



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

**April 2023**



*Photo by Rosemary Mead*

**Nearly 150 Mother's Day posies were prepared by village children**

## Letter from the retiring Editor

I am delighted that Sally Simmons has agreed to become the Editor of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*. With a wealth of relevant experience Sally is ideally placed to take on this role and has been the major compiler of this April issue.

Mothering Sunday, 19 March, was marked by the production and distribution of flower posies made by village children as the cover photograph shows (pages 5, 16). A special Soup Lunch on 31 March aimed to raise funds for the DEC Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal and how lucky we are not to suffer such disasters here.

Page 6 reminds us of the progress made by Ukrainians who have settled here and now need donations of household items to help them set up their own homes. The Saffron Walden Rotary Club organised a collection of clothing, bedding and much else that was sent to Ukraine in February and received the warmest of welcomes. Now a new collection is planned for 22 April, this time for food, toiletries and medical supplies. Let us repeat the huge generosity shown in the earlier collection.

The special church services for Easter are listed on pages 5, 17 and 20. Love Abington has been re-launched to provide caring and practical support to those who have to contend with loneliness, poor health and cost-of-living crises. The enthusiastic steering committee needs a co-ordinator. Could this be you? See page 16 for details.

Abington Institute is host to many and varied village activities. It needs an administrator, as indicated on page 5. Please consider taking on this role.

The two Abington Parish Councils are organising a village clean-up on Saturday 15 April. This can be fun; come along and try it. Both Parish Councils need to recruit a new parish councillor. This is an important role and provides a great way to get to know people as well as to serve the community (pages 14, 15).

Pages 7 and 18 report Abington's plans for celebrating the Coronation in the Abingtons and Hildersham. Hildersham Barns invites everyone to go and visit new lambs on Sunday 16 April and, on 17 April, the Village Hall is the venue for an Emmaus collection of furniture, electricals, books and much else (pages 18, 9)

My warmest thanks to all those who have worked so constructively with me in producing *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*. Best wishes for many future issues.

Valerie Silvey

## Contents

<b>From Seven Churches, Granta Medical, News from the Pews, Easter Masses, Admin help, Oil Order</b>	<b>4 5</b>	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group, Gardening, Film Nights, Tuesday Club, Reading Group, Craft Group, Scrabble</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Ukraine update, Rotary collection, Celebrating the Coronation</b>	<b>6 7</b>	<b>Walking Group, WI, Abington Lunch</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Councillors' Reports, PTFA, Emmaus Collection, Mobile Library</b>	<b>8 9</b>	<b>Great Abington Parish Council Little Abington Parish Council</b>	<b>14 15</b>
<b>Diary, Café, Bins, Yoga, Aerobics/Pilates, Physio Pilates, Line Dancing, Social Cycling, Granta Vale Harmony</b>	<b>10 11</b>	<b>Love Abington Church services Hildersham News, Parish Council</b>	<b>16 17 18</b>

Articles for the May 2023 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Saturday 15 April 2023 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk).

## From the Seven Churches

At the time of writing, we are still beset by wintry storms in mid-March and the new life and promise of spring seems far off! Snowdrops have appeared and yellow daffodils line the roads, yet cold winds and sleet seem to hold the celebration of spring at bay. It's almost like a scene from C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, where Narnia labours under a long and baleful winter!

Yet in C. S. Lewis's Narnia, the tide turns when the main characters, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy discover that Aslan, a Christ figure in these stories, is on the move. His presence gives them courage, which turns into a contagious kind of hope. Spring eventually returns to the land; creatures that have been turned into stone by the witch are reanimated as Aslan breathes life into them; and evil is defeated.

Easter time in our contemporary lives may seem a world away from such fictional drama and part of our enjoyment of it may derive from holidays, Easter chocolate and family get togethers. All good things! Yet the profound Christian message of Easter points to a far greater depth. It acknowledges that sometimes new life can seem far away and the storms of pain and loss are all too real. Yet it also shows grief and glory are intertwined. Good Friday reminds us that Jesus' trial and crucifixion are actually part of the pattern of God's work of salvation.

