

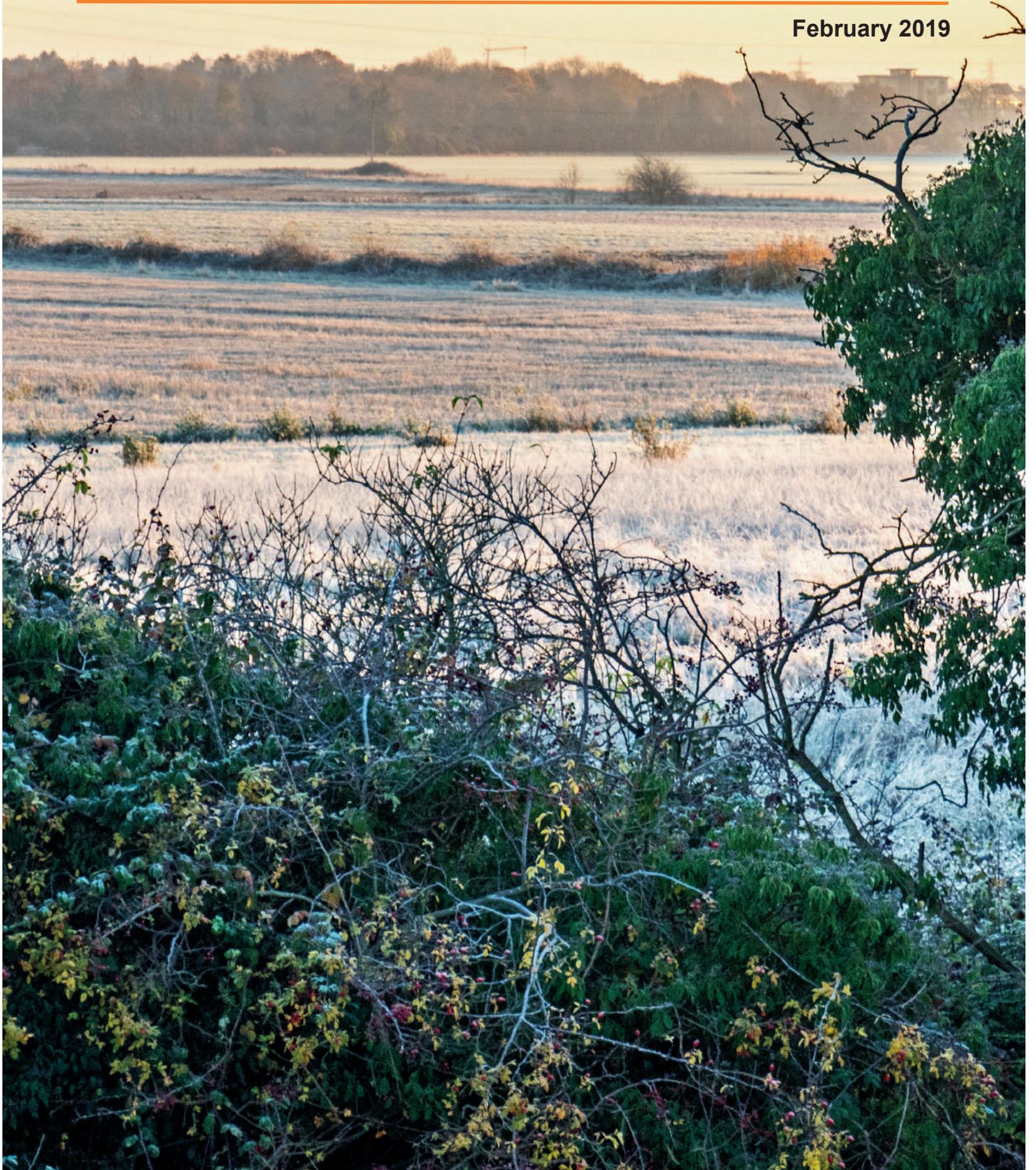


GIRTON

Parish News



February 2019



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

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The Village Diary

February

- Fri. 1** **Rotary Memory Café**, 10am–12 noon
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
- Sat. 2** **Girton Walking Group**, walk to Fen Ditton
Meet Magdalene Bridge, 10am
- Sun. 3** **Girton College Music Society**, Stanley Library
Cambridge Wind Quintet, 2.30pm
- Wed. 6** **Girton WI**, Abbeyfield, 7.30pm
Museum of Cambridge – John Flood
Club 55 Lunch at Abbeyfield 12 for 12.30pm
- Fri. 8** **Early Birds WI**, CFWI Office, Oakington Rd,
10am Mail Art – Celia Whitworth
- Sun. 10** **Girton College Music Society**, Fellows' Drawing
Room Choral Exhibitioners' Concert, 2.30pm
- Thur. 14** **Girton Garden Society**, St Vincent's Close,
7.30pm How to Make the Most of a Small Garden
Margaret Nimmo-Smith
- Sun. 17** **Girton College Music Society**, Chapel
James Mitchell (organ), 2.30pm
- Fri. 22** **Girton Craft Club**, 2–4pm
Orchard Close Community Centre, all welcome
- Sat. 23** **Girton Churchyard Volunteers**, Work Party
St Andrew's Churchyard, 10am–12 noon
- Sun. 24** **Girton College Music Society**, Stanley Library
Zero Gravity (recorder band), 2.30pm
- Thur. 28** **Girton Musical Theatre**, The Gondoliers
Girton Glebe School, 7.30pm

March

- Fri. 1** **Rotary Memory Café**, 10am–12 noon
St Vincent's Close Community Centre
Girton Musical Theatre, The Gondoliers
Girton Glebe School, 7.30pm
- Sat. 2** **Girton Walking Group**, walk from Stapleford
Meet at the Rose pub, Stapleford, 10am
Girton Musical Theatre, The Gondoliers
Girton Glebe School, 2.30 and 7.30pm
- Wed. 6** **Girton WI**, Abbeyfield, 7.30pm Annual Meeting

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Cover photo by the late Joe Sipos

Copy date for March issue: Wed. 13 Feb. Issue date: Saturday 2 March. Covers 2 March–5 April.

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

At our December meeting we resolved to set up a Parish Twitter account which would be useful to communicate news to the village and disseminate information at short notice. This will hopefully happen in January.

At the January meeting we recorded our congratulations to Girton Town Charity on the installation of the Artwork Fence near the Church. This has been a major talking point over the holiday season and the feedback received by the Council has been very positive. We also noted that the footpath and car park refurbishment are all but complete with just the white lining and repositioning of the waste bin outstanding. With the help of County Councillor Lynda Harford we are now pressing the County Council to carry out resurfacing of the adjacent road leading to the rear of the school.

We were sorry to note the resignation of Cllr Lyndsay Williams on health grounds, and we thank Lyndsay for her service with us. We now have several vacancies on the Council and all are urged to consider whether they could spare some time to serve their community as a parish councillor. Please ask the Clerk or any existing councillor if you are interested.

The 2019–20 precept request was agreed with a 5% uplift, 3% to cover inflation with the remainder to leave a margin for reserve funds and a potential buffer for any loss of Pavilion income to the new Community Hall in Wellbrook Way which is nearing completion.

In view of the impending new speed control road marking at the junction of High Street and Cambridge Road, it was decided to defer Girton's Local Highways Improvements Grant application as it would not address the next most pressing traffic safety problems in the village. A new application will be developed for the next funding round. Those villagers attempting to establish a Speed Watch group are urged to continue with this in order to provide supporting evidence for the application.

Several Parish Councillors and the Clerk attended County Councillor Lynda Harford's village meeting on 10th January at Girton Glebe School, and were pleased to talk with residents about how we can work together on environmental, transport and communication matters. Attendees completed a questionnaire, copies of which have been circulated at village venues.

Some councillors have received 'spoof' emails purporting to come from the 'chairman' address. While their content was harmless they were not genuine as that address is set up as a post box and is not capable of sending emails. This should serve as a warning to all to check the source (right click on the address) of any email which appears odd or contains an unusual looking attachment.

Next meetings

The next Parish Council meetings will be held at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th February and Tuesday 19th March. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings and to speak in the open session at the start.

From Our Councillors

County Councillor Lynda Harford

I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and offer you my best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019. I am sure that the coming year will present many challenges and look forward to working with you and Girton's Parish and District councillors to address them.

