



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

October 2016



Photo by Emma Jones

**Little Abington United Reformed Church
Prepares for Harvest Festival 18 September 2016**

Letter from the Editor

This year the school holidays found us enjoying some hot summer weather. Amazingly we still had temperatures exceeding 30°C on several days in September! However, we have now passed the autumnal equinox and must look ahead to the **end of British Summer Time on 30 October when clocks go back one hour** and, regrettably, the evenings become darker earlier.

Rod Willcox plans to place an order for heating oil early in October (see note below). The community order has increased steadily and he tells me that 67,000 litres were ordered on our behalf in May.

The cost and environmental impact of heating are of continuing concern so the special green energy event organised on 29 October to provide information on a range of options for domestic energy is not to be missed (page 15).

Our Parish Councils have continued to be busy on our behalf (pages 7, 8-9, 14). Progress is being made on considering devolution proposals which affect Cambridgeshire; consultation on city congestion continues, and it looks as though approval has been given for setting up a Neighbourhood Plan for the former LSA.

Volunteers are still needed for Speedwatch; Hildersham Village Hall needs part time help with maintenance and Linton Village College seeks new governors (pages 7, 8, 9).

The AALGA had a successful barbecue despite disappointing weather (page 12). Abington Woods offers a free 'Pumpkin in the Woods' event on 29 October (page 18).

Our churches have a full programme of services and events, including for the first time a Messy Church on Sunday 2 October. The exciting building project at Great Abington Church is nearing completion. See pages 6, 15.

Many thanks to bell ringer Jason Burnet who has supplied interesting details of the bells in the two Abington churches (page 13).

Please note the advice on renewing concessionary bus passes and the reminder that it is time for flu jabs (page 18).

At Halloween scarily dressed youngsters knocking on doors to 'trick or treat' can be alarming and unwelcome for some people. Please knock only where houses show pumpkins or other obvious signs of being in the Halloween mood.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the November edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the Editor by Saturday 15 October 2016 at news@theabingtons.org.uk Photos welcome.

Community Oil Order

Rod Willcox will be taking orders for domestic heating oil from 23 September to 7 October. Please let Rod know the quantity of oil you want and supply your name, address, post code, and phone number. Oil is usually delivered about 7 days after the order is placed. Contact rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk or by phone 07767 686 351.

From the Vicarage

In the parishes we are operating as normal as the vacancy progresses. There is much going on and Keith and I are working to ensure that communication is maintained.

We have arrived in the season of autumn. We are reminded of the words of John Keats when describing autumn as the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness! Certainly as I write this we are blessed with an Indian summer. The fruits are plentiful and we can get outside to enjoy this wonderful gift of sunshine. We are reminded once again how we are dependent on the weather for our crops and God's goodness to us as we watch the farmers ploughing the fields.

The children have gone back to school and a new academic year begins. Normal routine starts again. Change is always there. The children go up to a new class and get to know their new teacher. The date for the children to come to celebrate harvest in the church is Friday 30 September at 1.30pm.

On the same day there is a Harvest supper at 7.30pm at Balsham Institute. The menu is shepherd's pie and apple crumble. There is entertainment afterwards. It promises to be a good evening. Do come along.

An advance notice: the Balsham Singers are performing at Holy Trinity Church to raise funds for the roof repairs at West Wrattling Church. The lead was stolen a few months ago. The concert is on 8 October at 7.30pm. Do come along.

Our parish nurse Teresa is meeting with many people in the parishes. She has gained the confidence of all the people she meets and it is a joy she is on the team (see page 5).

The Julian group

When I first arrived in the six parishes just over five years ago I wanted to set up a Julian group because I had been involved with a similar group in my previous six parishes as a Curate. I found several people who were interested and we began to meet at Hildersham Church. Now we meet at Joanna Sander's house in Nine Chimneys Lane, in Balsham. The evening starts at 7pm with a piece of music and then a reading from the writings of Julian of Norwich. After the reading we have half an hour of silence concluded with more from Julian and then we can share what has happened or not as the case maybe. We conclude with a cup of tea and leave by eight o'clock. We try to meet on the second Wednesday of the month but sometimes that has to be slightly adjusted.

Julian lived around 1373. She was very ill and saw visions given to her by God. She was able to get this written down and was the first English woman to have recorded anything. Her writing cut through the theology of the day and makes the relationship with God much freer.

What is totally amazing is the fact that the Roman Catholic Church accepted her writing about what she had seen. We all know that she is famous for saying 'All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.'

Also 'Everything that exists is contained in a hazel nut in the palm of my hand.'

'We will help you to settle into a quiet place and who knows what might happen in the stillness. Being prepared to be still is the first step.'

Has this whetted your appetite for more? We would love to see you.

More details, Revd. Kathy Bishop, 01223 892 288.

Whilst we are in the interregnum if there is anyone who needs Keith or me to visit just let us know.

I would just like to say thank you to the churchwardens and those who help in all sorts of ways. I could not do what I do without their support. We are working together as a team.

I also look forward to meeting people as I go around the parishes.

