



GIRTON

Parish News



December 2018

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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, 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:

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

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The Village Diary

December

- Sat. 1** **Girton Walking Group**, Cambridge
Science Walk pt.2
Meet 10am at Grange Rd/Adams Rd junction
- Wed. 5** **Girton WI**, Christmas Meal, Girton Golf Club
- Fri. 7** **Rotary Memory Café**, 10am–12 noon
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
Annual Village Christmas Evening, from 7pm
Girton Social Club
- Tue. 11** **Club 55**, Christmas Lunch, 12 for 12.30pm
Girton Golf Club
Girton Neighbourhood Watch, Meeting and Social
St Vincent's Close Community Centre, 7.30pm
- Thur. 13** **Girton Garden Society**, St Vincent's
Close, 7.30pm
Pippa Temple – Where there's a Well, there's a Way
- Wed. 19** **Club 55**, Christmas Party and Panto, 12 for 12.30pm, The Pavilion
- Thur. 20** **Carol Singing**, to the Church end of the Village, Meet at St Andrew's, 6.30pm
- Fri. 21** **Girton Craft Club**, 2–4pm
Orchard Close Community Centre, all welcome
- Sat. 22** **Carol Singing**, Thorntons area, from 6.30pm
Meet Thornton Rd/Girton Rd, 6.30pm
- Mon. 24** **Carol Singing**, Wellbrook Way/Weaver's Field, Meet by Sensory Garden, 6.30pm
- Sat. 29** **Girton Churchyard Volunteers**, Work Party
St Andrew's Churchyard, 10am–12 noon

January 2019

- Wed. 2** **Girton WI**, Members' Night, Abbeyfield, 7.30pm
- Fri. 4** **Rotary Memory Café**, 10am–12 noon
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
- Sat. 5** **Girton Walking Group**, walk in Newnham
Meet 10.15am at Lammas Land paddling pool
- Sun. 6** **FOGG Christmas Tree Shredding and Repair Café**, Girton Glebe School, 12–2.00pm
- Thur. 10** **Girton Garden Society**, St Vincent's
Close, 7.30pm, Annual General Meeting

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Cover photo: 'Gathering winter fuel', by Graham Jones.

**Copy date for January 2019 issue: Friday 7 December. Issue date: Saturday 12 January.
Covers 12 January–1 February 2019.**

Girton Parish Council

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

The copy date for this edition precedes the November meeting, but items on the agenda include the co-option of new membership, and repairs to play equipment and fencing.

We thank all users of the Recreation Ground Car Park for their patience during the installation of the new GTC footpath. Works have now begun on the car park refurbishment, so thanks in advance for your forbearance whilst the car park is necessarily disrupted.

The Council has received further reports of accidents at the junction of Cambridge Road and High Street. It is hoped that safety measures can be included in the consultation with Highways Officers if our improvement grant application is approved. Otherwise we shall need to independently agree and pay for installation of appropriate signage. We have also received a request for movement of the 40mph speed limit to beyond Camboro Business Park. This will be explored.

The Council has agreed to lend its support to a campaign to improve functionality of the Girton Interchange but only on condition that any changes do not exacerbate the existing problems of noise and pollution to our village. We will also be making our own separate representation to the Transport Minister.

Remembrance thanks

Thank-you to all village organisations and residents who took part in the recent Remembrance services and events in the village, and to the collectors for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Special thanks must be given to Wendy Ripley, Girton's Poppy Appeal Organiser, who has worked tirelessly to make this a very successful year for the Poppy Appeal in Girton. Thank-you, Wendy.



Next meetings

The next Parish Council meetings will be held at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18th December and Tuesday 15th January, 2019. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings and to speak in the open session at the start.

The Chairman, Councillors and Staff of Girton Parish Council wish all residents a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

From Our Councillors

County Councillor Lynda Harford

One of the things that residents contact me about, particularly around this time of year, is school admissions. Every year a number of pupils fail to secure a place at the school of their choice because that school is oversubscribed. When this happens parents can appeal against the decision and those appeals are heard by an independent panel as part of a process that is required by law.

The County Council is currently seeking more volunteers for Cambridgeshire's School Admissions Appeals Panel. There is no requirement for volunteers to have previous educational experience but they do have to be totally independent of the County Council and the school governing bodies. The most important quality required is to be able to listen to both sides of a case and weigh up evidence objectively and impartially. The Council is very keen to ensure that panels reflect the diverse communities living in Cambridgeshire. These voluntary roles are not paid but travelling expenses and training are provided. The time commitment is usually a minimum of five working days each year.

To find out more or request an application form, email harriet.snape@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or rob.sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk The closing date for applications is 18 January 2019. Successful applicants will be notified by March and asked to attend training the following month.

Roads and sustainable and public transport are often the subject of the communications that I receive from Girton residents, so some of you may want to participate in a couple of consultations that are currently underway. There are two particular proposals that the Greater Cambridge Partnership is consulting on that may be of interest. The first is on two options for more Park & Ride spaces south-west of Cambridge.

Option 1 is to create a multi-storey car park on the existing Park & Ride site at Trumpington and Option 2 proposes a new Park & Ride site north-west of Junction 11 of the M11. These proposals are separate to the now approved works to expand the current Trumpington Park & Ride site by 274 car and 5 additional bus spaces. Although not unanimous, members of the Joint Development Control Committee – Cambridge Fringes, despite some reservations, granted permission for this application at October's meeting to address the short term need to alleviate demand pressures at this, the busiest of the Park & Ride sites. The consultation on these further options is open now and will run until Friday 21 December 2018.

Further details:

www.greatercambridge.org.uk/parkandride. The second consultation is on a proposal for a rural travel hub at Oakington. Rural travel hubs are small flexible transport interchanges at key locations in South Cambridgeshire aimed at allowing greater access to sustainable transport networks. Again there are two options being proposed; one includes parking facilities and the other doesn't. Further details:

www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/rural-travel-hubs/oakington-rural-travel-hub/ This consultation is open until 7 January 2019.

Last month I mentioned the meeting I am planning with the support of Girton Glebe Primary School and Girton Parish Council and I asked that you please put 10 January 2019 in your diaries. The venue is Girton Glebe Primary School and we will be starting at 17.30 and finishing at 19.00. I am really pleased to have heard from some people already that they are intending to come and I do hope that a lot more of you will do so too. Please do email me in advance if there are particular topics you would like to raise. I have already suggested road safety but I would also like to hear your views on how good communication is and whether you think there are ways to improve on keeping the community in touch.

Thank you to all of you who have been in touch recently. Please do continue to contact me with your views and questions on the issues that are important to you.

Lynda

lyndaharford@icloud.com;

01954 251775/07889 131022;

Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo

District Councillor Tom Bygott

£35 Extra green bin tax

2,300 households in South Cambridgeshire, out of around 66,000 households in total, have more than one green bin. The householders using these bins thought that they were doing the right thing by collecting more green waste for composting. However the Council's Cabinet on Wednesday 7 November decided that these community-minded householders could be an additional source of revenue for the Council.

