



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

**December 2022**



*Photo by Andy Merriweather*

**Great Abington, October 2022  
Majestic Red Kite being mobbed by a crow**

## Letter from the Editor

Christmas again, and the season of goodwill, but this time the season of high anxiety for many households because of the escalating cost of living. Enjoy the special, joyful, carol services, Christmas Tree Festival, and other events (pages 4, 5, 16, 18, 20). But we should also make donations to food banks, and supply Christmas gifts for refugee children and those in emergency foster care. Hildersham offers an advent tea for those bringing gifts for children to Hildersham church on 3 December (page 16). Please note the change of date and venue for the collection of gifts in Abington (page 4).

Congratulations to all who, with the Granta Vale Harmony Group, organised a concert which raised a superb £1,600 for the DEC Ukraine Appeal. Ukrainians settling into this area need winter clothing (page 9).

Jeremiah's Café at Abington Institute is a warm place to go on a cold day. Opening times are displayed on page 10. There is always someone to talk to and prices are very reasonable. Note that the café will be closed from 18 December, reopening on 7 January 2023. Meanwhile, there is the Big Breakfast to look forward to on 17 December (page 11).

The diary pages show many activities continuing well into December (pages 10 to 13). Film Night has made a welcome return, as have the ever-popular Christmas Table Flower Workshops. The Abington History Group has a new publication that charts village developments during the long reign of the late Queen Elizabeth (page 18).

Abington Cycling Development plan aims to encourage more people to cycle and, on page 7, offers another route to try. The PTFA has organised fun events in December. Great Abington Primary School needs a new school governor; could this be you? See pages 13, 15.

TWI Granta Park recently delivered leaflets to all households to explain new development plans; our comments are invited. There are important public consultations on the Council's proposed congestion charge when driving into Cambridge, road improvements, reduced bus services and plans for more electric charging points. (pages 8, 9, 14, 15, 18). Do respond.

I am delighted that we have a volunteer interested in becoming the editor of this magazine. She is now familiarising herself with the task. Warmest thanks to the contributors of articles, the proofreaders, and to Pat Wallman who collects the printed copies and delivers batches to the army of doorstep deliverers. Thanks to Peter Brunning for the web copy, to our sponsor BioMed Realty and to our speedy printer.

Happy Christmas wishes from Valerie Silvey

## Contents

<b>From Seven Churches, Christmas presents for refugees (new collection date)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group, Gardening, Flower Workshops, Film Nights, Tuesday Club, Reading Group</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>News from the Pews</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Scrabble, Walking, Cycling, Granta Vale Harmony, Crafting, WI</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Granta Medical opening hours</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Great Abington Parish Council,</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Cycling Development Plan, PTFA update</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Little Abington Parish Council, GAPS advert for school governor</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Councillors' reports,</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Hildersham News, Hildersham Parish</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Ukrainian guests update</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Council, Linton guiding</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Diary, Café, Big Breakfast, Bins, Yoga, Aerobics/Pilates, Physio Pilates, Line Dancing</b>	<b>10</b> <b>11</b>	<b>Abington History Group, Church services (not Abington &amp; Hildersham)</b>	<b>18</b>

Articles for the January 2023 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Tuesday 13 December 2022 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk).

## From the Seven Churches

There is so much to look forward to in December in our parishes: Christmas Tree Festivals; Christmas concerts; carol singing to name but a few! While I sometimes find myself rushing from one event to another, I really enjoy the festive atmosphere! It's as though there is a deep instinct that Christmas is a time for seeing the good in each other and the world; for celebrating gifts, generosity and expressions of love. You don't need religion to understand these are some of the things which really matter in life.

Gifts, joyful celebration and an instinct for seeing the good, also point towards the deeper reality of the Christmas story. A familiar story, but one with strange beauty. A story which is a mix of uncertainty, hope, joy and new life. A child, born in humble circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's gospel says, as "Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'.

In our Christmas services we hear the story of Jesus' birth anew and celebrate this good news with joyful thanksgiving. Christmas services in our churches will be a mix of Communion services, Christingles and carols. Some carol services will be inside our churches and some outside, as they were over the last couple of years, when we wrapped up warm and sang by torchlight! There will be details of all of our services on our website: [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk), on our church notice boards and on the Christmas card you will find with a copy of this magazine (also see pages 5, 18, 20).

Recently, in our youth group, we asked the children which Christmas food, decorations and carols they especially look forward to. This gave rise to a variety of interesting responses! A traditional Christmas carol I look forward to is 'O little town of Bethlehem', written in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century but still very popular today. The last words of this carol also declare that, in Jesus and through his Spirit, "God is with us": 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel'. As we come together this Christmas, let us ponder anew this divine gift, and celebrate this joyful and life-changing good news.

