



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

April 2022



Photo by courtesy of Gill Smith

The Conservefor team profiling and compacting the new Pump Track. (page 7)

Village information (continued inside back cover)

	Address	Number
Contributions for the News to:		
Valerie Silvey (Editor)	news@theabingtons.org.uk	891 882
Jennifer Hirsh	Jennifer@hirsh.com	893 352
Village website	www.theabingtons.org.uk	
Churches		
Church of England Revd Iain McColl Jeanine Kennedy Alistair Collen	Balsham Rectory mccoll.iain@gmail.com Vicarage, Church Lane, Lt. Abington	890 693 893 838 891 561
Roman Catholic Canon John Minh (Sawston) Revd Fr Philip John (Ch. Hinton)	john.minh@yahoo.com sphparishcambridge@gmail.com	832 397 211 235
St Edmunds Orthodox Church Rev Andrew Phillips	14 High St. Little Abington	07745 298 266
Parish Councils		
Great Abington		
Tony Orgee (Chairman)	8 Bourn Bridge Road	891 464
Mak Makwana	Gtabingtonstores@gmail.com	
Jill Carter	25 Meadow Walk	892 718
Stephen McDonnell	stephen@mcdonnell.uk.com	
Emma Pery	Hillcrest, Pampisford Road	07818 062 952
Louise Patten	87 High Street	892 053
Jane Bowen	8a Chalky Road	893 182
Paula Harper (Parish Clerk)	17 Lewis Crescent harper802@btinternet.com	892 000
Little Abington		
Sheila Bolden (Chairman)	33 West Field	07754 659 929
Peter Brunning	47 Church Lane	891 960
Isobel Smith	53 Church Lane	07751 201 244
Richard Smith	1 Bourn Bridge Road	892 759
Viia Valge-Archer	vvalapc@gmail.com	
Richard Allum	51 Cambridge Road	07774 644 434
Suzanne Pattinson	suzpattinson@freebie.net	
Jessica Ashbridge (Parish Clerk)	Clerk.lapc@gmail.com	
Hildersham		
Mark Logan (Chairman)	mark.j.logan@bt.com	891 897
David Mercer	manorfarm@globalnet.co.uk	
Rob Clay	robclay03@gmail.com	07801 191 933
Darren Long	dgl@yahoo.com	890 969
Billie Chapman	billie.chapman@tiscali.co.uk	
Paula Harper (Parish Clerk)	harper802@btinternet.com	892 000
SCDC and CCC Councillors		
Henry Batchelor(CCC) Abs & Hild.	Henrybatchelor89@gmail.com	892 111
John Batchelor(SCDC) Abs &Hild	1 The Maltings, Linton	892 111

Don't forget: Police Numbers 999 for emergencies; otherwise 101

**The April 2022 issue of the News is printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd. of Linton
Printing costs have been met by BioMed Realty, joint owners of Granta Park.**

Letter from the Editor

The brutal and unprovoked Russian war on Ukraine and its tragic consequences for the Ukrainians has seen generous offers from the UK of funds, humanitarian aid and offers of accommodation for refugees. Our villages are playing a part in this (pages 4, 5, 8). The spring weather, trees in blossom, and return of the Thriplow Daffodil weekend are welcome reminders of happier things and reasons for us to count our blessings.

The churches have a busy programme of Easter celebrations (pages 4, 5, 20). The Parish Nurse has sent us a note on her first year of support for villagers and invites everyone to her service of formal commissioning at Balsham Church on 1 May (page 9). Granta Medical regrets that the medical services have fallen short because of staff shortages, not least because of Covid. Advice is given for several self-help actions. This is unsatisfactory and improved access to GPs is urgently needed (page 17).

There will be a soup lunch on Friday 1 April to raise funds for families affected by conflict, fundraisers for the schools organised by the Pre-school and PTFA (pages 4, 5, 13). Hildersham offers an Easter Tea on 2 April, the café has a Spring Tea on 12 April and the monthly Lunch on Thursday 28 April (pages 11, 16).

The clubs and classes are fully in operation again as the diary on page 10 shows. All remind new residents that they would welcome new members whether it be for weekly singing, fortnightly walks or monthly WI meetings, social cycling or scrabble playing. You can expect a friendly and helpful welcome from the existing members. Please note the line dancing classes that started in March and the Craft Group which got off to a flying start last month. See pages 11-13.

The Reports from the County and the South Cambs District Councils range over new rates for Council Tax, helpful grants available for community, business and household purposes, building a solar farm and a renewable energy plant and extending the use of electrically operated bin lorries. Pages 8, 9

The Abington Parish Councils have received a huge number of comments about the plans for the Linton Greenway to come through the Abingtons. Details were presented in the March News. A meeting has been arranged on 11 May for villagers to meet representatives of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP). It is really important that this meeting is well attended and that the GCP fully appreciates our concerns, page 6, 14, 15.