Revd Kathy Bishop

Call the Parish Nurse

Six months ago I was privileged to become your parish nurse - a special gift, a divine calling, one that has brought great joy, feeding my inner desire and commitment to love God and to love our neighbour. This has been the most humbling experience and one that I remain passionate and determined to fulfil. I feel energised by God's unconditional love to promote the principles of compassion, respect and dignity.

My engagement confirms our fear about the incidence of unmet healthcare needs and hidden suffering. I must commend all those in these parishes who had the wisdom to design and support this project, the church being proactive, and most importantly, all of you that have trusted me during your times of need and vulnerability.

Sharing some of my precious encounters will hopefully enlighten and empower us, in a true compassionate spirit, to tackle the problems people are facing.

An individual; housebound, lonely and isolated; no family or visitors except the professional carers. Alone, feeling of no worth or value, the person said to me 'I'm a burden to society, I wish I would die' and then sat and wept. It is heartbreaking holding a hand, listening, having some time together. She looked at me, I took her hand, placed a small wooden cross in it and she smiled.

I struggle to come to terms with such happenings in today's world and yet it is real.

For those nearing the end of life my involvement has varied: supporting them to live life to the full to the very end, encouraging them to do meaningful activities, to make memories for those they leave behind, as well as alleviating worries about their death and dying.

One contact was to support the carer and to respect the wishes of a cherished love one so that they could die at home in a dignified and peaceful manner. I was able to offer daily respite, a listening ear and a quiet presence. Then I coordinated working collaboratively with professionals to ensure comfort, dignity and a peaceful end.

A lot of my work is supporting carers, with no or little respite offered to them from other professionals. Being a devoted loving carer is a huge responsibility and extremely tiring caring twenty four hours each day, seven days a week. So many are so inspiring with their devotion, but sadly, they themselves and their needs are often forgotten. There are many times when they need to attend appointments as an advocate, support or translator of medical terminology, so needed when facing possible life-changing news, diagnosis, treatments and medications. This much forgotten problem deserves attention in our future work.

In contrast, I attended the Pre-school to talk to children about nursing. They asked their questions and listened and then they enthusiastically bandaged teddy and themselves.

These are a few of my encounters, but each of my days is so different, full and unpredictable. Each visit is unique, working compassionately to honour the worth of each individual, and to address their needs as a whole person.

I know many of you too are caring with compassion, quietly behind closed doors. I cannot stress enough how vast this work is and how important for all to understand the real needs in the community.

My work continues with passion and enthusiasm to sustain our compassionate community. One in which people are not isolated, not being forgotten, but a good place to be born, to live, to grow old and to be able to die with dignity. And where there is a helping hand to be found. This will only work with the support and commitment to be there for one another. God's guidance, support and unconditional love for us prevails; it is pivotal and paramount as this project comes into fruition. I would value anyone's contributions or thoughts and thank you for those that have given valuable feedback in regards to this service.

Teresa Letimier, Parish Nurse

News from the Pews

The meteorological office tell us we are now well into autumn, time for us to look to our Autumn/Winter programme of services and events for notes for your diaries.

Our Service of Hope will be held in Little Abington Church on **Wednesday 2 November**, All Souls' Day.

The Service of Remembrance will be on **Sunday 13 November**, see November edition for further details.

Our annual Christmas Fayre will take place on **Saturday 26 November**. Marilyn readily welcomes help on this day on the various stalls, please contact her if you wish to join us.

This year our Advent Concert on **Saturday 3 December** will again (after popular request) stage our local talent. If you wish to take a performing part by singing, playing an instrument or reciting, please contact Anne, Patsy, Mary or Marilyn. We are sure there is a lot of hidden talent in our midst.

The following day, **Sunday 4 December**, we will be holding our Christingle Service in Great Abington Church. This year it will include 'Messy Church'. All ages are welcome. For further details contact Rosemary.

The school Carol Service will take place in Great Abington Church on **Friday 16 December**.

Our annual Carol Service will take place in Great Abington Church on **Sunday 18 December**. Details for the Christmas Choir practices will be in the November magazine. Please contact Mary for further details.

For details of phone numbers see back page. Rosemary can be contacted on 891 716.

Dates for October

Sunday 2nd – Messy Church – Calling all families. Please come and join us for Abington's first Messy Church at 3.30pm in the Village Institute, where our theme will be Harvest. Come and enjoy craft, cooking, story telling and singing, followed by tea. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday 5th – Space to Be – An oasis of calm and an opportunity to step aside from the busyness of life will be taking place at Rosemary Mead's house, 55 Church Lane at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Excitement is brewing as the John Chaplin Open Church Project is nearing completion. It really looks quite stunning; the workmanship portrays British Craftsmen at their very best. (See page 15).

Charity for the Month – CORAM – This charity is committed to improving the lives of the UK's most vulnerable children and young people. The charity was founded in 1739 by Captain Thomas Coram who wanted to provide care for abandoned children left dying on London Streets. The vision of CORAM is that every child has the best possible chance to lead a fulfilling life. Your gift would be very much appreciated – Thank you.

