



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



[www.theabingtons.org.uk](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk)

**September 2017**



*Photo by Peter Brunning*

**Naturewatch members taking and recording samples from  
our river 15 August 2017**

## Letter from the Editor

August brought variable weather, with heavy showers too often for those on holiday. However, the village trip to Felixstowe, the Mossy Church in Abington Woods, the WI visit to an alpaca farm and the Garden Fête were blessed with sunshine (pages 6, 17) and thoroughly enjoyed. Hildersham's outdoor theatre event on a very wet day became a great success when moved into the church (page 9).

September brings a welcome resumption of the usual classes and club events as shown in the diary pages 10 to 12. Film Nights are back and French conversation begins on 18 September. If you can understand the Italian language paragraph on page 12 you will be well equipped to join a new Italian course.

There is a Craft Fair on 23-24 September in the Abington Institute and the café will be open as you look and shop (see flyer). Hildersham has a village lunch in the newly refurbished Village Hall and plans an autumn season of lectures (page 8).

This issue contains an update on the Parish Nurse activities that shows a month-on-month increase in the requests made for her advice and help. There are also the dates for flu injections – can we really have reached this time of year already? (See pages 6, 7).

The Parish Councils point out the need for us to pay attention to major planning proposals included in the Neighbourhood Plan, and for 5000 houses at Great Chesterford, that could have major effects on our way of life (page 13).

On 14 August there was a packed public meeting held to discuss the installation at Granta Park of gates and a fence that put a stop to the easy access villagers have enjoyed for years. At that date the petition to maintain access had reached over 600 signatures, reflecting the high level of concern. The village has had, and aims to continue, a very constructive relationship with TWI and Granta Park, and recognises that there are real security issues for the estate. The meeting agreed that a small group should prepare to negotiate to maintain a system of managed access that would meet the security needs (pages 13, 15). The Abington 10k and Fun Run scheduled to start and finish at Granta Park on 1 October brings these issues into sharp focus.

The spells of rain and hot weather made the crops grow. So we can look forward to joyful thanksgiving at harvest festivals when the churches will be filled with produce destined for food banks (pages 4, 5, 8).

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the October edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the Editor by Friday 15 September 2017 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk). Photos welcome.

**Community Oil order** – Please let Rod Wilcox know the quantity of oil you want and supply your name, address, post code and phone number between 27 September and 5 October. He will place orders for delivery from 9 October. Contact [rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone 07767 686 351.

## **From the Seven Churches**

Last month, the 14 August, was the first anniversary of the departure of the Revd. Dr. Julie Norris and our seven churches have now been seeking a replacement for a whole year. This month a second series of advertisements are being placed in the Church Times newspaper for priests to apply to fill the vacancy. As I have asked before, please do pray for the right priest to apply to come and serve in Julie's place. Meanwhile our church services, and all the baptisms, weddings and funerals have continued. Our ministry team have gone above and beyond their normal duties, serving all seven churches as well as they can in the circumstances. We have also been generously helped by a team of other local clergy

The aftermath of the theft of the lead roof at St. Andrew's, West Wratting has caused the church to be filled with scaffolding while the walls are being repaired and repainted. After the theft of the roof and before the repairs could be made, rain inevitably penetrated the church and stained the walls. Great generosity has been shown in answer to the appeal for the cost of the repairs, but the need for the plastering and painting of the walls has turned the church into a construction site. Please sympathize with the congregation, the churchwardens and the Church Council as they try to cope with the situation. Many other churches in East Anglia have suffered in the same way.

Last month a play was staged at West Wickham, telling the story of the Revd. John Wollaston, Perpetual Curate, who left the parish in 1840 and travelled to Western Australia. He helped to establish the Anglican Church in Perth, in Bunbury and the surrounding area, ending up as the first Archdeacon of the diocese. The generous actors, who came from Bunbury and performed the play, asked for the proceeds of ticket sales, £462.50, to be donated to St. Mary's, West Wickham.

Summer fêtes, barbecues, and many other events have taken place in all our churches through this summer. Our thanks go to all those enthusiasts who have given time and energy to keep our churches in good heart as we wait for our new 'Rector-Designate' to be appointed.

Keith Johnson

## **Little Abington United Reformed Church**

On 17 September, we welcome you to join us for our Harvest Festival when we celebrate and give thanks for God's gifts of the natural world. This service will be led by Revd Mike Wilson of Sawston.

We will in turn take gifts of produce or tinned goods to this service which will then benefit those using the food bank.

### **Preachers for September**

3 September	10.15am	Mrs Wendy Roe
10 September	10.15 am	Mr Bob Parkin HC
17 September	10.15 am	Revd. Mike Wilson – Harvest service
24 September	10.15 am	Mr Bryan Ellicott

\*Please note all services this month will be at 10.15 am.  
For more information please contact Lynne on 893 295.