Valerie Silvey

Contents

From Seven Churches, Lent Soup Lunch, Deanery Fair	4	Cycling, Walking, Reading, Scrabble, FGMM, Crafting, Granta Vale Harmony	12
News from the Pews, GLAMS choir, Pre-school Quiz	5	Naturewatch, WI, PTFA update	13
Linton Greenway, Balsham Concert Pump Track	6 7	Little Abington Parish Council, ebikes Great Abington Parish Council	14 15
Councillors' reports, CCC/ SCDC Parish Nurse update	8 9	Hildersham News and Parish Council, Granta Medical, Abington 10k & Fun Run	16 17
Diary for April, Café, Bins, Yoga, Aerobics/Pilates, Physio Pilates, Line Dancing, Baby & Toddler Group, Gardening,	10 11	Queen's Jubilee Weekend, Church services (not Abington & Hildersham)	18

Articles for the May 2022 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Friday 15 April 2022 at news@theabingtons.org.uk. Photos welcome.

The Abingtons and Hildersham News on the website To see the News before a printed copy is available and to see the photographs in colour, go to www.theabingtons.org.uk/news and follow the link to the pdf for the month you want.

From the Seven Churches

Spring is a time when we can enjoy seeing new life appearing all around us. Tragically, however, this Spring has also seen war brought to Ukraine, and devastating scenes of destruction and death. At the time of writing more than two and a half million refugees have fled the conflict, which the UN has called the fastest growing refugee crisis since the second world war. As we witness these tragic events, we are also called to respond in prayer and action. We join with so many people around the world in praying for peace to prevail and seek to respond to the refugee crisis by offering financial and other support.

Spring is also a time when we prepare for and celebrate Easter. Our preparations include Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Many had expected the Messiah to lead military resistance against the Romans and restore by force a kingdom. Jesus, however, does not meet force with force but instead proclaims the peaceable kingdom. He enters Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of peace, and meets the violence of those who plot against him with his sacrifice on the cross.

Easter tells us that through death, God can bring new life. It proclaims the power of God's saving love in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter also reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end, an event which completely changes the landscape in which we live. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, to build communities of mutual trust and service, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God. We therefore can experience the power and reality of the crucifixion and the resurrection in our lives today.

As we carry forward a vision of both suffering and hope, death and risen life, let us be encouraged to speak up for the peaceable Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. Empowered by his Spirit, we can put into practice both love for our neighbour and also, however difficult, love for our enemies. This is not an optional extra if we are to live in a world where peace prevails in our lives. In doing so, we may also experience the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, and share the good news of new life in Christ.

Revd Iain McColl

**Give a Tent for Lent Soup Lunch
at Abington Village Institute
Friday 1st April 12.00 – 2.00pm
All donations to Shelter Box
International Relief Charity**

Granta Deanery Fair Saturday 9 April, 10 – 12 noon

The Spring Fair is an opportunity for all 24 of our Parishes to work together to raise funds to cover the cost of our Youthinc activities to reach out to more youth groups across Granta Deanery. You can help Abington & Hildersham by donating goods for our Produce (jams, preserves etc.) & Plant stall and by coming along to Shelford Memorial Hall on 9 April to the Fair itself. Young people (9+) are also invited to have their own stall to raise funds for their favourite charity.

Please contact Marilyn on 893 214 for further details and to drop off donations.

News from the Pews

Thank you: Seven ladies from the Church gathered outside the Institute in the cold wind and rain to raise money for the Ukraine Disaster Fund – it was so worthwhile as £1,500. was raised. Thank you to all the ladies who helped, those who gave gifts and donations of money. An amazing and truly worthwhile result.

Church Closure: Due to the disruption in the Church Car Park, Great Abington Church is closed and will remain so until Sunday 1 May. Our sincere apologies to all who support the Food Bank and to those who enjoy solace and reflection in the church. However, Little Abington remains open and will also now be having a Food Bank in their porch and will continue to do so along with Great Abington once it opens again. Please do continue to support this scheme which has proved to be a huge success for all.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: This meeting will be held in Little Abington Church on Wednesday 27 April at 1.30pm. Please do feel welcome to attend, maybe you are interested in joining the PCC. Church work is extremely varied, there might just be an area you are interested in.

Tent for Lent: Once again members of the church are raising money; this time, as the title suggests, we are raising money for a fund which purchases tents for short term stay and supports families who have been affected by disaster or conflict. To raise money, we are holding a 'homemade' soup and roll lunch. There will be a donation pot for your contribution. The event is on Friday 1 April in the Village Institute, 12noon until 2pm. We are grateful for a donation to pay for the use of the Hall and Kitchen, thereby boosting the fund.

Open Gardens: This will take place on Saturday 25 June, an event which enables the community to view various gardens in Great Abington. If you would like to open your garden, please contact Anne (contact details on page 20).

Easter Service: We look forward to welcoming members of our community to our Easter service on Sunday 17 April in Little Abington Church.

Funeral – The community were saddened to hear that Sue Atherton had died suddenly in Addenbrooke's Hospital. The funeral was held on Tuesday 15 March.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sue's husband Graham, son Luke and her parents Graham and Gwen Simms.

Anne Hall

GLAMS is back!

Come and join this welcoming group of women for a weekly sing and a chat. No need to have group singing experience or musical knowledge, so long as you have a voice! We look forward to meeting you on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9pm at the school Annex building. Please note the temporary change of venue because of the building work at the Rec, restricting access to Great Abington Church. £2 per session. For more information contact glamschoir@gmail.com

Quiz Night on Friday 29 April

Abington Village Institute, 7pm for 7.30pm start

£7.50 per ticket, includes Chilli con Carne/Veggie and rice

Teams of 8 – adults only

Bring your own drinks and reusable glasses

Raffle on the night

All proceeds towards Abington Pre-School and Out of School club

Pre-school phone 01223 894 246 or Village Shop

ROUTING OF THE LINTON GREENWAY – MEETING WITH GCP

The article in the March issue of the A&H News covered the route proposed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP). Some of the options the GCP suggested for the route were highlighted in this issue.

