

The Gazette

The newspaper of Gamlingay, East Hatley and Hatley St. George

Winter in my Youth

I look on with amazement at our present attitude to cold conditions. There is no doubt about it, the climate is much warmer than it used to be. We almost always had snow and ice so we had to live with it. It might be of interest to recall my experience of the winter 1939/40. It was the start of the Second World War and I was evacuated to the village of Ben Rhydding close to Ilkley. I went to a school of about 100 pupils in the North East area of Ilkley. This meant a 2 mile walk to school every morning. We had lunch at school so we did not have to go home in the middle of the day.

The School Uniform was the usual but with short trousers. When the snow and frost came my knees got very cold and chapped. So in the evening they were treated with Vaseline. This helped but they were sore for about half the autumn and spring terms.

No matter how deep the snow or bitter the wind we always walked to and from school. We had to go outside during breaks and play in the school yard. The yard had a tarmac surface with a slope from right to left. This had its compensations because the masters would spray part of the yard with water so that it froze overnight to create a slide down which we could all, staff and boys, skid down.

My father was appointed Vicar of Goldington and we returned from Yorkshire to live there. I went to Bedford School and I was initially in the Preparatory School (The Inky). This had the drawback that again I was in short trousers with bare and very cold and chapped knees. We had curious hours for school in those days, 9 to 12.30. Then Games 2pm. to 3pm. Then home to tea and afternoon lessons 4 to 5.30pm. Quite often there would be evening activities from 7 to say 8.30. Then home to "prep" for about 90 mins.

We did not go by car for the simple reason that we did not have one. Nobody arrived by car as there was strict petrol rationing. This meant that I had to bicycle to school three or four times in each direction each day. The school was just under two miles away I leave it to you to calculate how many miles a week.

Of course the weather made no difference to the regime. We always went to school no matter what the weather was or how icy the roads were. Riding up Goldington road was a tricky experience because it was never gritted so the surface was packed snow or sheet ice. We had to avoid walking because the school timetable meant we had barely sufficient time.



There were memorable moments like the great snowball fights round the bicycle sheds with 30 or 40 boys on each side. These tended to be after school on Saturdays because the Games period was a bit later. (Yes we did go to school for Saturday mornings and afternoons)

Continued on page 11

**View The
Gazette
in colour on the
Gamlingay
website
gamlingaygazette.uk
&
gamlingay.org**

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Due to changes concerning data protection, The Gazette is very cautious about reproducing pictures of children. Every effort is made not to single out individuals, and parental permission is sought before using any item to highlight an individual child.

Your letters and items for articles can be dropped off at 82 Church Street, Gamlingay or emailed to Nick Bruce. We do not accept anonymous contributions.

Every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the items included but the views expressed do not necessarily express the views of the Committee

Copy Deadline

**March deadline is
1st February**

**April 2018 deadline is
1st March**

Large Articles may be partly published in our paper copy then fully published in our website copy. The website copy contains different features and pictures of Gamlingay from our Readers. If you have photos old and new please send them to us on our email address to be published in our website copy.

The paper copy will not change, it will still be delivered through your door every month.

Hatley Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting is due to be held on
Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm

Hatley Village Hall.

NB: Work format for Articles
Work sent in for The Gazette should, wherever possible, be in **Word format** with any accompanying **photographs in jpeg format**. Please specify where photographs are to be placed in relation to the content. If sent in PDF format, mistakes may not be corrected and layout quality may suffer.



FORTHCOMING BIN

COLLECTION DAYS

Wednesday, 7 th February 2018	Black Bin
Wednesday, 14 th February 2018	Blue and Green Bins
Wednesday, 21 st February 2018	Black Bin
Wednesday, 28 th February 2018	Blue and Green Bins

Paper caddies will no longer be collected with your blue bin. Please place paper directly into the blue bin. You can keep your caddy and use it however you wish. Alternatively, you can take it to a household recycling centre. Caddies should not be placed into wheeled bins.

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Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Gamlingay with Hatley and Everton cum Tetworth

Churchwarden - Mrs Jan Cooper
69 Green Acres, Gamlingay - 650178

Reader and Churchwarden - Chris Miller
11 Bunyan Close, Gamlingay - 650779

Key E -Everton G -Gamlingay H-Hatley St George February 2018



04-Feb	2 before Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion	G
04-Feb	2 before Lent	10.00am	First Sunday	G
04-Feb	2 before Lent	4.00pm	Evensong	E
11-Feb	1 before Lent	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	G
11-Feb	1 before Lent	11.00am	Holy Communion	H
11-Feb	1 before Lent	11.00am	Word and Worship	E
14-Feb	Ash Wednesday	7.00pm	Holy Communion + Imposition of Ashes	G
18-Feb	Lent 1	9.30am	Parish Eucharist with prayers for healing	G
18-Feb	Lent 1	11.00am	Parish Eucharist	E
25-Feb	Lent 2	8.00am	Holy Communion	H
25-Feb	Lent 2	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	G
25-Feb	Lent 2	11.00am	Parish Eucharist	E
25-Feb	Lent 2	6.00pm	Evensong	G

Dear friends

As I write it is the day before Christmas Eve. As you read we are approaching, or even in, February with Christmas and all its festivities well and truly behind us. But, just as we looked forward to Christmas, now we look forward to Easter. On 14 February we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the day before being Shrove Tuesday. So, what are the origins of these days with rather odd sounding names?

Let us begin with Ash Wednesday and work backwards. Essentially, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent which marks forty days before Easter. However, the mathematically minded amongst you may realise that if you count the number of days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday it comes to more than forty! This is because when we count the days in this period we exclude Sundays. Lent is a time of penance and fasting which is why some people give up something for Lent. This is normally something which is not easy to do, in order to make us feel penitential. The name Ash Wednesday is derived from the fact that at some church services on this day people have the sign of the cross marked on their forehead in ash as a symbol of death and penance. This ash is produced by burning the palm crosses from the previous Palm Sunday.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and is sometimes called Pancake Day. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of *shriving* that Christians used to undergo in the past. In shriving, a person would confess their sins, be forgiven for them and be released from any guilt and pain that has been caused. Because Lent is a time of abstinence when we might give things up, Shrove Tuesday is the last chance in which we might get the opportunity to indulge ourselves, and to use up the foods that some Christians (historically and today) would not eat in Lent (such as meat, fats, fish, eggs etc.). In order that no food would be wasted, families would have a feast on the shriving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that would not last the forty days of Lent without going off. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name *Mardi Gras* ('Fat Tuesday'). Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

So, as we approach the season of Lent let us remember that what it leads to is Easter, the greatest and most significant of the church festivals.

With best wishes to you all. Chris Miller

Licensed Lay Minister and Churchwarden

Gamlingay Baptist Church

Stocks Lane, Gamlingay

Church Secretary: Mrs Linda Fraser 01767 677710

Church Office

01767 651519

www.gbchurch.org.uk

February 2018

‘Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.’ – C.S. Lewis.

Picture the scene, it’s raining heavily, girl is angry walking away from boy. Boy catches up to girl, professes his undying love for her. ‘I’ve always loved you, from the moment I laid eyes on you. I always have, and I always will.’ Girl forgives boy, and they live happily ever after!

However, that’s not reflective of reality. Unfortunately, in today’s world, love isn’t always forever. Love is very fleeting. The world often now teaches that love can be for a moment. To many love has an expiration date.

That thought and notion sadden me. Not just that people believe that love has an expiration date, but the amount of pain and heartbreak many experience when they feel they are no longer loved. But then again, love is often tied to our feelings, our emotions, and there are many variables that can change how we feel, right?

No wonder, when I share with people that God loves them, many aren’t really interested. They either don’t know what love means or simply believe that love comes to an end, so what’s the point?

However, in the bible we read that ‘the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your (His) faithfulness’ (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Did you see that? Let me show you again, God’s love never ceases. There is nothing you can do that will make God stop loving you. No matter what insults you may hurl at Him, or how you may cheat on Him with others, or the simple fact that you ignore Him. God will never stop loving you.

I remember first coming to that realisation. It changed my perspective on love. It was when I began to understand God’s love for me that I was able to explore what a relationship with God looked like and meant. That was also the point where I was able to better love the people around me.

So, I wonder what it would take for you to believe that God not only loves you but will never stop loving you? I wonder if it might be worth exploring what this kind of love is all about? I know for me it was life-changing.

Maybe you have some questions or want to further explore this? Get in touch, I’d love to meet with you.

Many blessings

Rev Adrian Semerene

Lead Pastor

Gamlingay Baptist Church

adrian@gbchurch.org.uk Twitter: @asemerene Fancy reading other things I write? Visit my blog at www.adriansemerene.com.



DIARY

Church Services

Worship every Sunday Morning

10.45am (with J.A.M for children)

Communion is celebrated on Feb 4th
the first Sunday of the month.

For Children – J.A.M

(JesusAndMe)

activities to explore bible stories

Every Sunday 10.45am

Weekday Meetings

Wednesday 7.30pm

and as advertised

Craft & Hobbies Group

spending time together working on
different activities.

Thursday 1st February 10.00am

Men’s Prayer & Breakfast

Saturday 3rd February 9.00am

‘Messy Church’

crafts, games & bible stories

Saturday 10th February 2-4pm

Coffee Morning

In aid of Gamlingay BC and 2018

Charity

Thursday 15th February 10.am-11.30am

Come join us for tea/coffee and cake

Ladies Prayer Brunch

a time to share, pray & eat together

Saturday 17th February 10.00am

Councillors' column

District and County Council Issues



Cambridgeshire
County Council

District Council issues by Sebastian Kindersley and
Bridget Smith
County Council issues by Sebastian Kindersley

Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – January 2018

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or skindersley@hotmail.com or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA. District Councillor Bridget Smith is on 01767 650510 or bridget@glockling.com You can also follow your councillors on Twitter: @Cllrbridget @Seb4SouthCambs

The CAMKOX Arc

Well, well, well. You will be aware that there are major governmental ambitions to create an arc of development reaching from Oxford through Milton Keynes to Cambridge. A great deal of time and public money is being set aside to deliver the infrastructure that goes with this national project to – for example – dual the A428 and open the missing rail link from Cambridge to Sandy.

