

# The Gazette



*The Community Chronicle for Gamlingay, East Hatley and Hatley St. George*

Established November 1991

March 2021

Circulation 2,007

## Tiny forest planned for Gamlingay

GROW GAMLINGAY is a new community-led, volunteer project in collaboration with Gamlingay Parish Council. The purpose of the project is to steadily increase the tree coverage and biodiversity of Gamlingay Parish over the next few years, writes Emma Leaf-Grimshaw.

After research, planning and lots of form filling in 2020 we are now pleased to announce that Grow Gamlingay has been funded by the Gamlingay Community Turbine Tithe Fund and South Cambridgeshire District Council's 'Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme'.

Average UK tree cover is 13% whereas in mainland Europe it is 37%. South Cambridgeshire has only 9.3% wooded cover which, surprisingly, is the same as the City of London borough. The government's target to become carbon net zero by 2050 includes the intent to increase tree cover to at least 19%. Of course for these trees to be at their most beneficial both as carbon sinks and precious habitats they need to be native, mature, well-established trees. So we need to get planting now!

Accelerated afforestation and habitat restoration will play a large part in reaching carbon net zero. It is imperative that trees are planted in our area as part of our contribution to increasing biodiversity, lowering atmospheric carbon as well as providing wind breaks and water catchment.

Tree planting is one of the easiest and most productive ways to protect our planet. However the location of new trees is also important. To that end in 2020 we consulted with the Parish

Council, finding suitable areas that will not affect flourishing habitats or impinge on village character but will instead enhance it.

In 2021 we will start by planting a copse of trees in Lower Field as well as establishing a Tree Trail walk around the village together with establishing a community tree nursery scheme. We intend in the future to fill existing gaps



in hedgerows and to plant or extend other copses around the village. Each one will immediately add many more trees to the area as well as serve as examples of what a difference small scale solutions can make.

We will start in spring with the launch of the 'Gamlingay Tree Trail', which will be a walk around the parish, providing local leisure activity and showcasing some of the best examples of tree species in our locality. The trail will be outlined in a free leaflet, funded by the Gamlingay Community Turbine Tithe Fund, along with accompanying details of where further information can be found.

At appropriate times over the course of the autumn we will hold a 'Seed Collecting and Sowing Day' to establish a Community Tree Nursery in the parish. We hope that some households will volunteer to care for a few foster trees in pots, that will reach maturity after three to five years and become future copses, hedges and copse extensions in the parish.

Then in winter 2021, we will plant the copse in Lower Field with hundreds of trees funded by the Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme.

Along with the Grow Gamlingay team we hope that parishioners of all ages will come and plant a tree for our enjoyment now, and for the benefit of villagers of the future.

For further information or to find out about upcoming activities and how to join them, please contact us via the links below or look for details in upcoming issues of the Gazette.

Instagram: [growgamlingay](#).  
Facebook: [Grow Gamlingay](#)

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## Submission of articles and images

The Gamlingay *Gazette* is an independent publication that aims to inform people living in and around Gamlingay of events of interest and is funded solely by advertising.

We welcome contributions from people, both articles and pictures.

Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit any article submitted for publication for style, length and accuracy purposes.

For photographs, when submitting an image, please state who took or owns it so that we can credit their copyright.

Every care is taken to ensure accuracy of items.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* Committee.

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## Next edition deadlines:

**April issue:**  
**Friday, 5 March**

**May Issue:**  
**Friday, 2 April**

## Community Car Scheme

Gamlingay car scheme provides low cost transport for residents who would otherwise find it difficult to get to medical appointments. It is currently operating under strict conditions, with only one passenger being carried, and they must be able to fasten their own seat belt.

For further details call  
**07519 493701**

# Luton Airport flight plan “simply unacceptable”

LONDON Luton Airport says their new plans for arrivals which would see huge numbers of flights descending over Gamlingay on their approach to the airport, are likely to come into use around February 2022\*.

Gamlingay Parish Council has responded to the so-called consultation (see later comments regarding the terminology) on changes to the arrival stack and flight path for Luton airport at heights potentially below 8,000 feet. The PC has disagreed that the “option” is acceptable, saying “as aircraft descend they will pass directly over the village of Gamlingay. This is likely to cause significant noise and atmospheric pollution. Other options for flight paths with less impact on rural communities have not been included in the consultation.”

The PC continued, “The consultation gives two options, both of which would have a massive impact on noise and atmospheric pollution on our village. Alternative options for holding patterns with less impact on rural communities are not suggested, but they should have been presented as part of a full consultation. The proposals in the consultation are based on outdated assumptions about the future expansion of air travel. In the light of Covid, Brexit and the growing awareness and regulations concerning environmental protection, the accuracy of these projections is now very much in doubt. This puts the whole need for new or additional airborne holding in question.”

Cambridge County Council went further, concluding its response by saying “...the County Council feels that the manner in which the consultation has been undertaken, combined with a lack of relevant data around the impact on towns and villages which lie under the new flight paths, has prevented it from being able to robustly analyse the proposals in an appropriate level of detail. Therefore, we request that the consultation process is revisited, with a greater emphasis on engagement with stakeholders in the area and a greater willingness to provide an appropriate level of data that allows us to analyse

***The proposals in the consultation are based on outdated assumptions about the future expansion of air travel.***



the proposals satisfactorily.”

Cambridgeshire concerns are not unique. Huntingdon MP Jonathan Djanogly said he shares residents’ worries about the proposals, stating “there is no apparent assessment of whether the Airspace Change Consultation should go ahead at all,” reflecting the views of many residents who feel that the consultation is nothing of the sort, rather a representation of a fait accompli.

He went on to highlight, in an open letter addressed to the Consultation, that the “consultation appears at odds with the Airspace Modernisation Strategy which includes consideration of linear holds replacing more traditional stacks. Linear holds enable aircraft to be held much higher, thereby reducing the noise impact on the ground and enabling better fuel efficiency.”

Like many others he points out that the changes in travel patterns forced upon us by the current pandemic mean the need to cater for increased air traffic is negated.

Cambridgeshire MP Anthony Browne's response to the topic was “...I have been gathering information on the impact across South Cambs. The proposals will lead to an increased number of aircraft passing over parts of South Cambs, particularly Gamlingay, Graveley and the Mordens. It is clear this will mean substantially increased noise levels over

these areas, which is simply unacceptable. Even low levels of aviation noise can be very disruptive to and damage quality of life. It is also vitally important that these changes take full account of the issues raised by local communities.”

Mr Browne went on to “urge Luton Airport and NATS to make sure everyone has the opportunity to make their views known.”

A joint letter sent on 25 January to the Airspace Change Team at Luton Airport by three groups, ALAS, CALF and LADACAN, highlights the multiple failings, errors and omissions in the consultation documentation and process and makes formal request to “improve the quality of the consultation materials so as to address the deficiencies, and to extend the consultation period accordingly.”

To give some additional perspective on this issue, in March 2020 the Under-Secretary of State for Transport said this:

*“Airport expansion is a core part of boosting our global connectivity and levelling up the UK. It is crucial that vital infrastructure projects, including airport expansion, drive the whole UK economy. This is a Government who support airport expansion, but we will only permit it within our environmental obligations.”*

Perhaps that view might be tempered somewhat now we are a year further down the Coronavirus track.

*\*Information quoted from Mark Williams at Community Alternatives to Luton's Flight Path.*

# Lions Bulletin

THE SLEIGH has been put into hibernation for another year, the reindeer have been put out to pasture and Santa is social distancing at the North Pole. It is with regret that Rudolph was not able to complete his pre Christmas tour of the area due to Covid. Things are not looking good for the coming year with lockdown in place which is almost certainly going to continue for some months. However, we shall be at any fetes or fairs as soon as we can and look forward to seeing you there.

We thought you might like to know what we have been doing during the past year when we have not been able to see you. We did manage to take Santa on a tour of five of our planned routes before lockdown hit our schedule.

We have been unable to distribute food parcels this year but have made donations of £2,600 to each of the two local Food banks (Preen and Need) which we hope supported the local community. There have also been other small donations where we were able to assist relief of hardship.

The problem is to be able to keep funds flowing in so that we can continue to provide help and assistance where it is so desperately needed. If you can help in any way we shall be pleased to receive your donation.

Full details of how to give are on our website [www.bsions.org.uk](http://www.bsions.org.uk). If you would like any further information about Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club please contact 01462 814693.

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## Giving nature a boost

YOU MAY have noticed many councils opting to give bees and butterflies a boost by allowing certain road verges to grow long. The results can be stunning, as native wildflowers burst through, giving a vital lifeline to pollinating insects. In order to help nature here in our village, Gamlingay Parish Council has carefully chosen to 'say no to the mow' along several stretches of road, where it is safe to do so.

Since 1930, the UK has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows. This has led to a dramatic decline in vital pollinating insects, many of which are essential for pollinating our crops.

There are nearly half a million kilometres of rural road verge in the UK – that's equal to half our remaining meadows. A good verge can support a variety of wildflowers, which in turn can support bees, butterflies and other insects, which are then fed on by birds and bats.

Nature is under increasing pressure, but little things like this can make a real difference.

The stretches being left long are:

- Mill Hill, Mill Street (verge on RHS as you leave the built-up area, stopping at the visibility splay for the vehicular access)
- Station Road (LHS after the Lower Field entrance as you leave the village, up to the Industrial Area vehicle junction)
- Station Road (RHS approaching the village after the vehicular gate at the bottom of the school field up to the pedestrian gate for the infants) TBC.

There may be an opportunity to include other verges in future.

NOTE: An early cut on the whole verge will take place in March and then they will be left until late September. However 0.5 m will be cut regularly each side of the path to ensure that there is no long grass encroachment on the path throughout the season.

Jenny Shelton

## Gamlingay weather

*CLIMATE change is certainly "a thing", and for the UK the pattern of wetter winters and drier summers is unlikely to revert to the "traditional" seasons that many of us grew up with. Here, Philip Gorton details some of his findings.*

For some time now I have been recording the rain that falls on our garden. My figures can be compared with those recorded by the Met Office. I actually use the five-year average for their figures for the Sandy area. This indicates that in any year we should expect some 602 mm of rain. I am slightly surprised about how closely the year average is tracked. In 2019 I recorded 566 mm (6% below average) and in 2020 some 624 mm fell (3.3% above average).

It is said that there are three sorts of lies (Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics). The relative stability of my annual figures can be seen in an entirely different light when the seasonal figures are considered. The dry (and sunny) time in 2019 was in March and April when I recorded a total of only 6 mm. (Sandy average 79 mm). In 2020 the two driest months were again March and April when only 6 mm total was recorded. In the 2020 period of February to May the rainfall was almost exactly half that of the Sandy average.

No one will be surprised if I say that the last five months of 2020 were very wet with the average being 50% above normal. I write this on 17 January. Already we have had our ration for January. I am sure that we all ought to be thankful for our light sandy soil. Even with overflowing gutters the rain disappears into the substrata. There can be little more distressing than having a flooded home.

## Investigating and regulating flooding: Who manages what?

COUNCILLOR Bridget Smith, leader of SCDC, points out that whilst the District Council is often the first point of contact for people concerned about flooding, the responsibility for managing matters usually falls to other bodies.

