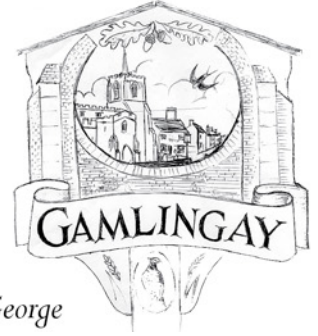


The Gazette



The Community Chronicle for Gamlingsay, East Hatley and Hatley St. George

Established November 1991

December 2024

Circulation 2,050

The Sarll story ... the next chapter

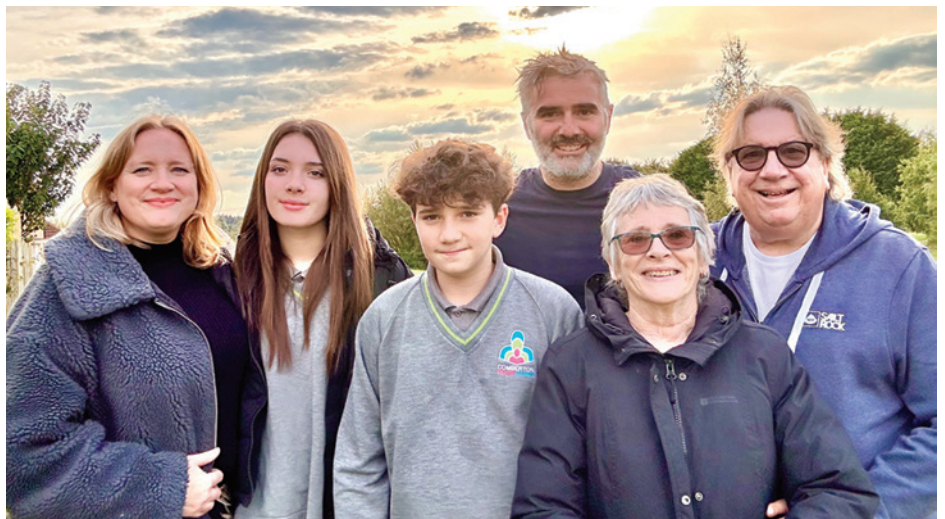
Two present-day members of the Sarll family explain an extraordinary lockdown discovery.

The September *Gazette* article on the Sarll family led some Gamlingsay residents to get in touch. In this article, they explain their story.

Jane Williamson writes: “I was fascinated to read your article about the Sarll family. Our daughter and her family moved from Hertfordshire to Gamlingsay in 2015, and we followed in 2020. Having recently joined the Ancestry website, I was surprised to discover that my family had originally lived in Gamlingsay in the 18th and 19th centuries, and that I was related to the Sarll family – even though I had no previous knowledge of any connection to the village.”

Jane’s daughter, Emma Surry, takes up the story: “I was born in Berkshire, and I grew up in Kent and Hertfordshire. In 2015 I moved from Welwyn Garden City to Gamlingsay because my husband, Luke, was working at the RSPB in Sandy, and we wanted to be closer to his work. We moved to the first house we looked at: we hadn’t researched the area at all – it just felt like home.

“I was astonished when my mum called me up one afternoon during lockdown to tell me she had discovered that her father’s family were from Gamlingsay. She had been looking through our family tree on the Ancestry website and found that her great-great Grandmother, Sarah Sarll (my three x great grandmother) was from Gamlingsay. Sarah Sarll moved south from Gamlingsay to Buntingford (Hertfordshire) when she married John Morris in 1854. In the 165 or so years since then, knowledge of the



From left to right: Emma Surry, Nora Surry, Woody Surry, Luke Surry, Jane Williamson and Malcolm Williamson

connection to Gamlingsay was lost from the family.

“Looking back, I appear to have many relations from Gamlingsay. At the end of last month’s article, John Sarll and Mary Norman are my 4 x great grandparents. Their other daughter, Elizabeth, is my 3 x great grandaunt); she married into the Meeks family, another well-known Gamlingsay family.

“I discovered on the Gamlingsay History Society website that Sarah and Elizabeth’s brother, John Sarll (my 3 x great granduncle), was landlord of The Cock. He’s buried in Gamlingsay.

“Sarah’s grandfather, William Sarll (referenced at the start of the November article) is my 5 x great grandfather. The second William Sarll mentioned in the article is my 3 x great granduncle; his son James, is my first cousin, 4 x removed. Zachariah

Sarll in the photo and the focus of the article is my second cousin, 4 x removed.

“Since my mum’s initial discovery, we’ve managed to push the family tree even further back, to my 12 x great grandfather, Stephen Apthorpe, who was born in 1550. According to British History Online, he was ‘the first Apthorpe to purchase land and settle in Gamlingsay’. He may originally have been from Wales, and seemingly purchased the Cock in 1588 from Joan, widow of John Russell.

“It’s really quite spooky that I have come back to Gamlingsay. My parents followed me later in 2020, so now we are all here. I wonder how many other Sarll descendants still live here – whether knowingly or unknowingly. And I wonder whether there’s anyone else who thinks they are new to the area but may actually have deep roots!”

What's Inside for December

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The Gazette

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What's On

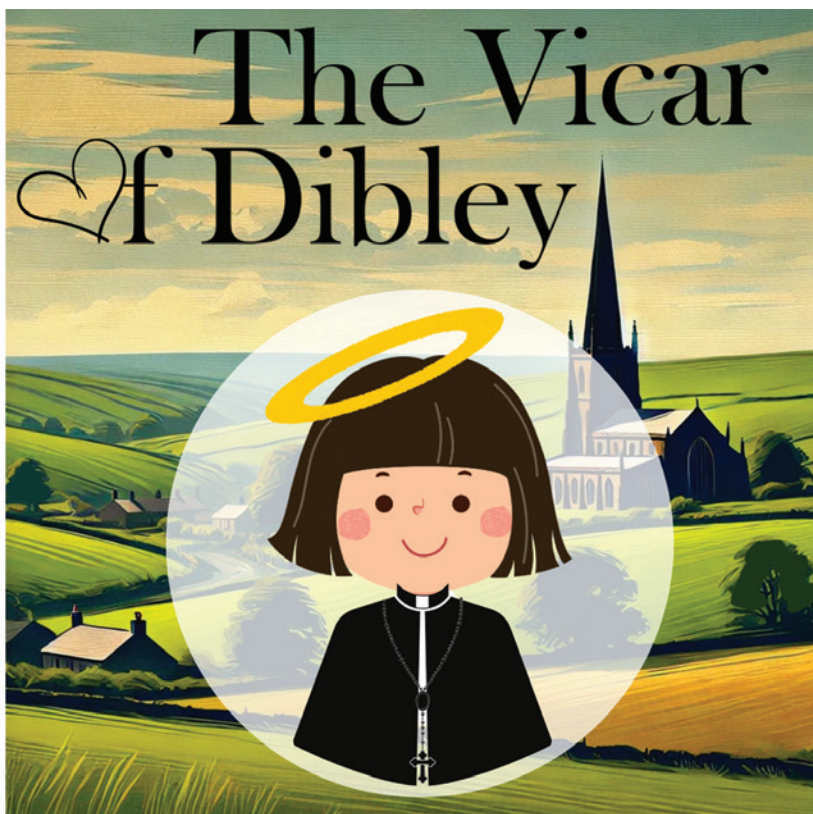
whatson@gamlingaygazette.uk

Next edition deadlines:

March Issue:
Friday, 31 January
April Issue:
Friday, 28 February

Your Gazette in colour, every month!

The Gazette team would love to be able to bring you a printed colour issue every month, especially when we have lots of colour images to share. Unfortunately, we can't afford to do that. But a colour version of the Gazette is available for you to download from www.gamlingaygazette.uk



Friday 31st January and
Saturday 1st February 2025

Matinee and evening performances

Gamlingay Eco Hub
Stocks Lane
SG19 3JR

For more information
and tickets, visit
gamlingayplayers.com



A stage adaptation by Ian Gower and Paul Carpenter
Based on the original TV series. Written by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer
Produced by Tiger Aspect Productions

About the *Gazette*

About us:

The Gamlingay *Gazette* is an independent publication that aims to inform people living in and around Gamlingay of local news and events. It is funded solely by advertising. Every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of content but the *Gazette* cannot be held liable for any errors. Views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the *Gazette* Committee.

To advertise:

Please email Jan Bremner:
adverts@gamlingaygazette.uk.

Announcements:

The *Gazette* will share announcements of arrivals and departures.

Please send your notices, of no more than 50 words, to:
editor@gamlingaygazette.uk.

Submit an article:

We welcome contributions of articles and pictures – without them there would be no *Gazette*! To submit an article, simply email your contribution on: editor@gamlingaygazette.uk.

Article text can be submitted within an email or as an attachment. Images should be submitted separately: please do not lay out or design your submission for us.

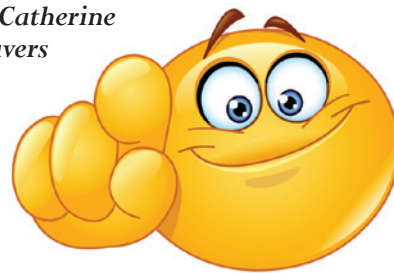
Please state who took or owns each image, and ensure that you have permission from anyone shown in clearly recognisable form.

Do let us know if you would like to be added to our monthly article submission reminder emails.

Please note that the *Gazette* reserves the right to edit all content for style, length and accuracy.

Calling all local graphic designers ... your *Gazette* needs you!

By Catherine Travers



Are you a graphic designer or a desktop publisher living locally, who would like to make a small but significant contribution to our village community? Do you know how to use InDesign and Photoshop? If the answer to these questions is (or could possibly be) **yes**, we would love to hear from you!

Every issue of the *Gazette* that you've seen over the past five years has been designed and laid out by our dedicated layout editor, Larry New. Not to put too fine a point on it, Larry needs a break! Not a permanent break, but a couple of issues each year, more if you are up for it, so that he has the flexibility to take a holiday when he wants to. I think we can all agree that the *Gazette* should not be preventing this!

There is also a need to have cover for Larry if he gets sick, in its nature, this will be unplanned and potentially short notice.

To be clear, the ask here is to do the layout work only (not the editing) on a couple of *Gazette* issues per year. The issues would be agreed in advance.

Once you have all the relevant templates and information, each issue will probably take around sixteen hours in total to work on – spread across about a week, in the first half of the calendar month. So the commitment here is just two (ish) days, once or twice per year. Larry would be happy to chat informally in more detail about what's involved before you make a final decision on whether you can commit to anything.

If we aren't able to find some willing volunteers then we may need to take some alternative steps to give Larry the break he needs and deserves.

So, **any graphic design-minded people in Gamlingay – please step up!** We look forward to hearing from you on editor@gamlingaygazette.uk.

Christmas Cheer at The Cinques ... Christmas Eve

You are invited to join us at The Cinques Car Park on Tuesday 24 December for our now annual Christmas Cheer from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

As in previous years we will be offering mulled wine and cider. Last year we added hot chocolate, with all the expected trimmings, which proved so popular we had to borrow our neighbour's kettle to keep up with the demand!! We promise to be far better organised this year.

As with our previous events we will have some treats to accompany your chosen drinks – obviously there'll be Aunt Margaret's gingerbread and the popular spicy tortilla chips.

Onion with chilli jam and chutney – made with local fruit – will be ready to collect (I'll contact all those who ordered chutney in September to arrange delivery/collection if not attending on Christmas Eve). Once again many thanks to Zaria and Daniel from Moon Farm, Rakesh and Liz from The Old Green Man and Zaranne from Potton View Care Home for allowing me to harvest their pears and



apples for the chutney; and Hannah Walder from Park Farm for the green tomatoes.

Of course, Angela Crispe will be there to entertain us with popular seasonal tunes on her saxophone. I of course couldn't do it without the help of our neighbours Lexie and Susie who will be helping to set up and serve as you arrive.

Everything is offered without charge, however, we welcome donations and this year's chosen charity is "The William Templeton Foundation for Young People's Mental Health", which this year was chosen by Angela.

You can find more details on their website <https://www.ypmh.org>



We are working towards a better future for young people, where mental health problems are significantly reduced in prevalence and severity. We strive to:

- Reduce the number of young people who experience mental health problems, particularly depression and anxiety,
- Help young people enter adulthood with greater resilience to mental health conditions, and thereby
- Reduce the number of young people who take their own lives.

As always Howden Insurance Brokers Ltd will match my fundraising (up to a maximum of £750).

And last, but by no means least of all, I couldn't do any of this without the support and tolerance of my husband Richard.

We look forward to seeing you!!

Alison with Richard, Lexie, Susie and Angela.

