



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

January 2023



Photo by Andy Merryweather

**Snow and bitterly cold weather lasted from 12 to 19 December 2022.
Picture taken in North Road, Great Abington.**

Letter from the Editor



On Monday 12 December we all awoke to find our villages covered with snow, accompanied by bitterly cold temperatures. It looked beautiful (see cover photo) but icy roads and footpaths compromised safety. On 19 December overnight warm air and rain washed all the snow away.

The Big Breakfast on 17 December provided welcome warmth and company. Remember that Jeremiah's Café is a warm place to go on a cold day (page 17).

The next community oil order will be made at the end of January (page 14).

The churches organised an excellent Christmas Tree Festival. They were also delighted to receive so many Christmas gifts donated for refugee children (pages 5, 17).

The Ukrainians who have made their homes in our area are taking steps to find work and to continue their education. There is a huge need for those still in Ukraine to receive warm clothes and bedding to help them survive the extreme cold, exacerbated by Russian destruction of power supplies. Having just had a taste of temperatures of -10°C we should understand and support the Rotary Club's collection of winter aid to send to Ukraine (page 5). Having completed the initial six-month arrangement for hosting Ukrainians there is now a need to find new hosts for some families (pages 7, 8).

The District and County Councils have been discussing the potential congestion charge for those driving into Cambridge. They also tell us of several grants being made to help with the high cost of living, and advise on ways to get help with poor housing. There are plans for electric charging hubs (pages 8-9).

This has been the season for special Christmas services in our churches and the new curate, Ben Brady has been officiating at many of them. The carol services on 19 December had to compete with the extraordinary, nail-biting football World Cup Final.

Now that all that excitement is over we face 2023 no doubt with some trepidation on account of the difficult financial outlook. It will be increasingly important that our villages foster the co-operative community spirit that saw us cope with Covid, and past experience provides hope for positivity.

Best wishes for a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the February 2023 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Sunday 15 January 2023 at news@theabingtons.org.uk.

From the Seven Churches

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, please allow me to wish you a very Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that we are at the beginning of a new year, 2023. I hope you all had a joyous advent and Christmas times with those who you know and love. I have always thought that January has been a good time to reflect; taking stock of all that has been in the last year and our hopes and expectations for all that will be, this coming year.

What will 2023 bring I wonder? My mind turns back to those Eastern travellers long ago who saw a star in the sky, set out on an uncharted journey and eventually found a King. Not the sort of King expected but one who opened up new horizons for the whole world. The one who offers us unconditional love, forgiveness, and the way back to God; with no reason to hide away. When I reflect in January, I am asking questions which search for deeper meaning. What sort of journey will you take this year?

As Christians it's not so much of us walking with God but rather God walking with us. So, no matter what twists and turns the road takes us this coming year, or even if we slip from following in God's way, he will never give up on us and will never let us walk alone. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" Those verses from that passage, seem to offer us the light of a star to guide us as we navigate our journey in the year to come.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, may you know God's presence and grace as He walks with you into this New Year. My hope and my prayers are that God grants you the desires of your heart in 2023.

Yours in Christ Jesus.
Reverend Ben Brady.

Granta Vale Ministry Team

Rector **Revd Iain McColl** 890693: mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Curate **Revd Ben Brady** 344920: revdbenbrady@btinternet.com

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

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

In view of the current financial climate, a magnificent £2254.87 has been raised for the Poppy Appeal. This total includes, for the first time, contactless donations.

I would like to say a **BIG THANKYOU** to everyone for their donations to the Poppy Appeal, and also to the volunteers who braved the weather to collect them.

Your donations will help the Royal British Legion to continue their work helping today's service men and women, veterans and their families.

Joan Nevin

News from the Pews

As 2022 draws to a close the PCC wish to thank most sincerely our amazing community for the support we have received throughout the year.

Members of the church have worked extremely hard throughout the year organising various events to raise money – not just for our churches but for several charities too. These events could not have taken place without your help, both by working at, or supporting, events.

Our recent Christmas Tree Festival achieved the ultimate goal, as with all our events, 'to bring the community together'. There were brilliant displays of trees from 19 different clubs in the Abingtons.

Next Christmas we will once again be holding the Advent Window event – Watch this Space!