Rev. Iain McColl

### **Christmas Gifts for unaccompanied refugee children and those in emergency foster care in Cambridgeshire.**

We are mindful that these are very uncertain and difficult times for us all but we hope you can spare a thought for children who will be separated from those they love this Christmas and who will not receive a Christmas present. Many of them are already suffering from the trauma of hazardous journeys or a difficult beginning to life through no fault of their own. Your gift will mean the world to them because it shows that somebody is thinking about them.

We are collecting brand new gifts and clothes for children of all ages including teenagers up to 16 years old. Soft toys, toy cars, Lego, drawing and craft materials, chocolate (but no nuts), picture books or simple games, balls, skipping ropes, hats, warm jumpers, socks and gloves are just suggestions. Please put your **unwrapped** gift in a Christmas gift bag with a label stating the age of the child. You may like to include a Christmas card with a message.

Please bring your gifts to:

**St Mary's Church Little Abington on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2pm to 4pm**

**or Holy Trinity Church Hildersham 2pm to 4pm**

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE FOR THE ABINGTONS**

Many thanks for your generosity.

Rosemary Mead and Amanda Palmer

## News from the Pews

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Churches here in the Abingtons hopes to bring comfort and joy to our village through various Christmas themed events and services, along with raising much needed funds for both churches. The cost of maintaining our churches is (as we are sure you can imagine) huge. However, the key to maintaining these magnificent buildings lies in volunteers on whose imagination, enterprise and energy the church could call. If you would like to be part of the fundraising team for these buildings which form a visual focus to our villages please contact one of the churchwardens.

### Diary

#### **Saturday 26 November – Christmas Fayre 2pm – In the Abington Institute**

A warm welcome awaits you at the annual Christmas themed Fayre with Christmas goodies galore as well as fun activities for the children. Take time to relax in the café area with tasty Christmas refreshments. Hotdogs and Mulled Wine will also be available along with Raffle, Cakes, Toys, Cards, Gifts, Freda's Pantry, Bottle Tombola, Teddy Tombola, Pre-School Crafts, Wooden Gifts, Abington Craft Group Gifts of Bunting, Bags, Felt Bird Ornaments etc.

AND A VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS - FREE ENTRY.

#### **Saturday 3 December - Collection of Christmas Gifts for Refugee Children and those in Emergency Foster Care – 2pm to 4pm – Little Abington Church with refreshments.**

Please do support this charity if you can.

#### **Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 – 10am until 4pm each day**

#### **Christmas Tree Festival in Great Abington Church**

We invite you to view 15 decorated Christmas Trees kindly donated by local community clubs. There will also be the opportunity for the children to make a Christingle Orange and decorate a paper orange for the Christingle tree. Rosemary will be joining us on Saturday morning with stories for the children. Take time to observe and relax with tasty Christmas refreshments. The Glam choir will be entertaining us on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> with some festive songs and carols too at 2pm. Entrance £2, children under 16 free.

#### **Sunday 18 December – Carol Service in Great Abington Church 6.00pm**

The Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be joined by the Village Christmas Choir and The Glam Choir both directed by our ever popular village choir mistress Glenis Todd. If you are able to walk please consider either walking or parking in the High Street as we still have restricted parking space.

#### **Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve Crib Service – Little Abington Church**

**10.30am** We are delighted that once again Rosemary is able to lead the ever-popular children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve morning. Here in the Abingtons there are still 30-year-olds who remember attending this service as youngsters. A precious time and a precious memory.

#### **Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve Midnight Mass in Little Abington Church**

**11.30pm** This service will be taken by our new curate Ben Brady; a good opportunity to offer Ben a warm welcome to the Abingtons.

#### **Christmas Day Family Service in Great Abington Church at 11am**

The service will be conducted by our curate Ben, who looks forward to welcoming families at the Christmas Day service. He particularly asks that children bring their favourite Christmas present along to show him. (Or adults too if you wish)

**Great and Little Abington Churches Food Banks. Please support the Food Banks over the Christmas period. If possible, please add some festive food to your giving.**

**If we all add one item to our Christmas food shopping list this should be plenty.**

**Please do bear this request in mind when you buy your Christmas festive food.**

**THANK YOU**

Anne Hall



**Granta Medical Practices Update, December 2022**

Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break. Make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time to ensure that **you do not run out of your medication** over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

Date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
<b>Fri 23.12.2022</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>Fri 30.12.2022</b>
<b>Sat 24.12.2022</b> (Christmas Eve)	Open for pre-booked appointments only	Place order today, pick up <b>Tues 03.01.2023</b>
<b>Sun 25.12.2022</b> (Christmas Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>Tues 03.01.2023</b>
<b>Mon 26.12.2022</b> (Boxing Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>Tues 03.01.2023</b>
<b>Tues 27.12.2022</b> (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>Tues 03.01.2023</b>
<b>Wed 28.12.2022</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>Tues 03.01.2023</b>
<b>Thurs 29.12.2022</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>Wed 04.01.2023</b>
<b>Fri 30.12.2022</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>Thurs 05.01.2023</b>
<b>Sat 31.12.2022</b> (New Year's Eve)	Open for pre-booked appointments only	Place order today, pick up <b>Fri 06.01.2023</b>
<b>Sun 01.01.2023</b> (New Year's Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>Fri 06.01.2023</b>
<b>Mon 02.01.2023</b> (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>Fri 06.01.2023</b>
<b>Tues 03.01.2023</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>Fri 06.01.2023</b>

Don't forget, we now have the **Prescription Collection Points at Sawston, Linton and Shelford**. Sign up today to pick up your medication at your convenience, over the Christmas holidays.