Easter also proclaims God's saving love is shown in the resurrection of Jesus. The celebration of Easter, which can never be held at bay, reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end. It's an event that changes everything. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit that empowers us to forgive, to build communities of trust, service and hope, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

While we will struggle with trials and turbulence in our lives, we may also hold a startling vision of both suffering and hope, death and risen life. We may see a deeper level of reality, where love and reconciliation spring forth and are ceaselessly at work. We may therefore act with courage and a contagious kind of hope. For in Christ, all things are made new.

Revd Iain McColl

## Granta Medical Practices Update, April 2023

From 1 April 2023, Royston Health Centre (RHC) will be part of Granta Medical Practices (GMP). The practices are coming together to build on the existing practice strengths, pooling clinical and administrative teams to offer greater resilience and a wider choice of services for our patients. The aim of this is to provide a more stable model for delivering care within Royston and the surrounding villages. Both GMP and RHC have been sharing their values and commitment to high-quality clinical care over the past year and a full merger helps provide improved access and choice for our patients.

The same doctors, practice nurses and staff will still be at RHC and you will still be able to see your chosen doctor as usual. For GMP patients, you will now have another surgery to choose from, should you wish to.

For the most part, patients of GMP and RHC should not notice any difference. There will be a slight delay in merging the computer systems (currently estimated around the end of April) but after that any GMP patient can be seen at a GMP surgery of their choice. If there are any specific changes or additions to services we will of course let you know.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via the GMP website [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk) or feel free to call into one of our surgeries.

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



## News from the Pews

**Easter** As Easter approaches, services in the seven Granta Vale churches are already planned. Please refer to the back page of the *News* for services in the Abingtons and to page 17 for services throughout Granta Vale. We look forward to welcoming you during the Easter period.

**Mothering Sunday** Love Abington and members of our churches wish to thank sincerely those who helped to make posies for Mothering Sunday. The previous day, 120 posies were made ready to be received at the Mothering Sunday service, delivered or collected. Well done to everyone involved. (Also see page 16.)

**Easter lilies** We will continue our tradition of placing lilies in remembrance of our loved ones in St Mary's churches at Easter. If you would like to have a lily dedicated to someone you loved, please put a donation into an envelope with the name of the person written on it and then give it to one of the churchwardens or leave it at 34 West Field by Sunday 2 April.

**Soup Lunch** Abington Churches are holding a Soup Lunch from 12 noon to 2pm, Friday 31 March, in the Village Institute in aid of the victims of the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal. Devastating earthquakes have killed tens of thousands of people in these countries. Many thousands of homes have been destroyed. Survivors are facing freezing conditions and need urgent aid. The Disasters Emergency Committee brings together 15 leading UK aid charities, raising funds to respond to this and all overseas disasters quickly and effectively. If you are unable to attend the lunch and would like to make a donation, please do so by handing it to one of the churchwardens (names listed on the back page).

Anne Hall

## Easter Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes, London Road, Sawston

### **Maundy Thursday 6 April:**

9pm The Lord's Supper, followed by Adoration until midnight.

### **Good Friday 7 April**

3pm The Lord's Passion; 7.30pm Stations of the Cross.

### **Holy Saturday 8 April:**

9pm Easter Vigil

### **Easter Sunday 9 April:**

8.45am, 11.15am Easter Mass

## Abington Village Institute

The Institute Management Committee is looking for a volunteer to join the Institute Administration Team. This is a crucial role as the Institute is run by volunteers and without the administration team it would cease to be available to our community. If you would like to find out what is involved please contact me, Bernie Talbot, via [bernie.talbot@btinternet.com](mailto:bernie.talbot@btinternet.com). We can arrange to meet and discuss the role.

## Community Oil Order

Ian Richardson will take orders for domestic heating oil from 24 to 27 April 2023 with delivery expected by 12 May. The order will be placed on Friday 28 April 2023 and those included will be notified the same day. Please provide Ian with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, postcode and telephone number. Note that the minimum order quantity is 500 litres.

Please contact [abingtonoil@icloud.com](mailto:abingtonoil@icloud.com) or phone 07592 731 591.

## Ukrainian Community in Abington

One person from the Abington Ukrainian community has returned to Ukraine and another Ukrainian has joined the community. This means there are 13 in the community living in seven households and supported by 12 households.

