



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

March 2023



Photo by Andy Merryweather
Lesser Redpoll seen in January 2023

Letter from the Editor



The days are lengthening, the snowdrops and aconites are being overtaken by daffodils and spring seems to be on the way. The cover picture and page 5 record delightful birds seen locally and remind us of the joys of living in the country. Elsewhere people less fortunate are having to cope with earthquakes, war and extreme climate events. Let us count our blessings. Please note that British Summer Time begins on 26 March when the clocks go forward one hour.

The Ukrainians living in our community are becoming more independent, finding homes and jobs (page 7).

Page 8 reports a huge number of responses to the consultation on the proposed congestion charge for Cambridge. The next upgrades on the A1307 are described and seem to take a long time and to be potentially quite disruptive. Council budgets are outlined.

The churches have an interesting programme of events planned for the year ahead and draw attention to services and gifts of posies to mark Mothering Sunday. Regrettably the much-appreciated Parish Nurse service is having to close. Granta Medical is about to conduct a survey to obtain feedback from patients that will point to ways to improve the NHS services. A new NHS initiative offers Talking Therapies to help older people to feel brighter. Pages 5, 6, 18.

The Baby and Toddler Group is to meet on both Mondays and Fridays and the Pre-School is arranging another Bags2School collection on Tuesday 28 March. The PTFA reports interesting events. Granta Vale Harmony is having an Open Evening on Thursday 30 March for all comers who wish to sing. The Cricket Club is offering Indoor Nets sessions in March. Pages 12 to 14.

There are a few allotments available for new enthusiasts. The AALGA and the Hildersham Village Hall Trust are organising quiz nights on 3 and 31 March respectively (pages 7, 17).

I am delighted that we have a volunteer to take over the role of editor of *the Abingtons and Hildersham News*. We just need to agree a handover date. This March issue marks 16 years since I first became editor in April 2007 and I have found it fascinating and full of job satisfaction. Time for a change.

Valerie Silvey

Contents

From Seven Churches, Granta Vale Ministry Team	4	Line dancing, Scrabble, Baby & Toddler Group, Gardening, Film Nights, Tuesday Club, Reading	12
News from the Pews, John Coates, Little Egret	5	Crafting, Granta Vale Harmony, Walking Group, PTFA	13
Granta Medical, Parish Nurse, Friends of the Rosie	6	Social Cycling, Cricket Club, WI, Abington Lunch, Great Abington	14
Ukraine update, Allotments, Quiz	7	Parish Council, Mobile library	15
Councillors' reports, Red Cross services	8 9	Little Abington Parish Council	16
Diary, Café, Bins, Yoga, Aerobics/Pilates, Physio Pilates	10 11	Hildersham News and Parish Council Talking Therapies, Church services	17 18

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

From the Seven Churches

It is good to be back in the parishes after six months sabbatical when I was not allowed to take services! During my time off I have reflected on the past and how I might go forward in the future. The realisation that my time needs to be used wisely was a frequent thought. In looking back I saw how God has worked through me in amazing ways to reach out to many different people. At the heart of this was showing God's love for each of us. Bishop Stephen recently spoke of 'time as love', whether to help someone or pause to be quiet, and know that whatever you do it is a gift.

This gift for me was coming back to the congregations within our benefice, knowing they were my family and realising how much I had missed them. Catching up with their stories, celebrating good news and mourning those we have lost. The future then for me will be finding the space to notice God's creation and pray for our fractured world.

Noticing the changes in the season is always a good thing to do. Spring is beginning to take shape with more daylight in the evenings and witnessing new life in the bulbs that are growing in our gardens. My favourites have always been snowdrops, with petals moving gently in the breeze.

As you enjoy our countryside maybe you will experience a very special moment, like R.S Thomas did. He was a Welsh priest and poet, who wrote the poem 'The Bright Field' to describe a shining of grace, beauty, inspiration and epiphany — where we fleetingly encounter the divine or feel a deep connection to the universe. Let us take time to notice.