The meeting of the County Council in December followed the usual format of a couple of business decisions and mostly uncompromising positioning on the motions that are put. Approval was given to the Treasury Management Report for Quarter 2 and to a proposal from Constitution and Ethics that joint working should be established between Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Boards. Approval was also given for the appointment of a replacement Cambridgeshire Chairman for the Board. The Council Chairman's announcements included news about awards made to the Council: the first was the achievement of a silver award in the Ministry of Defence's employer recognition scheme which the Council received for its support of the armed forces and their spouses/partners/families, reservists and veterans. The Council is a lead signatory to the Cambridgeshire Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Council's 'See the Difference' campaign, with its successful focus on the recruitment of staff to support people to live independently, saw it shortlisted from 420 national entries and awarded one of the 18 categories, that for best research and evaluation. The Council's summer programme for those with special educational needs won the National Citizen Service Award at the Children & Young People Now Awards. Now in its sixth year in Cambridgeshire, the programme is offered to all young people. The Council was recognised for its work in supporting 24 young people with special educational needs and disabilities who would not otherwise have been able to participate.

The additional funding for Health & Social Care recently announced by Government has been allocated to the commissioning of additional support services to alleviate winter pressure on the NHS. The £2,395m that was allocated to Cambridgeshire will be used to commission additional discharge care hours and re-ablement provision. The aim is to improve performance on discharging patients from hospital, freeing up beds and reducing waiting times for others.

As a member of the Fire Authority, I was pleased to see recognition of Station Commander Farsi Raoufi in the Queen's New Year Honours list for his services to equality and inclusion both in the community and in his role with Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service (CFRS). Inspired by the community support he himself received when he arrived in the UK at the age of fourteen, he spent time as a youth worker before joining CFRS in 1991. During 17 years of volunteering he has supported young people and vulnerable adults in a variety of situations.

In the last few weeks I have met twice with the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement team. The first meeting was one of those I regularly have with them when we discuss and try to resolve some of the issues that residents have raised. The second meeting which Heidi

Allen had requested was wider reaching and allowed me the opportunity of a tour of both the on- and off-line works, at one point sitting watching traffic on the existing A14 from a vantage point on the new road. We were told that the project is currently on budget and on schedule.

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

Girton Art Railings

I would like to congratulate sculptor Matthew Lane Sanderson and Girton Town Charity for the splendid new Art Railings for St Andrew's churchyard, and for the new bus shelter. Over the past few weeks I have watched people enjoying the new railings and being fascinated by the detail of the sculpture. It is not only a beautiful enhancement to our streetscape, but appears to be solidly constructed from good quality materials that will stand the test of time. Let's hope that other villages follow Girton's lead.

Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019–2023

South Cambs District Council and Cambridge City Council are working together on a strategy document on housing supply for the next five years. Their plan is to develop a joint Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to supplement the Local Plan housing requirements. (I had wanted to send residents a link to the consultation that was held on the document, however it was announced just after the deadline for last month's parish newsletter and closed just before the publication date of this one.)

The document can be found at:
www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12790/greater-cambridge-housing-strategy-consultation-final-draft.pdf

Girton is not mentioned by name in the document, nor are the other villages, as it is a high-level strategy document, rather than a detailed set of proposals for development sites.

It says: 'Through our Local Plans we know that we need to deliver an additional 33,500 homes up to 2031; 19,500 in South Cambridgeshire and 14,000 in Cambridge.' It goes on to suggest that 'higher housing target numbers are likely to be needed if the potential for higher growth in employment is to be met'.

This suggests that the SPD document might propose new developments beyond those already agreed in the Local Plan, possibly including some that were previously rejected.

Practical Brexit information for householders

Lots of people have been offering their opinions about Brexit, and rather than giving you my views (EU membership is outside the remit of the District Council), I thought it would be more useful to provide some practical information.

The Government has published a series of advice sheets to help both householders and businesses to prepare for a No Deal Brexit. These can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-prepare-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal The majority are aimed at businesses, but four are worth having a look at before travelling in Europe:

- **Passport validity.** UK passport holders are currently exempt from a requirement to show six months of remaining validity to their passport when entering the EU, which may end on Brexit. This can be rectified by replacing your passport six months prior to expiry. Doing so on a regular basis adds 5% or £3.78 to the cost of holding a ten year passport.
- **Driving licences.** Some EU countries may require an International Driving Permit to be shown alongside a British driving licence. These can be bought for £5.50 from some post offices, including Cambridge, but not those in smaller villages. There are two types: the 1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic for Ireland, Spain, Malta and Cyprus, and the 1968 Vienna Convention for all other EU countries.
- **Motor insurance.** All vehicle insurance policies issued in the UK must provide at least third-party cover throughout the EU. UK policy holders currently have an exemption from showing a Green Card document. In the event of No Deal, you should ask your insurer to issue a Green Card document, as proof of the insurance cover that you already hold, before driving to the continent.
- **Mobile phone roaming.** The EU currently places a cap on mobile phone roaming charges. It is the UK Government's intention to replicate this cap for UK contract holders, but must wait until after 29th March before doing so. Look carefully at whether your mobile phone operator tries to take advantage of this interval in regulation. This can be avoided by buying a prepaid SIM card, available from most convenience stores from £10, until the cap has been restored.

Cllr Tom Bygott
cllr@bygott.net
07765 475513

A View From the District

We began December with the Civic Affairs committee again being asked to increase and decrease the sizes of two Parish Councils, though in this case we were not convinced that the request to increase could be justified (or that the requisite volunteers would materialise) and so refused to approve it. Girton still needs four more Councillors to bring it to full strength: please consider whether this is a way you could serve your community.

I have been very keen to improve morale at South Cambs Hall, and to integrate Officers and Councillors; so I was delighted when one of our new Councillors agreed to run a quiz for me on the evening of my Officers' Reception. The whole day was a great success with my PA organising the catering for the reception and a fish-and-chips supper in the quiz. A staff team narrowly beat a team of Liberal Democrat Councillors, Father Christmas presided over the scoring, and a good time was had by all. Later in the week the Vice-Chairman and I visited every Officer with little gifts to give a personal Thank-you. Many teams decorate their desks for the festive season, and we also had a very enjoyable

afternoon exploring them and awarding prizes and certificates for the best.

Not the least of the various activities the staff have done over the year is to collect Christmas gifts for patients at Fulbourn hospital; they collected more gifts than there are patients and these were handed over in a short ceremony at our Christmas tree.

The County has laid on briefing to help us understand how the various parts of the planning system fit together in assessing large new developments; it is a shame that many members of the planning committees were conspicuous by their absence. We are assured that transport assessments should prevent traffic chaos: they produce an estimate of the number of viable trips on the current roads and if this is exceeded the development must stop until improvements are made – for instance by dualling the A10. I pointed out that such works would, for an extensive period, significantly reduce road capacity, a factor which apparently is beyond our ability to handle. However, it was generally agreed that we should encourage more local input into the desiderata of new developments, and that we must learn to do better.

The JDCC had no plans to consider at its monthly meeting, but was given a briefing on the new primary school for the Wing development. My greatest concern was the effect it might have on neighbouring schools: we were assured that there would be a cap on the number of pupils ‘but financial viability is relevant’. This is remarkably similar to the assurances we were given about the University primary school at Eddington which has caused such problems for the Glebe. I was also sorry that there is to be cycle/scooter parking for only half of the pupils, in a compact community whose residents will probably be very concerned about sustainability.

It was devastating to learn of the death of Nigel Gawthrop, Mayor of Cambridge. We were in discussion about a number of possible joint projects, and he will be greatly missed.

I am currently wading through a 405-page agenda for the next Scrutiny meeting so should have something to report next month.

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

Girton Green Team

Several volunteers turned out on a cool but sunny morning to mulch the beds at the Hibbert-Ware garden, opposite Cotton Hall. Many hands made light work and without rushing or straining we finished in record time. Looking back in my 2018 diary I see we had 12 outings, roughly one a month, and the number of volunteers turning up varied from 1 to 7. There are several green spaces in Girton that could benefit from some timely TLC, so with a few more people in our pool we could tackle more tasks. Our next outing in February will be at the end of Wellbrook Way.

If you have some free time and would like to do some voluntary work in the village to help make it look its best do get in touch and come along.

George Thorpe
geoviv.2@ntlworld.com
or ring or text me on 07542 211382

Thank You Paul!

Friends of Girton Glebe would like to thank Paul Smith, manager of Girton Co-op, for his dedicated support of the Girton community while working here. Paul has helped raise thousands of pounds through the Co-operative Local Community Fund for Girton Glebe Primary School, as well as Cottontails Pre-school and Bobtails Baby & Toddler Group, and has supported many local events. Paul is moving on to manage a new Co-op branch and everyone at FOGG would like to wish Paul all the best for the future. We are very lucky to have had his support.

Thank you Paul!



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Forthcoming Events



The run up to the annual concert has begun ... This is one of Ten Sing's biggest performances. It will be on 30th March this year; we also have our Fundraising Dinner coming up on 2nd February with the theme of Italian. An evening filled with entertainment, a quiz and a raffle, and food, of course.

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



Early Birds WI meeting daytimes in Girton

We are a new friendly WI open to all ladies and meeting in Girton on the second Friday of each month from 10am to 12 noon. We would love to welcome newcomers to join us – first visit FREE. We meet at the CFWI office, Oakington Road, CB3 0QH.

