitting lid, cook in the oven for 1 hour. Add the cabbage (if using), replace the lid and cook for another hour. Check from time to time to make sure the stock isn't reducing too much – if it is, add a little boiling water. The meat and vegetables should always be covered by liquid. If the sauce is too runny at the end, you can always cook a little longer with the lid removed. Season with salt and pepper.

Serve piping hot and as it already has plenty of potatoes and vegetables it is unlikely it will need more. Perhaps a little crusty bread would be good, though, to soak up all that fabulous gravy.

Like all stews and casseroles, they benefit from being made the day before, and this is no exception.

*Kevin Fox*

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## News from Girton Glebe Primary School

The end of the Spring Term was a wonderfully exciting time at Girton Glebe Primary School, with so many activities taking place in and around our classrooms. Please read on for a flavour of what our pupils and staff have been up to ...

### Staffing Update

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Miss Davidson for the incredible work that she did teaching our Year 6 pupils over the second half of the Spring Term! It was a real pleasure having her on our teaching team and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

Following the Easter break, Mr Tom Austin joined us as Year 6 class teacher and Assistant Headteacher and we are delighted to have him join the dedicated staff at Girton Glebe.

### FOGG Spring Jumble Sale

Many thanks to FOGG (Friends of Girton Glebe) who did a fabulous job in organising and running the Easter Event which took place at the very end of the Spring Term. Through Easter games, a café and a tombola, FOGG raised over £400 for the school!

### Foundation Stage Go Green

On Thursday 22 March, our EYFS pupils spent the day off-site visiting Cambridge Botanic Gardens.

The children had a fabulous time exploring the gardens and the trip was designed to support the topic work they had been doing on 'Growing' in school. Throughout the day, the children got to apply their maths and measuring skills as they visited the gardens and greenhouses with magnifying glasses and tape measures. They also bought some British bluebells which they have planted in our forest area.

Well done to Foundation Stage for being such wonderful ambassadors for Girton Glebe Primary whilst visiting the Botanic Gardens!

### Growth Mindset BMXing at Girton Glebe

On Tuesday 17 April we welcomed Mike Mullen from BMX Academy to Girton Glebe to deliver an assembly and series of engaging workshops based around Growth Mindset learning. Mike is a former BMX world champion and he shared stories of his achievements with our pupils, describing how his failures led to his success. We were also introduced to a new word – flearning (learning through failure).

Growth Mindset forms a key part of our learning philosophy at Girton Glebe, and if you would like to know more about how we support our children with developing

resilience, please see the information we have on our school website at [girtonglebe.com/growth-mindset-learning](http://girtonglebe.com/growth-mindset-learning)

### Science Week

March 19–23 saw our children enjoy a wonderful array of tasks and activities to celebrate Girton Glebe's 2018 Science Week. Throughout the week, we hosted a number of exciting workshops and assemblies, much of which was linked to the STEM Polar Explorer Programme that our pupils are involved with.

Science Week was a huge success and it was wonderful to hear our pupils talk with so much enthusiasm about the activities that they had been involved in. Many thanks to our visitors for providing such wonderful experiences for our children.

Special thanks must also go to Mrs Storer for all of her hard work in putting together the Science Week timetable, organising visitors and ensuring that there was a wealth of engaging work taking place around school.

### Sport Relief

Thanks to all for supporting our Sport Relief events during the week of 19 March. The healthy selfies that children brought in are incredible and are all on display on our Team GG board in the corridor near Willow class – if you still have one of these photos at home, we would love to see it. Keep them coming!

An enormous thank you to all for your dedication in coming to school in fancy dress on Friday 23! It was lovely to see classrooms and corridors filled with sports stars – you all looked wonderful!

### Big Pedal 2018

We've been excited to participate in The Big Pedal again this March/April, having finished 12th in East Anglia last year, with over 50% of pupils cycling and scooting to school. Our 2018 results will be published in next month's GPN – but ahead of this, we'd like to thank our village community for accommodating the extra volume of children (and adults) on wheels!

*Mr Andrew Simpson*  
Headteacher

## ART EXHIBITION 2018

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## The wedding season is upon us ...

With the Royal wedding very much on everyone's minds, Elaine Taylor, relationship expert at Relate Cambridge, has some guidance for anyone contemplating getting married or making a long term commitment in their relationship.

