



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

December 2017



Photo by Annette Shortell

**Electronic wizards at work
Abington Repair Café on Saturday 28 October 2017**

STOP PRESS – Mavis Tiplady funeral on Friday 15 December – see p4

Letter from the Editor

Abington's first Repair Café took place on 28 October and was a resounding success. The cover photo and those on page 13 indicate the diversity of types of repair undertaken on that day. Congratulations and thanks to all involved in organising this event and, more particularly, bringing their expertise to bear in effecting repairs (page 13).

The Remembrance Day service was attended by Scouts, Cubs and Beavers who took great pride in their uniforms and behaved in an exemplary fashion throughout. This surely strengthens the appeal made last month in the *News* for more volunteers to help with this admirable youth organisation. The Poppy Appeal achieved an excellent level of donations and the Christmas Shoebox Appeal exceeded expectations (see pages 6, 7).

It is good to know that interviews will shortly be held for a new Parish Priest and we must hope that there will be a successful outcome (page 4). Thanks to the dedication and commitment of the members of the Seven Churches Ministry Team our parishes have maintained the programme of church services. As the following pages show, there will be many opportunities for carol singing in December and particularly uplifting will be the candlelit service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Hildersham Church (pages 5, 8, 12, 20).

Remember to buy your tickets for the Advent Concert in St Mary's Church, Great Abington which will get the month off to a stirring musical start (page 12).

Hildersham has held a well-attended Big Breakfast and is following this with a village lunch, a Christmas Teatime and a welcome return of the pop-up-pub to beat the blues that shorter days and colder weather might bring (page 8, 9). Abington's Big Breakfast is a treat to come on Saturday 16 December (page 11).

Many village residents will remember the Tiplady family that has lived in the Abingtons for decades, notably running the former Crown pub and a shop and being active supporters of the village community. So it is sad to report the death of Mavis Tiplady (page 4).

The *Abingtons and Hildersham News* depends on regular input from members of the community who organise clubs and events, and serve parish councils and the churches. I offer my warmest thanks to all those who send information and photographs which record the life of the villages, and to those who patiently proof-read, and to the volunteers who make doorstep deliveries of over 720 copies every month. Particular thanks go to the Print Room staff at TWI who provide an excellent printing service, and to Pat Wallman who collects the printed copies and delivers them to the doorstep deliverers.

Best wishes for a very happy Christmas.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the January 2018 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the Editor by Tuesday 12 December 2017 at news@theabingtons.org.uk. Photos welcome.

From the Seven Churches

By the time you read this Christmas preparations will be well and truly under way, the shops heaving with Christmas gifts and baubles. I have made my Christmas puddings and hope to do the cake soon; a small job done ahead of the frantic round of expectations we put on ourselves at this time of year. In the midst of all this perhaps we could imagine a small child looking up at the beautifully decorated Christmas tree and see the wonder in her eyes at this magnificent sight, using it as a moment to stop and stare. Hang on to those precious moments and treasure them ready to remember next year.

As the temperature drops there are predictions of minus 13 degrees; that will also add to the memories in years to come of this particular winter and Christmas.

There are many joys that we can share together in our communities: concerts in church, carol services and nativity plays that always bring a tear to the eye. All households will have a Christmas card to let you know what services are scheduled. It would be good to share those moments with you, and a chance to be in the moment when heaven meets earth.

For many Christmas is a family time to gather together and spend time enjoying each other's company. As we relive shared memories spare a thought for those who are alone this Christmas, maybe a neighbour who feels isolated and would appreciate a cheery word.

In the vacancy for our parish priest we have managed to cover the Christmas services as we did last year and I know we are very grateful to the many who offer their time to keep us going. Next year we hope to have a new priest.

Interviews will take place soon and so we look forward to welcoming the new priest in our six parishes. Please pray for the right appointment.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Kathy Bishop

New bench gifted by the Grieve-Smith family

On 28 October the family of the late John Grieve-Smith gathered at Great Abington church for the dedication of the bench they had donated in his memory. His wife, Jean, and their daughters' families returned to the village after a service of celebration at Robinson College where John had been Senior Bursar. They lived in the High Street for many years and the bench faces the house they enjoyed so much.

Tony Collett



Mavis Jean Tiplady

It is with regret that we record the death on 18 November 2017 of Mavis Tiplady. The funeral will be at 11am on **Friday 15 December** at the Woodland Burial Ground, Barton. Mavis came to The Crown pub Little Abington in 1950 shortly after her marriage to Geoffrey Tiplady, and, then aged 19, was youngest pub landlady in the country. A long life of service to the community in the Little Abington pub and shop followed. We offer sincere condolences to family and friends.