The GCP are currently working on the new Hildersham crossing. Once completed they plan to start on the road modifications needed to route the Linton Greenway through the Abingtons. The work in the Abingtons would then commence in late summer/early autumn.

Sincere thanks to the very many residents who have emailed the Chairs of the Parish Councils with their views.

**The Parish Councils have arranged a meeting with the GCP at
The Abington Institute in the Main Hall
on Wednesday 11th May from 6.30 to 8.00 pm**

Residents are invited to come along and discuss the plans, and air their opinions on the options for routing the Greenway through the villages.

You are urged to come along to this meeting so the GCP can hear your views and answer your questions on proposals that will have a significant impact on our villages.

In advance of the meeting with the GCP, it would be helpful for residents to view the plans for the route.

The Parish Councils will make the plans available for the public to view at the Annual Meeting of both Parish Councils:

Great Abington PC Annual Meeting, Abington Institute on 21st April 2022

Little Abington PC Annual Meeting, Abington Institute on 25th April 2022

LAPC Chair: sheila.bolden@btinternet.com

GAPC Chair: tonyorgee@gmail.com

**Balsham Singers' Spring Concert
Saturday 21 May, 2022
Holy Trinity, Balsham at 7.30pm**

Music to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Tickets at £10 (under 16s free) from members of the choir
Post Offices at Balsham and Great Abington or online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

Pump track construction in full swing, 25 April opening planned

At the time of writing, construction of the cycling Pump Track on Abington Recreation Ground by the contractor, Conservefor, is progressing well, and by the time you are reading this it should be close to completion. Quite soon the first riders will be able to launch on to the track. Regular visitors to the Rec will have observed the detail of the creation of the layered track, and probably marvelled at the volume of stone required for the build. Special thanks are due to the landowners of the access lane and to Great Abington Church for their cooperation, which has allowed the project to progress smoothly.

Until the project is finished, all users of the Rec, particularly those in control of young children or dogs, should continue to take special care in the vicinity. The recent wet weather has made the site very muddy, but it will recover quickly with warmer sunnier weather in April and May. Users of BMX bikes, scooter riders, users of balance bikes (strider bikes), inline skates and cruiser skateboards, and people with disabilities and users of adapted bicycles can all benefit from the new track. It is designed to offer an opportunity, soon to become reality, for cycling skills improvement and fun exercise for cyclists of all ages and abilities.

The Rec committee will be supporting user groups for all categories as well as organising training and exhibitions. Look out for more information in the Recreation Ground Committee pages of the Abingtons website (www.theabingtons.org.uk). If you want to register an interest in being part of a User Group please contact pumptrack.feedback@greatabington.school

Abington schoolchildren and staff have followed the progress of the project with much anticipation and excitement. The School is actively planning how this resource can be incorporated into its curriculum, play and after-school activities. Classes have visited the site and cannot wait for it to be open. As one pupil said, "The pump track is going to be the coolest thing in Abington!"

The track is part-funded by a grant to the Rec from British Cycling, and part by Great Abington Parish Council using funding provided by the developers of housing in the village to support infrastructure projects to benefit the community.

The opening ceremony is planned to take place at 2.30pm on Monday 25 April. Final details will appear on the Village notice boards and on our social media. All residents of the Abingtons are very welcome to attend to mark this striking addition to our Recreation Ground facilities.



Photo by Alan Cooke

Careful shaping of the Pump Track on the Rec, checked by a laser leveller.

County and District Council

District and County Councillors' Report March 2022

Budgets

During February both the County and District Councils set their budgets for the forthcoming municipal year.

The main headline, that most people will be interested in, is that the council decided to increase their share of Council Tax by a total of 4.99%, which is made up of 1.99% for general services and 3% for Adult Social Care. In real money this equates to 90p per week for band A homes, £1.04 per week for band B, £1.19 per week for band C and £1.34 per week for band D. There is support available for those families who are struggling financially – for example the household support fund mentioned below.

The District Council agreed to limit their Council Tax rise to £5 per year. This equates to 10p per week for houses that fall within a band D and scales up and down from there, dependent on banding.

Ukraine With many people asking for ways that they can help the situation in Ukraine, the District Council are suggesting that, if people wish to support, this is best directed towards the following organisations:

- The British Red Cross – provides food, medicine, clothing and shelter
- The UNHCR refugee agency – funds emergency shelters, repairs to damaged homes, psychological assistance and clothing
- UNICEF – helps ensure families have clean water and food
- Save the Children – provides cash assistance, food and support to other refugees crossing into Romania and Lithuania

Flood Risk Management Strategy The County Council has recently approved their strategy towards flood risk management for the next 5 years. Thank you to all those that took the time to feed into this document whilst going through its inception.