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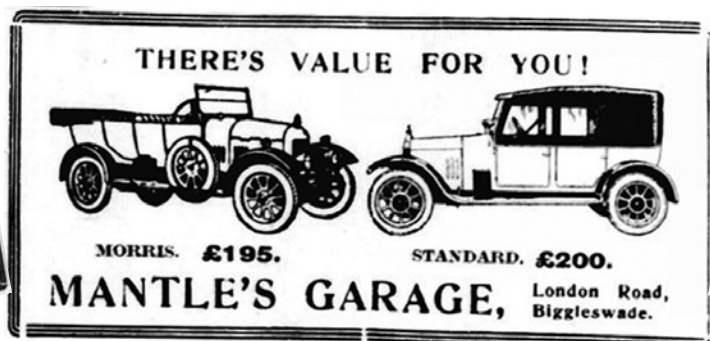


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A Brief Glimpse into Gamlingay life 100 years ago

by Gordon Brooks
Season's greetings to all



One hundred years ago sounds a long time, but it was only 1924. Personally, I am 1934 vintage so I cannot recall what it was like in the "Good Old Days" Also I was not born in Gamlingay so I do not have the advantage of tales passed down by my ancestors however the local newspapers are a good source for filling in what life was like in those far off days.

The first thing I noticed in the press were reports relating the Gamlingay Football teams. The first team were playing in the second division of the Cambridge League and the reports indicate that were having great success. In fact, up to the end of December 1924 they were unbeaten!

The reserve team were holding a mid-table position in the Bedfordshire league.

Players listed included: H. Hibbitt, R. Jakes, S. Jakes, S. Rose, H. Hall, E. Leader, H. Lowings. B. Albone, H. Arnold, A. Hutchinson and H. Wale.

The Reserve Team included: H. Jarvis, J. Jakes, A. Housden, N. Arnold, E. Gray, H. Wale, W. Howe, W. Howe, H. Gilbert, F. Larkins, G. Housden and A. Housden.

The WI held a meeting on Armistice Day 1924 to remember those lost during the World War and agreed to organize a Whist Drive, with the funds generated being donated to the Nursing Association.

A train was laid on to take anyone interested from Gamlingay to Sandy. This was combined with a visit to the Victory Cinema which was showing a film called "Long live the King" Two trips were made, the first on the Thursday and the second on the following Saturday.

Soundy's in Biggleswade was the superstore of the period. They carried a good stock range judging from their advertisements in the local press.

There was a Cycle shop on Honey Hill which, according to an article in an early *Gazette* was located in a hut. I think this was the hut that was situated at the junction of Honey Hill and The Potton Road.

The Gamlingay Radio Club was also known as the Gamlingay Amateur Radio Society, which would suggest an interest in then modern art of telecommunications rather than just listening the national broadcasting service. Self-build kits were readily available and amateur "ham" operators would be using Morse Code. The GAR Soc. was

intending to introduce Morse Code classes. There were about 20 people at the first meeting which featured a talk by Mr. A. E. Norman on the subject of "Aerials". The meeting was followed by entertainment.

This period saw the change over from Crystal Receivers to vacuum tube radios. Limited broadcast services were available from the BBC under the station identification "2LO" which first broadcast in 1922. In January 1925 the Cycle Shop on Honey Hill was inviting the local population to listen to, and purchase, suitable equipment for home use (Complete with Head Phones!). About this time radio valves had begun to replace the crystal sets, Transistors and television were unheard of.

Electricity did not come to the village until the 1930s, until then all radios would be battery operated with a 120 volt HT battery, usually "Everready", and a 2 volt accumulator which would be taken to a local garage for recharging. Even in the 1940s I remember collecting the charged accumulator and leaving the spare for collection next week.

Street lighting 100 years ago in the village would be provided by oil lamps. As there was no gas supply to Gamlingay, Paraffin fueled lighting was used in the home. Hurricane lamps would be used for lighting the way to the "Privy".

Various newspapers were the order of the day for local news, eg, Biggleswade Chronicle, Beds Times. Adverts for shops often included line drawings to illustrate their wares. Football and Cricket results for local teams featured regularly, also the records relating to local crime (with names).

For those with some cash to spare and wish to impress those next door, Mantles in London Road, Biggleswade could supply a new motorcar. The Bull Nose Morris and the 8hp Standard being advertised. The Austin 7 was now in the second year of production and was the cheapest car on the market, the aim was the entice the family man away from the motorcycle and sidecar.

As there was no gas supply to Gamlingay, Paraffin fueled lighting was used in the home. And with very limited indoor plumbing hurricane lamps would be used for lighting the way to the outdoor "Privy".

Pot holes in the roads were not unknown. So the present condition we endure today is nothing new.

Gamlingay Cubs Year

By Steve Palmer (Akela)

As the year comes rapidly to the end I reflect on another busy one for Gamlingay Cubs.

We started the year learning about our world, places near and far including exploring the village finding out about Chinese New Year and hearing about one of Gamlingay Scout's experiences at the World Jamboree in South Korea. The World Jamborees are held every four years at different locations around the world and bring together lots of Scouts from around the world.

Shrove Tuesday is always a popular evening – we make pancakes, bacon rolls, and decorated biscuits. Our handyman project this year was making bug houses by recycling an old pallet, bits of bamboo and lots of pine cones.

We were asked to perform a sketch at the St. George's day parade. St. George is the patron saint of Scouting. We practised one evening and performed the story of St. George and the Dragon at the service in St Bartholomews church, Great Gransden. All the Cubs took part playing different roles. I was proud of the Cubs, the performance went very well. We were congratulated by many of the other leaders after the service.

After Easter we practised tent pitching ready for camp. Camp this year was held at the scout campsite at Henlow. Activities included archery, the climbing wall and a guided hike around Henlow village.

June, we attended the annual water activity day at Grafham Water organised by the Scout District. Cubs enjoyed paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing and



rafting. Wet suits, buoyancy aids and helmets are supplied, they make their own rafts.

The end of the summer term we were due to go out on our bicycles, but the weather was against us, however, for the planned athletes badge work the weather changed for the better and everything went ahead as planned.

There was a presentation event where Lewis (Bagheera) was presented with a Scout Medal of Merit and I (Akela) was presented with a Scout Silver Acorn. Lewis has been a Cub Scout leader for 15 years and was instrumental in introducing online sessions for the Cubs during the Covid period of lockdown. This ensured we retained most Cubs and kept them interested in Scouting activities during the long weeks of the Covid lockdown.

The autumn term saw 11 new Cubs start with us which was a challenge, I have never had so many start at once before. Some of the older more experienced Cubs who were moving up to Scouts agreed to continue with us to help the new Cubs settle in. They were

all great with the new starters, helping them overcome their nerves. The new Cubs were all invested and have settled in well.

We have been working on the Cub Skills Challenge badge which includes ironing, peeling potatoes, sewing buttons and cooking mug cakes. The mug cakes were a particular favourite with the Cubs. Other skills have been building challenges, designing badges and posters. For Remembrance we are making felt poppies to wear at the Remembrance Sunday service.

We have started planning next year's activities. In March we are camping in the lodge at Bromham campsite; activities planned are archery, the bouldering wall, backwoods cooking and pioneering. In June we are camping at Tolmer's campsite near Potters Bar, activities planned are kayaking, climbing wall and orienteering. July we are going to Grafham Water again for another water activity day.

I couldn't put on this program without a great set of supporters. Lewis (Bagheera), Christine (Chil), Nick (Ka), Dan (Hathi) and Amy who is a young leader Explorer Scout.

If you would like your son/daughter to join Gamlingay Cubs we meet Tuesday evenings between 7.00pm and 8.30pm. Drop me an email at: gamlingaycubs@gamlingayandgransdenscouts.org

If this has inspired you and you want to help as a leader or just help on an occasional basis drop me an email at gamlingaycubs@gamlingayandgransdenscouts.org



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We have other vacancies. Visit www.kmgsystems.com to see our most current vacancies and more information about how to apply.





News from the Eco Hub

www.gamlingayecohub.org.uk | phone: 01767 651 226

email: manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk

Facebook/X: Gamlingay Eco Hub

All the latest What's On on our Facebook page, X feed and website.

Email is the best way to get hold of us or you can leave a message on our answerphone.

Our general manager is Kate Laugharne, supported by Tony Hurst and John Berry.

Happy Christmas from all at the Eco Hub

Happy Christmas and a merry new year from all at the Eco Hub. The end of 2024 seems like a very good time to look back over the year, and what a busy year it's been. As ever it has flown by so fast that we don't know where the time has gone. There has been so much happening here, from concerts and psychic evenings to conferences and Easter egg hunts.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to the youth café this year and would like to thank the youth workers who have given so much time and work over the years to the young people of Gamlingay. We would also like to thank all the volunteers, staff, trustees and everyone

who has held classes, groups or events here at the Eco Hub over the year, as without them the Eco Hub wouldn't be able to keep going. Most of all we would like to thank all the people of Gamlingay for all the support you have given over the year, and we hope to see you here again in the new year.

For Men to Talk

If you find Christmas a difficult time of the year you may be pleased to know that For Men to Talk will be meeting as usual in early January. It is an opportunity for men to sit down and talk about their mental health and how they are feeling in a non-judgemental supportive atmosphere.

The group meets at the Eco Hub on the first Tuesday of the month 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

Search on Facebook for **For Men to Talk** if you want details of their other meetings over the Christmas period, some are in person and some virtual.

Fairwell to Ann Kirby

Ann Kirby has retired as a volunteer at the Connect Café, and we would all like to thank her for her work over the years. Ann has been with the Connect Café since it was set up eight years ago and has made it the happy thriving coffee morning that we all enjoy today. We wish her all the best as she leaves for new adventures elsewhere.



The Theatre of Widdershins



The Theatre of Widdershins will be returning to Gamlingay on Sunday, 29 December with their fabulous puppet performance of **Pigs and Bears Don't Come in Pairs**.

Straw, wood, brick? Porridge, chairs, beds? Two trios to tantalise and tickle your senses in this double bill of Furry Tails, where Goldilocks may even be more scary than the Big Bad Wolf!

If two's company and three's a crowd, then book your place now for these well loved stories, retold with puppets, original music and a perfectly petite pop up set. Ideal for three to seven year olds.

Theatre of Widdershins was created by Andy Lawrence in 1994, a self-taught puppet maker with trademark puppets and props.

Tickets available online from: www.tickettailor.com/events/widdershinstheatre/1422593

FACE-TO-FACE GROUP MEETINGS

FOR MEN TO TALK POTTON

FOR MEN TO TALK GAMLINGAY

A chance for men suffering with anxiety, depression & grief to talk with other fellow sufferers

Rising Sun

It's ok for men to have a mental health illness it's that BLACK & WHITE

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www.formentotalk.co.uk



What's on at the Eco Hub: Events in December

Mondays

Zumba Gold

10.00am to 10.45am

Kingfisher Disability Group

10.00am to 3.00pm

Fitness Pilates

11.00am to 11.45am

Movement for Memory

1.00pm to 2.30pm

Street Dance & Freestyle Disco

5.00pm to 6.50pm *(term time only)*

Rainbow Guides

6.00pm to 7.00pm *(term time only)*

Tuesdays

Mat Pilates

10.00am to 10.55am

Chair Pilates

11.05am to 12.00noon

Active Ageing Pilates

12.05pm to 1.00pm

Carpet Bowls

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Yoga

7.15pm to 8.15pm

Wednesdays

Fitness to Prevent Injury

9.30am to 10.30am

Kingfisher Disability Group

10.00am to 3.00pm

Love Art Community Art Group

10.30am to 12.30pm

Puppy Training

6.00pm to 8.30pm

Thursdays

Tai Chi

9.30am to 10.30am

Cha Char Chimps Children's

Fun Session

10.00am to 11.00am

Crafty Ladies Craft Group

(Gentlemen welcome too!)

10.00am to 12.00noon

Cha Char Baby Chimps Session

(For newborns and non-walking babies)

11.30am to 12.15pm

New Age Kurling

2.00pm to 3.00pm

Alice Lucas School of Dance

4.30pm to 7.45pm *(term time only)*

Mindful Moments

– mindfulness and wellbeing

7.30pm to 8.30pm

Fridays

Kingfisher Disability Group

10.00am to 3.00pm

Connect Café Community

Coffee Morning

10.30am to 12.30pm

Saturdays

Irish Dancing

9.00am to 10.00am

Sundays

Little Ruggers

8.00am to 12.15pm *(term time only)*

Fortnightly/monthly events

For Men to Talk

First Tuesday of the month

6.00pm to 8.00pm

Memory Lane Group

For people living with dementia and memory loss and their companions.