This is already having a major impact on this area. We predicted – some time ago now – that Bassingbourn Barracks would be highlighted as a development area for a New Town. But lo! The National Infrastructure Commission has released a wide-ranging report exploring how best to take this national step-change forward. And here, on page 75, is what is says: *The case study location continues the emerging pattern of new settlements at a distance of 10-15 miles from Cambridge along key radial routes. It does so by assuming that East West Rail - which will provide an additional spoke in the pattern of radial public transport connections into Cambridge - will be routed via the current MOD site at Bassingbourn. Any MOD operations would need to be incorporated or re-provisioned on another site with less development potential/value (e.g. Mildenhall) as part of an ongoing process of consolidation of military sites (despite recent moves to return the site to active use following a period of closure).*"

And so on...well worth a read at <https://www.nic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/171122-NIC-Final-Report-5th-Studio-optimised.pdf>. You will no doubt have been following the issue of South Camb's Local Plan but what you will not know is that the Inspector will be seeking a commitment from SCDC that the NEXT Local Plan will start work in 2019.

Gamlingay and the villages of the Gamlingay Division are in a very key position in all these plans. Aside from the above the same report promotes a new String City (nope, no idea) at Biggleswade and Sandy/Tempsford – and this proposal is in fact already being consulted on by Central Beds as part of its next Local Plan. this:

Anglia TV in Gamlingay – The Star of the Show!

An enormous thank you to all those Gamlingay residents who welcomed the ITV Anglia crew to the village just before Christmas. This was the first time that the news team had done an outside broadcast like this over the whole program and ITV had been looking for an opportunity to come back to Gamlingay after covering the opening of the Eco Hub extension.

Everybody should be so proud of living in a community that is really showing the way forward across the Eastern Region. There were so many people involved it would fill the Gazette to say individual thanks but we must highlight some - LJs – who gave the crew one of the best lunches they had had – “enormous” was the quote – and the combined choirs who put on such a great (outdoor) show despite being at the edge of hypothermia. Pulling it all together was a big job and one which a large number of people helped with - Shelley, Sarah and Kate from the Eco Hub, Chris Martin, Kate Mingay, Adrian Semerene, Sue Philips, the staff of the First School, The Wheatsheaf, Emma Surrey, the Crafty Ladies and many more.

Obviously not every part of the village was covered so we invited them back to do the bits they had to miss out!

Business Fraud

Individuals and businesses are being warned to watch out for cold calls and online contact from fraudsters who are offering victims the opportunity to apply for Government grants for an advance fee. To make the grants look legitimate fraudsters have set up bogus companies and convincing looking websites that claim to be operating on behalf of the UK Government.

Fraudsters cold call businesses and individuals offering the grant and if they're interested direct them to fill out an online application form with their personal information. Once the fraudsters have that information they'll contact back victims and congratulate them on being accepted onto the grant programme.

Applicants are then asked to provide identification and are instructed to get a pre-paid credit card to deposit their own contribution to the fake Government grant scheme. Fraudsters will then contact victims on the phone or are emailed and asked for the details of their pre-paid credit card and copies of statements to in order for them to add the grant funds.

Of course the grant funds are never given by the fraudsters and the money that's been loaded by the victim onto the card is stolen. If you receive one of these calls, hang up immediately and report it to us and the police.

Rubbish

You probably know by now that you no longer need to use your plastic caddies to recycle paper. Instead, waste paper should be placed directly into the blue bin. Residents are free

to keep their caddies and use them however they wish (growing carrots is the best so far).

You can find further details about this change here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/paper-recycling-changes>

We are aware that, before Christmas, when some people had too much recycling for their blue bins and put it in extra boxes that those boxes were not collected. South Cambs told us this:

"If the blue bin is full, excess recyclable material will be collected if placed in one transparent sack next to the blue bin. Please put any glass in your blue bin, not in the sack for safety reasons. One bundle of cardboard may be left next to your bin if it is of a size which would fit inside the bin if there were space. Please tape or tie into a bundle to assist collection. Please do not use other colour wheeled bins for your excess recycling."

So the important aspect here is that it is put out in a transparent sack but since we have never seen transparent sacks for sale we have gone back and asked where we are meant to get them from.

Parking

We can now confirm that the contract to put in some new parking bays at the entrance to Avenells Way has been awarded to Mead Construction Ltd, though we still do not know when the work will be underway. Unfortunately, we are still waiting to find out when the additional Gray's Road parking bays will be approved and installed. The Council is also looking to create extra parking on Murfitt Way - however we are unable to progress this further until next financial year due to budget constraints.

Grays Rd Grass Cutting

Residents of Grays Rd will be aware that the grass cutting has been pretty random in 2017 and we must thank those people who have done their best to keep it all tidy themselves. We are assured that things will be better in 2018. It may be that the grass will not be cut as often as we would ideally like but it will be cut regularly. We have no doubt that you will let us know if problems arise.

County Council Funding

We know it's boring BUT it has a profound impact on services you use every day like roads. The government settlement announced before Christmas made some changes – firstly by increasing the core referendum principle to 3%. This means Council tax could increase by 3% rather than 1.99% without a referendum, in addition to Adult Social Care precept. Taking that on further, there's an overall increase in the 2018-19 core spending power of 2.1% compared to 2017-18. However, this assumes a 6% council tax rise (3% increase of both the Adult Social Care precept and base council tax increase), the County Council's administration has so far refused to increase Council Tax by the levels permitted by Government and the current assumption of 2% Adult social care precept and 0% base increase means our projected core spending power actually reduces by 0.8% in cash terms.

Remember the Street Lighting PFI?

Due to deductions for unsatisfactory performance by Balfour Beatty under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract for street lighting there is a forecast underspend of £384,000 in the budget for 2017/18. This is due to the number of lights lit being fewer than the contractual requirement as well as lack of repairs and inspection. We were amazed that it was so little. In any case the argument made that it should be spent in Parishes that had suffered so badly at Balfour Beatty's hands was dismissed sorry!

Park and Ride Parking Charge to be dropped

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has agreed to subsidise the removal of the charge to park at the Cambridge Park and Rides in April. Since the £1 charge was introduced use of the Park and Rides has significantly fallen. Councillors have asked that the Board also review the opening times of the Park and Rides and the Park and Ride bus services which are provided commercially by Stagecoach; in particular to meet the demand for those with early starts and those wanting to spend a night out in Cambridge.

Supported Lodgings

The County Council has relaunched the Supported Lodgings scheme and is looking for people with a spare room or annex who can support a young person leaving care, aged 16-21.

Carers can be from a wide range of backgrounds and walks of life and an allowance of £250 per week is paid to them while they have a young person placed with them. Although the Supported Lodgings scheme requires less intensive support than other types of foster care, carers do need to be able to make time for the young people in their care and show the ability to listen and understand their needs. Carers are also required to offer advice on all aspects of independent living, such as cooking, washing and budgeting.

For more information, please contact Cambridgeshire County Council's Fostering Service on 0800 052 0078 or visit our Supported Lodgings webpage. It is a paid caring role with a fixed tax-free allowance of £10,000 per year plus an extra £250 for each person supported each week or part of a week.

Policing Changes in Cambridgeshire

The Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have written jointly to advise of changes proposed to policing as the current policing model is no longer sustainable and is hampering the Constabulary's ability to manage demand. Like forces across the country, Cambridgeshire faces an unprecedented workload and, as a result, officers and staff are working long hours and juggling heavy workloads. It remains committed to working with you to protect the most vulnerable people and targeting the most serious offenders. But this means the Police must be realistic about what they can and cannot attend, and make some difficult decisions. This boils down to 50 more warranted officers but a big reduction in the number of PCSOs effective April 2018.

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Local Roads & Flooding

Fishers Lane Orwell - Cambridge Water confirm that this is not a water leak and it is believed to be a natural occurrence. County have asked a contractor to provide a quote to run a pipe along the verge from the water source to connect into the gully which will remove the water from the road and path and hope to fund the works this financial year.

Main Street, Hatley outside Holbein's Farm – Officer has contacted the landowner and tenant farmer asking them to take measures to stop their water from draining onto and across the carriageway.

Heath Road, Gamlingay - Cambridge Water undertook repairs which resolved this as the flow is now much reduced. There are still two other areas where springs are causing water to flow across and along the edge of the road and the situation is not helped by the fact that the road gullies at this location are currently blocked (although these would still not capture all the water flowing across the road). A jetting contractor is to clean the gullies and jet the pipework and quotes sought to dig out a ditch at this location to connect with an existing pipe further down the road which connects into the watercourse at the bottom of the slope.

A1198 Arrington – water was streaming down the road here and Flood signs erected – still to be followed up but it seems as 'tho the Solar Farm may not have resolved the issues after all.

Got a problem? Issue? Something you'd like to discuss?

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! *****



Jackie's Flowers

27 Everton Road, The Heath, Everton

Percy and Teresa would like to thank each and every one

of you for your custom over the years.

Unfortunately the time has come to close the business and

we will cease trading as of December 2017.



Blunham Giant Book Sale

Saturday 24th February 10:00 to 3:00pm !

Come to our Browse and Buy Second Hand Giant Book Sale at Blunham Parish Church, (St Edmunds or St James, Park Lane, Beds, MK44 3NQ) Selection of second hand/nearly new books, Homemade cakes, teas and coffees, homemade soup and a raffle. All proceeds to Blunham Church Fabric Fund

Gamlingay Residents Association (GRA)

Notice to close the Association as of the 28th February 2018

Interested parties to contact

Mrs Eileen Thorpe 01767 651197 or Mrs Julie Newman 01767 650685

The Gazette

needs a volunteer to distribute copies

to Cherry Grove and Crab Apple Way once month.

This round involves delivering 23 copies,

and takes around 10 to 15 minutes.

