



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

July/August 2024



Photo by Amaris Victory

Tree hugging during the Abington Amble (see page 4)

From the Editor

This bumper issue of *The Abingtons and Hildersham Village News* includes events and reports for July and August. Many regular classes and meetings are suspended during the summer holiday period so please check the Diary dates (pages 10–11) or, if you are unsure, contact organisers directly (the list is on the back page this month).

There will be a concert by Granta Vale Harmony on 18 July (page 20). Entry is free but you are invited to make a donation to the MS Society during the evening. And the Vicarage Garden Party will be held on 24 August, when the host will be Hannah Threlfall, our newly resident curate.

If your time relaxing during the holidays tempts you to think about what you might do outside work, home and family, there are opportunities for volunteers in the community. The Granta Medical Practices' Patient Participation Group is looking for new members (page 19) and the Village Institute needs a new treasurer (page 23). If your thoughts take you in another direction, there are allotments available for Abington residents (page 9).

One person is sure not to be taking time out in July – Angharad Evans, an ex-pupil at the Primary School, has made it into the GB swimming team and will be competing in Paris at the Olympics (page 6). There will be much cheering in Abington.

Until September, I wish everyone happy (and sunny) holidays.

Sally Simmons

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All items for the September 2024 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Thursday 15 August 2024 at news@theabingtons.org.uk.

From the Seven Churches

Summer is upon us and so too is a General Election. Over the last few weeks, it appears that we have been bombarded by a surfeit of conflicting pieces of information and our poor brains need a rest. The future of our country is extremely important but I wonder if you feel like I do, a need to re-set my inner compass and quieten an overactive and buzzing mind. If we only take our meaning in life from power, we will only find despair. But if our inner focus and purpose are centred on small acts of kindness and goodness, from connecting with creation and love, we will find hope.

It is usually when surrounded by nature that I feel closest to God. I am filled with wonder at the beauty and intricacy of our natural world. The words from Psalm 46 come to mind, 'Be still and know that I am God'. One morning, watching the swifts circling above, I decided that I would start a gratitude diary, just noting three things for which I am grateful each day. It could be as simple as the fragrance of a new rose in the garden or an unexpected and welcome phone call. It certainly has a positive effect on how I view life. You might like to give it a try.

One entry in my diary was last month's Creative Church, which takes place once a month in the Abington Institute on a Sunday morning. It is a time where young and old meet for a late breakfast or coffee and enjoy the opportunity to connect with one another through conversation and creative activities around a given theme. New friendships are formed, laughter abounds. The service is quite informal but there is a simple structure that culminates in some optional creative activities and finishes with an interactive prayer based on quiet stillness. Awe and wonder creep into the room and are etched on people's faces. Why not come along at 10.00am on Sunday 28 July or Sunday 25 August and give it a try? I can guarantee you will receive a warm welcome. Rosemary Mead

News from the Pews

We are hoping for a warm and peaceful summer as we all enjoy resting in the sunshine as long as the temperature does not rise too high. It is indeed common for people who live close to their church to rest in the coolness of these ancient buildings. We encourage this and hope you find peace, tranquillity and solace within.

The annual **Vicarage Garden Party** will take place at the Vicarage on Saturday 24 August, where our new host and curate will be Hannah Threlfall. This will be an ideal opportunity to meet and welcome Hannah and her family to the Abingtons.

We will be holding another **Chatter & Natter** session at Great Abington church at 2.00pm on Wednesday 28 August. All are welcome to join us for tea, cake and chatter, catching up with old friends and making new ones, too. Hopefully we can sit in the churchyard.

Members of the PCC wish to extend grateful thanks to everyone who helped us with the **Little Abington Amble** open gardens event – especially those who have tended their gardens throughout this difficult year weather-wise!

We are pleased that grass-cutting has restarted in our churchyards following No Mow May. A day visitor thought that Great Abington was a closed church due to the overgrown churchyard – until they entered the church, where thankfully they described it as beautiful.

Christian Aid Week A big thank you to all volunteers who delivered and collected envelopes in May and to those who generously donated – we raised over £650 to support Christian Aid's work to eradicate global poverty and promote dignity, equality, justice and love. Anne Hall

Creative Church!