## News from the Pews

‘Come ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home’

One of our most popular harvest songs, which will be sung for sure when we celebrate harvest at 4pm on Sunday 1 October. The gifts of fruit, vegetables and dried foods used to decorate the church will be donated to Jimmy’s Night Shelter on Monday afternoon following Great Abington Primary School’s harvest celebration. This year we have invited the Abington Allotment Group to donate gifts from their plots. We ask that all donations are taken to Great Abington Church on Saturday 30 September before 10am or to Anne’s house (12 Magna Close) after 1pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup>.

Around 40 children and as many adults enjoyed Mossy Church in Abington Woods on Sunday 6 August. Enjoying numerous crafts, stories and singing ending with a delicious picnic. Thank you to Rosemary and her team for a really fun afternoon (see page 6).

Sincere thanks to Graham Ross for hosting a Garden Party for Church funds, to the team who organised the event and most importantly to those who gave donations and gifts and to all those who attended the splendid afternoon.

## Dates for September

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Around 30 members of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historical Church Trust will be visiting Great Abington Church for coffee and to enjoy and observe the history of our church. The group will also be visiting other churches in our region on this day too. We look forward to welcoming them.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>** – PCC Meeting in GA Church at 7pm. **NB. Not the 27<sup>th</sup> as previously arranged.**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – Abington Craft Fair.** An opportunity to view or buy some of the region’s finest crafts along with the Abington Arts Group. **Entrance is free. Please note flyer in your magazine.**

**Charity for the Month – Cambridge Street Pastors.** – Friday and Saturday night in Cambridge City Centre can be quite a buzz; many pubs and clubs stay open into the small hours, with at times thousands of young adults enjoying the party atmosphere. But misuse of alcohol and sometimes-easy access to recreational drugs can turn a fun evening into distress, sickness, anti-social behaviour and even violence. Street Pastors are the churches’ response to the many difficulties that can arise late at night in the city centre. They are a voluntary organisation that relies on local support, mainly from our churches in the Cambridgeshire area. **There are charity boxes in both our churches.**

Anne Hall

## Walk for Parkinson’s – Wandlebury Country Park, Cambridge

### Saturday 30 September

Join us for a 1.5 or 4.5 mile walk in the beautiful grounds of this historic country park to make a difference to those affected by Parkinson’s

Register here <http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/content/walk-parkinsons-wandlebury-country-park>

Parkinson’s UK is the operating name of the Parkinson’s Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A registered charity in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554)

## Mossy Church

On behalf of St Mary's Church, a huge thank you to all the families who came, and to everyone who helped to create a wonderful Mossy Church service on 6 August in Abington Community Woods. We are most grateful to Deborah James and her team for inviting us to hold the occasion in the woods. The children enjoyed storytelling, music making and crafts based around the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Thank you to the excellent catering team who provided a wonderful picnic for everyone at the end of the afternoon. We were blessed with glorious sunshine which enhanced the occasion.



Sarah Creagh and Rosemary Mead

## Parish Nurse Update

Over the past two years our Parish Nurse has become an integral part of our community. Funded by our community, the nurse has been quietly providing help, advice and support for those who need it most. We are immensely grateful to both Teresa, our inaugural nurse, and Claire our current nurse for their dedication and commitment in helping us to care for one another.

The Parish Nursing post was created both to meet a need and to be a self-sustaining additional resource within our villages. The role complements, not replaces, the services already provided by the NHS and voluntary agencies. The nurse works closely with existing organisations including Granta Medical Practices. Requests for support have grown month on month, with the nurse providing help to the elderly, young families and individuals at time of difficulty. Feedback has been enormously positive. Beyond providing direct care the Parish Nurse has also been instrumental in arranging community events around health issues – dementia, childhood illnesses, end-of-life care and getting the best from the health services. The next event will be on 6 October in Great Abington, so do keep the evening free.

If you would like to know more about the Parish Nurse project, might be able to volunteer some time to support the project, or can contribute in any way please contact Cazzy Walshe, project secretary at [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com).

Claire, the Parish Nurse, is contactable on 07498 994 205.

Dr James Morrow

## 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](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/news) and follow the link to the pdf file for the month you want

## Granta Medical Practices Flu Clinics

Flu jabs are now available to book.

- **Barley Surgery**, High Street, Barley, Royston, Herts, SG8 8HY.  
From Saturday 16 September 8.00 am to 2.00 pm
- **Linton Health Centre**, Coles Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4JS  
From Saturday 30 September 8.30 am to 2.00 pm
- **Sawston Medical Centre**, London Road, Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HU  
From Saturday 23 September 8.30 am to 2.00 pm

The flu jab is available at all sites, just ring your own surgery and then specify which one you want to attend.