Riparian Owners are responsible for maintaining the watercourse or ditch running through or adjacent to their land as well as the vegetation on the banks, in order to allow water to flow naturally and prevent flooding. Riparian owners can face legal action if the lack of maintenance of their watercourse causes flooding.

If the flooding is caused by groundwater or surface water caused by rain contact Cambridgeshire County Council flood risk and biodiversity team on 0345 045 5200 email: [floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

If it is from a blocked or broken highway drain on a local road contact Cambridgeshire Highways Authority, go via their website online reporting tool.

If it is on a motorway or major road, such as the A1 or A14, contact Highways England on 0300 123 5000.

If a sewer is causing the flooding, contact Anglian Water on 03457 145 145.

If it is a large river with river level gauges, flood warnings or Environment Agency branding on bridges or sluices, contact the Environment Agency on 0345 988 1188

## Who do you call

...when the lights go out, or the water comes up through the road?

*A suggestion from Joe Colebrook*

I WORK for UK Power Networks and noted that the village information at the back of the Gazette does not include any numbers to report a power cut. I think it would be useful for residents to know they can ring the easy to remember number 105. This number puts you through to the local electricity network operator (UK Power Networks in our case) and from there you can report power cuts or ask for updates. They can also visit [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/map](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/map) to look at a live map of power cuts. Let me know if you think this would be useful information to put in the back of the Gazette.

*[EDITOR: Many thanks for this, Joe. We will try to reformat those back pages at some time, but we've only just finished getting them organised! Meanwhile, residents might also like to know that if there is an emergency regarding water supply (not on their own property) you can call Cambridge Water's emergency number on 01223 706 050. If there's a problem with sewerage or drainage contact Anglian Water at [www.anglianwater.co.uk](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk).]*

## Covid-19 vaccine

### Residents and staff at Potton View Care Home receive Covid-19 vaccine

BLACK SWAN Care Group reports: We are over the moon to say that all of our staff members, and all of our residents at Potton View have received the first part of their Covid-19 vaccinations.



In December a number of our staff attended Addenbrooke's hospital in Cambridgeshire to receive the first part of their vaccine, with the remaining staff and residents receiving their first jab on 23 January.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of the staff at Addenbrooke's, our GP's, and support staff who have made it possible to have 100% of the home vaccinated.

Activities coordinator Sharon Nickerson told us what an impact having the vaccine has had on staff and residents: "Our residents received their Coronavirus vaccinations on Saturday, the whole home was full of cheer and

hope for the future on this momentous day."

We extend our thanks to registered manager Jo Cahill, activities coordinator Sharon Nickerson, deputy manager Sonia Ramsey and the entire team for helping our residents make their own decisions about the vaccination, and making them feel at ease throughout the whole process. You are all a shining example of social care excellence and we are so proud of you all.

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## Hello from the Hub

### Hub Zooms into 2021!

DURING this Covid crisis, there has been a national explosion of Zoom users, many of whom had never heard of this online connection service before 2020. It's a great way to connect with family and friends and to run business meetings, but if you are using the service for free, you are limited to just 40 minutes talk time. To extend this time, you need to buy a licence from Zoom, called a Pro Account, but as it's over a hundred pounds, it's something most of us won't invest in.



In January, we were offered a Supporting Communities Covid Enabler Grant by Cambs County Council to buy a Pro Zoom account licence for our use and to offer to our community groups and business users as a free service.

This means that if you are a Gamlingay community group or local small business who would normally use the Hub for your meetings but can't currently meet in person, you can ask us to set up online meetings for you, so that you can virtually meet.

While the building is closed this can be entirely from home, and as we open up it can also be a mix of some people being at the Hub and others joining the meetings from home. We hope this service will really benefit our regular community groups and local Businesses and we are delighted we can offer it for free for the duration of 2021.

If you are interested in talking to us about this, please do contact us by email – [manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk](mailto:manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk).

AS YOU can imagine, it's getting increasingly hard to find things to say about our activities as this lockdown drags on!

Having closed for Christmas, we never actually opened the Hub for business in January, and as you are reading this, we may well still be closed.

The weather, as I write, is cold and grey and it seems that this period in our history will never end.

But we have been luckier than many, our team has been able to claim furlough payments in lieu of salary, and the Hub has received grants to allow it to stay solvent in a period when we haven't had our normal income for nearly a year (or indeed any income for many months).

2020 saw seven new Trustees come on board to help run and monitor the Hub, bringing with them fresh ideas and new energy.

We have been catching up on maintenance work and giving the interior a spruce up and did a thorough

deep clean just after Christmas.

We are making use of the down time now to update the website and the marketing plan for this year – if only we had a crystal ball to know when we could actually start marketing!

Having had the reception area bare and soulless for a year, we will be buying some new reception furniture so that when people are allowed to sit and chat together again, we will have a welcoming space for them to do so.

As 2021 rolls on, and the vaccine starts to make a difference, we can perhaps start to look forward to seeing many of our friends again and resume the activities like visits from travelling theatres, comedy nights, and perhaps even a party as well as our usual diet of exercise classes, pilates, yoga, karate, ballet, bowling, youth club and community group meetings.

We appreciate your continued support and patience through these difficult times.

With all best wishes

*The Eco Hub Team*

### Car parking at the hub

JUST a quick word about the car park. If you park your car in it, but you are not using the Hub, please be aware that the gates may be locked at any time, so don't get locked in!

The general rule is that the car park is only open when the Hub is open, and at the moment, this is very random, and we are not always the ones shutting and locking the gates so may not know that a car is trapped there. We have to keep the car park locked when the Hub is closed for security reasons, and nipping in because you see the gate is open is a risky strategy!

So please play safe, and don't park in there unless you are visiting the Hub as you may not be able to get out for a while.

Our Facebook page, Twitter feed and website have all the latest on What's On. Email is the best way to get hold of us for now as the managers are often working at home, or you can leave a message on our ansaphone.

We are Sarah and Kate (joint managers) supported by Jake and Tony.

[www.gamlingayecohub.org.uk](http://www.gamlingayecohub.org.uk) | phone: 01767 651 226  
email: [manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk](mailto:manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk) | Facebook/Twitter: Gamlingay Eco Hub

# Careers with KMG Systems Ltd

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- > Laser Operator/Nester
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- > Sales Engineer
- > Mechanical Engineer
- > Design Engineer
- > Project Engineer

We have other vacancies. Use the **Solution Gamlingay** app or visit [www.kmgsystems.com](http://www.kmgsystems.com) to see the most current vacancies and more information.

**Apply by email to [recruitment@kmgsystems.com](mailto:recruitment@kmgsystems.com)**

We see apprenticeships as an investment in our future and we are actively recruiting for apprentices to start in June/July 2021.





# News from the Churches

## Gamlingay Baptist Church

Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, Sandy SG19 3JR

Lead Pastor: Reverend Adrian Semerene [adrian@gbchurch.org.uk](mailto:adrian@gbchurch.org.uk) 07472 350 860

Church Secretary: Sally Graves on 650 112 Church Office: 651 519

Youth Pastor: Abi Grylls on 07303 349 525 or email: [abi@gbchurch.org.uk](mailto:abi@gbchurch.org.uk)

## Message for March

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing government restrictions, all meetings are currently being held online. Please visit our website for updates.

### Sunday Service

Now being live-streamed every Sunday on [www.gbchurch.org.uk/latest-talks](http://www.gbchurch.org.uk/latest-talks)  
**Hymnal Praise** at 10:00am  
**Worship Service** at 10:45am  
(Children's resources available online)

### GBC Youth group resources

Every Sunday at 10:45am on [www.gbchurch.org.uk/youth](http://www.gbchurch.org.uk/youth)

### Small groups

Virtual meeting every week via zoom. Get in touch with [office@gbchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@gbchurch.org.uk) for more information.

### Ladies' Brunch

Meeting together via Zoom on the third Saturday of the month  
Saturday 20 March 2021  
9:30am to 11:00am

For more details please contact Jane, our administrator, on 651 519 or email [office@gbchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@gbchurch.org.uk)

Please consider following us on social media to keep updated with all our events:

Facebook.com/  
GamlingayBaptistChurch  
Instagram: [@gb\\_church](https://www.instagram.com/gb_church)  
Twitter: [@gb\\_church](https://twitter.com/gb_church)

*"Tolerance isn't about not having beliefs.*

*It's about how your beliefs lead you to treat people who disagree with you."*

—Tim Keller

**How are you doing?  
How are you holding up?  
It's been a tough season hasn't it?**

Truth is, it is a season that has affected many of us, in *many different* ways. Financially, emotionally, mentally, spiritually and beyond. I've found myself reflecting on the last year a lot. When lockdown started, we saw an *amazing* response from communities across the world. Love in action was tangible and it was such a joy to see and be a part of.

However, the longer lockdowns have lasted, the more difficult life has gotten, the less nice some things have been. Please don't misunderstand me, there are *still amazing* things happening, due to some *amazing* people. However, there has most definitely been a change in the tide. I have seen a sharp increase in division across the board, be it political, spiritual, racial, cultural, etc.

The love for one another, the tolerance for one another, peace, joy and patience for one another has dwindled in many ways. Much of it in the online space that most of us now spend a lot of our time in due to the world situations we find ourselves in. I have to be honest in saying, it saddens me. And don't misunderstand me, I am not insinuating in any manner that Christians, myself included perhaps, are not also at fault for displaying such behaviours.

Many of us simply take it as a given, decide to say, 'I can't do anything about it', and turn a blind eye. However, I think it simply comes down to the fact we have forgotten how to disagree properly.

**What do I mean?**

Well, simply put, if you and I disagree, on anything, be it our political views, our expectations for local amenities, whether to wear a mask or not, faith, whatever... if we disagree, that's ok! I don't have to insult you, gossip about you, or even

be angry for that matter. I can agree to disagree with you, and leave it there.

As a Christian, there's a verse that massively challenges me on this topic: *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* Romans 12:18.

That is one of my aims in life, to live at peace with *everyone*. Don't get me wrong, I fall short and I know I irritate others (perhaps even you) which can cause some friction. However, I genuinely believe that my faith brings with it such good news that I must try to live out what I believe, and not get lost in the divisive distractions of the world. I recently heard Pastor Mike Pilavachi say, 'The gospel is not about right-wing politics, or left-wing politics, or middle of the road politics, the gospel is about another flipping kingdom altogether. The Kingdom of God.'

Perhaps you're reading this and thinking, 'I already do that Adrian, so back off!' In which case, awesome. But if like me you fall short sometimes, can I encourage you to take a second look?

Perhaps this may be something greater that you want to talk about or push back on. I'd love to hear from you, and connect with you, to explore all of this and more.

As always, there are many ways to connect with us, online (and hopefully in the flesh at some point), via services, the café (hopefully soon), coffee chats, small groups, prayer groups, and simply around the village.

Do get in touch, it's always a joy to hear from you, even if we disagree with one another.

Many blessings,  
**Rev Adrian Semerene**  
Lead Pastor, Gamlingay Baptist Church  
Twitter: [@asemerene](https://twitter.com/asemerene)  
Insta: [@asemerene](https://www.instagram.com/asemerene)



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www.gbchurch.org.uk

# Gamlingay Food Project

THIS is an initiative to bring together the provision of food for those in need in the village, Adrian for the Baptist church and Hilary for the Anglican Church are heading up this collaboration between the churches.