Our next meeting is on Friday 8 February when our speaker will be Celia Whitworth on Mail Art – a hands-on craft requiring no expertise whatsoever! Participants are requested to bring scissors, glue and any old magazines to cut up. Spend a fun hour unleashing your inner creativity!

We are just getting started, but are planning to have interesting and very varied speakers, demonstrations, craft sessions, and plenty of chat and refreshments. Please contact Rachel at earlybirds.wi.cambridge@gmail.com for more information.

Rachel Bruins

GIRTON WALKING GROUP



Saturday February 2nd: a walk along the River Cam to Fen Ditton. Meet at Magdalene Bridge at 10am. This walk has mostly good surfaces until the fields at Fen Ditton, where it is possible to divert along pavements if the grounds are very muddy. This is roughly three miles, and it is possible to catch a bus back to central Cambridge if preferred. Otherwise, the return is along the same path.

Saturday March 2nd: a walk from Stapleford taking in Babraham village. Meet at the Rose pub, London Road, Stapleford, at 10am. If you don't intend to use the pub, please park elsewhere – the walk route goes along Bury Rd. This walk is about 5½ miles.

For more details contact Gina Lane
ginaklane@aol.com.

Friends of Girton Glebe Jumble Sale Saturday 9th March 2019 11am – 1pm

Girton Glebe Primary School

Café for tea, coffee and cake

Entry: 50p adults, children free

All proceeds go towards our school

We'll be selling:

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- Bedding
- Bric-a-brac
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- Accessories
- Toys & Games
- Books
- Baby Items



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Friends of Girton Glebe

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Forthcoming Events

GIRTON FEAST 2019 5th to 14th JULY

Come along to
this popular village event.

The theme this year is the
50th anniversary of the first moon landing.

Important dates for your diary:

- Music on a Summer's Evening with Rock Choir and Simply Reeds – Friday 12 July
- Open air cinema on the recreation ground – Thursday 11 July
- Village Fete with entertainment and stalls – Saturday 13 July

Stall pitches available, please email: carol@girtonfeast.org.uk

Advertising space available in this year's programme, please email: carol@girtonfeast.org.uk

Our website: www.girtonfeast.org.uk will contain lots of information but in the meantime if you have any queries or would like to volunteer, please contact Carol on 01223 256103 or Rowena on 01223 565247 or email: carol@girtonfeast.org.uk or rowena@girtonfeast.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.



GIRTON COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY

SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY at 2.30 pm
(until 3.30 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College

The Cambridge Wind Quartet

Felix Blake (flute)

Katrina Mulheran (oboe)

Madeleine Morris (clarinet)

Francis Bushell (bassoon)

The Cambridge Wind Quartet, one of the ensembles in the University's Instrumental Awards Scheme (and featuring Girtonian Madeleine Morris), performs Ibert's *Deux Mouvements* and Francaix's *Wind Quartet*

SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY at 2.30 pm
(until 3.30 pm)

Fellows' Drawing Room, Girton College

Choral Exhibitioners' Concert

A varied selection of music performed by Girton's choral exhibitioners and scholars and curated by Gareth Wilson, Director of Chapel Music

SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY at 2.30 pm
(until 3.30 pm)

Chapel, Girton College

Preludes and Fugues

James Mitchell (organ)

Programme to include Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 547, Gaston Litaize's *Prélude et Danse Fuguée*, and movements by De Grigny

SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY at 2.30 pm
(until 3.30 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College

Zero Gravity

Zero Gravity, Cambridge's recorder band (directed by Evelyn Nallen and featuring Girtonian Andrea Seaton), performs music from the sixteenth century to a newly composed work by David Knotts

SUNDAY 3 MARCH at 2.30 pm
(until 3.45 pm)

Stanley Library, Girton College

Recitalists in Concert

A selection of music taken from examination programmes to be performed by Girton's Music students. The concert will feature compositions for flute, clarinet, voice and piano, including works by Rachmaninov, Prokofiev and Scriabin

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Girton Musical Theatre The Gondoliers

When two newly married Gondoliers discover that one of them has inherited the throne of a far away island, they have to decide whether to leave their new brides and renounce their republican principles. Are the marriages over before they have begun? And who are the mysterious family just arrived from Spain, and what is their business in Venice?

Come and find out!

Thursday 28th February to Saturday 2nd March

at 7.30pm and Saturday 2nd at 2.30pm.

Girton Glebe School Hall, Cambridge Road,
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on the door: £12 (£5 children).

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- Jill - Histon



News from Girton Glebe

It was lovely to welcome all of our children back to school on 3 January for the first day of the spring term and it is even more exciting to see the wonderful array of engaging work they are taking part in as topics for the New Year get underway. Please read on for a round-up of some of the things which have been taking place in and around school since the start of term ...

Tree Shredding – Thank You!

Many thanks to FOGG and members of the local community for hosting such a successful Christmas tree shredding event on Sunday 6 January. It was incredibly well attended and raised a total of £494 for the school, with the team shredding 140 trees in total! Such wonderful support is always greatly appreciated. Well done to all who ran and organised this fundraiser and many thanks to members of the community for turning out in support of this event.

Young Voices: Girton Glebe at the O2 Arena

On Tuesday 29 January our Year 5 & 6 pupils travelled to the O2 Arena in London accompanied by an army of dedicated staff and volunteers to take part in the Young Voices school choir concert. The concert was the culmination of months of practice and our pupils joined 7,000 children from other schools across the south of England to perform in front of a packed house of parents and friends.

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

The Girton Glebe choir sang magnificently well and were fabulous ambassadors for the school. It was an incredibly long day and I must extend enormous thanks to Miss Browne, Miss Evans and all staff and volunteers involved in accompanying the children on the day. It was a mammoth task but the children had such an amazing time - I am sure that they will remember this experience for a long, long time!

Girton Glebe Forest School Activities

Our children have been involved in a range of exciting Forest School activities so early on in the term, with our Foundation Stage children harvesting the potatoes they had planted, washing them and cooking them over an open fire.



This term, Lime class have been spending Wednesday afternoons in the forest crafting items using a range of tools and cooking on the fire. The children have also been creating rules to go with our five school Core Values and have used their

Comfort Zone logs to set challenges for themselves for the remainder of the term.

ArtsMark Accreditation – Gold!

In mid-January we received our Gold ArtsMark accreditation from the Arts Council in recognition of the

broad, balanced and creative curriculum that we provide to our pupils at Girton Glebe. This accreditation reflects the on-going commitment to arts and cultural education across the school and acknowledges the impact that engagement in high-quality arts has had on our pupils. We are delighted to have this achievement officially recognised and I would like to thank all staff for their hard work and dedication throughout this process.

*Mr Andrew Simpson
Headteacher*



Tree Shred and Repair Café

Thank you to everyone who helped and visited this year's tree shred and repair café. We raised nearly £500!

Around 140 trees were shredded, visitors were able to enjoy hot soup prepared by the Girton Allotment Society and we had many admissions to our soft toy hospital who now have a new lease of life.



A beautiful rainbow collage was created from old Christmas cards and the Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network



ensured many items could continue to have use, including a project which turned an old sleeping bag into duvets for an outside reading snug.

We would like to thank Acacia Tree Surgery, Wheelie Fresh Bins, Girton Allotment Society, Francesca De Angeli, Eimear Hill and the

Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network for assisting with this event.

Our next event, is the FOGG Jumble Sale on Saturday 9th March 2019, from 11am to 1pm. We hope to see you then.

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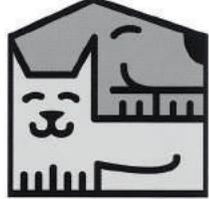
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GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Bowls Club

Our annual Christmas party was again held at the Golf Club and was a very successful evening. Our thanks once again to the chef and all the staff. The evening's entertainment was provided by Wally and our very own Paul Tippett, with whom we had a rousing sing song! As Pat Collier was unavailable at the annual prize-giving dinner, she accepted the trophy for Most Improved Bowler for the 2018 season at our Christmas Dinner. Well done, Pat!



Pat Collier most improved bowler

If you would like to try your hand at Indoor Bowls or Short Mat Bowls during the winter months, please contact our Secretary, Margaret McCall at margaretmccall@ntlworld.com.

Looking forward, it is nice to know the evenings are lengthening a little every day and hopefully Spring is around the corner.

Following continued or our visiting teams. We also hope to be able to host various bowling events throughout the year, which will also benefit from the new facility. Details of such events will be put on our website at www.girtonbowlsclub@weebly.com and also in the Parish magazine as the season progresses.

Lynn McGill



Girton Cricket Club

While cricket wickets round the country lie dormant through the winter months, the behind-the-scenes running of a club is a year-round affair, and at Girton Cricket

Club it is proving to be as busy as ever, with a team of volunteers getting things in place for the start of the 2019 season, commencing 4th May.