Rather confusingly, the new tax will be introduced in two stages:

- From 1 March next year, South Cambridgeshire residents wanting to have an extra green bin picked up will be asked to pay a £20 tax to cover the collection of additional green bins from March to October.
- From October 2019, the tax will change to £35 annually for a 12-month cycle of collections.

The new tax is per bin and covers collections for only one year, with an additional charge, which could be increased, in each subsequent year. Residents with extra green bins will have to decide by early next year whether they want to pay the new tax. If three quarters of residents that currently have more than one bin decide to pay the extra tax, accountants estimate that the scheme would raise around £80,000 a year for the Council's coffers.

There are two potential dangers that this change of policy direction could lead to:

- The Council's refuse collectors will have to add administrative duties to their current rubbish collection duties by knowing which households have paid the tax and which haven't. This might mean that they have to wander around with bits of paper, trying to work out who is allowed to put out an extra bin, and be distracted from picking up the bins efficiently. More worryingly, some form of technology might have to be introduced.
- Charging to dispose of waste can lead to fly-tipping. Many Councils that charge for dropping off waste at Household Recycling Centres have found that people who do not want, or can't afford, to pay the charges just dump their waste in the street, often immediately outside the Recycling Centre. This can be very expensive to clean up, defeating the initial aim of trying to grab more money.

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Orchard
mobility centre

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If you go outside and have a look at any of your wheelie bins, you will see on the underside of the top rim, on the left hand side, a circular compartment about the diameter of a £2 coin. This feature is manufactured in the shape of the plastic to hold a microchip. In South Cambs, this compartment is currently empty. Many Councils use microchips in this location to spy on their residents' rubbish disposal and recycling habits. When my group introduced the blue bin system to South Cambridgeshire, one of our top priorities was to ensure that this microchip compartment would remain empty, and residents would be free from authoritarian oversight and intrusion. There are currently thought to be no plans to introduce microchips, but the introduction of a complex system of extra bin taxes might one day create the need for such a system.

Council borrowing cap lifted for Council houses

In this year's autumn budget, announced in late October, the Chancellor Philip Hammond MP, gave confirmation that the cap on the amount authorities can borrow to invest in new Council homes will be lifted. The borrowing cap has been widely seen as the greatest restraint on the ability of Councils to build new homes.

The HRA – Housing Revenue Account – is a ringfenced budget which operates separately from the Council's other operations. The HRA gets its income from tenants in the form of rents and service charges, and the money it spends is for maintaining existing housing stock and increasing that stock (i.e. building more homes). Currently Councils are limited to how much they are allowed to borrow, which is far tighter than the value of their assets (e.g. the housing stock). These limits or cap on borrowing were originally introduced as a means to control public borrowing. Clearly Councillors and Councils will need to exercise caution when borrowing money to invest in the HRA, with a clear business plan and vision of what can be achieved that is manageable in the long term. I believe that this change by the Government to allow Councils to borrow could have a huge impact in getting some Councils increasing their own stock again.

Even with the borrowing cap in place, the authority has amassed extensive experience in building high-quality Council homes. 100 have been built in South Cambridgeshire, or have started being constructed, since 2015. This

includes new affordable housing already completed in Gamlingay, Swavesey, Linton, Foxton, Great Abington and Waterbeach. On top of this, the Council already has plans for up to a further 200 new Council houses to be built across the district over the next five years, including in Waterbeach, Teversham, Caldecote, Great Abington, Hardwick and other villages.

The Council is looking forward to receiving the full detail so that it can build more desperately needed homes across South Cambridgeshire.

I would like to wish everyone in Girton a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Cllr Tom Bygott
cllr@bygott.net
07765 475 513

A View From the District

I have felt over the past few months, and been told that others have also felt, a change of tone at South Cambridgeshire. It manifests itself in little things, like the glass tumblers on our tables and the mugs in Members' pigeon-holes, ousting single-use plastics. Our new Members generally are much more engaged than before. And the new administration is involving the Members as a whole much more in decision-making through briefings and workshops, whose results are built in to our policy making. A truly democratic way of working.

On 16 October I attended the opening of Arlington Court, the new care home in Girton: I have followed its progress over the years from the very first plans through several changes of ownership (and of the plans, with enormous improvements) and am delighted to see such an asset in Girton.

As Chairman I was invited to preside over the raffle which officers had organised to raise money for Breast Cancer awareness; which I was delighted to do. We raised over £167 and Jo, in a stunning pink, wig drew the winners; with a small hitch when she managed to draw my ticket – chairmen can't be allowed to win their own raffles!

Again I had to miss the Scrutiny meeting because of a clash with a Parish Council. I would really be interested in your views on how I should settle such conflicts. And at the end of October I had the melancholy duty of presiding over a hearing on a Parish Councillor (not in Girton!) accused of

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a breach of the Code of Conduct. It is good that such issues are taken seriously; vitally important that all Councillors take our duties with utmost seriousness; and disappointing when we are perceived to fail. We concluded that no breach had taken place, but it is still unfortunate that a breach had been perceived in the first place.

We have had several reports of frighteningly inappropriate attempts to get past bin lorries, and our comms team has put out a press release asking for sense and patience. If you use social media you can see our comments at tinyurl.com/ybafsyus (Twitter) or tinyurl.com/y7oa4nwn (Facebook). Please treat our binmen with respect; they are doing a great job for you. In better transport news, the Whippet X3 bus service appears to have been saved. I'd like to think my little helped.

This month's Cabinet meeting made several significant decisions:

- It approved what looks like a fairly good deal with the Government over starter homes in Northstowe, to keep them affordable even if sold on.
- It approved a unified waste collection policy for SCDC and the City; for us this means that (as in the City) we shall make a modest charge of £35 for a second green bin.
- It approved the re-opening of the Community Energy Grant scheme to allow local groups to bid for funding for green initiatives.

A closed session examined our financial strategies – I can't release details but the figures we looked at are encouraging.



Over the Remembrance weekend I was involved in no fewer than 6 commemorations, including South Cambs' own involvement in the national 'Battle's Over' event which I organised. Having got the timing wrong and being left with a long

gap before the 2 Minutes' Silence, I was grateful to my honoured guest the High Sheriff who gave us an extempore description of his grandfather's war. The contributions from Jane Bower and our trumpeter Zoë Perkins were also much appreciated. We must never forget the horror which is war; we must strive to celebrate, maintain and extend the benefit of peace.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous 2019.

If you would like a fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at 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



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Dear Girton Parish News,

In response to your request for ideas for your excellent publication, have you considered :

1. an editorial
2. a letters page or other forum of views of your readers – this could be current concerns other than related to specific groups or activities, or incidental anecdotes etc.

Sincerely,
Sheila Jackson

Dear Sheila – Thanks for your suggestion for a 'Readers' Letters' section, which we are now launching! Please send your correspondence to the Editor at the email shown on Page 3. We look forward to hearing from our readers! Let us know your thoughts and opinions on any Girton-related topic, but do please note that all letters must be signed, and the Editorial Committee reserves the right to publish or not.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The wait for Christmas has begun and Ten Sing is performing in the Choir 2000 Advent Concert on Friday 7th of December at Histon Baptist Church at 8.20pm. We also have our Christmas party coming up on the 13th of December ...