It is not replacing anything that is already happening, rather offering a single point where existing initiatives can be linked more locally, where that can help, and added to where there may be gaps.

Until an announcement is made, St Neots Food Bank, the Need project (based in Stotfold ) and the Covid Support group continue to operate

as they have done, please continue to support as you have already been doing, with donations such as those Harriet Gould is collecting. These will continue to be providing for people in the villages.



## Food donations for the Food Bank & the NEED Project - in the Co-OP

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GERRY BRUNT - G.BRUNT321@BTINTERNET.COM  
07752 428191

ST MARY THE VIRGIN - GAMLINGAY  
HILARYAFYOUNG@GMAIL.COM  
01767 650587

GAMLINGAY BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEED@GBCHURCH.ORG.UK  
01767 651720



In due course this provision will simply be more joined up, with a Community Fridge added, with the aim of reducing food waste and supporting people of Gamlingay and surrounding communities.

At time of writing this is very much work in progress, but we hope and expect that by the time you read this we will have the Alms House Chapel open as a central point in the village for the work, and will be welcoming and training anyone who would like to volunteer.

Those who have already heard and been in touch, you are not forgotten, anyone who would like to explore further should contact Hilary or Adrian.

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# News from the Churches

## Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Rector: Hilary Young	Rectory, 3a Stocks Lane	650 587
Church warden: Alec Hissett	45 Fairfield	650 052
Reader: Chris Miller	11 Bunyan Close	650 779
Parish Administrator:	gamlingaychurch@outlook.com	

## Letter for March

*Dear Friends,*

WHEN I last wrote we were cautiously conducting services in our two parish churches (Everton and Gamlingay) and the New Year was ahead of us, with Christmas in between. We have moved on quite a bit since then!

It seems a bit late to share Christmas activities, which were all on line, but we kept our themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light going through Epiphany, with some of us keeping our Christmas lights through to Candlemas on 2 February, which saw the end of Epiphany season when Christians celebrate Jesus, light of the world, shown to all nations.

I learned recently a new name for the hardy little harbingers of Spring pictured here – ‘Candlemas bells’ – found in a less-than-visible corner of my garden giving both joy and hope that life goes on, as the days lengthen and the weather warms up – at least some of the time!

My list of Covid learning points looking to the New Year seems a long time ago now too, but the prayer I am praying often and that runs through everything I am doing is worth repeating:

**Lord grant to me the courage to  
change the things I can change,  
the grace to accept the things I  
cannot change,  
and the wisdom to know the  
difference.** Amen

That prayer continues to be important to me as vaccinations proceed apace, though the pandemic is still in full swing, and this virus looks like being a fixture in our lives. Although we may have seen the peak of infections in this second wave, I am sure we have not, as I write, seen the

worst of the personal struggles. To that end, see the work Adrian and I are doing to provide a unifying focus for local support for those in need (could be any of us!). We look forward to working together with all those of good will in and supporting our communities.

We are now in the church season of Lent, the preparation time leading up to Easter, (Ash Wednesday which begins Lent is/was 17 February this year this year). Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Day, spans the end of this month and the beginning of the next.



Last year, we began Lent meeting up in person, but then went into a full ‘lock down’ for weeks, including Easter, when no one, not even clergy, was supposed to enter church.

This year is different, we know something of what we are facing, and we have the opportunity to plan differently – we have learned a lot!

Our study focus is on Prayer and Listening including Care for Creation. See the church Newsletter for details,

or contact me for how to join in.

Although we are allowed in church, our services are being broadcast from church but as I write this are ‘behind closed doors’, as we are avoiding gatherings we cannot guarantee as safe.

We very much hope that there will be public services soon, but probably not before schools reopen, we remain committed to the safety of all concerned and await guidance, as more is learned about new variants of Covid-19.

The churches remain open for private prayer on Sundays at least, and at other times as published, watch notice boards and social media for detailed up-to-date information.

Mothering Sunday (14 March), Palm Sunday (28 March), Maundy Thursday (1 April), Good Friday (2 April), and Easter Day (4 April) will all be celebrated this year, with special provision for ‘virtual’ participation as well as services in churches – we hope to make these available to the public, but cannot say at this point what will be possible.

It could be that we have to operate a booking system – please do be in touch if you are interested to take part and are not already on our mailing lists. (See contact list at the back of this publication).

So what is all this for? Has God gone to sleep, doesn’t care or doesn’t exist?

This Lent will be a time when we examine ourselves and what is driving us and, I pray, have opportunity to grow our relationship with the Divine and Eternal whom Christians see in the person of Jesus and worship (give worth to) in the Trinity, three persons, one God.

*May God bless us all in seeking  
him, love from Hilary.*

# St. Mary's lead thieves jailed

RECENT news of the sentencing of four men for numerous thefts of lead from church roofs, including St. Mary's in Gamlingay, has reminded us all of the event of October 2018, when nearly half of the roof was cleared. Although there is some satisfaction in knowing these callous thieves are now not able to do the same to others, there seems likely to be little redress for the numerous victims of their crimes. The work of dealing with the damage they caused is, however, underway, along with some necessary extensive repairs.

In the process of removing the lead, the stonework for the church was seriously damaged, at a time when there were other expensive repairs due, and a project was on the books to put toilets into the church building and make it more user-friendly for the 21st century. A restoration and improvement project was put together in consultation with Heritage Fund advisers, but despite their encouragement to proceed as we did, support for the project was refused in late November 2019.

The Project Group have worked hard to find a way forward since

then, including finding a new firm of architects to move the project on in an altered financial landscape through a year blighted by Covid-19.

With a temporary fix now seeing its second winter, it was essential for some work to take place, and for safety reasons this included the damaged parapets. While specialist stonemasons were on site, work to cracked buttresses was also put in place – this

turned out to be much more extensive on opening up the damaged areas than showed on the outside, but this first phase of repair work is now finished.

*Parapets damaged during lead theft. These two were dislodged and left in a dangerous unstable condition – there's a hole right through the one on the left. They had to be carefully dismantled and completely rebuilt reusing all the original stone.*



## Potton View

Residential and respite care for the elderly



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Potton View Care Home can accommodate up to 31 Residents, all on the ground floor. The Home has been completely refurbished in 2018 when it was purchased by Black Swan. It has high quality lounges, dining room and bathroom facilities as well as a salon.

Outside there are extensive enclosed gardens and an internal courtyard. The property is a detached, purpose built care home with a car park at the front. The Home is situated between the villages of Potton and Gamlingay in easy access of local amenities.

### Key Features

- Landscaped gardens
- Close to the local amenities
- Fully refurbished in 2018
- Home cooked food
- En-suite bedrooms with large wetrooms



We are very proud of what we do and are always keen to show visitors around. No appointment is necessary so please feel free to drop in for a guided tour, coffee and cake!  
*We look forward to meeting you...*

### Promoting Dignity, Respect, Independence & Individuality

Potton View Care Home, Mill Hill, Potton Road, Gamlingay, SG19 3LW  
01767 654866 [pottonview@blackswan.co.uk](mailto:pottonview@blackswan.co.uk) [www.blackswan.co.uk](http://www.blackswan.co.uk)



# Beware of the resourceful scammers

THE Gamlingay Community Safety Group continues online supporting the local community through our social media Facebook page. We monitor for details of the latest scams and other criminal activity in and around our area which we publish on a regular basis providing tips and advice on keeping safe and how to avoid becoming a victim.

Scams are frequently reported and there is no limit to the resourcefulness of the scammers. They produce convincing documents to text, email and mail to potential targets – you and me. These are very convincing but often careful examination reveals errors that can identify them as fake.

E-mail scam ‘sender address’ is one of the first things to look for .com or .co.uk or a foreign country dot\*\* should prompt you to look further for things like spelling mistakes and bad grammar.

If you get an email from an organisation that YOU haven’t made

contact with then beware. Do become more familiar with your known legitimate emails as this will make it easier to spot the discrepancies in the fake ones. Phone the company using a known or verifiable, trusted number, **PROBABLY NOT THE NUMBER IN THE EMAIL.**

Texts can be a bit more difficult to spot fakes. If you get a text or email from an organisation that YOU haven’t made contact with then beware. If you’re asked to follow a link don’t. Google the company and use the contact information in their website. HMRC, DWP, etc. will not ask for information, such as personal details, in a text or email. If you do receive a text demanding payment phone the demander on a trusted telephone number and ask if they have sent a text. If they have not sent a text, delete immediately.

Letters with cleverly faked headed note paper can be particularly convincing. As with emails check the sender’s address. Does it look right? If it is a demand for money or personal details does it relate to previous or existing business you have with them? If you aren’t expecting this, phone them using a known or verifiable, trusted number, **NOT THE NUMBER THEY HAVE GIVEN.**

NEVER respond to demands for personal information, payment or bank details. Banks and other bona

fide organisations will never ask for pin numbers or security codes in text or email. Response to any demand/request in a letter should always be to a known, trusted address.

Never draw cash from your bank to pay someone unknown to you.

Take a look at this for more information and advice: *The Little Book of Big Scams – Third Edition* (cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk)

It’s a pretty scary world out there and we and other organisations are ready to help you. We can give advice if you are unsure and we don’t even need to know who you are and we won’t ask for money. Contact us by messenger from our Facebook page or email (Address on our Facebook page.)

With lockdown there have been no local functions for us to attend with our stall and we are looking forward to being able to resume and meet-up with you, giving advice, listening to your experiences and selling security items.

As I write this, we can only be messaged from our Facebook page but that is not ideal where security and personal safety are an issue. We are setting up an email contact and a mailing address to provide the means to contact us without risk. Watch our Facebook page for an announcement. We should be ready by the time you read this.

L

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# Coronavirus job scams

THERE are scams a-plenty in these times, including emails regarding the Coronavirus vaccination. Here's some clarification, writes Alison Baker of the Gamlingay & Hatley Car Scheme.

## Booking a vaccine:

If you have already received a letter inviting you to book a Coronavirus vaccine, you can do so by phoning 119 or online. Do not try to book if you have not received a letter. When you book you will need to provide your name and date of birth and your NHS number. You will find your 10-digit NHS Number on the official appointment letter, or any other letter or document you have received from the NHS, including prescriptions, test results, and hospital referral or appointment letter.

## Things to watch out for:

Unfortunately, some criminals have been using the vaccine roll-out as an opportunity to take advantage of older people waiting to get one.

The advice is very simple:

**The vaccine is only available on the NHS, and you will never be asked to pay for it or to provide your bank details.**

Anything that suggests otherwise is a scam. Go online to [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) for further information. If you receive an email or text regarding an appointment and you haven't received a letter, don't click on links or attachments!

Just a reminder – the **Gamlingay and Hatley Car Scheme** can help with transport to your appointment. We have taken several passengers to a variety of vaccination centres so if you have transport needs then please call on 07519 493 701 and we will do our best to help. But during these Covid times you must:

- Be able to enter and exit the back of the car without assistance so as to maintain social distancing
- Wear a mask
- Sanitise your hands
- Must be free of any symptoms and not to have been in contact with anyone who may be infected.

