

The Gazette

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



GAMLINGAY STARS ON TV!

Some pre Christmas excitement came to Gamlingay on 14 December, as Anglia TV descended to do their whole 6pm local news show live from the village.

The theme was what communities are doing to tackle loneliness and social isolation and Gamlingay was chosen as the host because a local reporter for Anglia had remembered the village from a previous visit to the Hub back in the summer. The programme was conceived, written and directed by presenter Jonathan Wills, who got in touch to see if Gamlingay was up to the challenge and came to do a reconnaissance visit in November. He was particularly interested in the community projects that run in the village, what the village has been doing in the last ten years, and what future projects are planned. Many groups meet in the Eco Hub, so the Hub became a natural base to host the show (having good broadband was also a deal breaker!).

Filming also took place at the Wheatsheaf (chosen by ITV due to its close proximity to the Church) and St Mary's Church, which was host to singers from St Marys Church Choir and the Baptist Church and the Gamlingay Community Choir, together with children from GVC and the First School. The choirs were conducted by Chris Miller and accompanied by the Revd Adrian Semerene.

Back at the Hub, we had the Connect Café in full swing, the Crafty Ladies were crafting and the Christmas Crafts group, run by Forward Gamlingay, was happily making Christmas cards. We were able to showcase the Library,

Eco Hub manager Shelley did a short piece to say what happens here at the Hub, and a panel of experts from Age Concern, Relate and a Financial expert were here to answer questions from viewers.



The programme went out all over the East Anglia region and was also screened live on Facebook which pulled in comments and likes from as far away as Australia!

Presenters Jonathan Wills and Becky Jago were charming, professional and hard working and made Gamlingay look fantastic. I hope everyone who saw the programme is very proud of our village and what happens here. We do have a great community spirit, and while not every aspect of the village could be highlighted, we feel that this alone was a great message to send out for Christmas and that Gamlingay will be the envy of many other villages because of it.

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

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Please send all Articles ETC to nb777@btinternet.com

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

**February deadline is
1st January**

**March 2018 deadline is
1st February**

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 16th January at 7.30pm Hatley Village Hall. The one next will be Tuesday 20th March, same time and location.

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



FRIDAY, 5 th January 2018	Blue bin only
THURSDAY, 11 th January 2018	Black bin
WEDNESDAY, 17 th January 2018	Blue and Green bins
WEDNESDAY, 24 th January 2018	Black bin
WEDNESDAY, 31 st January 2018	Blue bin only

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 January 2018



07-Jan	Baptism of Christ	8.00am	Holy Communion	G
07-Jan	Baptism of Christ	10.00am	First Sunday	G
07-Jan	Baptism of Christ	4.00pm	Evensong	E
14-Jan	Epiphany 2	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	G
14-Jan	Epiphany 2	11.00am	Holy Communion	H
14-Jan	Epiphany 2	11.00am	Word and Worship	E
21-Jan	Epiphany 3	9.30am	Parish Eucharist with prayers for healing	G
21-Jan	Epiphany 3	11.00am	Parish Eucharist	E
28-Jan	Epiphany 4	8.00am	Holy Communion	H
28-Jan	Epiphany 4	9.30am	Parish Eucharist	G
28-Jan	Epiphany 4	11.00am	Parish Eucharist	E
28-Jan	Epiphany 4	6.00pm	Evensong	G

Dear friends

A very happy New Year to you all! Without sounding too pessimistic I wonder why we wish people a “happy” New Year when, for many, it will be anything but. Some of us will enter the New Year far from fit, some of us may have financial worries, some may be going through a breakdown in some kind of relationship, and so the list could go on. Of course, we all hope that the outcome of our problems will be a good one, but happy?

I always feel that I have to be careful with some people regarding the wording of Christmas cards (even though my wife usually writes them!). I wonder if you had to do that with anybody this Christmas? My dear late father did not have a particularly happy last few years of his life and we always had to choose our words carefully – something like “Thinking of you at Christmas” rather than “Happy Christmas”.

And so it might be with the New Year we are embarking upon. It is an unknown path that we are treading. The past is gone, and we can remember it, but the future is unknown to us.

In the Old Testament, when Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land he told them to follow the Ark of the Covenant, carried by the priests and containing the two tablets on which were written the Ten Commandments. This was to happen because “You have never passed this way before”.

As we journey on in our lives, sometimes we will travel along a well-worn road, familiar to us and immediately recognisable. But at other times the path will become unfamiliar and perhaps intimidating. On the other hand, an unfamiliar path sometimes broadens out and presents us with all kinds of exciting possibilities.

The Ark of the Covenant had become, for the Israelites, their guide as they journeyed on. When we go somewhere unfamiliar we often rely on the services of a guide, for example on holiday. So, in the ordinary matters of life, it is important for us that we have a guide to help us when we need to be pointed in the right direction.

Just as the Ark of the Covenant was a guiding light to the Israelites, so today, Jesus can become that guiding light to us. As we enter another New Year, let us pray to God, through Jesus Christ, that he will guide us and help us, whatever the future may hold for us.

Marie Curie, the Polish-born scientist and two-time winner of the Nobel Prize wrote:

“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained.”

With very best wishes for 2018! 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

January 2018



'Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude that things can never change. We need to remind ourselves that God can change things. Outlook determines outcome. If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory.' -

Warren Wiersbe

Happy New Year! It seems like only yesterday I was writing the January 2017 article, but in the blink of an eye, we are here entering a new year. It sounds cliché, but it is so true. However, we all know time moves quickly, too quickly it seems sometimes. With that fast-moving pace of time and therefore life, it might often seem that things are out of our control, that they can't change.

When New Years comes around, there seems to be a positive outlook that overcomes us. We all set resolutions with hopes and expectations for things to change. Sometimes they do and we find ourselves happy with the changes. And sometimes they don't... and disappointment sets in. The reality is, there will always be something that we feel needs to change, but can't or won't...

Can I suggest, that with God all things are possible. I know, if you are sat there, reading this, as non-Christian, you may struggle with that thought, and that's fair enough. As a Christian, however, I firmly believe that. God can help us work through all of our 'stuff' no matter how big or small. We read in 2 Corinthians 17-18: 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation'

Our past can stay in the past, as we find change through a relationship with Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. I know that may seem far-fetched if you don't believe... but to you then I ask, what is stopping you from visiting a church this year, and exploring what that might mean to you. C. S. Lewis popularized the argument that Jesus was either a liar or a lunatic or the Lord. He concluded that Jesus was in fact the Lord and that resulted in his life changing forever. Is it not worth you exploring which one Jesus may be for yourself? I for one, would love to explore these things more with you.

Want to chat about this some more? Why not get in touch with me, and set something up.

Hope to meet with you soon.

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 Jan
7th the first Sunday of the month.