Anne Hall

Little Abington United Reformed Church

Our garden is blooming, our woodwork is freshly painted and we've 'all facilities' inside, along with friendly people who invite you to join us for worship and praise each Sunday. See cover photo.

2 October	10.15am	Mrs Liz Wade
9 October	10.15am	Mr Bryan Ellicott
16 October	2.30pm	Revd Bruce Waldron (HC)
23 October	10.15am	Mr John Luke
30 October	10.15am`	Revd Bruce Waldron

For more information please contact Lynne on 893 295.

Village news: The Parish Energy day is fast approaching on 29 October in the Institute, late volunteers still very welcome. See page 15.

Despite reminders it has been noted how dangerous overgrown hedges on pathways can be, a suggested clearance of a metre for all pathways is ideal with hedges not to be taller than two metres. Parking vehicles conscientiously by not obscuring paths and driveways is also a village obligation we would like to observe.

Big Lottery funding grants to support community cohesion projects are available and a suggestion has been made to improve the football pitch.

There is a variety of lighting, drainage and repair issues ongoing. Villagers are asked to remain vigilant as leaves start to fall, equally to report any potential issues before or as they arise.

Noise from Granta Park: a new piling technique is being deployed to minimise noise and vibration. While this is on-going pathways in and around the site may become restricted

Speedwatch: Speeding cars present a persistent problem but evidence-gathering is vital to assess the need for change. As such, once again a call for volunteers to join the campaign has been made. Contact abingtonspeedwatch1@yahoo.co.uk .

Planning applications

S/2225/16/FL: The Croft, Church Lane, demolish and rebuild a larger home – no known objections.

S/2216/16/FL: 53 Church Lane, single storey garden room to replace conservatory, no known objections

Planning updates

S/1880/16/FL: 10 Hildersham Road, extension to existing dwelling, SCDC approved.

Mr Bob Chesham is leaving the Parish Council. His input on village maintenance matters amongst others has proved invaluable over the years and the Parish Council thanked him for the years of service.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

Next Meeting: Monday 24 October 2016 at 7.15pm

Public participation: Come and have your say – 15 minutes, early in meeting

Peter Brunning (Chairman)

tel: 891 960

Email: pc@brunning.org.uk

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk)

tel: 893 332

Email: clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk

The Battle of the Somme ended on 18 November 1916

The Abington History Group will host an evening about the Battle of the Somme in the Institute on Friday 18 November 2016 at 7.30pm.

More details in the November News. Or see page 15 of the September News.

Hildersham Focus

Maintenance person required for Village Hall

Hildersham Village Hall Trust would like to take on someone to carry out general maintenance at the Village Hall. It would probably be for a few hours each month, but pay and conditions can be discussed with anyone interested in the job. To apply, or for further information, please email hildershamvillagehall@gmail.com or ring Jill Heale, HVHT Secretary, on 893 596.

Parish Nurse Evening

On Monday 3 October at 7pm the Parish Nurse Management Group are hosting an evening at The Meadow School Balsham where Libby Purves will be the guest speaker. Libby Purves is known nationally through her work for Radio 4 and as commentator for The Times newspaper (see page 12 September News).

It's Teatime

The next time for tea will be on Thursday 6 October from 3pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, so do come if you haven't tried our home baking before – it's jolly good – and so is the company.

Kings Taverners Concert ~ 'Spirit of Delight'

On Saturday 15 October at 7.30pm The Kings Taverners will present their annual concert of music and readings in Hildersham Church. This is always an evening of delight and will live up to the chosen theme. Tickets are £10 including refreshments during the interval and are available from Cathy Myer by email catherinemyer43@btinternet.com or telephone 892 848 or on the door.

Advance notice: Village Quiz Night on 11 November

Save this date for a great evening of fun. Either book individually or a table for up to 8 friends. Doors open at 7pm so the quiz can begin promptly at 7.30pm. Tickets are still only £8 including a hot supper during the interval. Just the job to cheer things up with winter round the corner. For more details or to book your place/s contact Cathy by email or telephone as above.

Hildersham Parish Council **A Quality Parish Council**



Report on the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th September 2016

Bus shelter lighting

The Parish Council selected a contractor to supply and install solar powered lights onto both bus shelters on the A1307, as both these areas are poorly lit.

Parking outside the village hall

The Council was awaiting a price from the Highway Dept. to create parking bays for up to eleven cars, but was concerned that the price may be beyond its budget.

Flooding

Two light-weight flood signs are to be purchased to alert motorists when the ford area is flooded. They are fold away signs so will be easier to manoeuvre.

Benches and village sign repairs

A handyman has been engaged to repair the village sign column and give the benches and picnic table a coat of preservative.

Allotment rent review

Councillors agreed to leave the allotment charge unchanged for this year. The bills will be sent to allotment holders at the end of the month, along with a request to limit the use of cars on the allotment land to reduce damage to the footpath.

Defibrillator

The council is looking into the costs of purchasing a defibrillator.

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8 November from 7.30pm at Hildersham Village Hall, High Street, Hildersham.