Revd Ben Brady is settling well in the vicarage. Please do acknowledge him if you see him around, he's very friendly and enjoys a chat.

The Parochial Church Council wish you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Graham, Patsy, Marilyn, Mary, Anne, Tony, and Richard.

Anne Hall



*Father Christmas at the Christmas Fayre,
26 November. Photo by Emma Jones*

Heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed Christmas gifts for children

On behalf of the churches in Abington and Hildersham, the Children's Church Council and Love Abington, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making such a difference to so many children's lives in Cambridgeshire this Christmas. Our appeal for Christmas gifts for refugees and children in emergency foster care in Cambridgeshire produced a response beyond our wildest dreams. On a cold, winter's afternoon in December, people arrived at St Mary's Little Abington and Holy Trinity Hildersham for the Advent tea with beautiful, thoughtful gifts which filled the large spaces around the Christmas trees in the two churches (see page 17). We collected well over 200 gifts and social services, coordinated by Jo Gilbert, needed three large cars to take them to the distribution point.

Our grateful thanks to Revd Ben Brady for housing the gifts at the Abington vicarage until they could be collected. Social Services were delighted because they were deeply concerned that these children would not be remembered at all this year. These children will never meet you but they will now know that there was someone out there who really cared and wanted them to feel loved at Christmas. Your gifts will be treasured. Ben said that it was a sobering experience listening to the people who came to collect the gifts. This year, social workers will also be able to give gifts to children who are living in abject food and fuel poverty as well as to the unaccompanied refugee children and children in foster care and children's homes.

A special thank you to all the young people, to Ben Brady, Mary Miles, Marilyn Broadhurst, Beatrix Spencer and Gill Talbot for all their time and effort in making this appeal a success.

Rosemary Mead and Amanda Palmer

Happy New Year!

For some of us its New Years' Resolutions time, and we're here to help you achieve your goals.

"In 2023 I would like to stop smoking"

We can offer you smoking cessation and our trained nurses will be happy to help you. Please ring us on 0300 234 5555 for further information and to arrange an appointment.

"In 2023 I would like to lose weight"

If you are over 16 and your BMI is greater than 25 you can access a free adult weight management service via our Social Navigation team. Please ring 01223 627745 or email granta.socialnavigator@nhs.net Please give the team your current weight and height.

"In 2023 I would like to stay healthy"

If you are aged between 40 and 74 and do not have a pre-existing long term medical condition, you may be eligible for a free NHS Health Check. Please ring us on 0300 234 5555 for further information and to book an appointment.

Also, are you up to date with the vaccinations you are eligible for, e.g. flu, shingles, pneumonia? If you are unsure please do not hesitate to contact us and we can check for you.

"In 2023 I would like to go on holiday"

Are you planning a holiday of a lifetime in 2023? The Granta Travel Clinic team can give you advice on what vaccines and medications you may need for your trip away. Simply fill out a travel form via our website or call in to pick up a leaflet.

From all of us here at Granta, we wish you a healthy and safe 2023.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

E. sandra.east@nhs.net

Call for winter aid for Ukraine refugees from Saffron Walden Rotary

A collection of winter items for the people of Ukraine is to be held on Saturday 14 January at Abington Primary School car park from 9.00am until 1.00pm. It is being supported by Guy Underwood, headmaster and Revd. Ian McColl of the Granta Churches.

The on-going conflict in Ukraine creates continuing hardship for those displaced and affected by the war. The current need is for good warm clothing and thermal garments, blankets, duvets and sleeping bags, towels, sheets and bedding items, toiletries and cleaning materials, medical supplies - bandages, plasters and activity games for children.

Tony Collett of Rotary in Saffron Walden will have a lorry parked on the playground in the High Street and with others will be on-hand to take items from cars. Cash donations to assist in transportation costs are also accepted and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on 14 January. 'As the war continues more is still needed and it's really comforting having Rotarians on our side to fight this massive problem' said Alan Hilliar co-founder of UK-Aid.

Tony says, 'call me on 01223 893 447 if you want me to collect items and by the way Jeremiah's Café at the Abington Institute will be open from 10.00am for those who would like a winter warmer'.

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ABINGTON

All members of the Ukrainian community in Abington are now well established and becoming independent economically and socially. Of the 11 who are in employment three are working remotely when the electricity is available in Ukraine, two are working in Cambridge, five are working in Abington and Hildersham and one is working for South Cambs. District Council.