Third Tuesday of the month due to Christmas – 17 December

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Library Lego Club

First and third Saturdays of the month, 10.00am to 12.00noon

One-off events in December

Blood Donation

Blood donation Fridays 6, 13, 20 and 27 – booking required

1.00pm to 7.00pm

NCT

Saturday 7 December

from 10.00am

Wednesday 11 December

from 7.30pm

New Moon Meditation

Friday 13 December

7.00pm to 8.00pm

Sound Bath

Friday 20 December

7.30pm to 8.30pm

Theatre of Widdershins

Sunday 29 December

11.00am

Christmas Closure

The Eco hub will be closed between Christmas and the New Year.

News from the Gamlingay Community Managed Library

Christmas children's crafts and stories

Join us at the library on Wednesday 18 December and Monday 23 December for a special Christmas craft and story time session. Free, all welcome. 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Christmas closing

The library will be closing for Christmas at 4.00pm on Monday 23 December and will reopen at 10.00am on Tuesday 2 January, so make sure you allow time to stock upon your Christmas reading!

Green libraries week

Thank you to everyone who got involved with green libraries week and shared their ideas for green initiatives that they would like to see in the area.

All the suggestions have been passed to Climate Action Gamlingay for their consideration.

Opening Hours

Mondays: 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Wednesdays: 2.00pm to 4.00pm and 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Thursdays: 10.00am to 12.00noon

Fridays: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Saturdays, 10.00am to 12.00noon

Contact:

Telephone: 01767 651 226

Email:

gamlingaylap@yahoo.com

Facebook: [@GamlingayLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/GamlingayLibrary)



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News from the Churches

Gamlingay Baptist Church

Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, Sandy SG19 3JR

Lead Pastor: Reverend Adrian Semerene adrian@gbchurch.org.uk 07472 350 860

Church Secretary: Mike Roberts on 651 179 Church Office: 651 519

Message for December

“The kingdom of God is an upside-down kingdom. It beckons us to gamble all, to trust radically, to come and die so that we might live - to give our lives away. Giving life away is a paradox. It’s losing so we can win. It’s giving so we can receive. It’s risking for security. It’s faith. The kingdom of God means living that tension.”

Ken Wytsma

While the shops around us may have had Christmas decorations and chocolates, and even decorations up for some time now, for most of us, December brings with it the start of the season. In our house, this means the annual debate as to *when* to put up the Christmas tree and decorations. I am of the belief that the sooner they are up, the better. My wife, on the other hand, thinks they should go up as close to Christmas day as possible. As you can imagine, we land somewhere in the middle.

What does the start of this season bring for you? Is it a season of joy, love and laughter? Or is it actually a season of pain, stress and worry? Perhaps, it’s a mix of it all.

Truth is, as Christians, this is an amazing season for us, if we are able to truly celebrate the *real* meaning of the season.

You see, for Christians it isn’t (or should not be) about the trees, or decorations, or food or songs (though *all* these things are fantastic, and we encourage all of them). This season is about more than that.

This season is about God deciding to flip the world upside down... This season is about God showing the world that the way He does things is upside down to what the world is used to. I mean, Jesus, believed by Christians to be the King above all Kings; believed to be Lord and Saviour; believed to be the most powerful leader there has *ever* been and ever will be, enters this earth as a baby born to poor, non-powerful, non-important, pretty ‘basic’ people.

As this baby grows, he becomes a carpenter, and later the teacher and leader we know and read about today. But he wasn’t just any leader, he was teaching and leading in a manner that was contrary to popular beliefs... contrary to that which the world and other faiths taught. You see, Jesus, this leader, was teaching that power, importance and purpose don’t come from money, or rulership over a physical kingdom, rather from humility, meekness, and a realisation of our own weaknesses. Jesus taught that it was more important to love not only those we get along with, but to love our enemies as well. Jesus taught that wealth wasn’t just about what was in the bank, but rather about our treasures in heaven... And this upside down kingdom all started, with that birth of Jesus, that we celebrate at this time.

Now I know for many of us this season is just an excuse to eat beyond our capacity, give and receive lots of gifts and take some time off work. However I would really encourage you to explore what billions of us worldwide are celebrating at this time. I reckon there’s something really special about this upside down kingdom, that you may even find surprises you. Perhaps this season you can come hang out at one of our many services, enjoy some Christmassy treats, but also explore some of what we hold so dear. Maybe it’s worth exploration? Maybe it’s not? Only one way to find out really...

Oh, while I’ve got you... I’d love to invite you, or those you know, who may not have anyone to spend Christmas Day with, for our free Christmas Day Meal, with Turkey, and all the delicious sides and fixings. It will be at the Eco Hub, with games and entertainment as well. Just get in touch, and we’ll book you on (we need to ensure we get numbers for catering). Get in touch if you have any questions.

Fancy catching up and chatting about the upside down nature of God’s Kingdom, or anything else for that matter? Why not get in touch, or come meet up at The Backroom Cafe, or perhaps one of the many events coming up at GBC?

Many blessings,

Rev Adrian Semerene

Lead Pastor, Gamlingay Baptist Church
adrian@gbchurch.org.uk / 07472 350860
X (formerly Twitter): [@asemerene](https://twitter.com/asemerene)
Instagram: [@asemerene](https://www.instagram.com/asemerene)



On behalf of all our wonderful volunteers, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and fun filled 2025.

We are extremely grateful for your support throughout 2024 and hope that it will continue in 2025. Thank you!

And don’t forget
‘Can U 2 can?’

GBC Diary December

Sunday services

Hymnal praise at 9.30am

Worship service at 10.45am

Communion will be held on
8 December and 5 January

Services are live-streamed on
www.gbchurch.org.uk/latest-talks

GBC kids and youth groups

Meet every Sunday (except for the
third Sunday) at 10.45am for age-
appropriate activities.

Third Sundays

15 December:

The Backroom Café –

Christmas will open 10.00am
to 4.00pm. Check weekly news,
website or contact office for timings
and details.

Christmas dates

15 December 6.00pm:

Traditional Carols by Candlelight at
St. Mary's

22 December 4.00pm:

Contemporary Carols by Candlelight
at GBC

25 December 10.00am:

Christmas Morning Service

25 December 12.00noon:

Christmas Meal at Eco Hub

Small groups

For more details, get in touch with
office@gbchurch.org.uk.

The Backroom Café

Opens every Monday from
9.30am to 3.00pm.

Meet friends, have a chat with good
coffee and cake.

Ladies' prayer and study

Every second and fourth Saturday
mornings: 7 and 21 December and
11 and 25 January: 10.00am to
12.00noon.

Men's breakfast and FirePit Fridays

Contact mens@gbchurch.org.uk
for more information.

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

Facebook.com/
GamlingayBaptistChurch
Instagram: @gb_church
X (Twitter): @gb_church

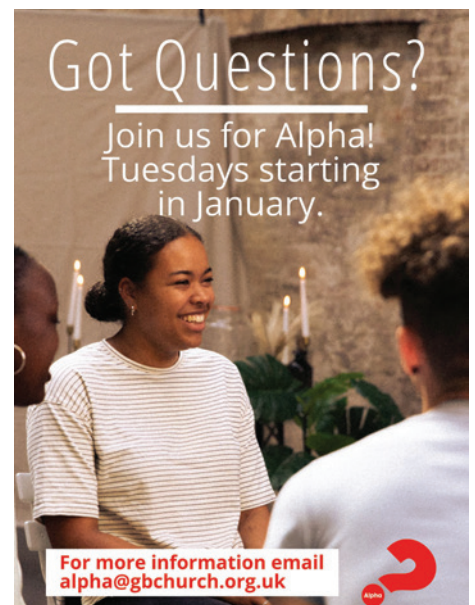


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News from the Churches

Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Rector: Hilary Young

Rectory, 3a Stocks Lane

650 587

Churchwarden: Ann Davis

33 School Close, Gamlingay

07970 076 972

Parish Administrator:

gamlingaychurch@outlook.com

St. Mary's Letter for December

Dear Friends,

I was about to say 'as we move on from remembering' thinking we are now past the November remembrance season and entering Advent, looking forward to Christmas. But it then struck me that this is really another time of 'remembering who we are'.

For Christians this is when we engage with our origin stories in relation to who we are, where we have come from, where we are now and what we look forward to. Advent (arriving) is not just about *this* Christmas, nor is it only about remembering the first Christmas, but it involves a reminder of a 'second coming' – about which ask me if you are interested!

In Advent Christians are encouraged to prepare, not just getting ready for this year's present-giving and feasting, but to prepare hearts. Advent themes are hope, peace, joy and love, for many Anglicans that will be explored

through stories of Patriarchs, Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary. These take us through the Bible in telling of human understanding of God's interaction with people. For Christians these stories, whether we engage with them literally or existentially, represent Truth. The stories culminate in narratives of a birth which we share in our Nativity plays.

We are all invited to this birthday party, with the opportunity to receive into ourselves a new God-inhabited life. Even for those who know themselves 'born again' Christians of long-standing, this annual remembering is a special time. We may not need to be born again, that's not something that happens more than once, but we do need to continue to grow up, even to reclaim what we may have put down and rejected.

This continues to be true even when we are past the time when our bodies

can possibly be growing any better physically, and indeed it still remains true when our minds are failing too. This is a spiritual gift and we do ourselves the biggest favour when we bother to receive and open it, and be alongside others doing the same.

I was recently challenged with 'that's not very Christian is it?' when I expressed the hope that wrong-doers were stopped from their wrong-doing and removed from where they could do harm. Not that I was advocating death or violence, I hasten to add! I responded that looking for justice to be given to victims of the perpetrators of wrong, and that others be protected from further harm is profoundly Christian.

This passing remark led me to wonder the degree to which even Christians ever think about what it *actually means* to be a Christian. It is not about paying lip-service to a set of beliefs, nor about being 'nice' and staying out of trouble. Rather it is about trusting, hoping and acting for the good of humanity, in the confidence of a Divinity that is the source of all that is, and who interacts with humanity very specifically through the person of Jesus. Christmas is not really the beginning of the story, but it is the beginning of a new chapter of THE story.

This year our village churches are following Advent themes with Angels – anyone can join in, there will be angels for our windows throughout December, different ones with different stories for each week will be provided or make your own. Ask in church or watch the church social media presence for how to join in.

May this Christmas be life-giving and full of love joy peace and hope for all of us.

*Every blessing,
Hilary*

A candle lit

New Year celebration charity concert

3.00 pm, Sunday, 5th January

St Mary's church, Gamlingay

*Wonderful music to enliven the duller of
January afternoons in the beautiful
atmosphere and acoustics of St Mary's.*

Adults £10.00, children £5.00,
including refreshments

Tickets from St Mary's church and the Eco Hub.

Services for December

Sunday 1 December: Advent 1

9.30am: Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

11.15am: Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

4.00pm: Benefice Advent Carol Service at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

Sunday 8 December: Advent 2

9.30am: Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

11.15am: Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

Sunday 15 December: Advent 3

9.30am: Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay with a focus on healing

11.15am: Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, Everton

6.00pm: Gamlingay Traditional Carol Service with GBC at St. Mary's

Wednesday 18 December

7.00pm: Carol Service at Hatley St. George

Sunday 22 December: Advent 4

9.30am: Benefice Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

11.15am: Pop-Up Nativity service at Hatley St. George

4.00pm: Benefice Carol Service at St. Mary's, Everton

Tuesday 24 December: Christmas Eve

3.30pm: Christingle Service at St. Mary's, Everton

4.30pm: Christingle Service at St. Mary's, Gamlingay preceded by Nativity Walk from The Jannah (meet at 4.00pm)

11.30pm: First Communion of Christmas (midnight Mass) Gamlingay St Mary's

Wednesday 25 December: Christmas Day

8.30am: Christmas Day said Eucharist TBC

10.00am: Christmas Day Family Eucharist at St. Mary's, Gamlingay

10.00am: Christmas Day lessons and carols St. Mary's, Everton

St Mary's Church Gamlingay & Gamlingay Baptist Church proudly present

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Saturday 7th December

12 noon to 4.30 pm

St Mary's, Gamlingay

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- Santa's Grotto
- Refreshments
- Dance performance by Alice Lucas School of Dance
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Photos of the month

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Photos by Anthony Richard Hurst.

A sight few of us expect to see again – Church Street with an (almost) perfect surface and (almost) devoid of cars. The work was carried out very effectively and to general approval, as expressed by this note received by the *Gazette*:

“What a super job the workmen made in resurfacing Church Street! One evening I had to ask the men about getting out of my drive while they were working. They were most polite and very helpful. What a good bunch – and they finished early!”

Mick Giles



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

December update



Hazel catkins (the male flowers which are dangly and green when closed and yellow when open) can open in early January. Picture courtesy of Rebecca Neal.