For Children – J.A.M.(Jesus and
Me)

Every Sunday 10.45am

Weekday Meetings

Wednesday 7.30pm
and as advertised

Craft & Hobbies Group
No meeting this month

Men's Prayer & Breakfast
Saturday 6th Jan 9.00am

'Messy Church'

Crafts, games & bible stories
Saturday 13th Jan 2-4pm

Coffee Morning

In aid of Gamlingay BC and 2018
Charity
Thursday 18th Jan 10.am-12.00
Come join us for tea/coffee and
cake

Ladies Prayer Brunch

A time to share, pray & eat
together
Saturday 20th Jan 10.00am

Councillors' column

District and County Council Issues



Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – December 2017

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 Local Plan

It is hard to believe that nearly 4 years after our draft Local Plan was submitted to the planning inspector that we are still talking about it as an unadopted draft. However, South Cambs is now a record breaker having been in inspection for longer than any other in the country - ever!

To make matters worse the Leader of the Council took it upon himself to issue a letter to all our parish councils to tell them that everything was going well, that the planning inspector was in agreement with the fundamentals of the plan and that its adoption was only a few weeks away. Unfortunately he forgot to consult with the Inspector before releasing this and she has taken huge umbrage and given the council a 5 star telling off for 'jumping to conclusions'. Whether this will jeopardise the final adoption of the plan or the length of time to final completion is unknowable but it was not a good idea to annoy the person on whom so much rests for securing the planning future of South Cambs.

We've mentioned before the utter lack of leadership at South Cambs when it comes to the Local Plan. This was underlined when the Leader – having had a ticking off from the Inspector - then made officers apologise to her – despite his name at the end of the letters.

The upshot is that until the plan is adopted we continue to be deluged with unwanted planning applications all over South Cambs - currently a haven for unscrupulous developers (not all we hasten to add) after a fast buck.

Council Tax reduction for people with serious mental impairment

We wrote a short piece a couple of months ago highlighting how many councils are not advertising the fact that some people are completely exempt from council tax due to mental impairment. Since then we have clarified the situation. In order to be exempt you must be in receipt of one of a number of benefits (this includes attendance allowance) and either be living alone or with one other person. You must have a doctor willing to countersign a simple 2 page form to say that you have a severe mental impairment. This can include dementia and learning difficulties. This exemption is NOT means tested. South Cambs have these forms but you have to be

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

very clear about what form you want when you contact them. We have had people told they were not eligible because they had savings which is not true but was probably due to a misunderstanding about what they were applying for. If you cannot get a form from the Council, Bridget has a few and is happy to help anyone having difficulties to fill it in.

On this subject, there are many people who are not receiving benefits they are entitled to either because they are not aware of what their entitlement is or they are put off by the complexity of the whole process. We refer in particular to Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, Housing Benefit and council tax relief. Bridget has been running the local carers group for 20 years now and so knows quite a lot about the system so please do ask! We also have a lot of expertise within the Citizens Advice Bureau who will also help you to complete the forms (which can be very long and very complex).

If you are a carer - which just means that you are responsible for someone's health and wellbeing on a regular basis and not necessarily that they live with you - then you may be entitled to Carer's Allowance (which does restrict the amount you can earn) and also to an annual lump sum to help you to cope with being a carer. There are a number of other benefits associated with being a carer such as getting free access to some places if you are accompanying the person you care for.

If you need support with caring for an adult contact Carers Trust <https://www.carerstrustcpn.org> and if you are caring for a child you should join Pinpoint <https://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk>

You must always tell your GP if you are a carer; at the very least this will get you a free flu jab.

Robinson Court

Bridget attended the November Drop In with the developer of Robinson Court and the South Cambs project manager. A few people popped in but generally everyone was happy with the way the project is progressing. The issue of contractors' cars being parked in the road has been resolved and the houses are going up at a rate of knots. We are still awaiting details of when the extra car parking bays will be installed in Gray's Rd and in Avenells Way. The site manager Jonathan is extremely helpful and very approachable so please do contact him if you have any concerns.

Elections

Having had more elections this year than any of us wanted we are going to have District Council elections in May 2018. We have mentioned on a number of occasions that the Ward Boundaries are all being changed in an attempt to ensure that all councillors represent roughly the same number of people. However, we are cutting the number of councillors by 20% so we are on average going to get 20% more people to represent. Gamlingay along with Hatley, Arrington, Croydon, Little Gransden and Longstowe has been a 2 member ward for ages with Sebastian and Bridget being your District

Councillors. It is now to become a single member ward and the smaller villages are being split between the Mordens (Arrington, Hatley, Croydon) and Caldecote (Little Gransden, Longstowe).

If anyone would like a postal vote and is not able to request one from South Cambs then Bridget has a few forms available.

Household Crime

This month's Crime report showed 13 household crimes in this area - 1 in Longstowe and 1 in Little Gransden. Christmas is always a bad time as criminals target houses full of expensive and brand new Christmas presents. Take every care to lock your doors, windows and garden sheds and to make sure that car keys and handbags are hidden away at night. If you see anything suspicious call 999 straight away.

We are delighted to have a new PCSO having not had one for a long time. His name is PCSO Alex Giltinane based at Cambourne Police Station.

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Upgrade

From 6 March to 23 April 2017, we were consulted on proposals to provide a dual carriageway on the A428 between Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet and to improve the Black Cat roundabout. This consultation was to seek your views on a range of route and junction options at an early stage of scheme development. Since the consultation, we are told that Highways England have continued to develop the scheme by incorporating feedback and carrying out technical assessments and surveys. They now say that they have recognised the need to incorporate potential changes from the A1 East of England Strategic Study and this will require further analysis to fully understand the implications for the A428 scheme. This means that it has not been possible to announce the preferred route.

We will be updated on progress and next steps early in the new year when hopefully they will share as much detail as possible. The engagement with all affected landowners and stakeholders is ongoing and they will hold a further formal consultation following the announcement of the preferred route. This will give you another opportunity to share your views and continue to help shape the scheme.

Will the Government finally allow us to build council houses again?

Last month, the Government announced extra funding for affordable housing, suggesting that it would enable us to start building council housing again. In the end, the policy was a small extension of existing efforts. While an extra £2 billion going into the national pot for affordable housing sounds good, it will produce at most 15 houses per year per council - no help for the thousands of people on the housing list in South Cambs.

The new Combined Authority has recently got significant, and welcome, money for housing. This is specifically for affordable housing on new commercial developments, effectively a subsidy to developers to improve their 'viability'. But 'affordable' rents are pegged to rental rates in the wider market, so they are becoming more and more unaffordable.

Council housing is more genuinely affordable, but government is failing to enable councils to build their own

housing. Last year saw the lowest number ever of houses build for 'social rent' (the classification that includes council houses), just 5,380 for the whole of England.