Ten Sing is an international youth choir run by young people for young people, originating in Norway, which is why Ten Sing have recently come back from an international Ten Sing festival in Norway itself. We sing, dance and act, but more importantly we develop a range of other skills such as team work. We meet at Histon Baptist Church on Thursday evenings, 7–9pm. If you are interested please contact our administrator at jking42@aol.com and come for a taster session one Thursday.

Jennifer Evans



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Can't Sing, Can Ring Doorbells!

Can you spare a couple of hours in the run-up to Christmas to help Girton Carol Singers collect for charity?

Every year a band of enthusiastic carol singers tramp the streets of Girton, whatever the weather, singing carols and collecting money door-to-door. We would welcome new people, of all ages, to join us this year!

So what about the 'Can't Sing' in the headline? Well, if you would like to help but prefer not to sing, we would be delighted if you could help with the collecting! With a dedicated group of collectors, the singers can get on with the singing, and we can cover more streets! Young collectors are welcome, but need to bring an adult with them.

This year's charity is PTSD 999, which specialises in providing support for post-traumatic stress disorder for all members of the emergency services, both serving and retired, voluntary, family and friends.

The Carol singing dates are:

- **Thurs. 20th December:** Singing to the Church end of the village. Meet outside St Andrew's at 6.30pm.
- **Sat. 22nd December:** Singing to the Thorntons area. Meet on Thornton Road, at the lamp-post nearest Girton Road at 6.30pm.
- **Mon. 24th December:** Singing to Wellbrook Way & Weavers Field. Meet by the Sensory Garden at 6.30pm.

We aim to finish singing at around 9pm every evening, but you are welcome to join us for as much or as little of that time as you wish.

There is more information on our website: Girtoncarolsingers.org.uk or you can find us on Facebook, or phone Helen on 276940.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Tree Shredding and more!

Sunday 6th January 2019

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Girton Glebe School

*Come and join us for a
great community event!*

- * **Tree Shredding***
by Acacia Tree Surgery
- * **Wheelie Bin Cleaning***
by Wheelie Fresh Bins
- * **Refreshments:** soup, tea & cake
by Girton Allotment Society
& FOGG
- * **Repair Café**
with support from the
Repair Café Network
- * **Craft activities for children**
with FOGG



* Suggested donation of £2. All
proceeds go to Friends of Girton Glebe,
Registered Charity 1098145

*Friends of St. Andrew's
Church present*

IN CONCERT



The Montagnana Trio

Emma Halnan (*flute*), Kate Elmitt (*piano*),
Catherine Wilmers (*cello*)

*Includes works from Beethoven, Bizet,
Mascagni, Mozart, Tchaikovsky*

Saturday January 26th

2019 at 7.30pm

In the Dining Room,

Abbeyfield Girton Green,

Wellbrook Way, Girton. CB3 0GQ

Tickets include a light supper with a glass of
wine, available in the interval.

£15.00 each from

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Girton Garden Society

Thursday 13th December at 7.30pm
St Vincent's Close Community Centre

**Fantastic Gardens – Where there's a Well, there's a
Way
(water and gardens)**

by Pippa Temple

Competitions:

A Christmas table arrangement
Six brussel sprouts or 3 leeks

Visitors most welcome, £2

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

**Annual General Meeting and social evening with
light buffet**

Competitions:

A foliage plant

A photo of a plant or of your own garden

Girton Walking Group

Saturday 1st December – a science walk, led by
John Cook, around sites of scientific interest in
Cambridge city centre. This is part 2 of the
summer science walk, which looked at places
with scientific connections in and around Girton.
Meet at 10am at the junction of Grange Road and
Adams Road. Please bring your Camcards or
residents' passes, so as to be able to enter
colleges. The walk will be followed by a 'bring
and share' Christmas lunch. To offer a dish,
please send an email to ann.jerram@gmail.com.

Saturday 5th January – walk in Newnham.
Meet by the children's paddling pool in Lammas
Land at 10.15am. Note the slightly later start
time: this is because the adjacent car park doesn't
open until 10am. The walk will be about 4½
miles.

For more information about either walk, please
contact ginaklane@aol.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual Village Christmas Evening

from 7pm on Friday 7th December 2018 at
Girton Social Club

With

The Histon Salvation Army Band, Father Christmas and friends,
FLUKES, (a ukulele ensemble),
Carols with Girton Community choirs and a Christmas Raffle.



Switching on the Christmas Lights
with the Rev'd Mandy Maxwell @7.30pm



Mince Pies & Mulled Wine
Free for adults (squash for children).



There will be a collection for The Arthur Rank Hospice, Care in the Community





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News for Older Residents

The Christmas Party ...

... is on Wednesday 19th December from 12 noon at the Pavilion. Plan to come, especially if you don't have much happening over the Christmas period.

The charge of £5 covers food, carols, and the unique Dick Whittington panto. Please book with me or Sam Clift.

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Old People's Home for 4 year olds

Did you watch this Channel Four series where people whose ages ranged from about 80 to 102 were matched with nursery school children? The older people all benefited in mood, memory, mobility and cognition from their increased activity and interactions. There may still be time to see the programmes on iPlayer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The festive season is here and while some people will be dashing around for others it can be a lonely time. Can I help you plan some company and activity? If so, please get in touch asap.

Finally, I have one packet of 8 Tena large ladies pants to give away.

Patricia Johnston

Older Residents' Co-ordinator

Tel: 07469 660 866

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk

Abbeyfield Trustees Reunion

On 19th September, the Abbeyfield Society hosted a recognition event for former Trustees of The Abbeyfield Cambridge Society, Jenny Greene, Peter Constable, Margaret Markey and John Upham. Andrew Watson, Operations Manager said, 'We were fortunate to have four innovative and committed Trustees working on the development offering a broad range of skills and experience. We were therefore delighted that they accepted our invitation to come back to see how their vision has progressed since the opening in 2012.' The visit included lunch and a presentation by the Chair of The Residents' Committee, Geoff Burniston, followed by a chat with residents and staff.



Christopher Collings, Asst. Operations Manager, with former Trustees Margaret Markey, John Upham, Jenny Greene and Peter Constable, together with Andrew Watson,

Trustee Jenny Green said, 'It was truly wonderful to see how Girton Green is thriving in the way that we had envisaged,' and Peter Constable added, 'It was very nostalgic to look around the building and to see how carefully it has been kept, with none of the usual ravages of time. It was also very clear that the focus is totally on the welfare and happiness of all the residents.'