Our planned large-scale management for Gamlingay, and Waresley and Gransden Woods Nature Reserve, continued this autumn. Thank you for your patience whilst we closed the woods to enable contractors to work safely and efficiently. The window in which management with large machinery is possible is narrowing with climate change, because of the extended bird-breeding season, and warmer wetter winters, so it is important that contractors can work without interruption. Warmer, wetter winters also make it more likely that sites will be closed in late winter, so please keep an eye on our website and follow signage on site. As a reminder: autumn closures are usually for safety reasons, and winter/spring closures to protect paths and sensitive wildlife on the edges of them.

In Waresley and Gransden Woods we have recently completed more restoration work on the main ride (wide path), including reducing soil compaction and re-profiling to enable it to cope with water more efficiently (as we did on a previous section a couple of years ago). The newly re-profiled section will be closed for around two years to enable the vegetation to recover and the path to be more resilient. A side path is also closed, but most likely for less time. Thank you for following our signage, and being a good example to others. Winter wildlife: did you know...

- Holly has male and female plants. It is only the female plant that has the red berries.
- Male and female robins hold a territory over winter. If you hear a tuneful bird song in winter, it is likely to be a robin.
- Hazel catkins (the male flowers which are dangly and green when closed and yellow when open) can open in early January but they will have been visible on the tree since autumn. The female flowers are small and red.

Further information:

- Path and site closures: www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates
- cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org
- @wildlifebcn
- www.wildlifebcn.org

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats for wildlife and people. We do this by working in partnership to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and through community work, helping people enjoy, understand, and take action for wildlife.

The West Cambridgeshire Hundreds are a group of nature reserves owned and/or managed by the Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants: Hardwick, Gamlingay, Hayley, and Waresley and Gransden Woods, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.

Who owns the log field?

Those who missed the post on Facebook may be interested to read the following, from the Parish Council



Photo: Leanne Bacon

Did you know that the Parish Council rents and maintains the log field (off Green Acres) from Merton College Oxford, for residents to use?

Originally, the Green Acres Residents Association (GARA) paid the rental and maintenance on the field, with the Parish Council contributing half towards the rental.

From 2010, at the request of GARA, the Parish Council took over the rental and maintenance. The Parish Council has recently agreed to a rent increase, judging that this area of open space is still a very valuable resource for Gamlingay residents and worth the annual rental of £520 and maintenance costs. It is leased until 2026, when this will be reviewed again.

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50 Years Living with Type 1 Diabetes

I felt surprisingly emotional when I opened my post a couple of days ahead of my 50-year anniversary of living with diabetes. In it was a medal recognising this achievement. I was 13 years old when diagnosed, very much a little girl, although after three weeks on Ward 10A at Lister Hospital, I was discharged having grown up enormously and taking on the responsibility of having to live with this condition for the rest of my life. I came home with vials of insulin, a glass syringe, a needle, which resembled a darning needle both thick and blunt, industrial spirit, cotton wool and a urine testing kit. I also had a diet sheet prescribing 230 grams of carbohydrate daily. I had been told of horror stories of diabetics needing amputations, going blind and suffering kidney failure. My only hope of not suffering this fate was to control my diabetes well and this became my mission. No one said it would be easy, and it hasn't been. Some days more challenging than others but all challenging and never with a day off!

As I look back, I am proud of what I have achieved. I did well at school, catching up with all the lessons I'd missed, and trained to be a medical secretary.



I got married at 20 and clearly remember trying to wee into a tiny test tube in order to check for sugar in my urine prior to the ceremony, whilst fully dressed in my wedding dress. I've two successful pregnancies and normal deliveries – something I was told would not be possible as I was “diabetic and they always have large babies”. With very tight blood sugar control, Tim was born at 7lb 12oz exactly the national average weight for a boy at the time. Robert was born seven weeks premature but that wasn't necessarily related to my diabetes.

Being active has always been a very important part of my control. I have swam the swimathon (five km) three

times and continue swimming 50 x 25 metres weekly, cycle regularly, play badminton weekly, walk and do Pilates twice weekly. Calculating how much insulin and how much carbohydrate I need daily varies due to intensity of the activity. Unfortunately, diabetes is not an exact science, and our bodies behave differently hour to hour. I never go anywhere without my glucose tablets and behave like I'm drunk when my blood sugar levels drop too low, lacking co-ordination and making even less sense than normal, but I soon recover and carry on.

Technology has moved on since those early days. I now have injection pens with short, sharp disposable needles and continuous blood glucose monitoring via a sensor on my arm connected to my mobile and no longer need to do urine testing.

If you are unfortunate enough to be diagnosed as diabetic, the best advice I can give you is DON'T DENY IT. Control your levels to stay fit and well. A happy healthy life is much better than one with untold damage from a disease that you believed wasn't serious enough to bother. It can be done.



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Tel: **01767 654866**

Email: **PottonView@blackswan.co.uk**

Web: **www.blackswan.co.uk**

Repair Cafe – The Return

by Emma Leaf-Grimshaw | Photos by Molly and Emma Leaf-Grimshaw

The Repair Cafe returned to the Eco Hub again this November and we are so thankful to the residents of Gamlingay who showed up with their items for repair. This time we saved 76kg of waste and prevented 649kg of CO₂ emissions. This is an improvement on April's cafe and significant savings for our community. Have a look at our Restarters page for more details and information about how this is calculated. <https://restarters.net/party/view/11127>

We had a fantastic 76% repair rate at Gamlingay with the average of the Cambridgeshire network being 64%. Only two items were deemed as being unfixable and should go to be recycled. Six other items needed spare parts and were given advice for future repair. Overall a grand 26 items were fixed and saved from going to waste. All fixed for free by volunteers; although we are grateful to those able to make donations which means we can run the cafe again.

The cafe could not run without the amazing people from the Cambridge Carbon Footprint Repair Network, who volunteer their time and skills to try and mend all sorts of things. We had the sought-after skills of Chris, Shenhui, Jeffrey and Keith looking at electrical



and electronics including lawn mower repairs and record player revivals. A highlight of the cafe was Chris carefully gluing back together a well-loved family heirloom.

Halina spent most of the afternoon rethreading beads and pearls and fixing clasps on treasured necklaces. Matt looked at more mechanical things including bringing two bikes back to life and an ironing board. John was there

to safety check all the electrical items with the PAT testing machine. Lyn once again beautifully mended some textile items and our own Reverend Hilary Young volunteered for the first time and expertly mended textiles and even darned a cardigan. We are so grateful to all these repairers and hope they felt well looked after with a good supply of brews and biscuits!

Once again our young people worked hard to support Patty and Peter in the cafe delivering drinks, cakes and biscuits of which the homemade raspberry buns were a well-liked treat thanks to Hannah Leete. Huge thanks to Nicola, Hannah, Livvy, Molly, Immy, Reuben, Connor, Owen, Mark, Kate and Kirstin for all their volunteering help.

We'll be doing this all again on Saturday 10 May from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. So please note the date and put aside anything you'd like repairing or come and join us at our friendly cafe. Booking details will be available in the new year.

If you'd like to volunteer as a repairer or with the welcome and cafe crew please do get in touch at: gamlingayrepaircafe@gmail.com or pop into the Eco Hub and leave your details with Kate.



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Historyman

by Nick Bruce

The craftspeople of Gamlingay

This month we look at the pupils at the County Primary School in Green End as they were getting ready for the big outside world of work by doing practical work in their school week.

Many worked as part of the lessons, from sewing and needlework to gardening and building and thatching. They weren't paid but enjoyed the work and were proud of their achievements; some of them were to carry forward the skills they learnt into a career.

These practical classes and experience started to take off in the time of Tom and Doris Robinson as Heads of the school and they both got actively involved in the work.



Pic 1: Mrs Robinson with the sewing class in 1946. They are making PE shorts with black out material left over from the second world war. The girls are, *back l to r* : Vicky Croot, Rosemary Cross, Mrs Robinson, ?, ?; *front l to r* : Marie Almond, Margaret Careless. Mrs Robinson designed the classes, bringing in materials that cost nothing and taught the pupils the skill of sewing by machine and by hand to put them ahead in life after school.



Pic 2: First School pupils building a minibus garage. Peter Moss, Paul Prentice, Rodney Nudds, John Housden and Fred Hill. The pupils made the shed for the school's mini bus on the top field, with Mr Freeman the woodwork teacher taking charge. It showed what skills the pupils had learnt in class and gave something extra for the school to benefit from for years to come.



Pic 3: These pupils built a paddling pool, sand pit and thatched shelter to sit in when the sun was too hot. Here we see sixth formers Len Jarvis and Jim Staughton laying concrete for the bottom of the paddling pool while being watched closely by younger pupils in 1952-53. Len was to become a Master Builder with his own business specialising in renovating old properties.



Pic 4: This is the thatched shelter built in the play corner by the pupils. Robin Harris is seen on the roof doing the thatching helped by other pupils 1952-53. Robin later went into business and worked on projects with Len Jarvis and Len's son Simon.



Pic 5: Pupils at the First School used to have a small patch of garden on the then triangular piece of grass on the verge on the junction of Waresley Road and Cinques Road. Here Mr Dalley and the schoolboys dig the plot ready for planting. 1931.



Pic 6: Building an ornamental bridge in the First School garden c1957 with Len Jarvis on the left, learning what was to become his trade for the rest of his working life.

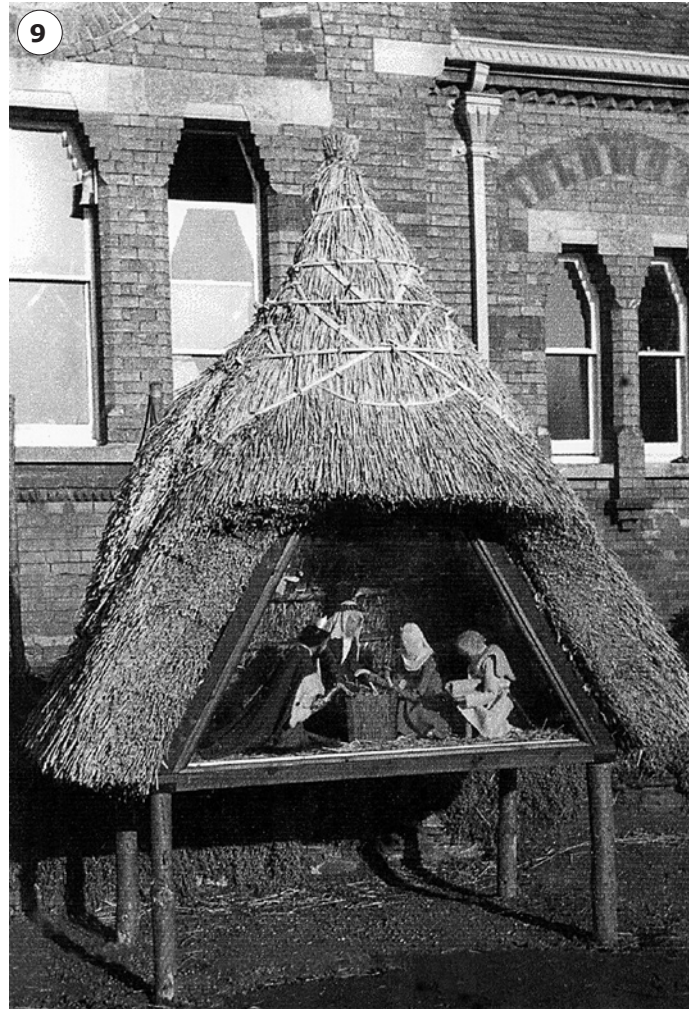
The school garden had many ornamental features including the bridge and a water feature and it had a mixture of flowers and vegetables in it. One pupil, my dad's brother John (Cos) Gilbert, got his nickname from growing loads of Cos Lettuce.



Pic 7: First School Cookery Class 1947. *L to r:* Kathy Knibbs, Marie Almond, Josie Croot, Daphne Cook, Rosemary Cross, Betty Fuller, Marion Gurney, Marie Albone, Barbara Crane. The pupils would learn the crafts of good cooking both savoury and sweet food, for a full menu, it was then either taken home or served in the dinner hall.



Pic 8: With school games days came many types of races and one of the favourites was the obstacle race, not only for the races but the fun of designing and building the courses which just had to include a water jump of some sorts. One of the best things apart from the race was the building and testing. Here we see the fun of the day's racing itself. c1960. This activity helped the pupils think and design for themselves.



Pic 9: This Christmas Nativity feature would stand out the front of the school and it was lit up leading up to and until the fifth night. It was designed, built and thatched by pupil Robin Harris..