You are eligible for a free flu jab if you have any of the following conditions:-

- Ischaemic heart disease
- Stroke and TIA (Transient Ischaemic Attack)
- Liver and kidney disease
- Immunocompromised – HIV, on certain drugs, patients without a spleen, on chemo or radiotherapy
- Morbidly obese – BMI greater than 40
- Chronic respiratory disease – COPD, bronchiectasis, fibrosis.
- Asthma – but must be using inhaled steroid
- Are a carer
- Cancer patient
- Family of people on chemotherapy living in the same house
- Pregnant mums
- Aged over 65
- Diabetes

We can offer injections for pneumonia and shingles to those who are eligible.

If you are not eligible but want a flu jab we are offering private flu jabs through the Granta Pharmacy at all sites. Please ask Reception for details.

## Repair Café planning progresses

Last month's *Parish News* reported that the Abingtons first Repair Café will run at the Village Institute on the morning of **Saturday 28 October**. It will be one of a series in the South Cambs area, co-ordinated by Cambridge Carbon Footprint.

The Cafés are part of a general effort to achieve sustainability of resources. We recognise that these days we live in a 'throw-away' society. However, sometimes the things that we own that have failed or suffered minor damage can be brought back into use by a simple repair instead of being binned. This way we can make a small contribution to conservation of the Earth's resources, and incidentally save some of our cash.

The scope of the Repair Café currently being planned for the Abingtons by a group representing Great and Little is expected to include electrical and mechanical devices and small domestic equipment, computers, bikes and fabric items. Next month's *News* will contain a form that readers can use to book an appointment at the Café with a volunteer repairer with suitable skills and tools to attempt a repair of their item. Repairs, whether successful or not, are free, but donations will be invited to cover the costs of the Café.

Running alongside this event, the Institute's usual Saturday morning café will be selling hot and cold drinks and snacks.

Richard Smith

## **Hildersham Focus**

### **Brian Moore**

We are glad to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Brian Moore who sadly died on 20 July. Brian came to Hildersham Hall with Ruth and their young family 40 years ago. Since then they have been an integral part of village life. They were generous spirited; the Hall was the venue for many Rolling Supper starters, daffodils were picked for Mothering Sunday from the grounds; Brian drove brides to their wedding, students to their Prom in his wonderful cars and joined in community events with great enthusiasm. Brian was a most enthusiastic bidder at the annual pub auction, particularly when something mechanical came up; a jiggling Santa and hooting owl were notable favourites. Brian was Chair of the Parish Council and both he and Ruth helped with the village lunch for many years, Brian particularly enjoying carving the turkey at Christmas. They were faithful attendees at church and gave their support in many ways. Despite Ruth's death last September, Brian continued to be interested in all aspects of village life, and was particularly involved in the development of Moorefield in Great Abington. He died on Ruth's birthday. They were a wonderful couple.

### **Village Lunch**

The next Village Lunch, in the newly redecorated Village Hall, will be on Thursday 7 September at 1pm. Doors open at 12.30pm and tickets cost £4. To book, please contact Jill on 893 596, [edheale@btinternet.com](mailto:edheale@btinternet.com)

### **Hildersham Jam Stall**

In August, we sent a donation of £242 to East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH). Many thanks to our loyal customers for your continuing support.

### **Harvest Festival and Barbecue**

On Sunday 17 September come to Hildersham Church at 4pm to celebrate bringing home the harvest. More than many places, Hildersham is aware of the work of farmers at this time of year as we see them working by floodlight in the fields and hear tractors pulling trailers through the village well into the night.

Come and sing all the well-known harvest hymns and enjoy a barbecue to raise funds for REACH, the organisation in Haverhill supporting those who cannot provide food for their families.

### **Hildersham Lecture**

The next series of lectures begins with 'An evening with Keith Day: a lifetime with the NHS'. This will be not so much a lecture as an informal evening of stories told by Keith. While Keith wasn't actually in at the start of the NHS (founded in 1948) he knows and understands this national treasure better than most.

29 September, 7.30p.m. Hildersham Church

Entry £5 at the door including refreshments. U18s free

### **Outspoken Theatre comes indoors**

In the film 'The Admirable Crichton' (1957) the butler Crichton, played by Kenneth More, comments on the weather each morning as he draws back the curtains for his master Lord Loam. He continues to do the same even when cast away on a desert island during a storm. 'Inclement my lord' he remarks as gale force winds buffet the bivouac structure accommodating his lord.