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Girton Garden Society

At our meeting on Thursday 8th November at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Mr Alan Shipp talked to us about hyacinths. He is the custodian of the UK's National Hyacinth Collection at Waterbeach. There he has more than 250 cultivars, many of them rare, hence his being known as the Noah of Hyacinths in heirloom bulb circles. I think that every hyacinth bulb we buy was raised by Mr Shipp. He tells tales of lucky strikes and coincidence – like how he spotted Gloria Mundi, a lost variety dating back to at least 1767. Then there is the story of the double flowered yellows which were sent to him by an enthusiast in Lithuania who had collected endangered species after the breakup of the Soviet Union. He grew them as an unidentifiable double yellow until one variety was spotted in Kew in a painting by Mary Delaney, a rarity from 1770, which at the time cost about £800 a bulb. Her painted example belonged to the King. In the 1730s a hyacinth mania gripped Europe. It may not have lasted long, but it brought the flowers to the attention of the wider public, culminating in the colourful spring bedding schemes of the great Victorian gardens.

The Flemish botanist, Carolus Clusius, who, in 1553, was in charge of the Imperial Gardens of Ferdinand II in Vienna, probably got hold of hyacinths, along with other spring bulbs, through the Imperial Ambassador to Turkey. That same year Ferdinand died and Clusius moved to a job in Leyden, taking the precious bulbs with him. It is thought that the hyacinths were included. The Dutch have dominated the bulb business ever since. Clusius may have done us a favour and brought hyacinths over to Britain when he visited in 1590. It is known that by 1597 John Gerard, the famous herbalist, was growing them in London. For a long time since then they have been part of our spring scene.

The bulbs need to be planted deeply in the soil and are capable of pulling themselves further down by means of a taproot. However, in pots, they like to have their tips above soil level.

Mr Shipp's propagation techniques are highly skilled, and evolved thanks to a mouse that had eaten part of a bulb and had hidden it under a bush. Little bulbils had developed around the base. His collection is normally open to the public on Saturday and Sunday of the last weekend in March. E-mail alan.shipp@virgin.net. Tel. 01223 571064.

Felicia Moor



I am writing this in the second week of November, after several recent excursions into the East Anglian countryside, and am amazed at what a long, warm, 'blue sky' and colourful autumn we have had. The trees and hedges are still bright with butter yellow, burnt orange and flame red leaves – although a few more wet and windy nights will end this display – and there are huge numbers of hawthorn berries and rose hips giving the hedgerows a red tinge. From the bus this morning I could still see some colourful liquidambers, crab apples, flowering cherries and acers in local gardens. Anyone wishing to plant a tree for autumn colour next year should have plenty of inspiration from this year's show.



This long autumn will definitely have an impact on our gardening in December. Traditionally this is the month to clean and pack up tools, put away the mower, and settle down indoors to plan next year's gardening. This year, unless we have a sudden cold snap, we may need to be much more active in December. The lawn may continue to grow and need light mowing at intervals on fine days. Bare root trees, shrubs, hedging and roses

Continued on Page 17

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- Jill - Histon

Continued from p.15

will only recently have become dormant, and will still be on sale at this late stage. They can be planted as long as the soil remains warm and workable, but if the weather turns frosty or very wet they are best potted into a large tub and kept in a sheltered position until the spring. Perennials that have been left with seed heads and leaves for birds and insects, and to provide interest when frosted, will need checking for rotting leaves, which could harm the developing crown. Rhododendrons, camellias and young magnolias will need watering in dry spells to help good bud formation.

As Christmas approaches, evergreens such as conifers, holly, sarcococca, ivy and variegated shrubs like euonymus and eleagnus can be used to make festive wreaths and table decorations. Most people want holly with berries, and when planting holly for berries both a male and female plant are needed, unless you choose a self-fertile variety like JC van Tol. I am always mystified by the quirky naming of some of the variegated hollies – Silver Queen is in fact a male plant, and Golden King a female!

Mistletoe is another Christmas favourite, and there is a surprising amount of this around Cambridge. (The trees at the junction of Grange Road and Madingley Road are heavily laden, for example.) It is allegedly possible to get your own tree to carry mistletoe by squashing a berry into a crack in a branch, but I think a certain amount of luck is required for success!

Christmas flowering indoor plants are also deservedly popular. Scented hyacinths, narcissi like bridal crown and paperwhites, amaryllis, poinsettias and cyclamen are all produced by nurseries for Christmas. Poinsettias can be temperamental – they hate rapid changes of temperature and cold draughts, and do best in a cool, light room, watered from below and kept just moist. Paperwhite narcissi bulbs can bloom in just six weeks, and their scent is wonderful. I like Alys Fowler's tip for stopping them becoming leggy – apparently giving the plants a shot of vodka as the flower spike appears may make for more compact growth!

Many other tasks can keep gardeners busy this month: protecting pots with bubble wrap, fleece or sacking; planting up early flowering pots of miniature bulbs or plants like cyclamen, primulas, ferns and ivies to cheer up January; 'last chance' planting of garlic or early planting

of broad beans; and installing solar powered, mains or candle lighting to illuminate drives and paths and create magical festive effects in trees or front door planters. Plenty to do then, in this 'quiet period' for gardeners! Happy Christmas, and good gardening.

Janet Sheard, Girton Garden Society



Garden Tip of the Month – December

As we prepare for Christmas, if the olde worlde charm of holly and ivy strewn round the house appeals to you, don't leave gathering the holly too late, or the pigeons will strip the berries before you!

As the leaves fall (and are enthusiastically collected), parts of the garden, which you don't see for much of the year, are revealed. Now is a good time to gather ivy trails for decoration, or more prosaically, for the green bin. Common or garden ivy is a blessing to wildlife, and a challenge to the gardener, smothering fine plants while your back is turned, and sneaking through the boards of fences and ping-pong tables as the stem thickens. Wilder, and unreasonably prickly, brambles also menace the back of many gardens. I usually find a sharp spade driven in diagonally from a few inches away to cut through the roots under the centre of the plant does the trick. A pair of thorn proof gloves that fit your hands and protect your wrists make this job a lot more comfortable. You don't have any? Why not add a pair to your Christmas wish list?

Best wishes to you all for a happy Christmas, and a garden friendly New Year.

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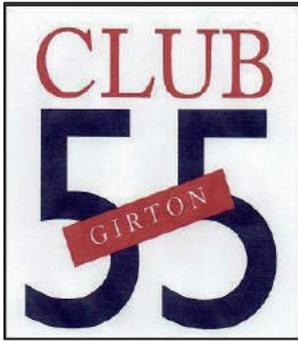
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Halloween 'Yes or No'

Not everyone is pro Halloween and I can understand why as its origin is by no means a Christian one. That could also be said of Bonfire Night which has been celebrated for many years. Taken

lightly both can be a time for fun but both have their safety issues. Halloween may be slightly ahead of Bonfire Night in the safety stakes but rules for both are still evolving. I was a child during World War II, bonfires and fireworks were not allowed then – mind you there were many very serious 'fireworks' around at that time. Halloween was way down the list of fun, only coming to the fore in this country comparatively recently. Commercialism maybe?

At our lunch on Wednesday 31st October in the Rose and Crown pub in Impington we asked our members to 'come dressed in black'. Here's what happened.



Forty six members turned up to enjoy a very pleasant afternoon. Some dressed to suit the date making the ambience in the pub one to savour. The food was delicious, served hot and as quickly as was possible with such large

numbers descending on the restaurant. Well done the Rose and Crown.