Additionally, the younger members are studying remotely when electricity is available in Ukraine. One young person has a job in Abington and Cambridge and also studies remotely at a Ukrainian University, again depending on the availability of electricity in Ukraine.

The 10 villages in the Granta4Ukraine support group are now hosting 207 guests via 80 households.

South Cambs. has issued 808 visas and 750 guests have arrived.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme is now at a critical stage. The initial agreement was that hosts would provide a home for 6 months. In South Cambs. around 20% of current hosts are unable to continue with the scheme so there is a need for new host households. Anyone who can assist with this should text ROOM to 88802. The Ukrainian community in Abington is not affected by this situation. Also see page 9.

Some Ukrainians in neighbouring villages are now expressing their independence and confidence by seeking rental properties.

There is a great need for warm winter clothing both locally and in Ukraine. Locally donations can be received at the Free Church in Sawston on Thursday and Friday between 4pm and 6pm. Items for Ukraine can be sent via the Rotary Club of Saffron Walden details at <https://rotary-sw.org> NOTE : the Arthur Rank warehouse in Pampisford will no longer accept donations for mums4Ukraine. See page 5

Christmas in Ukraine is quite complicated and details are on page 14. Christmas time is essentially a family event. All the guests in Abington will be separated from their extended families and five will be separated from their close family. This will obviously produce some strong emotions because it was hoped that displaced Ukrainians could return to their homeland after six months, but as this now seems unlikely Abington will be their Christmas 2022 homeland where they can experience peace and the safety of the village community.

Information is available from: HFULiasion@scambs.gov.uk
<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/ukraine> and duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

01954-713070

Anton King

Abington and Hildersham Cycle Group

New bike for Christmas? Don't forget to join The Abington and Hildersham Cycle group! We now have 12 members but there are many more cyclists in the villages who have not joined yet. Please find time over the holiday to become a member.

The link is [Log In | Strava](#).

No route suggestion this month as the weather has not been too cycling-friendly! It hasn't stopped the Strava riders though. I know at least one who ventured out to Clare today (20/12/22) adding at least 60 km to the monthly total.

Watch out for more routes in 2023.

Seasons Greetings to all riders and supporters.

Alan Cooke
alancooke_uk@yahoo.co.uk

District and County Councillor's Report December 2022

'Making Connections' Consultation A 'Sustainable Travel Zone' road user charge has been proposed 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 aim 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 for public consultation. It is vital important that as many people as possible respond directly with their views. It will be one of the largest decisions that will affect the way that we travel in and out of Cambridge for generations to come.

The consultation, plus all the related documents, can be seen here - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022> - it is important to read the documents, as there is a lot of misinformation and personal opinion in the media.

A1307 Update Most of the work is complete but the schemes to be implemented are:

1. Completion of the new footpath from Hildersham to Dalehead Foods – due Spring 2023
2. The new roundabout on the A1307 at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton – due Spring 2023
3. Remodelling of the highly dangerous Dean Road junction on the A1307 due Spring 2023
4. The implementation of the 'Greenway', the non-motorised route between Linton and Cambridge. The route through Abington, is still TBD. The preferred route is likely to be via Pampisford Road and not through the village centre.

Cost of Living Support & Community Chest SCDC's Community Chest fund provides grants to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to improve quality of life locally. Criteria have been expanded to allow bids that include contributions for any project that has a positive impact for communities related to the cost-of-living crisis. Parish Councils of any size can now place grant bids. A ring-fenced total sum of £20,000 has been made available for these new Community Chest grant applications, provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System, to ensure support is co-ordinated effectively and directed at those in need locally this winter - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/community-chest-grants/>

South Cambs. District Council also has a cost of living 'Go Fund Me' page that is taking donations to use to purchase items needed to assist those that need support over the winter months - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/emergency-go-fund-me-page-will-help-residents-struggling-in-the-cost-of-living-crisis/>

Help for Households campaign – social tariffs The government has worked with a range of Internet Service Providers (IPs) and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to deliver low-cost broadband and phone service packages, called social tariffs, for those on low incomes. Social tariffs are available for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits, with some providers offering deals from £15 a month.