Pic 10: A key element of the first school and later the village college was the full and varied evening classes that started initially with maths, English, woodwork and the basic subjects. At the college there were many more subjects with evening classes every evening and archery on a Sunday morning. Before the classes started in September an enrolment evening took place with first come first served and many classes were full within an hour of the doors opening.

One popular evening class was motor mechanics taken by my uncle John (Cos) Gilbert. He would take class members through the basics of car repairs including services and breakdowns using this chassis, engine, gearbox and axles, shown here on enrolment night c1970.

*For more on the Historyman or any of my published books
either phone 07925 119 346
or email on nb777@btinternet.com*

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GAMLINGAY PLAYERS

...WHO ARE THEY AND WHO WILL THEY BE?

Amy Lovat – Chair person



I have been an adult member for 17 years and before that as a child. Two years ago I was proud to be elected Chair person. I am so pleased to introduce some of the Gamlingay Players cast for our next production of the Vicar of Dibley. We look forward to seeing you in the audience for the 31 January and 1 February performances at the Eco Hub.

Craig Smoothy – Hugo Horton



Craig works as a finance automation analyst and lives in St Neots. He has been with the Players for about ten years. He remembers during his first job at Tesco having served Peter Andre. He plays the role of David Horton's sweet-natured, friendly yet dim-witted and childlike son Hugo. However, he eventually captures the heart of Alice Tinker.

Chris Martin – Director



Chris again turns his hand to directing for the Players. He is a retired carpet fitter who has lived in Gamlingay for 22 years. He remembers spending an hour lazing on a beach talking to the original Milky Bar Kid...some say that is why he is big and strong. Hopefully, in the director role there will be no more stage furniture broken.

Fred Hammett – Jim Trott



Fred has been with the Players too long to remember. He once sailed from Burnham on Crouch to Calais in a 32-foot sailing boat. It took 12 hours, two of which he sailed on his own due to crew members suffering with seasickness. On arrival he stepped off the boat and fell into the harbour. Takes on the role of the No, No, No, No, Yes flirt.

Rebecca Keeves – Geraldine Granger



Rebecca lives in the Midlands (that's dedication for you!) and first performed with the Players when she was five. Rebecca was a regular with the Players until she went to Uni at 18. She came back "full time" a few years ago and says it feels like she has never been away. She takes on the role of the jolly, down-to-earth female vicar of Dibley.

Colin Carroll – Frank Pickle



Colin has been in the Players since 1998 and is now retired after working for many years in the electronics and IT business sector, covering thousands of miles giving technical support to his customers. He is playing the pernicky clerk on Dibley Parish Council. He maintains he is not boring he just wants to get things right...

Bryony Mountfort – Alice Tinker (Horton)



Bryony lives in St. Neots and works as a Communications Officer. She is a fanatical aerial and circus arts enthusiast. This performance comes in her tenth anniversary of acting with the Players. Taking on the role of a "blonde scatter-brain" should be lots of fun for her, the cast and the audience, if somewhat confusing for all at times.

Graham Virgo – Owen Newitt



Graham lives/works in Cambridge and has been a Player for 25 years. He lived in Gamlingay when his wife was curate, then rector. He's married cast members, been a murderer, a victim, cross-dresser, bigamist and Greek waiter. Now a farmer with chronic stomach/bowel issues will be added to the list! He is also known for his range of accents.

Ian Parker – David Horton



Ian is an accountant and has lived in Gamlingay and been a member of the Players for 25 years. In one of his first roles in 2001, playing a lecherous salesman, he fell in love with the play's director, Hayley, marrying her two years later! He is happy in the role of the pompous chairman of the parish council, gentleman farmer and pillar of the community?

Melanie Dummer – Letitia Cropley



Melanie has lived in Gamlingay for 16 years with her family and decided she was ready for a challenge by joining the Players. She has travelled the world as a professional dancer, kept Herts safe as a Police Sergeant, and patrols the school playground as an HLTA! She takes on the role of "The Dibley Poisoner" church organist with recipes to avoid.

Gamlingay ... a personal perspective

One of a series of features giving villagers of all ages a chance to share their views and experiences of Gamlingay

Name: Nicola Smith

Age: 48

Tell us a bit about yourself...

I have lived in the village for almost ten years. I grew up in Borehamwood and later moved to Stotfold with my now husband. We wanted to move but did not really know where. At the time I worked for John Lewis as a Deputy Branch Manager at the Brent Cross store so all I knew was that I did not want to move further up the A1!

My husband saw the house we are now living in online but I had never heard of Gamlingay and was a bit reluctant to move even that little bit further from work. However, we went to look at the house and I fell in love with it and really liked the look of the village. We visited the local pub, The Cock Inn, to discuss it and chatted to people in there and felt a real sense of community. And the rest is history!

I left John Lewis after 28 years' service and now run my own business called S.H.O.T's (my son's initials backwards plus shots is what we fire from the laser!). It is based in the Market Square, Potton where I offer beauty treatments such as laser hair and tattoo removal, facials, micro needling and more.

During this period of building the business I also work part-time at the Wheatsheaf pub and Cambridgeshire Lakes.

I have a son, who is seven, and attends the local school, a husband, Mark, who works for John Lewis (bet you can't guess where we met!?) and a dog called Boris.

Working three jobs takes up a



Nicola Smith

lot of my time but I do try and get involved in community activities where I can. For example, my son attends Beavers and I will help out at fetes, sell raffle tickets, or marshal for parades. I offered to help with organising the Christmas lights however they were already so well organised there was little for me to do!

If I am not working we always attend the firework displays and attend most local fetes or events to try and support, plus my son loves them.

What do you like about Gamlingay?

For me the best thing about living in Gamlingay is the friends I have made. The majority of people are friendly, welcoming and helpful. But I have also formed some amazing friendships. I have a circle of friends and we will all do whatever we can to help or support each other. Friends are also Godparents to my son.

I would also like to add that I

have recently got back into running and what I really enjoy is all the hellos and words of encouragement I get when pounding the streets.

It is fantastic that our little village has its own gym but the opening hours are restrictive for me, so something I'd really like to see is a fully equipped gym that has early morning and evening opening.

Is there anything you would change about the village?

There is very little that I can complain about living in the village. I have no desire to move closer to London (already moved further away) but if I did have a magic wand it would probably be used to improve the flow of traffic in Church Street. That said, I have no idea how it could be done!

Gamlingay has everything we need: Co-op, Premier, pharmacy, doctors surgery, pubs, hair and beauty shops, school, gym plus more and is close to the A1. I've very much enjoyed my time living here and have no intention of moving away.

I really love and appreciate this village. It may not always be perfect but for me it's pretty close.

What is your favourite place in Gamlingay, and why?

As you may have noticed I have a great deal of affection for Gamlingay so I tend to think of it in its entirety. Although a relatively small community, no matter what my mood, personal needs or even the weather there is somewhere, someone or something that will enhance my wellbeing. That is so precious for me.

If you'd like to be featured in a future issue, please email editor@gamlingaygazette.uk. You can be interviewed in person, by phone, or send your thoughts by email in your own time.



The countryside charity
Cambridgeshire
and Peterborough

Not a good call: BT's move to digital voice technology and the effect on rural dwellers

For some time we've been concerned regarding the move by BT and other providers to replace the old copper wire telephone system with digital voice technology (also known as Voice over Internet Protocol – VoIP).

BT originally hoped for this work to be completed by December 2025. However, national concern and campaigning, particularly regarding the impact this would have on the elderly and vulnerable, has seen this deadline moved to end-January 2027.

We've become aware of other issues that may seriously and negatively affect rural dwellers and rurally-located businesses. Our concerns include:

- **Mobile phone signal:** There will be an impact on those living in rural areas where there is no or variable mobile signal, and those who do not use computers. This is likely to have a particular impact on the elderly, as around 95% of those over 65 still have a landline in their home and may not necessarily have a broadband connection.
- **Telecare devices and alarms:** The switch to digital landlines will affect telecare devices and other equipment in the home and work-place. It was understood that BT would adapt their Redcare alarm service to operate across digital landlines. BT have now made the decision to withdraw their Redcare alarm signalling services from the market completely by 1 August 2025. Consequently, anyone with monitored electronic systems that

use BT Redcare or any other landline signalling will need to make alternative arrangements before the cut-off date. The onus is on the telecare/alarm user to contact their device supplier and telephone provider to check if it will work with the new system or if upgrades are needed.

- **Broadband servers:** As well as good mobile phone signal, digital voice technology is reliant on stable and secure broadband provider servers. What happens if servers go down – possibly for days – which happened recently to at least one server run by an ISP removing broadband from some of their customers right across the country including some in Cambridgeshire?
- **Power cuts:** A digital phone will only work in a power cut if it has a battery back-up, because it uses home electricity. Providers are advising people to use mobile phones as a backup. For those dependent on a landline phone, providers should offer a free of charge “resilience solution. This could be a mobile phone (assuming you have a signal!) or a battery-backup unit that connects to your landline phone and provides power in case of a power cut – these batteries will run out in the event of a prolonged power cut.
- **Batteries:** More re-chargeable batteries, means increased risk of fire and explosion from them, as has happened with battery-powered e-bikes and scooters.*

Winter Fuel Payment, the cost of living and rural communities

CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough recognises that our rural communities are facing a disproportionate impact from the wider economic crisis. We have expanded the Cost of Living support page on our website to include additional resources which may be of interest to those affected by the loss of the Winter Fuel Payment.

*From London Fire Brigade:

Are batteries dangerous?

When used properly, no. But batteries can present a fire risk when over-charged, short-circuited, submerged in water or if they are damaged. It's really important to charge them safely too.



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Silver Voices (<https://silervoices.co.uk>) campaigned for the current deadline of December 2025 to be extended and enhanced protections to be developed and introduced; we support their campaign.

Age UK has more detailed information about the changes – see: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/consumer-issues/changes-to-landline-telephones/>.

For more information about CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough visit www.cprecams.org.uk.

Councillors' Column

Keeping us up-to-date on South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) matters.

Your councillors are always ready to help.

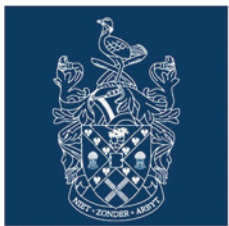
If you have any questions about the following matters or, indeed, any other council matter that you may need help with, then please do not hesitate in contacting: Bridget Smith, your District Councillor at Cllr.Bridget.Smith@scamb.gov.uk, and Sebastian Kindersley, your County Councillor, on 01767 651 982, at skindersley@hotmail.com or write to Manor Barn, East Hatley SG19 3JA and follow on X (formerly Twitter) @SebKindersley and on Facebook.



Cambridgeshire
County Council



Councillor
Sebastian Kindersley



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council



Councillor
Bridget Smith

National Highways – call for new applications

Do you have an initiative that could benefit from our legacy funds? All non-for-profit groups or organisations in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire can apply, including but not limited to local schools, charities, community groups and environment groups.

Grants for the Social Value Fund are from £15,000 to £200,000, for smaller scale projects, the Community Fund

offers grants of up to £15,000. We have three more applications windows for the two funds – November 2024 to January 2025, May 2025 to July 2025 and November 2025 to January 2026.

For details on funding criteria and how to apply, visit our Social Value Fund and Community Fund page.

East-West Rail

By the time you read this we will know if the government has included funding for East West Rail in the budget. If it is confirmed as part of the budget it is likely that a non-statutory consultation will launch mid-November. which should tell us a lot about the route it may take.

Recycling cables

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is working with Recycle Your Electricals to encourage Cambridgeshire residents to participate in The Great Cable Challenge – a nationwide campaign aimed at tackling the millions of cables sitting idle across UK households. The initiative is part of this year's International E-Waste Day.

The challenge aims to give a second life to the valuable materials contained in cables, such as copper. Copper can be recycled into new items such as wind turbines and new tech such

as mobile phones, laptops, tablets or smart watches.

With millions of cables cluttering up UK homes, Recycle Your Electricals have published a handy Cable Guide. With 35 of the most used cables, the guide provides easy to use visuals to match cables to their original electricals. If the electricals or the cables are no longer working or they aren't needed any more, simply bag up your cables and recycle them!

South Cambs Connect

Regional businesses, entrepreneurs, community groups and charities are being invited to Cambourne to try a new collaborative working space – free of charge until the new year! SCDC has redesigned its head office ground floor with a vibrant, collaborative workspace for use by business professionals.

