



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

January 2010



**First official post to mark the new  
Allotment site at Great Abington  
December 2009**

## Letter from the Editor

We awoke this morning to a pre-Christmas winter wonderland with several inches of snow, blue skies and sunshine! The children will certainly hope it continues.

The last year saw Julie Norris installed as vicar and a very active programme of church events in the three parishes. Voluntary efforts to raise money for good causes, while engaging residents in enjoyable activities, have flourished in the Abingtons and Hildersham. The hugely successful and enjoyable Christmas Fayre, Advent Concert, Christmas Tea and Charity Auction are reported in this issue (pages 5, 6, 9). Volunteers are to be thanked for running the Café, litter-picking, monitoring traffic speed, the Community Fuel Club and the Helping Hands provision of car drivers (pages 5, 11, 15). Helping Hands is so much in demand that more drivers are urgently needed. Can you help?

The Cricket Club celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the teams achieved great success throughout the season. Now they seek new recruits for winter nets and look forward to the new season with confidence. I am delighted to have a report of football successes for Abington United and hope that continues (page 17).

The recession and funding shortages feed through to the work of the Parish Councils. It is interesting to have news from the Hildersham Parish Council which now needs one new councillor (page 7). From matters of planning and those concerning the local environment, road safety and allotments, the councillors also tackle thorny issues like the Linton Wind Farm and the Hanley Grange proposal for a new town of 14,000 houses, both of which will be on the agenda in 2010.

Our warmest thanks go to all these and other volunteers, who work to make our community and lives more safe and interesting. For my own part I thank all those who continue to contribute news and information to this magazine, those who proof-read and distribute the *News*, but especially the print room staff at TWI who provide a superb, speedy printing service. To everyone, 'Very best wishes for a Happy New Year'.

Valerie Silvey

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

Email: [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk), or contact team members listed on the inside cover

## **Abington Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association (AALGA)**

AALGA has started to mark out the plots and is in process of negotiating funds for fencing and water at the site. In the meantime the New Year will be off to a flying start with a 'Pick your Plot' morning in the Abington Institute from 10.30am to 12 noon on Saturday 9 January 2010. We will email further details to members, with the option to 'pick' by proxy if they are unable to attend on that morning.

*The cover photo shows Stewart Gilmour hammering in the first official marker post.*

## From the Vicarage

When we receive all the Round Robins in the Christmas cards, it is easy to think that everyone else has the perfect life. They have the best holidays, their work/ life balance seems all sorted, their children are never difficult, and they don't seem to have any problems. Of course that is not how it really is. The difficulties have been edited out to make life more exciting and to present the better face.

As we begin a new year, and we are no longer saturated by the Christmas demands, we have space to think about what we want life to be like this year. We can imagine ourselves into different situations. This can motivate us to change something, or to renew our commitment to what we are already doing. Making a choice can be re-energising.

In the Church we are entering the season of Epiphany. Epiphany comes from the Greek word which means, 'manifestation'. We celebrate two feasts; the Baptism of Christ, and the visit of the magi (kings) to the infant Jesus. In both cases these are celebrations of how people have seen God in the midst of human life. They help us to be imaginative and to look not just at the infant Jesus, but to where God can be found now. In this way we can sometimes see our own situations from a different perspective. Things do not have to be the way they always have been.

This year the churches are thinking about the future. We want to look with new eyes to see how God is at work outside the church as well as within each of us. We need your input. So when you are doing your own soul searching, could you also give some thought to how you would like the church to be involved in these communities. You can then reflect your views to me, or to the Church Wardens.

I hope that 2010 is the best year ever for you and for those you love,

Julie

## From the Registers

### Funeral

The funeral of Edith Maud Wright, known to everyone as Edie, took place on 11 December at Cambridge Crematorium. We offer our condolences to Frankie and Adrian and their family at this time.



### Partridge Group

We are delighted that Bishop David of Huntingdon has agreed to talk to us on Wednesday 6 January from his perspective of 'The Anatomy of Faith'. For 13 January we hope to have a speaker on the Christian view of Animal Rights. On 20 January the Revd Nigel Cooper, University Chaplain to the Cambridge Campus, Anglia Ruskin University, will speak about the environment, pollution and global warming from a Christian point of view.