**Be prepared for common health problems** by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn / indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Your **local pharmacist** can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. They are available on every high street and in supermarkets, often open evenings and weekends. **While we are closed**, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

For further information on available healthcare services, please go to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or our website [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services. Email: [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net)

## Abington and Hildersham Cycling Group

The Recreation Ground Committee has set up a closed group for our local Abington and Hildersham cyclists. We are using the Strava App (easily downloaded to your phone) to share routes and record our rides.

Once part of this group please use it to log your rides. We can then report to British Cycling the strength and depth of our village cycling activities!

We hope to post a monthly challenge for our cyclists. They will be age and experience rated. Please note that you will be undertaking them at your own risk. Please wear Hi Viz clothing and a helmet and lights in poor visibility.

### Using Strava

This process is fairly straightforward, and I would like to thank Sam Jackson for coordinating this.

Download the Strava app to your phone or watch and log on. On the Home page select "Clubs" and click on "Abington and Hildersham Cycling Group". Press the "request to join" button. The Administrator will then authorise your addition to the group. Please note there is no need to pay for Strava.

Alternatively, on a computer, search for <https://www.strava.com/clubs/AHCG> then press the "request to join" button.

### December challenge. Cycle path to Linton

The total return journey is 4.8 miles or 7.73 km. Due to the heavy traffic it is not suitable for children. The latest link of the cycle way to Linton is now open. Leaving from the Abington Institute proceed down Linton Road towards Linton.

Join the new cycle path just before the A1307 junction at Westlodge.

Take care crossing over at the Hildersham crossroad traffic lights. Stay on the path all the way to Linton. Beware of the lay-by, the path is very narrow here and a dropped kerb hasn't been fitted yet.

Pass Linton Village College and then turn down the High Street into Linton and head for the bridge by the river next to The Dog and Duck. Return using the same route.

## PTFA Update

**Elfridges** will take place between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December at the school. For those new to this event the children have the opportunity to purchase gifts for their family members and carers as a way of saying thank you for all their support and help throughout the year. It's a great chance for the children to be part of the 'giving' experience of Christmas and is always thoroughly enjoyed by all those involved. Details of how the children can go about purchasing gifts will be communicated by posters around the school and an email from the school office, so parents please keep an eye out for these.

**Sweet sale** The end of year sweet sale is set to go ahead on Friday 16 December. Children will be able to purchase bags of sweets from PTFA representatives on the day.

**School lottery** This is open to all in the village. Tickets are £1 each and the draw takes place weekly on Saturday evenings. Each week there is a £25k jackpot up for grabs as well as a guaranteed cash prize for one lucky winner within our community. 40% of the value of our ticket sales goes directly to the school, so it's a win-win for all!

Take part today by copying this link into your browser:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/great-abington-primary-> or alternatively, if you're not online, call 01865 582 828.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the PTFA throughout the year. Your generosity enables us to provide additional support to the school and fund resources, new facilities and school trips that benefit the children. We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year.

Great Abington PTFA

# District and County Councillors' Report November 2022

## City Access Consultation

A 'Sustainable Travel Zone' road user charge has been put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body currently implementing the upgrades to the A1307) for private vehicles between 7am and 7pm on weekdays. The plans are part of a package to improve public transport, reduce congestion in the city and help the environment through lower emissions.

A £5 congestion charge to drive into and around Cambridge is being considered as part of a 'once in a generation' plan to shake up how people travel during the working week.

These proposals are now being publicly consulted on and it is vital important that as many people as possible respond to this consultation with their views. It will be one of the largest decisions that will affect the way we travel in and out of Cambridge for generations to come.

The consultation, plus all of the related documents, can be seen here - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022>

There will also be pop-up events, with one proposed in Linton. Details TBC.

## A1307 Update

The majority of the work here is complete but the remaining schemes to be implemented are:

- The new roundabout on the A1307 at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton – due Spring 2023
- The remodelling of the highly dangerous Dean Road junction, again, on the A1307 – due Spring 2023
- The implementation of the 'Greenway', the non-motorised user route between Linton and Cambridge. The route through Abington is still to be decided with the likelihood the preferred route will be via Pampisford Road and not through the village centre.