The following is a short extract from 'The Bright Field'.

*Life is not hurrying on to a receding future,
nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*

As you read this article we will have already moved into the period of Lent, but in the lead up to Easter Day may we be open to those special moments that are so fleeting but also very uplifting.

Rev. Kathy Bishop

Granta Vale Ministry Team

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

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

Licensed Lay Ministers **Steven Wheeler** 290396: **Alistair Collen** 891561

Kristi Stewart Elliott kristimse@gmail.com

Keith Day 891527: **Rosemary Mead** 891718

Hannah Threlfall hthrelfall82@gmail.com

Parish Administrator **Caroline Walshe** 891443: 7churches.seven@gmail.com

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

News from the Pews

On the nineteenth day of this month, the fourth Sunday of Lent, we will be celebrating 'Mothering Sunday'. This year the service will be held in Great Abington Church. We all have different ways and different reasons for celebrating this day. In our churches here in the Abingtons we keep the tradition of handing small posies to the children in church to give to their mothers during the church service along with Christian thoughts of Mothering Sunday. Posies will also be left in Little Abington porch and on the doorstep of number 77 High Street (Patsy's house) for those who are unable to make the service. Maybe you know a mother who is alone on this day; please do take a posy to her.

In February members of the PCC enjoyed a delicious working lunch at the vicarage courtesy of Revd Ben where numerous issues were discussed. Tony Orgee (treasurer) thanked the committee for all their hard work fundraising for both churches throughout 2022. Joyously it was felt that numbers attending church had risen slightly during the last few months which is greatly encouraging.

We offer our grateful thanks to The Welding Institute for their generous financial contribution to our churches.

Fundraising events throughout 2023: Dates to be confirmed.

May: Scarecrow Festival with a Royal Theme

August: Vicarage Garden Party

September: An Evening of Laughter with the late Eric Morecambe's daughter – Gail

September: Harvest Supper

November: Church Christmas Fayre

December: Advent Windows.

There will of course be further up-dates on all these events.

John Coates – John sadly passed away on 14 December. Intercession prayers were said for John, his wife Dora, sons Ian and Martin and their families in Great Abington Church on Christmas Day morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dora and all the family at this sad time.

Anne Hall

Little Egret on the river Granta in the village, January 2023

Photo by Jade Taylor-Salazar



Granta Medical Practices Update, March 2023

Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) survey will go live 1 March 2023, and will remain open until 31 March 2023. Please find below the web link and QR code to take part. For those of you that do not have access to a computer or mobile telephone, please call into any Granta surgery and pick up a paper copy.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KP86J9B>

We would like to thank all of you in advance for taking the time to complete this questionnaire and thank you to our PPG committee who have worked tirelessly putting this survey together. Whilst we cannot guarantee to fix the NHS, we do really want to try and accommodate patient feedback where appropriate and possible.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Sandra East on sandra.east@nhs.net

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

Parish Nursing Service

In 2015 the Granta Vale Churches launched this service for an initial three-year trial period. Eight years later and after three outstanding nurses; Teresa, Claire and Kim I have to tell you that the service will be closing from the end of February 2023. Although of course I make this announcement with some sadness I am also immensely proud of what it has been possible to achieve both in terms of providing support to individuals and their families and also in helping to support and develop caring communities within our villages.

As some of you will know Kim our Parish Nurse is retiring and it has not been possible to recruit a suitable replacement. Accordingly the Parish Nurse Management Group and the Churches have decided to celebrate what has been achieved and end the service. We are however actively exploring other options by which we can continue to support our communities.

Kim has discussed with all existing patients arrangements for their future care; should you have any concerns regarding a health matter may I please encourage you to contact Granta Medical Practice. Should you wish to discuss a spiritual matter please feel free to contact any member of the Ministry Team.

May I, on behalf of the Management Group, offer sincere thanks to all who have supported the Parish Nursing Service in any way over the past eight years.