**Commitment:** Making a commitment to another person or a relationship is a big change, and so it is always good for a couple to talk through what commitment means to them, well ahead of the big day. Any fears or concerns are best ironed out together rather than brushed under the carpet.

**Expectations:** At Kate and William's wedding, the Bishop of London said 'expectations that personal relations alone will supply meaning and happiness in life ... is to load our partner with too great a burden'. We can expect too much of ourselves and our partners in relationships – we need to have realistic expectations in order to have healthy relationships.

**Communication:** Good communication skills are vital in all of our relationships but especially between couples. It is very easy to fall into bad habits, especially when communication skills are rarely taught. Brushing up on communication skills – sooner rather than later – is a really good investment to prevent difficulties later on.

**Intimacy:** This is often an area that couples find difficult to talk about. Physical closeness and little gestures – such as touching and body contact – are as important as sex. It is a great help to have awareness of our own feelings about our bodies, as well as our partners, and the ability to understand both our own and our partner's needs. Finally, a shared sense of humour and going the extra mile will keep any relationship on the right track.

**When things go wrong:** Relate Cambridge provides support for people of all ages living in Girton, and at all stages of their relationships. This includes support for couples who are coping the stress associated with planning a wedding or being in a new relationship.

**To find out more about our services or make a booking** please ring 01302 347866 or visit [www.relatecambridge.org.uk](http://www.relatecambridge.org.uk)

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

## **Relate Cambridge – supporting relationships at every stage of your life**

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

For more information or to book an appointment, contact Relate Cambridge on 01302 347866  
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## **Girton Garden Society**

### **Girton Garden Society**

On 12th April at our meeting in St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Andrew Sankey talked to us on 'Making a garden from scratch'.

After much searching, Andrew found his dream location for a cottage garden, and transferred his considerable collection of perennials to this new site. Within two years, 80% of them had died! His new garden was on a sinkhole of gravel. The moral of his story was to grow the plants that are suited to your situation.

Happy to relate, he achieved his dream with the appropriate plants and produced a beautiful show garden with a maze and a vardo (gipsy caravan) for the children to play in. A pleasing sight was *Leucanthemum 'Phyllis Smith'* (Shasta daisy) against the red brick wall of his house. The only plant he inherited was a cottage peony, of which there were several in the neighbourhood; they can live for 60 years. Two geraniums he mentioned were *Geranium 'Brookside'* and *Geranium × cantabrigiense*, both developed at the Cambridge Botanical Gardens.

Of the hints that he gave us, one was to have daffodils mixed with hardy geraniums, which camouflage the dying leaves of the bulbs.

New plants will have twice their depth of compost below them and will have been watered in thoroughly, whereafter they are left to their own devices. At the end of each year most plants are cut down to 1 inch above the ground.

What Andrew was too modest to mention was the considerable effort that must have gone into the creation of such a beautiful show garden.

*Felicia Moor*

## News From Girton Town Charity

### William Collyn Community Centre

Work is progressing on the new GTC Community Centre. Passers-by will have seen the glulams – wooden roof beams – in place mid April. Since then contractors, Godfrey & Hicks have fitted the metal roof cover and during the next month fascias and the flat roof areas will be constructed and the external wall frames will be installed.

### WI Hall Site

Nick Twitchett, Architect for this project has reported that Building Regulations and Tender documents are currently being prepared, with the plan being to start work on site in late August/September this year.

### Art Railings, Bus Shelter and Car Park

The joint project between GTC and Girton Parish Council to revive and refurbish this area at the centre of our Village is progressing. Site investigation works and a soakaway infiltration test have been carried out. Tender documents have been drawn up, sent out and recently received back.

Northmores is processing the Tenders to ensure that recommended works are within the individual budgets of both GTC and Girton Parish Council.

A small group of representatives from GTC, St Andrew's Church and Girton Parish Council will be visiting the studio of sculptor, Matthew Lane Sanderson in early May to see progress on the Artistic Railings.

### High Street Development

At the time of preparing this article, GTC is making arrangements with almshouse residents in Michael's Close for alternative accommodation during the development process.

Comments and concerns from neighbouring residents on the High Street, along with feedback from Village residents who attended the Open Evening on

15th March, have been passed to Northmores the Project Managers and Mole the Project Architects for consideration. Mole is currently amending the plans to address comments received.