News from the Pews

'And Christmas comes once more', the words from a familiar carol written way back in 1835, ring true as we prepare to celebrate this joyful time in the church calendar, which is indeed very full.

The PCC wish to thank most sincerely all those who helped at the Christmas Church Fayre and those who gave items to the various stalls, and all who so generously supported the event. Thank you all so very much for your support.

Traditionally we decorate our churches for Christmas following the Advent period when no flowers are in place. If you are able to help to clean or decorate the churches for Christmas, please contact Marilyn for Little or Anne for Great. If you have an abundance of holly, both churches would be grateful for some for decoration. **Great Abington Flower Arrangers** please note; the new rota is being compiled in December, if you are unable to continue or indeed if you wish to join the team, please contact Anne.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – If you are walking to the Concert or Carol Service at Great Abington Church please ensure you use a torch, as the road is very uneven. You may wish to bring a cushion too – pew seats are very hard!

Dates to Note for December

Saturday 2 December – The Advent Concert in Great Abington Church. Entertainment by Tapestry. Tickets are still available.

Sunday 3 December – The Christingle Service at Little Abington Church 4pm, 3.30pm if you wish to make a Christingle. A collection will be made for the Children's Society during the service. If you wish to give a gift or warm clothing to the unaccompanied Syrian Refugee Children being cared for here in Cambridge, please bring it along to this service, wrapped, with a label saying whether it is for a boy or girl and an appropriate age. Alternatively, you may leave your gift at Rosemary's house. Contact Rosemary for details on 891 718.

Sunday 17 December – Service of Nine Lessons and Carols Great Abington Church, 6.30pm.

Tuesday 19 December – School Carol Service Great Abington Church, 2pm.

Sunday 24 December – Crib Service at Little Abington Church, 10.30am. The Crib Service portrays the Christmas Message for children and adults alike. Dressing up clothes are available for Mary, Joseph, Kings, Shepherds and Angels. Do join us.

Sunday 24 December – Midnight Mass at 11.30pm – Little Abington Church.

Charity for the Month – The Children's Society, also known as The Church of England Children's Society, is an English charity allied to the Church of England and driven by a belief that all children deserve a good childhood.

To support this charity, you can leave a donation in the charity box available in both churches; alternatively, the collection at the Christingle Service will be for this charity.

Interment of Ashes of Alma Perry took place in the churchyard on Wednesday 1 November. Abingtonians may remember Alma as Alma Thomson.

We express our sincere condolences to Alma's family.

Anne Hall

Little Abington United Reformed Church

Everyone is welcome at our friendly services, especially on 24 December for our Christmas celebration.

Preachers for December

3 December	10.15am	Revd Elizabeth Caswell
10 December	10.15am	Mrs Sarah Devereux
17 December	2.30pm	Revd Bruce Waldron (Holy Communion)
24 December	10.15am	Christmas service
31 December	10.15am	Mrs Wendy Roe

For more information please contact Lynne on 893 295.

Exemplary behaviour by the Scouts, Cubs And Beavers

The PCC wishes to thank the Scout Leaders and children of the Abington Jeremiahs Scouts, Cubs and Beavers for their appearance at the Remembrance Service. That they are clearly proud to be members of the scout movement was made evident by the smartness of their uniforms and their excellent behaviour throughout the hour-long service. Well done. *(Photo by Min Ong).*



Operation Christmas Shoebox

A very big thank you to all who filled a shoebox, gave items to fill a shoebox or gave donations. We managed to fill 43 boxes which is a fantastic achievement. This was a combined effort from the School, FGMN Club, Messy Church and others from the villages. The donations covered all the transport costs and that too was amazing.

The children will be so excited receiving their shoeboxes. I will let you know in February to which country the boxes went.

Many thanks to all from Jane Thurlow, on behalf of all those involved

Christmas events at Wandlebury with Cambridge Past, Present and Future

Healthy Walking - Thursday 7, 14, 21 December: 10am or 10.30am to 11am

Meet at the Stable Rooms at 10am for a longer walk or 10.30am for a shorter stroll. Walks end around 11am with tea and coffee. Suitable for all abilities. **NB:** Free of charge and no need to book, please arrive 10 minutes early to register if it's your first session. Donations welcome.