The final strategy can be viewed here under agenda item 6 - <https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1820/Committee/67/Default.aspx>

Community Chest Fund Another existing fund that is opening a new round of bidding, with some good news, the amount groups are able to bid for has doubled from £1,000 to £2,000 per group. Full criteria and applications can be found at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/community-chest-grants/> - the District Council recently extended the criteria of the grant to allow grants for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

Household Support Fund There is a support fund available from the County Council that is aimed at supporting families with a below average income, through the more difficult winter months. There is a fair amount of money in the pot at the moment and the fund will remain open until **March 2022**. Eligibility criteria and application form can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund> (but note date)

Business Covid Grants The government have released a new batch of Covid related support grants for businesses, primarily in the hospitality sector, to apply for to assist them 'restarting' after a period of inconsistent trading. Applications are made through the District Council and full detail can be found here - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/business-can-apply-now-for-latest-support-grants/>

County Council Farm Holdings The County Council owns lots of rural estate in Cambridgeshire. They are now looking for applicants for tenancy on these parcels of land. The main thrust of the lease will be to cultivate some sort of business, not necessarily agriculture-related. It's a very interesting opportunity for those who are looking to start their own business. Full detail can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/applications-open-for-farm-holdings-on-councils-rural-estate>

Parking Enforcement The County and District Councils have officially begun the process of taking parking enforcement powers away from the Police and managing this themselves, as

happens in Cambridge City. The next step is that the County Council has prepared an application to the Secretary of State to attempt to formalise this. We will keep you updated as this progresses. **Solar Farm** A solar farm is planned beside the waste depot in Waterbeach to help power bin lorries across Greater Cambridge.

The board of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority agreed £2.7million funding towards the renewable energy plant while approving its budget last week.

Following successful trials with the first electric bin lorry, three more are now on order for delivery this year. Diesel fuel to power the existing fleet is the biggest single source of carbon emissions for South Cambs. District Council.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste service - the partnership between South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Council that collects recycling and rubbish from around 127,000 households - applied for the funding towards the £4.2m project. The councils will fund the balance.

Farmgate The 'Farmgate' story in local media, which concerns a former County Councillor who abused their position within the council to bully and harass officers to get their way, has taken a significant step forward in that the full report into what occurred has now been published. For those interested, this can be read in full on the County Council website under Appendix B - <https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1742/Committee/10/Default.aspx>

Needless to say, it has promoted many questions into some Councillors' behaviour towards staff and has made the Council implement steps to ensure this behaviour will not be tolerated by officers or fellow councillors.

A1307 Upgrades The next set of upgrades to be implemented on the A1307 is the safer crossing point at the Hildersham junction. This involves putting in a crossing that all non-motorised users (pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders) can use. This has begun already and will be fully completed in the summer.

Contact Information

District Council – John Batchelor – johnbatchelor23@gmail.com

County & District Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Parish Nurse update

It has been a difficult year for so many in our community, but as spring arrives we are all hopeful for the future.

My first year has been busy facilitating GP appointments and helping those people who have not had access to services during the pandemic. Bereavement, loneliness, and anxiety have been challenging for so many of us and our elderly population have complex care needs that must be addressed. Being 'proactive' and not 'reactive' to keep them as independent as possible, whilst maintaining safety and being the best advocate, has been difficult to achieve at times.

Kindness and empathy to our neighbours is something positive that the pandemic has given us all and I believe that we have all become more aware of those in need. The community cafes have been a 'god send' to many of you and I would like to thank all the wonderful helpers who are inspirational and make such a difference to the lives of others.

I am so very lucky to have been given the opportunity as Parish Nurse to meet so many of you and I hope to have made at least a small impact on your lives.

My formal commissioning service will take place on Sunday 1 May, 10.30am at Balsham church, with refreshments after the service. All are warmly welcome to attend this service.

Kim Cox - Parish Nurse

Diary for April 2022

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Fri	1	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		Lent Soup Lunch	12 noon	4
Sat	2	Easter Tea – Hildersham Church	3.00pm	16
Mon	4	Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Abington Gardening Club	7.30pm	11
Tue	5	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	12
Wed	6	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	7	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	12
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	8	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	9	Naturewatch Spring meeting	10.30am	13
Mon	11	Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Abington and Hildersham WI	7.30pm	13
Tue	12	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Spring Tea	2.30pm	11
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
		Reading Group – see page 12 for venue	7.30pm	12
Wed	13	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	14	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Tue	19	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	12
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
Wed	20	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	21	Craft Group	1.30pm	12
		Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	15
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	22	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	23	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	12
Mon	25	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Social Cycling- meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	11.00am	12
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	14
Tue	26	Rivercare and litter pickup - meet at bridge/ford	9.30am	
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	13
Wed	27	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	28	Abington Lunch	1.00pm	11
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	29	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		Quiz (Pre-school)	7.00pm	5

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

Institute bookings: contact preferably by email: institute@theabingtons.org.uk or phone 07591 064 310.

Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute

Opening times in April 2022

Thursday lunchtime	11.30am – 1.30pm (7 th , 14 th , 21 st)	Lunch 28 th
Saturday mornings	10.00am – 12 noon (2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th)	

Contacts for Café – helenstchowe@btinternet.com and helen.rogers.uk@gmail.com

The Jeremiah's team will be offering a **Spring Tea on Tuesday 12 April**. We'd love to see you there. Sandwiches, scones and cake - and tea of course. The cost is £5 a head, from 2.30 to 4.30pm. We'll open up the hall and terrace - but you never know, the sunshine might join us, and we'll get out the tables and chairs to enjoy that too.

Pre-booking is advised so we get our catering correct. So please email helenstchowe@btinternet.com or let one of the team know.