The weather in the week running up to the performance of 'All's well that ends well' on 29 July, the annual outdoor theatre experience enjoyed by so many, was simply dreadful. It was the wise decision of the company to move indoors. A swift re-arrangement of pews to create an apron stage for theatre in the round, display stands to create entrances and a lighting console in the Margaret Bate Room transformed the building – and it worked. Some of the actors even preferred it. So now we know that whatever the weather, the play can go on. We look forward to next year's production, outdoors hopefully, but should the weather be 'inclement, my lord', we know what to do.

## **Hildersham Parish Council**

### **A Quality Parish Council**

#### **Report on the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2017**

#### **New Parish Councillor**

Councillors were delighted to co-opt Rob Clay onto the parish council. As a regular contributor to council meetings Rob is very familiar with the work it does, so he will be a great asset to the council.

#### **Two new pedestrian lights**

Pedestrian lighting columns for the two lights have been installed, one is opposite the village hall and one is at the end of Beech Row towards the A1307.

#### **Defibrillator**

The defibrillator has been installed on the front of the village hall and the access code has been circulated widely within the village. The equipment can be used without any training as the defibrillator gives instructions to users as you operate it.

#### **Play area**

After consulting the village children, it has been agreed that a basket swing with the grass lock flooring should be purchased. Councillors are in the process of obtaining several quotations for the project. There were also plans to get the goal moved closer to the fence. It was that if three trees in the middle of the play area were removed, this would make space for more play equipment or seating.

#### **Allotments**

The Council was considering whether the layout of the allotments could be improved to enable the entire site to be fenced to reduce the pest problems. A meeting will be arranged to consult allotment holders.

#### **Telephone kiosk**

During the annual review of council assets, it was agreed that the telephone kiosk was in need of a repair to the roof and that it needed repainting. The Clerk is in the process of obtaining prices for the work to be done.

**The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12 September 2017 from 7.30pm at Hildersham Village Hall, High Street, Hildersham - Everyone welcome.**

#### **Mobile Library**

Tuesday 26 September 2017, 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	end of Beech Lane	12.45–1.00pm



## Dates for your Diary

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Sat	2	<b>Open Woodlands</b> – Abington Woods (Aug News p.15) <b>Scrapbooking Group</b>	10.00am	11
Tue	5	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Forget-Me-Not Club</b> <b>Joint meeting of Abington Parish Councils &amp; TWI</b>	9.30am 2.00pm 7.00pm	16 13
Wed	6	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in <b>Senior Keep Fit</b> – Abington Woods <b>Dynamic Dance Class</b> <b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am 11.30am 3.15pm 7.00pm	11 12 11 11
Thu	7	<b>Abington Walking Group</b> <b>Hildersham Village Lunch</b> – Village Hall	10.00am 12 noon	18 8
Fri	8	<b>Neighbourhood Plan consultation</b>	2.30pm	13
Sun	10	<b>AALGA BBQ</b> – Linton Road allotments	12noon	12
Mon	11	<b>Little Abington Parish Council</b> <b>Abingtons &amp; Hildersham WI</b>	7.15pm 7.30pm	15 17
Tue	12	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Hildersham Parish Council</b> – Village Hall <b>Reading Group</b> –74 High Street, Great Abington	9.30am 7.30pm 8.00pm	9 16
Wed	13	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in <b>FGMN Club visit to Morrison's supermarket</b> <b>Senior Keep Fit</b> – Abington Woods <b>Dynamic Dance Class</b> <b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am 11.30am 3.15pm 7.00pm	11 16 12 11 11
Fri	15	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building <b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b>	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am	11 11 11
Sun	17	<b>Harvest Festival and Barbecue</b> – Hildersham Church	4.00pm	8
Mon	18	<b>French conversation</b> <b>Abington Gardening Club</b> <b>Great Abington Parish Council</b>	1.00pm 7.30pm 7.15pm	12 17 13
Tue	19	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Forget-Me-Not Club</b>	9.30am 2.00pm	16
Wed	20	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in <b>Senior Keep Fit</b> – Abington Woods <b>Dynamic Dance Class</b> <b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am 11.30am 3.15pm 7.00pm	11 12 11 11
Fri	22	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building <b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b>	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am	11 11 11
Sat	23	<b>Abington Walking Group</b> <b>Craft Fair</b>	10.00am 2.30pm	18 11
Sun	24	<b>Craft Fair</b>		11
Mon	25	<b>Rivercare litter pick-up</b> – meet at road bridge/ford <b>French conversation</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	12
Tue	26	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Mobile Library</b> <b>Scrabble Club</b>	9.30am am 7.00pm	9 18

Wed	27	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in <b>Senior Keep Fit</b> – Abington Woods <b>Dynamic Dance Class</b> <b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am 11.30am 3.15pm 7.00pm	11 12 11 11
Thu	28	<b>Abington Lunch</b>	12.45pm	16
Fri	29	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building <b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b> <b>Film Night</b> – doors open <b>Hildersham Lecture</b> – Hildersham Church	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am 6.45pm 7.30pm	11 11 11 12 8