Linton Village College

Governors are the unsung heroes of school life. They play a significant role in the school's standards and success. They volunteer their time and energy to attend meetings, take part in reviews and interview processes and contribute to school policies and direction. They have a significant responsibility for providing school leaders with critical friendship, support and challenge.

The collective commitment and investment of governors to the school is substantial. If we were to calculate the cost of the contribution made by governance to the education sector the total sum would be vast. We are privileged to benefit from an array of different skills and expertise among our governing body at Linton Village College and the Directors of the Chilford Hundred Education Trust.

It is really important that the school's governance reflects its local community and serves the best interests of its students. While there is no longer a requirement for schools to have parental representation on governing bodies, we feel that there is great benefit to be had from this arrangement. Another important element is that of community governors. Recruiting from Linton and the surrounding villages allows us to tap into professional skills and talents of the local area and sustain the school's unique character, ethos and values as a village college at the heart of its local community.

We currently have vacancies for governors at Linton Village College and are keen to hear from people who may be interested in taking up the position as a governor. From auditing our existing governance skills-base, we would particularly welcome additional expertise in relation to finance, law and business, in addition to parent governors. We also have opportunities on the Board of our Multi-Academy Trust.

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity and would like further information about what is involved, please get in touch with Tracy Coston, the clerk to the governing body, (tracy.coston@lvc.org), by 17 October.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

Village News on the website

To see the News before the printed copy reaches you, and to see the pictures in colour, go to www.theabingtons.org.uk/news and follow the link to the pdf file for the month you want.

Dates for your Diary

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Sat	1	Scrapbooking Group	10.00am	11
Sun	2	Baby Yoga Messy Church	10.00am 3.30pm	11 6
Mon	3	French Conversation Abington Gardening Club	1.00pm 7.30pm	16
Tue	4	Art Group Forget-Me-Not Club Keep Fit	9.30am 2.00pm 7.00pm	17
Wed	5	Senior Keep Fit Dynamic Dance Class	12 noon 3.15pm	11
Thu	6	Abington Walking Group Hildersham Teatime – Village Hall	10.00am 3.00pm	17 8
Fri	7	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Low Impact Aerobics Pilates Family Film Night – doors open	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am 6.15pm	11 11 11 12
Sun	9	Baby Yoga	10.00am	11
Mon	10	Abington & Hildersham WI	7.30pm	16
Tue	11	Art Group Reading Group Keep Fit	9.30am 8.00pm 7.00pm	17
Wed	12	Yoga – course and drop in FGMN Club visit to Morrison’s Senior Keep Fit Dynamic Dance Class Yoga – course and drop in Space to Be – 55 Church Lane, Little Abington	9.30am 12 noon 3.15pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	11 17 11 11 6
Thu	13	Flower Workshop	10.00am	12
Fri	14	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Low Impact Aerobics Pilates	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am	11 11 11
Sat	15	Kings Taverners Concert – Hildersham Church	7.30pm	8
Tue	18	Art Group Mobile Library Forget-Me-Not Club Keep Fit	9.30am am 2.00pm 7.00pm	12 17
Wed	19	Yoga – course and drop in Senior Keep Fit Dynamic Dance Class Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am 12 noon 3.15pm 7.00pm	11 11 11
Fri	21	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Low Impact Aerobics Pilates Film Night – doors open	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am 6.45pm	11 11 11 12
Sat	22	Abington Walking Group Family Yoga Morning	10.00am 10.00am	17 11
Mon	24	Little Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	7

Tue	25	Art Group Keep Fit Scrabble Club	9.30am 7.00pm 7.00pm	17
Wed	26	Senior Keep Fit	12 noon	
Thu	27	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	16
Sat	29	Rivercare litter pick-up – meet at road bridge/ford Energy Event (Abington Green) Abington Woods Community Event	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	15 18
Mon	31	French Conversation	1.00pm	

For details of contacts please see inside back cover or articles where indicated.

Institute bookings: phone 01223 790 711 or email institute@theabingtons.org.uk

Wheelie bin dates for October 2016

Mon 3 Black	Mon 10 Green/Blue	Mon 17 Black	Mon 24 Green/Blue	Mon 31 Black
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Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute

Opening times in October 2016

Thursday lunchtimes	11.30am to 1.30pm (6, 13, 20) Lunch 27 th
Friday mornings	8.45am to 11.00am every Friday
Saturday mornings	10am to 12 noon every Saturday

Contacts for Café – Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com and Gill Smith (892 759) or richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk

Scrapbooking Group – We meet one Saturday of every month and welcome you to take a look any time and ask questions.

Yoga – Wednesdays 9.30am and 7pm at Abington Institute

Contact Joan 890 629 or email joangraham72@gmail.com

Dynamic Dance Theatre School – Wednesdays from 3.15pm

Ballet and modern dance lessons for children from 4 years old at Abington Institute.

Contact Esme on 07719 816 548 or esmewatts@hotmail.com

Low Impact Aerobics – Fridays 9.30-10.30am at Abington Institute

Suitable for 50+ or those returning to exercise. Aerobics, toning and stretching. Exercises to raise your heart rate and tone your body; fun and friendly.