# Latest PCSO report for Gamlingay

Issued 12 January 2021

SEVEN incidents and four crimes have been reported since 1 November 2020 – see details below:

35/1289/21 – 07/01/2021

Grays Road, theft from motor vehicle Catalytic converter theft.

35/1335/21 – 07/01/2021

Church Street Catalytic converter theft

35/79233/20 – 21/11/2020

Mill Street, criminal damage plant pot kicked over by suspects

35/78126/20 – 16/11/2020

Burglary, entry via patio doors

35/85100/20 – 16/11/2020

Murfitt Way, theft from vehicle attempt of Catalytic converter.

35/74276/20 – 01/11/2020

Mill Street, Theft from motor vehicle wing mirror taken

35/74523/20 – 31/10/2020

Church Farm, criminal damage barrier damaged

As you can see there has been an increase in CAT (Catalytic Converters) thefts. These have mostly been taken from Honda vehicles, the reason for this is because it very easy to access the item for stealing. There was also a theft in Hatley in December, again from a Honda.

Please spread the message and get as many people signed up onto our Facebook page Policing South Cambridgeshire. This is the best place to hear about any arrests, warrants and to get a good understanding of the kind of work and vast area we cover.

*Lindsay Gardiner, PCSO.*

## Gamlingay Library

GAMLINGAY Library remains open, offering limited service only, during the latest lockdown. The opening hours are Mondays 2pm to 4pm, Thursdays 10am to 12noon, and Saturdays 10am to 12noon.

During lockdown we cannot allow free access to the books. Instead, you will have to request your books online or by phoning the library on 01767 651 226, or by coming to the library and speaking to the library staff and volunteers. If you need to use the library's public access computers please phone to book.

Online library services are always available. Cambridgeshire libraries offer a huge range of free online facilities, including e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, and even online comics and newspapers.

To find out more visit the Cambridgeshire Libraries website:  
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/library-online>

## Library Competition!

WE have a brand new set of Mark Walden's HIVE series to give away! This is a young adult series set in a school for criminal masterminds. If you would like a chance to win this series, contact us (contact details below) and we will pick a winner at random.

Website: [www.gamlingayecohub.org.uk/library/](http://www.gamlingayecohub.org.uk/library/)

Email: [gamlingaylap@yahoo.com](mailto:gamlingaylap@yahoo.com) | Facebook: @GamlingayLibrary

Phone: 01767 651 226

# Pit your wits against the lockdown quiz

The Gamlingay Lockdown Quiz has been going strong every Monday evening for the past 30+ weeks. Here's a taste of some of the past questions and information on how to join in.

GAMLINGAY Lockdown Quiz takes place every Monday evening and attracts a wide selection of participants online. Organiser Keith Warburton explains a bit more about it.

"We had originally expected that there would only be a few events, but here we are, more than seven months down the line and we're still going, giving everyone some social engagement and fun. It's something to look forward to.

"It's a great way to socialise as well, so anyone who's feeling isolated and who might appreciate some friendly interaction is welcome.

"It's all in the comfort of your own home and you don't have to be a resident in Gamlingay to join in.

"Friends and relatives of participants who live elsewhere are also very welcome.

"There is no expectation upon participants other than be prepared to have fun with facts. The highest score recorded has been 41/50, and the typical score is around the 30 mark. We aren't a collection of geniuses, that's for sure!"

The quiz takes place via Zoom. For the Zoom link to join as well as more information go to the Gamlingay Lockdown Quiz Facebook Group.

If you don't use Facebook but can access Zoom on a smart device such as a phone or computer email: keith.warburton@gamlingay-pc.org for details and the link on how to join via Zoom.

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- 1: Not too far away – Over 1,000 acres of ancient woodland, once royal hunting ground. Nature walks and coarse fishing. Look for great crested grebes, pochards and tufted ducks in winter.
  - 2: Not too far away – Said to be the world's greatest rose collection; 12 acre garden with some 30,000 types grown by the Royal National Rose Society.
  - 3: Not too far away – Peaceful village where George Bernard Shaw made his home, scarcely altered since his death in 1950, typewriter still sits on study desk and hats hang in the hall. Ruined 14th century church and 18th century Grecian style successor, timber framed cottages and 17th century old rectory.
  - 4: Not too far away – Village mainly Georgian with Jacobean alms houses. House (1603) built for 1st Earl of Suffolk. Grand entrance hall and staircase, much fine decorative work by Adam, elegant 18th century furniture, classical grounds created by Capability Brown. Hosts open air concerts in the summertime.
  - 5: What is the newest constellation visible in the night sky called?
  - 6: Which famous girls' school near Brighton was founded by the Lawrence sisters in 1885?
  - 7: What is used as the filling of a summer pudding?
  - 8: Ruby is the birthstone of which month?
  - 9: In which year did the song "Summer Holiday" top the UK Charts?
  - 10: In 2020 the National Trust celebrated which anniversary?
  - 11: In what year did Queen Elizabeth II celebrate her Golden Jubilee?
  - 12: When did Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer marry?
  - 13: In what year was Google founded?
  - 14: What is a young Alpaca or Llama called?
  - 15: What is a young dinosaur called?
  - 16: What is a young Koala called?
  - 17: What is a young peacock called?
  - 18: What is a young duckbill platypus called?
  - 19: What is the largest native land mammal in the UK?
  - 20: What are baby squirrels called?
  - 21: Which UK car manufacturer produced the Kitten?
  - 22: What is both the name of a Eurasian country and an American state?
  - 23: In what city did Anne Frank write her diary?
  - 24: What is both a software brand and an artefact that helped decode Egyptian hieroglyphics?
  - 25: On what did Jarn Utzon base his design for the Sydney Opera House?
  - 26: What makes up 80% of a badger's diet?
  - 27: Rabbits are native to which country?
  - 28: What is an otter's home called?
  - 29: What is the date of Midsummer's Day?
  - 30: Who are the King and Queen of the Fairies in A Midsummer Night's Dream?
  - 31: In which UK city is Midsummer Common?
  - 32: Which character did John Nettles play in Midsummer Murders?
  - 33: In which country do they dance round a maypole at midsummer?
  - 34: Is a strawberry actually a berry? True or false
  - 35: What is the more common name of the Chinese gooseberry?
  - 36: Which fruit has the most fat content?
  - 37: Which cross between a blackberry and a red raspberry originated in Scotland in 1979 and was named after a river?
  - 38: A well known supermarket apple is a pink – what?
  - 39: The battle of little bighorn was General who's, last stand?
  - 40: Bo and Luke Duke of the Dukes of Hazzards car was called what?
  - 41: Vauxhall is part of what motor company group?
  - 42: "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General" by Gilbert and Sullivan is from which of their musicals?
  - 43: What do the letters VSOP stand for on a bottle of cognac?
  - 44: What colour smoke announces the election of a new pope?
  - 45: What age did Vera Lynn first perform in the Clubs?
  - 46: What was Vera Lynn's birth date?
  - 47: Where was Vera Lynn born?
- Questions set by Jan Cooper, Keith Warburton, John and Gill Kitchener, Martin and Hilary Young, Julia and David Alexander, Benita Scott, Tony Hurst, Helen Brown, Ann Kirby, Chris and Dawn Martin, Jan Bremner.*

# The Gamlingay Community Turbine Tithe Fund

**Applications are invited for funds – deadline 30 April 2021**

Do you know of a deserving cause in the Parish of Gamlingay that could use some extra cash? Applications are invited for funds from the Gamlingay Community Turbine Tithe Fund. There should be over £3,000 available next April.

Applications should be submitted in writing on an application form to any of the following:

**The Eco Hub Reception**

by email to [mail.gct@gmx.com](mailto:mail.gct@gmx.com)

GCT-Tithe, 36 Mill Street, Gamlingay, Sandy, Beds. SG19 3JW

**Applications should reach us by 30 April 2021**

Application forms are available in the **Eco-Hub** or can be downloaded from the website: [g-c-t.uk](http://g-c-t.uk) or on request by emailing [mail.gct@gmx.com](mailto:mail.gct@gmx.com)

No more than two applications may be submitted by any individual or organisation within one year.

The decision on the first funding awards will be made by a group of three representatives meeting in October 2020.

The Tithe Panel will comprise: a person nominated by GCT; a person representing Gamlingay Parish Council (If GPC does not appoint somebody then GCT may appoint another person; a person representing Forward Gamlingay). If FG does not appoint somebody GCT may appoint another person.

The Tithe Panel will consider making awards on these general principles:

- ◇ The donation should benefit Parishioners of Gamlingay ◇
- ◇ The donation should benefit more than just a single person or family ◇
- ◇ The Panel will prefer applications that will result in helping the environment ◇

If a member of the Panel has any undue interest in any application under consideration at that meeting they must declare it and stand down from the discussion. The Panel's decision is final and not open to appeal.

*Finally, we ask beneficiaries to write a short article for the Gamlingay Gazette describing the project and how it benefited from the Tithe Fund of the Gamlingay Community Turbine.*

The Directors  
Gamlingay Community Turbine



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## Parades and Fêtes

THIS month we look at the Parades, Fêtes, Sports Days and Shows from Gamlingay's past, with a range of ages taking part through many years.

Gamlingay has always been a village where many people would join in the fun of making costumes, floats and so on for the big day.

Looking at the pictures this month you will see some things that do not happen any more in the village but you will, hopefully, see many people you recognise as old friends or family.



Gamlingay Mothers Union 1938.  
Banner bearer Mrs Leader with Mrs Huggins,  
Mrs Peters and many more.  
Do you know who they were?



Mayday procession 1932, near the pit.



Women dressed as men competition at Waresley 1937.  
*Back:* Margaret Minney, Mum Horner, Carrie Gaunt.  
*Middle:* Gladys Horner, Mrs Brunskill.  
*Front:* Phyllis Croot, Irene ?, Phyllis Lenton, Gwen Sharpe,  
Madge Gaunt.



After the unveiling of the British Legion Standard near the War Memorial c1967, the troop would parade around part of the village and then to the ceremony at the church.





Mayday procession passing the Women's Institute c.1920's. The parade, like the Gala Day parade many years later, would go on a circuit of the village with people on the streets cheering it along before meeting at either Merton Grange or the Vicarage for Mayday, or the playing fields for the Gala.



Maypole dancing at Merton Grange in the 1930's. The Maypole Dancing was the highlight of the day, with the children practising for weeks beforehand to get their display spot on.



Mayday in the 1920's and the parade going down Green End just past White Hall Farm. The parade would walk over two miles ending at Merton Grange.



Part of the Gala was its procession around the village with floats of all different themes taking part with the help of a local haulier or farmer to lend the transport. The floats were colourful and a lot of hours went into producing the final article.



Although times were tight the Fancy Dress Parade to celebrate the end of WWII still had many people taking part, making it a day to remember. Here we see the parade at the Cross Roads where the shops and flats now stand, on its way around the village.



Different young-person's groups would go on annual trek to camp for a couple of weeks. This group were The Gamlingay Rangers. They would go to camp every year, with the tents and equipment going a week before by train so everything was on camp by the time the Rangers arrived. This group are shown sitting on a bridge in Derbyshire. That day's paper featured the outbreak of World War II, which was the main reason for the Rangers subsequently breaking up.