## Local Highways Improvement Scheme

The Local Highways Improvement scheme (LHI) is now open and will remain open for bids until early January. The scheme allows parish councils/community groups to bid for small scale schemes that will improve the local highway network, such as reduced speed limits, double yellow lines, re-modelled junctions, etc.

It's worth noting that this year the criteria scoring the schemes have slightly changed. The simpler, more straightforward, schemes, such as reduced speed limits, mobile speed cameras etc, will be looked at separately from the more complex, expensive schemes so that they aren't in direct competition – in theory increasing their chances of success. Full detail of this is yet to be released but we will circulate once it has been.

Full details and application forms can be found at: -

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding>

## Ukrainian Refugee Update

The most recent data shows that 720 Ukrainian guests have now arrived in South Cambridge over 71 parishes. SCDC officers have made 278 welfare visits and have undertaken 790 DBS checks.

Owing to the high cost of living, an additional payment of £150 per month is being offered to hosts and council officers are directly contacting host families with this offer.

If you know anyone interested in becoming a host, then please do contact the District Council – [HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk)

## **Electric Vehicle Charging Grant**

It is expected that proposals will be approved by the end of November for a new grant scheme to parish councils and operators of community buildings, for grants of up to £5,000 to support installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in order to encourage electric vehicle uptake within the district.

This would be for 'fast' chargers (7-22kW). Installations of dual-socket 7kW chargers are typically £6,000-8,000 so this scheme could complement existing funding such as the Government's On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, or could top up existing funds for EV charging.

In addition to serving residents without off-street parking it also allows anyone visiting South Cambs. villages to recharge while they visit, for whatever reason it might be, effectively doubling their EV range.

## **Cultivate Cambs. Grant**

Cambridgeshire County Council has announced that the next deadline for Cultivate Cambs. grant applications will be 16 December, with pre-application advice appointments beginning the month before.

Cultivate Cambs. awards grants of £2,000 to £15,000 for new initiatives which support adults and older people with care and support needs, and children, young people and families, to live independently, safe and well in thriving and inclusive communities. The fund is open to voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. Project proposals must benefit Cambridgeshire residents and also reduce pressure on council services.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/cultivate-cambs>

## **Contact Information**

District Council – John Batchelor – [johnbatchelor23@gmail.com](mailto:johnbatchelor23@gmail.com)

District & County Council – Henry Batchelor – [henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

## **Ukrainian Guests in Abington**

The family that arrived in late October is settling into Abington life and one of the adults has a job at the Flourish Farm Shop in Hildersham.

Another guest arrived in early November and another is due to arrive in mid-November. Currently there are seven households hosting 17 guests in Abington with 12 other households providing support with transport, socialising and any help if a crisis develops.

The 10 villages in the Granta4Ukraine support group are now hosting 181 guests via 71 households.

South Cambs. District has issued 808 visas and 720 guests have arrived. There is still a need for hosts, and interested persons should contact [HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk). Further information is available at [www.scambs.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/ukraine) or 01954 713 070 or [duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk)

There is a great need for winter clothing. Donations can be taken to the Free Church in Sawston on Thursday and Friday from 4 to 6pm or to the dedicated Ukrainian drop-off at the Arthur Rank warehouse at the Pampisford leatherworks site.

Christmas in Ukraine is quite complicated but is essentially a family time and New Year is for much merriment. Details will be in the January News.

Christmas being a special time for family could make it quite emotional for our Ukrainian friends. However, they now have a new family of hosts and supporters in Abington who care about them.

Anton King



## Diary for December 2022

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Thu	1	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	9.50am	13
		<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	13
Fri	2	<b>Low impact Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Pilates</b>	10.30am	11
Mon	5	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Physio Pilates</b>	2.20pm	11
		<b>Gardening Club</b>	7.30pm	11
Tue	6	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	19
		<b>Table Tennis</b>	7.30pm	19
Wed	7	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
Thu	8	<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	13
Fri	9	<b>Low impact Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Pilates</b>	10.30am	11
Mon	12	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Physio Pilates</b>	2.20pm	11
		<b>Abington &amp; Hildersham WI Christmas party at Gog Magog Golf Club</b>	7.00pm	13
Tue	13	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	19
		<b>Tuesday Club</b>	2.00pm	12
		<b>Table Tennis</b>	7.30pm	19
		<b>Reading Group</b> – see page 12 for venue	7.30pm	12
Wed	14	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am	11
Thu	15	<b>Craft Group</b>	1.30pm	13
		<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	13
Fri	16	<b>Film Night</b> – doors open	7.00pm	12
Sat	17	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	9.50am	13
		<b>BIG BREAKFAST</b> – service starts from	9.30am	11
		<b>Film Night</b> – doors open	2.00pm	12
Mon	19	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Social Cycling</b> - meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00am	11
Tue	20	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	19
Wed	21	<b>Christmas Flower Workshops</b>	10.00am	11
			2.00pm	11
Mon	26	<b>Boxing Day walk</b>	10.00am	13
Wed	28	<b>Rivercare and litter pickup - meet at bridge/ford</b>	9.30am	

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

**Institute bookings:** contact preferably by email: [institute@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:institute@theabingtons.org.uk) or phone 07591 064 310.