Pilates – Fridays 10.45-11.45am at Abington Institute

Pilates exercises will help to alleviate back pain, increase core strength, improve posture and flexibility. Please book for 5 weeks for Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates. Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk

Abington Pre-school Baby and Toddler Group This group runs during term time from the Annexe building at the bottom of the school playground; **open on Fridays from 9.30am to 11.30am**, for all children aged 0–3 years old. Come along and play. Refreshments provided for children and adults. Contact Natasha 07725 175 917 or email petrovnatasha@yahoo.co.uk

Baby Yoga – Sundays 10am at Abington Institute

Fun and relaxing classes to support baby's natural development combined with gentle exercises for mums and dads. Please contact Jeffi to register your interest 07931 790 591.

Family Yoga Morning Saturday 22 October 10-11am at Abington Institute

Come and start your day with some stretches, yoga games and fun! Aimed at children of all ages and their parents. This is a new monthly class. Please contact Jeffi for more information on 07931 790 591.

Mobile Library

Tuesday 18 October 2016, times as follows:

Little Abington	West Field	10.00–10.30am
Great Abington	North Road	10.40–11.10am
	Magna Close	11.20am–12.10pm
	The Shop	12.15–12.35pm
Hildersham	Church Green	12.45–1.00pm

Film Nights at Abington Institute

Friday 7 October is Family Film Night. Doors open **6.15pm** for **6.30pm** film.

Then **Film Night is on Friday 21 October.** Doors open **6.45pm** for **7pm** film.

Everyone welcome. Raffle and refreshments. See the poster in the Institute for full details.

If you would like to receive details of the film by email approx. two weeks before a screening then subscribe for free to our mailing list using the link at

<http://www.theabingtons.org.uk> or email an enquiry to films@theabingtons.org.uk

Dianne Dawson (893 101)

Autumn Flower workshops 2016

Thursday 13 October 2016 10am - 12.30pm

Thursday 3 November 2016 10am - 12.30pm

These two different workshops will be held on the Terrace, Abington Institute, and will use seasonal flowers to create arrangements for you to enjoy.

To register your interest or to find out more please phone 891 464 or email Freda Orgee at fredasflowers@hotmail.co.uk

AALGA Barbecue – held on Saturday 10 September - The usual number of hardy allotmenters and villagers braved the weather to enjoy the annual BBQ. A break between periods of rain, plus the availability of a shelter, meant that tasty burgers and hot dogs could be consumed unaffected by drizzle and damp. No-one likes a watery roll! Thanks to the AALGA Committee, who worked hard to create a successful event. *Photos by Len Mead*



Shoe Box Gifts It is the time again to think about doing a shoebox with a Christian organisation called Samaritan's Purse. They call it 'Operation Christmas Child'. The idea is to fill a shoebox with items that a child would like to receive. The children who are given these shoeboxes are those who are living on the edge of society and who probably would not get anything else for Christmas. The boxes are distributed to many parts of the world where the need is greatest. Each child receives a box as an unconditional gift of love, based on need, regardless of their background or religion. There are leaflets that explain what to do, suggestions for the items to put in the box, and those not to include and what to do with the filled box. There are flat pack boxes that can be made up to make it even easier to start. If you are interested phone (893 232) or email jane.furlow@gmail.com for details and a box. Once filled, boxes can be given to Jane for collection. This must be before mid-November. Thank you.

Jane Furlow

The Bells of Great & Little Abington

St Mary's Great Abington:

The earliest known record of bells at Great Abington was in 1552 when there were two bells. From what I can find these two bells were in existence until 1742 when there were three. There are no records of who these bells were cast by, or even where they came from.