The club has been incredibly successful in recent years, consistently having teams placed highly in both Senior and Junior cricket leagues and reaching several cup finals. Unfortunately, it is a sad and increasingly common fact these days that nationwide so many cricket clubs are having to amalgamate with neighbouring teams or fold altogether due to lack of funds or players, and often both. Last season saw the demise of teams from both Littleport and Camden. Girton CC, however, can be proud of managing to field two competitive teams on Saturdays and also a midweek team playing a more friendly blend of the game. This is no mean

feat for a village of our size. Last season the 1st team comfortably retained their place in Senior 3 League and the mid-week team has been bringing through some promising young talent for the future. The news was not so promising for the 2nd eleven, winning 3, losing 5, but more worryingly conceding 5 games due to an inability to field a full team. We are pleased and proud to have a squad attracting many talented players from outside Girton village itself, but as the pressure grows on our 2nd team we would like to make a particular effort to encourage more local cricketers to join our squad for the forthcoming summer.

As a new player to our squad, you can expect a friendly welcome, competitive cricket on the pitch and a vibrant social scene off it (we always make it to the George pub afterwards, win, lose or tie). All ages and abilities of player are very welcome, although Under 15s are only allowed to play mid-week fixtures due to a CCA ruling. There is also a strong network of non-playing personnel who support the club both on match days and in vital roles in the running and managing of the club.

As well as all the cricket, there is a thriving programme of social activities, including golf days, bowling nights and days out to watch "real cricket". Upcoming events include Bingo on 2nd March and a Race Night on 14th April at Girton Golf Club.

For information on these events or to express an interest in playing in the 2019 season, please contact Dean Stacey (at dean1973@gmail.com or 07841625675) or Matt Hobbs (07525 254907), or just turn up to our winter nets, which start at 8pm on 3rd February at Hills Road Sports Centre on Purbeck Road.

We hope we can welcome a few new faces next season to help us continue providing Girton with a cricket club to be proud of for many summers to come.

Alex Rodger



Girton Colts Football Club

The Mini Kickers are really looking forward to 2019, with plans developing now for an Under 6s Development team managed by Angie Vidler, and Matt Neeve is already planning for Under 6s next season. If you are interested in playing for any of these teams do please get in touch with the club.

The U8s continue to improve and grow together as a team. December was eventful with three consecutive wins and our year end party. We continue to look out for a regular goalkeeper and the players are excited about joining a new league this year.

Although the last game before Christmas, against Saffron Walden, proved difficult, the Colts U9s had a great first half of the season, losing only three league matches, all away from home. Refreshed after the break, the boys produced a great team performance winning 4-2 away at Coton in a game that could have gone either way.

The U11s have played Stretham away and home either side of the Christmas break. Away, Girton were well in control

Scoreboard continues page 15

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at 5–2 up but let the game slip away to draw 5–5. At home, Stretham forged a 4–2 lead which Girton could only cut to a 4–3 defeat at the final whistle.

As far as Girton Colts U16s are concerned, there has been somewhat of a lull given the fixture dates and the passing of the festive season. Our last fixture just before Christmas was against a strong Witchford side, which saw a very competitive game on a pitch that was sloping with a strong sun and windy conditions – if ever the old adage “a game of two halves” was to be used, then this was it. Sadly, we were beaten 2–1, but the team has developed in a manner that has shown their mettle and a desire to win in sometimes difficult fixtures in a new league following promotion last season. Whilst we remain in the bottom half of the league, there are still games to go and we are hoping our performances, which have been consistently good over the season, will turn into wins.

Kevin White



Girton Netball Club

Since England’s nail-biting last-second victory at the Commonwealth Games, netball has increased in popularity. Netball is now the UK’s number one female participation sport; it is televised weekly on Sky Sports and this year Liverpool will host the Netball World Cup. It is no longer regarded as a schoolgirl’s sport and more adult women are joining local teams after a hiatus (in my case, 20 years – why did I wait so long?!).

Reasons to join Girton Ladies Netball team:

- It’s all-inclusive – anyone can join regardless of age or fitness level.
- It’s social – there is much laughter during training and we meet up for social events.
- There is camaraderie – we are all very supportive of each other. There’s also a sense of responsibility to fellow players – you don’t turn up just to win, but also because you don’t want to let anyone down (good motivation to get out of the house!).
- Netball is competitive, fast-paced and exciting. It’s good for bone density and keeps you active.
- Mindfulness – you don’t think about anything else while you play, thus reducing stress and increasing confidence.

Girton Ladies opted to play in the extra matches, which are kept separate from the league and have been put on for teams who want to get as much match play in as possible. They are a great chance for anyone to join in without the ‘pressure’ of feeling like a poor performance will influence our position in the league.



Our coach Helen Stepney returns to coaching us every 2 weeks. We have really improved our passing since she started but we still have some skills to improve and value her greatly! In part 1 of the division, Girton finished 5th, but we have 5 matches to try to move up the league before our fun tournament and presentation evening at the end of March. Our first match of 2019 saw Girton win 34–16

against Linton.

Girton Netball training sessions are run on a pay-and-play basis at £5 (first session is free), so you can come as and when you’re able. They are held at Girton Recreation Ground on a Monday evening (now an earlier time of 6.30–7.45pm, term-time). If you would like to come along, please contact Mel at girton.village.netball@gmail.com or see our Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/girton-netball> for information on when and where we’ll next be meeting.

Claire Chapman

Girton Golf Club



A remarkably mild December and early January has meant that the golf course has been playing 18 main greens and the conditions have been as far removed from last year as can be imagined. Long may it last.

The 1st of January saw our new Club, Ladies and Junior Captains drive in: see the photo of Brian Pettengell, our new Club captain for 2019. Following this, we managed to play a 9 hole Texas Scramble competition, with 48 people taking part in what were remarkably dry and pleasant conditions, won by the team led by our Club Chairman Hugh Carlisle. This year our nominated Club Charity will be Arthur Rank Hospice and events will be held throughout the year to raise funds for this really worthwhile cause. (Left Brian Pettengell)



During December over 1200 visited Girton Golf Club for Christmas lunches or dinners and on one memorable evening we were entertained royally by Oakington Singers with festive Carols and songs sung in wonderful harmonies.



The Oakington Singers

We have many events for both playing and social members, with fish and chip suppers, steak nights and our Punjabi Party Night on 16th

March for only £20 for all members or £25 for guests, which includes 12 months’ free social membership. To book your seats call the office or catering on 276168 – do it soon – it is bound to be a sell-out (see our advert).

Social membership is thriving with so many events available for local fun evenings, and a great, low-cost lunch menu. Pop in and talk to the bar staff about joining our club, for only £10 for an individual or £15 a couple per year. You will receive a warm welcome, and remember you get 20% off all food and bar prices when using your membership card.

We look forward to meeting you all soon, either in the club house or on the course. Here’s to a great 2019.

Alan Henderson-Smith

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Scoreboard continues page 17

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Continued from page 17



Girton Tennis Club

Our annual Christmas meal was held at Hotel Felix and the many members attending enjoyed wonderful surroundings, lovely food, great service and fantastic company ... thanks to the staff at Hotel Felix for taking good care of us.

The last tennis session of 2018 encouraged those attending to venture out in suitable festive clothing. The picture shows a couple of our committee members suitably attired and ready to play.



The ballot for tickets to the 2019 Wimbledon Championships is now in full swing, Last year two of our members enjoyed watching the men's final and

several other members enjoyed a great day of tennis. The number of tickets that will be allocated to us by the LTA is dependent upon the number of our members who are also British Tennis members, with Girton Tennis Club specified as their 'place to play', and who have 'Opted-In' to the Wimbledon Ballot by 23rd February. In order to be eligible to win the chance to purchase tickets in our ballot, members must have 'Opted-In' by 23rd February. These are LTA rules, not ours. We ask all current Girton Tennis Club members to visit www.lta.org.uk and 'Opt-In' to this year's Wimbledon ballot, if you haven't already done so. We would also advise anybody thinking of joining the club for the first time this year, who may be interested in attending the Wimbledon Championships, to also visit www.lta.org.uk, register as a British Tennis member and Opt-In to the ballot. You have to be in it to win it so 'Opt-In' by 23rd February for your chance to attend the world's premier tennis tournament.

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

Alan Franklin



Cottontails Preschool

The start of the new year has begun well at Cottontails with new children joining us and settling in well to the sessions. We

have been keeping warm at our forest school sessions with movement and exercise sessions; we have also had a few cosy forest school snack times under our parachute tent with hot chocolate! We have been making 'mud pudding' with mud, water and leaves and we have also been bowling with wooden skittles made by the children by sawing logs.



