



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

February 2010



**The Walking Group braving the big freeze in Abington
19 December 2009**

Letter from the Editor

The New Year brought a return of the snow that had delighted children before Christmas, but the icy temperatures caused severe travel problems, early school closure (page 13) and a rapid drop in levels in our oil tanks(see below).

The AALGA successfully allocated most of the allotment plots in January. Now funds need to be raised for a water main and other essentials before the cultivations can begin (page 16). The allotment holders, those joining the Walking Group and those taking part in many yoga and dance classes on offer should soon be feeling fit (pages 10-12, 16); but see also advice offered on page 6.

The Centenary celebrations for the Abington Institute were a resounding success and, while in nostalgic mood, there will soon be another opportunity to see a film of Abington in the 1980s (page 9). Hildersham organised several excellent fund-raising events in December and will welcome all comers at their Quiz Night on 26 February (page 7).

This magazine carries information on many church-related activities. All three Parishes are now intent on hearing ideas about how to develop the churches' role in the community and, to encourage discussion, will hold bring-and-share lunches on 14 and 28 February (pages 4, 5, 7).

Villagers have had their views canvassed about the proposal to build a Wind Farm with eight turbines near Linton. These would be large enough to be clearly visible as far away as Little Abington. Planning permission was refused but the company has appealed against that decision. The appeal will be heard at several locations, starting at 10am on 2 February at Abington Hall Conference Centre, Granta Park (page 14). Everyone with views for or against is urged to attend.

Valerie Silvey

Roadworks start on A1307 Cambridge Road Monday 25 January for 8 weeks.

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Articles for the February edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the Editor by Monday 15 February.

Email: news@theabingtons.org.uk, or contact team members listed on the inside cover.

Community Fuel Club

Lengthy cold periods have led to increased consumption of domestic heating oil, so the next order will be placed at the end of February. Oil companies report that the cost of crude oil has doubled in the last twelve months and the next order will, inevitably, reflect higher prices. Nevertheless, a joint order should benefit from a lower price than that offered to individuals. Would those wishing to order through the Fuel Club please let Dennis Mynott (891 819) know by 18 February the quantities required.

From the Vicarage

I heard an amusing story on the radio. A frail elderly woman was struggling across a road with a number of shopping bags. A well intentioned observer wanted to help. 'Can you manage?' he asked. She instantly retorted, 'Not likely. You can manage yourself. You got yourself into your mess, you can jolly well sort it out.' One of the reasons why I chuckled was because I know some independent spirited people who are just like this.

Kay Allison, who died in January, was one such person. There was always a spirited conversation to be had with Kay. She had an interest in medicine and in humanity. So it was entirely appropriate that she offered her body for medical research at the end of her life. We will be remembering her on 11 February at 12.30pm in the Village Institute.

This month, in all the Parish Churches we are going to take another look at the way the Churches act in the community. Are there things we are missing? We are seeking your perspective on this too. This could stimulate us to do something different. Please fill in questionnaires or tell your ideas to someone from the Church. You are also invited to come in person to a discussion over a bring-and-share lunch on Sunday 14 February at Holy Trinity, Hildersham, at noon or on 28 February at noon in St Mary's, Great Abington.

These exercises in listening to views outside those of our regular participants are not to shift the responsibility away from us, but a recognition that the best decisions we make include taking into account the widest survey of ideas. A Syro-Phoenician woman, from a different faith tradition to Jesus, once persuaded him to change his mind and help her daughter. This was a conversation that transformed them both.

Julie Norris

From the Registers

Funeral

We report with regret the death on Monday 11 January 2010 of Miss K Allison of 99 High Street, Great Abington. At 98 years of age she was one of our oldest residents (see page 6).



Partridge Group

We convene in *The Three Tuns* and the meetings start at 8.30pm at the Institute.

Wed. 3 February Dr Michael Berdine, Director of the Cambridge Muslim Centre, will give us the Muslim view on current world events.

Wed. 10 February Tim Stone of Whittlesford, Councillor on the South Cambridgeshire District Council, will speak on Faith and Governance.

Wed. 17 February We hope to welcome Bishop David of Huntingdon to present 'Christian Faith in the Modern World'. This talk, scheduled for 6 January, had to be cancelled because of the bad weather.