Keith Day

Friends of the Rosie

We wish all our customers, supporters and especially all the new Mums a Happy Mothering Sunday and all the very best of health throughout 2023.

We are sharing our extensive catalogue on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/RosieinStitches/ so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts for special friends and family.

Come and see us in person at **Bar Hill Community Market, 10.30am to 2pm on Saturday 4 March and Saturday 1st April**

We have links to other stores on our www.rosieinstitches.org.uk website, Aurelia London are offering **a complimentary Miracle Cleanser 50ml when you spend £40! Worth £22**

We are continuing to accept donations of unwanted crafting materials for our crafters to use or for us to sell on eBay. We are still recruiting new crafters to our team.

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters or display a small selection of our wares. Contact Mary Sanders on 01223 356 615. Further details are given on our website www.rosieinstitches.org.uk.

Ukrainian Community in Abington

Five people from the Abington Ukrainian community have left their hosts and are now independent and living in Cambridge. Another Ukrainian has joined the community, which makes a total community of 13 in seven households, with 12 supporting households.

In South Cambs. Ukrainians are now leaving their hosts and becoming confident and independent in the community. However, there is a need for household items because many rental properties are unfurnished.

If anyone knows of any property for rent would you please contact me because I am assisting a Ukrainian friend to become independent.

There is still a need for host households. Anyone who wishes to assist should text ROOM to 88802.

Information is available from:- HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk
www.scambs.gov.uk/ukraine
duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

Anton King

You can't get fresher than from plot to pot

Abington Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association (AALGA) have one or two vacant plots available for rent on the Linton Road site. In this period of rising food prices there's no better time for you to get into growing your own. You'll also get some good exercise in the fresh air at a cost of less than a pound a week. You can make new friends and produce your own vegetables and fruit, maybe also acquiring some new skills along the way. This is your opportunity to discover how good vegetables can taste when they've come straight from the plot to the pot! And you can be confident they're not laced with agrochemicals too.

Now is the time to start, so that you can be ready to begin planting as the weather warms up. Contact Brian, who is the Membership Secretary, on brianhaydensmith@hotmail.com who can show you what is available.

Bernie Talbot, AALGA Chairman.

AALGA QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 3 March

The Abington Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association's (AALGA) annual Quiz Night is at the Abington Institute on Friday 3 March 2023. Doors open at 7.15pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm. A supper – fish (can be gluten free) or plain or battered jumbo sausage or veggie burger, all plus chips – will be served during the quiz. There will also be a raffle on the night – proceeds to Love Abington to support their foodbank activity. Tickets are £10 per person inclusive of supper. You are invited to bring your own drinks.

The quiz is for teams/tables of eight people. Please form your teams with a team leader ready to buy a block of eight tickets. Tickets should be bought from Gill Smith (email: <mailto:richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk> or tel. 01223 892 759). Supper orders should be confirmed to Gill Smith by **28 February**. The default will be fish and chips.

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Richard Smith, AALGA

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 are on sale in the village shop for £3.

Coronation celebrations 6&7 May

Plans are in hand for the Abingtons to celebrate the King's coronation. A Coronation Working Group, with the support of Great and Little Abington Parish Councils, is planning events for all the family. Please watch this space for further information.

Richard Smith, for the Coronation Working Group

District and County Councillors' Report February 2023

'Making Connections' Consultation

Thank you to all those who fed their views into the Greater Cambridge Partnership's public consultation, which is more commonly known as the 'congestion charge consultation'. There were in the region of 24,000 responses, which equates to around 15% of the entire population of South Cambridgeshire (this doesn't sound like a lot, but it is!).