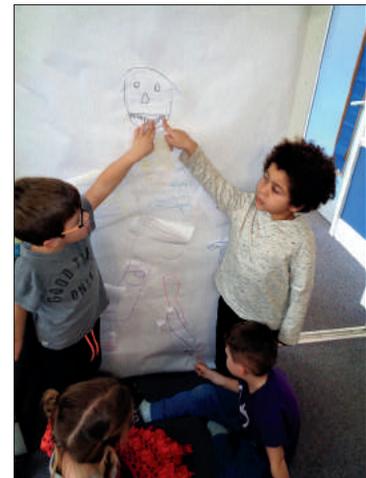
At the setting, this half term we are looking at the body. We made a life size drawing and added bones. We found out the names of different bones and why we need them. We will be finding out what else is inside our

bodies in future weeks. We are also looking forward to having the excellent Mini First Aid come in to run their award winning early years class in a few weeks. By the time you are reading this article, our rising 5s group of children will have taken the class and will have gained confidence and knowledge of what to do in minor first aid situations.

Dressing up has been popular this half term. We have had many dressed up characters particularly superheroes, princesses, pirates and animals. Our role play area has been transformed into a pirate ship and there has been buried treasure to find. Also we have been using the musical instruments, practising making quieter and louder sounds and playing in rhythm.

If you would like any further information about Cottontails, please visit our website www.cottontailspreschool.org or contact us on 07935 224607 or info@cottontailspreschool.org.

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THE NOISY NEIGHBOUR

By Hugh Field

Girton is a quiet place. Apart from the inevitable traffic noise there is little to offend the ears; it was not always like that! With an ever-increasing threat of war through the late-1930s the Air Ministry set about large-scale airfield construction which was to result in Cambridgeshire becoming a positive beehive of aircraft activity. Of greatest concern to us was, of course, Oakington, which officially opened as an active military airfield on 1st July 1940. Eighteen days later four Bristol Blenheim light bombers moved in and the airfield remained active from then until 31st December 1974.

Oakington is noteworthy in aviation history as the first base of the Short Stirling bomber, a very large machine for its day; for several years it was supported by the smaller Vickers Wellington and together these two types undertook the night bombing offensive over Germany. This activity led to a limited number of take-offs and landings, almost always to the south-west or north-east of the airfield. Their impact on Girton took the form of a distant rumble.

During the war years, Oakington went on to house a succession of bomber squadrons, followed by photographic Mosquitos and, ultimately, transports. Hard runways were built, following a standard triangular pattern, and while the longest (and therefore preferred) followed the north-east/south-west direction to suit the prevailing winds, one of the others was due north/south. Girton residents must have been well aware when this runway was in use and would have been most relieved when it was decommissioned at the end of the war.

For the first few years after the war Oakington became a base for transport aircraft, at first Liberators and Yorks flying the long-haul routes to India and Africa and, later, a centre for Dakotas the front deployed on the Berlin Air Lift.



Harvard trainers were the first aircraft to equip Oakington when the airfield was transferred to Flying Training Command in January 1951. The aircraft and trainee pilots, forming a complete course, came from South Cerney in Gloucestershire and remained until the pilots graduated and were presented with their wings on 8th June. The Harvards were then used for refresher training until the end of the year.

After some ten years of front-line active life Oakington's role was to change. The Korean war focused attention on the need to maintain our forces at a high state of readiness just at a time when the front line was equipping with jet

fighters. This called for a rapid expansion of pilot training, and from January 1951, Oakington became a flying training school. The pattern of the flying changed and now involved the repeated 'circuits and bumps' with which the neighbourhood was to become all-too-familiar. In 1951 the flying was basic training – up to 'wings' standard – and was carried out on the Harvard piston-engined trainer.

This was noisy. It was not so much that the engine was noisy but the propeller had only two blades, rotated fast, and emitted what can best be described as a rasping noise – a *loud* rasping noise. Luckily this state of affairs lasted only until the autumn by which time the pressing need for jet pilots resulted in Oakington's nice long runway (6,000 feet).



The celebrated aircraft photographer, Charles Brown, flew in a spare aircraft to obtain the superb shot of the Meteor formation during a rehearsal of the Queen's Coronation Review, the author flying the aircraft nearest the camera.

A word, here, about the training may help the understanding of why the aircraft always seemed to be going round and round. The most challenging requirement for a pilot training on a new type of aircraft is to learn to land it. In order to carry out repeated practice landings a trainee will fly a series of 'touch-and-goes' – applying power and lifting off as soon as the wheels are firmly on the ground. By this means a student can make ten landings in a flight lasting 40 minutes, but to achieve this a pattern must be flown to take the aircraft back to the final approach, ready for the next landing.

While onlookers on the ground can get irritated by jets the noise tends to be fairly low and of short duration. The next stage in Oakington's story was to bring a very different sound – a long-lasting, deep 'thrumbling' noise.

In early 1962 a need had developed for more crews for the heavier military aircraft, such as the Hercules transport, which meant that Oakington's role in pilot training would change accordingly.

In came the Vickers Varsity, the final development of the immediately post-war Viking airliner, equipped to train not just pilots but also navigators, bomb aimers or radio operators. It was a heavy machine, powered by two big piston engines, but docile and well fitted for the pilot-training task. Whereas in the jet-training days students were

taught formation flying and aerobatics, now the syllabus included long navigation exercises (Berlin was visited regularly) and, very importantly, handling the aircraft on one engine.

Just as before, students had to be taught to land, and the neighbourhood quickly became aware of the slower and wider circuit which brought it out over Girton and longer which took it to Cottenham. Complaints started immediately and magnified in intensity when the first session of night flying took place. Perhaps the only slight relief came from the slower speed and, therefore, fewer circuits per hour. Girton was vocal but it was left to a Cottenham citizen to chain herself to the airfield boundary fence. (Ultimately, on the principle of 'if you can't beat them, join them', she learnt to fly.)



Vickers Varsity paying a visit to Old Warden.

As a measure of the commitment that the station now had, the complement of aircraft built up to 27 which generated 1,312 flying hours in May 1967 involving 4,815 aircraft movements. One of the steps taken to relieve congestion in the circuit was to fly the circuit training at Waterbeach, enabling the free movement of aircraft carrying out instrument approaches at Oakington. There was an element of reducing the noise nuisance about this as Waterbeach had far more rural surrounds.

The Army took over on 1st January 1974, did very little flying and even the occasional flight by a Beaver eventually dried up. The odd helicopter appeared and the road-builders fell on the disused runways with glee. With the advent of Northstowe most of the buildings have gone but at least you can drive along the runway – it's called the A14. So Oakington airfield lives on in the shape of the road.



On 15th July 1953 the Royal Air Force celebrated the Coronation of H.M. The Queen by presenting a Pageant as a salute to her. Rows of aircraft (318 altogether) were lined up on Odiham airfield in Hampshire and after driving along the serried ranks Her Majesty took to a saluting base from which to observe no less than 641 aircraft fly past. Flying Training Command contributed twelve de Havilland Vampires and twelve Gloster Meteors, all of which were gathered at Oakington. Most of the aircraft and all of the pilots can be seen in the photograph, taken just before a rehearsal flight on 11th July.

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Golden Geese return to Girton with new Sculpture Railings

Residents will have noticed a significant change to the area around St Andrew's Church with the installation of new sculpture railings, footpath, bus shelter and refurbished car park, marking the culmination of a long-term project to enhance this part of the Village.

Funded by Girton Town Charity (GTC) as part of its remit to improve public space for residents, the sculpture railings reflect elements of Girton's history – and they are already a hit with villagers.

They replace the missing cast iron fence that was removed during the Second World War, defining the boundary of the graveyard at St Andrew's Church.

In addition to the sculpture railings, a resin gravel footpath and a new bus shelter have been installed by GTC and the adjacent car park has been refurbished by Girton Parish Council.

The inspiration behind the railings is the locally-born and now internationally-renowned artist Matthew Lane Sanderson who was commissioned by the Charity in 2015 to design a set of railings with a Girton context.

The railings show Golden Geese reflecting Girton's 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.

Ann Bonnett, Vice Chair GTC said: "It is very exciting to see the fruition of this project, with the sculpture railings now installed and enhancing this central area of our Village, together with the new bus shelter, footpath and refurbished car park.

"We have been delighted by early reactions from residents who are thrilled to see such an exciting addition at the heart of our village. Comments have included 'the railings and sculpture are absolutely terrific' and 'what a contribution to the village and to think that they will give pleasure for years to come'.



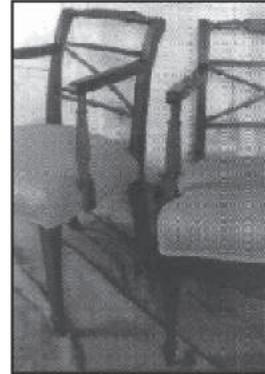
"After consultation with local people and the Rev'd Mandy Maxwell, Matthew researched and developed a series of visual icons based on local history which are incorporated in the design. The structure, created in the Artist's studio, has been made from galvanized steel to ensure long life, with illumination above."