Abington Lunch - 28 April at 1pm

Abington Lunch is now open to all Abington residents wishing to enjoy a freshly cooked two course meal in convivial company. If you are interested, and have not already booked, please ring 892759 to book a place. Cost £5.

Wheelie bin dates for April 2022 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 4 Green/Blue	Mon 11 Black	Wed 20 Green/Blue	Tue 26 Black
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------

Yoga – Wednesdays 9.30am at Abington Institute

Contact Joan 890 629 or email joangraham72@gmail.com if you would like to drop in and try a class.

Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates – Fridays, 9.30am and 10.30am

Aerobics, toning and stretching, exercises to raise your heart rate and tone your body, fun and friendly. Pilates will help to alleviate back pain, improve core strength, posture and flexibility. Please book for five weeks for Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates. Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk

Physio-led Face to Face Pilates on Mondays at Abington Institute

Mondays 2.20 to 3.20pm for Beginners/Intermediate. Max 6 participants. Classes £12 per session. Book 3 sessions (£36 non-refundable).

Contact Christina Heinz on cambridgepilates@outlook.com

Line Dancing - Wednesdays 1pm to 2.30pm, term time

Qualified line dance instructor, Lisa Mason, now runs drop-in classes suitable for all ages and levels, at Abington Institute. Welcomes beginners to intermediate level. Bring a drink and suitable shoes. Contact email lisa.lmsd@gmail.com or phone 07958 788 292.

Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

This Group is open every Monday morning (term time only) from 9.30–11.30am, in the Abington Annexe building at the bottom of the primary school playground. No need to book in advance. Contact 01223 894 246 (Abington Annexe Office) or email abingtonannexoffice@gmail.com

Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting is on Monday 4 April at 7.30pm in the Institute when Peter Johnson will give a talk entitled 'Orchids in Ecuador'. Postponed from last month.

Summer visit programme now available.

New members are very welcome.

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

Social Cycling

After cancellations in January and February, in March we could enjoy a gorgeous spring day. We went 16 miles, taking us on an interesting route along some quiet roads out to Newton and back via the Shelfords for a welcome drink and snack at the Greyhound in Sawston. The next ride will be on Monday 25 April starting at 11.00am from 1 Bourn Bridge Road.

Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

Abington Walking Group

Our last two walks were to Balsham/West Wickham and Horseheath/Cardinals Green.

Your April strolls are on Thursday 7th and Saturday 23rd.

We hope to have a nice bluebell walk in April and a Pasque flower walk in May.

As usual we depart from the Institute at 10am by shared transport to the walk venue.

We do really need more walkers to join us – we are not an exclusive group !

The countryside is looking really spring like.

For further information please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 or robandkayharman@gmail.com

George Woodley on 891 169 or georgewoodley@ge29gew@gmail.com



Reading Group

12 April	<i>The Midnight Library</i> Matt Haig	Liz Obstfeld
10 May	<i>Hamnet</i> Maggie O'Farrell	Rachel Haining
14 June	<i>The Night She Disappeared</i> Lisa Jewell	Valerie Hefford

We will meet at 7.30pm at Liz's to discuss *The Midnight Library*. Please confirm attendance to Liz and copy me in. Please also do a LFT before attending if possible.

We would welcome new members. If interested email me:

vhefford@yahoo.co.uk

Valerie Hefford

Forget-Me-Not Club

Activities planned for April meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, 5th April at 2pm.

The Birthday Forget-Me-Not tea with a quiz.

Tuesday 19th April at 2pm.

This will be our AGM followed by Desert Island discs. Please bring a list of your 6 favourite songs/pieces of music, a chosen book and luxury item.

Please contact me, Jenny Milns (890 252), for any further information.

Abington Craft Group

Bring your own projects, share old skills, learn new ones, meet like-minded people and keep those crafts moving. Two gentlemen would like to share their hobbies – stained glass and wood carving – at the next meeting. All welcome. Light refreshments provided. Small fee of £2 per session to cover costs. Next meeting Thursday 21 April 1.30-4.30pm at Abington Institute. Email- Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com or telephone 07970 614 194

Granta Vale Harmony

Granta Vale Harmony is a mixed *acapella* singing group. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Abington Institute, and anyone is welcome to join in. Contact details - Peter Lester Telephone 07884 932 215 or email haverhi11@talktalk.net

Naturewatch Meeting

Naturewatch is planning a series of local visits over the spring and summer and we are holding a meeting at the Institute on Saturday 9 April at 10.30am to detail these. Andy Merryweather will also be helping identify some of our local spring and summer birds. Everyone is welcome and you might like to pop into the café for a coffee and cake prior to the meeting. The café opens at 10am. Meanwhile keep an eye on the Naturewatch Blog which will continue to post regular interesting observations and monthly summaries. Please send in any reports, observations or photos. Access can be found at <http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com>



David Farrant

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

We were delighted to see so many members at our Annual General Meeting in March, when the current committee and President, Janyce Garrod, were enthusiastically re-elected. We also welcomed Philippa Coates and Kathy Noblet to the committee. Annual reports reflected a difficult year of restrictions to meetings due to Covid 19 and the committee was thanked for keeping in contact with isolating members and arranging outdoor gatherings in the summer when regulations eased.