We convene in *The Three Tuns* and the meeting starts at 8.30pm at the Institute.

A Partridge

## News from the Pews

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our various Church events in the past few weeks. The Christmas Fayre raised the grand total £2,100. Mary would like to thank all the willing stallholders, local businesses who advertise in the programme, and supporters who buy and give so generously.

Following the Christmas Fayre was the Advent Concert in memory of Ros Patten. We are so grateful to Mike Landshoff and 'The English Singers' for the concert, which featured some festive favourites, both musical and literary. A memorable and enjoyable evening closed with a heart-warming thank you from Derek Patten.

The very lively Christingle Service told the story 'Light a Candle on Lonely Street' and raised £130. Thank you to everyone who returned money-filled candles.

Our next 'Wheels and Squeals' will be on Friday 22 January (and thereafter the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month). Do join us for a short worship and coffee and play.

Our Bishop Anthony is retiring on Saturday 23 January. There is a Service in the cathedral to mark our appreciation and thanksgiving for his ministry in the Diocese of Ely and to express our prayers for him and Mrs Russell as they prepare to move to Oxfordshire. Abington Churches have sent a donation towards a leaving gift.

Our charity for the month is Winter Comfort - a Cambridge-based day shelter for the homeless which provides food, clothes and valuable skills for homeless people.

Please note the change in the service pattern from this month – see back page.

Anne Hall

## United Reformed Church, Little Abington

Services in January

3 January	10.15am	Mrs Liz Wade
10 January	10.15am	Mrs Hazel Moore
17 January	2.30pm	Revd Bruce Waldron
24 January	10.15am	Mrs Sarah Devereux
31 January	10.15am	Revd Bruce Waldron, including Holy Communion

All are welcome.

## Helping Hands

With an increasing number of clients using our services we have a desperate need for more drivers for the Abingtons and Hildersham. Our journeys include visits to local health centres, dentists, opticians, Addenbrooke's and other hospitals, hairdressers, etc. A contribution of 40p per mile, measured from the driver's home, is asked from the client, and retained by the driver. The driver's insurance company must be informed and the driver must obtain written clearance for non-profit-making journeys on a voluntary basis. If you feel you can help with an occasional hour or two of your time, please phone me (891 696) or email: [maureen.harper27@virgin.net](mailto:maureen.harper27@virgin.net)

## Hildersham Focus

### Charity Auction

The village was delighted that the Christmas charity auction was back at the *Pear Tree* and the pub filled early on the evening of 7 December. Raymond Humphrys was again the auctioneer, and bids came eagerly and generously as a splendid range of donated items flowed wittily under his gavel. The sale was in support of The Village Hall Trust, the East Anglian Air Ambulance, and Addenbrooke's Teenage Cancer Trust. Some were disappointed that the opening bid for an afternoon watching Cambridge United from the Directors' Box with David Beckham and Boyzone in attendance was only a penny, but eventually a respectable price was achieved. Residents bid enthusiastically for sessions of bowling, paint-balling and cruising on a canal longboat.

The highlight of the evening, however, was inevitably the sale of the Pear Tree Owls. Many have believed these to be imaginary creatures, which, like Father Christmas, are much loved and much discussed, but rarely visible to human eyes. How wrong we were proved! They turned up in splendour, fluffy, white and bright-eyed, and have promised to perch happily on the *Pear Tree* shelves for all to admire. The frenzied bidding which followed was finally concluded by John Myer, who bought the Owls for £85. In all, the sale raised £1,420.

### Plans for January

Such excitement has left little energy for events in January, but more is to come. The opportunity to see the approved outline plans for the new Village Hall occurs on 15 January, when the Hildersham Village Hall Trust will make a presentation. The following day, 16 January, we are looking for volunteers to help to spruce up the Village Hall. All are needed, and no experience is required. Come and do some painting! On the 22<sup>nd</sup> there is to be a film night. The film to be shown has yet to be decided, but it will certainly be a good one, so keep the date in your diaries.

On Sunday 10 January there will be a Family Service at Hildersham Church at 10.45am to celebrate Epiphany, the festival to remember the coming of three wise men to find the baby Jesus. Were you wondering what had happened to the three wise men at Christmas? When will they appear? Will they come with camels? Come and find out!