# What do you do with your old spectacles and hearing aids?

MOST people do one of three things:

- a Leave them in a drawer gathering dust
- b Throw them in the dustbin
- c Look for a recycling point

Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club will be pleased to receive your old spectacles and hearing aids for recycling through a well oiled system for ultimate distribution through Medecins sans Frontieres to the third world.

We have not had a collection point in Gamlingay until now but the manager of Potton View Care Home has kindly agreed to a bin being placed on the front step of the Home where you can leave your unwanted spectacles and hearing aids. The bin is a blue swing bin with the Lions Club logo on the outside. Donations can be left at any time without the need to involve the staff of the home.

For those that are interested Lions Clubs throughout the south of England collect from various points and send them to Chichester Lions Club who do an initial sort before passing them to a prison in France where the prisoners grade them and send them to Medecins

Sans Frontieres for distribution. For a minimal cost we can make good use of your rubbish.

Please help us to continue helping others.

*John Bennewith*

*Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club*



---

## Donate spare laptops to a student in need

BUSINESSES and local residents are being asked to donate spare laptops to support young people in Cambridgeshire who do not have access to a computer or the internet at home.

During the coronavirus pandemic, many young people were able to keep up with online lessons and schoolwork at home. However, there are many far less fortunate.

Despite government investment, a survey of schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has identified around 8,000 pupils who still lack suitable equipment or internet access at home, meaning they are unable to benefit from online resources, support from teachers, or even interact with classmates.

We are asking businesses and residents to consider donating any spare or unwanted laptops, or making a financial donation, to make sure no pupil continues to go without.

### Where to donate a laptop

If you have an unwanted or unneeded laptop that you are willing to donate so that a Cambridgeshire child can access online learning, resources and support, please take it to one of our libraries.

If you would like your laptop to go to a named school or a school in a particular area, please include this information when you leave it at the collection point.

### Minimum specification for donated laptops

To ensure that children and young people receive a laptop that can best support them in their online learning we ask that donated laptops meet the following minimum requirements:

- A Windows laptop must be fully operational, with a workable battery and charger
- The specification of the device must enable it to run the latest version of Windows 10.
- Ideally the laptop should have a usable webcam
- Windows must be legally licensed
- If possible, it should be provided with a legal, licensed, currently supported version of Microsoft Office (version 2016 or later)

We recommend donors back up any data they wish to keep, as we will not be able to retrieve it, and then delete this before donating their laptop(s).

After laptops are donated all data will be securely wiped from them in line with guidance provided by the National Cyber Security Centre before they are repurposed ready for a child or young person to use.

### How children and young people will receive a laptop

Once donated laptops have been repurposed, they will be distributed to schools who will be responsible for allocating them to children and young people in need.

### Financial donations

If you would like to help in another way, we welcome financial donations to assist us in purchasing refurbished laptops and 4G routers for internet access for Cambridgeshire children and young people.

For further information, and to make a financial donation, please visit the following website: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/cambridgeshire-laptops-for-children>

# Gamlingay Guardians looking forward to Spring

BY THE TIME you read this Spring will hopefully be well and truly in the air! Daffodils will be in bloom and the first signs of buds on the trees will be coming through.

As we near the end of this lockdown (which for me personally and lots of others has been tougher than the first two) it won't come a moment too soon. This lockdown has been harder for some than others; the long, lonely dark days have taken their toll, but hope is also here.

By now the vast majority of our vulnerable community will be vaccinated and hopefully the next step in the journey to normality is starting. Seeing the vaccination programme roll out in our community has given everyone a little glimmer of what normal life could be again.

I know it is tempting to throw caution to the winds and think you are now invincible, but please still heed the government advice. Just because you have had the vaccine does not

mean you can't spread it to others, it also doesn't mean you won't catch it!

So when you are seeing your family, maybe for the first time once lockdown is eased, remember to still wear a mask and keep your distance. NO hugging yet!!

*If you are in need of a meal please don't hesitate to contact me.*

The Volunteer Guardians have been busy delivering ready meals to those in the village who can benefit. We are now helping 30 households. If you are in need of a meal please don't hesitate to contact me.

The meals are funded by a Church in Central Cambridge and distributed via the County Council through our Volunteer network. We only deliver using volunteers that have been DBS checked and all deliveries are made within Covid guidelines, giving you peace of mind that your details are

private and delivery is safe.

The long term goal for the Guardian scheme is to have a paid membership benefiting from all kinds of things including a buddy phone service, prescription pick up and outings. However, because of Covid and the current restrictions we are currently operating completely FREE of charge.

Please let us know if you need any errands running, nothing is too small a job for our Guardians. We obviously can't take you on any outings just yet but that will come, and I for one can't wait!

All our Guardians wear a lanyard and ID Badge identifying them, and a nice bright yellow face mask as well. Look out for them out and about and give them a social distanced pat on the back for giving up their time to help out.

*Head Guardian*

*Fay Boissieux*

07541 644 284

[office@gamlingayguardians.org](mailto:office@gamlingayguardians.org)



## How to get in touch

For more information about becoming a member of the scheme contact the Head Guardian on 07541 644284 or email: [office@gamlingayguardians.org](mailto:office@gamlingayguardians.org) or visit our website at [www.gamlingayguardians.org](http://www.gamlingayguardians.org)



## Who are Gamlingay Guardians?

Guardians help people of all ages to keep safe and healthy in their homes by carrying out errands around the village, such as basic local shopping, collecting prescriptions and popping to the Post Office. Guardians can also assist members to access other support they may need such as domestic help, home maintenance, organising hot meals, benefits, and transport. The Gamlingay Guardian scheme is not a housekeeping or personal care service.

## How much does membership cost?

There are different rates depending on type of membership (full or associate) and for a single person household or more. Membership contributions may be supported if necessitated by personal circumstances. These contributions help to employ a Head and Deputy Guardian to administer the scheme. All other Guardians are volunteers.

## What are the benefits of membership?

Guardians provide social contact and friendship by making regular visits and phone calls to members of the scheme. It helps people to access local activities and it produces newsletters containing help, advice and information. The scheme also hopes to organise outings using appropriate community transport so members can socialise more easily. All Gamlingay Guardians will be DBS checked and have safeguarding training.

## How to volunteer

We are always looking for local volunteers to help our Head and Deputy Guardians. Please get in touch and let us know how often you can help. Please note all volunteers will go through DBS checks.

# Who's been eating my porridge?

by Mervyn Lack

IT WAS entering the third month of lockdown and Grandfather was getting very bored. He was ninety years old and not in brilliant health. Nothing life threatening but enough to restrict his mobility and ability to do all the things he would want to do. He and his wife of fifty years lived comfortably enough in their house, but with the current restrictions their activities were greatly curtailed. This meant that when they spoke to their children, and grandchildren, they had very little news to impart and even less to discuss of their immediate plans. The family always had interesting matters to talk about and were enthusiastic about what they had done.

After a while the Grandfather got a little fed up with this paucity of items to while away the time spent in communicating with the family and decided he would invent minor events to appear more interesting. He started with the robin that visited the garden and the acrobatics it would perform on the bird feeder, this progressed to the green woodpecker who would come and collect copious quantities of ants from the lawn. From there it was the rabbit family, who invaded the vegetable patch and the baby fox who would come and look in at the patio window.

Whether his family found any of this of interest, or not, is not clear but the Grandfather did at least feel that he had some news worth imparting to his family. He eventually decided that to say he had seen a unicorn in the garden was beyond belief and would hold him up to ridicule.

Whatever possessed him to claim that

he had seen a brown bear in the adjoining field, and subsequently in his garden is anyone's guess, but invent a bear he did. The bear, initially quite timid, found its way onto the patio, would look in through the window and eventually took to tapping on the glass as though it were encouraging the Grandfather to put food out for it. Again, whether anyone believed his stories is open to speculation but eventually the Grandfather got so wrapped up in his tales that he almost seemed to believe that the animal really existed.

This went on for a few months and the Grandfather was very pleased with himself for having found a topic which enabled him to hold up his end of a conversation with all the members of his family. His family were willing to go along with his stories and humour him, so everyone was happy.

Now the Grandfather was not a great sleeper so sometimes at night, rather than disturb his wife, he would descend the stairs and spend a couple of hours reading, to while away the time, before returning to bed and hopefully to sleep. This procedure was quite satisfactory for all parties concerned until one night, around the middle of winter, the Grandfather, although rather hard of hearing, particularly when not wearing his hearing aid, was sure that he could hear some tapping at the window.

He got up to look and see what was there but, despite the external light being activated, he was unable to discover what was in the garden. Nothing that he could see. Mildly confused he put his book

down, returned to bed, went to sleep and thought nothing more about it.

A few nights later the same thing happened, only this time the tapping seemed more insistent. Again, he looked out, but seeing nothing, decided he would investigate further. He got up, walked through into the kitchen and opened the back door ...

The following morning, after the emergency calls, the frantic police activity and the removal of the body to the mortuary, the detective in charge of the investigation turned to the medical examiner. "What do you think happened here last night? There is no sign of any disturbance, other than the body found lying on the lawn."

"Well, it's too early to say, and we will know more when the post-mortem examination is complete, but from my initial inspection of the body I would say the deceased had been savagely attacked by a very large wild animal!"

## A time of wild hair

It was a time of old men with wild hair

Of crowds with wild eyes

A time of wild beliefs

Confused thoughts abounding

With truth filtered and filleted

'till it was unrecognisable

But still consumed, spewed and consumed again

Tension and hatred grew

As we held our breath

A time when old beliefs were

challenged

Swept away by fears

And into the vacuum created

Came darkness, anxiety, tears

Understanding was challenged

What means stand down and stand by?

March to and march on became the same

With no thought for the cost

And then came the girl in the

yellow coat

And red band in her hair

Everything changed.

And the world breathed again.

*Name supplied*

## Forever ballerina

He placed the headphones over her ears and the music swelled inside her head, taking her back to times gone past, and she felt the comfort an old friend brings.

Somehow, she knew her legs wouldn't hold her and that she must remain in her chair. But that didn't stop her remembering and feeling the pull of the music on her performing soul.

The strains of Swan Lake filled her ears, her fingers fluttered, her arms took shape hands lifted up, eyes contentedly following as a world stage ballerina would.

With body static, her arms did the dancing, her fingers expressing beauty and grace, her lined face allowing a fifty-year-past world to shine through the ages on this special moment.

The Swan was dying and she dropped her head, her smile slowly fading and fingers lowering onto the rug that covered her legs, to keep an old lady warm.

*Writer Ninette Taylor is a member of Potton & District Writers group*

This piece was inspired by a moving YouTube clip featuring an elderly ballerina with Alzheimer's being inspired on hearing the Swan Lake music again.

# Potton & District Writers' Group

NEW YEAR, new start (though same old Covid, unfortunately)! It was great to see everyone for the first meeting of the New Year. Now that we've gone virtual, we don't have to worry about venturing out in the dark and the cold. So rather than having to rely on the Chair's slightly haphazard tea-making skills, hindered by the world's slowest-boiling kettle when we used to meet up in person (which seems a lifetime ago now – will such things ever return?), we can now have our own tea exactly as we like it, or coffee or, maybe, something a tad stronger. And once the meeting's finished, of course, there's none of this scraping frost off the car windows, driving home in the dark and eating dinner at some unearthly hour. What's not to like?