Children's Christmas Crafts - Sunday 17 December: 11am to 4pm

Help your children make attractive rustic Christmas decorations using natural materials from the park. Expert guidance is on hand and you'll take home wonderful creations to deck the halls that will make it a Christmas to remember. **NB:** Drop-in event, no need to book. Children must remain accompanied by an adult throughout. £10 per family (members £8).

Outdoor Craft & Storytelling for Children - Wednesday 20 December: 10.30am to 11.30am

This monthly event, perfect for pre-schoolers and children up to age six, provides fun adventures in nature craft and storytelling in the park and stable rooms. **NB:** Meet at the Stable Rooms. Time will be spent outside regardless of weather so please dress appropriately. Booking is essential. £8 per family (up to three children and £3 per additional child). Pay cash on the day. Children must remain accompanied throughout.

For more information and booking: email Katherine@vitalsparktheatre.org

Directions: Wandlebury Country Park is on the A1307, 2.5km south of the Addenbrooke's roundabout. CB22 3AE. Parking is available on site and costs £3 per vehicle, members free.

Report on the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 November

Defibrillator Training Event

An hour-long defibrillator training event for all Hildersham residents has been arranged and will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28 November in the Village Hall. The defibrillator provides instructions to the users, so the event is for a Red Cross trainer to familiarise people with the equipment.

How would you like council funds spent to improve Hildersham?

If you have ideas about how Hildersham could be improved please contact the Clerk, so that the council can consider adding your project to its budget for 2018-2019, at the January meeting.

Two new pedestrian lights

The council is awaiting news from Balfour Beatty about when the new light columns will be switched on and why there has been such a long delay.

Allotments

An allotment meeting was held for allotment holders on 11 November to discuss what changes they would like to the site. Councillors agreed to employ a pest controller to reduce the rodent population, and to the rental of a skip to get rid of rubbish on the plots. The Clerk will get quotations to fence the perimeter of the site along the existing boundary. It was agreed that the rental for the allotments would remain unchanged this year.

Telephone kiosk

The kiosk has been repainted on the outside in a more traditional kiosk red, and looks very smart. Councillors will be fixing the light and making minor repairs in the kiosk.

Neighbourhood Plan

Paul Poulter, a Linton Parish Councillor, updated councillors on the plan, which should be going out to consultation within the community in December for six weeks. After which, the comments received will be reviewed and any changes required will then be made before the neighbourhood plan is submitted to the District Council and then onto a final inspection, if everything is satisfactory. He explained that the work is on track, time-wise, based upon the size of the community involved.

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9 January 2018 from 7.30pm at Hildersham Village Hall, High Street, Hildersham Everyone welcome.

POPPY APPEAL 2017

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal this year. You raised the magnificent sum of over £2,868.00.

My thanks go to all the collectors for their hard work and to the local businesses for their support. Especial thanks go to Marilyn Broadhurst and Derek Turnidge for counting all the cash.

Kay Harman, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Babraham, Hildersham & Abingtons

Hildersham Focus

Village Lunch The next village lunch will be on Thursday 7 December at 1pm. Doors open at 12.30pm and tickets cost £4. The Christmas Lunch is always popular so make sure to book early by contacting Jill on 893 596 or edheale@btinternet.com. We're pleased to say that, thanks to the generosity of our customers with the raffle, we've been able to buy a new fridge for the Village Hall.

Big Breakfast – thank you. The November Big Breakfast was enjoyed by 48 customers and raised just over £150 for Hildersham Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and congratulations to Jackie and Keith on winning the raffle prize.

It's Teatime – Christmas Tea will be held in Hildersham Village Hall on 14 December from 3pm until 4.30pm. Do drop in any time after 3pm for festive fare. Everyone is welcome – children after school, walkers and all who enjoy tea and cakes.

Christingle Café Church On Sunday 17 December at 4pm there will be a Christingle service in Hildersham Church and the chance to make traditional Advent Christingles. (See photo)

Ceramic lanterns, made at the Creative Church Day, fired and beautifully glazed, will be sold at the service to raise funds for The Children's Society.



Carol singing on the Greens There will be carol singing with a difference this year. **Come and join the singers** (weather permitting) on Walnut Tree Green at 7pm and Forge Green at 7.30pm on 21 December. Mulled wine and mince pies will keep out the chill! Please bring your donations with you to support the work of Barnado's.