Please come along and enjoy coffee, croissants, bacon baps and biscuits in our café-style service with Hannah Threlfall and Rosemary Mead. There will be storytelling, crafts, singing and prayer in an informal setting but most of all a warm welcome for everyone of all ages – families, friends and community. No charge. **Sunday 28 July and Sunday 25 August, 10.00am at the Village Institute.**

Hildersham Church News

Children's Church Council

Father's Day in June gave us the opportunity to discuss our dads and what they mean to us. However, the previous week had seen the 80th anniversary of D Day. We decided to look at the memorials to the war dead in the church and talked about who they might have been, how old they might have been, whether they were fathers and how their fathers might have felt when they received that sad telegram. We created bunting made of men's ties and we recorded the names of all the soldiers who had died and pinned them to the ties. We spent a few quiet moments thinking about these men and boys and then read each name out loud before saying a prayer reminding us of our bountiful lives and the love of our families.

The final CCC meeting of the school year always means BBQ or picnic and lots of discussion about what we have done this year and plans for the future.

Remembering William Charles Hamilton Pegg (Bill), 20 August 1938–24 April 2024

Bill was born in Sheringham, Norfolk but soon arrived in Hildersham where he attended Abington Primary School and Linton Village College. On leaving school he worked for farmer Robin Franklin for around eight years before joining the Royal Artillery, devoting his young life to his country for over 20 years.

Bill was a committed sportsman and played cricket and football for Abington, football being his greatest love and he was proud to represent Cambridge United. Bill died at home in Wales at the age of 85 in the arms of his beloved wife. Rest in peace, Bill.

You are invited!

GARDEN PARTY AT THE VICARAGE

Saturday 24 August 2.00-4.30pm

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Little Abington

*Cream teas, cakes, plants & produce,
white elephant, toys, raffle,
fun & games for all the family,*

Offers of help and donations of items for stalls gratefully received.

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's churches

Mobile Library

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

Hildersham, High Street 9.40–10.20 Next date: Tuesday 9 July; Tuesday 13 August	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 23 July; Tuesday 27 August
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Good School News



Do you have green fingers? Great Abington Primary School needs you!!

As an inclusive school we also accept fingers of all colours. We are pleased to announce that the outdoor learning area, centred on our large greenhouse and cultivation zone, is having another successful year.

Thanks to the efforts of the pupils, helpers and staff we are enjoying bumper crops of produce. All of the vegetables were grown from seed or plugs and carefully nurtured by the pupils. These are now ready for consumption and can be purchased from the school by contacting Emma at emma.presland@greatabington.school.

The school breaks up for the summer holidays on 19 July, after which the greenhouse will be managed by volunteers. If you would like to assist in anyway during the holiday and or term time then please contact Emma Presland with your details. It is a very satisfying (and dare I say productive) role and you can witness at first hand the enthusiasm and commitment from our pupils to this valuable project.

I would also like to thank our PTFA and sponsors for funding the foundation of this project.
Alan Cooke, Governor, Great Abington Primary School

Angharad Goes to Paris



Many will remember Angharad Evans from their school days. A former Great Abington Primary School pupil, Angharad has won a place in the GB swimming team for the Paris Olympics. This follows her gold medal in the 100m breaststroke at the AP Race International in London in May, when she broke the British national record.

Head teacher Guy Underwood describes Angharad as “an incredibly humble and dedicated pupil who achieved well academically while balancing her swimming exploits, such as 6.00am swims at Haverhill, while doing SATs!”

Good luck, Angharad. We will be rooting for you!

Ukrainian Community in Abington

There are eight Ukrainians living with five host households in Abington. There are no real changes in the Ukrainian community. Many have now become established in their own accommodation or are still with their hosts.

However, there is still a great need for hosts to support new requests from Ukraine and anyone interested in hosting should contact South Cambs Homes for Ukraine: text ROOM to 88802. Information is also available from HFULiaison@cambs.gov.uk, tel. 01954 713411 and South Cambs District Council (scambs.gov.uk – search Spare Rooms for People from Ukraine).

Anyone in the Abingtons and Hildersham who is interested in hosting or would like further information can contact the following local hosts for an informal conversation:

Nick and Julia Rumble, 07732 647 752 and njcambs@gmail.com

Marilyn Broadhurst, 07855 182 726 and broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com

Jane Furlow, 07745 046 921 and jane.furlow@gmail.com

There is a need for seasonal clothing which can be donated at the Ukrainian Clothing Hub in Sawston Free Church on Fridays between 4.00pm and 6.00pm.

The Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies are providing support both in Ukraine and Europe. If anyone would like to donate to the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal or offer any kind of support please contact me.
Anton King tel. 891 514

Repair Café

Saturday 12 October 2024
10.00am–1.00pm

The Institute (opposite the Three Tuns)
66 High St, Great Abington, CB21 6AE



Matching experienced repairers with Abington people with things to repair

You can bring:

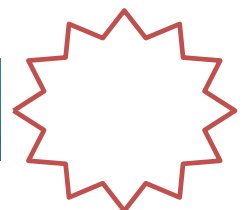
- portable household appliances • electrical items • computers
- mobile phones • jewellery • bicycles • garden tools • clothes

It's best to book your slot

Email carol.thexton@gmail.com

*with details of the item to be repaired, make, model number and nature of fault if possible.
Or just drop in on the day and have a coffee while you wait.*

Free event!
Donations
welcome



Linton Chess Club

Did you know that there is a thriving, successful Chess Club in Linton? Players are drawn from Royston to Haverhill as well as from Cambridge and our surrounding villages.

Apart from fielding (very successful) teams in the Bury St Edmunds leagues, there is scope for those who would appreciate an opportunity to play more social chess with a real-life opponent. We meet at the Public Library Building in Linton on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. If you would be interested in playing, have a look at our website (lintonchessclub.org.uk) and feel free to contact me for further information or with any questions. Those who have not played for a while will be welcome.

John Nevin, email westfield11@aol.com

Balsham Singers

Balsham Singers are hoping to recruit tenors and basses who would like to come and make music with us. We meet on a Thursday night in Balsham Sports Pavilion near the church. Our concerts are held twice yearly, in May and December, and we sing a very varied programme, for example, classical, traditional songs, West End musicals and some pop arrangements. Something for all tastes. No auditions. If you are interested please contact our MD John Clenaghan (John.clenaghan@sky.com) or me (jonotnits@gmail.com) for further information. We are a friendly lot! The first rehearsal for our next concert will be on Thursday 12 September, when we hope to see some new recruits!

Jo Stinton



Abington Lunches July and August



Thursday 25 July 2024

Fruit juice

Normandy pork

Seasonal vegetables

Vanilla cheesecake with fruit

Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 0794 101 6543. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on **Tuesday 23 July**.

Thursday 22 August 2024

Fruit juice

Savoury tarts with red salad, green salad and potato salad

Plum surprise

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 20 August**.

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. **Cost £5. Guests only by special arrangement and if there is space. Next lunch: Thursday 26 September 2024.**

District and County Councillors' Report June 2024

Editor's note: please see the online version of the News for complete live links to Council websites.

General Election, Thursday 4 July

The General Election has meant the postponing of meetings and a restriction on what can be said in public. Please remember that personal identification will be required when you go to vote. If you need help with this contact South Cambs District Council. Whoever you support the most important thing is to USE YOUR VOTE.

Money, Money, Money

Grants are available from the District Council for green space improvement projects. Applications must be via Parish Councils and up to £15,000 is on offer, but you need to be quick as applications close on 1 August. More information from james.croft@scambs.gov.uk.

Solar Farm

Kingsway, the company promoting the gigantic solar farm in the A11 to West Wrattling area, recently gave a briefing about their plans. Their intention is to submit a planning application at some point next year. Until we see that it is not clear what the full extent of the project will be. We will be keeping an eye on this one.

Cambridge 2050

This is the government's vision for the expansion of Cambridge City by 150,000 houses by 2050. With the General Election upon us and the likelihood of a different government in place we are keen to see if this 'vision' will survive. It seems certain that there will be substantial development, as there are already plans in place for significant increases through our new town developments, but we would hope that the numbers will be more realistic.

Fens Reservoir

One of the key issues that has to be addressed before more development can take place is the shortage of water in our area. To address this, it is proposed to build a substantial reservoir in the Fens. There is a consultation underway. For further information go to www.fensreservoir.co.uk.

Anaerobic Digester

We have reported before on the proposal for an anaerobic digester plant near Streetly End. We are still awaiting a decision on this one but expect to hear the result of the planning application in mid-July.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johnbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Allotment Plots Available

We currently have a couple of allotment plots on the Linton Road site available to be taken up by Abington residents.

If you have ever thought about having an allotment then please do come and have a look around. Either I or Brian will always be willing to show you around, explain what plots are available and, with luck, sign you up as a new allotmentee.

In the first instance, it's better to contact Brian, who is the Membership Secretary, by email (brianhaydensmith@hotmail.com). Alternatively, you can email me at bernie.talbot@btinternet.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Reminder: Don't forget the annual Allotment BBQ, which will be on Sunday 8 September at lunchtime and is open to all. More details will follow in the next edition of the News.