Finally, **an urgent amendment**; in last month's magazine a meeting to discuss the proposed Linton Wind Farm was advertised for February 18<sup>th</sup> in Hildersham Village Hall. This is incorrect. There is no meeting booked for the Village Hall on that date.

### Hildersham Parish Council Meetings

Hildersham Village Hall

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 13 January 2010 at 7.30pm**

Public forum: comments welcome after the meeting

Keith Day (Chairman) tel: 891 527

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

## **Hildersham Parish Council**

### **Report on the Parish Council meeting held on 18 November 2009.**

Since the resignation of Jim Tarry, the Parish Council has been without the full complement of five Councillors required to achieve Quality Status. If you are able to get involved please contact a Councillor or the Clerk.

The bus shelters have been the subject of several discussions. The Council is continuing to investigate the costs and process required to install a pedestrian light near the shelter on the Abington side of the A1307. District Councillor Trisha Bear agreed to take up the Council's failed request for bins to be installed at both bus shelters.

The care of the many beautiful trees within Hildersham Parish is becoming a significant part of the Council's responsibilities. Work should be undertaken within the next few weeks to safeguard a pine tree by the bridge. Further quotations and permissions will be sought to work upon a sycamore tree and a willow tree on the recreation ground. Since Hildersham is well furnished with trees the Council is looking for a volunteer to take on the position of Tree Warden. The role involves directing people to the correct body for advice on trees and helping to decide where new trees could be planted, with the support of the District Council Trees Officer.

Derek Patten will be making a circular galvanised bench for the memorial oak tree for Mr Ivor Levitt. A semi-mature tree is to be donated by the Binney Estate and will be planted in the next few months on the recreation ground by the river.

Hildersham Village Hall Trust will hold its AGM on 15 January, at which it will display the plans for the new village hall.

### **Linton WEA News**

The course for the Spring Term commencing on 12 January 2010, will see the return of an old friend **Brian Jones**, who will tell us about "**East Anglian Life through the Centuries**". We are a very friendly group. The classes start at 10am and go on until 11.45am with a break halfway for coffee and a chance to catch up with all the latest news.

The 10 week course costs just £43.50, and will include a subsidised excursion. However, there are several ways that you can get free access to this course; one is if you are on a means tested benefit or if your joint household income is less than £15,276 per annum. For details ring Andrew on 892 430 or Marion on 290 420.

### **Farmers' Market at Linton Village College**

Saturday 9 January 2010, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Start the year with locally produced lamb, pork, bread, vegetables, honey, fresh Lowestoft fish, home-baked hams, cakes and much more.

<b>BBC Radio 4 Gardeners' Question Time at Linton – see page 18</b>
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## **Great Abington Parish Council**

Happy New Year to everyone. Here are some of the things the Parish Council is doing at the start of 2010.

### **Subsidised Coach Trip to Norwich**

At the time of writing there are still some tickets available for the visit to Norwich on Saturday 9 January. The cost is £2 for the bus fare, or £16.50 to include a seat at the pantomime. The coach will leave Magna Close and the bus stop in the High Street, Little Abington at approximately 10am. It will take one and a half to two hours to get to Norwich. This allows plenty of time to find a place to have lunch before the pantomime starts. Those wishing to go sightseeing or shopping will be dropped off, and picked up near the theatre, which is very close to the city centre. The bus will leave Norwich at about 5.15pm. Contact Paula Harper 892 000.

### **Dog fouling in public areas**

This continues to be a problem especially around Magna Close and Mortlock Gardens. The area of trees at the back of Magna Close is used by children as a play area, and the presence of dog faeces here and elsewhere is a very real health hazard. This will be especially so when the children want to make snow balls.

In spite of the recent problems with the dog refuse bins, these are still usable and are being emptied regularly.

### **Allotments**

The agreement for these to be established in the field beside Linton Road has been signed. The allotment committee and Parish Councils are working towards the allocation of plots to would-be allotment holders (see cover photo and page 3).

### **Bus shelter opposite Magna Close**

Work is expected to start soon to remove some of the brick walls. This will allow easier vision of approaching buses.