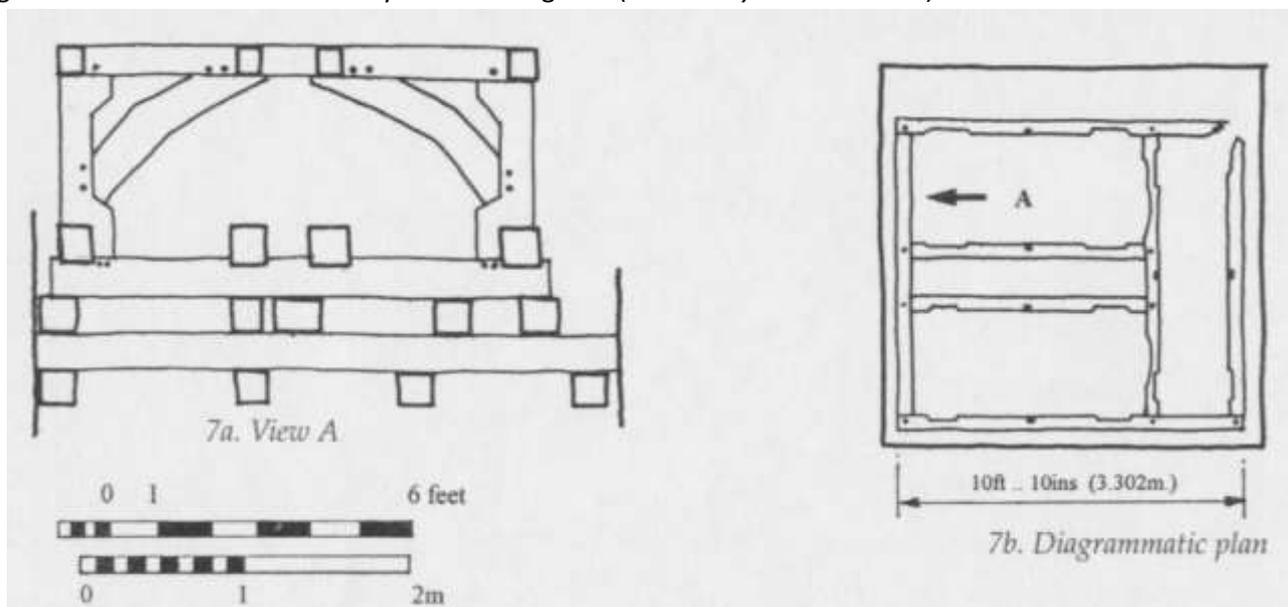
The next record is in 1783 where it says there were five, three of them were broken, which implies they were badly cast and had probably cracked. By 1816 these three bells had been sold, leaving two bells remaining, one of which was recast in 1817 by Thomas II Mears. The other one had been cast in 1789. This is where we are now. The tower contains two bells, one 1817 Thomas Mears the other being cast in 1789 (I'm not too sure about who cast it). Not much else is known about the history of the bells and the original bells weights are unknown. The current Mears bell is the larger of the two, weighing around 4 hundredweight, the smaller of them probably only weighs 1 hundredweight.

St Mary's Little Abington:

The church in Little Abington only has one bell, weighing around 9 hundredweight in the note of G-sharp. Cast around 1620 it was the tenor of a ring of three which once hung in the tower. I don't know what happened to the front two but they were most likely sold to another church, or melted down. The state of the frame is very poor meaning the bell can only be swing chimed.

Unfortunately the state of the tower means it's not strong enough to support the weight of any new bells being rung properly.

Diagram of the bell frame at St Mary's Little Abington. (sourced by Richard Smith).



Jason Burnet (bell ringer)

Small World!

Many thanks to the Great Abington residents who reported that, on a recent visit to North Queensland, Australia, they found records that Thomas Arthur Newman, born in West Wratting, had emigrated aged 21 in 1866 and, by the time he died in 1933, had become a universally respected pioneer in building the church and much else in the small town of Kuranda. Details have been passed to the editor of the West Wratting magazine.

Great Abington Parish Council An Active Council

It has been a busy summer with lots of things happening.

Devolution - 1500 people responded to an open consultation and Mori carried out a survey with 2,000 people. Following this consultation the County Council will make its decision on 25 October and the District Council will make theirs on 26 October. By the end of October all Councils in the County will have made their decisions.

There is another consultation deadline approaching – **Tackling City Congestion**. If you have views about the proposals for Cambridge City you can have your say until 10 October.

The **cycle path** through Babraham Institute has now been given all its permissions and will be opening soon.

The proposal to develop a **Neighbourhood Plan** for the area covered by the former LSA was submitted to SCDC and has been through initial consultation. It has now been agreed by the SCDC Planning Portfolio holder, who gave approval for the development of a plan.

Granta Park update – the work on the Illumina building will be restarting shortly. The noise caused by the building work has been raised with them and will be subject to continuous noise and vibration monitoring for the duration of the build. There will be a monthly site meeting for Parish Councils to attend, so if you have any feedback when the building work starts please contact a member of your Parish Council.

The **Recreation Ground Committee** have the problem of people putting dog mess in the regular dustbins, not in the dog bins. Please use the dog bins provided.

Planning

S/0240/16/FL - Ms L Paine 22, South Road, demolition of existing dwelling and construction of 4 bed dwelling, recommended approval with conditions

S/2342/16/FL - Mr Dron and Mrs Whitcombe, 18 South Road - single storey extension, recommended approval

S/0569/16/FL - Mr Tilley, 45 North Road - demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of a barn, recommended refusal with original comments standing

S/3181/15/FL land to north of Pampisford Road, Hill residential, recommended approval. This will be heard at the SCDC Planning Committee meeting in October or November.

S/1337/16/FL Mr Ooi, 4 Mortlock Gardens, retrospective application for window. Recommended refusal

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

Bernie Talbot (Chairman) tel.892 647

Planning Committees: Usually Mondays, as required, 6.30pm. See notice board for dates or contact the parish clerk.

Next Parish Council meeting Monday 21 November 2016, 7.15pm.

There will be an opportunity early in the meeting for members of the public to speak to the council about matters of concern. Agenda and minutes posted on Parish Council notice board located at the entrance to Magna Close or available from the parish clerk.