If you can help, please contact Julie Newman

on 650685

or

nobbynewman@btinternet.com



FEBRUARY IS A FUNNY OLD MONTH!

February can be a difficult month can't it? Cold, at the end of winter, no spring in sight, but mercifully short at least. At the Hub, February is marking a period of change in what will be our sixth year serving Gamlingay.



Shelley Aitcheson

We are sad to lose our Centre Manager, Shelley Aitcheson, who has been in post for 18 months, and has decided to move on to a different career of fitness instructor and personal trainer. Everyone who knows Shelley will know that health and fitness is a very important part of her life, and this change in career fits with her interests and goals for 2018. We hope she won't lose touch with the Hub entirely, but we will certainly miss her energetic, cheerful, funny personality.

This has naturally led to discussions about how the Hub management would move forward, and it has been agreed that assistant manager Kate Laugharne and Business and Marketing Manager Sarah Groom will job share the role of manager, dividing the many faceted aspects of the job between the two of them. They will be assisted by Tony Hurst, who is also the chair of Trustees and possibly one other support person.

They will certainly be kept busy, as 2018 sees several new fitness classes starting here, Weight Watchers has started a new group, there is a new children's dance group, and more groups for mums and small children including baby signing. Please see the website or Facebook for more details, or drop in for a 'What's On' leaflet.

website: www.gamlingayecohub.org.uk

email: manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk

phone: **01767 651226**

facebook: **Gamlingay Eco Hub**

twitter: **@GamlingayEcohub**

GAMLINGAY BUSINESS HUB

The next meeting of the Gamlingay Business Hub, run by Forward Gamlingay and supported by Gamlingay Parish Council will be on Thursday 22 February at 8 am. If you are on our database you will have had an invitation, but if you haven't, and you are a Gamlingay business please contact bridget@glocking.com

INCREDIBLE COLLECTION FOR HOMELESS

We couldn't believe the record breaking collection for the homeless just before Christmas. Your donated bags and boxes filled the Parish Council Office, and the people collecting had to bring a van as it wouldn't all fit in a car. It was awesome and hopefully brought some cheer to those living outside at Christmas.

The perfect venue for any event



Discounts available for local charities & non-profit organisations

A modern, multi-functional community centre with flexible space to cater for community groups, parties, business meetings and weddings. Village location with easy links to A1/A14/Cambridge/Bedford.

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Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 3JR



Parish Council

Information about the parish council, including agendas for meetings, can be found on our website www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk or on the village notice boards. To contact the Parish Council:

email clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01767 650310 or by post to Gamlingay Parish Council, The Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, Beds, SG19 3JR.

Parish Council office public opening hours 9-12 Mon, Wed and Fri.

Daily updates from the Parish Council are posted to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Gamlingayparishcouncil/> and on Twitter <https://twitter.com/GamlingayPC>.



The Council has partnered with iChoosr, the UK's leading expert in collective energy switching, to deliver bespoke and highly competitive energy tariffs. Now is the ideal time for residents, especially those on standard tariffs, to switch. The scheme gives residents to join together and use their collective bargaining power to bid for better prices for electricity and gas.

Residents are encouraged to register on the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch scheme to see if they can secure a good rate for the year ahead as wholesale energy prices are likely to continue to increase in the coming weeks.



Or visit Cambridgeshire County Council's website and click on the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch logo on the front page.

An auction will be held on Tuesday 13 February 2018 after which individuals will receive a personal offer, and can then make a decision on whether to switch to the winning supplier. The rates are exclusive to residents switching through the scheme and are not available direct from the suppliers or via price comparison websites.

There is no obligation for people to accept an offer, but if you do it's easy and straight forward and the new provider will take care of the whole process.

The deadline to accept the offer is Tuesday 27 March. If you have any issues registering please contact the helpdesk on 0800 048 8285 which is open Mon-Friday 08.30am - 5.30pm or contact the Energy Investment Unit at Cambridgeshire County Council on 01223 715349.

Continued from front page

Goldington Vicarage was a typical Victorian House with high ceilings and large bow windows – lovely in summer but desperately cold for winter. There was of course no central heating. We lived either in the kitchen or in the sitting room because that was where the fires were. In the deep winter the sitting room was always cold. It had bay windows to the North and French Windows to the South. There was of course no double glazing and nothing fitted very well. One evening we put a thermometer opposite the roaring coal fire. It recorded below freezing!!

Like everything else the bedrooms had no heat. We did have hot water bottles. These were initially rubber but these were unobtainable during the war but we could buy stone ware hot water bottles. These could be filled by the electric heater in the bathroom. You very quickly learnt the trick of expelling the air before filling or you had scalded hands.

Once in bed it was good because of the three or four blankets and the eiderdown. In the morning the glass on the windows would have an interior layer of frost from the condensation of the night. It formed the most delicate patterns.

I trust that I can be excused for thinking how overprotected and how mollycoddled the young are today. How can we expect our children to grow up with no sense of risk taking and no experience of true winter conditions?

Philip Gorton

Gamlingay Players performance of Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn at Gamlingay EcoHub

Friday 23rd March 8pm
Saturday 24th March 8pm

Tickets priced £9 adult, £7.50 child/concession on sale online now at www.gamlingayplayers.org and at Gamlingay EcoHub 2 weeks before the performances

Bedroom Farce

“Bedroom Farce” is Alan Ayckbourn’s tribute to the popular Whitehall farces of the Fifties, the bedrooms of the title being in the houses of three ordinary couples trying to live normal lives. Enter Trevor and Susannah, trying to rebuild their relationship, while in the process putting immense strain on everyone else’s, and normality just doesn’t get a look in.....

Written in the Seventies, when there were no “techie” devices to smooth life’s path, there is an abundance of misunderstandings that lead to hilarious consequences. Ayckbourn fans will not be disappointed; all his “regulars” are there, with the “loose cannon” male, the flirty female, and the practical DIY enthusiast all present and correct.

You’ll want to join the party, for sure!

In the last issue, January, on the front page it was reported that the Reverend Adrian Semerene had accompanied the Choirs. Some assumed it meant he accompanied on keyboards when in fact it was referring to him accompanying the choirs singing as Reverend of the Baptist Church. The accompanying keyboard player was in fact Rob Butcher.

Sorry for any misunderstanding.



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Gamlingay and District History Society 2018

19 February; Liz Davis, The Kimbolton Hoard.

12 March; James Brown, More Gamlingay History.

16 April; Mike Petty, Vanishing Cambs, 1900-1940.

14 May; Margaret Badley, Lady Margaret Beaufort

We now meet at the Kier Suite, the Eco Hub.

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YOUR POST OFFICE – NEW AND IMPROVED!

We are all guilty of taking our local Post Office for granted, and assume it will always be there. However two years ago, the Post Office, during a general nationwide review, planned to reduce the service at our Post Office in Cinques Road to a single and very limited counter or even close the branch completely.

Manjit and Budgie have served the village for nearly 20 years, and were appalled at the proposed plans. They came to the Parish Council for help, and councillor Colin Smith used his many years of experience in business to produce an appraisal and viability study to convince Head Office that not only was the Gamlingay Post Office of vital importance to the village, but that its high usage proved it was a branch of 'continued need'.

After much negotiation, Colin persuaded Head Office to not only leave the Post Office as it was, but upgrade it to "Local Plus" level offering all services as before but with a refit and much improved sales and service areas. A new secure contract was agreed and the re-fit planned for January – by the time you read this it will now be complete.

This process has not been easy, and needless to say, Manjit and Budgie now look forward to serving the village for many years to come. In an age where our local bank branches and cashpoints are disappearing, the Post Office is a more valuable asset than ever before. It's now your local bank branch - you can pay in cash and cheques and withdraw cash for all the major banks, as well as getting foreign currency and supplying all the usual postal and parcel services. For many of us this means that we don't need to visit a bank at all.

Please support this valuable and much improved community asset. The Parish Council were very pleased to help and glad that Colin's experience gave him the skills to do so. However, like all things, it's a case of 'use it or lose it' and we sincerely hope that the new and improved Post Office will continue to thrive.



Gamlingay Day Nursery and Kids' Hub to Close

It is with great disappointment that Davidson Roberts Ltd has made the decision to close Gamlingay Day Nursery and Kids' Hub. The last operational day will be Thursday 8 February 2018.

Several options have been explored to try to make the nursery viable but given the other provision in Gamlingay and the lack of demand for full day-care for babies and children up to the age of 5 years old, it is not possible to make this setting sustainable in the long-term.

If parents would like to seek alternative childcare, spaces are available at Royston Day Nursery and Manor Farm Day Nursery in Sandy. Schools OUT holiday club is open every school holiday at One Leisure St Neots, Huntingdon and St Ives. Contact details for these settings can be found at www.davidson-roberts.co.uk

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but, unfortunately, can see no alternative. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support of the setting since we opened in 2012.



Lindy's Night Fundraising Walk

Once upon a time there was a kind and thoughtful man called John Burt, and it disturbed him to see, in London, so many men (and it was mostly men) sleeping in doorways and underpasses and under bridges that he decided to do something about it. So he got some of them together and asked what would most help them? They replied employment. They did not want charity they needed a hand up not a hand out. Thus was started THE BIG ISSUE.

A support network of care was set up to deal with drug and alcohol abuse, and mental and physical health difficulties. However one of the most intractable problems was housing. When Big Issue sellers started to really earn there was no affordable housing for them to rent. John Burt then thought capital was needed to ensure there was accommodation available for those ready for independence, so he started THE BIG ISSUE FOUNDATION

I put some money into this and I have subsequently been interested in its progress. I am 85 this year and have been thinking of doing something a bit different to celebrate reaching old age. I have decided to do the midnight walk in London on March 2nd in aid of The Big Issue Foundation. It is a thirteen mile circular walk around London starting at Shoreditch town hall. I am writing this in the hope that some Gamlingay residents might feel inspired to sponsor me.