A1307 Update

The upgrades to the A1307 are moving forward at some pace now. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body implementing these schemes) are now in the final phases of making the changes to 'our' section of the road, between Haverhill and the A11. The next phases being constructed are:

1. Completing the improved footpath between Pilgrims (previously Dalehead Foods) and Hildersham. This work includes the removal of the eastbound layby as that is needed to accommodate the widened path. This work has started now and will take a few months to complete.
2. The installation of a new roundabout at the Bartlow Road, Linton junction of the A1307. This is a relatively major piece of infrastructure and will take at least 9 months to complete. There will be minimal disruption whilst the work is happening as the plan is to construct a temporary carriageway around the construction site so that the A1307 will very rarely need to fully close. There may be some road closures of Bartlow Road, Linton and Linton Road, Bartlow – but luckily the diversion routes for these closures are very short. The GCP are also planning on holding one, possibly two, public meetings in Linton in February and March to display the full detail of these plans to anyone that has an interest or concern.

Budgets & Council Tax

February is always budget setting time for local authorities. This is when they set out the areas of the council on which they will be spending/allocating their budgets. It is also when they can choose to raise council tax to help pay for the services that they have to provide.

County Council – the County Council will be implementing a 4.99% increase on council tax. This is split between 2% increase on Adult Social Care and 2.99% on the Basic Council Tax rate. This equates to £73 per year for a band D rated property.

District Council – SCDC will be implementing an additional £5 per year on band D properties, which equates to circa a 3.5% rise.

There are also other precept setting authorities in Cambridgeshire. They are, at time of writing, proposing the following increases:

Fire Authority - £4.95 per annum increase for band D properties

Police & Crime Commissioner – 5.8% increase which equates to 29p per week on a band D property.

Combined Authority – This is a brand new tax that is being introduced which will exclusively help to support bus services in Cambridgeshire. The proposal is £12 per year for band D properties.

Business Rates

It is looking very likely that there will be hikes in business rates over the coming years. These rates are set nationally but are collected by the District Council. It seems quite counterproductive, to us at least, to offer a lot of financial support to keep businesses going during the pandemic and then to clobber them with increased business rates to help pay for said financial support. Please do make any local business owners aware of what looks likely to be coming!

20mph schemes

The proposed timetable for applications for funding for new 20mph speed limits is as follows.

- Go 'live' with application process on-line for new schemes (February 2023)
- Application period (February to April 2023)
- Prioritisation (May to June 2023)
- Committee report for approval (July 2023)
- Programming and delivery of schemes (August 2023 onwards)

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. Linton now has the following three open:

- St Marys Church – Thursday 11am – 2pm
- Linton Free Church – Tuesday 1pm – 4pm
- Sports Pavilion – Wednesday 1pm – 4pm

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 for us to expand our electric charging network and make our area more accessible for those wanting to travel here via electric vehicle.

www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/

Water Resources Consultation Response

SCDC Cabinet has approved the Council's response to Water Resources East consultation on a Draft Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England. The response underlines the need for certainty about future water supplies as a key prerequisite of the emerging Local Plan.

Refugees

The District Council has received Government funding to buy an additional 30 houses, that are to be used to house Ukrainian and Afghan refugees. It is hoped to have them in place by the end of the year. In the longer run, when no longer required for this purpose, the houses will become part of the social housing stock.

Contact Information

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

British Red Cross Mobility Aids Service

This is now at its new permanent premises at Lothbury House, Technopark, Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8PB Tel: 07590 962 907, Sat Nav: 'Lothbury House' CB5 8PB What 3 words: 'edit.flames.open'

We hire out wheelchairs and toileting aids. However, we also have a selection of donated, cleaned and serviced items, such as Zimmer frames, rollators, crutches, walking sticks etc. For these we just ask for a donation and they are yours. From time to time we have reconditioned wheelchairs which have been fully checked, serviced and cleaned and these we offer at reasonable prices. If you have any questions contact

Gaynor Farrant tel. 07817 517 871 or email gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