After the AGM came a fascinating chocolate demonstration by Cheryl Brighty, a chocolatier from Newmarket. Recent archaeology in Ecuador shows that Indian tribes were using ground cacao beans to make a chocolate drink as early as 5000BC. We learned how the beans develop from small white flowers pollinated by midges into large pods which must be harvested by hand. Inside the pods are white fruits containing pink or white seeds. These are left to ferment with fruit fly bacteria, causing a chemical reaction to turn the beans brown and chocolatey. After roasting they are ground into nibs. Cheryl used these in a pestle and mortar to produce a paste for us to sniff that familiar chocolate smell. She tempered some dark chocolate by heating it to 50 degrees, then manipulating it with a spatula on a granite slab before pouring it into moulds, adding some ganache (chocolate beaten with boiling water) and capping with more chocolate. We each had a pot of samples to taste as Cheryl talked us through the process of bean to bar. Taste is a very individual thing and can be affected by our age, food preferences and even music. To help Cheryl's daughter research this interesting topic please go to https://york.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7976E6XZONrnH6u.

Next meeting: Monday 11 April 7.30pm: Adventure, Activism and Climate Change by Edward Gildea. New members and visitors welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst

Scrabble Club.

The next meeting of the Scrabble Club will be on Tuesday 26 April at 7pm in the Institute. We will use the meeting room and can overflow into the café area to maintain a safe distance. New members very welcome to this friendly group.

Sheena Fraser

PTFA Update

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday 2 April 2022, 12 to 2pm. in school and around the Recreation ground. You'll have lots of fun and share excellent cooperative skills in working together to find the clues leading to your well-deserved treat.

Spring Village Trail - 16 to 30 April 2022 We are looking for 20+ houses that are willing to create spring-related front garden displays around the village. All houses will be assigned a letter of the alphabet that they can then build a display around. For example, 'D' could be a daffodil display. Maps will be on sale in the shop and school office. The trail will run for two weeks: 16 to 30 April. Please contact Cory Rivers at ptfa@greatabington.school or 07964 191 698 if you would like to participate.

Little Abington Parish Council

Litter pick

A reminder that the annual litter pick is on Saturday 2 April from 10am to 12 noon. We are looking for volunteers (from Great as well as Little Abington) to help us pick up litter around the village. We welcome families and individuals who want to keep the village looking tidy.

Annual Parish Meeting

Normally an annual event, this is to be held on Monday 25 April at 8pm (after a shorter than usual parish council meeting). There will be presentations and refreshments. It will be a good opportunity to see one another again after the winter and the pandemic, so do come along!

Linton Greenway (see page 6)

The plans will be available to view at our Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 25 April. A meeting is to be held at the Institute with the Greater Cambridge Partnership on 11 May.

Hildersham junction

At last, there's some action here. The upgrade involves putting in a crossing that pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders can use. It will be fully completed in the summer.

Parish Councillor vacancy

We are looking for a new parish councillor to replace Peter Brunning who is standing down after almost 17 years' service. If you would like to know what's involved, please get in touch with Sheila Bolden (details below).

No meeting in February

Planning decisions and updates

22/0162/TTCA: Conifer to be felled on bowling green. Information only.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute

Next Meeting: Monday 25 April 2022, Parish Council at 7.15pm

Sheila Bolden (Chairman) 07754 659 929 Email: sheila.bolden@btinternet.com

Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk) Email: clerk.lapc@gmail.com

Next meetings

Monday 25 April (including Annual Parish Meeting)

Monday 23 May

If you would like to participate in a meeting please contact the clerk to make arrangements. Details to be confirmed regarding start times and venue on the Abingtons website and the parish council noticeboard. The meeting agendas and papers are published on the Abingtons website: www.theabingtons.org.uk

Shared e-bikes based at Institute. Two bizbike e-bikes are now available for Abington residents to use. You will find them in the lockers on the front terrace of the Institute. Download the free bizbike app, register, and follow the instructions. Fees for rides are very low thanks to a subsidy from the South Cambridgeshire Zero Carbon Communities Fund: 50p per hour. Once you register you will be emailed detailed instructions and an unlock code for the bike lockers. Use the app to scan the QR code at the back of the bike to unlock it, making sure the lock arm is not rubbing against a wheel spoke. At the end of your ride please return your bike to the locker. Use the bizbike helpline for any assistance required: 07973 499 224 or email info@bizbike.club

Village clean-up day A huge thank you to everyone who helped to organise and support the annual litter pick; let's try and keep the Abingtons litter free. If you see a full litter bin please make a note of its number and call 03450 450 063 to request an extra collection.

The Linton Greenway Great and Little Abington Parish Councils have arranged a drop in session for residents to view the plans and discuss concerns with representatives of the project. See page 6 for details.

Commercial e-bike Scheme in the Abingtons It's great to see that the scheme is now up and running and is already being used by members of the community (see page 14 for further information). Many thanks to Bernie Talbot and Emma Pery for all their hard work in making this project happen.

Pump Track The construction is now nearing completion with an opening celebration planned for 25 April at 2.30pm (see page 7). Many thanks to the community and especially members of the church for their forbearance during the construction period. Plans are in place to reinstate the grassed area in front of the church and reparations to the track leading from the High Street.