The Parish Council is considering replacing the damaged seat, and also restoring the small step out of the shelter. The present slope is better for wheel chair users, as it enables them to go into the shelter when it is raining, but we understand some of our elderly residents find the slope confusing.

### **Street Lighting**

Any problems with street lights not working should be reported to the parish clerk. As mentioned last month, the council is awaiting estimates for the cost of installing one new light in Linton Road, and the re-siting of the one by the footpath in Magna Close.

### **Cycle Path to Sawston**

The Parish Councils are negotiating with land owners for the exact route of this agreed path. We apologise to all cyclists because this is taking so long to achieve.

## **Flooding Problems in the High Street**

The prevention work done recently near the hairdressers appears to have been successful. The area near the bus stop next to the school remains a problem which will be very difficult to resolve.

### **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 18 January 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](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com) (892 000))

## **Your Mobile Library**

The Library Van will visit the Abingtons on Friday 8 and 22 January 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 6 and 20 January at 10.50am

## **Further Education – Spring into Action!**

We are now taking enrolments for the spring term for adult education classes at Linton and Sawston Village Colleges. Classes start in the week commencing Monday 11 January 2010.

If you would like to enrol or find out more information, please visit our website [www.bepartnership.org](http://www.bepartnership.org); email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org) or telephone 712 424. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our centres in the New Year.

Sue King

## **Special Christmas Tea on Tuesday 15 December 2009**



Thank you to all our customers. We served over 70 local residents at our festive Christmas Tea and raised about £160 for the Abington Institute funds.

Sue Toates

## Dates for your diary – January 2010

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	4	<b>Ragged Rascals Softplay Group</b> <b>French Conversation</b>	9.30am 1.30pm	12
Tue	5	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Forget-Me-Not Club</b> <b>Lynda's Yoga – Hildersham Village Hall</b>	9.30am 2.00pm 7.30pm	17 12
Wed	6	<b>Yoga –course and drop in</b> <b>Dynamic Dance classes</b> <b>Hildersham School of Dance – Village Hall</b> <b>Yoga - course and drop in</b> <b>Italian class</b> <b>Partridge Group</b>	10.00am 3.15pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 8.30pm	12 12 4
Thu	7	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	10.00am	16
Fri	8	<b>Spanish class</b>	10.00am	12
Sat	9	<b>Scrapbooking Group</b> <b>Coach Trip to Norwich – leave Magna Close</b> <b>AALGA 'Pick your Plot'</b>	10.00am 10.00am 10.30am	11 8 3
Mon	11	<b>Ragged Rascals Softplay Group</b> <b>French Conversation</b> <b>Abington &amp; Hildersham WI</b>	9.30am 1.30pm 7.30pm	12
Tue	12	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Keep Fit for the Over 60s</b> <b>Gentle Activity Class - Hildersham Village Hall</b> <b>Keep Fit</b> <b>Lynda's yoga – Hildersham Village Hall</b> <b>Reading Group – 21 Cambridge Road, Lt Abington</b>	9.30am 9.30am 1.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	12 12 16
Wed	13	<b>Yoga –course and drop in</b> <b>Dynamic Dance classes</b> <b>Hildersham School of Dance – Village Hall</b> <b>Yoga - course and drop in</b> <b>Hildersham Parish Council – Village Hall</b> <b>Italian class</b> <b>Partridge Group</b>	10.00am 3.15pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm 8.30pm	12 12 6 4
Fri	15	<b>Spanish class</b> <b>Hildersham Village Hall Trust AGM</b>	10.00am	7
Mon	18	<b>Ragged Rascals Softplay Group</b> <b>French Conversation</b> <b>Great Abington Parish Council</b>	9.30am 1.30pm 7.15pm	12 9
Tue	19	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Keep Fit for the Over 60s</b> <b>Gentle Activity Class – Hildersham Village Hall</b> <b>Forget-Me-Not Club</b> <b>Keep Fit</b> <b>Lynda's Yoga - Hildersham Village Hall</b> <b>Scrabble Club</b>	9.30am 9.30am 1.00pm 2.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 7.00pm	12 17 12 16
Wed	20	<b>Yoga –course and drop in</b>	10.00am	