Candelit Christmas at Hildersham Church:

Carol Service, 24 December, 3pm What is the collective noun for candles? A shine? A galaxy? Hildersham Church is filled with them for the Christmas Carol Service. What better day of the year than Christmas Eve to enjoy this special service. Nine readings tell the story of Christmas interspersed with traditional, and not so traditional, carols. It has been a Hildersham Christmas tradition for many years to include an item performed by young people. You will not be disappointed!

Christmas Day, Service of Holy Communion, 9.15am Once again, the church will be filled with candlelight 'on Christmas Day in the morning'.

ZIGZAG PILATES at Hildersham Village Hall

My name is Rachel. I am a Level 3 Body Control Pilates Teacher with additional training in exercise for the older age group. I run small friendly groups in Hildersham specific to your ability. What is Pilates? Pilates is a form of exercise which was developed by German Joseph Pilates (1883–1967) in order to keep him fit throughout his life. It is now used as a way for people from all walks of life and ages, to keep mobile and fit. Whether your goal is to bend down to reach something from the floor or to score the winning goal in the Premiership (several ex- footballers are now re-training as Pilates instructors, after using this method during their careers to keep them on top form!).

There are spaces available on some courses, which are held in the relaxed setting of Hildersham Village Hall. Please visit www.zigzagpilates.co.uk or call me on 07905 105 081.

Gentle Pilates - Wednesday 5.45pm and Friday 10.15am

Improver Wednesday 7pm and Friday 11.30am

DECEMBER Special Offer – a free ½ hr intro & your first Group Class free when you book a course! – Subject to availability.

The Portable Pint comes to Hildersham

Local pop-up pub The Portable Pint held its first evening in Hildersham in October and will be returning to the village hall on **Friday 15 December**. The Portable Pint was founded earlier this year by Linton resident Tony Kelly to provide pop-up pub evenings to villages without a pub on the borders of Cambridgeshire, Essex and Suffolk. Inspired by the pop-up evenings organised over a number of years by the Hildersham Pub Company, Tony rents out a village hall for the evening and turns it into a pub, with cask ale, local cider, lager, wine, soft drinks, bar snacks and traditional games.

‘It is lovely to see the community coming together, with children playing shove ha’penny and cards, while adults relax with friends and neighbours over a glass of wine or a pint of real ale,’ says Tony. ‘Please come along on Friday 15 December for a great start to the Christmas festivities. The bar will be open from 6.30pm. If this evening is a success, we hope to be back next year or until The Pear Tree reopens.’ The Portable Pint is also available for private parties and charity events. For details, please see our Facebook page.

Tony Kelly, The Portable Pint www.facebook.com/ThePortablePint

Balsham Singers’ Christmas Concert

Saturday 16 December at 7.30pm, Balsham Church

This year the Balsham Singers’ Concert is full of exciting, fun and beautiful music and should be the perfect start to Christmas. Please come and take part in the celebrations. Tickets can be bought at the Post Offices in Abington and Balsham and cost £10, or £12 if bought at the door.

GRANTA CHORALE seasonal concert *Behold That Star*

The programme ranges from popular renaissance carols such as *Riu Riu Chiu* to modern classics and seasonal motets by Poulenc, Lauridsen, Chilcott, Britten and many more.

On Wednesday 13 December at 8.00pm in St John’s College Chapel, Cambridge St John’s Cambridge: Tickets: £15, under18s/students £5

Cambridge Live Tickets: Tel:01223 357851 www.cambridgelivetickets.co.uk

On Saturday 6 January at 7.30pm at All Saints’ Church, Great Chesterford

On the Feast of the Epiphany All Saints’ Church offers a warm and friendly welcome to all – and interval refreshments will be available. Our guest performers will be a group of young brass players from Saffron Centre for Young Musicians.

Great Chesterford Tickets: £12, under 18s £4 from:(locally) Elizabeth Marshall T: 01799 530265

Granta Chorale Tickets E: tickets@grantachorale.org.uk T: 01799 531167

Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre

There will be a retiring collection for **ACT**, Addenbrooke’s Charitable Trust, at both concerts.