*Glulam beams in place on the William Collyn Community Building.*

### Sensory Garden

With Spring officially here, Village residents can enjoy bulbs in flower and new shoots and buds appearing in our Sensory Garden. Over the Winter, Sylvia Newman Garden Design has been carrying out regular maintenance, clearing leaves, deadheading, pruning and generally keeping the garden clean and tidy. Despite the rain and recent bad weather, the garden has been well-used by residents.

[www.girtontowncharity.co.uk](http://www.girtontowncharity.co.uk)

## Educational Grants 2018

Applications for an Educational Grant are invited from young people over 18 leaving secondary education and moving on to higher education and some training schemes or NVQ qualifications Level 4 and above.

The Grant covers books, equipment, tools or other direct costs relevant to the course and is a maximum of £275\* per year for up to four years.

Next payment date for grant applications received will be July 2018.

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.

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

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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:

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or the GTC office:

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## News for Older Residents



### Tai Chi classes

There is a Tai Chi class on Monday evenings at 7pm in the Cotton Hall.

### CPR and basic First Aid training

I wrote about this last month and now have a tutor willing to run an hour's course on a **Wednesday** morning. I need to know how many people are interested in this. The course will cost £100 so the more people who attend the lower the individual charge will be. To make it viable I think there needs to be at least 10 participants. Please note adults of any age are welcome to attend, the more the merrier!

I am happy to provide tea and coffee, free of charge.

Do get in touch with your suggestions of events that would benefit the community.

### Coffee Mornings

You will be reading this after the joint Coffee Morning on Tuesday 1st May. If you were not able to attend on that particular day and would like a regular morning get-together please let Sam Clift and/or I know.

### Follow up

So far, I have no more news of the Walking Netball sessions or of a Wellbeing Group.

*Patricia Johnston, Older Residents' Coordinator*

*Tel: 07469 660 866*

*Email: [patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk)*

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## Town End Close pond



The photo shows Town End Close pond in April, after all the rain. At 1.05m deep, it has more water in it than since it was deepened, extended and

filled two years ago. It's maturing nicely and is a great credit to all involved, and a real asset to the nature reserve, and to Girton. Come along and see it on Sunday 8th July, when Town End Close will be open 2–5pm along with Girton Open Gardens.

*George Thorpe*

## Oakington Singers ...

... invite new Tenors and Basses to join them!  
We meet on Mondays from 7.45–9.30pm at  
Oakington Parish Church.

Our accompanied and unaccompanied repertoire  
includes: Rutter Anthems, Queen, Folk Songs,  
Spirituals, international songs and much more.

We are a friendly and experienced group and the  
choir is free!

Please contact Paul Tann,  
[paul.tann@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.tann@btinternet.com)

## Girton Neighbourhood Watch

### WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



Why not become a Neighbourhood  
Watch coordinator?

Members work together, alongside the police,  
sharing concerns and observations, reducing crime  
and fear of crime and looking out for each other.

For emergencies dial 999  
For non-emergencies dial 101

### Girton Neighbourhood Watch Committee

**Chair: Val Godby**  
[v.godby897@btinternet.com](mailto:v.godby897@btinternet.com) • (01223) 276372  
**Vice-Chair: Geoff Varley**  
[geoff.varley3522@btinternet.com](mailto:geoff.varley3522@btinternet.com) • (01223) 276772  
**Secretary: Margaret Wheatley**  
[wheatleymargaret606@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wheatleymargaret606@yahoo.co.uk) • (01223) 527093



For next meeting see GPN calendar  
*All Welcome!*

## PERSONALS

**George, Nick.** Seeking contact information for  
Nick George, born around 1960, whose parents  
ran the George Inn in 1980. Please reply to  
[kate.zolman@gmail.com](mailto:kate.zolman@gmail.com).

[If you have a personal message that you would  
like to insert in the *Girton Parish News*, such as a  
notice of a birth, marriage or death, an old friend  
you would like to get in touch with or someone  
you would like to thank, please contact the Editor  
– details on p. 3.]

## GIRTON PARISH NEWS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2018

As part of Feast Week 2018, the *Girton Parish  
News* will be organising a Photographic  
Competition for residents of Girton. Entries will be  
invited in the following categories:

For photographers who are under 18  
on 1 July 2018:

**J1: A Few of my Favourite Things**  
**J2: Open class: My Best Photo**

For photographers who are 18 and over  
on 1 July 2018:

**S1: Girton through the year**  
**S2: Portraits and people**  
**S3: Water**

Deadline for submission is Friday 29th June.  
Winning entries will be displayed at the Family Fun  
Day on Saturday 14th July.