		<b>Dynamic Dance classes</b>	3.15pm	12
		<b>Hildersham School of Dance – Village Hall</b>		12
		<b>Yoga – course and drop in</b>	7.00pm	
		<b>Italian class</b>	7.00pm	
		<b>Partridge Group</b>	8.30pm	4
Fri	22	<b>Spanish class</b>	10.00am	
		<b>Hildersham Film Night- Village Hall</b>		6
Sat	23	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	10.00am	16
Mon	25	<b>Ragged Rascals Softplay Group</b>	9.30am	12
		<b>French Conversation</b>	1.30pm	
		<b>Little Abington Parish Council</b>	7.15pm	15
Tue	26	<b>Art Group</b>	9.30am	
		<b>Keep Fit for the over 60s</b>	9.30am	
		<b>Gentle Activity class – Hildersham Village Hall</b>	1.00pm	12
		<b>Keep Fit</b>	7.00pm	
		<b>Scrabble Club</b>	7.00pm	16
		<b>Lynda's yoga - Hildersham Village Hall</b>	7.30pm	12
Wed	27	<b>Yoga – course and drop in</b>	10.00am	
		<b>Dynamic Dance classes</b>	3.15pm	12
		<b>Hildersham School of Dance- Village Hall</b>		12
		<b>Yoga – course and drop in</b>	7.00pm	
		<b>Italian class</b>	7.00pm	
		<b>Partridge Group</b>	8.30pm	4
Thu	28	<b>Abington Lunch Club</b>	12.30pm	12
Fri	29	<b>Spanish class</b>	10.00am	
Sat	30	<b>Rivercare litter pick-up- Ford</b>	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 - Jan12, Jan 26)

Thursday lunchtimes 11am to 1pm (excluding 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in the month)

Friday mornings 8.45am to 11.15am

Saturday mornings 10am to 12noon

**The Café will re-open on Thursday 7 January 2010**

**A Happy New Year to you all**

### **Wheelie bin dates for January 2010**

<b>Tues 5</b>	Mon 11	Mon 18	Mon 25
Green	Black	Green	Black

**Scrapbooking Group** - If you're visiting the Café on the first Saturday of the month (second Saturday in January), please visit us on the terrace. We will be scrapbooking. Contact Kirsty Batom 890 837 or at [curly\\_custard@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.raggedrascals.co.uk) (07756 021 893).

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

Start the New Year revitalised and refreshed by joining this yoga class for all abilities. 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](mailto:lyndasaltmarsh@tiscali.co.uk) or [www.lyndayoga.co.uk](http://www.lyndayoga.co.uk)

**Learn Spanish at the Institute-** Anyone interested in joining a new weekly class for Beginners in the New Year please contact Susan Hodges on 891 521 or online at [sjmac2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sjmac2@yahoo.co.uk). This would be from 10am to 11.30am at the Institute, probably on Thursdays.

**Abington Lunch Club**



**Thursday 28 January 2010**



**Melon**

**Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding  
with roast potatoes & parsnips,  
brussels sprouts, carrots & gravy**

**Trifle**

**Coffee or tea**

Please book your meal on 07789 585 399 and leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 26 January. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet.

**Next lunch Thursday 25 February 2010**

## **Kenneth Ross 1921–2009**

Born and brought up in India (where his father was a tea-planter; his grandfather had served in Afghanistan), Kenneth was sent back to school in Scotland at the age of six. In 1939 he joined up and was commissioned into the Gurkhas, serving in Iraq, Egypt (where, stranded by Rommel's rapid advance, he had to make a two-week trek across the desert, on foot, without food and drinking radiator water from wrecked vehicles), Palestine and Italy during World War Two. He served in the Far East until 1957 when he left the army to join Pye Unicam in Cambridge.

After these somewhat nomadic first 38 years he was at last able to settle down and Little Abington has remained the family home for the past half century. We have celebrated four weddings at the house, as well as Kenneth and Alison's Golden and Diamond Wedding anniversaries (they had met and married in only 6 weeks in 1948).

As an Export Manager he would continue to travel all over the world but despite this, he still involved himself with the village. He kept wicket for the Abington cricket team in the days when such names as Gent, Leader, Patten and Bunting filled the score books. He organised the village fête and in due course became chairman of Little Abington Parish Council.