### Opening times in December 2022

Thursday lunchtime	11.30am – 1.30pm (1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> )
Friday	8.45am – 11.00am (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> )
Saturday mornings	10.00am – 12 noon (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> )

**Contacts for Café** – [helenstchowe@btinternet.com](mailto:helenstchowe@btinternet.com) and [helen.rogers.uk@gmail.com](mailto:helen.rogers.uk@gmail.com)

**BIG BREAKFAST**  
**SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER AT JEREMIAH'S CAFÉ**

**Get ready for the last big shop**

A bargain at £5.00 per head, a BIG breakfast offers egg, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, tomato and hash browns, with toast, plus a mug of tea/coffee, or fruit juice for children. CASH/CARD payment at the door.

**Booking is essential**, so please book your table in advance, with your arrival time in one of these slots:

9.30 - 10.00am

10.00 - 10.30am

10.30 - 11.00am

11.00 - 11.30am

To book please call Gaynor Farrant on 07817 517 871

Or email [gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com](mailto:gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com)

**The Abington Lunch**

**Next lunch Thursday 26 January 2023. See January News for the menu.**

Doors open at **12.45pm**. Note that the lunch is open to **ALL** Abington and Hildersham residents. Guests only by special arrangement. **Only £5.**

**Wheelie bin dates for December 2022 (Abingtons and Hildersham)**

Mon 5	Mon 12	Mon 19	Wed 28
Black	Green/Blue	Black	Blue

**Winter bin collections: Green bins will be collected only once per month from December to March.**

**Yoga – Wednesdays 9.30am at Abington Institute**

Contact Joan 890 629 or email [joangraham72@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:cambridgepilates@outlook.com)

**Line Dancing - Wednesdays 1pm to 2.30pm, term time at Abington Institute**

Qualified line dance instructor, Lisa Mason, now runs drop-in classes suitable for all ages and levels and welcomes beginners to intermediate level. Bring a drink and suitable shoes. Contact Email [lisa.lmsd@gmail.com](mailto: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 [abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com)

## Abington Gardening Club

On Monday 5 December there will be a meeting in the Institute at 7.30pm when Robin Carsberg will give a talk entitled 'Beautiful Canada'. Please remember to bring a wrapped present for the charity raffle.

The annual membership subscription is £10; guests can attend any meeting for £3. All welcome.

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

## Christmas Table Flowers Workshops 2022 with Freda Orgee

I will be holding two Christmas Flower Workshops on Wednesday 21st December 2022.

Wednesday 21st December 10am - 12.30pm or

Wednesday 21st December 2pm - 4.30pm

We will be making a flower arrangement for your Christmas dining table, hall table, sideboard or coffee table and one other smaller arrangement.

Both workshops will be held at the Village Institute, Great Abington. Please get in touch for further information if you are interested in coming.

email Freda: [fredaorgee@gmail.com](mailto:fredaorgee@gmail.com) or phone 01223 891 464

## Film Night

A reminder that Film Night, along with children's matinees, is now back at the Abington Institute. Our next films will be Christmas themed, with a screening on Friday 16 December at 7.30pm in the evening (doors open at 7pm). This will be followed by a children's matinee on Saturday 17 December at 2.30pm (doors at 2pm). We hope to see you there! For more details please sign-up to our film nights newsletter at <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/the-institute/film-nights/> or at our email address [films@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:films@theabingtons.org.uk).

## The Tuesday Club (formerly the Forget-Me-Not Club).

Our Christmas meeting this month will take place on Tuesday 13 December.

A Christmas tea will be served, and we will be delighted to welcome our local schoolchildren, who will bring us some festive cheer and songs.

We look forward to seeing you. New and old members will be welcome as always.

Please contact me for further details.

Jenny Milns (890 252).

## Reading Group

13 December	<i>Christmas meeting</i>	Mary Conochie
10 January 2023	<i>House of Glass</i> Hadley Freeman	Rachel Haining
14 February	<i>The Promise</i> Damon Galgut	Anna Heron

We will meet at 7.30pm at Mary's for our Christmas meeting. Please confirm attendance to Mary and copy me in. We were very pleased to have two new members at our last meeting. We have room for more! If interested email me: [vhefford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vhefford@yahoo.co.uk).

Valerie Hefford

## Scrabble Club

There is no meeting of the Scrabble Club in December. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 24 January at 7pm. We wish everyone a happy Christmas and enjoyable New Year.

Sheena Fraser

## Abington Walking Group

Our last walk was to Quay Waters.

Your December strolls are on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> a short walk from the village will be followed by the village Big Breakfast. There will also be a Boxing Day walk. The walks start from the Institute at 10am by shared transport to the walk venue.