Warm Home Discount scheme reopened The Warm Home Discount scheme will provide a discount of £150 off electricity bills for three million low-income households this winter. Most households will receive the discount automatically. The government has launched a new online tool, to make it easier for the public to check if they are eligible. The online tool will guide customers through the eligibility criteria in England and Wales, asking questions about electricity supply, the benefits they receive and characteristics of their property. All customers will receive a letter between November and mid-January 2023 confirming their eligibility. Payment will be made automatically through energy suppliers by March 2023.

The government is also writing to customers who may be eligible, advising them to use the tool linked below to check eligibility, and to use the helpline for particularly complex cases.
<https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>

Linton Warm Hubs – Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs. District Council are working with communities across the district to open Warm Hubs to help people struggling with fuel cost or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are now 20 up and running with another seven on the way. Linton has opened its first two Warm Hubs, these are: St Marys Church - Thursday 11am - 2pm and Linton Free Church - Tuesday 1 - 4pm.

Ukraine – new hosts for guests needed -Cambridge City and South Cambs. have between them about 500 hosts for Ukraine guests. With the war in Ukraine continuing, the six-month hosting arrangements need to be renewed, though not all hosts can do so. We need new homes for about 200 people, so the councils have launched the GOT A SPARE ROOM campaign. If you are interested, please text ROOM to 88802.
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room/>

Electric Vehicle Charging The District Council has introduced a grant of up to £5,000 per application for electric vehicle charging points on community/public buildings within the district. It's a great opportunity to expand our electric charging network and make our area more accessible for those wanting to travel here via electric vehicle.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/>

Housing Issues If you rent a home in the private sector, we would urge you to seek help from the District Council if mould or associated issues are not resolved by your landlord. In South Cambridgeshire, the District Council has a role in ensuring that homes in the private sector and the Council's own properties do not contain health hazards. Most properties within the private rented sector in the district are in good condition, but the Council's Environmental Health team investigates any complaints. Private Sector and Housing Association tenants can complain about the condition of their home by emailing env.health@scams.gov.uk. The Council has the power to take appropriate enforcement action to resolve issues. This could include writing to the landlord to ensure the issue is resolved. The Council can also serve a legal notice to instruct works to be carried out. The District Council manages around 5,500 Council homes and takes reports of mould in any of them extremely seriously. Do not hesitate to contact Henry or John if you have an unresolved issue in your Council house.

Six Free Trees For the third year running South Cambs. is offering free trees to parish councils across the district to help provide homes and food for wildlife and combat climate change. The Six Free Trees campaign has seen 390 trees planted across South Cambridgeshire since its launch in 2019. Parish Councils should apply by 21 December.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/free-trees-for-a-cleaner-greener-south-cambridgeshire/>

CCC business planning for 2023-24 The County Council faces a budget gap of about £29 million due to inflation. Much work has been done to close that gap before the February budget meeting, but a £13 Million gap remains. Detailed papers on service areas will go to December committees at the County Council.

Festive Greetings We both wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a trouble-free, warm and peaceful New Year 2023.

Contact Information

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Diary for January 2023

Date	Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Tue	3 Art Group	10.00am	19
Wed	4 Yoga – course and drop in Partridge Group	9.30am 8.00pm	11 17
Thu	5 Abington Walking Group Granta Vale Harmony	9.50am 7.30pm	12 12
Fri	6 Low impact Aerobics Pilates	9.30am 10.30am	11 11
Mon	9 Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Physio Pilates Abington and Hildersham WI	9.30am 2.20pm 7.30pm	11 11 13
Tue	10 Art Group Table Tennis Reading Group – see page 12 for venue Hildersham Parish Council – Village Hall	10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	19 19 12 17
Wed	11 Yoga – course and drop in Line Dancing Partridge Group	9.30am 1.00pm 8.00pm	11 11 17
Thu	12 Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	13 Low impact Aerobics Pilates	9.30am 10.30am	11 11
Sat	14 Winter aid for Ukraine - Primary School car park	9.00am	6
Mon	16 Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Social Cycling - meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road Physio Pilates Great Abington Parish Council	9.30am 10.00am 2.20pm 7.15pm	11 13 11 15
Tue	17 Art Group Tuesday Club Table Tennis	10.00am 1.00pm 7.30pm	19 12 19
Wed	18 Yoga – course and drop in Partridge Group	9.30am 8.00pm	11 17
Thu	19 Craft Group Granta Vale Harmony	1.30pm 7.30pm	13 12
Fri	20 Low impact Aerobics Pilates Naturewatch	9.30am 10.30am 7.30pm	11 11 13
Sat	21 Abington Walking Group	9.50am	12
Mon	23 Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Physio Pilates Little Abington Parish Council	9.30am 2.20pm 7.30pm	11 11 16
Tue	24 Art Group Scrabble Club Table Tennis	10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	19 11 19
Wed	25 Yoga – course and drop in Partridge Group	10.00am 8.00pm	11 17
Thu	26 Abington Lunch (doors open) Granta Vale Harmony	12.45pm 7.30pm	13 12