Bernie Talbot, Chairman, AALGA

Diary for July and August 2024

July		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	1	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	13
		Physio Pilates	1.15pm	12
Tue	2	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Pilates for Beginners	7.00pm	12
Wed	3	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	4	Walking Group	9.50am	14
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Fri	5	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12
Mon	8	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	13
		Physio Pilates	1.15pm	12
		Abingtons and Hildersham WI – outing		14
Tue	9	Mobile Library, Hildersham	9.40am	5
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	13
		Pilates for Beginners	7.00pm	12
		Reading Group – see page 13 for venue	7.30pm	13
Wed	10	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	11	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Fri	12	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12
Mon	15	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
		Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	10.00am	13
		Social Cycling – from 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00am	12
		Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	16
Tue	16	Gardening Club outing		12
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Pilates for Beginners	7.00pm	12
Wed	17	Yoga course and drop-in	9.30am	12
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	18	Craft Group	1.30pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony Concert	7.45pm	20
Fri	19	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12
Sat	20	Walking Group	9.50am	14
Mon	22	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	13
		Physio Pilates	1.15pm	12
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.30pm	17
Tue	23	Art Group	9.30am	19
		Mobile Library, The Abingtons	9.40am	5
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	13
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	12
Wed	24	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	25	Abington Lunch (doors open)	12.45pm	8

		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Fri	26	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12
Sun	28	Creative Church	10.00am	4
Mon	29	Physio Pilates	1.15pm	12
Tue	30	Art Group	9.30am	19
		Pilates for Beginners	7.00pm	12
Wed	31	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
August				
Thu	1	Walking Group	9.50am	14
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Tue	6	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Pilates for Beginners	7.00pm	12
Thu	8	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Mon	12	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
		WI Garden Party		14
Tue	13	Mobile Library, Hildersham	9.40am	5
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Pilates for Beginners	7.00pm	12
		Reading Group – see page 13 for venue	7.30pm	13
Thu	15	Craft Group	1.30pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Mon	19	Social Cycling – meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00am	12
		Physio Pilates	1.15pm	12
Tue	20	Art Group	9.30am	19
		Pilates for Beginners	7.00pm	12
Thu	22	Abington Lunch (doors open)	12.45pm	8
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Sat	24	Walking Group	9.50am	14
		Vicarage Garden Party	2.00pm	5
Sun	25	Creative Church	10.00am	4
Mon	26	Physio Pilates	1.15pm	12
Tue	27	Mobile Library, The Abingtons	9.40am	5
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	12
Wed	28	Chatter & Natter – Great Abington church	2.00pm	4
Thu	29	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13

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 by email: institute@theabingtons.org.uk.

Jeremiah's Café: Opening times in July and August 2024

July

Thursday lunchtime 11.30am–1.30pm (4, 11, 18; **Lunch 25 – see page 8 for menu**)

Friday morning 8.45am–11.00am (5, 12, 19, 26)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (6, 13, 20, 27)

August

Thursday lunchtime 11.30am–1.30pm (1, 8, 15, 29; **Lunch 22 – see page 8 for menu**)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

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

Wheelie bin dates for July and August 2024 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

July	Wed 3	Wed 10	Wed 17	Wed 24	Wed 31
	Black	Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue	Black
August	Wed 7	Wed 14	Wed 21	Wed 28	
	Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue	Black	

Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am

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

Pilates for Beginners

Tuesdays at 7.00pm in the Village Institute. All equipment provided. Contact Liz Kirk on 07903 079853 to book your place (£9 per session, bookable by the month).

Aerobics and Pilates – Fridays (Aerobics 9.30am; Pilates 10.30am & 11.45am).

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. Aerobics is pay as you go; Pilates please book for five weeks. Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.com.

Physio-led Face to Face Pilates

Intermediate Pilates course (7 weeks) commencing Monday 17 June until 29 July, 9:30–10:30am. Fee £98 (non-refundable).

Beginners Pilates course (7 weeks) commencing Monday 7 June until 29 July, 10:35–11:35am Fee £98 (non-refundable). Christiana Heinz 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 or tel. 07958 788 292.

Scrabble Club

The next meetings of the Scrabble group will be on Tuesday 23 July and Tuesday 27 August at 7.00pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Sheena Fraser

Social Cycling

The next rides will be on Monday 15 July and Monday 19 August starting at 10.00am from 1 Bourn Bridge Road. Gaynor Farrant

Abington Gardening Club

There are no meetings in July or August but there is a visit to Bustler's Cottage in Duxford on Tuesday 16 July. A minimum number of 10 visitors is required so do please support this. Please call me if you would like to come or for more information.

NB change of date – The social evening and AGM will now be on Monday 30 September in the Institute 7.30–9.30pm.

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

Granta Vale Harmony

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

Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

This Group is open **every Monday** 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. £2 per family, light snack and drinks provided. Please bring a water bottle for your child, a cup with a lid for parent beverages and a child between 0–4 years old. Tel. 894 246 (Abington Annexe Office) or email abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com for more information.