His time at Pye Unicam was followed by some years commuting to London from Audley End before returning to Cambridge to work for ABMTM and then as Managing Director of Darwin Instruments. He drove the export marketing of British scientific instruments, co-ordinating multi-million pound deals to equip hospitals and universities abroad with British products. His contacts with Mexico led to his heading the Anglo-Mexican Chamber of Commerce.

Once retired, he turned his attention to the Ghurkha Welfare Trust, the raising of funds and distribution of pensions in Nepal to ex-soldiers. This entailed several trips to Nepal, trekking through the Himalayas, and chatting to the soldiers in Gurkhali. Some readers may remember slide shows on Nepal at the Village Institute.

He always retained his love for his native Scotland but for fifty years made his home in Abington and it is fitting that his last public appearance, shortly before his final illness, was here in the village, at Julie's Summertime Vicarage Tea Party.

Graham Ross

## **Congratulations!**

**Edward Smith**, resident of Little Abington 1948–1998 writes:

Thank you to a number of Abington friends who sent greetings on **my recent 100th birthday** – it warmed my heart to hear from you. I remain in this most congenial, well serviced, very sheltered flat in Reading, close to the home of our daughter Verity.

We celebrated the special occasion with a tea party for fellow flat owners, hosted by Verity, her brother Rodney, his wife Clare and my two tall grandsons! I am indeed lucky to live here. I so enjoy getting the Abington Village Magazine kindly sent on by Jean Daunt. It delights me to keep in touch with village news and events.

## **Around the village**

*Short winter days mean that street-lights are more important. Please trim back any of your trees or shrubs that are obstructing the lights or footways.*

New dog waste bins have been ordered for the Recreation Ground. As with other vandalism, this will divert time and money from more useful things. We ask everyone to be vigilant and report anti-social behaviour to the police or to the parish councils.

Several people have suggested that the village web-site, originally set up by Revd Jim Mynors, needs a bit of an update. The Parish Councils have been funding it and will organise a meeting in January to discuss what needs to happen and how we will achieve it. If you'd like it to help to maintain the web-site or use it to publicise a village organisation, please contact Peter Brunning – contact details below.

The Abingtons have a Parish Plan that was prepared 5 years ago – lots of things have changed so it needs an update. The document was prepared in consultation with residents who wished to suggest ways in which village life could be improved. Both parish councils have set aside a small budget for further consultation next year.

## **Notes from the October Parish Council Meeting**

### **Finance**

The budget plan was agreed, though costs of one or two major items including the cost of street lighting are not finalised. It includes joint funding with Great Abington for bus trips, allotments and consultation (see above). There is a small increase in the total precept.

### **Planning**

41 Cambridge Road – unapproved building in garden. Complaint referred to SCDC

S/1006/09/F: 18 Bourn Bridge Road – Replacing flat roofs. Approved by SCDC

S/1369/09: 19 Bourn Bridge Road – Garage Extension. Approved by SCDC

**Linton Wind Farm** Planning appeal will be held in February; it is hoped that the successful appeal for Wadlow has not set a precedent.

**Hanley Grange** The government has asked the East of England Regional Assembly to propose growth options for the East of England for the period to 2031. Various options are being considered; Tesco has proposed that over 14,000 dwellings could be built at Hanley Grange, many more than the old Eco-Town proposal.

### **Highways**

We have still not heard a date for the work on the pedestrian refuge or the Abington-Sawston cycleway.

Speedwatch has reported many speeding vehicles; owners will receive letters and visits from the police. The actual speed display seems to be a very effective reminder to drivers to watch their speed. The council expressed its gratitude to the volunteers.

## **Village Environment**

Footpaths are deemed satisfactory at present; we plan to add gravel in the spring.

### **Little Abington Parish Council Meetings**

Abington Institute, High Street

**Next Meeting: Monday 25 January at 7.15pm (no meeting in December)**

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

Peter Brunning (Chairman) tel: 891 960

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

## **News from Linton Village College**

Baroness Shirley Williams of Crosby opened our new 'Newton Building' in November and then presented the annual awards and GCSE certificates to our class of 2009 school leavers. It was a very busy, but successful set of events made all the more frenetic by the Baroness's desire to talk to everyone she met. She didn't waste a minute of her time with us, absorbing information quickly, charming all she spoke to. We saw all the evidence of the sharp intelligence and endearing academic scattiness that made her so famous.