A Partridge

News from the Pews

At the Family Service on Sunday 7 February the theme will be 'A Glimpse of God'. With craft materials, the children will be invited to give their own interpretation of what God looks like. After the Service, coffee is served, do join us.

On 17 February at 7.30pm there will be a Service for Ash Wednesday at Hildersham Church.

The Family Communion Service will be on 21 February at 10.45am, the First Sunday in Lent, when the title for ROOTS is 'One Step Back and Three Steps Forward'. All children are invited to ROOTS in the Tower Room during the Service.

'Wheels and Squeals' will also be considering Lent, with the theme 'A Wilderness Journey'. This will be an imaginative and tactile journey. Abington Churches warmly invite all pre-school children and their carers to come and join in the fun at the URC in Little Abington on Friday 26 February at 10.30am for an hour. Coffee, juice and biscuits will be served. There is no charge for this monthly event.

On 28 February at 12 o'clock, there will be a bring-and-share lunch after the morning service at Great Abington church. Everyone is invited to come and tell us their ideas about what they would like to see the Church doing. We do not want to miss anything, so please come along or let us know your ideas (see pages 4, 7).

Our Charity for the month is Jimmy's Night Shelter, based in East Road, Cambridge. Jimmy's provide emergency accommodation for those who would otherwise be homeless.

Anne Hall

PLEASE NOTE: A meeting of parishioners is to be held **on Sunday 7 February after the family service at 11.45am at St Mary's, Great Abington.** To rescind the 6 year rule for Church Wardens in this parish for the coming year.

United Reformed Church, Little Abington

URC Services in February

3 February	10.15am	Mr Mark Hayes
10 February	10.15am	Mr Bob Parkin
17 February	2.30pm	Revd Bruce Waldron and Holy Communion
24 February	10.15am	Mr Martin Ballard

All are welcome.

Hazel Moore

Helping Hands for the Abingtons and Hildersham

In great demand, this voluntary service provides transport to local health centres, dentists, opticians, hospital, hairdressers etc. We urgently need more drivers. A contribution of 40p per mile, measured from the driver's home, is asked from the client and retained by the driver. See the January News for more detail. If you think you can help please phone me (891 696) or email maureen.harper27@virgin.net

Kay Allison

Kay Allison has died peacefully aged 98. She started her nursing training when she was 18 and then rose steadily through the ranks of her profession. She was awarded an MBE and greatly enjoyed the ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Her war service was mainly in the Far East; on the way there the ship was torpedoed and she lost all her belongings.

After her retirement Kay lived quietly in her cottage in the High Street enjoying her garden and a succession of much loved dogs. She took an active part in village life, always ready to help and advise. I shall greatly miss a very good friend.

There will be a Celebration of Kay Allison's life at the Institute on Thursday 11 February at 12.30pm. Refreshments will be served. All welcome to attend.

Janet Smith

Sawston Medical Practice

Here are a few steps towards a happy and healthy new year.

1. If you are a smoker and would like help to give up, please make an appointment to see one of our practice nurses who will be happy to help you. Giving up smoking can have many positive outcomes for your health, for example your food may taste better, and potentially you may live longer. After 10 years of not smoking, the chance of getting lung cancer is half that of someone who does smoke. The risk of a heart attack is the same as for someone who has never smoked.
2. Drinking – alcohol contains a lot of calories so reducing alcohol intake can help with weight control. If you are concerned about your alcohol intake, our practice nurses can advise you.
3. Try and keep active. Exercise helps to maintain healthy joints and muscles as well as improving your mood and general well being.
4. Diet – the five a day still holds true. Eating five portions of fruit or vegetables is the recommended amount and you can choose from fresh, frozen, tinned, dried or juiced. Potatoes do not count as they are a starchy food. Fruit and vegetables are a good source of vitamins and minerals; they are also very low in fat.
5. Maintain your fluid balance – in general adults should drink between 6 and 8 cups/glasses of water per day.

For further information on all the above, the websites www.nhs.uk and www.eatwell.gov.uk have a lot of useful articles, hints and tips. Within the practice we can provide leaflets on numerous aspects of health. Please ask at reception.

We are currently streamlining many policies and procedures, including our new appointment system and pharmacy services. Details will be on the notice-board to the right of the main reception desk and also on our website www.sawstonmedicalpractice.co.uk. If you visit the practice or the website, please take time to read the information, which will be updated on a regular basis. As always, we welcome comments and suggestions on all aspects of our services and these should be addressed to either Gerard Newnham or Jenny Parker.