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](mailto:institute@theabingtons.org.uk)**

**Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute**  
**Opening times in September 2017**

Thursday lunchtimes	11.30am – 1.30pm (7, 14 and 21) Lunch 28 <sup>th</sup>
Friday mornings	8.45am – 11.00am
Saturday mornings	10.00am – 12 noon

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

**Craft Fair 23-24 September**

Jeremiah's Café will be open for the Craft Fair on Saturday 23 from 9.30am to 4pm and again on Sunday 24 September from 10am to 3pm. On both days, the normal Saturday morning menu will be available until 1pm and then cakes, scones and tea bread will be served in the afternoon.

**Wheelie bin dates for September 2017 (Abingtons and Hildersham)**

<b>Mon 4</b>	<b>Mon 11</b>	<b>Mon 18</b>	<b>Mon 25</b>
Black	Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue

**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 Mon/Wed at 7pm at Abington Institute**

Contact Joan 890 629 or email [joangraham72@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk)

**Family Yoga Morning at Abington Institute**

Please contact Jeffi for more information on 07931 790 591.

**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](mailto:petrovnatasha@yahoo.co.uk)

**Senior Keep Fit - Wednesdays 11.30–12.30 at Abington Scout Hut, Church Lane, Little Abington.** Chair-based exercises for strength. Improve your balance. Improve your general well-being. Please note venue and time. New members very welcome. Come and join in with some stretches and gentle exercises. Have fun and make new friends. For more information contact: Viki Green Level 4 exercise referral specialist. Tel: 07762 902976. Email: [Victoriagreen@btinternet.com](mailto:Victoriagreen@btinternet.com)

### **Film Nights at Abington Institute**

**Film Night** returns on **Friday 29 September** at **7pm**. Doors open **6.45pm**. 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. 2 weeks before a screening then subscribe to our mailing list using the link at <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk> or email an enquiry to [films@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:films@theabingtons.org.uk)

Dianne Dawson (893101)

### **French Conversation Group**

After a very long break the French Conversation Group will resume its meetings in the Small Meeting Room in the Institute. This will be on Monday, 18 September at 1pm, finishing at 2.30pm.

Activities will remain much as they were, concentrating on our everyday lives and what is happening in the world. However we will be using a book which provides a short (one page or less) text to read, discuss and on which grammar lessons are based. The material begins with the present tense and works its way up. We will also be reading a novel, to be decided.

I hope you can return if you have attended in the past or that you will give it a try to see if this informal group would work for you. This may provide the stimulus and discipline we need to help while away grey autumn and winter days.

If you have any questions, contact me, Rachel, on 892 004 and I will try to answer them:

### **Lettura Italiana**

Se potete leggere questo forse vi piacerebbe fare parte di un gruppo che legge libri in italiano. Leggiamo tutti lo stesso libro e poi parliamo del contenuto e dei problemi di comprensione. E un piccolo gruppo e le riunioni dipendono dai nostril orari.

Potete telefonarmi per ulteriori informazioni:

Rachel 892 004

### **AALGA Summer BBQ**

The Allotment Association's annual site barbecue will be held on Sunday 10 September 2017 from 12 noon to 1.30pm, near the Linton Rd entrance. Burgers and hotdogs (with veggie alternative) and drinks will be available for sale on the day.

Allotment holders, villagers and friends are all welcome to attend. Just turn up on the day! This is a good opportunity to walk around the site, to see what is being grown and how the Association members are using this valued community resource.

David Milns

### **Book launch for Abington author**

On 20 July, Heffers Bookshop in Cambridge hosted a party to launch *111 Places in Cambridge You Shouldn't Miss*, a new book for Cambridge residents and visitors by Sally Simmons, who lives in Little Abington, and Ros Horton, her friend and co-director of Cambridge Editorial Ltd, a small book production company based in Chesterton. The book is Ros and Sally's swansong, as Cambridge Editorial is closing in September, after nearly 15 years, but they plan to continue working together on a variety of projects.

## Neighbourhood Plan

Don't forget to have your say on the draft Plan. It is available to be viewed on the village website or you can request an emailed or printed copy from Bernie Talbot. There will be a consultation event on Friday 8 September from 2.30 until 7.30pm at Abington Village Institute and the consultation period will end on 18 September.

## Uttlesford District Council Local Plan

Another document on which to have your say is the UDC Local Plan and its proposal to build a new town on the Cambridgeshire/Essex border at Great Chesterford, just over the hill to the south of the Abingtons. This will comprise 5,000 homes for around 20,000 people. You can comment up to 4 September [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/draftplan2017](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/draftplan2017)

## PLANNING

S/1982/17/FL - Mason, Meadowbrook Farm, Cambridge Road. Erection of workshop and creation of a new lake (understanding that guest suite has been withdrawn). Parish Council recommended approval.