Some arrived by car, some walked and some came by broom. As usual chatting was incessant and pleasant. We welcomed two or three new members and I am sure that they enjoyed their first visit.



Of course there were a few horrible sights, it was inevitable at this time of year.



Here is one of the horrors that befell us. A little devil had crept in unseen eating lunch with his lady wife beside him.

Of course there were other more pleasant sights as can be seen below.



Our next function is planned to be at Girton Golf Club on 11th December – don't be lonely.

On the 24th October an afternoon with Sam and Patricia saw those present enjoying a glass of wine, coffee and cakes after a talk by Sam. A collection raised £155 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

For Your Diary:

Tuesday 11th December, 12 for 12.30pm: Christmas Lunch at Girton Golf Club. Dress for Christmas, let's have some fun.

Wednesday 19th December, 12 for 12.30pm: Christmas party at the Girton Pavilion, carols, Golden Girties and this year's pantomime is Dick Whittington, if we get it finished in time. Filming is well under way so keep your fingers crossed. Mulled wine and buffet with the usual Christmas fun are also on the menu. The price of all this is £5 but expect a collection for A.C.T. Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust.

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Rotary will again be opening three central University sites to raise much needed funds for good causes and to contribute to the festive season. Cash donations of £7 (or more) are welcome and this covers parking for the rest of the day until the site closes.



The sites are open for business on these December days:

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Sunday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
Thursday 27th and Friday 28th

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Exit by 7pm

Cambridge Assessment, Harvey Road, CB1 2ET

Entry from 9.30am, except Sundays when it is 10.30am
Exit by 5pm

Department of Chemistry, Lensfield Road, CB2 1EW

Entry from 10am, except Sundays when it is 11am
Exit by 5pm

Please check our website for latest information about parking and other Rotary activities:
www.cambridge-southrotary.org.uk

Thank you for supporting us – we raised over £40,000 last year from parking donations and this really helps many charities.

Appeal for Sleeping Bags for Jimmy's Night Shelter

Jimmy's are asking for sleeping bags, blankets and rugs to hand out to their rough sleepers over the winter months. If you can help by donating any that would be marvellous. Last year we were able to pass on 23 sleeping bags and countless blankets from Girton – let's see if we can do as well this year!

At the time of going to press I have been able to pass on 27 blankets but only 5 sleeping bags so far – perhaps you all gave me yours last winter!

N.B. They can't take in pillows or duvets unfortunately, because of fire regulations.

Please contact me and I am happy to come and collect your donations from you. If you are interested in doing any volunteering I can chat to you about who to speak to at Jimmy's. Two people have already offered to help with the extra provision Jimmy's and The Salvation Army provide when the weather gets really severe.

Jenny Knights
01223 276405
jenny.knights@virginmedia.com

Girton WI

At the November meeting we made Christmas cards. Jill Watkins and Wendy Hunter had prepared cards for us to copy and had assembled all the materials. The activity was fun and creative and moreover, because we were sat round tables, we had a great opportunity to catch up with members' news and to get to know our new members.

Corinne Garvie



New Golden Goose Railings arrive in Girton

The part of the Village around St. Andrew's Church has undergone a major transformation in recent weeks, with work on the installation of Sculpture Railings, footpath and new bus shelter, all commissioned by Girton Town Charity (GTC). At the time of writing, the railings are partly installed and the refurbishment of the car park by Girton Parish Council is about to start.

This project fulfils part of GTC's remit to improving public space for Village residents; previous projects have included the Sensory Garden in Wellbrook Way and the community Art project, *Passing Through and Settling*.

Commissioning

In 2015 the Charity approached the locally-born and now internationally-renowned Artist Matthew Lane Sanderson to design an original set of railings to replace the missing cast iron fence that was removed during the Second World War. Its practical purpose was to define the boundary of the graveyard of St. Andrew's Church.

After consultation with local people and the Rector of the Church, Matthew researched and developed a series of visual icons based on local history which are incorporated in the design. The structure, created in the Artist's studio, has been made from galvanised steel to ensure long life, with illumination above reflected by gold leaf.

The Sculpture Railings reflect elements of Girton Village and the area in which it is located. Here we have included some details which may enhance your enjoyment and understanding of the artwork.



Girton Geese and Quills

Girton has a long and unique relationship with geese as they were an important source of feathers for quills used by scholars and scribes at Cambridge University Colleges.

In those days, every record, bill, contract, religious scripture, Astronomical calculation, Royal decree, love letter, educational text, poem or original thought was recorded with a goose feather quill.

At that time a brook, known as 'the wash pit' near to St. Andrew's Church was used by the flocks of Girton geese which supplied these important writing instruments.

Legend of the Golden Goose

The 'Golden Ratio', a mathematical term, defines human proportions, musical rhythm, plant growth and the brightness and dimming of the stars.

The goose is one of few birds to lay eggs with the 'Golden Ratio' of 1.0 length to 0.618 width.

The 'Golden Ratio' is also closely related to the Fibonacci sequence and the railings, tree canopy and root system are scaled to illustrate this.

This 'Golden Ratio' is also called the 'Divine Proportion' which has been used in music, paintings and major architecture. You can see an example of this in the pillar of wisdom inside St. Andrew's Church.

The Barnacle Goose

The name Barnacle Goose came from a myth that they were hatched from barnacles which meant that as crustaceans they could be eaten during Lent when all other flesh is forbidden.

This was discovered by sending envoys north over the sea to find out how this creature delivered its young. Returning with branches from island seashores covered in barnacles, it was concluded that the birds' young emerged from these hard shells on the branches of trees by the shore and fell directly into the water to join their flock!

The Tree of Life

A Tree is a common image to illustrate the cycle of life in religious culture and historical legend.

These sculpture railings show a tree on an island surrounded by water as in the Isles of Ely and Sutton, located in the fenland of northern Cambridgeshire but now drained and no longer obvious.

The rays of light (flat steel bars) across the water's surface (rippling handrail) show light or 'light of life' in a religious context, such as the golden raiment of light painted around the head of Christ and Saints including St. Andrew.

Educational Grants 2018/2019

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.

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Ann Bonnett (Vice Chair) 41 Church Lane Girton CB3 0JW t:276354
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Cottontails Preschool

It has been wonderful to welcome 2 new staff members to Cottontails this month, Chrissy and Priya. We also have a work experience student Charlotte joining us this term. They are all settling in well and the children are getting to know them and enjoying spending time with them.



Some of our recent activities include telling fairy stories, in particular The Three Little Pigs which has been very popular. The children made their own character puppets with paper bags and wooden spoons and then acted out the stories with their puppets. We have made playdough mixing primary colours and seeing which new colours they made and we have been busy sweeping up the leaves in the garden.



At forest school, the children have been sawing pieces of wood ready to make into Christmas decorations and there has been much superhero play with brave rescues from the trees!

Last week we had a visitor at Cottontails – much to the interest of the children, a frog came hopping in! We talked about where the frog might like to

live and we delivered him safely back outside into the damp grass and leaves.

Cottontails' committee will be holding their annual Christmas disco again this year on 7th December, 3.30–5.30pm. For further information please do get in touch via the contact details below.