Jenny Parker, Assistant Practice Manager

Hildersham Focus

Hildersham enjoyed a white and wonderful Christmas, and as ever, this was reflected in the generosity of our residents. Apart from the Christmas auction at the Pear Tree which we reported in the last issue, considerable sums were raised for a number of charities. On 17 December, the day the snow fell hard and fast, carol singers raised £108.35. Did the kind folk of Hildersham pay for the carol singers to go away so they could close the door or because they felt so sorry for them singing in a blizzard? £373 was raised at the Chocolate Tea Party from the sale of Christmas tree decorations and Christmas cards made by children and teenagers for the Sick Children's Trust and the Teenage Cancer Trust, and £219.04 at the service on Christmas Day was shared between Operation Smile (this appeal is fronted by Per Hall, our plastic surgeon) and the Bible Society.

This is indeed cheering, but it is important that we keep the charities we support under review and avoid falling into a repetitive pattern which might lead to dullness and 'burn-out'. The charities supported by Holy Trinity have been reviewed each year by the Finance Sub-Committee of the Parochial Church Council, and have tended to consist of one foreign charity, one church or bible charity and two local medical charities, at least one of which will be dedicated to children's problems. The Village Hall Trust, of course, is always a recipient! The PCC makes the final decisions, and is keen to receive new suggestions. Anyone can nominate a charity which he or she knows deserves support, and should approach either Julie Norris or Phil Wise with the suggestion, including some information to help the PCC in its decision between various contenders. In this way we hope that all may feel involved in the village's charitable activities, and that enthusiasm may remain fresh.

Holy Trinity is also keen to canvas opinion in the village as to how it could add to its role in village life and a questionnaire is shortly to be distributed to each house which will enable everyone to have a say. The church wants to know what everyone in the village thinks about it. What does it do well, how could it improve, what it should start doing and what it should stop? In other words, how relevant is the church to life in Hildersham and everything around us? You will be able to fill in the questionnaire and drop it off at the Pear Tree or just have a chat with any member of the PCC. Every idea raised will be considered and all are welcome to come to a 'bring and share' lunch at the church after the Family Service on 14 February where it will all be discussed.

Village Quiz Night

Once again it is time for the annual and greatly enjoyed village quiz night. It will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 26 February. To book your ticket – or better still a table full (about 8) – phone Helen Humphrys (891 309). Tickets cost £5 including a Ploughman's Supper. There will be the usual bar and raffle.

Hildersham Parish Council Meetings

Next meeting: Wednesday 10 March 2010 at 7.30pm

Keith Day (Chairman) tel: 891 527

Paula Harper (Clerk) tel: 892 000 email: harper802@btinternet.com

Great Abington Parish Council

Great Abington Parish Council report from the January meeting

Brick bus shelter

The Council has reconsidered its proposal to create an opening in the wall of the brick bus shelter on the High Street near the entrance to Magna Close. It now plans to extend the roofline forward slightly to enable bus users to keep dry, but be able to see whether the bus is arriving.

Salt bins

The Council decided to order four salt bins to be located around the village. Parishioners will be able to apply the salt to paths or roads, to help make it safer to move around the village.

Pedestrian lights

There are plans to install two new lights next year, and to move the light on the path between Magna Close and Meadow Walk in the next few weeks. Moving the light should improve the visibility for people using this path, which is currently difficult to navigate after dark.

Village coach trip

The coach trip to Norwich sponsored by both Parish Councils went ahead despite the snowy conditions. Everyone had a good day out (see page 9).

Finance

The finance working party will meet to discuss the recommendations arising from the interim audit and to revise the proposed budget for 2010-2011. The Council decided to leave the proposed precept for the next financial year at £15,500, as agreed at the November meeting.

Planning

S/1739/09/F: Miss Vanessa Cross, 1 Pampisford Road – change of use from office to residential – recommended approval

S/0018/09/LB: Mrs A Waters, Guildencroft – provision of en-suite in main bedroom (part regularisation of unauthorised work) – Council supported planning appeal.

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Village Institute

Planning Committee: Alternate Mondays (as required), 6.30pm in the Institute.
See noticeboard for dates or contact the Parish Clerk.

Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 22 March at 7.15pm for members of the public to raise issues of concern to them, **followed by the meeting at 7.30pm.**

Bernie Talbot (Chairman) tel: 892 647

Agenda and minutes posted on noticeboard or available from the Parish Clerk

Sally Smith (news) Paula Harper (Clerk: harper802@btinternet.com (892 000))

Joint Abington Parish Councils' trip to Norwich

Braving fearsome weather reports, a wide-ranging group of people of all ages from both parishes had a very successful trip to Norwich on Saturday 9 January. Some of us took advantage of the different shops that the city has to offer, some of us visited the museum or the cathedral, and a large group of us then went to see the pantomime.

The predicted snow did not arrive so we travelled safely and all had a most enjoyable time.

Pennie Zimmern

Village Institute Centenary Celebration

A temporary break in the wintry weather encouraged many villagers to attend one or more of the activities to mark the Centenary Celebrations at the Village Institute on 29 December.

During the morning, the café volunteers served complimentary refreshments to over 80 villagers whilst they viewed the Photographic Exhibition of the History of the Village Institute and watched clips from the Village Revues of the 1980's provided by the History Group.

Kirsty organised an afternoon's entertainment for about 70 children and young people which included a disco, games and activities and wonderful party food.

That evening the ladies of the Lunch Club ably catered for almost 100 Abington folk at the 'Bangers and Mash' supper and Karen and Chris from The Three Tuns kindly supplied the bar. Entertainment was given by a group of talented musicians: Glenis, Marion, Dave, Nick and Peter. The evening ended with a spontaneous rendition of Auld Lang Syne. The centenary of our Village Institute had been truly marked.

Sincere thanks to the Institute Committee and all those who contributed to make the celebrations such a successful and enjoyable day.

Mary Miles

Film Show: Abington Revisited 1984: Friday 12 February

The Abington History Group will be showing a film of the first of three village productions that took place in the Institute in the 1980s.

A fun production with lots of familiar faces. Come and join us for an entertaining evening.

Friday 12 February at 7.30pm in the Institute

Pay at the door: £3 per person to include programme with cast list and refreshments in the interval.

More information from Jennifer Hirsh (Tel: 893 352)

Dates for your diary – February 2010

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	1	Ragged Rascals Softplay Group	9.30am	12
		French Conversation	1.30pm	
		Abington Gardening Club	7.30pm	16
Tue	2	Art Group	9.30am	
		Keep Fit for the Over 60s	9.30am	
		Gentle Activity Class – Hildersham Village Hall	1.00pm	11
		Keep Fit	7.00pm	
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	17
		Lynda's Yoga – Hildersham Village Hall	7.30pm	12
Wed	3	Yoga – course and drop in	10.00am	
		Dynamic Dance classes	3.15pm	12
		Hildersham School of Dance – Village Hall		12
		Yoga – course and drop in	7.00pm	
		Italian class	7.30pm	
		Partridge Group	8.30pm	4
Thu	4	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	16
Fri	5	Spanish class	10.00am	12
Sat	6	Scrapbooking Group	10.00am	11
Sun	7	Parishioner's meeting – St Mary's Church, Great Abington	11.45am	5
Mon	8	Ragged Rascals Softplay Group	9.30am	12
		French Conversation	1.30pm	
		Abington & Hildersham WI	7.30pm	
Tue	9	Art Group	9.30am	
		Keep Fit for the Over 60s	9.30am	
		Gentle Activity Class – Hildersham Village Hall	1.00pm	11
		Keep Fit	7.00pm	
		Lynda's yoga – Hildersham Village Hall	7.30pm	12
		Reading Group – 23 Cambridge Road, Lt Abington	8.00pm	16
Wed	10	Yoga –course and drop in	10.00am	
		Hildersham School of Dance – Village Hall		12
		Yoga – course and drop in	7.00pm	
		Italian class	7.30pm	
		Partridge Group	8.30pm	4
Thu	11	Kay Allison – celebration of her life	12.30pm	6
Fri	12	Spanish class	10.00am	
		Abington Revisited Film Night	7.30pm	9
Mon	15	Ragged Rascals Softplay Group	9.30am	12
		French Conversation	1.30pm	
Tue	16	Art Group	9.30am	
		Keep Fit for the Over 60s	9.30am	
		Gentle Activity Class – Hildersham Village Hall	1.00pm	11
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	17
		Keep Fit	7.00pm	