Autumn Budget 2017

Plans announced in the Budget for new homes and infrastructure identified the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford arc to be made a national priority. Its world-class research, innovation and technology can help the UK prosper in a changing global economy. The establishment of Cambridge is acknowledged as one of eight new Tech Nation hubs, as part of an expansion of the existing scheme. As such, transport links along the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor will be improved by: Completing the rail link between Oxford and Bedford, and Aylesbury and Milton Keynes by 2030, setting up a new East West Rail Company to speed up work on the rail link between Bedford and Cambridge, £5 million to help develop plans for Cambridge South Station (at Addenbrookes), building the Expressway road between Oxford and Cambridge and – most alarmingly - the commission also calls for several new towns to be created – between Oxford and Milton Keynes, and Bedford and Cambridge – from smaller scale garden towns of around 10,000 homes through to new city-scale developments of up to 150,000 homes. Eeeek.

Forward Gamlingay Employability Drop in Sessions

Forward Gamlingay has now run 2 drop in sessions for adults and young people wanting to get work or change their jobs. Help with CVs, letters of application, job searching and maximising your professional on line presence have proved very helpful for a number of people. We are delighted to learn that these sessions will continue to run in the New Year.

Planning

In year 2016/17 South Cambs spent £250,000 on Appeals. The council estimates it will be £500,000+ for this financial year due to the many 5 year land supply Appeals. This creates a number of problems. If we continue to lose appeals then we risk being 'designated' which means that we have our powers as planning authors taken away from us and applicants can go straight to the government planning inspector to have their applications decided. So there is a great disincentive to refuse applications both because of the cost of appeals but also because the risk of losing appeals could have the disastrous consequence of designation. The frustration of this for us as local councillors and for our parish councils is that it is nigh on impossible now to get controversial applications taken to the planning committee meeting at which we and supporters and objectors get to have our say. Most decisions are now made behind closed doors by civil servants.

Green End

The Green End Site has been on the market now for quite some time and finally we know that a developer is interested in buying it. Representatives from Campbell Buchanan came to a public meeting at the Eco Hub to present their early thoughts and very draft plans. We are encouraged that this is the company responsible for The Maltings which I think we all agree is a very successful and sensitive development in the heart of the village. The feelings at the meeting were that the outline plans which had been approved by South Cambs were, to put it bluntly, awful, and that there needed to be a lot more work done to make this a development which would

create a really good place for people to live. There was a lot of discussion and the Campbell Buchanan Reps went away with a lot to think about and a lot of ideas. It is really important to engage early on in the process with developers in order to ensure that we get what is best for Gamlingay and we are pleased that they share this view.

New website for those seeking jobs in early years childcare

Cambridgeshire now has its own website for job vacancies in early years and childcare. eycJobs tries to address recruitment challenges faced by providers. It will bring together vacancies, careers advice, and support and information for providers on recruiting and retaining staff and can be found at <https://www.teachincambs.org.uk/eycjobs/>.

Hoarding

Do you know anyone who is a hoarder? Hoarding is a serious and complex issue that goes far beyond simple untidiness. It is a recognised mental health condition requiring careful treatment. Hoarding is a widespread issue affecting between 2% and 3% of the population - approximately 1.2 million people in the UK.

People who display hoarding behaviours excessively collect items such as newspapers, books, clothing, and in some cases rubbish, rotten food and animals, resulting in unmanageable amounts of clutter. This in turn can cause serious health problems, structural damage, pest infestations and serious risk of fire.

Since 2014, over 50 households in South Cambridgeshire alone have had assistance from the Council. In more serious cases, it can sometimes lead to emotionally distressing enforced clearances. If you discover someone displaying hoarding behaviours, you can find help and practical advice at www.helpforhoarders.co.uk or contact South Cambridgeshire District Council on 03450 450 063. Alternatively you can contact the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service on 0800 917 9994 or <http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk> and visit the 'home safety' pages.

Community energy fund plugged in

South Cambs has set up a £55,000 grant pot to help community buildings across South Cambridgeshire become more energy efficient and reduce energy. The Community Energy Grant Fund will allow community groups to bid for funds from March next year.

Organisations will be invited to bid for funding for initiatives ranging from insulation and lighting and heating controls for community buildings, to the installation of electric vehicle charging points.

The new scheme will provide £55,000 each year for parish councils, charities, voluntary groups, sports and social clubs and not-for-profit organisations. The maximum yearly grant will be £3,000 per organisation to make sure that the fund is distributed across a wide range of projects throughout the district.

The scheme will be funded from the business rates it retains from new renewable energy generation sites within the district so it can return some of the benefits from large scale renewable energy sites to the community.

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!

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 along
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If you can help, please contact Julie Newman
on 650685 or

nobbynewman@btinternet.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ECO HUB



We are not sure where 2017 went – but here we are in 2018, and we hope you all had a very festive Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2017 was our fifth anniversary year and we celebrated in style with a summer party on a lovely hot day. Remember them?! We had fun, and we hope you did too, so we plan to run another one this summer for the whole village to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our very successful Christmas Craft Fair in November. Nearly 600 of you came along to shop from the talented and varied selection of local traders and small businesses we had exhibiting, and to enjoy a hot drink and a bacon roll. (Next year we hope to have Santa visiting us – shhh!)

The New Year is always a time where we think of new events and what we can be doing better next year.

Perhaps you are a regular user of the Hub as a hirer, or perhaps you visit from time to time for a cup of tea, or perhaps you attend a class or group here.

Perhaps you never visit the Hub because you feel there is nothing to interest you here. We would love to know your views, good or bad as this will help us plan events and activities to suit what people would like to see happening here.

This is your community centre, and so please tell us how we can make it better for everyone. Just phone or email us!

You can keep in touch with us via our Facebook page which will give you all the latest news about what is happening at the Hub, including cancellations of classes and news of new ones starting up.

Our website is also a mine of information about our spaces, rates, history, how the building works, and what's on every week. We also have a brochure you can pick up, and you can drop in any time, or give us a ring if you wish to discuss an event or make a booking. We are Shelley (centre manager); Kate (assistant manager) and Sarah (business and marketing manager).

www.gamlingayecohub.org.uk

facebook/Gamlingay eco hub

01767 651 226

manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk

GAMLINGAY BUSINESS HUB

The Hub is host to the newly formed Gamlingay Business Hub, run by Forward Gamlingay and supported by Gamlingay Parish Council. This initiative is bringing businesses based in Gamlingay together and helping to keep Gamlingay as a great place to work. We don't want Gamlingay to become a dormitory village so keeping local business here is vital.

THANKS TO THE GAMLINGAY CO OP

We received a generous donation of £1671.83 in November from the Co op, which was money raised by you, shopping in the store and nominating the Hub as your local cause. It will be used to replace some of the reception furniture, much of which is worn out by constant use. Thank you everyone and thank you Co op.