As these are the last walks for 2022 we wish everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy although not prosperous 2023 !! For further information please contact:

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

## Social Cycling

Four stalwarts set off on 21 November and covered 14 miles, fortunately getting back before the worst of the rain. We had an excellent pit stop at the Arthur Rank café and took a couple of new routes on our way back. The next ride is on Monday 19 December. We will start from 1 Bourn Bridge Road at 11 o'clock and end up not far from Abington with an All Day Breakfast, so why not make the effort to join us.

Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or [gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com](mailto:gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com)

## 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. The Ukrainian concert on 22 October was a fantastic sell-out evening, really well supported by local people, surrounding villages, local church, shop and the Three Tuns. It raised over £1,600 (inc. Gift Aid) for the DEC Ukraine Appeal.

Contact details - Peter Lester Telephone 07884 932 215 or email [haverhi11@talktalk.net](mailto:haverhi11@talktalk.net)

## Abington Craft Group

The next meeting is on Thursday 15 December, 1.30 to 4.30pm at the Institute. We will organise a macramé session for a Christmas wall hanging. There will be an additional charge for specific supplies. Please contact Glynis if items need collection or drop them in at the Craft Group. Email- [Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com](mailto:Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com) or telephone 07970 614 194.

## Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

November is the month when members organise the meeting instead of the WI committee - and a splendid job they made of it! We were delighted to welcome several guests - ladies and men – to attend the talk given by John Turner, local ornithologist and photographer, on 'Birding on the 7 Continents'. We "flew" around the world with him from Antarctica to Tasmania, watching just some of the 10,800 species of birds which exist. South America has the largest number and greatest variety of species, from the booted racket-tailed hummingbird of Ecuador to the blue-footed booby of the Galapagos. John's amazing photographs captured beautiful birds not only from his travels but also in Abington, with goldcrests, kingfishers and a family of great spotted woodpeckers.

After refreshments, Philippa showed pictures and materials for ideas to decorate our trees for the Christmas Tree Festival in Great Abington Church on 10-11<sup>th</sup> December. We look forward to seeing how our members transform simple pinecones into ornaments!

**Our Christmas Party is on Monday 12 December, 7 for 7.15pm, Gog Magog Golf Club.**

**Next meeting: Monday 9 January, 7.30pm: "What's in the Sky?"** with Jonathan Clough from the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge. Marilyn Broadhurst

## **TWI Development Plans**

Every resident in the village should have received a leaflet from TWI regarding their plans for 'Project Reform' which summarises the proposal to 'upgrade the facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose for TWI as a leading-edge research, engineering and technology group as well as responding to changing office working practices.' It is important that residents take this opportunity to comment on the proposals as the project team are keen to hear local representations. To make your views known visit [www.twiprojectreform.uk](http://www.twiprojectreform.uk) or email [morgan@twiprojectreform.uk](mailto:morgan@twiprojectreform.uk)

## **New Parish Council Website**

Can you help? In the New Year the Parish Council will be launching a new website and would welcome photographs of Great Abington to include. If you have any photographs you would be willing to share for this purpose please send them to the Parish Clerk, Paula Harper [harper802@btinternet.com](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com)

## **Bus network consultation**

There is still time to have your say on proposals for faster, cheaper, more reliable bus services and better cycling and walking links. The consultation, GCP Making Connections 2022, is open till 23 December here: <https://consultcambis.uk/engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022>

## **Planning**

22/03880/FUL – 127, High Street - Erection of a detached dwelling

22/04117/S73 – Land adjacent to 100, High Street - Section 73 - Remove/Vary Condition - S73 to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) of ref: 22/00553/FUL (Demolition of garage and sub division of plot and the erection of a two storey dwelling) to show revised elevations and internal layouts.

22/1265/TTPO – 29, Magna Close – work to TPO tree. Beech - crown thin 25-30% (and remove major dead wood).

## **District Council decisions**

22/01272/FUL - 33 South Road – Erection of new dwelling and garage – Refused

## **Appeal:**

EN/00394/21A - appeal against enforcement order: Land adjoining 16 Chalky Road. Without planning permission, the erection of a building.

## **Great Abington Parish Council Meetings**

Held in Abington Village Institute

**Tony Orgee (Chairman)** [tonyorgee@gmail.com](mailto: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 16 January 2023 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](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com) (892 000)

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



# Little Abington Parish Council

## Seasonal greetings

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your parish council. We hope you'll take advantage of the many festive activities planned in the village and promoted here in the A&H News. And remember that Tuesday 27 December is a national holiday.**

## Congestion charge

The public consultation for the Greater Cambridgeshire partnership proposals for improved and sustainable travel is open until Friday 23 December. The proposals include the £5 congestion charge for travel into Cambridge (question 9). Do take a close look and make your feelings known at:

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022/>

## Parking in Bourn Bridge Road

As Bourn Bridge Road is busy with several building developments, and more are planned for the months ahead, residents and their visitors are urged to park their cars on their drive – and contractors' vehicles to park off-road when possible.