If you would like any further information about Cottontails, please visit our website www.cottontailspreschool.org or contact us on 07935224607 or info@cottontailspreschool.org.

Laura Norman
Cottontails Preschool Manager
manager@cottontailspreschool.org

GIRTON SOCIAL CLUB

At 48 Cambridge Road, Girton, is a small friendly Club looking for new members. Small annual subscription with reduced rates for Senior Citizens. Children are welcome with parents. Facilities include Pool, Darts, a CD Player and Licensed Bar. Also available for members to hold functions. Open Friday to Sunday lunchtimes, & evenings from 7.30pm. Interested? Either call in and have a look around or 'phone: **01223 276890 during opening hours**

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GIRTON scoreboard

Girton Bowls Club

Although the outdoor bowls season has ended, the indoor season is well under way. In the Indoor/Outdoor League all the matches are played at the Chesterton Bowls Club and to date we have had a 6-0 win against Willingham sandwiched in between two 0-6 losses to Mitchell Lodge and Haddenham, both of whom are near the top. We are now placed 6th, just above halfway, with 22 points from 7 matches. If you want to keep up with future results, please go to our website at www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com.



Girton has joined the Cottenham Short Mat Bowls League and will play 16 matches from October 2018 to March 2019. We currently play all our home



The William Collyn Centre

games at Cottenham. So far we have played 3 matches and have won 1, drawn 1 and lost 1 – a very good start to what is a completely new discipline for our players.

It is hoped that next season we will have generated enough interest to commit to investing in our own equipment and using the William Collyn Centre as our home venue.

Lynn McGill

Girton Colts Football Club

This season Girton Colts are fielding four teams in the Mini Soccer League, as well as one in the Colts League. Even with this number of teams the club is regularly having to turn away new players who would like to join. The main problem is a lack of volunteers to run more teams. If anyone would be interested in running a team for primary-age children, they should email info@girtoncolts.co.uk for more information.

Girton Colts U16s have had a mixed bag of results since the start of the season and, whilst it's still early days, it is clear that our games in the higher league are going to be much more competitive than last



year. Perhaps our best game was in early November and was a league cup match against Shelford and Stapleford Strikers, who are in the A league. With a home fixture at Fortress Girton, we had a fantastic 3-1 victory. It was well deserved and all the players contributed to a magnificent performance to put us into the next round.

The U11s have generally been having a successful season. Since half-term they have lost a close fought friendly against Longstanton, but demolished Saffron Walden in the plate to make it through to round 3.

The U9s have been having a good season, winning 5 out of 6 games in the league and progressing to the second round of the cup. Since half-term their cup run has been ended by Trumpington, but they have had good league wins against Saffron Walden and Burwell.

The U8s team is going from strength to strength, adding more players to the score sheet and excelling in team work. Having had to face difficult opposition teams, spirits are high and we are enjoying a busy November with a match on every Saturday.

The Mini Kickers set-up has been very successful. The Under 7s team are on a great winning run, the Under 6s have a willing parent to manage them in the new year and the Under 5s are in full preparation for next year. Big thanks to Matt Neave, who has joined the coaching team and has made a huge difference.

For information about the club, contact info@girtoncolts.co.uk.

Kevin White

Girton Golf Club

Here we are in mid-November with the sun shining and the course still busy with many golfers enjoying the late fine weather. Last weekend we had our Cabaret Night when we enjoyed three great acts, including one of the funniest comedienne, Ali James, I have seen in a long time. Our new chef Ben produced wonderful pork steaks and salmon for our meal, creating a great promise of things to come.

December sees a busy month with a huge number of locals having family, group, society and company Christmas meals at the Golf Club. We are expecting over 1000 people to eat with us in December alone, a tribute to the professionalism of our catering, bar and serving staff. It is great to have a reputation that attracts that many diners.

Both social and playing memberships are still available, with Social Membership costing just £15 per year per couple or £10 for an individual, giving



you member rates for events and 15% off food and drink purchases. The clubhouse is open every day for coffee and cake and excellent lunches – a great place to spend an hour or to meet friends and family.

Playing memberships are tailored to fit your needs and availability and include 5 and 7 day membership, and Associate and PlayMoreGolf options, which are lower cost options more like ‘pay and play’ but with the benefit of club membership and a handicap. Junior membership is a thriving area with low starting costs and lots of coaching and matches. Full fees are not chargeable until you reach 30 years old. Juniors start at 5/6 years upwards.

Full 7 day membership is available for less than £90 per month, but the other options are significantly less, so call the Pro Shop to discuss which option would suit you.

Happy Christmas to all our social and playing members, and we look forward to seeing you all and visitors, families and friends in the New Year.

Alan Henderson-Smith
Tel: 01223 276169
www.girtongolf.co.uk

Girton Netball Club



The Winter League is well under-way and we have been working hard in our training which is starting to pay off in our matches. We played Warboys Witches, who are an outstanding team (and it was near Halloween ...). We were down by the end of the first quarter and further down by half-time but we were not ready to give up. Our coach Helen gave us a little coaching in the breaks and we started to improve. If you took the third quarter on its own, we drew and the fourth quarter we won! However, sadly it wasn't enough to make up for them being in the lead for the first two quarters, so the final score was Witches 24 : Girton 18. It was great having the challenge of playing against a good team and we showed lots of resilience and managed to put into practice some of the things Helen has been helping us with, such as using space, providing back-ups for each other and really trying to do good direct passes to people who are ball side.

Our next match against Stretchworth was very close, finishing at Stretchworth 27 : Girton 25. In our most recent match against Thundercats 2, we won 18–10. There were some amazing goals from our shooters Claire Custance and Rosie Lowe, fabulous defending in the D at the other end by Sally Thorpe and Mollie Benson and brilliant moving around the mid-court by Paula De Matos, Ruth MacDonald and Claire Chapman. We did some very positive moving



the ball from one end of the court to the other, with some lovely back-ups, interceptions and moving into space. Helen has given us some tips to practise while she is away until January – just minor things like throwing, catching, jumping and landing!

Girton Netball training sessions are run on a pay-and-play basis (first session is free) so you can come as and when you're able. They are held at the Girton Recreation Ground on a Monday evening (7.30–8.45pm, term time) – if you would like to come along, please contact Mel at girton.village.netball@gmail.com or see our Facebook page at [tinyurl.com/girton-netball](https://www.facebook.com/girton-netball) for information on when and where we'll next be meeting.

Claire Chapman

Girton Tennis Club



The tennis club would like to wish all readers a very happy Christmas. The committee is working on plans for 2019 and we have entered both a Men's and Mixed team for the Summer League. If you are interested in playing in either of our teams, please get in touch (details below).

Our Christmas dinner will be held this year at the Felix Hotel on Saturday 8th December. Members will have received an email about this earlier in November and we hope all attendees have a pleasant evening. Thanks to Kevin for making all the arrangements for us.

Although our Friday sessions for Junior members have finished for the Winter, adult members continue to meet from 7.30pm every Friday. We play on the Girton Recreation Ground courts and members who purchase a key have court access during most daylight hours. Potential new members are very welcome to come along to our Friday club nights for one or two free sessions to check it all out.