Thursday 24 February was the first anniversary of Russia's major attack on the sovereignty of Ukraine, following an earlier annexation of Ukrainian territory in 2014. This was an emotional time for Ukrainian citizens and Love Abington showed unity and compassion by giving every household with a Ukrainian resident a support card and a floral posy in yellow and blue, the national colours of Ukraine.

There are many changes in the Ukrainian communities around Abington. Independent households are being created in rental properties and there is a great need for donated household items and furniture. Please contact me on 01223 891514 if you have anything to offer.

However, there is still a need for host households. If anyone can assist, please text ROOM to 88802. Information is available from:

[HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk)

[www.scambs.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/ukraine)

[duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk)

There is also a need for donated (warm!) clothing and items can be delivered to Sawston Free Church on a Thursday and Friday from 4–6pm.

The next major event in the Ukrainian calendar is Easter Day (*Velykden* or the Great Day), which is celebrated with a meal following restricted eating of animal and dairy products during the previous six weeks of Lent. Because the Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar, Easter Day this year falls on 16 April, a week later than Easter Sunday for western churches that follow the Gregorian calendar (9 April). Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week, is known as Willow Sunday and Good Friday is known as Mourning Friday.

The week after Easter is Commemoration Week when ancestors and deceased relatives and friends are remembered, especially poignant this year for the Ukrainian community.

Anton King

## Call for dried and canned food, toiletries and health supplies for Ukraine

A collection of dried and tinned food, hygiene and medical items for the people of Ukraine will be made on Saturday 22 April from 9.00am to 1.00pm at the Abington Primary School car park. It is being supported by Guy Underwood, Headmaster and Revd. Ian McColl of the Granta Vale Churches.

This follows the hugely successful collection of winter clothing and bedding in January that was included in the 28-ton, four-day UK Aid convoy of lorries and vans that left on 25 February for Chernihiv, 120 kilometres north of Kyiv (see photo on page 15). Alan Hilliar co-founder of UK-Aid, said, "We arrived in Chernihiv to floods of tears and hugs of relief. Every person without exception greeted us with tears in their eyes."

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine creates continuing hardship for those displaced and affected by the war. The current need is for dry food such as pasta, rice, tomato paste, oats, dried and canned meat, fish, vegetables and fruit. Hygiene and medical items are needed too: toiletries for adults, children and babies, cleaning materials, washing powders, gels and wipes, shampoo, soap, sanitary towels, nappies, pads, scissors and antibacterial gel, as well as medical items such as paracetamol, aspirin and bandages.

Cash donations to assist in transportation costs are also accepted and these can be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on 22 April.

## Abington Celebrates the Coronation



A Coronation Working Group, with the support of Great and Little Abington Parish Councils, is planning a range of events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

On the morning of Saturday 6 May, Coronation Day, the ceremony will be shown in the main hall of the Village Institute, providing a congenial alternative for any residents who might otherwise be watching the event alone. Light refreshments will be available from Jeremiah's Café. The opening time will be set once timings for the Coronation itself have been made public.

On Friday 5 May, 6–11pm, Abington Social Club on Pampisford Road offers live entertainment by Bondy and a kebab van will be in attendance.

A Grand Coronation Picnic Lunch is planned for Sunday 7 May, when all Abington residents are invited to bring their favourite outdoor food and drink and their picnic chairs and gazebos, if they wish, to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment and fun on the Recreation Ground.

Plans for Sunday as at the time of writing are set out below, but please note that events, performers and times are provisional at this stage.

**9.00-11.00am:** Residents set up picnic chairs, gazebos, etc., on the Rec.

**10.30 am:** Morning service at Great Abington Church.

**11.45am:** Residents of all ages wishing to participate in a Royal March to the Rec assemble in Magna Close. It's suggested that children wear "royal" or fancy dress; drums and tambourines welcome.

**12 noon:** Royal March to Rec.

**12.30-5.00pm:** Grand Coronation Picnic Lunch. Drinks available through the afternoon from bar run by Abington Social Club (cash only).

**1.00pm:** Pimms tent opens, courtesy of the Coronation Working Group.

**Between 1.30 and 4.00pm:** Balloon modeller and face painter in residence.

Our local singers and choirs entertain.

The Abington-based band *Hoarse with no Name* play a set as a gift to the village.