S/2387/17/FL - Green, land to rear of 16 Chalky Road. Erection of 2 detached barns for agricultural use. Parish Council recommended refusal

S/2471/17/VC - Granta Park, Sunhill Daycare Nursery - extension of deadline for removal of temporary building. Parish Council recommended approval.

S/2235/17/FL - Schofield, Tollgate Cottage, 2 Linton Road. demolish garage, retain base for hardstanding, erect fence on line of garage. Parish Council recommended approval.

S/2552/17 – BMR, Site 5 Granta Park, variation of conditions to do with entrance doors. Parish Council recommended approval.

## Granta Park Access

There was a meeting to discuss the recent closure of the Park at the Institute on Monday 14 August. There was standing room only as 140 people turned up to share their displeasure and concerns. The unprecedented turnout reflects the strength of feeling following the installation of gates and fences which exclude villagers from the network of permissive footpaths. The meeting ended with unanimous support for the Parish team to take a negotiating approach as they prepare for the next meeting. It is hoped that TWI will propose a solution to enable villagers to continue to have access while meeting the Park's requirements for greater security. The joint, open Parish Council meeting with TWI will be held at 7pm on 5 September at the Village Institute.

### 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 18 September 2017, 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. Agendas 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](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com) (892 000)

### **New Parish Councillor**

At the meeting on Monday 24 July, we welcomed Suzanne Pattinson to the Parish Council. Suzanne fills the place left following Ewan Adams' resignation.

### **Speedwatch**

After a lapse of several weeks, we will be re-starting Speedwatch in the village in October. More volunteers are needed to maintain a regular Speedwatch presence and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who has some time to spare. You will be trained to use the equipment. We have recently received several reports of dangerous driving in Church Lane and West Field. Please report any incidents to the police, with details of the vehicles involved and registration numbers where possible.

### **Problem parking**

Problem parking, including persistent bad parking, can be reported directly to the police on the following website: <http://tinyurl.com/SouthCambs-Parking>.

### **Granta Park access**

Members of the parish council attended a public meeting on Monday 14 August about the closure of Granta Park. A working group of parish councillors and residents of Great and Little Abington was organised to bring together points raised at the meeting and to make sure they are presented at the public open Parish Council meeting with TWI on 5 September.

### **Planning applications**

**S/2257/17/FL17 Cambridge Road.** Extensions and internal works. *Supported.*

**S/2106/17/FL Nursery, Granta Park.** The Parish Council was not consulted on this application. The Clerk had reminded SCDC that LAPC should be consulted on all planning applications relating to Granta Park. *The Parish Council objected to the application and requested referral to the SCDC Planning Committee.*

**S/1982/17/FL Meadowbrook Farm, Great Abington** SCDC had advised the Parish Council about an application at Meadowbrook Farm in Great Abington. GAPC would be reviewing and commenting on the application. The only point of discussion was the impact creating a lake might have on the river.

### **S/2617/17/FL Beech Tree Cottage, Hildersham Road, Little Abington**

Demolition of gable and bay window to form a contemporary ground-floor lounge extension. *Supported.*

**S/2547/17/FL 2 Church Lane, Little Abington** Combine kitchen and dining-room and construct a single-storey extension. Remove gates from front drive. Reposition oil tank and adjust off-road parking space. *Supported.*

### **Planning appeal. APP/W0530/W/17/3179762**

Re: S/0096/17/OL Agricultural land north-east of Back Road, Linton

Outline planning application for the erection of up to 95 dwellings. Appeal under Section 78. *The Parish Council opposes the development of this site and will communicate its concerns to the planning inspectorate to consider at the enquiry.*

### **Response to consultation on Uttlesford Draft Local Plan**

LAPC is being included in correspondence about this. The Parish Council will reply to the public consultation highlighting its concerns about the proposed scheme.

### **Erection of fence and wooden gate at Bancroft Farm**

The Parish Council noted that although the fencing was installed by the same contractor, it is not related to the Granta Park closure. The Parish Council also noted that the fence and gate affect another landowner's access to land to the west of the 'coach road' between Bourn Bridge Road and the river.

## Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

**Next Meeting: Monday 11 September 2017 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](mailto:pc@brunning.org.uk)

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk)

tel: 893 332

Email: [clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk](mailto:clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk)

### **Granta Park barriers**

Many villagers attended the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August and will be aware of the agreed points to be raised at the meeting with TWI on September 5<sup>th</sup>. This note summarises these points, to keep all villagers informed prior to that meeting.