James Paice MP made time in his busy schedule to visit the College and made a very positive impression on all he spoke to, warmly congratulating the College for its reputation and successes. He had come to hear our students give a presentation on the cyber bullying mentor training that they have been doing and remarked on how articulate and caring our young mentors are. Fifty-eight of the students at LVC have been trained to be cyber mentors. They have worked with experts from 'Beat Bully' to hone their supporting and advisory skills when contacted by any child who feels under threat by bullying texts, emails or messages posted on social networking sites. We don't tolerate bullying at LVC, but we are not so naïve as to think that it doesn't exist where any group of children are brought together. The cyber mentoring scheme has raised awareness of the issue in the school and made sure that the children themselves are the solution. Mr Paice promised to take news of the success of the scheme back to Parliament.

It has been a very good experience for our students to meet two politicians in the flesh. So much that we read about anyone who takes on a position in public life nowadays is negative and cynical, which can mean a lack of trust in people to make things better and hence a challenge to the whole notion of citizenship and democracy. This is not what we should be teaching in school. The cyber mentoring scheme is all about taking personal action to improve things for others, and that too is what motivates the best politicians.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

## Reading Group

We all enjoyed last month's book *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*; it has recently received 'the paperback of the year' award.

12 January	<i>The Behaviour of Moths</i> Poppy Adams	21 Cambridge Road, Little Abington
9 February	<i>Sunset Song</i> Lewis Grassic Gibbon	23 Cambridge Road, Little Abington

Please confirm your attendance at the January meeting to Sylvia on 891 207.

Diana Wingfield

## Scrabble Club

The Scrabble Club will meet at 7pm on Tuesday 26 January in the Institute. New members welcome. Please bring your own board and tiles if possible.

Future dates: Tues 23 Feb    Tues 23 March

Sheena Fraser

## Abington Naturewatch

Naturewatchers will be grateful to Diana Wingfield who has volunteered to lead us in developing our knowledge and appreciation of the mammals living wild in our environment, something we have been hoping to be able to do since Naturewatch was first set up. Records of sightings of such animals as hares, deer, foxes and badgers will be specially welcome, but also of smaller carnivores (mink, stoats, weasels), rodents, voles, field mice, and insectivores (hedgehogs, shrews, bats). Please give your reports by note, phone (891 915) or email [di\\_wingfield@hotmail.com](mailto:di_wingfield@hotmail.com).

Anyone concerned because of not seeing our buzzards lately can be reassured; it seems it is normal for them to congregate during winter in the west of the country.

There is encouragement even for botanists too: along Bourn Bridge Road verges the leaves of Mallow, Dock, Plantain, Hogweed and Cow Parsley are already showing through the grass.

Pat Daunt (891 485)

## Abington Walking Group

Our November Saturday walk saw six of us on a trip to Great Bradley with a walk along most of the Kirtling weirs which is part of the Stour Valley Path. The December Thursday walk was attended by a hardy ten of us who braved very wet conditions at Castle Camps.



Our January walks are on Thursday 7th and Saturday 23rd. Do join us.

To all of our walkers, thanks for your support throughout 2009 and best wishes to you for a healthy and happy 2010.

Robin & Kay Harman 891 730 & George Woodley 891 169

## **Forget-Me-Not Club**

Happy New Year to you all. Meetings resume on the 5<sup>th</sup> January after the Christmas and New Year break. Meetings are held on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2pm in Abington Village Institute and new members are always welcome. The programme for January is as follows:

5<sup>th</sup> January "100 years of Abington Village Institute" plus a short talk from Trading Standards on making Magna Close a 'no cold calling zone'. All residents of Magna Close welcome, in addition to our members.

19<sup>th</sup> January A talk on Woodcarving by Brian Faggetter.

Anne Hall, Vice Chairman

## **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.

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.

## **Abington United Football Club**

Recent results have been good for Abington United Football Club.