Fri	27	Low impact Aerobics Pilates Film Nights – doors open	9.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	11 11 12
Mon	30	Rivercare and litter pickup - meet at bridge/ford Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Physio Pilates	9.30am 9.30am 2.20pm	 11 11
Tue	31	Tuesday Club Partridge Group	2.00pm 8.00pm	12 17

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.

Opening times in January 2023	
Thursday lunchtime	11.30am – 1.30pm (12 th , 19 th)
Friday	8.45am – 11.00am (13 th , 20 th , 27 th)
Saturday mornings	10.00am – 12 noon (7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th)

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

Note: Page 13 for the exciting Abington Lunch menu on 26 January.

Wheelie bin dates for January 2023 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Wed 4 Black	Tues 10 Green / Blue	Mon 16 Black	Mon 23 Blue	Mon 30 Black
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Yoga – Wednesdays 9.30am at Abington Institute

Contact Joan 890 629 or email 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 <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

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 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

Scrabble Club

The next meeting of the Scrabble Club will be on Tuesday 24 January at 7pm in the Institute. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome.

Sheena Fraser

Abington Gardening Club

Happy New Year to everybody. Members are reminded that there is no meeting in January. The next meeting is Monday 6 February at 7.30pm in the Institute when Robert Turner will give a talk on a visit to Keukenhof in Holland.

Subscriptions are £10 members, £3 guests. All welcome.

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

Film Nights

Our next films will be on 27 January 2023 at 7.30pm in the evening (doors open at 7pm). We hope to see you there! For more details please sign-up to our Film Night's newsletter at <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/the-institute/film-nights/> or at our email address films@theabingtons.org.uk.

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

I wish everybody a Happy New Year and hope you have had a good Christmas.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 17 January when we will celebrate the Chinese New Year with lunch from the Three Tuns. Please note that this meeting will start at 1pm.

On 31 January at 2pm we will have another beetle drive which proved to be a lot of fun on the last occasion.

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

10 January 2023	<i>House of Glass</i> Hadley Freeman	Rachel Haining
14 February	<i>The Promise</i> Damon Galgut	Anna Heron
14 March	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> Bonnie Garmus	Lisa Pechey

We will meet at 7.30pm at Rachel's to discuss *House of Glass*. Please confirm attendance to Rachel and copy me in.

If interested in joining our group, please email me: vhefford@yahoo.co.uk.

Valerie Hefford

Abington Walking Group

Our December walks were to Littlebury Green and Stapleford.

Your January strolls are on Thursday 5th and Saturday 21st.

We continue to walk throughout winter – weather permitting (we miss very few !!). The walks start from the Institute at 10am by shared transport to the walk venue.

Look forward to seeing you. For further information please contact:

Robin Harman on 891730 or robandkayharman@gmail.com



Granta Vale Harmony

Granta Vale Harmony is a mixed *a capella* 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

Social Cycling

We decided that the weather was not to our liking yesterday (19 Dec.) but still wanted our all day breakfast so went down to the Riverside Cafe at Ickleton and the food was A1. The next ride will be on Monday 16 January starting from 1 Bourn Bridge Rd at 10 o'clock. Come and join us as it is great fun, good company and excellent pit stops. Happy New Year. Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

Abington Craft Group

There will be a general get-together meeting on Thursday 19 January, 1.30 to 4.30pm at the Institute terrace. There will be a chance to pay £10 in advance for 11 Months Craft Group meetings in 2023. All welcome
Email- Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com or telephone 07970 614 194.