Diary for March 2023

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Wed	1	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	2	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Fri	3	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		AALGA Quiz – doors open	7.15pm	7
Mon	6	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Abington Gardening Club	7.30pm	12
Tue	7	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
		Hildersham Parish Council - Village Hall	7.30pm	17
Wed	8	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	9	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Fri	10	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	13	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Abington and Hildersham WI	7.30pm	14
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
Tue	14	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
		Reading Group – see page 12 for venue	7.30pm	12
Wed	15	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
		Abington Group	7.30pm	19
Thu	16	Craft Group	1.30pm	12
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Fri	17	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	18	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	13
Mon	20	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	15
Tue	21	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
Wed	22	Yoga – course and drop in	10.00am	11
		Social Cycling - meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	11.00am	14
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	23	Abington Lunch (doors open)	12.45pm	14
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13

Fri	24	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		Film Nights – doors open	7.00pm	12
Mon	27	Rivercare and litter pickup - meet at bridge/ford	9.30am	
		Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.30pm	16
Tue	28	Bags2School – textiles collection	a.m.	12
		Mobile Library	a.m.	15
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club - fish and chip lunch	1.00pm	12
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	11
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
Wed	29	Yoga – course and drop in	10.00am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	30	Granta Vale Harmony Open Evening	7.30pm	13
Fri	31	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		Hildersham Spring Quiz – doors open	7.00pm	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.

Jeremiah's Café Opening times in March 2023

Thursday lunchtime 11.30am – 1.30pm (2nd, 9th, 16th)

Friday morning 8.45am – 11.00am (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th)

Saturday mornings 10.00am – 12 noon (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th)

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

Note: Page 14 for the Abington Lunch menu on 23 March.

Wheelie bin dates for March 2023 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 6	Mon 13	Mon 20	Mon 27
Green / Blue	Black	Green / Blue	Black

Yoga – Wednesdays 9.30am at Abington Institute

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Christina Heinz on cambridgepilates@outlook.com

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

Scrabble Club

The next meeting of the Scrabble Club will be on Tuesday 28 March at 7pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome.
Sheena Fraser

Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

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

Abington Pre-School Bags2School fundraiser

On Tuesday 28 March there will be a Bags2School textiles collection of clothes, bedding, hats, belts, handbags and soft toys. Please leave bags in the school bike sheds in the morning.

Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting will be on Monday 6 March in the Institute at 7.30pm when Robin Bletsoe will give a talk entitled 'Gardens of Cornwall'. Subscriptions are £10 members, £3 guests. All welcome.
Kay Harman, Secretary tel 891 730 or email: robandkayharman@gmail.com

Film Nights

Our next film will be on Friday 24 March 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 Nights newsletter at 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).

Our first meeting in March will be on Tuesday 14th at 2pm. Richard Howe is kindly giving a talk titled: Marshalls-The Future.

The second meeting on the 28 March will start at 1pm as we will be having a fish and chip lunch. This will be followed by Barry Brooks making a presentation of his work Chronicling the history of the Abingtons during the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

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

14 March	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> Bonnie Garmus	Lisa Pechey
11 April	<i>Sorrow and Bliss</i> Meg Mason	Sue Batty
9 May	<i>Family Album</i> Penelope Lively	Mary Conochie

We will meet at 7.30pm at Lisa's to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry*. Please confirm attendance to Lisa and copy me in.
Valerie Hefford

Abington Craft Group

Next meeting on Thursday 16 March, 1.30 to 4.30pm on the Institute terrace. Bring your own projects or help with the production of items for the Craft Group Stall. Everyone welcome. Tea and cake provided - £2 per session.

For information email- Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com or telephone 07970 614 194.

In April we will hold a 'repair' session. We may be able to help with missing buttons or SIMPLE clothing repairs. Watch out for posters or the News for further details.

Granta Vale Harmony

Granta Vale Harmony is a mixed *acapella* singing group. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Abington Institute, and anyone is welcome to join in.

Contact details – Peter Lester telephone 07884 932 215 or email haverhi11@talktalk.net



Thursday 30 March 7.30 – 10pm Abington Village Institute

Come along for an evening of song with Granta Vale Harmony and their Guests local ladies choir "The Glams" and Huntington Quartet "Alchemy". Free Entry Refreshments available, donations on the evening for our 2023 charity "Dementia Forward" call Peter Lester 078 84 932 215 for further info or to reserve your seats



Abington Walking Group

Our most recent walks have been to Fen Ditton and Melbourn & Meldreth.