Although the attendees at the 14<sup>th</sup> August meeting were very unhappy about stopping access, they accepted that these are permissive paths, which means the landowner is able to withdraw this permission at any time. It was also recognised that security concerns underpin the decision and a return to the previous situation of open, unrestricted access will not happen.

Villagers wish to better understand these security concerns especially since the new gates will only keep out genuine pleasure walkers but would not keep out determined intruders. We would like to know why access for villagers was not sorted out before the gates were installed. TWI maintain that they are still looking to find a way to achieve this so we want to have definitive confirmation of this and the timescale.

We also want to understand why the restrictions apply to the whole of Granta Park, whereas a tighter security cordon around the TWI buildings seems a more obvious solution. Our knowledge of other Science Parks in the area is that the tight security has been restricted to sensitive areas and the buildings.

The entrances from the High St and Pampisford Rd have gates with a key pad for authorised users, but the entrance from Sluice Wood (from the old coach road off Bourne Bridge Rd) has been blocked by a metal fence, so denying access even to employees. Why was it a fence and not a gate, with controlled access? This access is understood to be an easement embedded in past conveyances, giving a right of access to authorised users.

We want to know what consideration was given to safety issues when this decision was made. Granta Park provided an important off-road and safe route for school children, runners (both from Granta Park and the villages) and walkers. This decision forces people to use roads with limited or no footways and breaches a vital link to the rights of way on the land settlement.

We are also concerned about future access, e.g. village cricket club use the cricket pitch and how will this work for players and spectators, what arrangements will apply to the Amenities Building, access to which was agreed as part of the planning process, and what about the arrangements for future 10K running events?

We want TWI and Granta Park to understand how upset villagers are, and the strength of feeling that exists, particularly given the support for the development of Granta Park over the years. We hope the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September will answer our questions. We are very clear that some sort of managed access arrangement must be put in place for villagers, and until that happens, we will not go away, and we will keep fighting. The meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September is open to villagers but we will not be inviting the press as we don't feel that it would be helpful at this stage. Finally, please attend the meeting and make your voice heard and be considerate to the Granta Park employees – they are not at fault here, we all have to live or work closely together in our villages.

Bernie Talbot on behalf of the Parish Team



# Abington Lunch

## Thursday 28 September 2017



Fruit Juice

**Fish (White and Salmon) in Sauce Vol-au-Vents,  
Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables**

**Autumn Apple Surprise**

Tea or Coffee

Please book your meal on 07789 585 399. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 26 September. 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. **Only £5.**

**Next lunch Thursday 26 October 2017**

### Forget-Me-Not Club

As seems to be our tradition now, we welcome members back after the summer break to Cheese and Nibbles, a quiz and a welcome opportunity for a chat. I take this opportunity to thank Sue for offering to purchase (on line) the food for this meeting and also compiling the quiz. Sue is such an inspiration to us all; she just doesn't give up serving the community, as I'm sure many of us would, faced with her current difficulties. Thank you, Sue, you're a real STAR.

We had a cancellation for the 19<sup>th</sup> and are therefore working to hopefully fill the diary.

### Dates for September

**Tuesday 5 September – 2pm – Cheese and Nibbles and 'Sue's Quiz'**

**Wednesday 13 September – Trip to Morrison's Supermarket**

**Tuesday 19 September – 2pm – TBA**

Anne Hall 892 275)

### Reading Group

12 September	<i>Fair Stood the Wind for France</i> HE Bates	Rachel Haining
10 October	<i>The High Mountains of Portugal</i> Yann Martel	Valerie Hefford
14 November	<i>A Dictionary of Mutual Understanding</i> Jackie Copleton	Judith Allen

Please confirm your attendance in September to Rachel.

Lisa Pechey

## Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

A lovely sunny day, beautiful countryside, a cuddly animal learning experience, delicious food and a bit of shopping to boot - what more could a WI member wish for on a day out? Our August outing took us to Yew Tree Farm Alpacas near Buntingford and gave us a day to remember. Huacaya alpacas come from the Altiplano areas of the Andes and have a thick dense fleece which is very light and warm. From four animals in 2009, the herd at Yew Tree has grown to over 40, with more babies (cria) on the way. Gestation lasts 11 months and 3 to 4 weeks later the mothers are ready for mating again - they show this by persistently lying down and, once mated, spit at the male to keep his distance! The alpacas are shorn in May and the fleeces (white, brown, black and all shades in between) are sorted: the first quality is sent for spinning into 100% alpaca yarn, the second is used for pillow stuffing (the fibre is anti-allergenic), mixing with other fibres and for luxury bird nesting material. The alpacas were very placid as we mingled among them, fed them with carrots, stroked them and took lots of cute photos. After a lazy lunch watching the girls and their babies, and buying gifts made from Yew Tree fleece, we all agreed we had very much enjoyed our Alpaca Experience.