For Rules and Entry Forms, contact Graham Jones,  
15 Cherry Bounds Road, CB3 0JT, T: C 276491, E:  
[grahamjones987@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamjones987@btinternet.com)



## Join Girton Tennis Club

Membership Benefits

Membership and court access for 1 year

Coaching sessions over the Summer

Opportunity to play in a team & at club nights

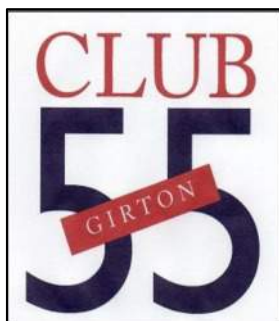
Supervised tennis sessions for your children

Membership fees are:

Family (2 adults + their children):	£128
Single adult:	£64
Junior (under 21 if studying full-time):	£28

Application forms are now available on our  
web site at [www.girtontennisclub.uk](http://www.girtontennisclub.uk) or from  
Kevin Keeves on 01223 276660.

**Don't delay, join your friendly local club today.**



### Lunch at Elsworth

The 18th April was the first day of a mini heatwave after a long wait for the first signs of Spring weather. The long dreary wet days seemed to go on forever this year. Fortunately for us it was the day of our lunch trip to the George and

Dragon at Elsworth. Forty-four members set out from Girton in glorious weather and in what seemed like a military invasion. A minibus and several cars moved off for our lunchtime raid on the normally peaceful village pub at Elsworth.

Our meal was served hot and quickly during our normal noisy chatter and laughter and everyone seemed to enjoy their experience.



Both photos show happy faces for the trip home.

### Just drop in

Our computer group which opens every Monday (except on Bank Holidays) in St Vincent's Close Community Centre is a very friendly place where people meet with their computers, laptops, iPads and mobile phones to try and solve any problems they might have with their equipment or software. You are welcome to drop in with or without your computer problems, you can just drop in for coffee and a chat. There are computers available that you can 'have a go' on but you don't have to, just come for a chat. The kettle is usually on from about 10.45am and biscuits are always available. We are in the process of making another pantomime for our Christmas Party and you might like to see what we are doing in relation to that. It's all free and the only qualifications you need are that you are over 55 years old and live in South Cambridgeshire.

### Last of the Summer Wine

These are little impromptu trips out by car mostly for men to a pub somewhere within a range of 20 or 30 miles for lunch. I am sure you have seen the TV programme 'The Last of the Summer Wine' – well, that's what we are all about, a little bit of fun. Although it has been mainly men on these trips, women are not banned.

We have recently been in talks with Abbeyfield and are considering making a Men's morning there, but again not banning women. I understand that this is already a feature at Abbeyfield that we could explore and from where we could develop more of the impromptu 'Last of the Summer Wine' trips. What do you think, would you like to come along? For more information contact us on the number below.

In the past we made many such trips but our latest was to the Jenyns Arms Public House at Denver where we had a brilliant view over the river, a gorgeous meal and were engaged by a country local who insisted that we were the local Mafia. Great fun!

### For your diary:

**Wednesday 16th May 2018, 12 for 12.30pm:** Lunch at The Anchor, Sutton Gault. Minibus available.

**Thursday 24th May\* at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, 12 noon:** Film 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'. *\*This film is due for release on May 21st and if it does not arrive on time the programme will be changed.*

**Thursday 14th June at St Vincent's Close, 12 noon:** Film 'The Darkest Hour'.

**Wednesday 20th June, 12 for 12.30pm:** Lunch at the Boot, Histon.

For more details contact:

Sam Clift Tel: 01223 564808



## THE MENDING LADY

Sitting quietly in a corner, the mending lady continued with her darning as the medical students arrived, suitably kitted out and making irreverent jokes to hide their nervousness. This was the first day of invasive surgical procedures on a corpse and the students were fervently hoping that no one would feel squeamish or faint. Finally someone whispered to the mending lady, 'Have you come to show us how to stitch up afterwards?' 'No, I'm here to mend any of your favourite things that have become a bit worn through.' The initial bewildered silence evolved into a ripple of relaxed negotiations. The incongruity of the reply had injected a homely normality into a tense, even bizarre situation and restored purpose with bonhomie.