The Tuesday Club

On 9 July John Turner will be giving a talk on ‘Working on the British Bases in Antarctica’. On 23 July the Chestnut Choir will be presenting their musical entertainment for us. As usual there will be no meetings during August. We will be returning on 3 September with cheese, biscuits, sherry and a quiz to see us into the autumn season.

We look forward to meeting old and new members. A first visit will be free. Contact me for any further details of our friendly group. Jenny Milns (tel. 890 252)

Reading Group

9 July	<i>The Funny Thing about Norman Foreman</i> Julietta Henderson	Sylvia Gilmour
13 August	<i>The Scapegoat</i> Daphne du Maurier	Valerie Hefford

We will meet at 7.30pm at Sylvia’s to discuss *The Funny Thing about Norman Foreman*. Please confirm attendance to Sylvia and copy me in. Valerie Hefford

Abington Craft Group



Craft Group meets on 18 July 13.30–16.30pm, on the Terrace at Abington Institute. The subject and practice of the month is Sewing Machines – The Basics, or how to do more than a straight line... Please bring your own sewing machine if you have one, old or new, and its instruction booklet if you have it. There will be sewing machines to use if you wish to rekindle, refresh or are a beginner. All welcome, £3 per session unless already paid.

August Craft Group will meet on 15 August when we will compile a list of those interested in November’s Patchwork Workshop and in going to the Knitting and Stitching Show on Thursday 10 October.



For further information, please contact Glynis Brookman tel. 07970 614 194 or email glynis.brookman@btinternet.com.

Abington Walking Group



Our last walks were to Hempstead and Steeple Bumpstead. Your July walks will be on Thursday 4 and Saturday 20 July and in August on Thursday 1 and Saturday 24 August. If you would like to know in advance where we will be walking, please join our WhatsApp group. The walks, which are normally about five miles, start from the Institute at 10.00am by shared transport to the walk venue. We do try and walk all year. Please contact us for a list of all the rest of the walk dates for 2024. Look forward to seeing you. For further information please contact: Robin Harman robandkayharman@gmail.com, Genevieve Dalton gdalton365@gmail.com.

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

At our June meeting Jon Green talked about Helicopter Emergency Medical Services with particular reference to the East Anglia Air Ambulance charity, which exists to save lives by delivering highly skilled doctors and critical care paramedics by air or car to seriously ill or injured people.

In 2000 the jockey, Frankie Dettori, was involved in a plane crash. RAF Wittering sent a search and rescue helicopter and took him to hospital (the pilot was killed). Frankie launched an appeal to set up EAAA and the AA gave £500k sponsorship, hence the yellow helicopters. The first EA Air Ambulance began flying in January 2001 covering Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, initially just on Fridays – statistically the busiest day. By July 2001, it flew daily: night flights became possible in 2013. In 2020 new Rapid Response Vehicles were introduced to bring A&E services to places where helicopters cannot land. A one-hour helicopter flight costs £1200; RRVs are cheaper but carry a lot of expensive equipment. This combination of specialist, advanced medical care at the scene of the incident and the rapid onward transfer is vital in saving lives or reducing the long-term effects of a person's injuries/illness. EAAA receives no regular government funding and the charity needs to raise £14m a year to keep the service going: an invaluable charity worthy of our support.

On 5 June, over 5000 WI members gathered at the NFWI Annual Meeting in the Royal Albert Hall. After speeches and lively debate the 2024 resolution, Dental Health Matters, was passed by over 95% of WIs. The NFWI calls on the government to increase investment in the training and retention of dentists and to review the current inadequate NHS contracts in order to ensure everyone can access an NHS dentist wherever they live. A WI campaign will be developed to take action on the dental health crisis both locally and nationally.

Our annual outing on 8 July will take us to Ramsey Walled Garden and Museum. Our annual garden party is on 12 August.

Marilyn Broadhurst

Abington Bowls Club

We are approaching the midway point in our four-month season and the impression is that we have yet to see the sun. You would never know that bowls is a summer sport; our matches have been a succession of cold, rainy, dark evenings. There have been hints of warm weather and we hold out hopes for July but who knows?

Despite the miserable weather we have had to postpone only one game so far and at the time of writing we have, in the Cambridge & District league 3, played 7 matches, winning 4. We look to secure our place in Division 3 but nothing is certain. In the Business House Pairs leagues we remain undefeated in both the Open and the Men's league. Please contact Graham Ross on 0785 252 8693 to find out more.