**3.00-4.30pm:** Afternoon tea and cake on the lawn.

**4.00pm:** Egg throwing competition – can you catch it, not crack it?

**4.30pm:** Tug-of-war – to compete for the Abingtons Challenge Cup.

Throughout the afternoon children are invited to have a go at the ever-popular *name-that-bear* competition, and possibly have a temporary tattoo.

**6.00pm onwards:** Disco and BBQ at the Three Tuns. Not ticketed – BBQ first come first served.

And before the weekend, let's hang out the bunting wherever we can to give the Abingtons a really festive look.

The final programme for the Grand Coronation Picnic will appear in the May issue of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*. Also please watch the village Facebook page and noticeboards for updates.

# District and County Councillors' Report March 2023

## A1307 update

The upgrades to the A1307 are moving forward at some pace now. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body implementing these schemes) is now making the changes to 'our' section of the road, between Haverhill and the A11. The next phases that are being undertaken 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 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 nine months to complete. There will be minimal disruption while 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 close fully. There will be some other road closures as part of the works, so there may be some slight disruption to residential streets.

## 20mph schemes

The County Council has now implemented a new 20mph speed reduction scheme. This is where parishes can apply for specific roads to be considered for a reduction in speed to 20mph, which may not previously have been in line with policy.

For full details and application: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/20mph-funding>

## Acorn Bioenergy Proposal, Suffolk

For those wondering what all the 'Muck Off' (great slogan) signs in and around Haverhill relate to, they refer to a proposal by a bio energy company to build a new plant just on the Suffolk side of the border, on the outskirts of Haverhill. The company is called Acorn Bioenergy (website: <https://www.acornbioenergy.com/>). There is a lot of interest in this site, particularly from the Suffolk side of the border, as there are concerns about the environmental impact on the surrounding area, specifically smell, noise, traffic, etc.

A planning application is expected to be submitted this year, which will be decided by Suffolk County Council. It's an interesting scheme that will influence our area, especially those in the vicinity of the site, so do keep your ear to the ground and feel free to comment on the planning application when it is submitted and in the public domain.

## Cambridge City Car Parks

There was a news release last month saying that the cost of the car parks in Cambridge (Grand Arcade, etc.) will be increasing this year, by around 20p per hour.

## 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 costs or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are now three hubs in Linton:

- St Mary's 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 vehicles.

[www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/)

## Asylum seekers

The government has announced that it is going to use the hotel at Bar Hill as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers (families and single women). The local authorities do not have any role in this arrangement. We do assist refugees, such as those from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria, but asylum seekers who do not have permission to stay are the responsibility of government agencies. Local schools and health facilities in Bar Hill will be supporting the people who come.

## 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)

## PTFA Update

**Easter 2023** The Easter holidays fall in April this year, so no PTFA events are scheduled for this month. We would like to wish all the parents, teachers and friends of the school a very Happy Easter. Fingers crossed for some warmer weather and sunnier days!

**Festival of Running – save the date!** Please save Sunday 1 October 2023 in your diary for Abington's Festival of Running, with a 2K Fun Run and 5K and 10K running options on a flat, traffic-free course. Website entry opening soon.

**Coronation of King Charles III, 6 May 2023** To mark and celebrate the King's Coronation on Saturday 6 May, each child at the school will receive a bookmark to commemorate this historic event. The bookmarks will be distributed to the children during term time.

Joanna Chapman

## Emmaus Collection

Is there anything left in your loft or your garage? It may not be of use to you any longer but it may well be something someone else is looking for. Emmaus will refurbish and sell many items of homeware.

Please bring any of the following things **to Hildersham Village Hall between 6.00pm and 7.30pm on Monday 17 April**: electrical items, furniture, kitchenware, clothing, books.

## Mobile Library

The mobile library comes to the Abingtons and Hildersham 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;

Hildersham, High Street 9.40–10.20.