Planning

Please attend a planning meeting if you would like to make a comment that we can consider in our debate before agreeing on the Parish Council's recommendation to SCDC. If you have views on a planning application, you should also make your comment on the South Cambs. website (link below) as this will ensure that the planners take your view into consideration in their decision-making. For more information on the applications below, go to:- <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Parish Council - applications received

Tony Orgee presented at the SCDC Planning Committee in March on behalf of the Parish Council highlighting concerns about the Granta Park Site 1 application. A decision on the application was deferred because of masterplan uncertainty and a legal issue raised by Pampisford Hall Estates.

S/2387/17/NMA1 – Land Next To 16 Chalky Road. Proposal: Non Material amendment of planning permission S/2387/17/FL (Erection of two detached barns for agricultural use) Increase in the height of the Eaves by 0.5m higher, Non construction of 2 No. proposed openings on each building (north and south elevations), 2 No approved openings have been built with roller shutter doors instead of the approved double doors and septic tank has been installed at the front of most northern barn. For information only

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

Tony Orgee (Chairman) tonyorgee@gmail.com

Planning Committees: These are arranged as required when applications are received. See Parish Council notice board for dates or contact the Parish Clerk.

Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 16th May at 7.15pm

There will be opportunities at the start and close of the meeting for members of the public to speak to the council about matters of concern. Notices, 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)

Hildersham News

Easter tea party - Saturday 2 April 3.00-5.00pm, in Hildersham Church

Just a quick reminder, as we are sure it is already on your calendar, that Hildersham Church will be hosting another seasonal tea party.

All are welcome to join us in the church for tea and homemade cake and of course there will be an Easter treasure hunt.

Children's Church Council

The children never rest and have been very busy creating the Easter treasure hunt for the tea party and deciding what the treasure ought to be!

They donned their gardening gloves and made some spring flower baskets, using recycled bread proving baskets which they hope to sell at the Easter tea party.

Their gardening efforts and those of the keen horticultural parishioners have been acknowledged with the Bronze award from the Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust and we now have the plaque which will be displayed in the churchyard.

Emmaus Thank you to all local villagers who emptied their lofts and garages for Emmaus. They had a very full van and were very pleased to receive so many donations for selling and recycling.

Hildersham Parish Council

Report on the Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 8 March 2022.

Building work to improve the A1307/Beech Row and Pampisford Road/A1307 junctions is under way and is likely to take six months to complete. The existing bus shelters on both sides of the A1307 will be replaced with new ones, which should be lit. The site office for the building work is on the South Holding with the entrance on Beech Row, so be alert to slow moving construction vehicles using this section of the road.

Applications are open to any residents who would like to become a councillor for Hildersham Parish Council. The application form can be obtained from the Clerk or the South Cambridgeshire District Council [website](#). Nomination papers will then be accepted on any working day between 28 March and 5 April. The nomination papers must be delivered, by hand, to the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council in Cambourne (CB23 6EA) between the hours of 8.30am and 5.30pm; the deadline for nominations is 4pm on 5 April. If you would like to know more about being a councillor, please contact an existing councillor or the Clerk.

The Council is applying for a Community Chest grant from SCDC to help fund a pictorial noticeboard showing the footpaths around Hildersham. The project will involve various groups within the community assisting with the art work to create the 'map'.

Residents are asked to donate fewer books to the phone kiosk book exchange. The idea behind the book exchange was that people donated a book and borrowed/took one in exchange. The kiosk is not for receiving unwanted books. Please can you donate books you no longer require to one of the regular charities that collect from the villages.

The Recreation Ground Trust and Field Garden Trust meeting is being held after each Parish Council meeting. The land previously administered by the parish council, including the allotments, the Recreation Ground, North and South Holding will be managed by the Trusts.

If you notice a fault with the highways, such as pot holes, you can report them using the following link: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on 10th May 2022 and will also include the Annual Parish Meeting in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: <https://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk>

Recently Granta has only been able to offer urgent appointments. This has been due to sickness and staff shortages in both the clinical and administrative teams. We have had a few team members retire and move on to new jobs and we have recruited new staff who will be starting in the coming months. Unfortunately, we also have staff absent with long Covid.

Not only is this frustrating for our patients, it is also frustrating for us. We want to offer the best possible service and we know we are not currently doing this. Sadly, our staff are experiencing a high level of verbal abuse and this is not acceptable. Please may I ask that everyone be courteous and kind to our staff.

If you have a minor illness or injury you may be able to address this without going to see a GP. Here are some simple self-care steps everyone can follow:-

Keep your medicine cabinet stocked up with self-care essentials, such as pain relief (e.g. Paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment, heartburn / indigestion treatments and a first aid kit.

Use your local pharmacy Your local pharmacist can offer you advice and guidance on your symptoms and on the best treatment for you – no appointment needed.

Ask us about the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) This service enables patients to have a same day appointment with their community pharmacist for minor illness or an urgent supply of a regular medicine. Should you need to be referred to an alternative service, the pharmacist can arrange this. Please speak to our reception team to be referred into this service.

Utilise the NHS UK Symptom Checker www.nhs.uk: This helpful tool can guide you through your symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate health service for your needs.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, call **NHS 111**, and select **option 2**. This First Response Service puts your mental health first. It provides 24-hour access, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to mental health care, advice, support and treatment.

Help us - help yourself - help the NHS

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01223 627 743 or email me sandra.east@nhs.net

GREAT ABINGTON 10km AND 5km RUN AT GRANTA PARK

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday 2 October 2022, 10 am

The Great Abington 10k and 2k fun runs are back for 2022 and once again taking place on the first Sunday of October.