Dates for your Diary

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Fri	1	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.45am	11
		Film Night – doors open	6.45pm	12
Sat	2	Scrapbooking Group	10.00am	11
Sun	3	Christingle service – Little Abington Church	3.30pm	5
Mon	4	French Conversation	1.00pm	
		Abington Gardening Club	7.30pm	18
Tue	5	Art Group	9.30am	
		FGMN Club – carols at LVC	10.00am	17
		Table Tennis	8.00pm	11
Wed	6	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Senior Keep Fit – Abington Woods	11.30am	11
		Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11
		Yoga – course and drop in	7.00pm	11
Thu	7	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	18
		Hildersham Village Lunch – Village Hall	1.00pm	8
Fri	8	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.45am	11
Sat	9	Family/Baby yoga	10.00am	11
Mon	11	Abingtons & Hildersham WI	7.30pm	18
Tue	12	Art Group	9.30am	
		Forget-Me-Not Club lunch	12.45pm	17
		Reading Group – 42 North Road, Great Abington	7.00pm	17
		Table Tennis	8.00pm	11
Wed	13	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		FGMN Club visit to Morrison's supermarket		17
		Senior Keep Fit – Abington Woods	11.30am	11
		Yoga – course and drop in	7.00pm	11
Thu	14	Hildersham Christmas Tea – Village Hall	3.00pm	8
Fri	15	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		The Portable Pint – Hildersham Village Hall	6.30pm	9
		Charity Bingo – Abington Social Club	7.30pm	12
Sat	16	Abington Big Breakfast	10.00am	11
		Abington Walking Group	10.00am	18
Sun	17	Christingle café church – Hildersham Church	4.00pm	8
Tue	19	Table Tennis	8.00pm	11
Wed	20	GLAMS Carol Singing	7.00pm	12
Thu	21	Flower workshop	12.45pm	12
		Hildersham carol singing on the Greens	7.00pm	8
Tues	26	Abington Walking group	10.00am	18
Tue	2 Jan	Rivercare litter pick-up – meet at road bridge/ford	9.30am	

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

Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute

Opening times in December 2017

Thursday lunchtimes	11.30am – 1.30pm (7, 14 and 21)
Friday mornings	8.45am – 11.00am
Saturday mornings	10.00am – 12 noon

The café will close after lunchtime on 21 December and reopen on Thursday 4 January 2018.

Saturday 16 December The BIG BREAKFAST – Stoke up before your last big shop! £5 for any 5 items or £3 for a child's portion.

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

Wheelie bin dates for December 2017 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 4 Blue	Mon 11 Black	Mon 18 Green/Blue	Wed 27 Black
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Green bin collection reminder

Green bin collections move to monthly from 27 November, returning to fortnightly on 5 February. Remember to wrap food waste in newspaper or paper bags and not in biodegradable or composting 'plastic' bags as these do not break down fully in the fast composting process.

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

Table Tennis – Tuesdays 8pm at Abington Institute

Contact Raj Sangha on 07803 786 905.

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. Refreshments provided for children and adults. Contact Abington Pre-school on 01223 894 246

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

Senior Keep Fit – Wednesdays 11.30–12.30 at Abington Scout Hut, Church Lane, Little Abington. Chair-based exercises for strength. Improve your balance and your general well-being. New members very welcome. Come and join in with some stretches and gentle exercises. For more information contact: Viki Green Level 4 exercise referral specialist. Tel: 07762 902 976. Email: Victoriagreen@btinternet.com

Family/baby yoga at the Institute – Please contact Jeffi for more information on 07931 790 591

Film Nights at Abington Institute

This month's Film Night is on Friday 1 December. 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)

Christmas Flower Workshop 2017 at Abington Institute

Thursday 21 December 2017 10am to 12.30pm

A flower arrangement for your Christmas table

For further information tel. 01223 891 464 or email fredasflowers@hotmail.co.uk.

Abington Social Club events

Friday 15 December 7.30pm – Charity Bingo Night. All welcome.

New Year's Eve party – all proceeds to charity. Further details will be on village Facebook page.

Tracey Stocks

Mobile Library

Our C23 Mobile library route is cancelled in December. The next date will be:

Tuesday 23 January 2018, 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 near phone box	12.45–1.00pm

GLAMS Carol Singing

You are invited to a Family Singalong 7 to 8pm Wednesday 20 December, outside the Abington Institute.

Please bring a torch.

There will be mulled wine/hot chocolate.

Donations to St Mary's Church, Great Abington will be welcome.

Contact Ruth 07547 472 325 or Tasha 07743 164 516

Advent Concert – Saturday 2 December

A delightful evening is planned at Great Abington church at 7pm with Tapestry, a renowned *a-cappella* group, providing an evening of eclectic sacred and secular music for choir and saxophone. Ticket prices, which include mulled wine and mince pies served during the interval, are £10 with under-18s free. They are available from the Village Shop, or from Marilyn Broadhurst 893 214, Anne Hall 892 275, Mary Miles 891 083 and Tony Collett 893 447.