## Introductions

No introductions needed again this month as we all know each other! The recruitment of new members is proving to be hard going. You would expect that while the whole country is locked down, people stuck inside four walls would have so much time on their hands that their minds might turn to thinking about joining a writing group, but it just hasn't happened. The Chair is also concerned that the group is not currently meeting the needs of its existing members. Monthly attendance figures remain low, with other activities seemingly being prioritised over the meeting.

## News from members

These sentiments led to a debate about current levels of members' motivation to write. Some feel that the continued lockdown is having a severe effect as without the stimulation of seeing friends and family, or taking part in activities, or just getting out of the house, it is hard to find the inspiration to write. Others say that the cold, dark wintry months make them feel more like hibernating than writing! With no end to lockdown in sight, and with winter still all around us, it is hard to be positive. However, the end of both lockdown and winter are chugging extremely slowly but surely towards us, and perhaps when one or both arrive, it will spur a fresh flush of writing activity among the group.

## Discussion of work

This month's theme was 'Dance', which two members took as their starting point, and we were also treated to some on-going, high quality and thought-provoking work. On theme, there was a

## January 2021 meeting



beautifully concise poem about a former ballerina with dementia responding to music and a rather more rambling account of a talk to a Norfolk WI on the subject of why the Beatles conquered America, which had a distant connection to the theme. There was also a down-to-earth story about a woman deciding to set off for pastures new but not before she had left video instructions for her husband so that he would be able to survive without her.

Turning to on-going works, there was an extract from the early part of *The Whining Stones* which returned to a character previously only lightly touched upon, and added unexpected, and very welcome depth. There was more from the time-travel story, which again added depth. The Chair submitted another two more chapters of her fantasy/romance hybrid, which again is showing the benefits of reflection, with all of the characters gradually becoming more rounded. The tale has now exceeded the 85k word mark, and it is heading for an intriguing finale. In passing, all these mentions of added depth lead one to suggest that the prime virtue of the monthly meeting may be that it allows writers to get feedback, go away and reflect, and then translate those reflections into a more rounded story. Generally, a strong start to 2021, so let us aim to keep it up!

## Theme for next month

The next meeting is on Tuesday 16 February where the theme is Art Class. The same people meet every week to paint or draw, but what are they drawing and what is their motivation for honing their craft? And are there hidden secrets between the students and the teacher - and who is the teacher? Tuesday 16 March's meeting is themed "Through the Window". This story is all about windows...is someone looking out or looking in? What have they seen? Or perhaps it's a metaphorical window such as the window to a soul or a glimpse into

another world...or even a window of opportunity? Once it's gone, it's gone...

Ideally, submissions should arrive by a week before. As ever, the earlier the better, since it gives the rest of us time to read and reflect on it. No submission will ever be turned away, though the later it arrives, the less time there is for other members to make comments. Let us continue the year with all of us being on time and all of us writing something!

The guideline word limit remains at 2,000 words, but this is increasingly flexible because it can be frustrating, for both writer and reader, for a story to cut off in mid-flow with its audience stranded mid-river without a paddle. By all means show when the 2,000-word limit has been met but, in truth, none of us gives up reading before the end – we all want to know how things work out!

## Tips for January

This month's tips are on how to make writing fun. It's a three-minute read, so if you have a spare three minutes, which is probably less than it takes to boil a kettle (and half an hour less than it took the kettle in our old meeting room), then you have time to make your writing fun! <https://writingcooperative.com/8-tips-to-make-writing-fun-again-8653838c232b>

## Joining the Group

If anyone would like to join us, they would be very welcome. We cater for all standards of writer from complete beginners to published novelists.

Contact Dr Tracey Valentine on 07778 148 030 for details, email [pottonwriters@gmail.com](mailto:pottonwriters@gmail.com) or see our website: [www.pottonwrite.weebly.com](http://www.pottonwrite.weebly.com).

Happy writing! Tracey



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# Councillors' Column

Keeping us up-to-date on South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council matters.

Your councillors are always ready to help.

If you have any questions about the following matters or, indeed, any other council matter that you may need help with, then please do not hesitate in contacting: Bridget Smith, your District Councillor, on 01767 650510 or at [bridget@glockling.com](mailto:bridget@glockling.com) and follow on Twitter @Cllrbridget and on Facebook, and Sebastian Kindersley, your County Councillor, on 01767 651982, at [skindersley@hotmail.com](mailto:skindersley@hotmail.com) or write to Manor Barn, East Hatley SG19 3JA and follow on Twitter @SebKindersley and on Facebook.



Cambridgeshire  
County Council



Councillor  
Sebastian Kindersley



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council



Councillor  
Bridget Smith

## Covid

VERY sadly we are still seeing at least one death a day in South Cambs and our incidence of Covid is decreasing only very slowly especially in the over 60s age range. We have to redouble our efforts to stay at home and to remain socially distanced. The vaccine programme is rolling out well and by the time you read this we are hopeful that all over 80s will be vaccinated.

Vaccines were delivered in all our Care Homes except those with active outbreaks at the end of January. Sadly we have seen some very serious outbreaks in care homes and it will be a huge relief when all residents and staff are fully vaccinated.

If you need Transport to vaccination sites – please call the central booking point on 0345 045 5219 and please be aware for Gamlingay and the Hatleys the Car Scheme is there to help. Passengers need to be able to enter/exit the back seat without assistance, wear a mask and of course sanitise hands. If you need help with transport call 07519 493 701.

## Rapid flow testing

BY THE time you read this we will have begun the roll-out of rapid community Covid-19 testing, using lateral flow tests, in Cambridgeshire. These rapid tests are for people without Covid-19 symptoms, who are known as 'asymptomatic'.

South Cambs are offering these tests because we know that around one in three people who are infected with Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading the disease without knowing it. Broadening testing to identify key workers showing no

symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly, which helps break chains of transmission.

Tests will be offered at no cost to the public and the process of taking a test takes on average 15 minutes from arrival to departure. The site serving you is at The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, South Cambridgeshire, CB23 6GW. The site will be open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday. To book a test, people need to visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting).

We are also reminding everyone who takes a test of the support that we can offer to anyone who needs help to isolate. More information about this support is available at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/selfisolationsupport](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/selfisolationsupport).

## Vaccines for volunteers helping with Covid effort

THE NHS has now opened up access to the Covid vaccine to staff and volunteers from community groups currently directly working or having contact with people in priority groups. These include those involved in the direct supply of food and other goods, those supporting older people and those with long term health issues and those supporting vulnerable children and young people. In addition volunteer drivers involved in transporting people to vaccine appointments are also eligible.

If you believe you and/or volunteers you know meet the eligibility criteria please send an email to [enquiries@cambridgecv.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cambridgecv.org.uk)

## Are you over 70?

ALL over 70s and those in a clinically extremely vulnerable group are now able to book an appointment for a Covid vaccination. Please DO NOT CALL your surgery as they are unable to book these appointments and it causes delays for those patients trying to access medical care.

**Patients should go on-line or**

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**phone 119 to book an appointment.** For Gamlingay residents appointments are released at the Weatherley Centre in Biggleswade on a weekly basis at present and alternative venues are also able to be selected. For residents of other Parishes locations include Royston, Grafton Centre Cambridge, Letchworth with more sites opening each week.

## Cambridge water treatment works

SOUTH Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council are urging local people to get involved in the next stages of the design and planning for a new plant, which Anglian Water says will support the local ambition towards net zero carbon, and also deliver wider benefits for people and wildlife.

Anglian Water have announced that the preferred site for their new plant is an area north of the A14 between Fen Ditton and Horningsea.

The proposed relocation would allow a new net zero carbon facility, meeting exemplar environmental standards, to replace the existing plant which is near Cambridge North railway station. This will unlock opportunities for future development on that site, as well as providing for planned growth in places such as Waterbeach New Town. The project means that no additional treatment facilities would be needed at the new town as wastewater would be treated at the new plant.

## Fly tipping

SOUTH Cambs reports that there has been no significant increase in fly tipping since the introduction of pre-book visits to Household Waste Centres. Tipping is incredibly annoying especially as we all pay for it to be collected via our Council Tax. If you see fly tipping please do report it straight away. Officers always sift through the rubbish and VERY OFTEN find personal information they can use to track the perpetrators. South Cambs always prosecute. <https://forms.scambs.gov.uk/report-envirocrimewasteinyourarea/launch>

## Combined authority housing programme.

THE CA was given £100m four years ago to build over 2,000 affordable homes in Cambridgeshire. For reasons

that are difficult to untangle (though questions have been asked about the 'value for money') the last tranche of £45m has not been paid over as and when expected. This was discussed at the last Housing Committee Meeting and reassurance was given by the chair that it was just a formality and the money would arrive any day. Since then, The Chair has written to committee members to withdraw his statements as potentially misleading:

'At that meeting, I answered a public question [...] including the words "We have received no indication from MHCLG that we will not receive the outstanding £45m of funding for the remainder of our housing programme." Upon reflection, I personally do not consider that the response to that question demonstrated sufficient balance of the issues and I am concerned about how that was presented to the Committee. This was in light of an email sent by MHCLG to the CPCA on 14 October 2020 which advised "that there are currently no guarantees of further funding" in respect of the CPCA Housing Programme.

This is a really worrying development as that money was destined to provide housing for those who suffer most from the extremely high house and land values in our area.

## Caring for Covid positive hauliers

YOU may have seen that the Department of Transport has taken over The Cambridge Hotel in Bar Hill to accommodate hauliers returning to France who had tested positive for Covid. Local volunteer groups are supplying them with welcome packs to make sure that they know they are welcome and that their stay is as pleasant as possible.

## Business support

BUSINESSES in South Cambridgeshire can now apply for the latest round of Government financial help for closures during the post-Christmas period and through the Spring.

There are several different Government grants available for these periods and different rules and timings apply depending on the nature of the affected business. South Cambs is anxious to help businesses navigate the application process so please contact the Council if you need to make a claim.

## NATS Luton stack

THE consultation on the proposed changes to airspace for Luton Airport is now closed. Many organisations and residents have expressed considerable concern. Sebastian raised the issue as a concern at the County Council which has subsequently written to express concerns about the process and the potential impact on Huntingdon, Gamlingay and surrounding villages.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has also written to object and Bridget drew the attention of the Board of the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority (of which she is a member) to highlight local concerns about the stack being over rural villages such as Gamlingay in the Combined Authority response to the consultation. The CA accepted that the Luton stack was better placed over urban areas where the ambient noise was greater and therefore the impact on residents less.

## Thakeham

SEBASTIAN writes: You may recall a proposal for a new town of 25,000 houses across nine South Cambs villages by Thakeham. The South West Cambridge Action Group submitted a number of Freedom of Information requests as part of its campaign against the development. The results make concerning reading. It is clear – as Thakeham itself has admitted – that the company wants to develop the town using some mechanism other than what everyone else is doing, which is submitting a site to South Cambs as part of the Local Plan process. Thakeham wants to run the process 'concurrently,' deploying



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national mechanisms too, although exactly what mechanism they intend to use is still unknown (at least to us).