Abington Through the Ages



The recent Abington History Group (AHG) publication, *Abington Through the Ages*, has received good reviews in the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History (CALH) magazine and the national British Association for Local History (BALH): "This is a detailed account of a journey through Abington's past. The history group should be proud of such a well-produced and beautifully illustrated book" (CALH); "The objective of the AHG is to 'conduct non-commercial research into the history of our villages and record it so that it can be shared'. Their published booklets indicate that they are succeeding" (BALH).



Abington History Group also received a commendation at the CALH Book Awards on 1 June and Derek Turnidge is shown here (second left) receiving the certificate from Chris Jakes, CALH President. Copies of the book are available from AHG members, price £6.

AHG needs more working members

If the Abington History Group is to continue to conduct research, record the history of our villages and prepare future publications, like *Abington Through the Ages* we need more members to join the group.

If you would like to discover more about Abington's past, and help record it so that it can be shared, please contact Barry Brooks or any other members of the group (abingtonhistorygroup@gmail.com).



Canada Geese and goslings on the lake in Granta park in June.

Photo: David Farrant

Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

Annual Parish Meeting

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May reports were received from the Chairman, County and District Councillors and representatives of the Recreation Ground and Institute Management committees. Reports are available on the GAPC website: greatabingtonparishcouncil.org. The meeting was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at which Tony Orgee was re-elected chairman.

20mph limit update and parking update

Please note that the works have been completed by Cambridgeshire County Council and the 20mph limit is now enforceable. Parking enforcement officers have visited the village twice in recent weeks and issued several penalty notices, particularly in the centre of the village. Please be mindful when parking in the village.

Land on Pampisford Road

The Council, with community representatives, is currently in the process of applying for an Asset of Community Value relating to the land on Pampisford Road. If successful, the community has six months to raise the money to pay for the land and establish a group to manage it. Thank you to all residents who responded to requests for information about what this area of land means to them and for completing the survey. For further information or to offer support please contact the Clerk.

Planning

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

Planning Applications

24/01967/REM 55 North Road – reserved matters: approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for a new dwelling on land adjacent to 55 North Road.

24/01924/HFUL 4 Maple Rise – installation of 2 rooflights to the side roof elevation.

District Council decisions

24/00718/FUL 29 South Road – demolition of the existing outbuilding and former piggery and the erection of a new single storey dwelling and outbuilding together with vehicular and pedestrian access (re submission of 23/03247/FUL).

24/01560/HFUL 32A South Road – erection of a single storey side extension.

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: 7.15pm on Monday 15 July 2024. 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 and on the Parish Council's website. <http://greatabingtonparishcouncil.org> or available from the Parish Clerk. Paula Harper (Clerk): harper802@btinternet.com (892 000).

Little Abington Parish Council

Disposal of batteries

There have already been seven fires in bin lorries this year caused by lithium-ion batteries, as used in mobile phones, vapes and laptops. Please take them, as well as larger batteries from e-bikes to the Thriplow recycling centre. You can put small household batteries in a plastic bag and leave on top of any colour wheelie bin.

No ATM at Fourwentways

Rather sadly the cashpoint at Burger King, next to the Shell garage, has been removed. Perhaps it was under-used.

Overgrowing hedges

This year's exceptional weather has resulted in greater and lusher growth in our gardens, including of course our hedges. Please check that yours are not overhanging paths and pavements to the extent that they inconvenience passers-by, and trim where necessary.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next Meeting: Monday 22 July 2024

If you would like to participate in a meeting please contact the clerk. The meeting agendas and papers are on the noticeboard on Church Lane.

Sheila Bolden (Chair): 07754 659929/cllr.sbolden@littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Jessica Ashridge (Clerk): clerk@littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Protected Verges

I would like to thank Little Abington Parish Council for their support and piece about our Protected Road Verges (PRVs) on BOTH sides of Bourn Bridge Road in last month's *Abingtons and Hildersham News* (page 15). I would like to add a few more comments to emphasise their importance.

In Cambridgeshire roadside verges can be remnant strips of species-rich grassland in an arable landscape and are a reminder of what was once a much richer habitat. Road verges are also an important corridor for wildlife.

Recently the management of PRVs has been surveyed based on their botanical interest. Of 67 verges surveyed the number of unfavourable sites has fallen but the number of sites in favourable condition has also fallen. This means that although key species are still present the overall condition is poor. It is VERY IMPORTANT that we care for these verges for the future.

Therefore, I would like to reiterate and stress the PC's request with regard to walking along Bourn Bridge Road.