**Next date: Tuesday 25 April.**



## Diary for April 2023

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	3	Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Abington Gardening Club	7.30pm	12
Tue	4	Art Group	10.00am	19
Wed	5	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
Thu	6	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Sat	8	Easter Saturday Café open	10.00am	11
Tue	11	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Reading Group – see page 12 for venue	7.30pm	12
Wed	12	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
Thu	13	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	14	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	15	Abington Village Clean-up day	10.00am	14
Sun	16	Lamb Sunday Hildersham Farm Barns	1.30pm	18
Mon	17	Social Cycling - meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00am	11
		Abington & Hildersham WI	7.30pm	13
		Emmaus collection, Hildersham	6.00pm	9
Tue	18	Art Group	10.00am	19
Wed	19	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Abington Group	7.30pm	19
Thu	20	Craft Group	1.00pm	12
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	21	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
Sat	22	Collection for Ukraine at the Primary School	9.00am	6
		Earth Day, Hildersham Churchyard	9.30am	18
		Abington Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Film Nights Children's Matinée Doors open	2.00pm	12
Mon	24	Rivercare and litter pickup – meet at bridge/ford	9.30am	
		Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	17
		Little Abington PC ° Annual Parish Meeting	8.00pm	15
Tue	25	Mobile Library	Morning	9
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	12
Wed	26	Yoga – course and drop in	10.00am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	27	Abington Lunch Doors open	12.45pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	28	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11

For details of contacts for all the clubs and events listed in the Diary, please see the inside back cover of the *News*, or the pages on which the relevant articles appear.

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

### Jeremiah's Café Opening times in April 2023

Thursday lunchtime	11.30am–1.30pm (6, 13, 20)
Friday morning	8.45am–11.00am (7, 14, 21, 28)
Saturday mornings	10.00am–12 noon (1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

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

**Note:** see page 13 for the Abington Lunch menu on 27 April.

### Wheelie bin dates for April 2023 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

<b>Mon 3</b> <b>Green / Blue</b>	<b>Weds 12</b> <b>Black</b>	<b>Tues 18</b> <b>Green / Blue</b>	<b>Mon 24</b> <b>Black</b>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------

### Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am

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 – Mondays, 2.20–3.20pm

For Beginners/Intermediate. Max. six participants. Classes £12 per session. Book three sessions (£36 non-refundable). Contact Christina Heinz on [cambridgepilates@outlook.com](mailto:cambridgepilates@outlook.com)

### Line Dancing – Wednesdays, 1pm–2.30pm (term time)

Qualified line dance instructor, Lisa Mason, now runs drop-in classes suitable for all ages and welcomes beginners to intermediate level. Bring a drink and suitable shoes. Contact [lisa.lmsd@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lmsd@gmail.com) or tel. 07958 788 292.

### Social Cycling

Six of us enjoyed a very breezy ride to Ickleton via Sawston and Duxford with a great stop at the Riverside Café for an all-day breakfast – excellent value for the money. Including the home leg, we covered 15 miles. Our next ride will be on Monday 17 April at 10am from 1 Bourn Bridge Road. Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or [gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com](mailto:gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.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, tel. 07884 932 215 or email [haverhi11@talktalk.net](mailto:haverhi11@talktalk.net)

## Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

This Group is open **every Monday and Friday** morning (term time only) 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 [abingtonannexeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonannexeoffice@gmail.com)

## Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting will be on Monday 3 April in the Institute at 7.30pm when in a change to the programme Nigel Start will give a talk entitled 'Coping with Climate Change'. Our summer visit programme will be available at the meeting. Subscriptions are £10 members, £3 guests. All welcome.

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

## Film Nights

Our next film will be on Friday 21 April at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). The children's matinée will be at 2.30pm on Saturday 22 April. 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/](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 first meeting in April will be at 2pm on Tuesday 11 April. There will be a welcome return visit from Charlie Haylock, a dialogue coach and English language historian, who will be giving us another of his amusing talks.

On 25 April we will celebrate our first birthday with a tea and entertainment from the Chestnut Singers. 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

11 April	<i>Grown Ups</i> Marian Keyes	Liz Veysey
9 May	<i>Family Album</i> Penelope Lively	Mary Conochie
13 June	<i>Sorrow and Bliss</i> Meg Mason	Sue Batty

We will meet at 7.30pm at Liz's to discuss *Grown Ups*. Please confirm attendance to Liz and copy me in.

Valerie Hefford

## Abington Craft Group

The date for Craft Group is Thursday 20 April, 1.30 to 4.30pm at the Institute.