Female alpacas ruminating



WI members with male alpacas

*Photos by Valerie Silvey (Left) and Annette Shortell (Right)*

**Next Meeting 11 September at 7.30pm: Healthy Eating with Abigail Whyte.**

New members and visitors welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst (893 214)

## Abington Gardening Club

On Monday 18 September at 7.30pm in the Institute there will be an Annual General Meeting followed by a social evening and quiz.

All welcome.

Kay Harman, Secretary tel: 891 730 email: [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com)

## Abington History Group (advance notice)

Great and Little Abington 1900 to 1930 – A Time of Change

Abington History Group is holding an Open Day with exhibitions, slide show and short talks in the Institute on Saturday 21 October from 10am to 4.30pm.

We will be launching our new book on this subject which will be available on the day.

Further details in October newsletter.



## Scrabble Club

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 26 September in the Institute. New members very welcome.

Sheena Fraser

## Abington Walking Group

Our Thursday walk in August saw 17 of us walking from the Red Lion in Sturmer to Wixoe and Boyton End and back to the Red Lion where most of us enjoyed a very welcome lunch. The walk passed many signs of the old railway that used to run through the area. Saturday's walk was due to start in Kedington and on to Brockley Green returning to Kedington. As only five members joined the one lead member it was decided to save the walk for a larger group and we did one of our local walks up to Home Farm past Hildersham woods to Little Linton and Hildersham.



The walks this month are on Thursday 7 and Saturday 23 September. We welcome you to join us and look forward to seeing you at 10am outside the Institute.

For further information, please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com) or

George Woodley on 891 169 [georgewoodley@talktalk.net](mailto:georgewoodley@talktalk.net)

## Abington Bowls Club

Abington Bowls Club won 7- 0 against Milton A on 16 August, which places Abington top of division with 86.5 points. Uni. Press is in 2nd place with 84.5 points and one game in hand. Abington's last league game of the 2017 season is at home on 23 Aug against City B. Ian Haylock has selected the strongest team available, hoping to win maximum 7 points, so Uni. Press would need 9 points from their last 2 games to take top honours and promotion away from us. It's all to play for and the last match should be a nail-biting event.



Annette Shortell

## International Citizen Service Fundraising

With the simple vision 'a world without poverty', ICS recruits international and in-country volunteers to work with charities to improve the lives of the communities they serve worldwide.

From September I will be spending 11 weeks with NEEDS in Jharkand, India working in the tribal community to improve business prospects through the mobilisation of the youth population and the empowerment of women.

Prior to leaving I have to raise £1,500 towards the trip and will be hosting a number of fundraising events, including a raffle and a yard sale. I am also offering to do odd jobs, such as gardening, cleaning, child care or other routine tasks in return for £10 (per hour and a half) donation to ICS.

For further information on the raffle and odd jobs please get in touch at [antoniafundraising@gmail.com](mailto:antoniafundraising@gmail.com)

If you would like to donate please go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/antonia-e](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/antonia-e)

Antonia Eady, Great Abington

## Church Services for September 2017

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
3 September	10.45am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	Exodus 3.1-15 Matthew 16.21-end
10 September		8.00am Communion 6.00pm Evensong	9.15am Communion	Exodus 12.1-14 Matthew 18.15-20
17 September		10.45am All Age Service with Baptism	4.00pm Café Church Harvest Festival	Exodus 14.19-end Matthew 18.21-35
24 September	10.45am Communion		9.15am Communion – Prayer Book	Exodus 16.2-15 Matthew 20.1-16

### Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
3 September	Sally Smith	Mary Miles and	Jean Morton
10 September	Sally Smith	Sue Fordham	Andrew Westwood Bate
17 September	Helen Cornwell	Amanda Marns	Harvest – All help please
24 September	Wedding	Amanda Marns	Andrew Westwood Bate

### Churchwardens

<i>Hildersham</i>	Cathy Myer	'Woodside', Hildersham	892848
	Andrew Westwood-Bate	5 Sleaford Close, Balsham	892430
<i>Great Abington</i>	Tony Collett	23 Meadow Walk, Great Abington	893447
<i>Little Abington</i>	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564

### Assistant Church Wardens

<i>Great Abington</i>	Anne Hall	12 Magna Close, Great Abington	892275
	Patsy Randall	77 High Street, Great Abington	07765 345 714
<i>Little Abington</i>	Mary Miles	36 Church Lane, Little Abington	891083
	Marilyn Broadhurst	34 West Field, Little Abington	893214

### Parish Nurse

Claire Gillett	<u>Not 24 hrs</u> , please leave a message if no reply - Claire will respond when next on duty.	07498 994205
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