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manager@gamlingayecohub.org.uk | 01767 651226

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>.

Christmas lights event in Church Street on Saturday December 2nd 2017

A great big thank you from Gamlingay Parish Council to:

Gamlingay Post Office, 505 Private Hire, Top Dog Training School, Worboys Garage, KMG Systems Ltd, The Cock, the Co-op, All Green Landscapes and everyone else who made monetary donations this year. Dakram Materials Ltd and Nurturing Baby for donation of materials for crafts and lights. Dave Twydell for the streamer cannons. All Growth Ltd for the Christmas trees. Wayne, Richard, John and Reece for putting up the Christmas lights and Max for decorating the trees. Morgan and Meg Father and Mrs Christmas. Bridget for last minute help arranging their appearance on the day. The Wheatsheaf, LJ's, SK Hairdressing, Buba's, The Co-op, the Jannah and the Cock for providing refreshments. GCC Ltd for lending equipment. Special thanks to Shelley, Janette, Sandra and Kate for co-ordinating everything, providing materials and coming up with great ideas and to everyone who helped with the crafts session.

Thanks Mick for the Photos



What's on: Potton Ladies Club

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month & the next meeting is on the 2nd January 2018.

This is at the Mill Lane Pavilion, Mill Lane, Potton.

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

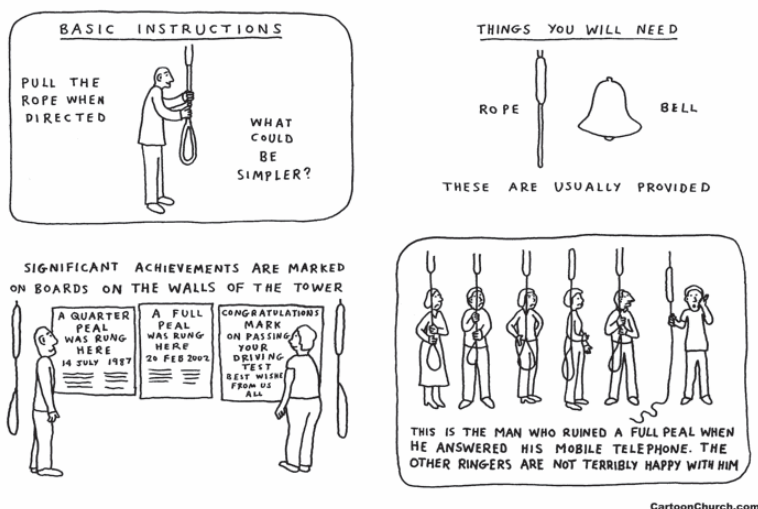


HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone.

This year there is a campaign to recruit 1,400 new bell ringers to represent the 1,400 killed in the First World War so they can help celebrate the centenary of the end of the war.

THE BELL - RINGERS

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW RECRUITS



Some people may have noticed a lack of bells on Remembrance Day and over Christmas, there are only seven ringers in the village and as most of us were away or busy elsewhere we decided it was better not to have 'ping pong' for 20 – 30 minutes.

If you are looking for a new hobby, made a new year resolution to get more exercise or would like to keep a British tradition going please come along to a practice, Thursdays between 7.30 and 9, to see what happens.

Any age is welcome so long as they can reach, usually about 8 upwards.

Gamlingay is a large village and if everyone thinks someone will try this no-one does! We could do with several more ringers to ensure there are always enough available.

The Gazette

would like to extend a very big and heartfelt

Thank You!

to

Jean and Tony Buckingham

for the many years of distribution work they have carried out in Hatley St George

Jean and Tony have retired as Gazette distributors, and their round has been taken over by Sylvia Marshall

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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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GAMLINGAY VILLAGE COLLEGE



GAMLINGAY COMMUNITY RECYCLE

Thursday 18th & Friday 19th January 2018
10am – 7pm

As a result of the Gamlingay Village College site being developed in to a Primary school, there are many resources that will no longer be required. Members of the community are invited to visit the school on the above dates and times to view the different resources. If you wish to acquire any of the resources we would welcome a donation.

We look forward to welcoming the community to the school to support the recycling of resources.



For further information please contact Mr Daisley (Site Agent) on 07544 261569.

Waresley Cricket Club



The sad news of the death of our former President Michael Banks was received in November- he was 78. He became President in 2007 following the death of Jack Stacey and only passed on the title to Gareth Thomas last year - he had been a Vice president for many years prior to that. Living at Manor Farm, Waresley, he was a successful farmer and racehorse trainer following in the footsteps of his father Sidney who had a race at Huntingdon named after him. His grandfather Charlie was a keen Cricketer & played for Waresley in the 1920's. Michael was elected a member of the Jockey Club in 2003 and had been Steward at Huntingdon, Warwick, Newmarket and Leicester Racecourses - he was also Chairman of Huntingdon for some years. In 1996 he was awarded an OBE for representing the British grain trade in Brussels and spent two years as president of the European grain trade. A much respected & admired man, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him & the club sends condolences to Ros, Melanie, Nicola & all of his family. A memorial service was held at Great Gransden Church on Tuesday 5 December.





www.gamlingayrainbow.co.uk * Tel: 07938 245494_* 01767 651996

Email: rainbow.preschool@virgin.net

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What have we been up to?

The autumn term started in September which seems a long time ago now. It was a bumper intake with 13 new children joining the preschool. We also said a sad goodbye to Suzanne, our Deputy Manager, and a big hello to Jo, who has picked up the reins and taken on the role of Deputy Manager from Suzanne.

This term the children have enjoyed a variety of activities, including several new extra-curricular activities. These include Spanish, which is run by Felicity of KidsLingo, Forest Preschool and Fitness Fun; these are run each week throughout the term and have proved very popular with the children.

The Children performed a successful Christmas Concert for parents, carers and family on 13th December. We will also be selling tickets for our Christmas Business raffle where local businesses generously donate prizes. As we are a committee run preschool, we rely on a voluntary group of parents to help run and organise events for the preschool. The annual general meeting was held on 17th October and we are fortunate enough to now have a committee comprising of 11 members.

Fund raising

We would like to thank everyone who has nominated Rainbow Preschool as their preferred cause in the Co-Op Local Community Fund scheme. As of 21st November this has raised a fantastic £1,640.65 which will help fund a new laptop for the preschool along with current resources required for the extra-curricular activities. In the spring term this will also pay for Animal Ark which will provide the children with an opportunity to meet all sorts of different animals and go towards funding a summer day trip for the children. If you shop in the Co-Op and have not already signed up to take part in the Co-Op Local Community Fund, please consider nominating Gamlingay Rainbow Preschool as your cause. At the end of November we attended the Eco Hub Christmas Fayre. A big thank you to all those who came and supported us on the day. We raised £176.25 through face painting, a lucky dip, making reindeer food, decorating gingerbread men and selling cupcakes.