In last year's budget, the Chancellor announced the setting up of a Cambridge Development Corporation, but did not reveal any details, including where exactly the new town would be situated. There has been no engagement, nor any timeline published. SWCAG's concern is that Thakeham and this "DevCo" are perhaps the same thing. So SWCAG asked.

Worryingly its Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has been denied, on the basis that information revealed would be a 'distraction' and that 'it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this time'. The FOI request was for information relating to a Cambridge 'Development Corporation' – a central government vehicle for creating new towns that bypasses normal planning processes.

It will not have escaped your attention that the Thakeham new town also sits on the approximate route of East West Rail's first attempt at the Bedford-Cambridge section. So SWCAG asked for details of that relationship using FOI. The response

was bland except for the following extract from an email from Thakeham to EWR which runs "We are in advanced discussions with Homes England to join us as our promotion and delivery partner". The FOI submitted to Homes England remains outstanding.

### Census 2021

AS IF the prospect of the end of lockdown wasn't enough excitement to look forward to, this year also sees Census 2021 on 21 March. Prepare for a blizzard of publicity! We would urge you to reply as soon as you can as otherwise you will be faced with constant reminders and – yes – potentially a knock on your door asking for your completed form. Nobody wants that.

### Our Fire & Rescue Service

AS YOU may remember Sebastian sits on the Fire Authority. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (yes, not making this up) undertook an inspection of the Service to see how it was dealing with the pandemic and they came away "impressed" with how the service responded to the pandemic effectively, and how the health and wellbeing of our people was put at the forefront of decision-making.

While the service maintained its functions of prevention, protection and response it also provided additional support to the community. It used its wholtime firefighters to respond to emergencies, and used the increased availability of its on-call workforce to provide extra support, especially to its local ambulance trust. This

meant the people of Cambridgeshire were better supported through the pandemic. Firefighters helped out with driving ambulances, training staff to drive ambulances, face fitting masks to be used by frontline NHS and clinical care staff working with Covid-19 patients, and welfare visits to the vulnerable who were shielding. Resources were well managed, and the service's financial position was largely unaffected.

### What does my Council Tax buy?


RUBBISH. It's quite an issue. When you put out your bin it is emptied by South Cambs (which has the duty to collect) and the bin lorry takes it to Waterbeach where it is processed by contractors employed by the County Council (which has the duty to dispose). The contractors (via a PFI) can do what they can with the rubbish – recycle (and sell), compost the organic waste or ultimately to tip into landfill (at a cost to you of £94.15 per tonne Landfill Tax). This is what happens now.

However, Cambridgeshire has declared a Climate Change Emergency and so we need to think about changing the way we treat rubbish from 'linear' (where you and I "take, make, use, throw") to 'circular' where we keep resources in use as long as possible extracting maximum value from them.


This has all sorts of implications as we head to 2050. For example in 2023 you can expect to see the potential roll-out of a deposit return scheme, legislation introducing mandatory separate food waste collection and extended producer responsibility for packaging coming into force – no more coconuts wrapped in clingfilm!

By 2035 we expect to have less than 10% of our rubbish going into landfill. So your Council Tax will not only continue to pay for the collection and disposal of your rubbish as it does today but it will also need to fund the new processes and kit required to reduce our consumption, increase our recycling/reuse and to do our bit to protect our planet from more of our rubbish.

Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can!

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## A Royal Mail experience

FOLLOWING on from a previous piece about scam emails *The Gazette* received a note from a resident concerned that they'd received an email purporting to be from Royal Mail asking for payment for an item which hadn't been stamped – exactly like the scams going round.

However, there was indeed a letter waiting for payment, but the email address it came from wasn't obviously a Royal Mail one.

The person paid the money online and received his letter.

He asked us to take up the issue with the Gamlingay Community Safety Group.

Here's what Sue Barrett, the Secretary of GCSG, had to say:

*"Thank you for letting us know about your recent Royal Mail experience following our article in the January/February 2021 edition of The Gazette. Thankfully yours was a genuine case but so often scam emails arrive from individuals purporting to be someone else, and that's how people are scammed."*

### How do you report online fraud if you are a victim?

You can find more information on what to look out for and report online fraud to **ActionFraud** on 0300 123 2040.

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# Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan – where are we now?



Aerial shot of Gamlingay by Gareth Squance

## Remind me of the plan again?

Many of you will remember that last year – between lockdowns – we were able to produce a first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan for Gamlingay and send a summary booklet to every household in the village for comment.

You will have had an envelope through your door in late August explaining how a Neighbourhood Plan is a way of helping local communities have a positive influence on planning and development where they live and work. Once finalised the document is valid until 2035 and forms part of the statutory development plan which means that South Cambridgeshire District Council must use our plan to determine planning applications.

We are not alone – all over the UK, small volunteer groups like ourselves (we are currently a team of five) have been working hard to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their own town or village; it is hoped that these will carry real weight when it comes to local planning applications.

Neighbourhood Plans mean that we can have a say in where **new** (not those already happening) developments can take place and what they should look like; advise on community facilities for current and future residents; look at the type of housing residents want to see, and protect the local character and landscape of our village area, including green spaces, conservation areas and countryside.

However, the Plan isn't valid without the input of the wider community which is why it is so important to incorporate your views into the plan and make it a living, collaborative document.

## How did we consult with you?

Just after we sent out the summary booklet of the draft plan to every household, we held a total of eight consultation sessions throughout September and October 2020 at the Eco Hub and 44 people attended and talked through their concerns. This wasn't easy with mask wearing and social distancing, but we managed!

At the same time the website

went live with all the supporting documentation and the plan itself, with details of how to submit comments, either on-line, or by completing the consultation feedback form in the summary document. We had a total of 36 on-line responses, 24 of which were full responses requiring feedback plus 19 statutory consultee responses requiring feedback (eg potential Developers), and a response from the Statutory Planning Authority (South Cambs District Council).

We were all set to attend the Village Show, which is always a great way to meet lots of people, but sadly, because of Covid, were unable to as the Show didn't happen.

## What does Gamlingay care about?

It will come as no surprise that the main topics of concern were as follows:

- Congestion, parking and speeding, particularly around the Church Street/Mill Street area.
- What is happening to the old First School buildings and field

– concern about development and loss of open space.

- Doctors surgery – lack of access to make appointments and worries that more housing will stretch the congestion in the surgery even more.
- Current housing developments – Green End and West Rd and how they will impact on the village.

Not surprisingly, people have concerns about what is happening right now, and how their lives are compromised, and of course the Neighbourhood Plan can't change the present. But it can help influence the future and if you are interested in the comments, and how we replied, we have published these in full (names have been removed) on the website: [www.gamlingay-future.co.uk](http://www.gamlingay-future.co.uk)

By the time you read this all those who responded by email with questions should have received a

personal response as to how the plan can address their concerns. We were really heartened by the number of people who just sent their support and approval, thank you if you did, as it sometimes feels like a very hard slog getting this document written.

If you haven't already, do take a look at the website, as you can read the plan there, if you have missed it so far.

## What's Next?

The public consultation last year was called a Regulation 14 consultation (r.14) and the next step is a further consultation which will be run by the Statutory Planning Authority (South Cambs.) when we submit the Plan formally to them. This is called a Regulation 16 consultation where the Planning Authority finds out whether we have addressed your concerns or comments.

This Regulations 16 consultation will give you another chance to

comment on the plan, after which South Cambs. come back to us with suggestions for change, and then if happy, it goes to the Planning Inspector for consideration. We are not sure of the timescales for this, but hopefully sometime in the summer this year.

Finally, after the Regulation 16 consultation, there is the response from the Inspector/suggested changes and then everyone in the village gets to vote yes or no by means of a referendum – hopefully by 2022!

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups consists of: Christopher Barker, Sarah Groom, Rachel Lee, Samantha Martin, Kirstin Rayner (Gamlingay Parish Council Clerk) and Bridget Smith. The Steering Group would like to thank the other volunteers who have given their time over the past five years to bring the plan this far.

# Gamlingay Village Show update

WE START this update with the sad news that our Chairman Dave Masterson has taken the difficult decision to stand down from the Gamlingay Show. In his own words: *"On a sad note for me, after a number of years on the Committee, I have taken the decision to stand down from the Gamlingay Show. However, the ambitious plans for 2021 to support the community and helping us all on the road to recovery from a painful 2020 means, more than ever, that the Committee needs new members to convert these ideas into reality. With a group of like-minded individuals, the effort is shared and the rewards really are worth it. I would like to close with a personal Thank You to everyone that has supported the Gamlingay Show over the years, especially our Sponsors and current and past Committee Members. I hope many more people are able to lend their support in the years to come."*

The current Committee comprises, Chair: Ginny Jones, Vice Chair: Jayne Dawkins, Treasurer: Victoria Critchlow, Secretary: Peter Condon, Show Logistics: Steve Palmer, Lee Deason.

We are very pleased to welcome Jayne Dawkins and Lee Deason as new members.

2021 will be another uncertain year and none of us can predict accurately what the format of the show will be. We have set a date for Saturday 18 September so please put it in your diaries and we will update as and when we get information.

We will be running the usual competitions and have plans on how to continue with these even if the usual format of the Show has to be changed. In addition we will feature a children's 'Bake Off' and a Bee Friendly Flower growing competition...more details to follow!

The plan, as last year, is for the show to be about promoting and supporting local businesses and community groups who have had such a tough time during the pandemic, as well as bringing our lovely villagers together again after all these months. We also have some lovely ideas and events that we would like to run alongside the show.

**Scarecrow competition:** This was so successful and fun last year that this year we will be running a Scarecrow weekend on 17/18 July. You have plenty of notice to come up with some fabulous and funny ideas. We hope to beat last year's total of 40 Scarecrows

and this year have the whole weekend for everyone to view them. There will be prizes again, so let your imagination run wild!

**Scavenger Hunt:** This will be the early May Bank holiday weekend and we will be releasing full details and how to enter in April's Gazette. Please note this event will be car based to ensure we comply with social distancing.

**Fun Run:** This will go ahead using a virtual race format. More details will follow next month.

A lot of work goes into running the show, so the more help the better. If you are interested in joining our committee, then please contact me or one of the other committee members and let us know. It really is great fun and we welcome anyone, irrespective of how much time you feel you can dedicate – the more the merrier.

Finally, we would like to thank Dave Masterson, most sincerely, for his dedication and hard work as Chairman over the last few years. We will miss him.

Ginny Jones: 07813 629 354  
[Ginny.jones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Ginny.jones@yahoo.co.uk)

# Oriental Mushroom and Noodle Soup

*Vegetarian recipe by  
Roderick Starksfield*

A DELICIOUS light, yet strongly flavoured soup. I give below two versions, one as a quick meal, the other a special version if you have guests round!

**Serves 4**

## Ingredients

Small bunch spring onions  
Couple of cloves of garlic, thinly sliced  
About 6oz/175gm egg noodles  
Mushrooms (see below) a good handful  
1 litre vegetable stock  
(a couple of teaspoons of Marigold powder is fine)  
1 small red chili  
½ teaspoon of miso paste (optional)  
1 teaspoon of tamarind sauce (optional)

## Method

Make the stock, pour boiling water over the stock powder, add the miso and tamarind. Break up some of the noodles, they can be quite long and therefore a bit awkward to eat!