I reckon that if every man, woman and child gave me one penny I would raise £500. So who is up for helping the MOST disadvantaged of our society?

Lindy Gorton, The Emplins, 650581

Gamlingay Photographic Society *Established 1971*

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February

2nd Competition No 5 Open - Judge Naomi Saul ARPS, DPAGB, ASINWP, EFIAP
A Panel

9th Chairmans Introduction - Lecture

23rd A Potpourri - Chris Taylor

Non Members welcome free of charge to Lecture Evenings. Refreshments available
Subscriptions to the end of the season in May are now half price: Single £22.50; Family £35.00;
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For more information please: phone Nick or Jackie on 01767-651025, email nickbruce7@btinternet.com
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Lands End to John O'Groats

Dear Friends

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/s-fisher-1>

In June 2018, I will be riding the entire length of the UK, from Lands' End to John O'Groats, in our fundraising efforts. Joining me will be my long time friend Jon Estell. We would really like your support to help raise £20,000 for our three chosen charities.

The causes we are riding for are either small, local, or dear to our hearts. We are riding for;

Moo Bears Oliver Dean Callis (Moo Bears) was born on the 6th of January 2013. Oliver was born with Downs Syndrome, with sight and hearing problems and with 4 holes in his heart. Our ride will help to secure funding for his education and future life.

Charles Gift

'Charlie's Gift' is a Hertfordshire based charity, which provides grants of money to support local children who face challenges in life because of health issues, special needs, bereavement or poverty.

Camps International

Camps International is an ethical company, dedicated to helping children in less fortunate circumstances. Volunteers undertake social and environmental project work in areas of both economic need and ecological significance.



https://www.facebook.com/pg/MooBearsMedia/about/?ref=page_internal#

Despite several serious episodes, Oliver has prevailed and is now 4 years old. His father, Scott is well known in the lighting industry and has dedicated his life and profits from his business to making Oliver's life comfortable and secure for the future. Our ride will help to secure funding for his education and future life. We are very humoured to be able to ride in his name. <https://www.charliesgift.co.uk/>

'Charlie's Gift' has been set up by Trustees Nicole and Jason Fidler, in memory of their young son Charlie who died suddenly in June 2010, aged just 8 years from Anaphylactic Shock. Charlie was always a loving and giving little boy who lived his short but happy life to the full.

In the compassionate spirit to which Charlie approached his life, our aim as a charity is to lend a financial helping hand to children whose lives are touched by adversity, living within Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Our hope is that the grants of money will make a positive impact on these children's lives by helping to make life a little happier and a little easier for them.

We are honoured to ride in support of this charity.

<http://campsinternational.com/>

- Run global trips and projects to support those in need
- The camps are built and run by local people
- They work with communities so they can empower themselves and generate their own income
- They protect and conserve wildlife – on land and in the ocean
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- They connect you with the real world and real people.
- They create experiences that transform lives

Annabel Fisher (my daughter) has volunteered to join an expedition in July 2018 to Costa Rica and Nicaragua

Any contribution would be greatly appreciated! Many thanks

Simon Fisher

Gamlingay Gardening Club

Wed 7 Feb	Dr Twigs Way	Virgins, Weeders and Queens: A History of Women in the Garden
Wed 7 Mar	Susan Young	A Banquet for Pollinators
Wed 4 April	Roger Harvey	The Chelsea Experience with an exhibitors view
Wed 2 May	Andrew Ward	The Astounding Asteraceae
Wed 5 Sep	Ben Potterton	Scented Plants
Wed 3 Oct	Tom Cole	Climbers and Wall Shrubs
Wed 7 Nov	Ian Bull	Herbaceous Borders at Hyde Hall Past – Colour, Structure and Techniques
Wed 5Dec	AGM and social	

Meetings are held in the Kier Suite at Gamlingay Eco Hub starting at 7.30pm and are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month. Visitors are welcome – entry charge £3.00

Brownies return

The Brownies returned on 17th January after a short break for the Christmas holidays; we had a great party for the last evening. The theme for the party; as chosen by the Brownies themselves; was Candy. This involved decorating gingerbread men, making candy canes from pipe cleaners and beads and making candy floss – no prizes for guessing which of those activities was the most popular! As always we have our “thank you”s and we couldn’t have done it without help from Ellie’s Charlotte’s and Mia’s Mums. We’d also like to thank Rainbows preschool for lending their Candy Floss making machine.

Before we return to the term we will be heading off to Brownie Starburst 2018 held at Butlins in Skegness where Girl Guiding Anglia will have sole use of all the facilities from Friday Evening to Sunday afternoon. We can look forward to a weekend of swimming, circus skills, games, crafts and spectacular shows at the holiday camp. Although it is in its third year, this will be my first visit so I’m looking forward to it too!

During the Spring Term Brownies are looking to complete their community badge and we hope to involve the village in a small quest. More details in the March issue.

We had discussed painting pebbles to leave messages for the village to see; however another group has beaten us to that; so we wish them well with that; though it looks like they have already made a great success of it!

We plan to return to the building site in Robinson court to see how things have changed there.

One of our previous Young Leaders; Lauren Prattle is coming to do a slide show and explain to the Brownies all about her Overseas trip to Fiji in July and August of 2017. I know Lauren was very active on the fundraising front for this trip so some of you may already be very familiar with the success of her trip. I know we were very proud of her and look forward to seeing how she and her fellow travellers helped the children of Fiji.

There are four main sections in girlguiding; Rainbows for five to seven year olds; Brownies for seven to 10 year olds; guides for 10 – 14 year olds and senior section for 14 and above. I know I am completely biased however I think (as children) the biggest change is seen in the Brownies – they come to us often as little dots and leave looking me in the eye (I’m only just over five foot so that’s not hard!) but its not just the physical change I mean. During their time with us they also develop opinions & feelings and find their voice to raise them. So you can imagine the lump in my throat at the end of last term when three of our Brownies; Amy, Lucy and Olivia took the time to do a little performance at their last meeting to say how very much they had enjoyed all aspects of Brownies including the leaders.

Best Wishes Jane Brown and Alison Fitt AKA Brown and Pygmy Owl

Gardening Tips for February

by Karen Aitkins of All Green Landscapes Ltd

The days are becoming noticeable longer now and there is the anticipation of spring around the corner. Snow drops will be littering our verges and woodland with a carpet of white bell like flowers. In medieval times the snow drop was considered bad luck as they seemed to always bloom in church yards and so became associated with death. Not so now as we are less superstitious. They are the first signs of spring, of renewal and change. February comes from the roman word februa which means cleansing or purification and reflects the rituals we still see today in spring time.

Despite spring being around the corner the weather can still be bitter cold with snow and severe frosts making the garden boggy and water logged. Try not to walk on the lawn if it is sodden, use boards to avoid damaging the grass. Irrigate the grass with a pitch fork to help with the drainage.

Be careful with planting and sowing at this time of year; you need to be guided by the weather as it can vary from year to year. It really is a case of playing it by ear and keeping an eye on the frosts. Even a mild snap can be followed by severe weather. So it is a good time to plan your garden.

Prune hardy shrubs that flower on new wood in the summer, winter flowering jasmine and late flowering clematis can be pruned. This is also the last chance to cut back trees, bushes and hedges before the nesting season begins. After pruning always feed with an organic fertilizer. Continue to dead head winter pansies and other winter flowering bedding plants.

The best fertilizers are organic, such as blood, fish and bone and seaweed. Synthetic fertilizers are a quick fix but the plants that are produced from these are less sturdy with fewer flowers. The nutrients in organic fertilizers are released more slowly so take longer to work so are best applied a few weeks earlier, before planting or sowing.

Keep bird feeders well stocked and provide fresh water for them to drink and bathe in. This is an ideal time to introduce nesting boxes to the garden in preparation for the spring when birds will be looking for homes.

As it's the season for out with the old in with the new, check the shed for old bottles of chemicals and out of date produce. Be careful to discard correctly. Clean out the shed and remove all bags and pots that have split or broken. Clean and check over all equipment ready for the new season.

This is a good time to get new ideas for your garden as its usually quiet for most landscapers. As long as the weather is mild most things can be achieved now.

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Waresley Cricket Club

Huntingdonshire

AGM REPORT

The Club held its AGM at the Jack Stacey Pavilion in December. Chairman Kevin Cole reviewed the year and noted that the 2017 was a good season for the 1st XI who finished 5th in the Hunts & Cambs Premier League Division One – retiring Captain Tom Griffiths & his deputy Jake Allcock were congratulated on their efforts and our two Australians were great additions to the team. The 2nd XI & Sunday XI struggled but thanks were given to the skippers Terry Hayden & Peter Colebrook who stuck to their tasks manfully. In 2018, the Sunday XI will be a Waresley only side as Eltisley CC has been “mothballed” for the season.

Andy & Nichola Donald and all the Colts Managers & helpers were thanked for another very successful youth season. The Under 15's were County Champions & the All Stars initiative proved very popular and will hopefully introduce a new generation of local youngsters to the game.

The Club is lucky to have such fantastic & hard working officers such as Secretary Phil Masdin & Treasurer Jim Keys - Rod Kerr has improved our social media profile over the past year. Nick Greenfield has stood down as Bar Steward after many years - he has done a fantastic job and will hopefully return in some capacity in the near future.

Nichola Donald, Jane Colebrook, Trish Bullen, Vicki Irish & all the other ladies involved with the club, including the tea ladies, were thanked.

As ever, Roger Bullen was thanked for his hard work on the ground - it was encouraging that he had more help this year than previously.

Waresley Stud were thanked for employing our Australians throughout the season.

Gareth Thomas enjoyed a good first year as President and continued to raise a lot of money in ball sponsorship - something he has been doing for nearly 30 years now.

On a sadder note, the Club lost three popular members, former Chairman Michael Banks, Life-Member Peter Walker & Shirley Gillett, wife of John & Mother of Phillip.

Treasurer Jim Keys reported the Club had made a profit of approximately £3000 in 2017 an increase of £600 on the previous year – this is a good position for a village club but we have to be careful if we wish to pursue larger projects such as expanding the pavilion. A new lease has been signed extending our tenure of the ground until 2067.