		Lynda's Yoga – Hildersham Village Hall	7.30pm	12
Wed	17	Hildersham School of Dance – Village Hall Italian class Partridge Group	3.15pm 7.00pm 8.30pm	12 4
Fri	19	Spanish class	10.00am	
Sat	20	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	16
Mon	22	Ragged Rascals Softplay Group French Conversation Little Abington Parish Council	9.30am 1.30pm 7.15pm	12 15
Tue	23	Art Group Keep Fit for the over 60s Gentle Activity class – Hildersham Village Hall Keep Fit Scrabble Club Lynda's yoga – Hildersham Village Hall	9.30am 9.30am 1.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	 11 16 12
Wed	24	Yoga – course and drop in Dynamic Dance classes Hildersham School of Dance – Village Hall Yoga – course and drop in Italian class	10.00am 3.15pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	 12 12
Thu	25	Abington Lunch Club	12.30pm	12
Fri	26	Spanish class 'Wheels and Squeals' – United Reformed Church Hildersham Village Quiz Night – Village Hall	10.00am 10.30am 7.30pm	 5 7
Sat	27	Rivercare litter pick-up – Ford	9.30am	

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

Abington Institute Administrator: Jennifer Hirsh (893 352).

Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute

Opening times as follows:

Tuesday afternoons 2pm to 4pm (every other Tuesday – Feb9, Feb 23)
 Thursday lunchtimes 11am to 1pm (excluding 4th Thursday in the month)
 Friday mornings 8.45am to 11.15am
 Saturday mornings 10am to 12noon

Wheelie bin dates for February 2010

Mon 1	Mon 8	Mon 15	Mon 22
Green	Black	Green	Black

Scrapbooking Group – If you're visiting the Café on the first Saturday of the month please visit us on the terrace. We will be scrapbooking. Contact Kirsty Batom 890 837 or at curly_custard@hotmail.com

Gentle Activity Class at Hildersham Village Hall: Tuesdays 1-2pm – For seniors, or those who wish to become more active. Contact Vikki Green (833 862).

Dynamic Dance Theatre School: Wednesdays from 3.15pm

Ballet and Modern Dance lessons for children from 4 years old at Abington Institute. Contact Esme on 07719 816 548 or esmewatts@hotmail.com for details.

Hildersham School of Dance: Wednesdays in Village Hall

Mothers and toddlers: ages: walking to 3 years from 10.00 - 11.00am.

Pre-school ballet and tap: ages: 3 years to 5 years from 3.30 - 4.15pm

For more details contact Janet Rouse on 891 880.

Ragged Rascals Softplay Group for 0-4 year-olds: Mondays 9.30am

This is a safe, stimulating environment for babies and toddlers. Contact Lara Kerr www.raggedrascals.co.uk (07756 021 893).

Lynda's Yoga 7.30-9.30pm at Hildersham Village Hall

Enjoy the practice of yoga in a friendly atmosphere with an experienced British Wheel of Yoga teacher. Be inspired! Bring yoga into your life. Call 891 525, or online to lyndasaltmarsh@tiscali.co.uk or www.lyndayoga.co.uk

Abington Lunch Club

Thursday 25 February 2010



**Pork Medieval Casserole
with seasonal vegetables and creamed
potatoes**



Pear and Chocolate Upside-down pudding with custard

Please book your meal on 07789 585 399. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 23 February. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet.

Next lunch Thursday 25 March 2010

Your Mobile Library

The Library Van will visit the Abingtons on Friday 5 and 19 February 2010.

Little Abington West Field 10.25-10.55am

Great Abington Magna Close 11.05-11.55am

Lewis Close 12.00-12.15pm

The Shop 12.20-12.40pm

Hildersham Church Green on Wednesday 3 and 17 February at 10.50am

'Oliver' at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, 2.30pm Wed. 12 May

Tickets and information from Dennis Mynott (891 819).

Roadworks on A1307 from 25 January for 8 weeks. See page 14.