Matthew added: "We are delighted that GTC commissioned us to produce these railings and to have the opportunity to create an artistic screen that will incorporate elements of village history. Its location between the car park and St Andrew's Church which is 700 years old, has required sensitive handling and we are so pleased to have had the support of the Rev'd Mandy for the project. Last but not least, Cambridge is my hometown and so is a special place for me to create a bespoke statement which will last for a long time."

Matthew was originally based near Cambridge and his work is well known in this area, with sculptures at Melbourn and Sawston Cemeteries; Cambourne and Bottisham Village Colleges; giant seed pods at the entrance to the Unwins site at Impington; gates at St Faith's School and the chronophage (time eater) on the Corpus Clock in the city centre. He also has many sculptures located throughout the UK and overseas including in China, South Africa and the USA.

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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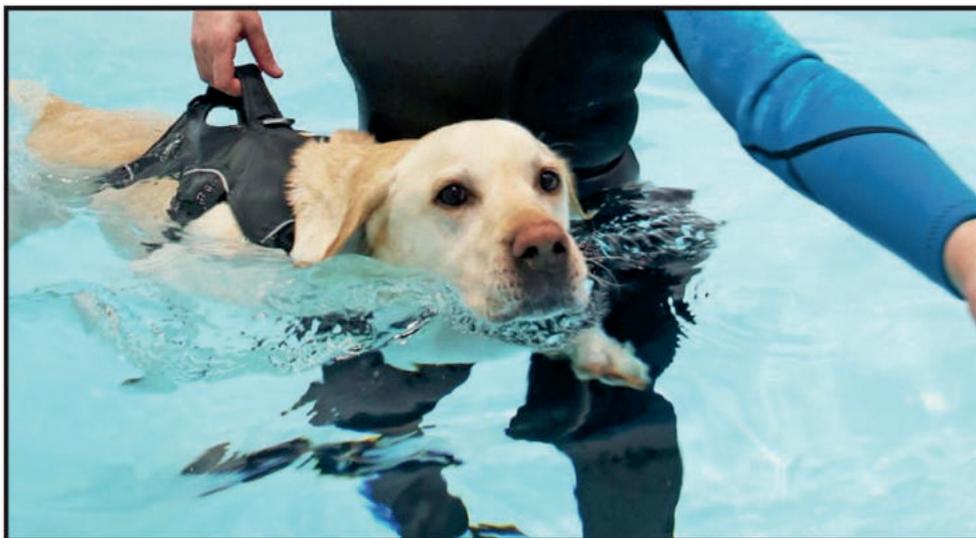
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High Street Development

Girton Town Charity's application for building 16 almshouses on the High Street was refused by seven votes to four, at the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee on 16th January 2019.

All members supported the pressing need for affordable accommodation for the over 55s. However the current design did not meet with unanimous approval.

Dr Robin Hiley, Chairman GTC said: "We were obviously disappointed that our proposals were not approved by South Cambridgeshire District Council but we were heartened by the support expressed for our objective to provide affordable accommodation for the over 55s.

"As the Council's own study has indicated, there is significant demand for affordable homes for the over 55s. We remain firmly committed to deliver these almshouses and will now be reviewing all our options moving forward."

The Town Charity exists for purposes which include the relief of need in Girton, either individually or collectively, or the support of any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of Girton.

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

Dr Robin Hiley (Chairman) 1 Fairway Girton CB3 0QF t:277296
Ann Bonnett (Vice Chair) 41 Church Lane Girton CB3 0JW t:276354
Marc Bermann Huntingfields Huntingdon Rd CB3 0LH t: 277319
Yvonne Higgons 121 Thornton Road Girton CB3 0NE t:500886
Jenny Knights 47 Fairway Girton CB3 0QF t:276405
Brian Pycock 49 Cambridge Road Girton CB3 0PN t:565247
Patsy Smith 27 Woody Green Girton CB3 0PG t:575288

or the GTC office:

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

01223 276008
email gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk
www.girtontowncharity.co.uk

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.

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 2019.

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

* Terms and conditions apply



The William Collyn Community Centre is a new purpose-built facility in Wellbrook Way, Girton, available for Village activities and local groups as well as corporate and independent bookings from the wider community.

During the next few weeks, the interior will be completed, and Cambridgeshire ACRE, our partner implementing the William Collyn Centre, is advertising for a Centre Manager. Once this person is in post, GTC will be organising a formal opening as well as an Open Day for the Village to drop in and find out more about this exciting new Community building.

In the meantime, if you would like to make a booking for 2019 or have any other enquiry, please contact Girton Town Charity:

01223 276008
email: info@williamcollyn.co.uk

Garden Tip of the Month – February

Some plants are apt to weep or bleed (exude sap) if they are pruned when sap is rising, so if you want to prune vines, birches or maples, do it soon or leave it until the first flush has slowed down, typically late April. Walnuts are notorious for weeping, and are usually pruned in September when they are least likely to shed a tear.

If you have moss on paths that you want to remove, bear in mind that it can be much easier to shift in certain weather conditions. When moss freezes it lifts slightly and can be dislodged fairly easily. Fairly thick moss seems easier to shift when sodden, and thinner moss can shed bits easily when parched. Over cracks and crevices though, moss can stick unreasonably firmly and if it takes too much effort doesn't seem worth the bother. After all it can be a very pleasant shade of green, and sometimes outlines paving in a pleasant, non-threatening way. If leaving it be is not an option there are several products available to kill it. The spores it sheds will be viable though, so in conditions favourable for moss to occur it will probably re-emerge. Moss doesn't give in easily; an acquaintance told me of a moss enthusiast who put some moss in an office drawer, and over a year later watered the very light, apparently dead, moss, which started to green up and grow! Japanese gardens often use mosses to cover the ground under the canopy of trees and shrubs. It can be a velvet carpet, or a miniature landscape featuring a variety of mosses in different hues of grey and blue, bottle green and many other shades.

George Thorpe



New Year, New Adventures

Everyone at Girton Youth Project has now (just about) settled into 2019. We had plenty of

fun over the festive period, including a Christmas party for the Monday group and a trip ice skating (with no injuries!) for the Thursday group. Now the project looks forward to planning plenty of activities for the upcoming months. In February, we hope to run a workshop in the half term, and see the reintroduction of cooking at Mess Club, as well as the usual fun, games and chill out time at youth group sessions.

With the support and funding from Girton Town Charity we are able to offer a variety of different activities and opportunities for the young people of Girton. We are always welcoming new people to join us on either a Monday or Thursday evening, so if you are a young person aged from 8 to 18 and want a place where you can hang out with your mates and have some fun, check us out on our Facebook page or website:

ymcatrinitygroup.org.uk/family-support/gyp/

Club times are as follows:

Monday group is for ages 7–11, from 4:30 to 6pm.

Thursday group is for ages 11–18, from 5 to 9pm.

If you are interested in being part of or enrolling your young person on to the youth project, please email Frances at frances.roach@ymcatrinity.org.uk or contact 07771 357187.

Frances Roach

YMCA TRINITY GROUP

Are You Suffering From The January Blues?

If, after the Festive Period, you are feeling low, lethargic, stressed, bloated, sluggish, having difficulty in sleeping and even experiencing mood swings, then, according to Google, you could be suffering from the January Blues. After further extensive research, I have found many recommended cures: you can eat yourself healthy, drink lots of kale smoothies, or engage in an exercise regime and run at dawn on a cold and frosty morning.

Alternatively, you could come along to the North Room, at the back of St Andrew's Church, on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm and try singing with **Girton Community Choir**. We are an unauditioned choir, which meets weekly during term time. Our aim is to have fun, make friends and sing a variety of musical styles. An ability to read music is not essential. Singing releases certain endorphins which, it has been proved, aid the feeling of well-being. So why not come along for a trial session and see if you can sing yourself back into a sense of calm and the feeling that all is right in your world? Just like the alto section, here!



For even more information, please phone Jane on 01223 474667.

We look forward to welcoming you!

GIRTON GREEN FINGERS

So far our Cambridge winter has been fairly mild. To my amazement on 2nd January a small part of my blackberry bush was in flower, protected, one assumes, from chilling winds, but in a sunny position. Sadly, no bees to pollinate. Many of you may have spotted similar “out of season” happenings. Our gardens offer so much colour these winter months. My pyracanthus hedges are full of coloured berries and my mid-winter cornus looks stunning.



Assuming January follows a pattern of cold frosts, our ground will be frozen as February begins. February can prove to be a busy time for gardeners. Time to get out our lawnmowers and other gardening tools ready for the coming season. Despite hard grounds, perennial plants in clumps can be divided and the outer healthier parts replanted if the soil is not too hard; otherwise plant in pots until spring.