Most of the previous year's officers were re-elected, the exceptions being Steve Warman who returns as 1st XI Captain while Phil Gillett takes over as Bar Steward. A candidate has been identified to replace Terry Hayden as Welfare Officer but confirmation will be obtained before they are appointed. The Vice-Captains will be decided by the committee. Andy & Debs Paul were elected to the general committee while Andrew & Nichola Donald, Simon Blows, Nick Greenfield, Steve Lewis, & Pat Ellerbeck became Vice-Presidents in recognition of their support for the club. Ian Keeves, Ian Jack & Barry Warman were elected as Club Life-Members.

The annual subs will remain the same but match fees will increase by £2 per game to cover the rising costs of teas & Umpires.

The Ground will continue to host County games in the new season but more help from the members on the day of the matches was requested.

Ideas for celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the club in 2019 were briefly discussed. Possibilities included a game against the MCC or our first ever rivals Gamlingay CC – any other suggestions will be welcomed.



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Thank You

I would like to thank the 2nd Gamlingay
Guides for the lovely Christmas
gift bag I received in December. The sweets
were very enjoyable and I am
looking forward to the hyacith blooming. It
was such a good idea to
decorate a recycled tin can so beautifully. It
was a lovely surprise to
receive such gifts so thank you all so much. I
wish you all a Happy New
Year and my best wishes for the future. From
Vera Huckle.

Motorway Service Patricia



Mary was not looking forward to Christmas. Her husband was working away from home.

It wasn't Laurie's fault, she knew that. Some people did have to work at Christmas; but her sister was ill again, seriously ill. She was going to their parents' home to see her, perhaps for the last time, and she really would have liked his support.

She waited until he phoned on Christmas Eve before she left so it was already dark and the promised snow was beginning to fall.

She wasn't worried. They were thin little flakes and she had no country roads to navigate. Most of the journey was on main roads or motorway. They'd have been salted and there would be plenty of traffic.

The local part of the journey was uneventful, but the roads hadn't been salted and the traffic was lighter than she had expected. She drove slowly and hoped that the motorway would be better.

Alas, the gritters hadn't reached the motorway either and as she drove further south the weather worsened. Flashing lights warning her to keep below 50 mph occasionally penetrated the snow. They annoyed her and worried her. It was hardly safe at 30!

The non-flashing lights of the Service Station were welcome.

She didn't usually stop there. In normal conditions it was scarce thirty minutes from her parent's home. Now it could be hours.

This one wasn't called 'Welcome Break', but it certainly would be. She flicked the indicator and searched the white mist for the slip road.

Don cursed the cheerful voices singing Christmas carols. This was *not* the best time to sing about 'snow on snow'.

He saw tail lights in front just as he switched off the radio and automatically he followed them. He cursed again when he realised that he was on a slip road, going to that damned awful place that erroneously called itself a service station.

He couldn't reverse so he carried on.

At least the car park was almost empty. The car ahead pulled into the nearest space to the entrance. He parked a little further away, but not much. His clothes and shoes, worn for a Christmas Eve luncheon party, would have pleased his parents, but were not made for walking in snow.

He thought that the other driver would be ahead of him, but she wasn't. She had changed her driving shoes for boots and they reached the entrance at the same time. Even worse, she was friendly.

Mary smiled sympathetically at the man. It was obvious from his clothes that he hadn't expected snow and he didn't look happy.

"I did listen to the weather forecast," she said, "and it warned of rain, possibly sleet, but not snow."

"That's probably why the roads haven't been gritted," responded Don sourly and began to brush the flakes from his shoulders.

Another female face looked at him anxiously.

"Is it still snowing?"

He'd really had enough of females after Chrissie had walked out on him last week. He ought to have been snugly ensconced with her in that nice hotel in Broadway enjoying sex and good food.

He glared at the girl, but she seemed not to notice.

"We're due to close at ten," she continued, "but I don't see how we'll get home unless it stops snowing."

Mary smiled again.

"Can we get a coffee?" she asked. "I really need one, and I'm sure this gentleman does too. The roads are dreadful."

The girl smiled in return.

"Oh yes. It is warm and dry inside and I'm on the coffee shop. Bessie's here too on the hot food counter."

She led the way inside.

It was warm, and dry, and Bessie on the hot food counter looked across at them.

She welcomed them, but asked about the weather and nodded with resignation when told that it was still snowing.

Mary had coffee and a sandwich, but Don chose the breaded lamb as recommended by Bessie. He declined the chips, even though she offered to make fresh ones. The vegetables would be enough.

He sat down. There was plenty of space.

A few people sat around waiting for the weather to improve.

He watched them as he ate: an elderly couple, looking anxious, a big darkie (he couldn't remember the current PC term), another large bloke with tattooed arms, an Indian couple and a very young-looking couple with two small children.

Later, he took out his mobile and called his parents. They ought to know that he would be late.

They were grateful for his call, but not encouraging. Apparently the snow was bad there too.

People went to the door from time to time, but all returned with a shake of the head.

Don scowled and cursed to himself. Mary went out to her car to fetch her bag.

"We're going to be here all night," she said to everyone when she came back in. "I'll sleep in my clothes, but I do need my toothbrush!"

She was shockingly cheerful, but she was right. Several people wandered out to fetch various items from their vehicles.

Don waited, but he went eventually. The snow was worse. You could hardly see the cars, let alone the road.

Things were being organized when he returned.

A dark corner by the closed Burger Bar had been set aside for sleeping. Jay, the coffee girl, was setting up a screen. It was not to separate male and female, but to give some privacy to the family.

Don wouldn't have minded some privacy. He almost scowled again, but the boy spoke.

"We can't sleep here." He shook his head and frowned. "Santa won't know where we are!"

"We can't go to Nana's tonight, darling."

His mother sounded close to tears.

"Santa always knows where boys and girls are," said Mary firmly. "He'll find you."

"But we haven't got stockings."

The boy kicked off a boot and waved a foot. It was encased in a very small sock.

"Sandwich bags!" said Jay and rushed back to her counter.

She returned with two brown paper bags, a pen and some sticky tape.

"Now, what's your name?"

"Timothy. And she's Sharon." He pointed to his younger sister.

Jay wrote the names on the bags and fastened them to the counter.

"Santa will know," she said, "and now you will know which is which."

The children were happy. They lay down on cushions on the floor and their mother covered them with coats.

"But we haven't got anything to put in them. All the things are at my mother's," she told them when she came back round the screen.

A tear ran down her cheek.

There was silence. Sad silence. Even Don felt sorry for the children.

"I suppose the stationers there is locked up," said Mary looking towards the metal screen.

"Yes!" Bessie sounded cheerful, but she didn't shout. "Yes it is, but Jack left the key with me!"

She looked round at everyone. "We'll have to make a list of things and leave the money though."

She was unsure, but no one else was.

"We'll pay. Can't leave the children disappointed."

That was the tattooed bloke.

"Of course, we'll pay."

That was the parents.

Bessie came running back with the key and the darkie was the first to follow her.

"No, you won't pay," he said to the parents. "Not for what I choose. I've never bought things for a child's stocking before. It'll be a pleasure."

It was a pleasure.

Don watched them all wandering around the shop picking things from the shelves.

He chose a book for himself before he looked over to the pile beside the till. It was a big pile: pencils, colouring books, sweets and chocolates, two water bottles, one pink and one blue, a picture book, a tiny teddy bear. Too much surely for the paper bags.

He didn't *have* to buy anything, but suddenly he wanted to. He picked up a toy gun, looked round for something 'girly' and found nothing that he thought interesting. He picked up another gun.

He took them to the till, but before he added them to the pile he spoke to the mother.

"Do you object to your children having play guns?"

"No," she said. "Some parents do, but at play-school when the children play outside they all pick up sticks and pretend they're guns. I don't think they'll grow up killing people."

He smiled, added his gifts to the pile and his purchases to the list that the admirable Bessie was making.

The mother stared at the pile.

"Oh, James look! And we don't even know your names."

She looked round at everyone, tears trembling on her lids, "I'm Sandra."

The darkie bowed.

"I'm George. Georgie Porgie 'cos I like pies."

People laughed, and Sandra's tears became less imminent.

"Mike," said the tattooed man.

The Indian gentleman bowed courteously and introduced himself and his wife; Saajid and Nadira.

"And I'm Beatrice and this is Chris," said the elderly lady smiling. "And Christmas is for children. It's the birth of Christ, so it's lovely for us to have children with us tonight."

No one argued with that. Everyone paid their share, returned to the main room and selected their 'place'.

There were no more cushions, but some of the chairs were padded and hard ones were made softer with coats and blankets from the cars.

It had stopped snowing now, reported one as he returned from the car park with a grubby rug, but venturing out was not recommended. No one did.

The main lights were switched off for the night, but a light was left on in the entrance. Other travellers might be in need and it would reassure any who woke in the night and guide their way to the toilets.

No one slept well, but they did sleep. Surprisingly the children did not wake first, but when they did, they woke everyone else.

"Santa's been! He found us and look!"

Excited shrieks accompanied the opening of the paper bags. The improvised stockings were a great success and the children emerged from their 'bedroom' and ran about waving books and beads, packs of sweets and guns.

The adults smiled, stretched their limbs, stiff with lying on makeshift beds, and wandered to the toilets.

The ladies, having combs and tissues in their handbags, fared better than the men, but no one worried much about what they looked like.

It was Mary who wished everyone Happy Christmas.

"Not where we want to be," she said, "but we are warm and dry. Let's spare a thought for those who may be stranded."

There was a silence, even the children were quiet.

The boy touched his mother. He was puzzled. They were not in church.

"Are we praying?" he asked softly.

She nodded.

"Let us think of those who are homeless." Beatrice stood up as she spoke.

Everyone stood and thought.

"Let us think of those who are fleeing from persecution." That was Saajid.