News from Linton Village College

What is it that the poet Robert Burns said about the best laid plans of mice and men? Well some well-made plans at the college went awry because of snow in December. Firstly, there was the last day of the autumn term. Children had spent weeks devising stalls for the annual Charities Fayre, families all over the Linton area had gone into production making prizes and baking buns to sell, while the musicians had been practising hard for the final assembly. We were ready. Then at 7pm, the night before, it began to snow. By 5.30am the High Street in Linton was 10cm deep in the stuff. I had no option, but to organise an emergency closure. No Fayre, no final assembly, no staff Christmas dinner, no secret Santa. Closure on 19 December, but not 'closure' to the term.

Traditionally, when a school closes as a result of snow, the news is greeted with general glee by the children and possibly some of the staff too. On that day, large numbers of children were disappointed. Still, there were some benefits: Mrs Hall and I got up on to the school roof and took gorgeous photos, the site staff made the world's biggest snowman (once they'd aborted attempts to clear the drive) and every family with secondary age children had a supply of home-cooked buns for many days after.

Over the holiday I reorganised the staff dinner and the secret Santa and rescheduled the Fayre. We decided that Wednesday 6 January was as good a day as any. Camels, Kings, Bishops and small children were coming to see us in the morning for an outdoor Epiphany assembly, so tacking on a charities afternoon to these events was not disruptive to a normal school day.

All seemed to be going well. The sky was clear and it looked as if Linton would escape the snow drifts experienced everywhere else. However, Louise Clarke, Head at Linton Infants, sent me a sad email to say that the camel owners had cancelled (more snowy in the East where the Kings were coming from?) and things went rapidly downhill from then onwards. By 12.30 pm, telephone calls from parents living out in Suffolk said that they were concerned about the safety of the roads from Haverhill and wished to take their children home. "It's not snowing here," we replied cheerfully. By 1pm, that was no longer the case but the Fayre had begun. The buses wouldn't arrive until after 2pm so we gritted our teeth and the paths and carried on. It was pretty grim – around 50 parents turned up to take their children home concerned about the road conditions. With the Fayre on, the children were all over the college and finding individuals was tricky. The waiting parents became anxious. Reception became crowded with students visiting stalls. And then, unseen by everyone, the snow stopped and looked a little unimpressive.

In the end a compromise was reached. We decided to close half an hour early, hoping that this would keep the buses out of the rush hour and would appease the ever growing number of parents in reception. We had managed 50 minutes of the Fayre and that was better than nothing. Furthermore, the news that we had raised £1100 for our charities did much to restore our humour.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

Around the village

We're very pleased to say that a new large litter bin has now been installed at Four Went Ways. It was partly funded by a grant from the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership. We hope that it will result in less littering in the area.

We have heard from Linton Parish Council about a proposed re-organisation of the Linton Rights of Way. They are consulting with Linton residents and also with the Ramblers Association and the British Horse Society. They would like Abington residents to have an opportunity to view the maps and to make comments to the Rights of Way Working Group in Linton. Little Abington Parish Council will be discussing the plans at the next meeting. If you would like to see the plans before that, they can be obtained from our clerk or on The Linton Parish Council website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk.

There was no Parish Council Meeting in December but correspondence continues.

Planning

Linton Wind Farm: The Planning Appeal starts on 2 February and finishes on 2 March. Sessions are to be held at Abington Hall, SCDC offices and Linton Village Hall – weekdays except Mondays. Members of the public may attend; details are available on the SCDC website: www.scambs.gov.uk and on the Parish Council notice-board. There have been recent reports in the press about noise from wind farms; this one is very close to habitation.



Photomontage of proposed Linton wind farm from Little Abington churchyard.

Highways

We have not heard officially about work on the A1307 pedestrian refuge but have noticed that there is a temporary traffic order from 22 January to 31 March 2010:

A1307 Cambridge Road, Little Abington – Temp 20mph Speed Limit
Carriageway upgrade works

We had a letter about speeding on the A1307 from an Abington resident who helps with Speedwatch. It suggests several measures to improve matters:

- A reduced speed limit of 30 MPH in the built-up area
- Better lighting along the road
- Cutting back hedges and trees to allow better visibility: residents please note!

Both Parish Councils would also like to see a 20 MPH zone in the critical area of the High Street outside the pub, village hall, school and shop.

The initial reaction from the County Council Highways department is not very favourable, and their budget situation will not help, but we will continue to press for enforcement of the speed limit, at the least. Speedwatch is definitely having an impact and providing evidence of the extent of the problem.