Called South Cambs Connect the space has comfortable workstations, high-speed Wi-Fi, meeting pods and bookable meeting rooms which offer a productive spot to work, a meeting venue, and a chance to network with other local professionals. There is plenty of free car parking available including EV charging. For more details email: southcambsconnect@scamb.gov.uk

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Impact assessment supplementary planning document

SCDC will be making decisions soon on whether to adopt planning guidance that embeds Health and Wellbeing into all new developments. New town and new housing developments can, if well designed, really make a positive difference to people's health and wellbeing. Northstowe New Town, for example, includes outdoor fitness equipment, lots of cycle and walk ways and really beautifully designed green and blue spaces.

Climate and environment discussions in schools

Young people were encouraged to find solutions for local climate and environment action when SCDC held a meeting in a school for the first time. Comberton Village College hosted the event with around 40 students taking part in morning workshops on five themes of water resources, circular economy and fast fashion, sustainable food, biodiversity, nature and green spaces, and air quality.

Peer review of South Cambs District Council

A follow-up report by the Local Government Association has praised South Cambridgeshire District Council's 'strong ambition', 'good leadership' and 'innovative approaches' following a recent visit.

The return visit comes after a Corporate Peer Challenge Review by the LGA last year described the Council as being in a positive financial position – with a comprehensive and innovative response to the cost-of-living crisis. Typically, all councils have one of

these reviews every five years and they always contain recommendations to help councils improve.

A total of 12 recommendations were made by the peer team last year. A return visit last month and update report, a usual part of the Corporate Peer Challenge process, shows how ten of those recommendations are completed or well underway and two are progressing.

In Finance, peers had recommended the Council accelerates the closure of its outstanding accounts. Since their visit in late 2023, the draft accounts for each and every year up to 2023/24 have been published – meaning they are as up to date as possible. Meanwhile, a scheme to uncover further savings by close working between members of the Council's Leadership Team and service areas has identified a further £1.5 million to help meet a £3 million savings target over the next five years.

Peers had also suggested the need to better convey a vision for South Cambridgeshire. To address this, the Council is now part-way through a consultation to develop a new Corporate Plan, outlining that vision, priorities, and long-term goals for South Cambridgeshire in the years ahead. The Council's business team have visited local businesses to discuss matters impacting them – obtaining 100 completed surveys that are feeding into the consultation.

Peers have highlighted how communications have improved to parish and town councils following discussions with parish clerks, whilst the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service with Cambridge City Council

hosted an event titled 'Unlocking the Potential of Your Parish'. This was aimed at equipping Parish and Town Clerks with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to navigate planning processes and effectively support their communities. The feedback report also notes that an informal reference group has been established for parishes along the proposed East West Rail route, to ensure their concerns are identified and incorporated into the planning consultation process.

Empty properties

PSCDC will soon agree a new policy on Council Tax Changes for empty properties. This is to encourage owners to get empty homes back into use. Homes empty up to two years will pay 100% Council Tax; empty up to five years results in a 200% levy and up to and over ten years it will be 300%. One year's notice will be given of an increase. SCDC currently has about 300 empty properties; 84 of which have been empty for over ten years.

New Mobile Warden Scheme funding

A total of £345,000 has been pledged to Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire for the next three years to help more elderly people stay living in their own homes for longer. The pledge comes after the District Council partnered with Rose Regeneration to undertake an in-depth review of local schemes to understand more about how much it costs to run them and help them become more sustainable in the future.

The District Council has traditionally had an annual budget of £21,000

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to support schemes but invested around £300,000 to try and increase the coverage of the service in South Cambridgeshire communities by supporting new schemes to develop.

The review is important as it has taken into consideration predicted high growth in over 65-year-olds over the next 20 years and recognises that with age comes increased risk of deteriorating health, loneliness, and feelings of isolation.

Councillors have backed a new three-year funding scheme that starts from April 2025. The funding was approved in the District Council's recent Cabinet meeting.

It ensures funding is in place for existing schemes as well as providing funding for new or expanding schemes so that more residents can be reached. The review and ongoing work has also set out a longer term ten-year plan so schemes will not need to rely so heavily on District Council funding.

Ending period poverty

SCDC is joining the fight to end period poverty by providing free menstrual products for up to 700 residents. Councillors have agreed to champion the cause, to ensure dignity for all, by offering free sanitary products which are also kind to the environment.

A funding pot of £12,000 has been agreed for the year-long innovative project, which will offer residents a choice of one of three period product packs – either washable pads, period pants or reusable period cups. Hey Girls, a UK-wide social enterprise, will be distributing the packs. The scheme will run on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Improving the high street

A new £200,000 grant scheme is available to support projects that boost the heart of communities across South Cambridgeshire. The Improving the High Street Grants of between £5,000 to £20,000 per project are available to rural businesses, community groups and Parish Councils and the scheme aims to improve the look of local high streets, promote rejuvenation, encourage residents to shop locally and attract more local businesses to the area. The grant can cover a wide range of projects such as renovating shop fronts, street art, new benches, hanging baskets, interactive family fun trails, street cleaning, local maps or new signs.

Business support grants

Seven community and business projects are set to share grants of more than £360,000 to help boost rural life in South Cambridgeshire. The projects include creating activity space at a community centre, improved accessibility at an arts centre and refurbishment of local tennis courts. The latest round of grants takes it to a total of 26 projects in the district to receive money from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), aimed at supporting rural communities and businesses in building long-term resilience.

AI to improve planning performance

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, a shared service between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City councils, is pioneering the development of a new AI tool to improve

how public feedback on planning policies is reviewed and analysed. Funded through the Government's PropTech Innovation Fund, this project aims to use AI to transform the way communities engage in the planning system.

Developed in partnership with the University of Liverpool, the AI tool – known as a Large Language Model (LLM) – is being specifically designed to process and summarise the thousands of comments that residents, community groups and other stakeholders submit during consultations.

Old Shire Hall

Taking on board feedback and lessons learned from an earlier bid, an exclusivity period was set for early October. We have been working with the preferred bidder, as we complete our due diligence on their bid. This exclusivity period has now passed. We are aware of the strong continued interest in this prime Cambridge location and we are committed to achieving the best possible outcome for the building, local residents and Cambridgeshire taxpayers. Rather than extend the exclusivity period we have chosen to discuss our next steps with all the previously shortlisted bidders as we look to achieve, what is known as 'best consideration'. We remain optimistic that a sale will be agreed soon.

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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Update from How Are You South Cambs

Find details on a great range of activities and support at haysouthcambs.co.uk – some are listed below but there are plenty more!

Events and feedback

◆ Fitness rush mobile

Enables over 65s to benefit from dedicated one-to-one or group exercise sessions in a state-of-the-art mobile facility visiting South Cambs villages including Comberton, Caldecote and Hardwick.

◆ Walking football

Walking football sessions are available across the county including in Cambourne. Some are run by Pitch Up and are specifically designed for those living with Parkinsons.

◆ Coton Countryside Reserve

Coton Countryside Reserve is a working farm offering beautiful views and a wide range of routes for walkers, cyclists and runners near the village of Coton. A lovely place to walk, play, picnic or enjoy nature.

◆ Wildly Curious

In the lovely rural setting of Manor Farm in Bourn, Wildly Curious offers a wide range of outdoor learning experiences for children, young people and adults.

◆ Open water swimming

A new location added (just outside Gamlingay) if you'd like to try the health enhancing benefits of taking a dip in cold water.

New support:

◆ NHS CPFT – Perinatal Trauma & Loss Service (PTLS)

CPFT's Perinatal Trauma and Loss Service offers assessment, psychological treatment and specialist midwifery support for women and birthing parents experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties after the loss of a baby during pregnancy or the first year of life.

◆ Diversion Support Team

Cambridgeshire County Council's Diversion Support Team supports young people aged 10 to 17 who are having difficulties and have been in contact with the police. They will listen to the young person's needs and work with them to create a positive future by finding positive activities.

◆ PeoplePlus

PeoplePlus is an experienced provider of support and guidance for older people who receive direct payments for their health and care. The Cambridge-based team will offer you a personalised service to ensure you have choice and control to live independently.

News and events

◆ Free period products

South Cambs District Council is funding free environmentally-friendly menstrual products on a first come, first served basis.

◆ Understanding self-harm – training with YMCA Trinity

Funded to deliver until January for organisations – workshops can be arranged at a mutually agreed date and time by contacting mentalhealthtraining@ymcatrinity.org.uk

◆ Pre-loved winter coats at Bar Hill Library

If you are having a clear-out of your winter clothes and have a coat you no longer wear, please consider donating it to Bar Hill Library, where there are free pre-loved coats available for anyone who needs them.

◆ Chatty cafés

Two new venues added in Royston and Bassingbourn to this nationwide scheme to combat social isolation:
Kooky Nohmad, 42 High Street, Royston SG8 9AG: Tables available Mondays from 12.00noon to 1.30pm.
Bassingbourn United Reform Church, 32 South End, Bassingbourn SG8 5NJ: Thursdays 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

◆ Pension credit

Please remind people of State Pension age (66+) who are not receiving certain benefits that they should check their eligibility and apply for Pension Credit, as they could qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment and other support, such as help with housing costs, Council Tax and/or a free TV licence for those aged 75 and over. Claims can be backdated by three months.

More info: <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>

◆ Supporting your anxious child course

A supportive, free online course where parents can come together to learn how to recognise and manage childhood anxiety. No entry requirements are needed. To book, call 01353 613013 or email cambsals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. More family learning courses on the Cambridgeshire Skills course directory.

◆ COPE telephone discussions

COPE is an organisation run by older people for older people. It runs Talking Together telephone-based discussion groups and interactive Zoom events, covering a range of interesting topics – new timetable of topics is out now: <http://www.copecambs.org.uk/>

Funding:

◆ Care Together Seed Funding 2025/26

Cambridgeshire County Council kick starting new initiatives to combat social isolation and loneliness amongst older adults – apply now: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/care-together/grants-and-funding>

Charity Green

*Digital & Community Engagement Coordinator
(South Cambridgeshire)
How Are You Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*



Gamlingay Netball Club

Bedford cup finals results

Gaye Hill Trophy:	Panthers 2 – 6 Cranfield Vikings
Sylvia Eastley Trophy:	Tigers 7 – 1 Grangers Hurricanes
Nancy Morris Trophy:	Jets 4 – 4 Westoning Diamonds
Gary Burgess Trophy:	Storm 3 – 5 Cranfield Ravens

End of season awards

We held our AGM and end of season awards at the Jannah on Thursday 20 June. Thank you to the Jannah for hosting us. Our award winners are as follows:

Players player of the year

Jets Heritage:	Kelly Knibbs
Jets Bedford:	Gemma Lingard & Aislinn George
Storm Heritage:	Jade Gravel
Storm Bedford:	Sarah Bircham & Jenni Stout
Tigers Heritage:	Megan Jones
Tigers Bedford:	Pip Nash
Panthers Heritage:	Rachel Dyke
Panthers Bedford:	Lucy Lingard
Thunder Heritage:	Tiffany Smith
Thunder Bedford:	Abi Cadman-Kerr

Umpires' player of the year

Jets Heritage:	Gemma Lingard
Jets Bedford:	Charlotte Garbutt
Storm Heritage:	Aislinn George
Storm Bedford:	Holly Radford & Laura Saunders
Tigers Heritage:	Holly Radford
Tigers Bedford:	Ashlea Valentine
Panthers Heritage:	Fern Davidson
Panthers Bedford:	Claire Newbold & Koryn Tittley
Thunder Heritage:	Rebecca Ahern
Thunder Bedford:	Blessing Ebisan & Tiffany Smith

Captains' player of the year

Jets Heritage:	Gemma Lingard
Jets Bedford:	Jess Pike
Storm Heritage:	Megan Latschrauner
Storm Bedford:	Nicky McIntyre
Tigers Heritage:	Samantha Dobson
Tigers Bedford:	Megan Jones
Panthers Heritage:	Fern Davidson
Panthers Bedford:	Georgia Blake
Thunder Heritage:	Jemma Rowland
Thunder Bedford:	Blessing Ebisan

Club person – Carly Brown

Season round up

It has been an extremely successful season for the club this year. Jets finished as runners-up in the Premier Division of the Heritage league and runners-up in the Bedford Nancy Morris Trophy.

Storm won the first division in Heritage and will be promoted to Premier for next season. Storm Bedford were runners-up in the Gary Burgess Trophy. Tigers won the Heritage Third Division Cup and League and will be promoted to the Second Division next season. Tigers Bedford won the Sylvia Eastley trophy and the Second Division and will be promoted to First Division next season.

Panthers Bedford were Gaye Hill Trophy runners-up.

We would like to thank all players, umpires, scorers, coaches, committee members and anyone involved in the club in whatever way – we couldn't do it without you!