They thought of those who were in prison, those who were ill and those who cared for them and for those who worked on holidays to keep others safe.

Don felt almost obliged to say something. He had not prayed for years. Who or what, did one pray for? He remembered something and spoke.

"Let us think of those who have died and of those who mourn them."

Everyone stood in silence still, but he felt foolish. It was not the best of thoughts for Christmas Day.

“Let us think of ourselves,” said Jay cheerfully, “and how we can do more to help one another.”
Everyone smiled; they were helping one another, but they thought too.
“Now let’s have breakfast. Coffee and tea is ready, but I’d appreciate some help.”

2000 words

There was no shortage of help. Tables were pushed together, chairs assembled, trays carried and plates and cutlery laid out. Bessie and Jay brought the food and drink and everyone ate.

Later they went outside. All was quiet, cold and still; no more snow, but no sign of thaw. People took out their mobiles and contacted friends and family. Don called the police.

Help was on the way, he was told. Snow ploughs were out and had reached the motorways. Stay put until they came.

They stayed put.

Bessie thought about Christmas dinner.

Supplies were low, but there might be enough smoked salmon. There were several turkey dinners in the freezer and burgers of course.

“Chocolate cake, stolen slices and mince pies on the coffee stall,” put in Jay happily. “We’ll have to share.”

They shared.

Don thought it the nicest Christmas meal he had had for a long time. No alcohol and definitely no chance of overeating, but the good will was there in plenty.

After they had cleared the debris, Timothy declared that it was like a party and could they play games.

Games! What games?

“Hunt the thimble?” suggested Beatrice, producing one from her capacious knitting bag.

They started with that. Then Mike fetched his guitar from his van and they played Musical Bumps and Statues.

When everyone, save for the children, sat down in exhaustion Mike played a solo; then they had a concert.

Georgie Porgie, who had a fine deep voice, sang a Negro spiritual. Timothy recited a poem; Sandra sang a pop song and James did a fair imitation of Elvis Presley. Nadira sang an Indian song and Chris made a few jokes in Ken Dodd style.

Don felt obliged to make an effort. He used to sing in the school choir. He could still sing; but what?

That carol on the radio was all he could think of so he sang ‘In the Bleak Mid-winter’.

He stumbled over the words half-way through, but Beatrice knew it and helped him out. She let him finish and he gave the last line all he had.

Bit embarrassing though, sounding emotional over ‘give my heart’.

Beatrice came over when they stopped for a tea break.

“My favourite hymn,” she said, “and you sang so well. Inspired you were; as you were this morning when you prayed for the dead and those who mourn.

“Mary, there,” she nodded towards her, “her sister died last night. She was handicapped, and it was expected, but Mary wanted to see her again. She was touched and comforted by the prayer.”

Don didn’t answer. Beatrice had moved away, and he had nothing to say.

He sipped his tea in silence.

The silence did not last. Mike lifted his guitar again and began to play. Dance music. He was good and people began to dance.

Don danced because everyone did. Chris showed Saajid and Nadira some steps and they joined in. So did the children. No one cared about dignity or image; they just danced.

They were doing the Conga round the tables and chairs when several yellow-jacketed men arrived. They were followed by a worried-looking man in a suit and wellingtons.

Yellow jackets stood in the doorway and laughed.

“You lot don’t need rescuing!” they said.

The snow ploughs had arrived.

Everyone stood and stared. What did one say to rescuers?

"Would you like some coffee," asked Jay, "or tea?"

"Tea please, lots of sugar," came the answer and she rushed off to her counter.

The anxious man looked round. His eyes lingered a moment on George, but his frown cleared when he saw Bessie.

"I was afraid for you," he said.

George understood at once.

"No bad people here," he said. "Good people. All good."

The man smiled.

"Yes, I can see that now, but I am the manager of the site and the two young girls were here alone."

"We were stuck like everyone else, but everything has been paid for; at least I think so." Bessie finished uncertainly.

She was reassured, very firmly. The manager had not been thinking of the money.

There were two snow ploughs. One going north and one south.

Everyone gathered their belongings and sorted themselves into 'north' and 'south'.

The manager was taking Bessie and Jay in his car. That way, he said, he could see them safely home.

They were going north to the next junction. Only the Indian couple and Don and Mary were going south.

Don could sense the worry.

"You're alone, Miss?" asked a yellow jacket.

"Yes. I'm Mrs actually, but my husband's working away. In Australia of all places. Christmas on the beach." She laughed. "That's why I'm going to my parents."

Saajid asked where they lived, and shook his head at the answer. They were going past her junction.

Don didn't envy them that, but he knew the town she had mentioned. He went past it on his way to his parent's house.

He tried not to sound reluctant when he offered to follow her.

She protested, it was out of his way, but everyone else looked relieved.

They made plans before they set off; snow plough first, Saajid next, then Mary then Don.

It was slow. There was plenty of time to think. Don thought about the day, the people and especially about Beatrice.

"You are a kind man," she had said quietly before she left.

He wasn't. He couldn't really remember if he ever had been. He hadn't even visited his parents often. He was only going now because Chrissie had left. She had gone in a rage after another argument about children.

"You wouldn't want them if you had to bear them!" she had shouted. "Bet you wouldn't do much about looking after them either. You're selfish."

Perhaps he was.

An indicator light flashed in front of him and he followed Mary's car up the slip road, flashing his lights at Saajid and his wife. He had liked them, gentle, rather shy and with beautiful manners.

Mary drove more slowly than he would have done, but she did remember to stay in low gear and to keep going. Thankfully the traffic lights were on green and they turned onto the ordinary road without incident.

He followed her carefully. He had driven through this town often, but only on the main streets. He did not know it well.

She slowed and flashed her lights, before turning into a small road.

It was the signal. He was not to follow her down the cul-de-sac. Turning round could be difficult.

He appreciated that. The snow on the road was pristine. Mary drove carefully, but before she stopped lights showed, a door opened and two people emerged. Her parents had been waiting and watching.

They waved to him and he flashed his lights in farewell. She was safe.

He turned round in a side road where at least one or two cars had left guide lines in the snow.

Now he could drive faster; but he didn't and he gave a great sigh of relief when he arrived at his parent's house.

The drive was clear of snow and his mother opened the door as soon as he turned in. She too had been waiting. She chattered happily as she led him in.

Joe next door had helped to clear the drive because he had snow shovels. Bought last year when they were two for one. Dad was phoning his sister to let her know that he was safe. Now did he want wine or beer?

Don settled into a comfortable chair with a beer and eyed the low table hungrily; cold turkey, cold ham, meat pie and a variety of pickles. Mum made her own pickles.

He told them about the Service Station as he ate. When he talked of the children he told them why Chrissie had left and he did say that he had joined in the dancing.

“What else did you contribute?” asked his father, so he admitted to buying guns and singing.

Mum smiled and nodded. People were kind, but didn’t always show it. Adversity brought it out. Like Joe, clearing the drive.

He had left one of the small shovels for Don to take home, just in case the roads were still bad.

“I’ll go and thank him tomorrow,” said Don. “It might be useful.”

He sat back, content.

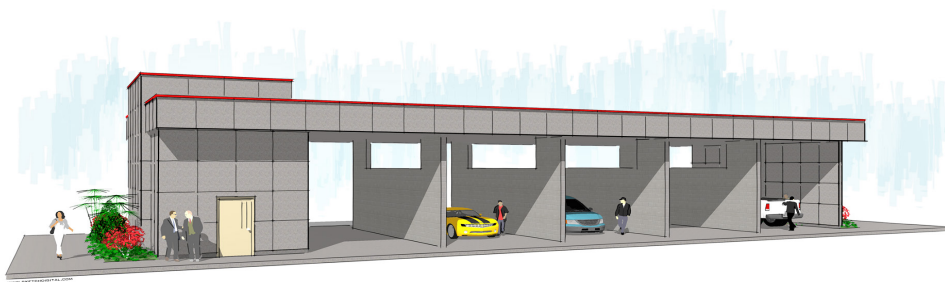
He did not anticipate having to dig his car out on the way home. The roads would surely be clear by then, but it might still be cold.

He thought of his flat and the parking area. That could be covered in snow. The girl with the bright smile who lived in one of the ground floor flats might have cleared it. She was that sort of girl.

She moved the litter that blew in, she weeded the narrow border and she trimmed the few shrubs. She went to church and she had a hanging basket outside her door.

He didn’t know her name. Chrissie had called her ‘Help and Holy’, but Chrissie had thought that the council ought to clear the rubbish.

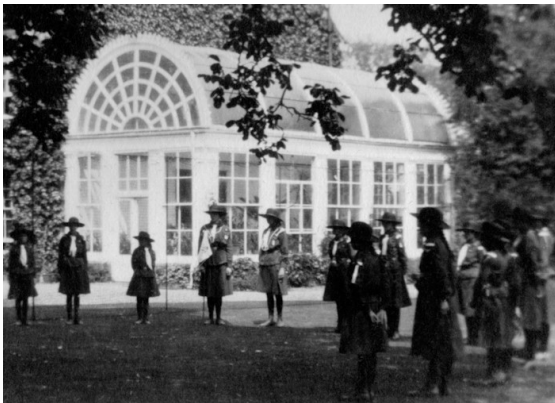
Don smiled. He would clear the snow if no one else had done, and perhaps he would learn the name of the girl with the bright smile. He knew nothing about her, nothing at all, but he would bet that she would want children.



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Historyman

2



1



The pictures on this page are from Historyman titles for the forthcoming year that were asked for by the public.