The Partridge Group

The Partridge Group will be running once again on Wednesday evenings in January and February – and all men are welcome.

The programme of speakers and topics for discussion is not yet complete but can be seen on the village website at

<http://theabingtons.org.uk/clubs/partridge-group/>

Community Oil Order

Rod Wilcox will be placing the next oil order in mid-January. Details in January News.

Over 30 repairs at first Repair Café

Don't bin it if it can be fixed – that's the thinking behind Repair Cafés. Abington's first, held at the Institute on the morning of Saturday 28 October, showed what can be achieved, when a team of 11 expert repairers was on hand to take on more than 30 repairs free of charge. These covered a wide variety of items – radios, garden tools, computers, jewellery, furniture, clocks, cushion, laminator, lamps, a pump, soft toy, and even ornamental ducks/geese which had parted company with their feet. The repairers were a mix of Abington residents and others from further afield already involved in the Repair Café movement.

Nearly all repair attempts were completely or partially successful, and feedback forms completed by everyone bringing in a repair item showed a great deal of satisfaction with individual repairs and with the event as a social occasion. By sitting with the repairer, the owners of the repaired items also picked up tips for self-help in future. Jeremiah's Café was very busy all morning, and indeed some who'd called in just for a coffee spotted what was going on next door and popped home to bring back their own repair.

The village residents involved in organising the Café were Peter Brunning, Bernie Talbot, John Ellis and Richard Smith, with the assistance of Cambridge Carbon Footprint and other Repair Café enthusiasts. After this success, initial thinking is to run another Café some time next year. Meanwhile, a group in Linton is also planning to run a Café next spring.

Richard Smith



Photos by Annette Shortell

Sharper tools and fully operational clocks resulted from expert and earnest attention

Parish Council Elections

Would you like to be involved helping make Great Abington an even better place for us all to live in? The Parish Council elections will be held in May, so now is the time to start thinking about putting your name forward to be involved.

Recreation ground

Many of us use the recreation ground which is managed by a committee of volunteers including Parish Councillors. They have some exciting plans and would love to have new people on board to help bring them to fruition. If you can spare some time and would like to get involved, please let Louise Patten know (see also page 16).

Granta Park Access

We are disappointed to have to report that there will be no further changes made to the access arrangements in the near future. Abington residents can access Granta Park via the gatehouse at the main entrance where they will be issued with a visitor's pass and a map of permitted walking areas. TWI has said they will revisit how things have been working in the early spring. All efforts to get the access arrangements made more reasonable have been unsuccessful which we deeply regret.

Moorefield

We are aware that many villagers have now looked around the show home on the High Street. The 'Affordable' homes on the site will be handed over to SCDC who are the 'Registered Housing Provider' in this case. The first handovers are expected to be in February with the remainder by the end of March. The 'Affordable' homes will be valued at approximately 40% less than the ones for sale on the open market. Once handed over, SCDC will begin the process of offering them to those with an Abington connection who are on the waiting list.

LSA Neighbourhood Plan

The working Group continues to move forward with the statutory process. We have now been asked to carry out a Transport Assessment by CCC Highways. We are required to bring in a specialist consultant to carry out the assessment, but this is not expected to delay the progress and we are still hoping to complete the Neighbourhood Plan process in the spring.

PLANNING

S/3894/17/FL – 57 North Road – Demolish conservatory and replace with extension. Create a cartlodge and store. Parish Council recommended refusal.

S/3099/17/PA. 45 North Road - Prior Approval for Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to residential use. Parish Council recommended refusal.

S/3564/17/OL. Land North of Linton Road. Proposed 13 dwellings. Parish Council recommended approval.

S/3795/17/FL. 50 North Road. Retrospective – equestrian surface. Parish Council recommended approval.

S/3676/17/FL. Granta Park. Change part of Cricket pavilion from Gymnasium to Offices. Parish Council recommended approval.

S/1077/ 17/FL. 82 High Street. Proposed Barn. Parish Council supported appeal against refusal.

S/3247/FL – Strawberry Farm House, 3 Pampisford Road – alterations rear extension. Parish Council recommended approval and District Council approved.

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 14 January 2018, 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 are posted on the Parish Council notice board located at the entrance to Magna Close or available from the parish clerk.