Your March strolls are on Thursday 2nd and Saturday 18th.

We continue to walk throughout Winter – weather permitting (we miss very few !!).

All of the 2023 walk dates are on the Institute notice board. The walks start from the Institute at 10am by shared transport to the walk venue. When we get into the Spring we hope to include a pub so watch this space ! Look forward to seeing you.

For further information please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 or robandkayharman@gmail.com

PTFA Update

Class 3 Cake Sale Class 3 are holding their cake sale on Monday 13 March. Cakes will be on sale from the school playground from 3pm until around 4.20pm to allow children attending after school clubs to be involved.

Easter Egg Hunt The Easter Egg Hunt is due to take place between 12 noon and 2pm on Saturday 25 March. Tickets are £2.50 each and can be bought in advance on Parent Pay or can be purchased on the day. An Easter message will be hidden around the recreation ground and playground area and once all the letters for the Easter message have been found, children can return their completed forms to collect their Easter eggs. Cold refreshments will be available on the day. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us!

Your School Lottery Abington and Hildersham residents are encouraged to take part in the school's lottery which is drawn weekly, on Saturdays, at the cost of £1 per ticket. There is a £25k national jackpot up for grabs each week, as well as a weekly cash prize for one lucky individual within our local community. Forty per cent of the value of ticket sales goes directly to the school, too, so it's a great way to support your local primary school while allowing yourself a chance to win a prize or two! Visit www.yourschoollottery.co.uk, click 'Buy a Ticket' and search for 'Great Abington Primary' or alternatively call 01865 582 828 to register.

PTFA If you would like to attend one of our meetings and potentially help volunteer at one of our events, we would love to hear from you. In the first instance please message us via ptfa@greatabington.school.
Joanna Chapman

Social Cycling

Five of us enjoyed a very pleasant ride on a lovely spring morning through Babraham Institute and then up the Magog hill. Having recovered our breath, we cycled downhill to the Granary at Stapleford for well-earned refreshment. We came home using the Rowley Lane bridleway. Our next ride will be on Wednesday 22 March starting from 1 Bourn Bridge Road at 11 o'clock with a stop for an all-day breakfast so come and join us. We had the great pleasure of one of our Ukrainian visitors today. Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

Abington Cricket Club Indoor Nets Session

Abington Cricket Club will be hosting Indoor Net Sessions at The Leys School sports centre during February and March 2023. All adults interested in playing cricket in the 2023 season are invited to attend. It is perfect opportunity for all skill levels to practise in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Cost: £2.00 per person per session

Time: 7 to 9pm (All)

Dates:	6 February 2023	13 March 2023
	20 February 2023	20 March 2023
	6 March 2023	27 March 2023

For more details, or questions about adult and junior cricket in Abington, please email david@pimblett.me.uk.

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Our Christmas party was postponed because of snow and ice in December, so we decided to go out to lunch for our February meeting instead. This coincided with Palentine's / Galantine's Day, a relatively new occasion to our generation, which celebrates platonic soulmates and female friendships on the day before Valentine's Day. Dressed in pink and red we enjoyed an excellent lunch at Gog Magog Golf Club and shared the love with chocolate hearts to take home afterwards.

Next meeting: Monday 13 March 7.30pm – Annual General Meeting: a chance to have your say on the future of our WI and elect a new committee. We also welcome back Amanda Sutherland, an entertaining and inspirational woman, with a talk on "Make do and mend".

New members and visitors are always welcome to our Women's Institute.

Marilyn Broadhurst



The Abington Lunch Thursday 23 March 2023



Fruit Juice
Chicken and ham pie,
Seasonal vegetables

Spring dessert
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 21 March. 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 27 April 2023

Village clean-up day The annual litter pick event is on Saturday 15 April from 10am to 12 noon. The event is run by both parish councils who take it in turn to organise. If you wish to take part just come along to the institute (at any time over the two hours) to pick up the equipment and choose or be allocated an area to clean. Please come along and help to make the Abingtons a cleaner place.