Details about our activities can be found on our website www.girtontennisclub.uk or by contacting our Membership Secretary Kevin Keeves on 276660 or by email info@girtontennisclub.uk.

Alan Franklin



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News from Girton Glebe Primary School

The second half of the autumn term is now in full swing and there have been many exciting things happening at Girton Glebe Primary School over the last month. Please read on for a round-up of our latest news ...



Remembrance

Girton Glebe was proud to support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal in the lead up to Remembrance Day and would like to thank all children, parents and carers who supported us in raising money on the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. On Friday 9 November, our Year 6 children attended the War Memorial to pay their respects and observe a minute's silence on behalf of all pupils at Girton Glebe. A wreath was laid Sunday 11 November by the school's governing body and we are very proud to have been both invited and represented at such a poignant service.

Forest School Activities

Girton Glebe pupils have been incredibly busy over the last month developing a range of woodland skills in our extensive Forest School area alongside our fabulously enthusiastic staff. Children from across the school enjoy regular Forest School sessions and have been learning how to tie a range of knots and use tools safely in order to complete cookery and craft activities outdoors. Recently, our children have been learning how to use secateurs and peelers and have created wooden wands and swords whilst other children have cooked pumpkin soup on an open fire, some of which was shared with visitors during our Open Day on 6 November.

Children in Need

On Friday 16 November our staff and pupils donned crazy hair, wild wigs and wacky hats in order to raise money for the BBC's Children in Need appeal. The school looked incredibly vivid with such an array of colourful headgear on display – well done, all, for supporting this event and for your kind donations towards this great cause.

Tuning Up

The musicians of Girton Glebe are incredibly busy rehearsing for a number of upcoming concerts and events within the school calendar. Our instrumentalists on piano, violin, brass and

guitars, along with our school choir, orchestra, guitar orchestra and ukulele group are working hard in the lead up to our Christmas concert which promises to be an exciting programme. This event will take place on 17 December before our choir represent us at London's O2 area in the New Year as part of the Young Voices concert.

Ex Girton Pupils, Where Are You Now?

We are still seeking ex Girton Glebe pupils who would be willing to return to the school to share stories of their subsequent careers and lives with our children. We would love to hear about your career choices, successes and interesting life-stories since you left Girton Glebe. If you would like to support us with this venture, please do get in touch. Many thanks to all who have contacted us since our initial request, your support is greatly appreciated!

Mr Andrew Simpson
Headteacher
@GirtonGlebePS

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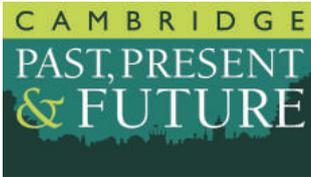
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Start your countdown to Christmas with Cambridge Past, Present and Future

Take some time out this December with CambridgePPF for yourself and the whole family to enjoy some of the more traditional treats that truly make Christmas a special time of year.

Theatre at the Leper Chapel: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, Fri. 7, Sat. 8 December, 7.30–8.30pm

A Christmas Carol, the way Dickens told it himself: one man, one stage. Playing over 20 characters, Martin Prest brings Charles Dickens's timeless story of redemption to life in the atmospheric Leper Chapel. As popular now as when it was first published in 1843, this captivating seasonal tale has the feel-good factor of a roast Christmas dinner with presents under the tree. Tickets £12 (£8 under-18s and students). Dress warmly. To book visit www.thatsmycueproductions.com. Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8JJ – opposite Cambridge United.

Volunteer Work Party at Coton Reserve, Tues. 11 Dec., 10am–3pm

Help us care for our green spaces and the wildlife that thrives in them – plus you can get active, meet new people and enjoy learning about your local environment. This December our volunteer work party will be assisting with vital woodland work at the Coton Countryside Reserve.

Meet at the Coton Reserve car park notice board. All instruction, equipment and tools provided. Wear tough clothing and footwear, and bring a packed lunch. No need to book, just turn up. Grantchester Road, CB23 7PZ.

Christmas Holiday Bushcraft (5–12 years), Fri. 21 Dec., 8.30am–4pm

Holiday Bushcraft at Wandlebury is designed for children ages 5–12 and is run by experienced, qualified teachers from the outdoor learning experience group, Wild Thyme & Embers, who will inspire children and share their knowledge and skills of surviving in the wild. Booking essential, further information visit wildthymeandembers.co.uk. Wandlebury Country Park CB22 3AE.

A Calm, Creative Christmas at Wandlebury, Sat. 22 Dec., 10–11am and 11.30am–12.30pm

If you and your children find the Christmas run-up all a bit much then do come and join Vital Spark for some calm creativity with craft, storytelling and nature – all the magic of the season with a natural and mindful slant to the activities. We're not at all 'bah humbug', we just enjoy a little quality family time away from the more commercial side of Christmas! £6 per child over 2 years (recommended ages 3–7). Children to remain accompanied throughout. Booking essential. Email katherine@vitalsparktheatre.org. Wandlebury Country Park CB22 3AE.

Midnight Communion at the Leper Chapel, Mon. 24 Dec., 11.30pm–12.30am

A simple celebration of Christmas: the Communion, by candlelight, with carols. All welcome. Donations towards the upkeep of the Chapel are always appreciated. Dress warmly. Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8JJ

New Year's Day Walk at Coton Countryside Reserve, Tues. 1 Jan., 11am–1pm

As a perfect antidote to the festivities, why not welcome in the New Year and blow off the cobwebs by joining us for a revitalising, sociable stroll through Coton Reserve? You'll enjoy the stunning winter landscapes at the same time as kick-starting that resolution to get more exercise in 2019! Free but donations towards the upkeep of the reserve are always welcome. Meet outside the Coton village pub, The Plough, at 11am.

For more information: email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 01223 243830 extension 207 or visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on



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Preparation

The Advent season is upon us. Christmas is drawing near and perhaps you are making preparations for Christmas Day. Time is in short supply. If Jesus came back to experience a 21st century Christmas he'd think we were nuts. I'm very sure he would ask why the cards and the numerous presents and ... when did a fir tree in the house become a regular fixture of the celebrations? Palestine in 1 AD was not generally known for its sustainable pine forests.

I heard the other day that the more affluent people in Britain are not spending their money on more consumer goods, but on services that will create time to enjoy the gift of life; laundry, gardening and cleaning services are a growing sector of our economy. What decreases in an affluent, 24/7 culture is time – and along with time goes reflection, flourishing and friendship, which take time to develop and maintain. Maybe a lack of time contributes to the current crisis in mental health, as people have less time to listen and share in meaningful conversation.

Mindfulness is a contemporary way of creating space and time to reflect and prioritise, and has been practised for centuries with a spiritual dimension in the act of contemplative prayer.

This talk of time makes me think of a story in Luke's Gospel about two sisters, Mary and Martha. On one occasion Jesus came to teach in their house. Martha worried about the hospitality and ran around looking after the needs of the guests; Mary stayed put and enjoyed listening to Jesus. Understandably, Martha gets annoyed with her indolent sister. It is a scene replayed in many homes over the Christmas period! Surprisingly Jesus takes Mary's side and says that she has chosen the better part. In short, making time to listen to his wisdom was more important than fretting about domestic chores.