Jane Bowen (891 137), Paula Harper (Clerk): harper802@btinternet.com (892 000)

John Chaplin Open Church Project nearing completion

With only final plumbing items to be fitted, floor repairs to be made, there is little else to be done to complete the project of enhancing the facilities at Great Abington's church so that it can be enjoyed by the whole community both now and as a legacy to future generations. The kitchenette is completed as is the extension with a splendid north door that's very welcoming on entering the church. By the middle of October the project should be ready for use - a wonderful addition to our village facilities. Project chairman Mervyn Wingfield and the committee thank all those who supported the project and made it possible. Full details will be featured in the November News.



Photo and report by Tony Collett

Parish Energy Efficiency Event – Institute – 29 October

***Abington Green* – options for domestic energy**

Information and advice on sources of green energy available to domestic users, to help you to make informed choices, will be on offer at this *Abington Green* event on: **Saturday 29 October 2016, 10.00am – 1.00pm, at Abington Institute**

This event, supported by Great and Little Abington Parish Councils, is planned to help you to invest wisely and to take action to save energy and money and have a more comfortable home. This might be through improved insulation, installing a more efficient boiler or a woodburner, or power generation using solar panels or something more exotic like heat pumps. Technologies and financial incentives have moved on since the previous similar event, and it is timely to take another look.

This is an opportunity to find out more about how to achieve smaller energy bills and reduce emissions, while you improve your community and the environment and do your bit to cut consumption of fossil fuels.

Abington Green will feature information, literature and guidance on:

- The pros and cons of green energy alternatives
- Solar panels, photo-voltaic and thermal
- Wood burning stoves
- Air-source and ground source heat pumps
- Improved thermal insulation of walls and roofs.

The programme includes:

- Short talks by experts
- Description of user experiences
- Opportunities for one-on-one discussion
- A chance to arrange a thermal imaging camera survey of your home to judge the effectiveness of its insulation
- Loan of smart electricity meters to help you analyse your own usage
- Access to demonstrators: you can request appointments with Abington residents willing to show those interested their green energy installations
- And Jeremiah's Café will be open as usual during the morning.

For more information contact Peter Brunning (peter.brunning@cantab.net).– 891 960



Abington Lunch

Thursday 27 October 2016



Fruit Juice

**Fish Pie (White Fish and Salmon) with Soufflé Crouton Topping
Creamed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables**

Blackberry & Apple Crumble with Custard

Tea or Coffee

Please book your meal on 07789 585 399. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 25 October. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Doors open at **12.45pm**. Note that the lunch is open to **ALL** Abington and Hildersham residents, young and old. **Only £5.**

Next lunch Thursday 24 November 2016

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

At our meeting on 12 September, Sian Fox kept everyone glued to their seats with some fascinating insights into her career with Sainsbury's supermarket, where she was one of a group of 'ladies who know', meaning they could always demonstrate how food products could be used and cooked by the customers.

She also worked with Jamie Oliver on his school dinners project and found him to be a committed and passionate campaigner for healthy eating. She was also involved with the MEND campaign, which worked with obese children and their parents to encourage healthier eating habits.

Spicing her talk with a mass of interesting anecdotes, including encounters with the original Calendar Girls, Sian had clearly had a very interesting and rewarding working life.

Next meeting: Monday 10 October at 7.30pm – Member's night. All welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst (893 214)

Abington Gardening Club

Congratulations to Len and Rosemary Mead, winners of the quiz held at the AGM on 19 September.

Photo by Irene Childerley.

On Monday 3 October at 7.30pm in the Institute Rodney Tibbs will give a talk entitled 'Your Own Mediterranean Climate'. On 7 November Colin Kirtland is coming to give a talk entitled 'Wildlife in the Garden'.

All welcome

Kay Harman, Secretary (891 730) email:
robandkayharman@gmail.com



British Summer Time ends Sunday 30 October. Clocks go BACK one hour.

Scrabble Club

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 25 October in the Institute. If possible, please bring your own board and tiles. New members very welcome.

Sheena Fraser

Reading Group

11 October	<i>The Help</i> Kathryn Stockett	Valerie Hefford
8 November	<i>The Luminous Life of Lilly</i> <i>Aphrodite</i> Beatrice Colin	Lisa Pechey
13 December	Christmas meeting	Rachel Haining
10 January	<i>The Fatal Englishman</i> Sebastian Faulks	Beverley Dennis

Please confirm your acceptance 24 hours before.

Diana Wingfield

Forget-Me-Not Club

We thought our first speaker in October would present a good 'warm up' to Christmas with a possible opportunity of an excellent idea for a Christmas gift. Dr John Walters will give a talk on his company 'English Spirit Distillery' which is nestled in the small village of Dullingham. The distillery produces a huge variety of spirits and is reputed to be one of only a handful of distilleries that actually make their gin from scratch.

We also have a return visit from East Anglian Air Ambulance to update us on significant changes which have taken place due to the generosity and support of the local communities.

We do hope you are able to join us.