February is a good time to thin out any dense shrubs and perennials and clear away any rotten/dead leaves around their base. Give plants, shrubs and fruit bushes a good 5 cm mulch, watchful not to cover any dwarf bulbs in flower.

Keen gardeners who want to plant early can use the following methods to warm the soil. Placing a large clear sheet of polythene over the required area, fixing in place by bricks or lengths of wood, works well. This also serves to keep off heavy rain and ensures the soil remains dry. As February progresses the sheeting can be folded back, the soil dug over and the sheet replaced if required. Forking the area lightly will prepare the soil for planting. Another method is to cover the area with a compost or manure. A fleece covering works well if again securely fixed. Soil warming an area needs a minimum time of 2 weeks prior to sowing, more in colder winters.

Place cold frames in full light to receive the sun’s heat but away from cold winds. Remember to ventilate on warm days to prevent a build-up of warmth, not forgetting to close them at night. You can place an old rug or blanket over the frame at night. Greenhouses are a gardener’s delight in these winter months, providing warmer temperatures and a space to work in that is free from the winter elements. Greenhouses too need ventilation on hot days, with many now having windows that open automatically. Check greenhouses regularly for any dead foliage and remember to clean out the gutters and keep the glass washed to allow maximum light through. Propagators are useful if you want

to get ahead with sowing early vegetables or simply use a warm windowsill. Some tender plants such as pelargoniums and begonias need a long growing season so benefit from sowing early in the year in greenhouses or propagators. Check seed packets for best times. A good tip is to mix fine seed with dry silver sand to make it easier to spread out when sowing so it doesn’t all land together.

Pruning is still on the agenda this month. The stems of Group 3 clematis should be cut down to a pair of strong buds 20–30 cm above ground level. Remove all growth above this and spread the remaining stems out evenly, gently tying to supports if needed to prevent plant congestion. Clean old pots and seed trays with a household disinfectant followed by a good wash in clear warm water. Pests and garden fungi are still around, so be watchful for any plants or cuttings that are seen to be infested. These, if found, should be sprayed or removed.

Spring is in sight, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up. Snowdrops are all around us this month. Anglesey Abbey, famous for its snowdrops and its wonderful winter garden, is at its peak this month. Our college grounds and various woodlands will have excellent bulbs on show also. Not forgetting the joy of our own gardens and our neighbours’ as we stroll around the village.

So much to look forward to as the gardening year gets well underway.

Chris Pittock, Girton Garden Society



Girton Garden Society

On Thursday 13th December at St Vincent’s Close Community Centre, Steve and Pippa Temple gave us a round-the-world tour of some spectacular gardens they have visited.

The lovely Shalimar Garden near Lahore totally lived up to its reputation. It is the site of the white marble mausoleum of Jehangir – a serene and significant memorial to Moghul power.

Suriya in Sri Lanka is dominated by a spectacular volcanic rock on the top of which are three acres of palace gardens. Down below are six miles of lakes, some dotted with fountains supplied with water from the rock. There is a life-like Cobra Rock. A visit at sunrise is to be recommended.

Ginkaku-ji in Japan is a Zen Buddhist temple, the surrounding vegetation being renowned for its Bonsai pruning. It was created from 1334 to 1568 and is said to be peopled by mountain spirits.

Then to the Loire in France, to the Villandry Chateau and its remarkable grounds. It was created in about 1536 by the Minister of Finance. Apparently the chateau’s ceiling was bought at an Arabic bazaar.

Singapore airport with its lush vegetation is worth a stop-over visit. Likewise, Hawaii boasts rich foliage where orchids flourish.

All this was illustrated by wonderful photographs.

Felicia Moor



They did it again.

Our Christmas lunch at Girton Golf Club was a great success. The club was very pleasantly decorated with Christmas lights and our meal was taken at large round tables each seating eight people. It was great to sit in groups of this size as of course this promoted plenty of chatter across the tables. I must congratulate the golf club team

for producing such very tasty and well-presented food and I was particularly impressed by the very smartly dressed waiters and waitresses. It's well worth a group visit, we'll certainly be returning so watch this space and maybe you could join us.



Above, some serious chatter

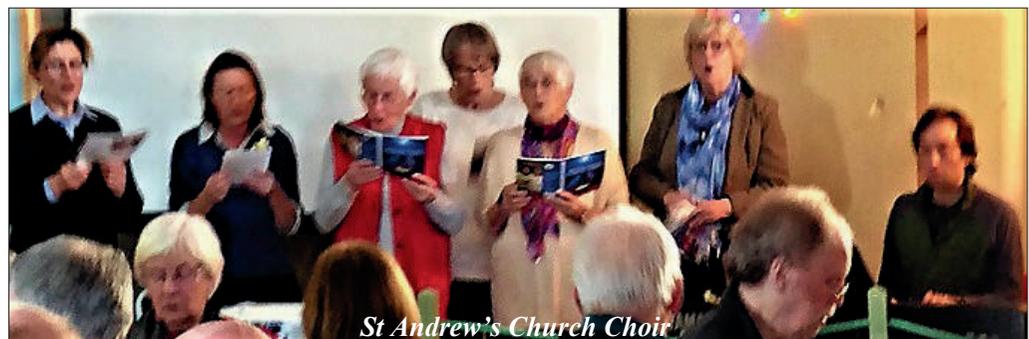


Patricia Johnston (centre of picture above, in the red cardigan) Girton's Older People's Coordinator called in on our Christmas lunch and was able to engage most of our members in conversation. It's always a pleasure to see Patricia and we enjoy working closely with her. If you are an older person and may need a little help or company don't be afraid to contact us or Patricia.

Christmas Party & Pantomime

Our Christmas Party held in the Pavilion at Girton on 19th December to a full house seemed to go down very well. It began with a 'good old natter' lubricated by mulled wine after which the Revd. Dr. Maxwell, Mandy our vicar, accompanied by members of the St. Andrew's church choir and Richard their organist set the place alight with a sing along of carols on request. Their performance lasted around 30 minutes and was brilliant. Requests just kept coming as members enjoyed the beautiful sound of the music and choir. Congratulations to all of the singers and the musician for an excellent performance. I have heard nothing but positive comments. Make a space in your diaries for 2019. We want you back.

After the carols and mulled wine it was time for



St Andrew's Church Choir



Men clearly enjoying the lunchtime experience smile and chat after enjoying their meal.

our buffet of smoked salmon, other sandwiches and Christmas fayre.

The party continued with our pantomime Dick Whittington and concluded with our 'Golden Girties' and a Christmas draw.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the party a success and special thanks to Girton Parish Council without whom we would not have been able to raise £250 for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust. This amount is expected to rise once our stock of handmade wooden toys are sold.

It can be seen from the pictures above that quite a few men are attending our lunches out so if you fall into the 'man' bracket and are at a loose end do come along.

Club 55 continued next page

For your Diary:

Wednesday 6th February 12 for 12.30pm: Lunch at Abbeyfield

Thursday 14th March 12pm: Film 'On Chesil Beach' St Vincent's Community Centre. Buffet £5.

For more info contact Sam Clift Tel:564808

Dick Whittington

Review by Angela Blackburn

At the Club 55 Christmas Party on 19 December we were entertained by another film spectacular from the St Vincent's Close Film Studios, 'Dick Whittington', starring Daphne Rayner as Dick, Mavis Diss as the Cat, Sheila Greenfield as Cook, Andrew Watson as Squire Fitzherbert and Jean Gallagher as the Squire's lovely daughter Alice. Written by Graham Jones in traditional (mostly) rhyming verse and directed and produced once again by Sam 'Hitchcock' Clift, the film follows the fortunes of Dick, a poor lad from the North, as he makes his fortune in the South-East having been drawn to Girton by tales that its streets had been paved with gold by Girton Town Charity.

Strictly speaking (your critic believes), the fortune is actually earned by the Cat, who rids Histon of a plague of Rats led by the fearsome King Rat (Ann Hunter). This achievement is handsomely rewarded by the Mayor (Graham Clare). Cook also plays her part by solving the catering problems of Abbeyfield, which starts Dick on his socially upwardly mobile trajectory. However, as in many of life's endeavours, it's the chap who gets the credit, and the higher financial rewards, so the fortune, and the hand of the fair Alice, go to Dick. After a gruelling interview on Newsnight conducted by Jeremy Paxman (voiced by a member of the team), Dick is elected by a handsome margin to Clerk to Girton Parish Council, a result announced on the news by an unusually seductive Fiona Bruce (Bernard Townshend). His manifesto includes twelve buses an hour on the number 6 route, no VAT on pet food, and all veterinary treatment to be on the NHS, so Animal Rights (if not Cook's Rights) are upheld in the end. (It is not recorded whether Cats – or Rats – were given a vote in the election.)