This biblical story has a good message to employ, and one that is perhaps more profound than 'down with the Hoover'. It might cause us to ask what one or two things do we need to do well? And what might we stop doing to do those one or two things?



On another note, St Andrew's will be delivering a Christmas card with the service times through as many doors as we can. I'd like to draw your attention to the picture on the front. It is a picture of Farne Island off the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. On the island is a small black cross which you can just about make out. This bleak Island is where St Cuthbert spent a lot of time in prayer, living in solitude as a hermit. It is only accessible by foot when the tide is out. Cuthbert was a shepherd before he became a monk and he continued to live and work in the community. His was a model of faith-in-action and many were attracted to Christianity because of it. The photo on the card shows a storm approaching but the light is breaking through. Advent is a time to remember that Christ is the light in the darkness that cannot be extinguished.

Mandy

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Notices



Advent Readings
Service at
St. Andrew's Church Girton

Sunday 9th December 6pm



For Hire: North Room adjoining St Andrew's

What is available?

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The charges: £10 per hour.

Contact details: Bookings via the Rector on 01223 276235



2018 POPPY APPEAL

One hundred years after the end of 'The War to end all Wars' in November 1918, the Royal British Legion continues to provide much needed assistance to our Service Men and Women who are in need of support.

I would like to give a massive Thank You to everyone who again supported this truly worthwhile cause in any way. With the collecting boxes on display wherever possible in the village, the house to house collectors, the volunteers who sat in Sainsbury's foyer for hours and all those who donated money, Girton raised the magnificent sum of:

£8771.57

Well Done Everyone !



Wendy Ripley
Poppy Appeal Organiser for Girton

Girton Baptist Church



Notices

Girton Baptist Church
Growing Believing Communities

coffee morning

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

Messy Christmas

Come and join our Christmas Celebration

Thursday 13th December
Doors open at 3.30pm

103 High Street, Girton, CB3 0QQ
www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group

Come and join us at 2:15pm on
4th December – Margaret Jude
Advent/Christmas party
with Anne Pitman and singers

For more information or to arrange a lift please call

Christine Kimmitt - 01223 575881 or Chris Whitby- 01223 276044

Girton Baptist Church



Growing Believing Communities





St Andrew's Church

Rector: The Revd Dr Mandy Maxwell
The Rectory, 42 Church Lane, Girton CB3 0JP
Tel: 276235
Email: girtonstandrews@gmail.com
Website: www.girton.church

Associate Priest: The Revd Christine Barrow
Tel: 575089
Email: mcbarrow@me.com

Curate: The Revd Diana Johnson
Tel: 07377 866567
Email: 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: December

PLEASE NOTE THE ALTERED PATTERN OF SERVICES THIS MONTH

- 2nd 10.00am Holy Communion
7.00pm Taizé Worship
- 9th 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Advent Readings
- 16th 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am All Age Service (Nativity)
6.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
- 23rd 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Prayer
- 24th 3.30pm Christingle
11.00pm Holy Communion
- 25th 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Family Communion
- 30th 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion

- January 2019**
- 6th 10.00am Holy Communion
 - 13th 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am All Age Service
6.00pm Evensong

Weekday Services: December
Holy Communion at Abbeyfield Girton Green –
Please check notice board for revised date
Thursday 27th 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

Sunday Services: December

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.

- 2nd 10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship with Communion
- 9th 10.30am Morning Worship
4.00pm Christmas Praise at Abbeyfield
- 16th 10.30am Morning Worship with Communion
4.00pm Carols by Candlelight
- 24th 6.30pm Christmas Eve Reflection
- 25th 10.30am Christmas Mornng Service
- 30th 10.30am Morning Worship

January 2019

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



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

Chairman

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

Vice-Chairman

Andy Griffin, 1 Churchfield Court, Tel: 07956 447674

Councillors

Jane Buckler, 28 Girton Road, Tel: 277636
Gill Cockley, 73 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276703
Julie Dashwood, 36 High Street, Tel: 276590
Douglas de Lacey, 9 Woodlands Park, Tel: 565219
Val Godby, 38 Woodlands Park, Tel: 276372
Roger Hickford, Manor Farm, Manor Farm Road,
Tel: 07985 770082
Anne Kettle, 11 Redgate Road, Tel: 277505
John Thorrold, 53 Cambridge Road, Tel: 276760
Lyndsay Williams, 51 Weavers Field,
Tel: 07970 101578

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

District Councillors

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

County Councillor

Lynda Harford, Tel: 01954 251775/07889 131022
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Parish Clerk and Acting Finance Officer

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

Recreation Centre Bookings Administrator

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

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

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

Mobile Library

Monday 17th December

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

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 • (01223) 276372
Vice-Chair: Geoff Varley
geoff.varley3522@btinternet.com • (01223) 276772
Secretary: Margaret Wheatley
wheatleymargaret606@yahoo.co.uk • (01223) 527093



For next meeting see GPN calendar

All Welcome!

Volunteer Drivers and Volunteer Van Crew at Cambridge Re-Use

Drivers and van crew wanted to join our dedicated team.

You will be delivering / collecting furniture to and from customers' homes. Drivers do not need to lift, van crew need to be physically fit and able to lift.

We offer travel and lunch expenses, 25% discount and free delivery on any purchases made from the charity. Most importantly a warm friendly atmosphere with tea, coffee and biscuits, and sometimes donuts!

For further information on how to apply please contact Cara (Manager) on 01223 414554 or email cara@cambridgereuse.org.uk.

Rubbish Collection

Thursday 6 December	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 13 December	Black bin
Thursday 20 December	Blue and Green bins
Friday 28 December	Black bin
Friday 4 January 2019	Blue bin only
Thursday 10 January 2019	Black bin

Many needlework pictures for sale,
ideal Christmas presents.

Girton based

Phone 01223 476689



Nails ready for Christmas!

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email: janecarter16@icloud.com

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Local, Friendly, Reliable Dog Walking,
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Competitive prices, call or email to
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Jason Martin 07854 382003

gruffsdogs@gmail.com



PILATES CLASSES IN GIRTON

Beginner level;

Monday at 5.30pm and 6.35pm

Tuesday at 6.30pm Friday at 10.20am

Intermediate level;

Monday at 7.40pm Tuesday at 7.35pm

and Friday at 9.15am

www.wendyjanepilates.co.uk

hello@wendyjanepilates.co.uk

Wendy 07946 637396

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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 £302 per week

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

Interested in becoming a host?

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Cambridge **CAE**
Academy of English

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

Nursery & Forest School

Sallywags Nursery & Forest School provides care for **children aged 3 months to 5 years**, Monday to Friday from 7.30am - 6pm.

Forest School sessions run every day for our **pre-school children** and are led by our own qualified Forest School Leaders.

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 or go to www.sallywagsdaynursery.com



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Sallywags
day nursery.com

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