The subjects you asked for are -

Merton Grange shown in pictures 3 & 4

Fetes and shows shown in pictures 1 & 6

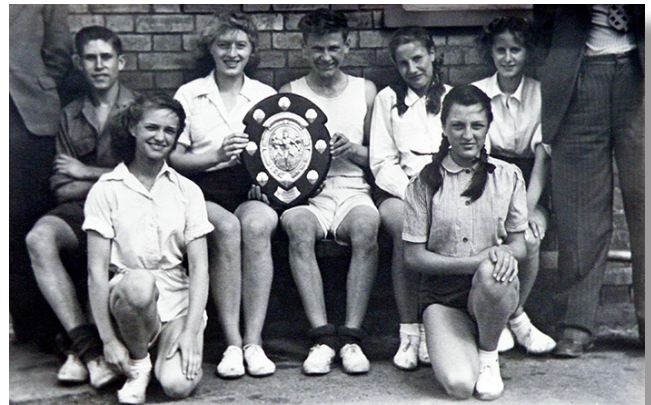
Athletics including meeting at Parworth Hospital 2 & 5

The Railway Line from Gamlingay to Sandy 7

Does anyone know anything about these pictures, I have a lot already but more will help.

3 These pictures come from Grace Baker, Dr Ellis of Merton Grange who gave me two albums to keep some years ago and lent me 100 or so to copy and the sports pictures from Tom and Doris Robinson after they retired from Yhe First School as Headmaster and Headmisstress and they gave them to my mum and dad

5



4

7



6

All the pictures shown on these pages are copyright of the owners



1



2



3



4

The Wedding Cake pictures had plenty of response and all but one has been identified. Tony Dennis the Groom in picture 4 called to say his name is Tony and not Vic and he and his wife still live in the village.

Two of the others have been identified but one remains unidentified but we will give it another month to see what comes up.

Picture Puzzler

The Picture Puzzler now takes a break for a while but will be back.

*Contact the Gazette on 01767-651025
or email nb777@btinternet.com*

Last Year's Picture Puzzler Answers

<i>January</i>	<i>Summer House, Merton Grange</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Swimming Pool at the First School being built</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>74 to 78 Church Street</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>The end house in the Maltings on Church Street, the only original building to survive</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>Bill Bruce and his dog Buster in the back garden of 82 Church Street</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Barn at Titmus's farm on Little Heath</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>Petrol pumps at Worboys Garage</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>a) Honey Hill & Mill Street Junction, b) Road sweeper in Stocks Lane at entrance to Holly Walk</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Cemetery from Council House in Stocks Lane</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>The Style at Block Bridge</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Cow sheds Merton Farm, Station Road</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>As it was given to me it had Bill Empson in his Dads Motorcycle & Cycle shop in Church Street but other versions say it is in Empsons Garage and it is Jim Empson</i>

The Winner was Janet Duffin who won the first Picture Puzzler and tied the second with Carol Wright who was second in this competition by one answer, well done to you both.



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This trip is entirely self-funded, and the girls need to raise £4080 each to cover all costs.

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Roderick's

Vegetarian Recipes

by Roderick Starksfield

SLOW BRAISED FENNEL

I was recently at our local Farm Shop, and was selecting some fennel. A lady behind me commented that she wouldn't know what to do with Fennel

Fennel is a lovely vegetable, tasting of anise, slightly sweet and a good crunch. There are many ways to serve it:

Raw thinly sliced in a salad or Coleslaw

In a Gratin (with lots of cream and a few Olives)

Baked, Braised, etc.

It goes well with many dishes as a side dish, or makes a meal in itself.

If only baked it can, unless well cooked on a low heat for a long time, be a bit tough.

In the recipe below I use a method of cooking the Fennel given in Richard Buckley's book 'Acorn Vegetarian Kitchen'.

The amounts given below are for one person as a main meal, two as a starter, just multiply up for more.

Ingredients

Slow cooked Fennel:

- 1 Fennel bulb
- 1oz/25gm Sugar
- 2½oz/60gm Vinegar
- 1oz/25gm salt
- 2 Star Anise
- 3 Black Pepper corns
- Small sprig of Tarragon
- Water

Plum Sauce

- 2 or 3 plums
- Dessert spoon of Sugar
- Tablespoon of vinegar
- Splash of Balsamic Vinegar (optional)
- Good pinch of salt
- Water

Cheese 'Egg'

- 1½oz/40gm Mascarpone
- 1½oz/40gm mature Blue Cheese



Method

Trim the Fennel, remove any brown or damaged 'leaves' and cut in half length-wise. Leave the root core in as it keeps the whole thing together.

Place the Fennel and the other ingredients, except the Tarragon, in a saucepan, add enough water to just cover the fennel. Bring to a light boil and simmer for about 10-15 minutes. Keep checking that the Fennel is meltingly soft, it may take up to 20 minutes.

Remove the Fennel, and discard the liquid and flavourings. Place on kitchen paper to drain off, this can be prepared up to a day in advance. When ready to serve, heat a knob of butter and a splash of oil in a frying pan and place the fennel, cut side up in the pan. After about 4 minutes, the Fennel should have started to turn golden, turn it over and continue until the cut side is nicely browned.

Meanwhile prepare the plum sauce. Remove the stone from the plums, and chop into small dice, Add with the other ingredients to a saucepan, cover with water and bring to a slow boil. You will need to keep topping up the water to give soft pouring consistency. While this is cooking, use the back of spoon to squash the plum pieces to break them up, a bit of texture is fine. Check the seasoning, it can take quite a bit of pepper and salt.

The Cheese Egg. In a bowl scrunch together the Mascarpone and the Blue Cheese to make a smooth paste.

To serve:

Place a line of the sauce down the centre of your serving plate. Add the Fennel, cut side up, across this line. Shape the cheese into a quenelle using two dessert spoons and place between the Fennel. Sprinkle with chopped Tarragon.

News from RSPB

The Lodge by Mark Brandon

I hope you had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas, and I wish you a very happy and healthy new year.

Unlike last year, we did have a couple of days when snow fell over the festive period. There were several days when it was very cold, and large icy puddles were a target for children in their wellies to jump on! Over the Christmas and New Year holiday large numbers of visitors came to the reserve for a walk, with plenty of families completing our 'Tale of the Christmas Robin' trail.

The normally very scarce hawfinches that arrived in November stayed throughout December, and a female almost took up permanent residence in one favoured yew tree in the staff car-park, which gave a great number of birders really good sightings, often for the very first time.

A flock of colourful orange and black bramblings from the finch family made a strong supporting cast, and a few woodcock were seen at dusk or when flushed up during the day. There were much smaller numbers of the visiting winter thrushes during this period, with only a few fieldfares seen, and only small flocks of redwings.

At the end of January (27-29th) thousands of people took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, spending an hour counting the birds they see in their garden. The charity will reveal the latest highs and lows for birds and other wildlife in March, when the results from the survey are released.

We hope to welcome you to RSPB The Lodge this year!

The RSPB Lodge reserve is open every day of the week, from dawn to dusk, for everyone to enjoy and there are plenty of organised events: just ring to book. Entry is included in the car-parking fee - £5 a car for non-members, free if you are members or just visiting the shop.

The shop (01767 690333) is open every day (9am-5pm and 10am-5pm weekends and Bank Holidays) and has everything for people who love nature. (Please note this is a new number).

Our website; www.rspb.org.uk/thelodge is the place to look for all of the events you can enjoy here at RSPB The Lodge.

Our Facebook page is; [Facebook.com/RSPB/hertsandbeds](https://www.facebook.com/RSPB/hertsandbeds)

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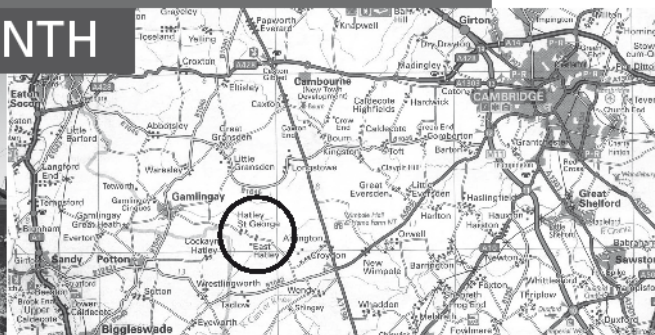
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What's on: Potton Ladies Club

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month & the next meeting is on the 6th February 2018. This is at the Mill Lane Pavilion, Mill Lane, Potton.

Contact: Sarah Burgoine at: sarahjburgoine@gmail.com or 01767 631415



We want to make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry, but we need your help to make this happen. Your gift can make a real difference to people in need in Gamlingay and Hatley.

We currently need donations of:

- TINNED TOMATOES
- TINNED HAM
- FRUIT JUICE (LONG LIFE)
- MILK (LONG LIFE)
- TINNED CUSTARD
- MASHED POTATO
- LONG GRAIN RICE (500G)
- BISCUITS
- CHOCOLATE BISCUIT BARS (EG KIT KATS)
- COFFEE (SMALL JARS)
- TEA BAGS (80S)
- JAM
- TINNED FRUIT
- DOG AND CAT FOOD
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- TOILETRIES (MALE AND FEMALE)
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Trouble making ends meet?

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Help is available for people in Gamlingay and Hatley, for families, for couples and for single people, whether in work, or not. This is not a benefit, it is a helping hand in a time of need, and there are no delays.

Anyone can reach crisis point, and we're here to help when that happens.

Please call, **in total confidence:**
Gerry Brunt **07752 428191**

If you can help, please contact Gerry Brunt on: **07752 428191**
Or take your donations to the drop off point at St Mary's Church.
Cash and cheque donations are welcome – please contact Gerry for more information.

What's on in February

Over 50's walk. March 1st Meet at Ecohub car park. New members welcome.
Phone Miriam on 01767 654891 or email her at miriamjones80@hotmail.com for further information.

Total wellness workout

Bring some water to drink and an exercise mat or a towel for floor work. £5 per class.

Fridays 9.30-10.30am at St Mary's Church Hall.

Soup lunches

Every fourth Wednesday of the month 12:30pm start, Church Hall.

Cock Inn, monthly quiz nights

Second Monday of the month, 8pm at The Cock, but to secure a table please come a little earlier.

£1 per head, raising money for Charity. New teams always welcome. Varied themes.