The movie ends on a high note with Girton declaring Independence from the rest of the UK, and a celebration of its new Bus Shelter, new Community Hall, Sensory Garden and Arlington Manor, all of which Dick takes credit for (but as we know, politicians are prone to taking credit for the good things and sidestepping the bad things, like potholes).

Congratulations to all the cast for an enjoyable production, including Club 55 members who donned Rat costumes at one of their lunches, to the scriptwriter, and especially to 'Hitch' himself (who put in a cameo appearance like his namesake), Sam Clift. It might be worth going along to a Club 55 event (advertised in the *Girton Parish News*) to be part of the fun for next year!



News for Older Residents

Warden Scheme

I wish Gail Cooke a very happy retirement! She will be missed but it is lovely that Fiona Bennett, the Friday Warden, has taken over from Gail. Only today a resident told me today it was 'an excellent service'. Speak to me or Fiona on 07979 333963 for further information about this scheme.

Keeping Well

I have plenty more Super Six exercise sheets to give away so let me know if you haven't got one. Then, join me and many others to **Stay Stronger for Longer** by regularly doing these simple exercises. I am currently exploring how this leaflet can be accessed by those with eyesight difficulties.

In cold weather there is a temptation to sit more and move around less. To stay healthy we need to be doing the opposite, sitting less and moving around more. The advice is to move regularly and make yourself plenty of hot drinks.

Update

Unfortunately as yet I am no further on in planning the information session on Assistive Technology. I hope to have more information next month.

Hope Again

Another six week bereavement support course will be held in Histon from 26th March to 30th April. Phone 07707 263353 or email HABG1@icloud.com or ask me for further details. Alternatively, look at the website www.hicom.org.uk. There are only 20 places, so early registration is advised.

Finally

I plan to continue my pattern of working primarily on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This month I will be unavailable on Tuesday 19th February.

Can anyone use a packet of 8 ladies large plus Tena pants?

Patricia Johnston, Older Residents' Coordinator
Tel: 07469 660 866

Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk

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Girton care home up for national award

Arlington Manor Care Home in Wellbrook Way, which opened in October last year, is in the running for an award in the ‘Best New Care Home’ category at the prestigious Pinders Healthcare Design Awards.

The national awards ceremony, first established in 1999, seeks to acknowledge the contribution made by designers, architects and the owners of care homes, hospitals and other care schemes to the well-being and quality of life for those in their care.

Arlington Manor provides residential and dementia care and has facilities such as a hair salon, therapy room, cinema room and café. Design innovations at the home include: a physio room, a music room, a celebrations room which can be reserved for functions, a winter and summer terrace and an outdoor putting green.

Meanwhile, outside there are landscaped gardens designed by the award-winning landscape architect, the late David Fountain.

General Manager of Arlington Manor Care Home, Zoe Kirk, said: ‘We are absolutely delighted to be in the final for this prestigious award.

‘An enormous amount of hard work, dedication and passion has gone into creating this beautiful facility so that the ladies and gentlemen, their families and the care teams can feel at home. Being shortlisted for this category is a wonderful acknowledgement of all that effort.’



Arlington Manor care staff

The winners will be named at a ceremony at The Lancaster London Hotel in Westminster on the 13th March.

For further information please visit www.hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk



Walnut, Mayonnaise Chocolate Brownie

<i>Makes 24</i>	15 Eggs
200g Plain flour	5tsb Vanilla essence
5tsp Baking powder	550g Mayonnaise
125g Cocoa powder	84g Walnut pieces
700g Plain chocolate	1125g Caster sugar

Line 2 x 8 inch tins and preheat oven to 160°C. Sift flour, baking powder and cocoa powder. Melt chocolate over pan of water until it melts. In a large bowl whisk eggs with the sugar and vanilla essence until thick.

Fold in the melted chocolate, fold in flour and mayonnaise and walnuts. Put the brownie mix into tin and into oven for 30–40mins. The brownie is cooked when a skewer is inserted and comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin before turning out.

Ben Drage - Girton Golf Club Chef

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

Girton
TownCharity

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Girton Town Charity

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For residents at Arlington Manor Care Home, life never stands still.

Residents may need a little more help than they used to, but they've still got a lot to give. So whatever they're doing – whether they're tending the garden, being pampered at the hair salon or taking a trip down memory lane over a cup of tea, our team is there to support them every step of the way.

To arrange a visit, call **01223 633677** or for more information, go to **www.hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk**

 **arlington manor**
a hallmark care home



St Andrew's Church

Progress!

Since we last wrote about the St Andrew's Makeover Appeal considerable progress has been made.

We have received the package of detailed design drawings and are currently in the process of applying for planning permission from South Cambs and getting the final approvals for the scheme details from statutory heritage bodies.

We hope to go out to tender this spring and maybe, hopefully, be in a position to start work on the project in late May.

After Easter we will have to start clearing out the interior of the church. During the works the church will be out of use for 3-4 months. Regrettably, this means that weddings cannot be celebrated in church and funerals will have to be taken in the City of Cambridge Crematorium, or by arrangement in another local church. Depending on where we manage to hold our Sunday services while the church is out of use, I am hoping to continue to offer baptisms. I will be able to clarify this over the next couple of months.

The North Room will also be out of use from late May. I had hoped we might be able to keep the North Room open but there will not be access to a toilet. Not very practical!

Despite the inconvenience, these developments are very exciting! I want to say a huge thank you to all who have generously contributed to the project. Your help and support is greatly appreciated. At risk of repetition, I want to reiterate that the church building is not just for Sunday; it is a village amenity and the improvements will give more people more access to a more adaptable resource.

Mandy

Springingle!

Been to Christingle?





Why not try Springingle?

Games (on recreation ground if the weather is nice), egg hunt, story and songs.

Meet in church on Easter Monday from 10.30am.

www.girtoncarolsingers.org



Doing a Good Turn

St Andrew's Church doing a good turn clearing the footpath near Girton Corner after the leaf drop made the way slippery and dangerous.



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

Girton Carol Singers Collection in aid of PTSD999



Thank you to everyone who donated to our collection for PTSD999, the organisation which supports emergency service personnel and their families. We sang around the streets of Girton for three nights before Christmas, enjoying some welcome refreshments along the way. The first two nights were smaller groups than usual, so we didn't manage to sing to as many houses. On day one we only had seven people, so breaking with our usual tradition of singing under each lamppost, we instead went door to door. Many residents said how nice it was to have us singing on their doorstep, rather than in the street! Christmas Eve was a complete contrast with almost 50 people at one stage, including lots of children. Thank you also to all those who came to sing, or to shake collection tins. We raised a total of £566 over the three evenings.

Helen Wilson



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SATURDAY, 16TH MARCH 2019

7:00pm to 10:30pm

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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: February

3rd 10.00am Holy Communion
 7.00pm Taizé Worship

10th 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
 10.00am All Age Family Worship
 6.00pm Evensong

17th 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
 10.00am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Evensong

24th 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
 10.00am Morning Prayer

Weekday Services: February

Monday 4th, 11am Way of Life Course
 at Abbeyfield Girton Green

Tuesday 12th, 11am Service of Holy Communion
 at Arlington Court
2.30pm Service of Holy Communion at
 Abbeyfield Girton Green

Thursday 28th, 11.00am Service of Holy
 Communion (BCP) at Gretton Court

All are welcome to any of our services.

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.



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: February

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.

3rd 10.30am Morning Worship
 6.30pm Evening Worship
 with Communion

10th 10.30am Morning Worship

17th 10.30am Morning Worship
 with Communion
 6.30pm Evening Worship
 led by John Searle (tbc)

24th 10.30am Morning Worship
 6.30pm Evening Worship
 led by Christine Kimmitt

Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group

Come and join us at 2:15pm on
February 12th – The Food Bank
David Adamson
February 26th – History of Girton
Doug De Lacey

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

coffee morning

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

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
Mary Rodger, 11 Fairway, Tel: 277316

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

District Councillors

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

County Councillor

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

Parish Clerk and Acting Finance Officer

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

Recreation Centre Bookings Administrator

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

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

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

MOBILE LIBRARY

Thursday 21 February

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

RUBBISH COLLECTION

Thursday 7 February	Black bin
Thursday 14 February	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 21 February	Black bin
Thursday 28 February	Blue bin only

Contact numbers for bookings

Cotton Hall	07759 983420
Orchard Close	277164
Pavilion	472182
St Vincent's Close	276447

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For further information please contact Cara (Manager) 01223 414554 cara@cambridgereuse.org.uk.



www.girtonbaptistchurch.co.uk
103 Hight Street Girton CB3 0QQ

MESSY CHURCH

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Messy Science

February - Thursday 14
Jesus and the Children

March - Thursday 14
The Great Parade

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Friends

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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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