Community Transport

South Cambridgeshire District Council has developed a Community Transport Strategy for 2010-2013. More details on their website:

www.scambs.gov.uk/communitytransport.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

Next Meeting: Monday 22 February at 7.15pm

Public forum: Come and have your say during the first fifteen minutes

Peter Brunning (Chairman) tel: 891 960 Email: pc@brunning.org.uk

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk) tel: 893 332 Email: clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk

Fire Services save the day!

A 999 call in January to report a chimney fire at a thatched cottage in Little Abington brought 7 or 8 fire fighters from Linton to the scene, and a further crew from Sawston, all in less than ten minutes!

The problem was swiftly resolved. Snow on the thatch probably reduced the threat of a major conflagration in this case.

High praise is due to the fire services for their rapid response and effective action.



However, all owners of thatched cottages should be aware that the Fire Service strongly advises that chimneys in such properties should be swept TWICE a year; once a year is not enough to guard against possible chimney fires.

Reading Group

9 February	<i>Sunset Song</i> Lewis Grassic Gibbon	23 Cambridge Road, Little Abington
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Please confirm your attendance at the February meeting to Sally on 891 133.

Diana Wingfield

Scrabble Club

The Scrabble Club will meet at 7pm on Tuesday 23 February in the Institute. New members welcome. Please bring your own board and tiles if possible.

Future date - Tues 23 March.

Sheena Fraser

Abington Walking Group

As everyone will know the recent weather has not encouraged much walking but seven of us did manage a trudge through the snow on Saturday 19 December along Chalky Road to Hildersham Wood and down to Hildersham via Little Linton (see cover picture). The Thursday January walk had to be cancelled.



A recent report by Loughborough University warned of severe consequences for the nation's health from the dying out of the traditional family walk which is the ideal form of exercise. The reasons given were not knowing where to walk and not wishing to walk alone. We have the answer – a planned walk with good company! Do join us at The Institute at 10am for one of our future walks. The February ones are on Thursday 4th and Saturday 20th.

Robin & Kay Harman 891 730 & George Woodley 891 169

Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting is on Monday 1 February at 7.30 pm when Stephen Poyser will give a talk entitled 'Honey, Hive to Table'. Everybody welcome.

Kay Harman, Secretary (891 730)

Abington Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Association (AALGA)

A very well attended 'pick your plot' meeting was held at the Institute in January, when all but three plots were successfully allocated. We are now planning for the laying of a new water main, the installation of a meter and the provision of fencing to the perimeter of the site. Discussions are ongoing with our local plumber for the laying of the water pipe and the installation of water troughs in the hope that cultivation can start on 1 March.

Allowing for the payment of insurances and the membership fees to the National Allotment Association, we estimate that we need to raise £12,000. Discussions are being held with Parish Councils, Granta Park and others to seek contributions and the AALGA Committee will leave no stone unturned to find the necessary funds.

Fiona Snell

Forget-Me-Not Club

Meetings are held on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2pm in Abington Village Institute and new members are always welcome. The programme for February is as follows:

Tuesday 2 February Talk entitled "The Wireless"

Tuesday 16 February Meal at The Three Tuns to celebrate Chinese New Year – The Year of the Tiger. Further details will be given out at the meeting on 2nd Feb. If you are unable to attend the 2nd Feb meeting and would like to book a place for the meal or enquire about arrangements, please telephone either Anne Hall (892 275) or Bronwen Percival (894 013).

Anne Hall, Vice Chairman

Abington Social Club

The Abington Social Club once again held its sloe gin competition on Christmas Eve. There were nine entries and everyone took part in the testing, which made the evening go with a 'glow'. After a very close finish the winner was Eoin Shearing from Duxford.

Despite the weather there was a good turnout by the Abington and District dart players to take part in the John Warren memorial darts tournament. The winners were The Old Red Lion, Horseheath, with runners-up The Wagon and Horses, Linton. The raffle raised £56, which will be donated to the Arthur Rank Hospice.

Maureen Davies

Abington United Football Club

Recent matches have had to be cancelled because of the extremely bad weather.

Future fixtures are

- 6 Feb Lode vs Abington UFC
- 13 Feb Abington UFC vs Lode
- 20 Feb Sawston UFC vs Abington UFC
- 27 Feb Abington UFC vs Camden United (Res)

Kick off is at 2pm and we would welcome more people to come to watch and support.