Finally, a thank you to Gransden Airfield. Rainbow Preschool was invited to Gransden Airfield to receive a generous donation of £500. Fund-raising is critical to the future of the preschool and allows us to offer the children a broad variety of activities and resources. Coming up in the New Year we are looking to hold other fundraising events including Mother's Day, a committee run event and the Easter Fayre. These are in the planning stage at the moment but will be added to our website once finalised so please take a look.

Stay and Play

Our Stay and Play sessions continue. Stay and Play sessions focus on children aged 18 months to 2.5 years. It is held on a Wednesday morning from 09.30 until 11.30. The session fee is £3.00 which includes a snack. Please contact the preschool to register your interest on an informal basis (there is no formal



commitment to attend every week should you not wish to) or to learn more about Stay and Play.

Availability for future terms

If you are interested in your child attending Rainbow Preschool, or have any questions, please contact Julie Prior, Setting Manager, who will be happy to assist you. Spaces are limited but a waiting list is in operation.

News from GAMLINGAY BROWNIES

by Alison Fitt

Gamlingay Brownies are currently working towards their Civil Engineer Badge. One of the suggested components for the badge is to visit a building site, so 'Brown Owl,' aka Jane Brown contacted Taylor French and Gamlingay Brownies recently enjoyed a visit to Taylor French's Robinson Court Site.

When they arrived, they were surprised to find the Site Manager, Jon had managed to find small enough hard hats and hi-vis jackets to fit all 24 girls.

Construction is currently in the early stages, so with little to see Jon kindly explained how a site works, what his role was and what the main stages of construction are. He also explained what kinds of job opportunities there are, particularly for girls, thus reassuring the Brownies they didn't need to carry bricks if they wanted to work in construction!

He then set the girls a challenge to build a tall tower using just fruit pastels and cocktail sticks. After the tallest tower was declared the winner the girls enthusiastically demolished them and ate the building materials, well not the cocktail sticks anyway!

Prior to the visit Taylor French had invited the girls to draw their dream homes, the enthusiastic results of which they had brought with them. There were some excellent drawings and some great ideas and some quirky ones. Jon was very impressed and amused and kindly awarded a 1st 2nd and 3rd prize.

The welcome and hospitality from Jon on behalf of Taylor French was much appreciated by the girls and the leaders alike. Jon and company had gone to a lot of trouble mostly in their own time to make the visit both interesting and useful for the girls' Civil Engineering Badge. Gamlingay Brownies have now made some new friends and look forward to seeing the site again once the houses are nearly finished. Thank you Taylor French and site manager Jon!

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What is the Greater Cambridge Partnership and why is it important to Gamlingay?

I have to admit that I was only vaguely aware of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) but since it seemed they have plans to improve journeys to and through Cambridge I decided to find out more, even though I personally don't travel very often to Cambridge. Having said that, whenever I've travelled at peak times I know just what a pain it can be, and I sympathise with those who have to do it regularly.

GCP says around 206,000 vehicles travel in and out of Cambridge every day, with 50,000 workers travelling in alone. Nearly 10.5 million rail passengers travel to/from Cambridge each year. If we carry on as we are by 2031 traffic in Cambridge generally will increase by over 30% in the morning peak, and traffic in South Cambridgeshire will increase by almost 40% in the morning peak, and the time spent in congestion will more than double. A great future awaits!

Firstly, what is the GCP? Here's how they describe themselves: "The Greater Cambridge Partnership is the local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government, bringing powers and investment, worth up to £1 billion over 15 years, to vital improvements in infrastructure, supporting and accelerating the creation of 44,000 new jobs, 33,500 new homes and 420 additional apprenticeships." Those 33,500 new homes are in the GCP area, and don't include whatever plans our neighbours in Bedfordshire have - Tempsford is a lot closer to us than Cambourne!

The Cambridge City Deal programme brings key partners together to work with communities, businesses and industry leaders to support the continued growth of one of the world's leading tourism and business destinations, and South Cambs District Council is one of the partnered local authorities.

You'd be forgiven for thinking this is all about Cambridge city, so what does it have to do with us in Gamlingay? Well, it applies to all of us who travel just about anywhere in the area, whether that's on foot, by bicycle, bus (what bus?) or car. It applies to all of us who despair about the lack of housing, in particular "affordable" homes, while simultaneously being affected by the "not in my back yard" syndrome. And it applies to us if we are concerned about keeping the heart in our villages, and not becoming simply dormitory settlements – potentially massive ones.

Discussing matters with people from other villages it seems that most of us share similar problems and concerns. By digging round the GCP website, and others that they reference, I found the following:

Travel between Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge will be improved, certainly by car and bus, and probably by train. If it takes place the new east-west rail link will follow a southerly route – think Royston - probably meeting the existing line near Foxton, terminating at a new Cambridge South station.

Importantly, GCP have some ambitious ideas to smooth local travel and commutes, including new park and ride schemes, possibly fed by smaller P&R hubs.

Meanwhile the City Access Project plans to achieve a reduction in peak time traffic within Cambridge of 10-15% by 2031, through eight key measures, including the much-publicised Workplace Parking levy and better bus services, including enhanced and expanded Park and Ride.

Public consultation has now opened on the Cambourne to Cambridge Better Bus Journeys Scheme. The consultation will focus on the first phase of the scheme, a bus route between a new Park and Ride to the east of Cambourne, to the city.

If you want to have your say don't delay, the consultation is running for 10 weeks from 13th November.

Meanwhile I have asked a couple of questions of the GCP, along the lines that shouldn't they be investigating and investing in alternatives to travel? In the 21st century we don't need to use what is essentially a refinement of 19th century technology (automobiles, trains) in order to (get to) work. Using current and upcoming technologies a lot of our work, and other interactions that we need, can be done remotely. I'll give further details of my questions and the answer I received in next month's Gazette.

You can find out more about the Greater Cambridge Partnership at: www.greatercambridge.org.uk

Keith Warburton

Gardening Tips for January

by Karen Aitkins of All Green Landscapes Ltd

Hopefully we have all recovered from the festivities and excesses of Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. New Year or Hogmanay was originally brought to Scotland by the Vikings in the 8th and 9th centuries. It is to celebrate the winter solstice and the arrival of winter and the shortest day.

January is named after the Roman god Janus, protector of doors and gateways and is depicted with two faces, one looks into the past the other into the future. Promises were made to Janus and debts paid off to start the year with a clean slate as with New Years resolutions. Unfortunately, very few of us keep them beyond January.