The mending lady does not work on recycling. She takes the view that favourite garments become imbued with value linked to personal history and enriched by sentimental association. They may simply be particularly comfortable or in an attractive colour, or more deeply evocative of landmark memories in life.

Mending time can be spent exchanging stories about why an item is valued or about the events it revives. Mending, darning and knitting together have traditionally offered an opportunity to discuss situations informally whilst doing something constructive. There develops an intimacy around the group where the participants feel safe to reveal concerns and to share experiences and offer advice or support.

Some church and community groups have managed to re-create these get-together times, but in our frenetic modern world, it takes dedicated organisation to do so, rather than it being part of the natural flow of life as in some ethnic societies.

If you have tuned in to the Repair Shop series on BBC 2, you may have concurred with the joy and gratitude expressed by owners of treasures restored to functioning order or former glory. As a gratifying, even therapeutic activity, restoration seems to be hard-wired into our human system, requiring patience, problem-solving and practised skills, but rewarding with confidence and self-respect. It turns a spotlight on a wasteful throw-away culture.

When bodies meet with accidents, we have the immediate impulse to seek ways and means to restore health and wholeness as quickly as possible. We rightly hail as heroes those who have been deprived, by some means, of natural wholeness, but who refuse to be daunted. With inner strength and courage they pursue goals and achieve miracles that inspire us all.

Sometimes the physical traumas are more readily overcome than the deeply rooted emotional suffering that leaves invisible scars on the psyche. The Apostle Paul touches on these matters when he calls himself 'the chief of sinners'. As a religious zealot, he had persecuted real people, broken up real families and watched the actual stoning to death of Stephen. With these memories always fresh in his mind, he cast himself entirely on the grace and mercy of God. Writing to the Colossian converts, Paul encouraged them with the assurances that comforted him and strengthened his faith. *'Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.'*

In a little booklet called *Wayside Wells*, a poet wrote wistfully,

*'Oh to go back across the years long vanished;  
To have the words unsaid, the deeds undone;  
The errors cancelled, the deep shadows banished  
In the glad sense of a new world begun.'*

If faith becomes weary, with worn-out holes and ragged edges, something can be done to restore it. God never throws away our tried and tested faith. Instead, he patiently ministers his healing, strengthening touch and sends us out with a new lease of life.

*Iris Niven*



## St Andrew's Makeover Appeal



### Your village church is getting a Makeover!

St Andrew's Church has been at the centre of Girton since the 1100s. The building would not have looked like it does today as it has been added to during subsequent centuries, right up until the Victorian addition of the vestry. Major interior refurbishments were

done in 1853 and again in 1920, thanks to Fanny Coombe. We now want to ensure that it meets the needs of the 21st century by updating the facilities of the church not only for church members, but for the wider village community and beyond. We want to retain and enhance the history of the church, while making it into a more comfortable, welcoming place. Everything we plan to do has already met with the approval of the diocesan registrar, Historic England, the Victorian Society, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and the Churches Historic Trust; and we are not getting rid of all the pews!

Plans include a new and sustainable heating system, a new floor to replace the current uneven hodgepodge, new audio-visual facilities for films and presentations, and space for events of many different kinds. Better access and facilities for the disabled is a priority.

At weddings, funerals and baptisms there are sometimes adverse comments about crowding around the chancel step, and this refurbishment project will open up all the space. We have plans for the church to become a lively and vibrant part of the community. Whether you are organising or coming to a concert, an exhibition or a talk, or you just want some quiet time, St Andrew's will soon have much to offer individuals and village organisations.

So that is why we have set up the '**St Andrew's Makeover Appeal**'. The congregation has already raised a lot, but now we need to raise a further £300,000 to achieve these aims, and this is why we are asking for help. Please give what you can – every donation counts; all donations will be used solely for this reinvigoration of our building, not for other church functions. Thank you so much.