We shall run a Repair Shop-style session for people to bring clothing that requires a simple repair: loose hems, missing buttons, simple tears. Anything more complicated needs to be discussed before bringing it in. Bring your own project or help with stall items, if you prefer. All welcome. For information email [Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com](mailto:Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com), tel. 07970 614 194.

## Scrabble Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25 April at 7pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome.

Sheena Fraser

## Abington Walking Group



Our most recent walks have been to Barley and Debden.  
Your April strolls are on Thursday 6th and Saturday 22nd.  
Do join us to enjoy the countryside at perhaps its best in the spring.  
All of the 2023 walk dates are on the Institute noticeboard.

The walks start from the Institute at 10am by shared transport to the walk venue. We hope to have a pub lunch in the next few weeks so do join our Whatsapp group for the latest news. Look forward to seeing you. For further information please contact Robin Harman tel. 891 730 or [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com)

## Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

On a very blustery March evening, our President Janyce Garrod welcomed members to our Annual General Meeting. Our guest speaker was Amanda Sutherland, with a very interesting talk entitled 'Make do and Mend'. She showed us how to transform old and little worn clothing – such as cardigans, dresses, T-shirts, etc. – into wearable items. Amanda also makes jewellery items (from real leaves and drinks cans!), scarves and wrist warmers. During a break for refreshments provided by the committee, members had a chance to browse Amanda's shop and purchase some of her items.

The AGM started with the Annual Reports, which reflected a more normal year of activities and our gratitude to the members for continuing to support us. After five years of loyal service, Janyce resigned as President and Marilyn Broadhurst was elected to that position. The existing committee was re-elected and Valerie Silvey kindly offered to become Minutes Secretary for our monthly meetings.

**Next meeting: Monday 17 April at 7.30pm – Group Meeting with Balsham and Linton WIs. Our guest speaker will be the Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson, with a special talk entitled 'Of Crowns and Coronations'. Remember to wear a flash of regal purple! New members and visitors always welcome.**

Marilyn Broadhurst



## The Abington Lunch Thursday 27 April 2023



**Fruit juice  
Parmesan crusted salmon,  
Seasonal vegetables  
Cheesecake  
Tea or coffee**

Please book your meal on 0794 101 6543. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. 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 25 May 2023.**



# Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

## Village clean-up day

Don't forget the annual litter pick event on Saturday 15 April from 10am to 12 noon! The event is run by both Parish Councils, which take it in turn to organise. Want 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. Hope to see you there!

## Parish Councillor Vacancy

Emma Pery, a much-valued councillor, recently stood down so we are seeking a new member to join the team. Emma will be missed as she was always keen to take on new projects, including the e-bike opportunities, and is a passionate advocate on environmental issues. We want to find an active, enthusiastic, committed person to fill this vacancy and become part of the team. The co-option of a new member is planned for the May meeting. Those who come forward will be asked to make a brief presentation at the meeting telling councillors who they are and what they have to offer to the Parish Council and the community. Anyone wishing to find out more about the role of a Parish Councillor can contact the Clerk or an existing councillor or look at the Good Councillor Guide: [www.local.gov.uk/oursupport/highlighting-political-leadership/councillors-guide](http://www.local.gov.uk/oursupport/highlighting-political-leadership/councillors-guide). Please contact the Parish Clerk, Paula Harper if you are interested.

## Did you know?

Great Abington Parish Council uses part of its precept (a tax that Parish Councils charge their local residents to cover spending on service delivery within the community) to fund maintenance of the churchyard at Great Abington Church.

## Planning

23/00559/HFUL 43A North Road - Replacement detached garage/outbuilding; addition of dormer window to eastern elevation of dwelling.

## District Council decisions

22/03880/FUL 127, High Street – Detached dwelling - Refused

### 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.

**The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 15 May 2023 at 7.15pm It will be followed by a Parish Council Meeting.** 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

## Annual litter pick

A reminder that the annual village litter pick is 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

We still have a vacancy for a new councillor. We meet every two months on the last Monday in the month, plus occasional planning meetings. If you have an interest in public affairs, planning issues or simply wish to improve the village for its residents please make yourself known to our chair Sheila Bolden (details below). Full training is on offer.