Dates for October

Tuesday 4 October – 2pm – Talk by John Walters on English Spirit Distillery

Wednesday 12 October – Trip to Morrison's Supermarket

Tuesday 18 October – 2pm – Talk by Jack Clarkson of East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Anne Hall (Chair) Tel; 892 275

Abington Walking Group

Our Thursday walk took us around the Withersfield area. The day was very sunny and hot. Saturday's walk was from Barkway to Reed and Buckland and, after a very wet Friday, we were blessed by a dry but chilly day to enjoy the open country and the sighting of a large herd of deer.



This month's walks are on Thursday 6 and Saturday 22 October. Why not join us? One never knows what awaits us on our walks.

For further information, please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 robandkayharman@gmail.com or

George Woodley on 891 169 georgewoodley@talktalk.net.

News from Abington Woods

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has supported and enjoyed the woodland this summer. More recently, I hope World River Day was a good opportunity for all of us to celebrate those who care for our river and how the river cares for us. Thank you to everyone who contributed Art Work and time to make this such a successful event. Abington Woods would like to warmly invite all residents of the Abingtons and Hildersham to crunch through the leaves or stroll across the lawn at Abington Woods and enjoy our **'Pumpkin in the Woods' - Community Event from 10am to 8pm on Saturday 29 October**. It is a free event and refreshments are available at £1 each. Try a slice of pumpkin pie and tea on the lawn, enjoy a bowl of pumpkin soup by the fire or explore the woods and follow the pumpkin lantern trail with a glass of mulled fruit. All proceeds from refreshments are being donated to future Abington Messy Church activities and resources. To help us cater for interest please email abingtonwoods@gmail.com if you would like to come along. I hope to see you there

Our **Archery Enthusiasts** and **Thursday Little People** Groups will continue to meet over the autumn. For more information please email abingtonwoods@gmail.com . Thank you.

Deborah James.

Concessionary bus pass renewal – a message from the County Council

The Council is aware that over the next eighteen months the quantity of renewals of the concessionary bus passes is going to be potentially very high. It is the responsibility of the pass holder to check when their pass is up for renewal and then to contact the County Council to get a new one.

In order to aid the pass holder we have set up a new form which allows people to renew easily online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/concessionary. If people have any problems with the online form then they can also call the number on the back of their passes or go to the Passenger Transport Team for help - see contact details below.

We have also produced a poster which is going up on-board buses, at P&R sites and also in libraries, detailing the renewal process and asking pass holders to check when their pass needs renewing.

Should you require any further information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact us. **Passenger Transport Team**

Phone: 0345 045 0675 Email: passenger.transport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Post: Passenger Transport Team, Box SH1013, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP

Granta Medical Practice – Flu Clinics

Flu jabs are recommended for everyone age 65 and over and for those in clinical at-risk groups. Once again we will be running flu clinics on three Saturday mornings starting on 8 October in Linton and two in Sawston. We are taking bookings now.

Children aged 2, 3 or 4 on 1 September and those in the at-risk group are eligible to receive the nasal spray vaccine.

The shingles vaccine is also available to people who will be aged 70-73 and 78-79 on 1 September 2016. This is a one off vaccine that can be given at the same time as the flu jab; we cannot give this to anyone over 80 years.

Meningitis ACWY vaccine can be given to anyone under 25 years of age who will actually start university this year or who was born between 1/9/1997 and 31/8/1998. Please make an appointment in a routine nurse's weekday clinic.

Poppy Appeal 2016 – This starts on 29 October and continues to Saturday 12 November. Please give generously. If you could be a collector please contact Kay Harman (891 730) email: robandkayharman@gmail.com

Church Services for October 2016

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
2 October	3.30pm Messy Church in the Institute		6.00pm Evensong	2Timothy 1.1-14 Luke 17.5-10
9 October		6.00pm Evensong	9.15am Communion	2Timothy 2.8-15 Luke 17.11-19
16 October		9.15am Communion	4.00pm Harvest Café Church	2Timothy 3.14-4.5 Luke 18.1-18
23 October		10.45am Communion	9.15am Communion – Prayer Book	2Timothy 4. 6-8,16-18
30 October	10am UNITED	SERVICE at	WEST	WICKHAM

Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
2 October	Anne Hall	Amanda Marns	Jenny Logan
9 October		Kay Harman &	Kirsten Newble
16 October	and	June Waring	Harvest – all help please
23 October	Patsy Randall	Charlotte Adams	Jeanette Long
30 October		Charlotte Adams	Jeanette Long

Churchwardens

<i>Hildersham</i>	Cathy Myer	'Woodside', Hildersham	892 848
	Andrew Westwood-Bate	5 Sleaford Close, Balsham	892 430
<i>Great Abington</i>	Tony Collett	23 Meadow Walk, Great Abington	893 447
<i>Little Abington</i>	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564

Assistant Churchwardens

<i>Great Abington</i>	Anne Hall	12 Magna Close, Great Abington	892 275
	Patsy Randall	77 High Street, Great Abington	07765 345 714
<i>Little Abington</i>	Mary Miles	36 Church Lane, Little Abington	891 083
	Marilyn Broadhurst	34 West Field, Little Abington	893 214

Parish Nurse

Teresa Letimier	Not 24 hrs, please leave a message if no reply - Teresa will respond when next on duty.	07498 994 205
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