Paula Harper (Clerk): harper802@btinternet.com (892 000)

Linton Village College

Supporting children to grow up healthy and well is a key priority for schools and parents; good mental health is a crucial part of young people's wellbeing. Mental health, like physical health, is on a continuum; it is not a binary state.

Studies by organisations such as Young Minds reveal that mental health issues are a particular concern for young people: one in 10 children have a diagnosable mental health disorder (that's roughly three children in every classroom); almost 1 in 4 children and young people show some evidence of mental ill health (including anxiety and depression) and half of all mental health problems manifest themselves by age 14.

These conditions have a significant impact on children's ability to lead a happy and successful life; the consequences of poor mental health can have lasting damage. And yet there is a chronic shortage of access to specialist support: waiting times of over six months for a referral are standard.

At LVC we have witnessed a growing number of mental health issues. We recognise that these can be triggered by personal circumstance or as a result of trauma, or due to stress experienced by a need to feel accepted and successful.

We have introduced Mental Health Champions at LVC who have benefited from specialist mental health training from Educational Psychologists and CAMH. We have also raised awareness and de-stigmatised mental health across the College, using the #oktosay initiative, to be able to identify concerns and sign-post early support. We have also developed our PSHE programme to include educating young people about mental health.

Nevertheless, our ability to respond stops at first aid, as with other medical conditions: we are first and foremost educators, not expert clinicians.

The government's green paper on children's mental health is due to be published by the end of the year. It is anticipated to tackle internet safety and the impact of social media. While we welcome this emphasis on e-safety and a preventative focus, there also needs to be a commitment to providing the necessary resources for schools and parents to support children's welfare and good health.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

Parish Council meeting minutes

The full minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 23 October and 27 November are on the village website and the noticeboard in Church Lane.

Closure of Granta Park

Access to Granta Park has been made available to residents via passes issued at the main gate. Visitors must sign in on entry and sign out on leaving; maps show the areas where walking is allowed. This scheme will be reviewed by TWI and Granta Park in the New Year. There are continuing liaison and communication issues with TWI. The Parish Councils are still pursuing proposals for better access for residents.

Dead tree

The large dead elm on the footpath leading to the Millennium Bridge and Recreation Ground will be removed on Friday 8 December. The contractors will start work around 9.00 am and make sure the footpath remains accessible during the work.

Street lighting

Baffles can be fitted to street lamps if residents are troubled by intrusive lighting in their home. Contact details are available from the Parish Council.

Speedwatch

Several recruits have joined the Speedwatch team. Training and refresher sessions are taking place in November and December at Cambourne.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

Next meeting: **Monday 22 January 2018 at 7.15pm**

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

Peter Brunning (Chairman)

tel: 891960

Email: pc@brunning.org.uk

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk)

tel: 893 332

Email: clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk

www.theabingtons.org.uk/parish-councils/little-abington-parish-council/

Recreation Ground Working Group

REMINDER: The Recreation Ground Committee is setting up a working group to discuss improvements to facilities on the Recreation Ground. There is a very useful amount of funding available and we are keen to use it in the way residents really want. So if you would like to join the group, or just put your ideas forward, please contact Paula Harper, Great Abington Parish Clerk – harper802@btinternet.com

Reminder - SCDC changes to waste paper recycling

From 11 December 2017 residents won't need to use their caddies to recycle paper. From that date residents should place their used paper directly into their blue wheelie bins instead. The used paper will still be recycled after being sorted from other materials at our facility near Waterbeach.

After 11 December residents can keep their caddy to use for anything they like. Alternatively, caddies can be recycled by being dropped off at the nearest household waste recycling centre. They should NOT be placed in wheelie bins.

More information is available on www.scams.gov.uk/recycling .



Abington Lunch



wishes everybody a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support throughout the year.

Our next lunch will be on
Thursday 25 January 2018
More details will be in the January News.

Forget-Me-Not Club

Christmas is upon us once again. 'Tis the season to be jolly!' And so we are celebrating with a Christmas Lunch this year, made possible by the kindness and generosity of the family of the late Pam Clay to whom we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude. The lunch is open to members only and it is essential that you book if you wish to attend.

Linton Village College have again invited us to Coffee and Carols, it is essential that you book for this event too. Please note that the invitation is open to all senior citizens in the Abingtons. For details contact Anne. It is advisable to arrive 15 minutes before the start to ensure a good seat.