## Planning updates

**22/03930/HFUL, 13 Bourn Bridge Road.** Part two-storey and part single-storey rear extensions, first-floor front extension, cladding alterations and replacement to front elevation. SCDC granted permission

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute

**Next Meeting: Monday 23 January 2023, Parish Council at 7.30pm**

Sheila Bolden (Chairman)

07754 659 929

Email: [sheila.bolden@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.bolden@btinternet.com)

Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk)

Email: [clerk.lapc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lapc@gmail.com)

**Next meeting** Monday 23 January 2023

If you would like to participate in a meeting, please contact the clerk. Details to be confirmed regarding start times are on the new website and the Parish Council noticeboard. The meeting agendas and papers are published on the Abingtons website: [www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/](http://www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/)

## Great Abington Primary School has a vacancy for a community governor

Could you be a school governor? School governors are members of our local community who care about our school and the young people we support. Being a school governor can be a very positive experience. Share your skills and passion for the success of our school and become a governor.

You can learn more about school governance, what governors do and how to get involved by checking out the Governors for Schools website:

<https://governorsforschools.org.uk/>

If you are interested, please contact the Co-Chairs of the Governing Body:

Mark Carter (07768687472; [mark.carter@greatabington.school](mailto:mark.carter@greatabington.school))

or Rachel Clay (07748255527; [rachel.clay@greatabington.school](mailto:rachel.clay@greatabington.school)) or

email them with a brief description of your background.

We will then arrange to meet you at the School with the Headteacher, Guy Underwood.

## Hildersham News

### **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 3pm on 18 December**

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back inside the church for our very beautiful Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. As usual the church will be aglow with many hundreds of candles illuminating the wall paintings and stained glass that make our church so special.

Do stay with us to share Mulled wine and Mince Pies after the service.

### **Advent Tea Party at Hildersham Church**

Saturday 3 December from 2 to 4pm

Lots of festive cakes to enjoy with friends and an opportunity to buy homemade jams and mincemeat (proceeds go to EACH), decorations for your tree made by the Children's Church Council plus locally produced Christmas cards and calendars.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

**Christmas Gifts for refugees in Cambridgeshire** Please bring your gift unwrapped, in a bag with a label stating the age of the child and a Christmas wish if you would like, and place it around the children's Christmas tree during the afternoon of the tea party.

Your generosity will light up Christmas for those most in need in our community.

### **Children's Church Council**

We met on 19 November and all enjoyed pizza lunch before beginning our creative activities ready for the festive season. We had three projects. Christmas card making for each house in the village using the Advent pages from recycled hymn books, Christmas elves emerging from pinecones and acorns, and pebbles painted for our Purposefully Pursuing Pebbles activity in the village (more below).

We also spent time planning the children's item for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

### **Purposefully Pursuing Pebbles**

If you are wandering around or through our beautiful village from 15 December you may spot a painted pebble. The CCC have painted characters from the nativity scene so if you spot one of these pebbles you may like to keep it as a treasure or you could take it up to the church and leave it in the porch to create a crib scene.

The CCC hope you enjoy this idea.



## **Hildersham Parish Council**

### **Report of the Hildersham Parish Council AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

Councillors are planning to plant a Christmas tree on the verge opposite the village hall this year. The tree has kindly been donated by Pampisford Estate. Councillors are working hard to get a power source connection installed for the tree lights for this year.

The County and District Councillors have suggested that bus users, having difficulties with the new reduced service bus timetable, make their views known to Stagecoach as the company is listening to complaints (also see pages 8, 15).

The council is delighted that after years of correspondence with the Highway department the path at Back Road end of the High Street is being rebuilt, and the rest of the High Street path is being repaired and resurfaced.

The two new bus shelters alongside the A1307 have been installed and the real time bus timetables have been put in, along with solar-powered lighting.

Hildersham Council will be bidding for funding from the District Council's Local Highway Initiative Scheme to make the Back Road/High Street crossroads junction safer. The County Council's Highway Department officer has seen how hazardous the junction is so the council is hopeful that funding may be given to make this crossroads safer.

Thank you to everyone who has completed and returned the Hildersham Nature Recovery Plan Questionnaire. There is still time to complete your questionnaire if you haven't done so already. For further details, please contact Jean Kelly (01223 891296, [jeshere1@yahoo.com](mailto:jeshere1@yahoo.com)).