Maybe this year's resolution is to spend more time doing the garden, so if the ground is not too frozen this is a good chance to work off the Christmas excesses. Look out for bags for sale of well rotted manure. This is perfect for adding to the borders at this time of the year and gives it time to break down in the soil, ready for planting in the spring.

The flower of the month is the carnation or the snowdrop. The snowdrop used to be considered bad luck because it always seems to grow in graveyards, but nowadays it signifies hope and beauty.

January is usually the coldest time of year but days will start to become a little longer. If we have snow this can offer protection to established plants but can damage more tender ones so be aware. Strong winds are also common at this time of year so make sure young shrubs and trees are staked out.

It is still possible to do pruning, especially climbers like wisteria. Pruning now will encourage a beautiful show of colour in late spring. This is the last chance to cut back grape vines before the sap starts to rise. This is a good time to prune trees to shape as its easier without leaves.

Make sure the birds have fresh water and plenty of food. Birds love the fat balls at this time of year which you can buy at garden centres. Place a tennis ball in the pond to prevent a total freeze over and allow the fish to get oxygen.

Try and stay off the lawn if it's frozen otherwise it will cause the grass to die and you will end up with yellow patches. Improve drainage with a fork. Push the fork in about six inches wiggle it about to open up holes and do this in six inch intervals over waterlogged patches. Sprinkle in a sand and soil mixture and work in with a broom. This will hopefully prevent waterlogging in the future. Lawns can still be laid this time of year as long as the ground is not frozen.

This is good time to start planning a new look to your garden as it's out with the old and in with the new.

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FORWARD GAMLINGAY – OUR VILLAGE CHARITY

Some of you may have heard of village charity Forward Gamlingay, but many don't know we exist, so from time to time we wave and say hello and tell Gazette readers a little about what we do!

Forward Gamlingay was formed about 12 years ago by a group of Gamlingay parents who wanted to do something about the anti social behaviour of some young people in the village and to tackle the lack of facilities and lack of purpose that many young people faced at that time.

Our focus has been very much on teenagers and young people, and over the years we have raised money and built the current Skate Park, re landscaped the Bike Track at the end of the recreation ground for use by off road bikers, started a record label for young musicians and mentored young local bands, and when the County Council pulled out of delivering a weekly youth club, we took it on, training our own youth workers and building it into the very successful weekly club it is today.

Building facilities and mentoring and supporting young people with troubled or deprived backgrounds has been a key part of combating aimless and difficult behaviour, and our current focus of helping young people find local work or apprenticeships is the next logical step in this ongoing process. We work very closely with, and are partly supported by the Parish Council, who recognise that this youth work is of huge benefit to the whole village.

It's fair to say that we have sometimes gone a bit quiet, with no time and few volunteers, but we are currently very busy, with several new members on the committee, and a current focus on delivering projects connected to improving the world of business in Gamlingay. We are in the second year of delivering a series of activities designed to help young people find out more about the world of work and have held several events in Gamlingay Village College and Stratton School to help Gamlingay youngsters find out what kind of jobs are out there, and what they might be interested in.

We are looking at how we can help young people obtain apprenticeships with local employers, and have run successful courses like Bike Bank, which teaches young people how to fix bikes, skills which they can use to find employment.

It's not just about the youngsters - we are currently creating a Gamlingay Business Hub, with the aim of bringing local businesses together with regular meetings, offering support, information and training, and helping to keep Gamlingay a vibrant place to work.

Complementing the Business Hub is the development of an 'APP' called Solution Gamlingay which will act as a directory for local businesses, encouraging them to use each other in the supply chain, allow local people to find local jobs, and provide a great way for us all to access the local businesses we want to fix our homes and provide services we need.

Most recently we have started running regular 'work skills events' at the Hub, where you can bring in your CV and get expert help on how to look for a new job, or get back into work after a break. These sessions are open to all ages and stages in life.

And if all that wasn't enough – we thought why not team up with the Art Barn to do an art course at the Hub for older people which has produced a fantastic clay frieze of a section of Church Street complete with cars and people. The course proved enjoyable and beneficial to many people and the result, when finished, will be a permanent piece of art hanging in the Eco Hub. Following that we squeezed in a four week 'Christmas Crafts' course, open to all, where everyone made Christmas cards and decorations.

If you are interested in what we do, or would like to help, please contact either Bridget Smith: bridget@glockling.com or Sarah Groom: sarahgroom@rescue.co.uk.

Community Grants Available

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership (GCLP) launched in January 2016, and has secured £1.66m National Lottery funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support an array of exciting projects across the Greensand Country area- based along the Greensand Ridge from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay.

Our partners will be busy working to improve the heathlands, woodland and historic parklands in the area, adding new walking, cycling and horse riding routes and training volunteers and staff in traditional, local skills. We're running events, leading guided walks, holding talks and debates and promoting painting, poetry and photography competitions, encouraging people to explore and enjoy their local landscape, and preserve it for future generations.

We're also looking to work with local communities to celebrate the history and heritage of the area. We're offering communities, clubs, schools or heritage groups the chance to apply for a grant of between £500 and £15,000 to help preserve or investigate the historic buildings, archaeological features or historic landscape in their area.

Our first grant project was a geophysical survey of the remains of Warden Abbey near Old Warden, which is now being used to create a set of brand new paintings and drawings showing how the abbey would have looked in its heyday in the 13th century.

We're now looking for more projects to support, and may be able to help your school, local community group, WI or local History Society make something really exciting happen around your village.

This could include helping to restore a building, surveying archaeological remains, mapping old fields and hedges, improving access to a historic site near you, or creating new interpretation about your area.

Projects can be based around sites from any time period, including the 20th century. We've given you a few ideas for what you could do, but we're happy to have a chat about anything and see if we can help you get involved!

As well as helping communities investigate their heritage, we also have grant funding available for landowners, schools, sports clubs and community groups who own or manage woodlands, heath or grassland.

We can also give you grant funding to restore features made of sandstone, for example walls and lynch gates. You can find more information about all our grants on our website at greensandcountry.com (look under 'Care' then 'Grants and Funding'). To apply for a grant simply email us about your project, including what you'd like to achieve, how much it will cost and how the local community can get involved. We will then come to visit you to tell you more.

If you'd like to talk to us then get in touch on team@greensandcountry.com or call 01234 838774

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership has been formed by a range of partners in the area all of whom are working together to create a living and working landscape that is cherished by present and future generations. The Partnership is led by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and the Greensand Trust, and also includes the RSPB, The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre, Bedfordshire Geology Group, Sustrans, British Horse Society, Flitwick Town Council, Shuttleworth College, local landscape author Brian Kerr, Community Voluntary Service, The Shuttleworth Trust, Federation of Small Businesses, Arnold White Estates Limited and Clophill Heritage Trust. The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is made possible by National Lottery players. Without them we couldn't fund the project.