Gaynor Farrant

The *Abingtons and Hildersham News* on the website

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

Love Abington



Welcome to all who are new residents in the Abingtons and Hildersham. Love Abington originated as a church initiative at the start of the pandemic to bring practical and emotional support as well as friendship to everyone in our villages. The pandemic may have subsided but life will always have its challenges whether you are young or of more mature years. So here is an update on some of our activities.

Repair Café

At the Autumn Love Abington hub_at The Village Institute on Saturday 12 October, we look forward to welcoming our local skilled repairers and Cambridge Footprint craftsmen to the Abington Repair Café, 10.00am–1.00pm. Please look out your broken garden tools, kettles, faulty laptops or mending over the summer and contact Carol Thexton (carol.thexton@gmail.com) for more details. The café will be open for you to enjoy coffee, cake or a late breakfast. Carol would also like to hear from anyone who would like to offer their repairing skills or craftsmanship for the morning.

Abington Allotment Produce

Very many thanks to Abington allotmenters who are donating surplus produce to be delivered to those in need around the villages. Starting from 7 July, on a weekly basis, we will be distributing bags of fruit and vegetables to a number of households. We are focusing our efforts on people who may be facing difficulties, whether that be financial hardship or medical or mobility concerns. If you would like to be considered, please phone or message on 07928 589982. All requests will be treated in full confidence.

Welcome Packs

Are you new to Abington? If so and you have not yet received a welcome letter and Abington Directory, please contact your local coordinator and we will arrange to have one delivered to you.

Little Abington – Anton King 01223 891514

Great Abington – Carol Thexton 01223 891731 email: carol.thexton@gmail.com

Library



There is nothing more pleasant than relaxing in the garden with a good book on a warm summer's day. Forever hopeful that summer will arrive soon, you may like to visit the small libraries at Little Abington hutch (outside the church) and at Great Abington church (inside the porch). Some new books have arrived and there are also jigsaw puzzles at Great Abington. So please come and borrow a book or puzzle.

Rosemary Mead

Granta Medical Practices Update

We continue to work hard to improve patient access. We have recently employed seven new GPs, who are starting at various times over the next few months. Remember though, GPs aren't the only healthcare professionals you can see, depending on your medical need.

Pharmacy First is an NHS service available via high street pharmacies where, if eligible, you can obtain prescription medicine without seeing a GP. The conditions that are covered by Pharmacy First are:

- Earache (1–17 years)
- Impetigo (1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (1 year and over)
- Shingles (18 years and over)
- Sinusitis (12 years and over)
- Sore throat (5 years and over)
- Uncomplicated urinary tract infections (women, 16–64 years old)

If you go to a pharmacy with one of these conditions, a pharmacist will offer you advice, treatment or refer you to a GP or other healthcare professional if needed. They will then update your GP health record.

If you are not within the above age ranges, a pharmacist can still offer you advice on these and many other conditions, and if they cannot help you directly they may signpost you to an alternative healthcare professional for treatment.

For further information go to www.nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst. Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

Your Patient Participation Group needs YOU!

Did you know that:

- the Patient Participation Group ensures that Granta Medical Practices (GMP) has a channel through which it can hear its patients' thoughts, ideas and concerns?
- all patients registered with GMP are eligible to be members of our PPG?
- to be active within the PPG and/or just to be kept informed about PPG activities, you simply need to give your permission to be contacted, preferably by email?
- you can opt in to being a member of the PPG by contacting our GMP Patient Services Manager, Sandra East: sandra.east@nhs.net.

So what does our PPG do?

In recent months, in conjunction with GMP, our PPG has carried out, analysed and reported on a Patient Survey, which has resulted in many recommendations for improvement in the provision of GMP services.

We are also working with GMP on the production of a Patient Information Brochure to bring together information on all the services offered by GMP and the means of accessing them. This brochure will be available both in hard copy and online.

We hold a Patient Participation Group meeting about five times a year at Sawston Health Centre both face to face and online via Microsoft Teams. Representatives from GMP attend these meetings to bring us up to date on key developments within the wider organisation.

We have a committee comprising representatives from each of the Surgeries and Health Centres to co-ordinate activities. This summer we need to undertake nominations for, and elections of, officers, namely Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair. These positions will be held for two years.