Chop the mushrooms into bite size pieces, keeping an interesting shape if you can, by cutting through the top and the stem for some of them.

Slice the spring onions into thin diagonal slices.

Slice the chili into thin rings, remove the seeds if you prefer a milder heat.

Heat up the stock, add the noodles



*The picture shows an experimental soup with the addition of some tofu pieces, I think I prefer it without. You can use the egg yolk to make mayonnaise, a hollandaise sauce or similar.*

and all the other ingredients.

Lightly boil for about 10 minutes.

**Serve.**

## Now for the 'Chefy' version (!)

Mushrooms: many supermarkets now sell packs of mixed wild mushrooms, the apricot scented chanterelles, enoki – looking like little alien Martians but with good, slightly sweet earthy flavour, and probably some boletus mushrooms. If you can get some of these, use them.

Soak 1oz/40gm dried porcini mushrooms for about 20 minutes, carefully clean them of any grit. Boil the noodles separately in a pan of boiling water for 8-10 minutes, until soft.

Lightly sauté the other ingredients

With the above the stock has some bits in it, small flecks of herbs etc., and cooking the noodle in the stock introduces some starch into it, giving it a slightly cloudy look.

Let the stock cool to hand heat. Separate the egg and lightly beat the white to break it up, until slightly frothy. Mix the egg white into the stock, stirring well. Gently heat the stock, the egg white will congeal – taking with it all the little bits!

Remove the egg with a slotted spoon. You should now have a clear golden stock. Bring this stock to a boil. Divide the noodle and mushrooms and other ingredients into bowls and pour over the hot stock.

**Serve.**

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# Lockdown Quiz answers

from page 14

1. Hatfield Forest
2. Gardens of the Rose, near St. Albans
3. Ayot St. Lawrence between Luton and Harpenden
4. Audley End, near Saffron Walden
5. Starlink (launched by Space x)
6. Roedean
7. Mixed berries
8. July
9. 1963
10. 125 Years
11. 2002
12. 29 July 1981
13. 1998
14. A Cria
15. A hatchling or juvenile
16. A joey
17. A peachick
18. A Puggle
19. Red deer
20. Kittens
21. Reliant
22. Georgia
23. Amsterdam
24. Rosetta Stone
25. Orange segments
26. Earthworms
27. Spain
28. Holt
29. 24 June
30. Titania & Oberon
31. Cambridge
32. Det. Chief Insp. Tom Barnaby
33. Sweden
34. False
35. Kiwi
36. Avocado
37. Tayberry
38. Lady
39. Custer
40. General Lee
41. General Motors
42. Pirates of Penzance.
43. Very Superior Old Pale
44. White
45. 7
46. 20 March 1917
47. East Ham London

Questions set by Jan Cooper, Keith Warburton, John and Gill Kitchener, Martin and Hilary Young, Julia and David Alexander, Benita Scott, Tony Hurst, Helen Brown, Ann Kirby, Chris and Dawn Martin, Jan Bremner.



# Quiz and Puzzle Corner

by Kevin Bentley

## Komino rules

Using the whole list of reversible digit pairs, complete the grid so that each box contains one pair. A digit cannot be beside the same digit in an adjacent box. Boxes containing a pair of identical digits cannot be side by side.

Komino	Medium
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>5</span><span>6</span> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>1</span><span> </span><span> </span><span>2</span> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span> </span><span>5</span><span>1</span><span> </span><span>3</span> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>1 2   1 5   2 2</p> <p>2 4   2 5   3 3</p> <p>3 4   3 5   4 4</p> <p>4 6</p> </div> </div>	
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## January/February Solution

2	6	4	0	4
4	3	1	5	2
0	1		3	5
0	2	1	6	4
4	3	2	3	4

I hope that you have enjoyed the challenge of solving these Komino puzzles.

These are similar to the ones that I have published in my first book of 200 Komino Puzzles which is currently available with 25% off the retail price from my publishers (Troubador) for £7.50 at [www.kominopuzzle.com](http://www.kominopuzzle.com)

## Can I recycle my Gazette?

WE HAVE received plenty of praise for the improvements in production of *The Gazette*, which is always nice to hear. Our colour editions have especially been singled out for their impact. However, one reader sensibly asked the question as to whether the colour issue can be successfully recycled. Yes it can safely go in your blue bin, is the answer. Broadly speaking glossy paper is accepted in all local recycling programs, provided the paper does not have a plastic coating. If the glossy paper is easy to tear, it should be fine. If you're not sure, it's better to be safe and dispose of it in the garbage (black bin).

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## Emergency Services

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Non-Emergency Fire	01223 376 217
Non-Emergency Police and Community Police	101
PC John Coppard john.coppard@cambs.pnn.police.uk	

## Healthcare and Council

Medical centre	
Appointments	651 544
Emergences	651 546
District nurses	08456 024 064
Age Concern	01354 696 650
Homecare	07776 021 611
Anne Hutson	
Community car scheme	07519 493 701
Alison Baker	

<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>650 310</b>
<i>Clerks:</i> Kirstin Rayner, Leanne Bacon at ecohub: clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk <i>web page:</i> www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk <i>Chairman:</i> Colin Smith <i>Vice-Chairman:</i> TBA	

Faulty Street Lights	<b>0800 7873 247</b>
Library	<b>651 226</b>
Kate Laugharne	

Forward Gamlingay	
<i>Chair:</i> Sarah Groom	

<b>Hatley Parish Council</b>	<b>650 596</b>
<i>Clerk:</i> Kim Wilde parishclerk@hatley.info www.hatley.info <i>Chairman:</i> Margot Eagle	

## Politics

Member of Parliament	0207 219 3000
Anthony Browne anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk	

County Councillor	651 982
Sebastian Kindersley	

District Councillor	650 510
Bridget Smith 03450 450 500 Monday-Saturday 08:00 to 20:00 South Cambridgeshire District Council	

Hatley District Councillor	07885 774 775
Heather Williams cllr.williams@scambs.gov.uk	

## Churches

Baptist Church, Office	Jane Sally Graves	651 519 650 112
St. Mary The Virgin	<i>Rector:</i> Hilary Young <i>Church Warden:</i> Alec Hissett <i>Reader:</i> Chris Miller	650 587 650 052 650 779

## Halls for Hire

Ecohub	Sarah Groom Kate Laugharne	651 226
Everton Village Hall		682 251
Hatley St. George Village Hall	Kim Wilde www.hatley.info	650 596
Methodist Chapel	Parish Council	650 310
St. Mary' Church	Lindy Gorton	650 581
Social Club	Martin Hull	650 418

## Hobbies, Leisure and Interests

Bell Ringers	John Boocock	650 736
Booklinks	Kate Laugharne	651 226
Cafe Connect	Ann Kirby	651 134
Fridays 10.30am-12.30pm		
Community Choir	Jan Cooper	650 178
East Beds Model Railway Society	<i>Secretary:</i> John Wakeman wakemanpj@aol.com	
Friends of St Mary's	Helen Miller	677 390
Gamlingay Allotment Gardeners Association (GAGA)	<i>Secretary:</i> Mick Slimm a.slimm@btinternet.com <i>Membership Secretary:</i> John Way johnway803@gmail.com	650 650 650 114
Gamlingay Archaeological Group (Gamarch)	Chris Tomsett <i>Secretary:</i> Julia Manley julialmanley@yahoo.com	650 009
Gamlingay Players	Amy Lovat lovatl@hotmail.com	07843 527 979
Gamlingay Walkers	Miriam and Phil Titchner	654 891
Gardening Club	Lindy Gorton	650 581
Guild of St. Mary's	Liz Huckle	650 988
History Society	Peter Wright gamlingayhistory@gmail.com	
Lacecaps	Pat Brunson	01480 385 351
Ladybird Club	Mrs C Watson	650 707
Music Club	Geoff Bruerton	650 748
Photographic Society	Chair/Secretary. Jackie Bruce nickbruce7@btinternet.com www.gamlingay-ps.org.uk	
Potton and District Writers	pottonwriters@gmail.com	
Royal British Legion	Sebastian Kindersley Jackie Hough	651 982 651 070
Sandy and District Round Table	Lee Packham Brown	

# Village Information

Sir John Jacob's Almshouses Trustees:	Jackie Hough Sebastian Kindersley Philip Gorton	651 070 651 982 650 581
St. Neots Model Railway Club	John Kneeshaw j.kneeshaw@ntlworld.com	
Village Show	Amy Lovat	07843 527 979
Womens' Institute	Anne Clarke Jean York	651 932 650 367

## Preschool Groups and Education

Carers Group	Bridget Smith	650 510
Everton Preschool	Julie	07814 815 491
Jelly Tots	Emma Radley Natalie	07156 027 150 691 477
Montessori	Mrs Pat Jenkins	650 645 07714 821 940
Rainbow Preschool	Lisa Burton	651 996

## School

Gamlingay Primary		650 208
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## Sports

Bowls Club	Brian Culverhouse	651 020
Breeze Ladies Cycling	Gill Kitchener	650 035
Football Club	Chair: Brian Culverhouse (youth teams)	651 020
Gamlingay Gym		651 785
Girls Football – MUGA	Nancy Kyle nantmarg@hotmail.co.uk	651 785
Junior Football School	Brian Culverhouse	651 020
Tennis Club	John Gray	654 165
Waresley Cricket Club	Phil Masdin	221 027

## Youth Groups

1st Gamlingay Brownies	Jane Brown	652 997
1st Gamlingay Rainbows	Helen Brown	449 043
2nd Gamlingay Guides	Benita Scott	650 547
Beavers	Mark Harrision	07979 102 568
Explorers	Vacancy	
Gamlingay Cubs	Steve Palmer	651 532
Gamlingay Scouts	Will Colebrook	07527 717 463
Gransden Cubs	Susan Jefferd	261 000
Pathfinder Scouts	Mark Harrision	07979 102 568
Tinuwen Rangers	Irene Gray	651 212
Youth Cafe	Lucy Rands	07929 453 235
Youth Club	Lucy Rands	07929 453 235

## Cambridge County Council

### Care Services

Adult Health and Social Service General Enquiries	0345 045 5201
Adult Social Care	0345 045 5202
Children's Services	0345 045 5203
Blue Badges Disabled Parking	0345 045 5204
Occupational Health	0345 045 5205
Learning Disability Partnership/Sensory Services	0345 045 5221

### General Community Services

Citizenship	0345 045 5155
Education Transport	0345 045 5208
Education Welfare Benefits Service	0345 045 1361
Family Information Service	0345 045 1360
General Enquiries	0345 045 5200
Human Resources (Recruitment Line)	0345 045 5210
Library Services (includes automatic renewals)	0345 045 5225
Online Payments Support	0345 045 5211
Streetscene (Highways, Transport and Streets)	0345 045 5212
Switchboard	0345 045 5222
Trading Standards	0845 404 0506
Waste Management	0345 045 5207

## What's On pages

Please upload your club or society dates using  
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Please note, this information will not be revised once copy is composited, so check your entries carefully.

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