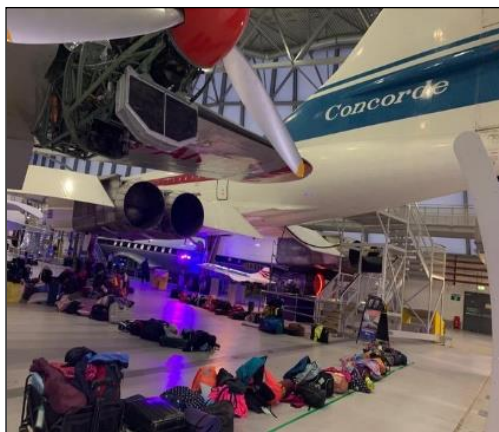
The Recreation Ground Trust and Field Garden Trust meeting is held after each parish council meeting. The land previously administered by the parish council, including the allotments, the Recreation Ground, North and South Holding is being managed by the Trusts. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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 10 January 2023 in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: <https://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk>

## Girlguiding Linton District

What an incredible experience our Brownies have had. They went to Duxford airfield and slept under the wings of the planes in the space hangar. Sleeping with 500 other Brownies and 100 leaders from all over our county Cambridgeshire East. Our girls actually got to sleep under Concorde. They got to make dens to sleep in and were able to spend a day going around the museum as well. They had activities especially designed for the weekend. Doing things like designing a space suit and making aeroplanes out of pegs. For a bit of fun, why not make a paper aeroplane and see how far yours fly... there are lots of different types to make.



One of our Balsham Brownies has received her silver award, which is very well deserved and hard to achieve, so well done. More silvers coming; watch this space.

Burrough Green Brownies made a beautiful wreath for Remembrance Sunday which looked stunning. Like all our units they represented Girlguiding at all the local services. Our Trefoil Guild joined in with the parade in Linton. They also had a very interesting evening hearing about all the districts girls reached on the East Meets West County Camp. Guiding is never still and continues as ever to be a voice for all girls. As the words of an old Guiding song come to

mind, *Come, come light up the fire, join in the ring. Here find dreams to inspire, stories to tell, music to sing.* We are as relevant today for every girl and young woman and change as the girls change, inspiring them to achieve their best, raise their aspirations, be confident and encourage them to be a powerful force for good.

Come and see what we do, you will be most welcome,  
Contact Louisa 01223 833776 [Lintondistrict@gmail.com](mailto:Lintondistrict@gmail.com) [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)



## A new publication by the Abington History Group Chronicling the history of the Abingtons during the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II



With the sad news of the Queen's death, many tributes used a timeline to describe the events and changes that happened during her life and reign. The Abington History Group research local history for the villages of Great and Little Abington and have now produced **a new publication**

**chronicling a timeline of the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II.** This timeline is linked to both 'world events' and what was happening in Abington in the same period.

On 6 November 1929, the Abington Hall Estate was up for auction in Cambridge divided into 75 lots. By 1931 the Estate, with the farms and cottages that formed the villages of Great and Little Abington, had been broken up leading to changes for all the residents of Great and Little Abington. In London on 21 April 1926, the Duke, and Duchess of York (the future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) have their first child - Princess Elizabeth.

The new AHG publication chronicles the history of the Abingtons and key world events during the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II from 1926 to 1952 and on to 2022.

Copies will be on sale in the village shortly

### December Services (not Abingtons and Hildersham) 10.30am Online Fellowship available for all

DATE	9.30 am	11.00 am	pm
4 December		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
11 December	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>		Christingle 3.00pm <i>West</i> <i>Wratting</i> 4.00pm <i>Balsham</i>
18 December	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i>	Carol Service <i>West Wratting</i>	Carol Service (outdoors) <i>Balsham</i>
24 December Christmas Eve			Carol Services (outdoors) 4.00pm <i>Weston</i> <i>Colville</i> 4.00pm <i>West</i> <i>Wratting</i> 6.00pm <i>West</i> <i>Wickham (inside)</i> Midnight Communion 11.30pm <i>Balsham</i>
25 December Christmas Day	Communion <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>West Wratting</i> Christmas Worship <i>Balsham</i>	
1 January 2023		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

## Church Services for December 2022

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
4 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>11.00am United Service at Balsham</b>			Isaiah 11.1-10 Matthew 3.1-12
11 <sup>th</sup> December			11.00am Communion	Isaiah 35.1-10 Matthew 11.2-11
18 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm Carol Service		3.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols	See Service Sheet
24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve		10.30am Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion		Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2.1-14
25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	11.00am Christmas Worship		9.30am Christmas Communion	Hebrews 1.1-12 John 1.1-14
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	<b>11.00am United Service at Balsham</b>			

### Church Flower Rota

	Gt. Abington	Lt. Abington	Hildersham
4 <sup>th</sup> December	No flowers	Amanda Marns (clean)	No flowers
11 <sup>th</sup> December	No flowers	Helen Rogers (clean)	No flowers
18 <sup>th</sup> December	All help please	Helen Rogers (clean)	All help please
25 <sup>th</sup> December		All help please	Kirsten Newble

### Churchwardens

Little Abington	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564
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### Assistant Churchwardens

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

### Parish Nurse

Kim Cox	Not 24 hrs, please leave a message	07498 994205
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