If you are keen to make a positive contribution to your local health care provision by being active within the PPG, no matter what your age, then please do contact me by email: davidjsarnold@gmail.com

Dave Arnold, Chair Granta Medical Practices PPG

Granta Vale Harmony



Open Evening Concert

*Thursday 18 July at 7.45pm in the Village Institute.
Come along for an evening of great music and song with
Granta Vale Harmony.*




*Featuring Abington's own ladies' choir, The Glams and
Oundle Music Festival winning close harmony quartet,
SG19
plus solo performer, Angela*

FREE ENTRY

*Donations on the evening to The MS Society
Refreshments available*

*For more information contact Peter
(peterlester12@gmail.com)
tel. 07884932215*

Church Services for July and August 2024

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings
7 July	11.00am United Service at Balsham			2 Samuel 5.1-5, 9-10 Mark 6.1-13
14 July	11.00am Communion		11.00am Morning Worship	2 Samuel 6.1-5, 12b-19 Mark 6.14-29
21 July		11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Communion	2 Samuel 7.1-14a Mark 6.30-34, 53-end
28 July	10.00am Creative Church at the Abington Village Institute 6.00pm Evening Prayer		11.00am Café Church	Ephesians 3.14-end John 6.1-21
4 August			6.00pm Evening Prayer	John 6.24-35
11 August	11.00am Communion		11.00am Communion	John 6.35, 41-51
18 August		11.00am Morning Worship	6.00pm Evening Prayer	John 6. 51-58
25 August	10.00am Creative Church at the Abington Village Institute 6.00pm Evening Prayer		11.00am Café Church	John 6. 56-69

Church Flower Rota

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
7 July	Jill Treanor	Mrs Hinga & Mrs Smith	Mrs Hall
14 July	Patsy Randall	Mrs Hinga & Mrs Smith	Mrs Hall
21 July	Patsy Randall	Mrs Orgee	Mrs Hartland
28 July	Pat Kennedy	Mrs Orgee	Mrs Hartland
4 August	Pat Kennedy	Mrs Harman & Mrs Waring	Mrs Palmer
11 August	Penny & Sheena Fraser	Mrs Harman & Mrs Waring	Mrs Gray
18 August	Penny & Sheena Fraser	Mrs Kilcommons	Mrs Gray
25 August	Maureen Thomson & Betsy	Mrs Kilcommons	Mrs Huntsman

Churchwardens

<i>Great and Little Abington</i>	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564
<i>Hildersham</i>	Keith Day	Fourwinds, Linton Road, Hildersham	891527

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

Services at Granta Vale Churches (other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
7 July		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
14 July	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Evening Prayer <i>West Wrating</i>
21 July	Communion <i>West Wrating</i> <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	Taize Service <i>Weston Colville</i>
28 July	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> 10.00am Creative Church <i>Abington Hub</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
4 August		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
11 August	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Evening Prayer <i>West Wrating</i>
18 August	Communion <i>West Wrating</i> <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
25 August	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i> 10.00am Creative Church <i>Abington Hub</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	

Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ, www.ololsawston.org.uk

Monday–Friday	9.30am Holy Mass
Saturday	9.30am Holy Mass
Sunday	8.45am Holy Mass 11.15am Holy Mass

Fr John, parish priest, is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination at the 11.15am mass on Sunday 14 July, followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the church hall. Fr John has had a tremendous impact on the parish since he arrived, resulting in full congregations at mass each week.

Cambridge Open Studios celebrates golden jubilee



Cambridge Open Studios is celebrating its 50th anniversary with the launch of its biggest and best ever July Open Studios Art Festival.

The organisation, which is one of the oldest artist-run Open Studio initiatives in the country, is hosting the famous festival across every weekend in July (6–7, 13–14, 20–21, 27–28), which it promises will be packed full of VIP events, studio tours and creative surprises.

The specialisms on display include painting, jewellery, printmaking, ceramics and pottery, glass art, digital art, drawing and illustration, woodwork and furniture, sculpture, textiles, photography, book art, lettering and calligraphy, mixed media, collage – and much more.

To find out more about Cambridge Open Studios, visit camopenstudios.org.

Cambridge Past, Present and Future

We are celebrating 70 years of Wandlebury Country Park with a birthday appeal to raise £70,000!

Your support will enable us to:

- Repair the iconic clock tower
- Help us understand more about Wandlebury's invertebrates
- Complete restoration of the 18th-century circular wall
- Purchase a larger tractor
- Support Wandlebury's warden team

We have only been able to care for Wandlebury for 70 years thanks to the generosity of our supporters, including our patrons. You can join our patrons club with an annual or monthly payment. For information about how to make a donation, go to www.cambridgeppf.org.

Village Institute: Help Needed

Abington Village Institute is a registered charity and is run by volunteers. We are currently searching for a new volunteer who is good with numbers to take over the role of Institute Treasurer.

If you think this might be something that would interest you, I would be very pleased if you got in touch with me (bernie.talbot@btinternet.com) to discuss it and then, maybe, agree to take it on.

Bernie Talbot, Chairman, Abington Village Institute