Street Lamps Is it darker than normal in your life? Look up and check your street lamps are working – if not, please make a note of the lamp post number and report the fault at www.scams.gov.uk/environmental-health/streetlighting/report-a-streetlighting-fault/

Did you know?

Great Abington Parish Council use part of their precept (a tax that Parish Councils charge their local residents in order to cover spending on service delivery within the community) to fund, together with Little Abington Parish Council, the running costs of the recreation ground.

Planning

Ref: 22/05549/OUT – TWI Granta Park. Outline application for the development of the TWI campus (including means of access) for use by TWI. See also page 16.

Ref: 23/00129/FUL - 33 South Road - Demolition of existing haystore and erection of a single detached dwelling including all associated external works (Re-submission of 22/01272/FUL).

Ref: 23/00099/FUL – 16 Chalky Road - Construction of a 4-bed detached bungalow (revision of planning permission S/1069/19/FL).

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 20 March 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)

Mobile Library

The mobile library comes to the Abingtons on the fourth Tuesday of every month and stops at the following places:

West Field, Little Abington 9.40–10.20

The Shop, Great Abington 10.30–11.00

Magna Close, Great Abington 11.05–11.30

Granta Park, Great Abington 12.00–1.15

Next date: Tuesday 28 March.

Sunday 26 March British Summer Time begins - clocks go forward one hour

Little Abington Parish Council

Annual litter pick

The annual village litter pick will take place on Saturday 15 April from 10am to 12 noon. We will meet at the institute and can supply gloves, equipment and bags. Everyone is welcome – young and old.

Parish councillor vacancy

Isobel Smith, our vice chair, stood down recently so we are looking for a replacement. If you are interested, please contact Sheila Bolden (details below). We will miss Isobel as she was always keen to research the issues thoroughly, providing us with valuable background information on many topics, such as the park and ride proposals, Fourwentways and most recently the proposed congestion charge.

Abington community e-bikes

With better weather arriving soon, a reminder that we have two e-bikes available for hire (outside the institute). You need to download the bizbike mobile app to open the locker and pay for your ride.

Meeting on 23 January

Public participation first focussed on the TWI's Project Reform, with concerns over the height of some of the proposed buildings, together with continuing noise issues.

It was reported that an impressive 15% of the adult population of Cambridgeshire responded to the recent consultation on sustainable travel (including the congestion charge proposal).

Financially, the budget for 2022/23 was approved and the precept for 2023/24 was set at £21,010.

Planning meeting on 30 January

22/05549/OUT, TWI Granta Park, numerous modifications to existing buildings, two new buildings, carparking and landscaping: Objection based on heights of proposed new buildings, plus a fear of urbanisation and a move away from the original design for GP.

22/05524/HFUL, 49 Cambridge Road, Single storey ground floor rear and part side extension and garage conversion: No comments.

21/03039/FUL, Bancroft Farm appeal: LAPC to confirm it is still opposed to the plans.

Councillors' email addresses: website www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/.

Cllr.sbolden@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr.rsmith@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

cllr.mappleton@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

cllr.rallum@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

cllr.vvalge-archer@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

cllr.spattinson@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

clerk@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute

Next Meeting: Monday 27 March 2023, Parish Council at 7.30pm

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

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

Next meeting Thursday 20 April – Annual parish meeting

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/

Hildersham News

Our poor old boiler has been struggling and unfortunately it coincided with the very chilly weather so some of our services and Silent Space have not been guaranteed to happen at their usual locations.

We hope this is now resolved and that all events and services will return to normal.

Silent Space - Every Tuesday evening at 7 pm in Hildersham Church

This is an opportunity for anyone to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of just sitting and being in a place of worship.

Compline follows for those who wish to stay.