31 Oct Linton Granta res 0 – 3 Abington United

21 Nov City Life 4 -2 Abington United

28 Nov Abington United 4 – 1 Eaton Socon

5 Dec Abington United 4 – 1 Hundon res

Future fixtures are

2 Jan Fulbourn Inst. A vs Abington United

9 Jan Lode vs Abington United (Cup game)

16 Jan Foxton res vs Abington United

23 Jan Gt Chesterford vs Abington United

30 Jan Abington United vs RHS United

Many thanks to all who support us; it makes a huge difference and we would like more people to come to watch and support. It takes a lot of time, effort and money to keep the club going. The players appreciate all the hard work done by people in the club. We need extra investment, and sponsorship or donations would be most welcome. If you think you can help in any way please contact me, David Boughtwood on 0775 4046 8797 or the Manager, Daniel Stobbart on 0778 5962326.

**Abington Gardening Club – next meeting Monday 1 February 2010**

## **Linton and District Historical Society**

Linton and District Historical Society start off the new decade with a really superb young local speaker Michelle Bullivant. Last year she told us about the Mills of Cherry Hinton; this time we will travel back in time to learn about the many different and curious ways that both men and women looked after their appearance in "Poison & Powder - a look at Cosmetics through the ages".

So why not come along. It is good value to join for the rest of the year as there are still some great talks to come, or you can simply come along and pay the £2 visitors fee. Contact Andrew Westwood-Bate on 892 430.

## **BBC Radio 4 Gardeners' Question Time comes to Linton!**

Linton & District Gardening Club will host Gardeners' Question Time on Monday, 25 January 2010. The recording takes place at 6:30pm at Linton Village College, doors open at 5.30pm. All are welcome. Tickets cost just £2.50 and this will include a drink. They are available from the club secretary, Kirsten Newble on 892 425 or via email at [lqcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lqcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Sawston Medical Practice**

November and December have been really busy with both seasonal and swine flu vaccination clinics being integrated into our workload. If you are eligible (check our website [www.sawstonmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.sawstonmedicalpractice.co.uk) ) for these vaccinations and have not yet had them please telephone us as soon as possible.

As a practice we continually strive to improve our services, the last patient survey indicated that 98% of our patients rates us as either good/excellent – thank you everyone.




Our new telephone triage service has been operating since 23 November and has been working extremely well. Feedback from patients has been very positive as we are able to give the appropriate appointment, prescription or advice much faster. To get the best from our services please note the following:

1. Same day appointments – these are for urgent medical problems that cannot wait for more than 24 hours. All requests for same day appointments will continue to be assessed on the telephone by a doctor or senior nurse.
2. Routine appointments – these can be made up to one month in advance. If your problem is not urgent please plan and book your appointment as far in advance as possible.
3. Long-term medical conditions clinic – this new clinic will look after patients who have multiple medical problems (such as two or more problems like diabetes, heart disease, respiratory problems etc) and will be run by a team of clinicians providing a complete review of all long-term conditions and medications. As we will be dealing with multiple problems for each patient the appointment length will be between 30 and 60 minutes depending on the complexity. Patients eligible for this clinic will first be invited to have relevant blood tests then a full appointment 7–10 days later. We are confident that this clinic will provide a first class service.

Finally, if you have booked an appointment and no longer need it please let us know so that it can be used by another of our patients – thank you.

Jenny Parker, Assistant Practice Manager

## Church Services for January 2010

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
3 January Epiphany	10.45am Family Service	8.00am Said Communion	9.15am Communion	Isaiah 60. 1-6 Matthew 2. 1-12
10 January Baptism of Christ		9.15am Communion	10.45am Family Service	Isaiah 43. 1-7 Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22
17 January	8.00am Said Communion	10.45am Family Service and Sunday School	9.15am Communion	Isaiah 62. 1-5 John 2. 1-11
24 January	10.45am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	1 Cor 12. 12-31a Luke 4 14-21
31 January Presentation of Christ	10.45am Communion			Ezekiel 43. 27- 44. 4 Luke 2. 22-40

### Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
3 January	Brenda Bush	Mrs. Jowett	Mrs. Crampin
10 January	Janet Stanley	Mrs. Jowett	Mrs. Humphrys
17 January	Janet Stanley	Mrs. King	Mrs. Humphrys
24 January	Janet Stanley	Mrs. King	Mrs. Moore
31 January		Mrs. Waring	Mrs. Moore

### 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