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Given the snow and icy weather, we had to cancel our Christmas party, but we will re-arrange it early in 2023 – watch this space! A big thank you to all those who helped make pine cone decorations and set up our display for the Christmas Tree Festival in Great Abington church, which despite the bitter cold was a great success. The Committee sends best wishes for a HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

Next meeting: Monday 9 January – *What's in the Sky?* with Jonathan Clough, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomy Society and a regular presenter on the monthly radio programme "The Sky Tonight" on Huntingdon Community Radio.

Visitors (£5 including refreshments) and new members welcome. Marilyn Broadhurst

Naturewatch Winter Meeting

On Friday 20 January at 7.30pm in the Institute we will have our Winter Naturewatch Meeting. We are pleased to welcome a close friend of Naturewatch, Iain Webb, who will talk about the wildlife he has seen during his 27 years of volunteering and working for the local Wildlife Trust. Everyone is welcome to what will be a very interesting meeting.

For details of local observations and our monthly summary check out the Naturewatch blog at <http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com/>



David Farrant



The Abington Lunch Thursday 26 January 2023



Fruit Juice
Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding,
Seasonal Vegetables
Trifle
Tea or Coffee

Please book your meal on 07554 43 33 17. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 24 January. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Doors open at **12.45pm**. Note that the lunch is open to **ALL** Abington and Hildersham residents. Guests only by special arrangement. **Only £5.**

Next lunch Thursday 23 February 2023

Christmas and New Year Holiday in Ukraine

Traditionally the Ukrainian Christmas starts on 6 January with Christmas Eve and is celebrated on 7 January as reckoned by the Julian Calendar. The festive season in Ukraine lasts one month – from St Nikolaus' Day (Magic Night) on 19 December and ends on 19 January, the date of the Feast of Epiphany. The Orthodox Church in Ukraine tends to follow the Julian Calendar. The Catholic Church tends to follow the Gregorian Calendar, with Christmas Day celebrated on 25 December.

Since 2017, both dates mentioned above have been recognised as Christmas Days and official holidays. The decision on when to celebrate is made by communities.

Advent is important for those fasting for a month before Christmas. The final fasting day is Christmas Eve - Sviaty Vechir, (a Holy Evening). This can involve traditional house and table decorations with a symbolic sheaf of wheat, Didukh (Grandfather Spirit). Wisps of hay can also be present on the table as a reminder of the Bethlehem Manger.

To celebrate, people sing Koliadky (carols). In villages they do it walking from house to house to greet their neighbours.

In some regions and some traditional households Kolach (Christmas Bread) is placed in the centre of the table. The bread is braided into a ring, and three such rings are placed one on top of the other with a candle in the centre of the top one. The three rings symbolise the Trinity and the circular form represents Eternity.

The whole family gathers for dinner. When the children see the first star (of Bethlehem) in the evening sky, the dinner may begin.

The dinner comprises 12 dishes, which may vary regionally or by preference. They do not contain meat, milk or eggs because the period of fasting does not finish until Christmas Day. Each dish is dedicated to one of Christ's Apostles.

The first main dish is Kutia "God's Food" (sweet grain pudding that comprises boiled wheat, poppy seed and honey.)

Then comes Borshch (beet soup) with Vushka (boiled dumplings filled with chopped mushrooms and onions).

Then a variety of fish – baked, broiled, fried, cold in aspic, fish balls, marinated herring and so on.

Next is Varenyky (boiled dumplings filled with cabbage, potatoes, buckwheat grains or prunes). There are also Holubtsi (stuffed cabbage) and the supper ends with Uzvar "God's Drink"(a traditional drink of 12 different stewed fruits although a mix of apples, pears and perhaps plums are acceptable)

The so-called Old New Year is 14 January. January 13th is Malanka, a Ukrainian Folk Holiday which, according to the Julian Calendar, is New Year's Eve.

However, the Gregorian Calendar is used for secular and official celebrations so 31 December and 1 January are the New Year festivities for many, just as everywhere in Europe.

Another holiday celebration is St Basil's Day which is when gifts are given to children, 2 January is the Gregorian Calendar date mainly celebrated in East Ukraine whereas 14 January is the Julian Calendar date, mainly in the West of the country. Traditionally Vasilopita, a rich bread baked with a coin inside, is served.