Children's Church Council

Our Treasure hunt project has begun and the children have chosen an animal for The Old School Wood Sign. They are creating clues to direct people to the hiding place of these animals in the wood and churchyard. Some of us visited The Rowan Foundation in Cambridge, a charity that works with people who have both mental and physical disabilities and they do some fabulous craft making. This charity made our Old School Wood sign and is looking forward to taking on this new project of creating the animals for our woodland safari.

The children have also been thinking about their Lenten Journey and how through the forty days of lent they can show the very best of themselves in the things they do and say.

Mothering Sunday 19 March. A very important item on our agenda. As usual the children will be making posies for all the ladies in our lives with whom we would like to show our love. If you are passing Hildersham Church there will be a basket of posies and the children invite you to take one to share with someone you treasure.

Hildersham Spring Quiz 31 March

Come and join us for our quiz night, with a raffle, in Hildersham Village Hall on Friday 31 March. Ticket price is £8, to include a chilli supper, with vegetarian option available. Doors open at 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. Please bring your own drinks and we can provide glasses. Everyone welcome – bring your team of up to 8 people or come along and join with others.

Tickets from Jill Heale (893596), Helen Humphrys (891309, Jenny Logan (891897).

LAMB SUNDAY 16 APRIL HILDERSHAM HALL BARNS 1.30 – 3.30pm

Would you like an opportunity to get REALLY close to some of those gorgeous gambolling lambs that are usually over a fence and too far away?

The barns will be open on Sunday 16 April for you to get so close you may be able to stroke them.

Car parking is available on the field below the barns and tea and cake will be served from the horse box.

Entry opposite Hildersham Village Hall

Entry: £2.00 per adult, £1.00 per child.

Hildersham Parish Council

If you notice a fault with the highways, such as potholes, 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 7 March 2023 in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: <https://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk>

Helping older people 'Feel Brighter' again with NHS Talking Therapies

Are you 65 or older and feel that life is less colourful than it used to be? If you haven't been feeling yourself, don't suffer in silence.

'Feel Brighter' is a new NHS campaign that aims to reach out to older people aged 65 and over, who may be struggling with their mental health but don't know where to turn for advice, support and to find out what services are available locally.

The new campaign aims to encourage older people who have symptoms such as anxiety, loneliness, or low mood to reach out and access free NHS Talking Therapies and other support to help them feel brighter again.

NHS Talking Therapies are effective treatments that involve speaking with an experienced mental health professional to understand feelings and learn ways to manage them. Sessions are totally confidential and can be one-to-one, in a group, online, or over the phone.

To find out more, simply visit the Feel Brighter webpage at www.cpics.org.uk/feel-brighter for more information about NHS Talking Therapies, other support available, and how to refer yourself. Alternatively, you can call this number to make an initial referral: Tel 0300 300 0055. Phone lines are available 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday.

Jeremiah's Café

The café 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 February is on page 14. All are welcome.






March Services

(not Abingtons and Hildersham : 10.30am Online Fellowship available for all)

DATE	9.30 am	11.00 am	pm
5 th March		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
12 th March	Communion Weston Colville Morning Worship West Wickham	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	Evensong 6.00pm <i>West Wrattling</i>
19 th March Mothering Sunday	Communion <i>West Wrattling</i> Communion <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
26 th March	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	

Church Services for March 2023

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
5 th March	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Genesis 12.1-4a John 3.1-17
12 th March		11.00am Communion		Exodus 17,1-7 John 4.5-42
19 th March Mothering Sunday	11.00am Morning Worship		6.00pm Evensong	TBA
26 th March		6.00pm Evensong	11.00am Communion	Ezekiel 37.1-14 John 11.1-45

Church Flower Rota

	Gt. Abington	Lt. Abington	Hildersham
5 th March	Lent	Helen Rogers (clean only)	Lent
12 th March	Lent	Helen Rogers (clean only)	Lent
19 th March	Lent	Amanda Marns (clean only)	Lent
26 th March	Lent	Amanda Marns (clean only)	Lent

Churchwarden

<i>Great and 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