Historyman



1

2



3

Wedding Cakes Made for Who?

This Months Historyman is thanks to Sheila Childs who's family used to live in Gamlingay and though she has now moved she still has strong connections with the Village and has a copy of the Gazette sent to her every Month, which she then passes on to another ex Gamalonian.

Her dad used to make Wedding Cakes for people in and around Gamlingay and she has four photographs of some cakes her dad made along with the respective Brides and Grooms. One she has the names to which is photo 4 which is Mr & Mrs Vic Dennis, but we would like to know who the other couples are.

So if anyone knows any of the other Brides and Grooms could they let us know so we can let Sheila know and put names to the cakes. Please contact us at The Gazette 01767-651025 or email nb777@btinternet.com

4



The Picture Puzzler was close again last year with only one answer in the end eciding the winner.

Next Month we will give out the winners name and give the answers.

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

Picture Puzzler

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

Gamlingay Photographic Society

Established 1971

has moved to:
Communal Building, Avenells Way, Gamlingay SG19 3JQ
Fridays 8 pm to 10 pm as follows

January

12th Competition No 4 Open - Judge Sarah Kelman ARPS, DPAGB, B Panel

19th In Search of Sakura (Cherry Blossom in Japan) with Brian Reid

26th Wild Scotland, The Islands with Richard Revels FRPS

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For more information please: phone Nick or Jackie on 01767-651025,
email nickbruce7@btinternet.com
or visit our Website: www.gamlingay-ps.org.uk

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FUND RAISING TO SEND SOPHIE & ANNABEL TO VOLUNTEER IN COSTA RICA & NICARAGUA

Every project will have a life changing impact on the local community.

At any one time Camps have over 100 humanitarian projects being undertaken by students across their camps.

Projects in Costa Rica are mainly centred around social conservation and environmental issues such as reforestation efforts, wildlife conservation and helping communities live in harmony with the environment.

Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, their work there is focused on social projects such as housing, sanitation and promoting micro-enterprise initiatives.

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

Why Costa Rica and Nicaragua?

- 48% of Nicaraguans live below the poverty line.
- 2 million people in Nicaragua don't have access to adequate sanitation.
- Costa Rica is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world.
- Costa Rica is at the forefront of tropical environmental conservation.

Thank you





Gamlingay & Gransden Scouts Cub Scouts Explorers

As part of the fundraising towards the Brownsea Island trip Gamlingay & Gransden Cubs, Scouts and Explorers are collecting clothes and other items for recycling.

The items collected are good quality:-

Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing	Paired shoes
Handbags	Hats
Bags	Scarves and ties
Jewellery	Lingerie
Socks	Belts
Soft toys	Household linen
Curtains	Towels
Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)	

If you have any items for our collection, please contact Steve Palmer either by email steve.palmer1@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01767 651532.

In May 2018 Gamlingay Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders are all going camping together to Brownsea Island.

Brownsea Island is where in 1907 Baden Powell held the very first camp with 20 boys and is recognised as the birthplace of Scouting. Scouting has since grown and is active in 216 countries and territories with a global membership of over 31 Million Boys, Girls, Men and Women.

We will travel from Gamlingay to Poole by coach and cross to Brownsea on the Brownsea Island Ferries yellow boats, the same company that took Baden Powell to Brownsea. They will enjoy numerous activities and will go looking for several rare animals on the island including the Red Squirrels, Sika deer and wading birds.

We are fundraising to help towards the costs of the camp and have been successful in being selected by the Co – op Community Fund as one of the selected charities for this year's fundraising. If you have a Co – op card you can back us so we receive the charity dividend.

We are also collecting clothes and other items for recycling.

Gamlingay Gardening Club

Gardening Club meeting January 2018

Our guest speaker at our 3 January 2018 meeting is Paul Herrington who will be talking about

‘Gardening for Health’.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm at the Kier Suite, Gamlingay Eco Hub and guests are welcome to attend for a small admission charge of £3.00.

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Roderick's Vegetarian Recipes

VEGETABLE CASSEROLE

Real Comfort Food

A very simple dish to make, with many variations, I seldom make the same selection each time, it is difficult to recommend any particular combination. Perfect as a good evening meal after a walk in the cooler weather! The choice of vegetables is largely up to you, though I give you the essentials, and suggestions for others. Although it may seem there are a lot of ingredients, it will only take about 30 minutes to prepare, though a long slow cooking time! The quantity suggested is for at least six, and, as I suggest below, can stretch to a lot more if re-cycled. After each serving and cooling, the casserole seems to taste better each time! As the dish is to be re-heated each time, it could even be frozen until it is next wanted.

The first serving could be with mashed potato and something green; Broccoli, Sprouts, Beans, cabbage etc.

The second serving with Dumplings

The third wizzed up to make a delicious soup (add a lot more stock!)

For each of these second servings you will need to add more stock (or water – it can be quite rich) as the liquid seems to be absorbed each time.

You may well find many of the ingredients in your store cupboard or Vegetable rack.

If you have a slow cooker you could use it for this recipe, it can cook for several hours in this way, filling the house with a lovely mouth watering smell.

Ingredients

Casserole

1 large onion, coarsely chopped

2 sticks of Celery, diced

I normally slice the length of the stick into about 4 or 5 slices, then cut across into small dice

All the following vegetables diced into bits about 1cm/½in.

1 medium Carrot

1 Parsnip

Good glug of oil

And select at least two (or more) of the following items:

1 medium baking Potato

1 medium sized Turnip

1 small Swede

½ Celeriac

½ Butternut Squash

Additional

1 225gm tin of Chopped Tomatoes

1 or 2 400gm cans of the following:

Baked Beans

Cannelloni Beans

Red Kidney Beans

Butter Beans

¾ pint/425ml vegetable stock (1 tsp of Marigold Stock powder)

Flavourings, these are optional, but you do need something:

Herbs – 1 tsp Thyme

Good pinch Harissa Powder (available from Daily bread in Cambridge)

1 tsp English mustard Powder

1 Red Chilli, finely diced (*optional*)

Good splash of (vegetarian) Worcester Sauce

Stilton and Herb Dumplings

150gm Self Raising Flour

75gm Vegetable Suet

75gm Stilton

2 tbsp. mixed herbs (a selection of the following), Parsley, Sage, Chives, tarragon

2 tsp Salt

Water

Method

You will need a large Casserole dish. Heat up the oven to 170°, 150° fan, Gas Mark 2, Aga Simmering Oven; If you have a slow cooker you can use this.

Using a good splash of oil, fry on a medium heat the Onion and Celery until softened. But not browed about 10 minutes.

Pile everything else in (I told you it was simple!) mix well and season, go easy on the salt, but be generous with freshly ground black pepper. Place in the oven with a lid on the dish (use foil if you haven't a cover).