We are making small changes to the 10km course this year so that it can be designated an official UKA Road Race. The course remains largely the same as previous years – flat and fast. So, whether you are looking for a new PB or a flat course with a great community atmosphere to challenge yourself to a 10km run, this event is for you.

New for 2022, we are introducing a 5km race for those looking to challenge themselves to a slightly shorter distance or hoping to run a 5k PB.

As ever, this is also a community event and there will be a large crowd, refreshment stalls and the famous Great Abington welcome.

Bookings will open in April and we will be back in touch with the link then, but for now please save the date.

Great Abington 10k Race Team

Please save the date!

Thursday 2–Sunday 5 June 2022

to ensure that you and your family can enjoy

The BIG Weekend

when the Abingtons celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A Jubilee Working Group, with the backing of the Parish Councils, is planning a series of events to appeal to all ages, starting with lighting of a beacon on 2nd June through to a Big Picnic Lunch and entertainments on Sunday the 5th. Activities under consideration include:

- A tug-of-war challenge
- Children's fancy dress parade
- A royal big breakfast
- Children's sports
- Cream teas
- A football match
- The Glams Choir
- A cake baking competition
- A Big Picnic Lunch with music
- Egg throwing competition
- Mini football
- History group display
- Village clubs and activities on show

The Jubilee Working Group is going to need help from volunteers to run this programme. If you have expertise in a particular area or are simply willing to be an extra pair of hands where needed, please contact Tasha on dollsline@aol.com.

April Services (not Abingtons and Hildersham : 10.30 Online Service available for all)

DATE	9.00 am	10.30 am	pm
3 rd April		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
10 th April	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>		Songs of Praise <i>West Wrating 3.00pm</i>
11 th April			Compline <i>West Wrating 7.30pm</i>
12 th April			Compline <i>Weston Colville 7.30pm</i>
13 th April			Compline <i>West Wickham 7.30pm</i>
15 th April Good Friday		Stations of the Cross <i>Balsham 11.30am</i>	Last Hour <i>West Wrating 2.00pm</i>
17 th April Easter Day	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wrating</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
24 th April	Communion <i>West Wrating</i>	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham 9.30am</i>	

Village organisations

Name	Contact	Phone Number
Abington Institute – Chairman	Bernie Talbot	892 647
Abington Institute – Bookings	Dianne Dawson	07591 064 310
Abington and Hildersham WI	Marianne Perry	893 956
Abington Allotment Assoc. (AALGA)	Brian Hayden-Smith	894 046
Abington Gardening Club	Kay Harman	891 730
Abington History Group	Jennifer Hirsh	893 352
The Abington Group (Ladies)	Freda Orgee	891 464
Forget-Me-Not Club	Jennifer Milns	890 252
Helping Hands	Helen Pimblett	891 746
Art Group	Lois Bull	893 491
French Conversation	Rachel Haining/ Judy Davies	892 004 890 286
Italian	Rachel Haining	892 004
Naturewatch	David Farrant	892 871
Reading Group	Valerie Hefford	890 544
Scrabble Club	Sheena Fraser	893 336
Abington Walking Group	Robin Harman, George Woodley	891 730 891 169
Sport and Youth activities		
Low Impact Aerobics/Pilates	Disa Bennett	07798 754 029
Physio Pilates	Christina Heinz	
Yoga	Joan Graham	890 629
Table Tennis	Raj Sangha	07803 786 905
Abington Social Cycling	Gaynor Farrant	07817 517 871
Dynamic Dance Theatre School	Esme Watts	07719 816 548
Abington Cricket Club	David Pimblett	891 746
Abington United Football Club	Denis Tiplady	290 646
Abington Aztecs (Football)	Malcolm Peters	07860 863 723
Abington Bowls Club	Graham Ross	891 564
Abington Social Club	Christine Hammond Rick Stock	891 777 07768 707 567
Keep Fit	Gill Dowden	893 533
Abington School PTFA (Chair)	Cory Rivers	07964 191 698
Abington Out-of-School (GAPS)	Georgina Blyth	894 246
Abington Pre-school	Angela Lindsay	894 246
Baby and Toddler Group	Office	894 246
Abington Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Ruth Beach	894 461
Linton Netball Club	Angela Bridgeman	07729 879 300

Contacts for village organisations on page 19 – If I have not listed the persons currently involved, please let me know so the list can be updated. Ed.

Church Services for April 2022

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings
3 rd April	10.30 United Service at Balsham			Isaiah 43.16-21 John 12.1-8
		6.00pm Evensong		
10 th April Palm Sunday		10.30am Communion		Luke 19.28-40 Luke 22.14-23.end
14 th April Maundy Thurs.		7.30pm Communion		Exodus 12.1-14 John 13.1-17,31b-35
15 th April Good Friday			9.30am Devotional Service	See Service Sheet
17 th April Easter Day		10.30am Communion	6.00pm Evensong	Acts 10.34-43 Luke 34.1-12
24 th April			10.30am Communion	Acts 5.27-32 John 20.19-end

Church Flower Rota

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
3 rd April	Lent	Antonia Kilcommons and	Lent
10 th April	Lent	Claire Hinga (Clean)	Lent
17 th April	All Help please	All Help please	All Help please
24 th April	Patsy Randall	Mary Miles/Sylvia Gilmour	Elaine Moore

Churchwardens

<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	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

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