Notice to all our Cake Bakers – Sue is working on the rota for 2018, if you are unable to continue to bake or if you wish to join the team please contact Sue on suetoates@btinternet.com Thank you.

Dates for December

Tuesday 5 December – Coffee and Carols at LVC 10am till 12 noon

Tuesday 12 December – Christmas Lunch – 12.45pm prompt for 1pm start.

Wednesday 13 December – Trip to Morrison's Supermarket

Margaret, Judy, Carol, Jennifer, Pat, Mary, Viki, and Anne wish all our members a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Anne Hall (892 275) or anneandglynhall@gmail.com

Reading Group

12 December 7 pm start	Christmas meal: How other countries celebrate Christmas or mid-winter – Talk or read something about one	Beverley Dennis
9 January	<i>The Shoemaker's Wife</i> Adriana Trigiani	Lisa Pechey
13 February	<i>His Bloody Project</i> Graeme Macrae Burnet	Sylvia Gilmour

Please confirm your attendance **and dish** in December to Beverley.

Lisa Pechey

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

On a chilly November evening we were entertained by a fascinating talk by Margaret Johnson, who arrived bearing armfuls of quilts - not for us to snuggle under but to admire the beautifully stitched creations she has made and collected since the 1980s. When her husband was posted with the RAF to Nebraska, USA, her daughter sent scraps of Laura Ashley fabrics, encouraging Margaret to do 'that American patchwork stuff'. Her first quilts were for an antique doll's bed - small enough to complete relatively quickly! As well as sewing she visited fairs, buying interesting old quilts made by 'piecing' - stitching pieces of fabric together to form patterns, and 'quilting' - stitching layers together. Her collection showed some of the many designs: Dresden Plates, London Rose, Courthouse Steps, Double Irish Chain and Strippy, Feed Sack (from the Depression) and Amish quilts. For the latter, no patterned fabrics are allowed but the star design was spectacular. Several members also brought lovely examples of quilting for display - pot holders, cushions, bags and bed quilts: all with an interesting story to tell.

Monday 11 December 7 for 7.30pm Christmas Party in the Institute. Members only.

Next meeting Monday 8 January 7.30pm: Whatever happened after Henry VIII? By Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson. Visitors and new members welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst (893 214)

Scrabble Club

There is no Scrabble Club meeting in December. Our next date is Tuesday 23 January at 7pm in the Institute when we hope to welcome new members.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Sheena Fraser

Abington Walking Group

The weather continues to be good to us with November walks taking us to Chesterford and Byron's Pool / Trumpington Meadows.

December is a busy month for the Group, starting with a pub lunch at Little Walden on Thursday 7th. On Saturday 16 December the walk will be a short one around the village followed by the Institute Big Breakfast. To recover from Christmas Day there is the usual Boxing Day walk starting at 10am.

Please do join us and remember that the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* confirmed that walking in a group makes you feel better physically and mentally than walking alone.

Thanking all of our walkers for their continued support and wishing everyone a happy Christmas.

For further information, please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 robandkayharman@gmail.com or

George Woodley on 891 169 georgewoodley@talktalk.net



Abington Gardening Club

On Monday 4 December Simon White from Beales Roses will give a talk entitled 'The Romance of Roses'. There will be a Christmas raffle for charity, please remember to bring a wrapped raffle prize. Membership fees are now due - £8 annual fee, visitors £3. All welcome.

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

Church Services for December 2017

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
3 December		4.00pm Christingle	6.00pm Evensong	Isaiah 64.1-9 Mark 13.24-end
10 December		4.00pm Evensong	9.15am Communion	Isaiah 40.1-11 Mark 1.1-8
17 December	6.30pm Carol Service		4.00pm Christingle Café Church	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 John 1.6-8,19-28
24 December Christmas Eve		10.30am Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass	3.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols	Isaiah 52. 7-10 John 1. 1-14
25 December Christmas Day	10.45am Communion		9.15am Communion	Isaiah 52. 7-10 John 1. 1-14
31 December	10.00am	UNITED SERVICE	AT	BALSHAM

Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
3 December	No Flowers - Advent	Helen Rogers (cleaning)	No Flowers – Advent
10 December	No Flowers - Advent	Helen Rogers (cleaning)	No Flowers - Advent
17 December	Carol McCrae, Patsy	Marilyn Broadhurst (ditto)	All help please
24 December	Randall and Anne Hall	All help please	Kirsten Newble
31 December		Marilyn Broadhurst	Kirsten Newble

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