Anton King

Community Heating Oil Ian Richardson will take orders for domestic heating oil from 23 to 26 January with expected delivery by 10 February. The minimum order is 500 litres.

Please provide Ian with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, postcode and telephone number. Please contact abingtonoil@icloud.com or phone 07592 731591

2023 Happy New Year to all our residents. On behalf of our community the Parish Council give thanks to all those who do such sterling work in reaching out to those in need. We know that there are lots of members of our community who, quietly and often unseen, give support for others who require help.

Potholes With the recent snow, frost and heavy rain, these are likely to increase in number in the coming weeks. Please report potholes via the Highways website preferably with a photo. <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Faulty Streetlights? If you spot any malfunctioning street lamps please report via <http://www.lightingcambridgeshire.com/contact-us/report-fault.htm> You will need to quote the lamp reference number on the lamp post.

Planning

22/04634/ADV - The Portway Granta Park - Retention of a directional sign and fascia sign (both non-illuminated).

22/04621/FUL - Phase 2 Land Zone 2 Granta Park - Erection of enlarged gas / liquid nitrogen storage buildings and screened compounds for back-up generators to be located in the reconfigured service yards to Buildings F, G & H in association with approved R&D buildings consented under application S/1110/15/OL &

22/04467/S73 - Phase 2 Land Zone 2 Granta Park

S73 variation of condition 1 (Approved plans) of reserved matters application 21/05165/REM (Reserved Matters application for a Research and Development buildings and associated car parking comprising layout, scale and appearance of the buildings, landscaping and associated infrastructure with respect to the individual development plots (including parking), pursuant to outline application S/1110/15/OL) for the reconfiguration to the approved good and service yard and associated landscaping and frontage parking adjacent to buildings F, G and H together with the removal of 2 vehicular access points and associated alterations to the approved decked car park.

22/05051/HFUL - 16 Chalky Road - Two storey extension to side and rear. Front door to front elevation.

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

District Council decisions

22/04299/CL2PD - 6 Magna Close - Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for loft conversion with rear facing dormer and front facing rooflight windows. Certificate granted

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 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 (892 000)

Little Abington Parish Council

Street parties road closure permission

If you are planning a street party for the coronation on 6 May, guidance can be found here: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/highway-events/coronation-events. All applications must be received by 10 March. For highway events it's earlier on 10 February.

Salting icy roads

When roads are icy, parish councillors spread salt from the salt bins on potentially dangerous corners and pavements such as Church Lane. But please feel free to spread some salt when necessary yourselves.

Lorry parking at Fourwentways

We have discussed the location of double yellow lines with the county council's highways department: from Bourn Bridge Road up to the Shell garage. Our local police officer is keen to enforce this, but it will also need residents and parish councillors to report any illegal parking to the police.

New parish councillor

We welcomed Matthew Appleton, our new parish councillor, to the two meetings detailed below.

Meeting on Monday 28 November

Public participation involved questions regarding Sluice Wood and the ongoing noise problem from the TWI site.

Planning updates

22/03930/HFUL, 13 Bourn Bridge Road Little Abington, extensions. Approved by SCDC

22/02146/HFUL, Abington Pottery 26 High Street, outdoor studio. Approved by SCDC

22/02760/HFUL, 42 West Field, extensions. Approved by SCDC

22/03027/HFUL, 53 Church Lane, extensions and recladding of dormer window. Approved by SCDC

Planning meeting on Thursday 8 December

22/04621/FUL, 22/04634/ADV, 22/04467/S73, S/1110/15/CONDB 20/03409/CONDH and 21/03822/CONDA (all projects on Granta Park) No comments

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

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

Next meetings Monday 23 January 2023 Monday 27 March

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/

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.

Hildersham News

The Advent Tea Party was very well attended and many festive foodie treats were enjoyed. The children made excellent sales people on their craft stall, so many village trees will be beautifully adorned with their decorations.



We were delighted to raise over £400 for church funds.

We were thrilled with the response to our appeal for gifts for refugees and children in care in Cambridgeshire. We received 50 gifts which were joined with the gifts from the Abingtons and collected by social services for distribution. Gift collection at Little Abington Church in photo. See also page 5.