Winter league 24/25

The winter league kicked off in Bedford in September and the Heritage league in October. Results to date are as follows:

Bedford League:

Week commencing 16 September

Jets 28 – 38 1st Choice
<i>Umpire's player:</i> Charlotte Garbutt <i>Players' player:</i> Aislinn George
Storm 17 – 51 Cranfield
<i>Umpire's player:</i> Claire Renforth
<i>Players' player:</i> Claire Renforth, Claire Newbold & Sarah Bircham

Thunder 22 – 32 Wilstead Warriors

Umpire's player: Helena Hall | *Players' player:* Blessing Ebisan

Panthers 34 – 29 CIS Spirit

Umpire's player: Lucy M-D | *Players' player:* Rachel Dyke & Koryn Tittley

Week commencing 23 September

Tigers 40 – 45 Kestrels

Umpire's player: Ashlea Valentine & Pip Nash | *Players' player:* Ashlea Valentine

Panther 45 – 24 Riverwood Blackjacks

Umpire's player: Ruth Dennison | *Players' player:* Koryn Tittley

Week commencing 30 September

Jets 56 – 50 St Neots Sapphires

Umpire's player: Aislinn George | *Players' player:* Charlotte Garbutt

Storm 24 – 39 Caldecote Coyotes

Umpire's player: Sarah Bircham

Players' player: Claire Newbold, Sarah Bircham & Carly Brown

Tigers 49 – 35 Grangers Hurricanes

Umpire's player: Ashlea Valentine & Holly Radford | *Players' player:* Ashlea Valentine

Thunder 11 – 42 Maulden Kittens

Umpire's player: Ellen Hunt & Blessing Ebisan | *Players' player:* Ellen Hunt

Panthers 45 – 24 Hillson Ladies

Umpire's player: Holly Steward | *Players' player:* Lucy Lingard

Week commencing 7 October

Jets 48 – 32 A line Flyers

Umpire's player: Millie | *Players' player:* Millie

Storm 21 – 28 Grangers Taité

Umpire's player: Laura Saunders | *Players' player:* Sarah Bircham & Laura Saunders

Tigers 33 – 35 BCNC Opals

Umpire's player: Meghan Jones | *Players' player:* Sarah Young

Thunder 14 – 11 Westoning Emeralds

Umpire's player: Abi C-K, Rosie Wilson & Jess Warmonth | *Players' player:* Abi C-K

Week commencing 14 October

Jets 46 – 32 BCNC Onyx

Umpire's player: Charlotte Garbutt | *Players' player:* Kelly Knibbs & Jo Rickard

Storm 28 – 31 Kestrels

Umpire's player: Claire Newbold | *Players' player:* Carly Brown

Tigers 50 – 38 Cranfield Comets

Umpire's & Players' player: Holly Radford

Panthers 22 – 30 Spirit

Umpire's & Players' player: Ruth Dennison

Thunder 17 – 38 GDV Defenders

Umpire's player: Abi C-K & Charlie-Mai Weddell | *Players' player:* Lucy M-D

Heritage League – Cup competition

Played in quarters, 2 points for winning the quarter, 1 point for a draw, 0 for a loss.

Week commencing 7 October

Jets 0 – 8 Astros

Umpire's player: Aoife | *Players' player:* Aoife

Storm 0 – 8 Zebedee

Umpire's player: Emily Hickson | *Players' player:* Ella Moore

Tigers 8 – 0 Baldock

Umpire's player: Ashlea Valentine | *Players' player:* Team

Panthers 7 – 1 Gransden Foxes

Umpire's player: Holly Steward | *Players' player:* Rachel Dyke

Thunder 7 – 1 Letchworth Ladies

Umpire's player: Jemma Rowland | *Players' player:* Sally Fraser & Becky Taylor

Week commencing 14 October

Jets 7 – 1 Onyx

Umpire's player: Nikki Webb | *Players' player:* Kelly Knibbs & Nikki Webb

Storm 7 – 1 Shefford Sirens

Umpire's player: Emily Hickson | *Players' player:* Megan L, Millie & Tiffany Smith

Tigers 8 – 0 Stratton Swifts

Umpire's player: Holly Radford | *Players' player:* Alex Arnold

Panthers 1 – 7 Galaxy Solars Foxes

Umpire's player: Mia Wright | *Players' player:* Fern Davidson

Thunder 8 – 0 Baldock Rays

Umpire's player: Lucy M-D | *Players' player:* Sophie Journe

If you are interested in joining the club, please email gamlingaynetball@gmail.com



Gamlingay United Football Club

Latest results

U7s

- 28/09 vs Haslingfield Blue (away)
Lost 6-1
Goals: Bobby
POM: Carson
- 05/10 Friendly vs Harston (away)
Won 3-11
Goals: Alfred 3, Bobby 3, Teddy 2, Elliot, Harley, Tommy
POM: Elliot
- 12/10 vs Histon (home)
Won 10-5
Goals: Alfred 4, Tommy 3, Bobby Teddy, Zac
POM: Alfred
- 19/10 vs Longstanton Black (home)
Lost 2-5
Goals: Harley, Zac
POM: Zac

After two years of training together, and some friendlies, the newest team kicked off their first league game against the Cambourne team that they had already played in their first friendly some months ago. Despite the defeat, the progress the team has made in a short space of time was clear to see. The team are enjoying the new experience of regular matches.

U8s

- 28/09 vs Cherry Hinton (home)
Won 7-1
Goals: George 3, Elsie 3, Reuben
POM: George
- 12/10 vs Haverhill Rovers (away)
Lost 5-1
Goals: Elsie
POM: Reuben
- 19/10 vs Saffron Walden (away)
Lost 11-1
Goals: Elsie
POM: Evan

U8s started well with two impressive wins but came up short against two strong oppositions on the road.

U9s



- 12/10 Cup vs Cottenham Red (away)
Won 1-5
Goals: Ellis 3, Bobby 2
POM: Ellis
- 19/10 vs Elsenham (home)
Won 4-1
Goals: Bobby 3, Jamie
POM: The whole squad

Four out of four wins for the season so far, with the last win beating a team that hasn't lost for many, many months. The team goes from strength to strength.

U10s

- 05/10 vs Chesterton Blue (away)
Lost 2-1
Goals: Sam
POM: Theo W
- 12/10 Cup vs Priory Park (away)
Lost 5-0
POM: Devan, Ethan (GKs)
- 19/10 vs St Neots Town (away)
Won 0-4
Goals: Sam 2, Oscar, Ezra
POM: Rohan

Playing some lovely football with a real togetherness as a team. Unlucky with a couple of results but won two of the first three league games so all positive

U11s

- 28/09 Cup v Ely (away)
Lost 5-1
Goals: James
POM: Logan
- 05/10 vs Fordham (home)
Won 4-2
Goals: James 3, Max
POM: James
- 19/10 vs Haddenham (away)
Won 2-4
Goals: Isaac 2, Max, OG
POM: Max

U11s bounced back from the cup defeat with two strong performances showing great character, teamwork and skill.

U12s

- 28/09 vs Alconbury (away)
Lost 3-2
Goals: Mason, Aaron
POM: Oliver
- 05/10 vs Chesterton (away)
Lost 4-2
Goals: Ollie G, Tomas
POM: Caspar
- 12/10 vs Great Paxton (away)
Lost 4-0
POM: Oscar
- 19/10 vs Ely (away)
Won 4-5
Goals: Woody 2, Aaron 2, Ollie G
POM: Penalty save from Olly K

The U12s have had an extremely tough start to the season but the boys have never given up. A massive win against an in-form Ely will, hopefully, give them the confidence they need to kick on.

U14s

- 28/09 vs Haverhill Yellow (away)
Won 0-8
Goals: Dean 4, Freddie 2, Ed, Jacob
POM: Jake

- 05/10 vs Isleham Blacks (away)
Lost 4-0
POM: Zach
- 12/10 vs Coton (home)
Drew 3-3
Goals: Ed, Archi, Freddie
POM: Mustafa

A mixed bag of results this month but entertainment for those coming to watch! A tough fixture and 4-0 loss to a team too good for our division followed by a spirited fight back from 2-0 down to get a draw with Coton at home.

U16s

- 12/10 Cup vs Oakington (home)
Won 6-2
Goals: Ollie 3, Alfie, Elliott, Dylan.
Penalty save from Beau
POM: Ollie (3 goals, 2 assists)
- 19/10 vs Eynesbury Rovers (away)
Drew 1-1
Goals: Cooke
POM: Reham

The U16s blew Oakington away with six goals in the opening 25 minutes to go through to the next round of the cup. Gamlingay also ground out a good point away to Eynesbury Rovers to maintain their unbeaten start to the season

Saturday Seniors

- 28/09 vs Foxton Res. (away)
Won 1-3
Goals: Churms 2, Bell-Green
- 05/10 vs Saffron Walden Res. (away)
Lost 4-3
Goals: Kennedy, Butcher, Bilcock
- 12/10 Cup v Foxton Res. (home)
Won 6-4
Goals: Kennedy 2, Barker 2, Bell-Green, Kersey
- 19/10 Saffron Walden Res. (home)
Won 3-1
Goals: Kennedy, Barker, C. Sharp

Despite a poor performance away at Saffron Walden, Gamlingay first team currently sit second in the league and remain in three Cup competitions. With a tough run of away league and cup games coming up, hopefully the goals keep flowing and the wins keep coming.

Saturday Vets

- 29/09 vs Hardwick (away)
Lost 7-1
Goals: Cooper
- 06/10 vs Mildenhall (away)
Drew 1-1
Goals: Worboys
- 20/10 vs Soham (home)
Lost 2-3
Goals: Worboys, Critchley

Some positive performances that haven't given us the results we deserved. It's early in the season but with a consistent squad we are capable of beating anyone in the league.

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Scotch egg

A recipe from Roderick Starksfield



Some years ago, I published a vegetarian Scotch Egg recipe. This is another one – very quick and easy.

These are delicious for a picnic, or a quick lunch. Try them with a dollop of old-fashioned, tart, Salad Cream and a few crunchy salad leaves. I have discovered pre-cooked grains as a very useful ingredient.

The quantities shown are for two eggs, double up the eggs and grains to make more.

Ingredients

- 2 large eggs
- 250gm pre-cooked grains (*I don't like to advertise but Merchant Gourmet do a range*)
- 1 small carrot, finely grated
- 1 teaspoon of curry powder (*optional – spicy heat to suit you!*)
- 1 egg beaten to coat the Scotch eggs
- Spoonful or two of flour – seasoned with salt, paprika and pepper
- Large bag of crisps – flavour to suit your palate

Method

- Put 2 eggs in a pan of cold water and bring to the boil.
- Boil for 12 mins, then cool quickly in cold water.
- Carefully shell.

- Put the cooked grains into a food processor and beat to a paste, leave a little bit of texture, the mixture should hold together when squeezed into a ball, if a bit dry add a drop or two of water.
- Put in a bowl and add the carrot and curry powder.
- Crush the crisps.
- Place in a plastic bag and using a rolling pin, crush the crisps to a crumb.
- Don't use a processor – you will finish up with dust!
- Roll the peeled eggs in a dusting of flour.
- Divide the grain mixture into 2 and place onto two pieces of plastic film, flatten to about 10-12 inches (20cm).
- Place an egg in the center and using the plastic film, wrap the egg completely (try to make sure there are no gaps), discard the film.
- Roll in the flour, then the beaten egg followed by the crushed crisps, repeat for an extra crispy coating.
- The prepared eggs can be made in advance and kept in the fridge for few days.
- Spray the eggs with oil, or drizzle with a thin coating of oil.
- Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5, then bake the eggs on a baking sheet for 15 mins, or until just golden.

Serve with a glass of beer!