## Annual Parish Meeting, 8pm, Thursday 20 April

If you've not attended this annual event before it's an excellent opportunity to find out more about local organisations – this year, the Papworth Trust, Abington Woods and the History Group – and to meet your parish councillors (over a drink and some nibbles).

## Coronation celebrations

A Coronation working group, with the support of both Parish Councils, is planning a range of events, the main one being a Grand Coronation Picnic on Sunday 7 May, with entertainment throughout the afternoon. Please see page 7 for provisional plans.

## 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.

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 20 April – Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm

Sheila Bolden (Chairman)	07754659 929	Email: <a href="mailto:sheilabolden@btinternet.com">sheilabolden@btinternet.com</a>
Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk)		Email: <a href="mailto:clerk.lapc@gmail.com">clerk.lapc@gmail.com</a>

If you would like to participate in a meeting, please contact the clerk. Details of 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/)



Fully loaded lorry on its way to Ukraine. *Photo: Tony Collett*

## Spring Re-launch of Love Abington

We are delighted to announce a spring re-launch of Love Abington, with an enthusiastic steering committee taking responsibility for new initiatives and different aspects of the project. For those who are new to the village, here is a little background information.

The Love Abington project was inspired by a group of young people from our villages who wanted all residents to know they are loved. This vision became a reality as the church and community formed an action group to reach out and help people cope with the isolation, fear and restrictions caused by the Covid 19 virus.

Although the pandemic restrictions have been lifted, the Love Abington project continues to have a place at the heart of our community because many are still living with loneliness and poor health as well as worries about the cost-of-living crisis. Some residents are trying to cope with food and fuel poverty. We are keen that everyone is supported, recognised and cared about. We also want to foster the strong community spirit and welcome new residents to the village.



### Love Abington Coordinator

We are looking for a coordinator who will be able to oversee the activities of the steering committee and lead the new initiatives.

Are you someone who

- enjoys making connections with people and being a good listener
- is a good communicator
- displays sensitivity towards and understanding of others
- enjoys working as part of a small team
- is willing to devote some time each week to the village community
- has good interpersonal and administrative skills needed to oversee, coordinate and sometimes lead community-wide projects
- is happy to work alongside an administrator who will keep a database of volunteers, set up a Whats App group and publicise Love Abington events via Facebook?

If this is you, Love Abington would like to hear from you. Please contact Amaris on [loveabington@gmail.com](mailto:loveabington@gmail.com)

### Mothering Sunday flower posies

Thank you to everyone who was involved in making and delivering flower posies to those who need to know they are loved, appreciated and not forgotten. Kind volunteers, including several children, distributed 34 posies to members of our community. We had great fun making approximately 120 posies for people to collect at the Church service or from Little Abington Church or outside Patsy Randall's house in the centre of the village.

### The Foodbank scheme

While the COVID pandemic may have subsided, the cost-of-living crisis is very much with us. We want to ensure that nobody has to choose between eating and heating. Our Foodbank has therefore partnered with the Cambridge City Foodbank, run by the Trussell Trust, to provide support for those facing a genuine food emergency. If you need help, we can – subject to certain criteria – issue vouchers to provide some of the basics. For more details and in full confidence contact us on 07928 589 982.

Our community foodbanks at Great and Little Abington churches will continue to provide food. We are grateful to everyone who leaves food there for others to collect.

### Telephone listening service

The telephone listening service, which began at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, continues to run. We are very aware that people in the villages of Abington and Hildersham could feel lonely, isolated and anxious for a number of reasons, and particularly if they are unwell or suffering from bereavement or the cost-of-living crisis. If you would like to talk to someone in confidence, please ring Rosemary on 891 718. Rosemary is the coordinator for the Love Abington telephone listening service.

### Village libraries

We hope you have discovered the libraries at Great Abington Church (in the porch) and in the Hutch outside Little Abington Church. There is a wide range of books for adults and children that you are welcome to borrow, and new titles are added on a regular basis. We also have a collection of jigsaw puzzles available at the Great Abington church library.

### A huge thank you

We are very grateful to AALGA who kindly donated the proceeds of the Quiz Night raffle to Love Abington. It will certainly help us to run new initiatives during the year.