Beginners Breeze at 10.15am from the Hub, every first Thursday of the month

Contact gill.kitchener@btinternet.com, telephone 07842 135732

Gamlingay Social Club - Bingo every Friday Evening, Quiz Nights, Pool Nights and Live Bands

16 Waresley Road

The Wheatsheaf Inn - 1st & 3rd Monday of the Month - Charity Quiz Night

Tuesday Nights - Jam Sessions, Phone 01767-651743

Gamlingay Community Centre Hub Community events. See Village information for all Library details

Monday

Housing, Police & Councillor Surgery	First Monday of the Month, the Eco Hub	9.30am - 10.00am
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Library open	Toddlers' story time and craft session	9.15am - 10.30am
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Library open		4.00pm - 8.00pm
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Tuesday

Library open	Board games	9.15am - 12.15pm
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Indoor Carpet bowls	Friendly group, just drop in and pay and play	1.30pm - 3.30pm
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Parish Council	2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month Public Meetings	7.00pm
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Gamlingay Players	Hayley Parker 652 992 Small friendly society who produce plays and pantomime	8.00pm - 10.00pm
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Wednesday

Library open		12.30pm - 3.15pm
	Free drop in friendly computer training for beginners	1.00pm - 3.00pm

Gamlingay Environmental Action Group (GEAG)	Kier Suite, Wednesdays occasional meetings, no meeting in February	
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Gamlingay Gardening Club	7th February Virgins, Weeders & Queens; A History of Women in the Garden - Dr Twigs Way. The Kier Suite, Eco Hub	Guests £3.00
		7.30pm

Thursday

Library open		4.00pm - 7.00pm
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Youth Cafe and Club	Local children's group - Cafe YR4+ Club YR8+	5-15pm - 9-00pm
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Gamlingay Players	Small Friendly society who produce plays and pantomimes	8-00pm - 10-00pm
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Friday -	Library Open &	Connect Cafe	10.00 am - 12.00pm
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Saturday	Library Open	9.30am - 12.30pm
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What's on in February

Gamlingay Allotment Gardeners Association GAGA	Members Secretary Bob Gordon 01767--651913 e bob.gordon22@talktalk.net
Gamlingay Parish Council	For information contact the Clerk on 650 310
2nd and 4th Tuesday each month	7.00pm Planning Committee meeting, Eco hub
2nd Tuesday each month	7.30pm Parish Council meeting, Eco hub
Hatley Parish Council	Contact the Clerk Kim Wilde 650 596 or email hatley-parish-clerk@hatley.info. Details on the website www.hatley.info or noticeboards
Monday	
Gamlingay History Society	19th February The Kimbolton Hoed - Liz Davis Kier Suite, Eco Hub - 7.30pm - 01767-449886 / 651472
Tuesday	
Gamlingay Womens Institute	Held on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7.30 at the Eco Hub Contact Jean York 650367
Gamlingay Writers	Please contact for full details emryssparks@gmail.com 3rd Tuesday of the Month
Guitar Club	Meets on every alternate Thursday. For further information call Geoff Bruerton on 650748
St Mary's choir practice	6.45pm choir practice open to all interested singers-The Church Hall or St Mary's Church Thursdays
Guild of St Mary's	Church Hall 7:30pm, all ladies welcome 3rd Monday of the Month
Gamlingay Archaeological Group (GAMARCH)	Chris Tomsett - Chaiman 01767 650009, Julia Manley Julia.manley@anglia.ac.uk First Thursday of the month 7:30pm at the WI Hall
Bellringers Thursdays	7.30 - 9.00pm with John Boocock at St.Mary's, Gamlingay
Gamlingay Photographic Society	2nd February Competition 5 open -Judge Naomi Saul ARPS, DPAGB, ASINWP, EFIAP A Panel 9th A Chairmans Introduction 16th No Meeting 23rd A Potpourri - Chris Taylor Fridays 8pm - 10.00pm Avenells Way Communal Room New Members welcome. Phone: 651025 Email: nickbruce7@btinternet.com website www.gamlingay-ps.org.uk
Gamlingay Community Choir	First Wednesday of the month 8 - 9.30pm Third Saturday of the month 10.15am - 12.15pm In the Kingspan Hall, Eco Hub Contact Jan Cooper 01767-650178

Pre school groups and education

Montessori Mrs Pat Jenkins 650 645
0771 4821
940

Rainbow Preschool Julie Prior 651996
Jelly Tots Sarah Petch 07581
393322

Everton Preschool Julie 07814
815 491
Natalie 691 477

Carers Group Bridget Smith 650510

Sports

Waresley Cricket Club Phil Masdin 01767-
221027

Bowls Club Brian 651 020
Football Club Chair: 651 020
Youth Team Brian
Culverhouse

Junior Football School Brian 651 020
Culverhouse

Tennis Club John Gray 654 165
Fitness Workshop 651 785

Breeze Ladies' Gill Kitchener 650 035

Cycling
Girls Football -MUGA Nancy Kyle 651785
email-nantmarg@hotmail.co.uk

Halls for hire

St Mary's Church Hall Lindy Gorton 650 581

WI Hall Parish Council 650 310

Social Club Martin Hull 650418

Methodist Chapel Parish Council 650 310

Hatley St George Village Hall Kim Wilde 650596
www.hatley.info

Everton Village Hall 682251

Ecohub Manager Sarah Groom 651226
Kate Laugharne

Churches

Baptist Church Linda Fraser 677 710
Church Office 651519

St Mary The Virgin, Church Warden Chris Miller 650779
Jan Cooper 650178

Schools

First School 650 208

Village College 650 360

First School Association Via school office 650 208

Youth groups

2nd Gamlingay Guides Benita Scott 650 547

1st Gamlingay Brownies Jane Brown 652 997

1st Gamlingay Rainbows Helen Brown 449 043

Tinuwen Rangers Irene Gray 651 212

Gamlingay Cubs Steve Palmer 651 532

Gamlingay Gransden Cubs Barry Jefferd 261 000

Gamlingay Scouts Thursday Will Colebrook 07527
717463

Pathfinder Scouts Friday Chris Elwood 07879
698477

Explorers Phil Wood 01480
All meet at the Scout Hut 830 866

Youth Club Lucy Rands 07929

Youth Cafe 453235

Gamlingay Young Lacemakers Kay Palmer 651 532

Hobbies leisure and interests

Gamlingay Players Hayley Parker 652 992

Bell Ringers John Boocock 650 736

Gardening Club Lindy Gorton 650 581

History Society Peter Wright 449886
e gamlingayhistory@gmail.com

Over 50's walks Miriam and Phil 654 891
meet at Ecohub Titchner

Booklinks Kate Laugharne

Friends of St Mary's Philip Gorton 650 581

Ladybird Club Mrs C Watson 650 707

St. Neots Model John Kneeshaw
Railway club j.kneeshaw@ntlworld.com

East Beds Model Railway Society Sec: John Wakeman
wakemanpj@aol.com

Photographic Society Jackie Bruce, 651 025
Secretary

Royal British Legion Sebastian 651 982
Kindersley

Jackie Hough 651 070
Gamlingay Writers Emrys Sparks

gamlingaywriters@gmail.com

Village Show Amy Lovat 07843 527979

WI Anne Clarke 651 932

Jean York 650367

Guild of St Mary's Liz Huckle 650 988

Music Club Geoff Bruerton 650 748

Gamlingay Lacecaps Pat Brunson 01480
385 351

Sir John Jacob's
 Almshouses Trustees: Jackie Hough 651 070
 Sebastian Kindersley 651 982
 Lawrie Edwards Major 311 418
 John McCall 650 039
 Sandy and District Lee Packham
 Round Table Brown
 Gamlingay Daniel Pullan
 Environmental Action contact@geag.org g.uk
 Group (GEAG) www.geag.org.uk
 Gamlingay Bob Gordon 651913
 Allotment Gardeners Brian Giddings
 Association 07744074796
 Gamarch (Gamlingay Chris Tomsett 650 009
 Archaeological Julia Manley (secretary)
 Group)
 GamlingayCommunity Choir Jan Cooper-650178

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 General Enquiries 0345 045 5201
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 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
 General Enquiries 0345 045 5200
 Switchboard 0345 045 5222
 Trading Standards 0845 4040506
 Waste Management 0345 045 5207
 Education Transport 0345 045 5208
 Human Resources (recruitment line) 0345 045 5210
 Online Payments Support 0345 045 5211
 Streetscene
 (highways, transport and streets) 0345 045 5212
 Library Services
 (includes automatic renewals) 0345 045 5225
 Citizenship 0345 045 5155
 Family Information Service 0345 045 1360
 Education Welfare Benefits Service 0345 045 1361

Library Opening hours

Monday	9.15am-10.30am. 4.00pm - 8.00pm	Toddlers' story time and craft session 9.15am - 10.00am
Tuesday	9.15am - 12.15pm	Board games 10.00am - 12.00
Wednesday	12.30pm - 3.15pm	Free computer training (please book)
Thursday	4.00pm – 7.00pm	
Friday	10am - 12.00pm	
Saturday	9.30am - 12.30pm	

Medical Centre Appointments: 651 544
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 District nurses 0845
 602 4064

Cambridge Hearing 01233
 help 416141
 Age Concern 01354
 696650

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 Medical Transport 493701

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 Non-emergency Fire 01223
 376 217

Non-emergency 101
 Police

Community Police PC John Coppard 101
 email john.coppard@ cambs.pnn.police.
 uk

Parish council Clerks, 650 310
 Kirstin Rayner
 Leanne Bacon

at ecohub clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk
 Web page www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk
 Chairman Jackie McGeady
 Vice Chairman Sarah Groom
 Library Kate Laugharne 651 226

Forward Gamlingay Chair:
 Ian Wakeling

Hatley Parish Council Clerk:
 Kim Wilde 650 596
 hatley-parish-clerk@hatley.info
 www.hatley.info

Chairman: Margot Eagle

Politics
 MP Heidi Allen 01954
 211444

County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley 651 982

District Councillors Sebastian Kindersley 651 982
 Bridget Smith 650 510

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