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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
0	8	7
	0	
	9	
0	8	
1	2	3

0 2	0 4	0 8
1 4	2 8	3 6
3 7	4 4	4 5
4 8	4 9	5 5
6 6	8 8	

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November Solution

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

James Brickwork and Building

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The Gables
5 Mill Street
Gamlingay
SG19 3JW

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07775 874 642

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I hope you have enjoyed the challenge of solving this Komino puzzle. There are more in my book of 200 Komino Puzzles, which is currently available with 20% off the retail price from my publishers (Troubador) for £8.00 at: troubador.co.uk/bookshop/sport-hobbies/komino-puzzles using discount code **KMNTC1**

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What's On

Send your entries to whatson@gamlingaygazette.uk

Beginners Breeze	Thursday 5 December	Ladies' Cycling. First Thursday of the month at the Eco Hub. Contact gill.kitchener@btinternet.com or 07842 135 732
Bellringers	Thursdays	7.30pm to 9.00pm with John Boocock at St. Mary's, Gamlingay
Bin Collection Days	Thursdays: 5, 19 December 12 December Friday 27 December	Black Blue and Green Blue
Booklinks Book Club	Monday 2 December	First Monday of the month, 7.30pm in the Library at the Eco Hub.
Cock Inn	Monday 9 December	Monthly quiz nights starting at 8.00pm. £2.00 per head for various charities. New teams welcome.
Community Choir	Wednesday 4 December Saturday 21 December	First Wednesday of the month 8.00pm to 9.30pm Third Saturday of the month 10.00am to 12.00noon Both in the Kingspan Hall at the Eco Hub
Connect Café	Fridays	10.30am to 12.30pm at the Eco Hub. All welcome to a friendly drop-in cafe for a cuppa and cake – £2.00 with free drinks refills. Lifts available. Please contact the Eco Hub Manager.
Eco Hub	Every Monday	Zumba Gold – 10.00am to 10.45am Kingfisher Disability Group – 10.00am to 3.00pm Fitness Pilates – 11.00am to 11.45am Movement for Memory – 1.00pm to 2.30pm Street Dance & Freestyle Disco – 4.00pm to 6.50pm (<i>term time only</i>) Rainbow Guides – 6.00pm to 7.00pm (<i>term time only</i>)
	Every Tuesday	Mat Pilates – 10.00am to 10.55am Chair Pilates – 11.05am to 12.00noon Active Ageing Pilates – 12.05pm to 1.00pm Carpet Bowls – 2.00pm to 4.00pm Yoga – 7.15pm to 8.15pm
	Every Wednesday	Fitness to prevent injury – 9.30am to 10.30am Kingfisher Disability Group – 10.00am to 3.00pm Love Art Community Art Group – 10.30am to 12.30pm Puppy training – 2.00pm to 4.00pm Tai Chi – 9.30am to 10.30am Cha Char Chimps, children's fun session – 10.00am to 11.00am Crafty Ladies Craft Group (<i>Gentlemen welcome too!</i>) – 10.00am to 12.00noon Cha Char Baby Chimps Session (<i>For newborns and non-walking babies</i>) – 11.30am to 12.15pm
	Every Thursday	New Age Kurling – 2.00pm to 3.00pm Ballroom and Latin Dance Class – 4.30pm to 5.00pm (<i>term time only</i>) Alice Lucas School of Dance – 5.00pm to 7.45pm (<i>term time only</i>) Mindful Moments – mindfulness and wellbeing – 7.30pm to 8.30pm Kingfisher Disability Group – 10.00am to 3.00pm Connect Café Community Coffee Morning – 10.30am to 12.30pm O'Mahoney Academy Irish Dancing – 9.00am to 10.00am Little Ruggers – 8.00am to 12.15pm (<i>term time only</i>)
	Every Friday	
	Every Saturday	
	Every Sunday	
	Fortnightly/monthly events	For Men to Talk – first Tuesday of the month, 6.00pm to 8.00pm Memory Lane Group – For people living with dementia and memory loss, and their companions. Third Tuesday of the month due to Christmas, 2.00pm to 4.00pm Library Lego Club – first and third Saturdays of the month, 10.00am to 12.00noon
	One off events	Blood donation – Fridays 6, 13, 20 and 27 December – booking required NCT – Saturday 7 Dec. from 10.00am, Wednesday 11 Dec. from 7.30pm New Moon Meditation – Friday 15 December 7.00pm to 8.00pm Sound Bath – Friday 22 December 7.30pm to 8.30pm Theatre of Widdershins – Sunday 29 December 11.00am Christmas Closure – the Eco Hub will be closed between Christmas and the New Year

What's On

Send your entries to whatson@gamlingaygazette.uk

Gamlingay Allotments		Secretary Robert Carolan, gamlingay.allotment@gmail.com
Gamlingay Library	Mondays Wednesdays Thursdays Fridays Saturdays Saturdays 7, 21 December	2.00pm to 4.00pm – Preschoolers' Story Time 2.30pm 2.00pm to 4.00pm – Free computer buddying, ask at the library for info 6.00pm to 7.00pm 10.00am to 12noon 10.30am to 12.30pm 10.00am to 12.00noon 10.00am to 12noon – Library Lego Club
Gamlingay Parish Council	Full Council Meeting Tuesday 10 December F&GP Meeting Tuesday 24 December	Meetings held at 7.30pm in the Kier Suite at the Eco Hub and are open to all. Planning Committee Meetings (open to all) at 7.00pm prior to the Full Council and Finance & General Purposes Meetings. Clerks: Leanne Bacon and Kirstin Rayner. Tel: 650 310 or Email: clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk . Agendas available on our Website: www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk and on noticeboards.
Gamlingay Social Club	Thursdays 5, 19 December Thursdays 12, 26 December Every Friday	Cribbage Fun Quiz Cash prize bingo at 8.30pm
Gamlingay Walkers	Wednesdays 4 December 1 January	First Wednesday morning of the month, followed by optional pub lunch, March to December. Contact Miriam on 01767 654 891 or email miriamjones80@hotmail.com
Greensands Writers	Tuesday 17 December	Meetings held on the third Tuesday of every month via Zoom. Details on www.greensandwriters.weebly.com
Guild of St. Mary's	Monday 16 December	Monthly meetings, usually third Monday of the month.
Hatley Coffee Morning	Tuesday 3 December	10.00am to 1.00pm at Hatley Village Hall. Everyone welcome. Donations on the day split between the Village Hall and Church.
Hatley Parish Council	Third Tuesday of the months January, March, May, July and October	Meetings start at 7.00pm. Contact the Clerk Kim Wilde on 07591 346 835 or email clerk@hatley-pc.gov.uk Details on the website www.hatley.info or noticeboards.
History Society	Tuesday 12 December	Meetings, open to all, are held at the Eco Hub, Stocks Lane at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month, except January, July and August.
Jelly Tots Baby and Toddlers	Mondays	9.30am to 11.00am. A baby and toddler group for 0-5 years. £2.00 per adult and child plus 50p per extra child. St Mary's Church Hall.
Music Club	Thursdays 12, 26 December	Meetings held every alternate Thursday. For further information call Geoff Bruerton on 01767 650 748.
Photographic Society		Contacts: Nick or Jackie Bruce 01767 651 025/07925 119 346
Potton Ladies Club	Tuesday 3 December	Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at the Mill Lane Pavillion, Mill Lane, Potton. Sarah Burgoine: sarahjburgoine@gmail.com or 01767 631 415.
St. Mary's Choir	Thursdays	6.30pm choir practice open to all singers at St. Mary's Church.
St. Mary's Simple Lunches	Tuesdays 5, 19 December	First and third Tuesday of the month. 12.30pm start at St. Mary's Church Hall
The Gazette	Friday 31 January	March issue deadline for all copy and adverts.
The Wheatsheaf	Mondays Thursdays Fridays	Quiz on the last Monday of the month, starts at 7.30pm Pizza Van from 5.00pm to 9.00pm Kebab Van from 5.00pm to 9.00pm
Women's Institute	Tuesday 17 December	In the Kier Suite, Eco Hub at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Please come along to our friendly meetings. For further info: Jean 650 367 or 07522 665 901 and Jane 07790 256 703

Village Information

Emergency Services

Police, Ambulance and Fire	999
Non-Emergency Fire	01223 376 217
Non-Emergency Police and Community Police	101
PC Mark Heslop 01480 456 111 (Ask for St Neots Police Station)	

Healthcare and Council

Medical centre	
Appointments	260 340
Out of hours	111
District nurses	08456 024 064
Age Concern	01354 696 650
Homecare	07776 021 611
Anne Hutson	
Community car scheme	07519 493 701
Alison Baker	

Parish Council	650 310
<i>Clerks:</i> Kirstin Rayner, Leanne Bacon at <i>ecohub</i> : clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk <i>web page:</i> www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk <i>Chairman:</i> Samantha Martin <i>Vice-Chairman:</i> Wendy Boyne	

Faulty Street Lights	0800 7873 247
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Library	651 226
Kate Laugharne	

Forward Gamlingay	
Chair: Sarah Groom	

Hatley Parish Council	07591 346 835
<i>Clerk:</i> Kim Wilde <i>Email:</i> clerk@hatley-pc.gov.uk <i>Chairman:</i> Paul Kraus cldr-kraus@hatley-pc.gov.uk	

Politics

Member of Parliament	
Pippa Heylings, MP	
pippa.heylings.mp@parliament.uk	

County Councillor	651 982
Sebastian Kindersley	

District Councillor	
Bridget Smith	03450 450 500
Cllr.BridgetSmith@scambs.gov.uk	
Monday-Saturday 08:00 to 20:00	
South Cambridgeshire District Council	

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

Churches

Baptist Church, Office	Church Office	651 519
	Sally Graves	650 112
St. Mary The Virgin	<i>Rector:</i> Hilary Young	650 587
	<i>Church Warden:</i> to Ann Davis	07970 076 972
	<i>Reader:</i> Chris Miller	650 779

Halls for Hire

Eco Hub	Kate Laugharne manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk	651 226
Everton Village Hall		682 251
Gamlingay Social Club	Katrina Smith	651 775
Hatley Village Hall	Kim Wilde, www.hatley.info	07591 346 835
Methodist Chapel	Parish Council	650 310
St. Mary's Church	Ann Davis gamlingaychurchhall@gmail.com	

Hobbies, Leisure and Interests

Bell Ringers	John Boocock gamlingaybellringers@gmail.com www.gamlingay-bell-ringers.webador.co.uk	650 736
Booklinks	Kate Laugharne	651 226
Cafe Connect	Ann Kirby	651 134
Community Choir	Jane Orchiston	0753 500 5908
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> Robert Carolan gamlingayallotments@gmail.com <i>Membership Secretary:</i> John Way johnway803@gmail.com	07771 598 810 650 114
Gamlingay Archaeological Group (Gamarch)	Chris Tomsett <i>Secretary:</i> Julia Manley julialmanley@yahoo.com	650 009
Gamlingay Players	Amy Lovat, lovat1@hotmail.com	07843 527 979
Gamlingay Walkers	Miriam Titchner	654 891
Gardening Club	<i>Chair:</i> Marcia Kaye	07770 796959
Greensand Writers	www.greensandwriters.wixsite.com	
Guild of St. Mary's	Liz Huckle	650 988
History Society	David Allen gamlingayhistory@gmail.com	651 472
Ladybird Club	Mrs C Watson	650 707
Music Club	Geoff Bruerton	650 748
Photographic Society	<i>Chair/Secretary:</i> Jackie Bruce nickbruce7@btinternet.com	651 025
Royal British Legion	Sebastian Kindersley	651 982
	Jackie Hough	651 070
Sandy and District Round Table	Lee Packham Brown	
Sir John Jacob's Almshouses	<i>Clerk:</i> cwsjjapc@outlook.com <i>Chair:</i> Sebastian Kindersley	651 120 651 982

Village Information

St. Neots Model Railway Club	John Kneeshaw j.kneeshaw@ntlworld.com	
Village Show	Jayne Dawkins gamlingayshow@hotmail.com	07713 247973
Women's Institute	Jean York Jane	650 367 or 07522 665 901 07790 256 703

Preschool Groups and Education

Carers Group	Bridget Smith	650 510
Everton Heath Primary Pre-school	Katie May kmay@evertonheath.org.uk	01767 680 534
Jelly Tots & Marvellous Musicians	Lisa Mistrano	07931 356 931
Montessori	Mrs Pat Jenkins	650 645 07714 821 940

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 (Youth Teams)	Chair: Brian Culverhouse	651 020
Gamlingay Gym	Jo Treverton info@gamlingayleisure.org.uk	651 785
MUGA Hire		651 785
Gamlingay Netball Club	Gamlingaynetball@gmail.com	
Junior Football School	Brian Culverhouse	651 020
Tennis Club	John Gray	654 165
Waresley Cricket Club	Rod Kerr waresleycc@hotmail.co.uk	07545 453 559

Youth Groups

1st Gamlingay Brownies	Jane Brown	652 997
1st Gamlingay Rainbows	Sarah Galvin gamlingayrainbows@outlook.com	
2nd Gamlingay Guides	Benita Scott	650 547
Beavers	Nicola gamlingay.beavers@gmail.com	
Gamlingay Cubs	Steve Palmer	651 532
Gamlingay Scouts	Charlie Jackson gamlingayscouts@hotmail.com	
Gransden Cubs	Susan Jefferd	261 000
Pathfinder Scouts	Paul O'Shea paul.r.oshea@googlemail.com Paul Bevis Bevis2021@gmail.com	07555 530 996 07779 651 543
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

Other Emergency Services

Power cuts	
UK Power Network	105
Water supply	
Cambridge Water	01223 706 050
Surface flooding	
Cambs County Council	0345 045 5200
Sewer flooding	
Anglian Water	03457 145 145
Domestic gas emergency	
	0800 111 999



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