We thank Roy Boughtwood from the village for his donation to the Abington Football Club. Without such donations the Club would not be able to continue. If you think you can help in any way please contact me, David Boughtwood on 07754 068 797 or the Manager, Daniel Stobbart on 07785 962 326.

Great Abington Primary School PTFA '160 Club' winners

The winners of the £50 Christmas draws were Katy Barns and Dr Hunt (who kindly donated half to the PTFA and half to Hildersham Church).

January winners were Mrs S Huntsman and Julie Barnes.

Congratulations to them all.

Attention all potential cricketers

From the next season Abington Cricket Club will be running a third team for the first time in its long history. As a result we are on the lookout for new, budding or former players to join the fold. We will be holding winter cricket nets from 6pm to 7.30pm, every Wednesday from 10 February to 31 March at the Perse School on Hills Road, Cambridge.

With our newly promoted first team now in the highest league in Cambridgeshire, our two youth teams and two successful midweek teams, we provide cricket for all ages and abilities, for the serious cricketer or those who just want a social game. So feel free to come along. For more information, contact Greg Wagstaff (891 670) for senior cricket, Kate Franklin (891 344) for junior cricket.

Cash point thefts – Beware!

During the past few weeks there have been a number of cash point thefts in Cambridge City centre. All of these thefts have involved distraction techniques.

Victims have pushed their card into the cash point slot and entered their pin, at which point they have been approached from either side and their attention has been distracted by one of the offenders waving a newspaper in front of the screen. Offenders have been operating in twos and threes, and some have been described as speaking with an Eastern European accent. Whilst distracting the victim, one of the offenders has entered a request for at least a £200 withdrawal. They then leave after taking the money and the victim doesn't realise until they find their card has been returned. Two such incidents took place at city centre cash points on 15 December. One of them prevented a theft of £200 after grabbing the money before the offenders did, and then 10 minutes later, £200 was stolen as a 31 year old woman attempted to withdraw money from Barclays in Market Hill.

DC Paul Evans, who is issuing the warning, said "People should be alert to the tactics used by these thieves. Thankfully two people have realised what was happening, and although money was released by the cash point, the victims have managed to grab it before the offenders". If anyone sees anything suspicious or has any information, please contact DC Evans at Parkside Police Station on 0345 456 456 4 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Linton Music Society




Saturday 13 February at 7.30pm at Linton Village College

The Reinecke Trio, Stephen Pierce (clarinet), Christopher Wellington (viola), and Terence Allbright (piano) play Mozart's finest piano trio, the 'Kegelstadt' and other works in this concert.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance from Sweet Talk News, 77 High Street, Linton (893 480).

<p>Farmers' Market at Linton Village College Saturday 6 February 2010, 9.30am to 12.30pm</p>
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Church Services for February 2010

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
7 February	10.45am Family Service	8.00am Said Communion	9.15am Communion	Genesis 2. 4b-9, 15-end Luke 8. 22-25
14 February		9.15am Communion	10.45am Family Service	Exodus 34. 29-end Luke 9. 28-36
17 February Ash Wednesday			7.30pm Communion	Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17 Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21
21 February	8.00am Said Communion	10.45am Family Communion with ROOTS and Sunday School	9.15am Communion	Deuteronomy 26. 1-11 Luke 4. 1-13
28 February	10.45am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	Genesis 15. 1-12, 17-18; Luke 13. 31-end

Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
7 February	Jane Dowling	Mrs. Waring	Mrs. Gray
14 February	Jane Dowling	Mrs. Rusted	Mrs. Gray
21 February	The Eady Family	Mrs. Marns Cleaning only required	LENT
28 February	The Eady Family	Mrs. Marns Cleaning only required	LENT

Churchwardens

Hildersham	Keith Day	Fourwinds, Linton Road, Hildersham	891527
	Phil Wise	Chime Cottage, Hildersham	892088
Great Abington	Pam van Weede	88 High St, Great Abington	892705
	Janet Stanley	Abington Park Farm, Great Abington	892110
Little Abington	Patrick Daunt	4 Bourn Bridge Road, Little Abington	891485
	Judy Jowett	9 Bourn Bridge Rd, Little Abington	893339