Rosemary Mead

### April Services at Granta Vale churches

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

DATE	9.30 am	11.00 am	pm
2 April		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
3 April			Compline 7.30pm <i>West Wratting</i>
4 April			Compline 7.30pm <i>West Wickham</i>
5 April			Compline 7.30pm <i>Weston Colville</i>
7 April Good Friday		Stations of the Cross <i>Balsham (11.30am)</i>	Last Hour (2.00pm) <i>West Wratting</i>
9 April Easter Day	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i> <i>West Wratting</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
16 April	Communion <i>West Wratting</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	
23 April	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
30 April	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> <i>West Wratting</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	



## **Hildersham News**

### **Coronation Event, Sunday 7 May 2023**

Everyone is invited to a Village Picnic on the recreation ground, behind the Village Hall, to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Bring your picnics, drinks, garden chairs, rugs and enjoy a fun and friendly afternoon event. There will be live music, a cake competition and games and races – something for everyone. Look out for the flyer, coming your way soon, with full details. If the weather is inclement, Beryl and David Mercer have kindly offered their barn as an alternative venue.

**Lamb Sunday** Would you like an opportunity to get really close to some gorgeous lambs? Hildersham Barns will be open on Sunday April 16, 1:30 - 3:30pm, £2.50 per adult, £1 per child. No dogs, please and please note GOV.UK advice that expectant mothers should not get close to livestock. Car parking is available on the field on the road through the village and tea and cake will be served from the horse box.

**Children's Church Council** We had a very happy meeting in March making posies for Mothering Sunday which the children handed to all the ladies in the congregation. The remaining posies were put in a basket at the church gate with an invitation to passers-by to take one to celebrate this special day.

We also put our heads together to plan the Easter card for Hildersham villagers so do look out for a treat coming through your letter box with Easter Wishes from the Children's Church Council.

**Earth Day** This Earth Day, Hildersham churchyard team are holding a spring tidy up morning on Saturday April 22 9:30–11:30 with a special focus on wildlife. We welcome everyone to join us as we survey the churchyard's wildlife and tidy up after the winter storms. There will be refreshments and cake to sustain us.

## **Hildersham Parish Council**

### **Hildersham Parish Council AGM, March 7, 2023**

A public meeting will be held to explain how the contractors, making improvements to the A1307, plan to build a roundabout at the Bartlow Road junction. Work will start at this junction at the end of March. The schedule of work should be on the Hildersham Parish Council website.

The council should hear the outcome of its application in May for SCDC's Local Highway Initiative Scheme funds for safety improvements at the Back Road/High Street/Balsham Road crossroads. Before this, councillors will have an opportunity to present their case to the panel awarding the funding.

Councillors are applying for the speed limit through the village to be reduced to 20 mph, since the criteria to change the speed limit have changed.

The Nature Recover volunteers are doing a survey of the plants in the village verges on 22 April, starting at 9.30am.

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 managed by the Trusts. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on May 9, 2023 in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: [hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Church Services for April 2023

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>11.00am United Service of Holy Communion at Balsham</b>			Ps 118.19-24 Matthew 21.1-11
6 <sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday		7.30pm Communion		1 Corinthians 11.23-26 John 13.1-17,31b-35
7 <sup>th</sup> April Good Friday	2.00pm Last Hour		9.30am Devotional Service	See service sheet
9 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Day		11.00am Communion	11.00am Communion	Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18
16 <sup>th</sup> April		11.00am Communion	6.00pm Evensong	Acts 2.14a,22-32 John 20.19-end
23 <sup>rd</sup> April		6.00pm Evensong	11.00am Communion	Acts 2.14a,36-41 Luke 24.13-35
30 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am Communion		9.30am Morning Worship	Acts 2.42-end John 10.1-10

### Church Flower Rota

	Gt. Abington	Lt. Abington	Hildersham
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Lent	Marilyn Broadhurst (clean only)	Lent
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter All help please	Easter All help please	Easter All help please
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Patsy Randall and Anne Hall	Claire Hinga and Antonia Kilcommons	Kirsten Newble
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Patsy Randall and Anne Hall	Claire Hinga and Antonia Kilcommons	Elaine Moore
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Anne Godden	Carola Wolverson	Elaine Moore

### Churchwarden

<i>Great and Little Abington</i>	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564
----------------------------------	-------------	---------------------------------	--------

### Assistant Churchwardens

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