Now go for a long walk, or whatever your plans are for the afternoon. The Casserole will take any time between 2 and 4 hours.

Half an hour before serving, make the Dumplings:

Mix all the Dumpling ingredients together adding enough water to make a slightly sticky dough (still firm enough to shape!). Make in balls, probably about 10. Raise the oven temperature to 200°, 180° fan, Gas Mark 5, Aga Baking Oven. Remove the casserole from the oven, take off the lid and give a good stir. Check how 'wet' the casserole is, you might want to add another half pint or so of water.

Arrange the Dumplings on the top, replace the lid and then back in the oven for about 20 minutes. The Dumplings should by now have risen.

Leaving the lid off put back in the oven for about 15 minutes to crisp up the top of the dumplings.

Serve. And slurpily enjoy. Plate licking is allowed.

A good punchy Red Wine goes well with this, or a flavoursome Dark Beer.



News from RSPB

The Lodge by Mark Brandon

The last few weeks have seen The Lodge visitor car park full of birders craning up into the trees, in hope of spotting an elusive hawfinch. As I wrote in the November Gazette, these scarce birds have come into the UK in large numbers this year, after the apparent failure of the beech mast crop in their usual wintering grounds in eastern and southern Europe, and several have stayed to feed on the reserve over recent weeks. They have been feeding mainly on berries amongst the dense yew trees, and occasionally perching up on view to the delight of any birdwatcher looking at the time.

Along with the hawfinches, the yews have been full of chaffinch, greenfinch, brambling, redwing, mistle thrush and song thrushes, sometimes joined by a nuthatch or great-spotted woodpecker, while red kites, kestrels and ravens have flown over while we've stood and waited for a glimpse of the hawfinch.

From late October and right through November, we have had a long run of bright, but increasingly cold weekends, and the reserve has been very busy with visitors enjoying the golden autumn trees and stunning sunsets over the new heath – and the birds above!

We held a volunteer social and thank you event at the end of November, with Senior Site manager Peter Bradley and warden Lizzie Bruce leading walks around the reserve to talk about the latest plans for habitat work over the winter, and some work which will be taking place on the small pools around the heath, to help increase our natterjack toad numbers next year

We are hugely grateful to our volunteer team for the work, enthusiasm and commitment they give us, and have a very friendly team here. If you would like to know more about the visitor experience volunteer opportunities at The Lodge, which include roles in our information centre and shop, then please feel free to contact me to find out more at; mark.brandon@rspb.org.uk

On behalf of all of us here at The Lodge, have a very happy and healthy New Year!
Hope you can come along for a nice winter walk to work off the festive food!

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 693333) is open every day (9 am-5 pm and 10 am-5 pm weekends and Bank Holidays) and has everything for people who love nature.

Our website, www.rspb.org.uk/thelodge, is the place to look for wildlife sightings and all the events you can enjoy here at RSPB The Lodge this year.

Our Facebook page is; Facebook.com/RSPB/hertsandbeds for all of the latest news.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity. In England and Wales, no: 207076. In Scotland, no: SC037654.



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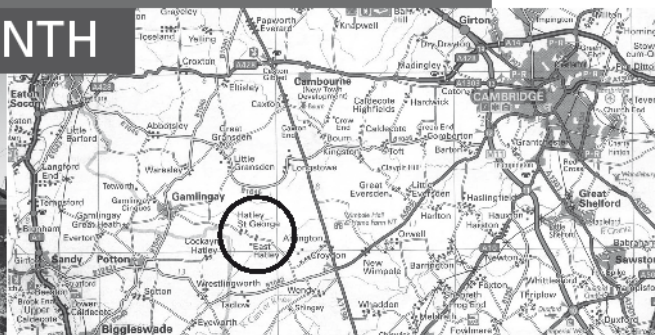
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Avenells Way Community Room

Residents attending the Avenells Way Community Room in Gamlingay were delighted by the gift of 2 new dining tables and 8 upholstered chairs from Taylor French Developments Ltd. District Councillor Bridget Smith, who helps the group with fundraising said ' This is a very generous award which will allow the group to cater for many more people at their very successful coffee mornings and lunches'. The work this group does is invaluable in keeping people living healthily and happily in their own homes and as active and valued community members'. Taylor French, working on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council, is redeveloping a run down set of flats next to the Avenells Way Community Room into 14 new homes for local people. A representative from Taylor French said.... 'We are delighted to be able to help the residents living around Robinson Court with this small token, they have been very welcoming, patient, and helpful with the development. They are our eyes and ears on site and offer great around the clock security. We hope they enjoy many more successful coffee mornings and lunches with the tables and chairs.



**Mr Gazette
Extreme
Reader goes
to Munich**



What's on in January

Over 50's walk. 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
Library open	Toddlers' story time and craft session	9.15am - 10.30am
Library open		4.00pm - 8.00pm

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Library open	Free drop in friendly computer training for beginners	12.30pm - 3.15pm 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Gamlingay Environmental Action Group (GEAG)	Kier Suite, Wednesdays	

Gamlingay Gardening Club	3rd January Gardening for Health - Paul Herrington The Kier Suite, The Eco Hub. Guests £3-00	7.30pm
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Thursday

Library open		4.00pm - 7.00pm
Youth Cafe and Club	Local children's group - Cafe YR4+ Club YR8+	5-15pm - 9-00pm
Gamlingay Players	Small Friendly society who produce plays and pantomimes	8-00pm - 10-00pm

Friday -	Library Open &	Connect Cafe	10.00 am - 12.00pm
Saturday		Library Open	9.30am - 12.30pm

What's on in January

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

12th January Competition 4 open -Judge Saraah Kelman ARPS,
DPAGB, B Panel

19th In Search of Sakura (Cherry Blossom of Japan) - Brian Reid

26th Wild Scotland, The Islands - Richard Revels FRPS

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 652 157
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

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Baptist Church Linda Fraser 677 710
Church Office 651519

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

Schools

First School 650 208

Village College 650 360

First School Via school 650 208
Association office

Youth groups

2nd Gamlingay Benita Scott 650 547
Guides

1st Gamlingay Jane Brown 652 997
Brownies

1st Gamlingay Helen Brown 449 043
Rainbows

Tinuwen Rangers Irene Gray 651 212

Gamlingay Cubs Steve Palmer 651 532

Gamlingay Gransden Barry Jefferd 261 000
Cubs

Gamlingay Scouts Will Colebrook 07527
Thursday 717463

Pathfinder Scouts Chris Elwood 07879
Friday 698477

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

Youth Club Lucy Rands 07929

Youth Cafe 453235

Gamlingay Young Kay Palmer 651 532
Lacemakers

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 Sec: John Wakeman
Railway Society 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

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 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

Cambridge county council

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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
 Emergencies: 651 546
 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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 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

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 Web page www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk
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