***How can I donate to the St. Andrew's Makeover Appeal?***

1. Make a cheque payable to 'Girton PCC' and post to Mr M. Johnson, 2A St Margaret's Rd., Girton, CB3 0LT
2. Arrange a bank transfer to the following account:  
Name of account: Girton PC  
Sort code: 40-52-4  
Account number: 00015986

There is a display in the church behind the South Door which offers more information on our proposals. If you would like to talk about the project, please get in touch:

Mandy Maxwell: [girtonstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:girtonstandrews@gmail.com)  
David Adamson: [dma23@cam.ac.uk](mailto:dma23@cam.ac.uk)  
Penny de Lacey: [penny@de-lacey.org](mailto:penny@de-lacey.org)

Cambridge & District 

**Problem? Need advice?**  
We give free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and help on a wide range of issues.

Come and see our friendly staff at the Girton drop-in service at **St Vincent Close Community Centre** on **Wednesday** between **1-4pm**.

 Service funded by the Girton Town Charity

Cambridge & District CAB is a registered charity no. 1056102, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN 617537.

Girton Baptist Church  
*Living Following Christ*

coffee morning

join us for a coffee and a biscuit every thursday 10.00 - 12.00





## 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**  
 Tel: 277674 Email: [mbarrow@me.com](mailto:mbarrow@me.com)

**Curate: The Revd Diana Johnson**  
 Tel: 07377 866567  
 Email: [diana.johnson@cantab.net](mailto:diana.johnson@cantab.net)

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

**Churchwardens:**  
 Mr Bruce & Mrs Wendy Hunter  
 Tel: 503958

### Sunday Services: May

**6th 10.00am** Holy Communion  
**7.00pm** Taizé Worship

**Thursday 10th 7.45am** Holy Communion for Ascension Day

**13th 8.00am** BCP Holy Communion  
**10.00am** All Age Family Worship  
**6.00pm** Evensong

**20th 8.00am** BCP Holy Communion  
**10.00am** Holy Communion  
**6.00pm** Evensong

**27th 8.00am** BCP Holy Communion  
**10.00am** Morning Prayer

### Weekday Services: May

**8th 2.30pm** Service of Holy Communion at Abbeyfield

**31st 11.00am** 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: May

We welcome families with children of whatever age. Classes with interactive activities are available for children each week during the morning service. Tea and coffee are served after the service.

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

**6th 10.30am** Morning Worship  
**6.30pm** Evening Worship with Communion

**13th 10.30am** Morning Worship

**20th 10.30am** Morning Worship with Communion  
**6.30pm** Evening Worship

**27th 10.30am** Morning Worship  
**6.30pm** Evening Worship led by John Searle

**Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group**

**Come and join us at 2:15pm on**  
**8<sup>th</sup> May – Mike Day**  
**“Wildlife of Costa Rica”**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> May - Paul McCloskey**  
**Cambridgeshire Hearing Help**  
**(formerly CAMTAD)**

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

### 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

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  
[cldr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.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)

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

**Contact numbers for bookings**

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

**RUBBISH COLLECTION**

Thursday 3 May Black bin  
**Friday 11 May** Blue and Green bins  
Thursday 17 May Black bin  
Thursday 24 May Blue and Green bins  
Thursday 31 May Black bin

**MOBILE LIBRARY**

**Thursday 24th May**

Thornton Court 09.40 – 10.00  
Abbeyfield 10.05 – 10.50  
St Vincent's Close 10.55 – 11.30  
Orchard Close 11.35 – 12.00  
Gretton Court 12.05 – 12.40  
Churchfield Court 12.45 – 13.15



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

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 Cambs. CB3 0LW


\*Appointments with Jaime, Hayley & Sophie

**The Girton Chiropodist**  
(Mobile Service)

**ERICA NICHOLS**  
M.S.S.Ch. M.B.Ch.A HCPC Ch20454

Glebe House  
39 Cambridge Road,  
Girton CB3 0PN

Tel: 01223 520077  
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 and Friday at 9.15am

[www.amandaplattpilates.co.uk](http://www.amandaplattpilates.co.uk)  
[info@amandaplattpilates@btinternet.com](mailto:info@amandaplattpilates@btinternet.com)  
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Every day come rain or shine outdoor activities take place for all ages of children in our care.

If you would like to know more about Sallywags or would like to arrange a visit please contact us on 01223 232400 or [enquiries@sallywagsdaynursery.com](mailto:enquiries@sallywagsdaynursery.com) or go to [www.sallywagsdaynursery.com](http://www.sallywagsdaynursery.com)



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Westwick Hall Farm, Westwick, Oakington, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB24 3AR 48 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