The Children's Church Council

This is a very busy time for the children, making decorations for the tea party, making and delivering Christmas cards to every home in the village, painting pebbles and distributing around the village for you to find, and rehearsing and performing for the Service of nine lessons and carols. We have really enjoyed all this busyness and look forward to planning new things for 2023.

Hildersham Parish Council

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>

Jeremiah's Café

The café will be reopening on Saturday 7 January 2023. It is a warm place to go on a cold day. Opening times are shown on page 11. There is always someone to talk to and prices are very reasonable.

There is a special lunch on the fourth Thursday in the month. The menu for January is on page 13.

All are welcome.



The Partridge Group

The Partridge Group currently has meetings planned for two dates in January and February 2023

Tuesday 31 January 2023 - Dr Matt Bothwell – Public Astronomer, Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge *Latest research, life on other planets - distant galaxies, black holes.....*

Wednesday 8 February - Dr Shuaib Nasser - Consultant in allergy and asthma at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with a talk about *Asthma deaths.....*

These talks and discussions start at 8pm in the Terrace Room of the Village Institute. Note the first is on a TUESDAY but the other is Wednesday - others are still at a planning stage.

Please contact Barry Brooks for further details, email b.m.brooks@talk21.com



Girlguiding Linton District

It has been a fabulous year for all our units., culminating in a winter camp for 1st Linton Guides, held outside in the woods at the Jarman Centre.

They even had a bouncy obstacle course (see photo). They also made

Christmas gnomes with bobble hats for Christmas. There were visits to the pantomime for some of our Guides and Brownies. Oh no there weren't ...oh yes there were... Our Trefoil Guild enjoyed their Christmas dinner night out together. There has also been many more badges earned and presented. Some of our leaders are finding it difficult to sew their badges on as their camp blankets have so many now. We are celebrataing the end of a year of county events bringing us closer together. Meeting new faces and making new friends from around the whole of Cambridgeshire, stretching from Wisbech to Melbourn. Don't forgt you are always welcome to come and see what we do.



Linton Rainbows 5-7 yrs, Linton, Balsham, Burrough Green and Horseheath Brownies 7-10 yrs, 1st and 2nd Linton Guides and Brinkly Guides 10-14 yrs and Linton and Brinkley Rangers 14-18 yrs, INSPIRE 18-26 yrs and Trefoil Guild for adults only. We are a busy district but we do have a lot of fun.

Contact Louisa on 07711 614 328

Lintondistrict@gmail.com

A new publication by the Abington History Group

The Abington History Group new publication is now available in the Village shop or from members of the Abington History Group, price £3.00. This links both 'world events' and what was happening in Abington in the same period during the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II from 1926 to 1952 and on to 2022.

January Services (not Abingtons and Hildersham) 10.30 Online Fellowship available for all

DATE	9.30 am	11.00 am	pm
1 st January		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
8 th January	Communion Weston Colville Morning Worship West Wickham	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Evensong 6.00pm <i>West Wrattin</i>
15 th January	Communion <i>West Wrattin</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
22 nd January	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
29 th January	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> <i>West Wrattin</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

Church Services for January 2023

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings
1 st January	11.00pm United Service at Balsham			Numbers 6.22-end Luke 2.15-21
8 th January		11.00am Communion		Isaiah 42.1-9 Matthew 3.13-end
15 th January	11.00am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	Isaiah 49.1-7 John 1.29-42
22 nd January		4.00pm Evensong	11.00am Communion	Isaiah 9.1-4 Matthew 4.12-23
29 th January	11.00am Communion		9.30am Morning Worship	Malachi 3.1-5 Luke 2.22-40

Church Flower Rota

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
1 st January	Patsy Randall	Marilyn Broadhurst	Kirsten Newble
8 th January	Patsy Randall	Sylvia Gilmour and Mary Miles	Kirsten Newble
15 th January	Patsy Randall	Sylvia Gilmour and Mary Miles	Kirsten Newble
22 nd January	Patsy Randall	Lesley Crisp and Rosemary Mead	Kirsten Newble
29 th January	Patsy Randall	Lesley Crisp and Rosemary Mead	Kirsten Newble

Churchwarden

<i>Little Abington</i>	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564
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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 hrs. Please leave a message - Kim will respond when next available.	07498 994205
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