



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

**March 2010**



**Abington Naturewatch  
River Sampling Expedition**

## Letter from the Editor

What a depressingly cold and wet few weeks we have had! But now the days are noticeably longer, and sunshine today, with the appearance of aconites and snowdrops, brings hope that warmer, lighter spring days are coming.

At last work is in hand to improve the long-standing problems on the A1307 in Little Abington (page 14). More recently, potholes, some dangerously large, have appeared in many roads. If you want to alert the authorities to these and other road hazards you will find the web site [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) a simple, easy and reliable way to report issues.

I am happy to report that two more volunteer drivers have been recruited for the Helping Hands service, and this brings the pool of drivers up to strength. On the other hand the Jeremiah Scout group has been suspended for lack of volunteers. Please can you help and prevent this becoming a permanent loss? (page 18)

This issue signals many special church events during Lent, including the Deanery Fair on 6 March and a simple Lent lunch on 26 March and of course Mothering Sunday service (pages 4, 5, 6). The questionnaires on the way we want the church to contribute to village life are producing interesting suggestions, including the creation of a children's choir at Hildersham (page 6). More replies would be welcome, so keep them coming!

Valerie Silvey

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

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

## Community Fuel Club

An order has been placed with Goff's for late February delivery of 23,300 litres of oil, 7,000 litres more than last time despite some regular customers being away. A private individual ordering 500 litres would have paid £225.50 but there will be a saving on that of £23.65 (10.5%) based on the community order.

## Haiti Appeal at the Village Shop

Thank you for all your contributions. A total of £340 was raised and sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee through the Post Office. The receipts have been on display in the shop.

Ravinder and Bob

## **From the Vicarage**

Lent began for me with the words in Morning Prayer, 'Take hold of the life that really is life.' The group I was with at the beginning of Lent interpreted the idea of *taking hold of life* to mean, 'don't let people or things grind you down.' And, 'don't let anxieties stop you from seeing what is good.' Lent was seen as a way towards a more complete life.

Simple Lent lunches are perhaps a modern version of the times of fasting. Many people go to these even if they do not go to church. They have a dual purpose, to make us appreciate what we have, as well as to raise some funds for charity. This opportunity to meet together, to eat less and to give to others, can help us to see that life is a gift, and caring for others is part of being human. There is to be a simple Lent Lunch on Friday 26 March from noon, in the Village Institute, to support Christian Aid.

Another aspect of Lent which could lead us to a deeper quality of life comes when we take time to reflect. It is worth reflecting on relationships and how they can be better. It can be beneficial to think about the habitual things that we do to make sure that we are true to our best intentions and are not just superficial. Lent could be a time to face God and ourselves, and to remember what makes life full. Prayer gives us space to identify worthwhile priorities. We can recognise what is wrong and find ways towards peace. The ecumenical Lent course is exploring prayer at the URC church at 7.30pm each Thursday during Lent.

There were many interesting suggestions in your responses to the questionnaire about how you want the church to contribute to village life. You will hear more about this when we have had time to reflect. There is still time to fill in your questionnaire and return it to me. Views can also be expressed by anyone on the Electoral Roll at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings. The Abingtons APCM is 14 April at 7.30pm in the URC Church, and the Hildersham APCM is on 25 April at 7pm at Holy Trinity.

Julie Norris

## **Co-Workers of Mother Teresa**

This ecumenical group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Abington/Linton area. We knit children's clothes and blankets for African orphanages and send our goods via the charity *Feed the Children* based at Ruscombe near Reading, who not only accept cash donations but also goods in kind. During 2009 we were able to send twenty sacks of blankets and children's knits to Africa.

The greatest need at present is for blankets, 3ft x 4ft and 6ft x 4ft, and school V-neck jumpers for ages 6 – 14 in navy, royal blue, bottle green, maroon, pink or yellow. We are grateful to all the home workers who continue to knit for us, and are always glad to receive donations of 6 inch squares for blankets, and wool. More information from Maureen Harper, 891 696: email: [maureen.harper27@virgin.net](mailto:maureen.harper27@virgin.net)

## News from the Pews

During this period of Lent we will be meeting in the URC every Thursday at 7.30pm for the ecumenical Lent Course where we will be focusing on prayer. You are welcome to join us.

The PCC quickly responded to the Haiti appeal and sent £50 on behalf of the Church. This was in addition to private contributions.

On Saturday 6 March the Deanery Fair will take place in Great Shelford Memorial Hall from 10am until noon. The Abingtons have been asked to organise a stall of preserves. If you have any jams or pickles you can spare, Marilyn Broadhurst would be very grateful to receive them.

We will hold our usual Family Service on the 7 March in Great Abington Church at 10.45am. On the following Sunday there will be a Family Service to celebrate Mothering Sunday in Little Abington Church at 9.15am. Traditionally there will be posies of flowers for the children to give to their mothers. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a Family Communion and Roots, where the children will be talking about an 'Overwhelming Gift'. Palm Sunday follows on 28 March with a Communion Service in Great Abington Church at 10.45am.

Wheels and Squeals will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am for an hour in the URC in the High Street, Little Abington. We will be talking about 'Easter Eggs.' There will also be a handicraft activity, juice and biscuits for the children and coffee for mummies/grandmothers and carers. St Mary's Churches and the United Reformed Church run Wheels and Squeals jointly. Do join us for this friendly get together.

Our charity for the month is the Bishop's Lent Appeal 2010. This year 75% of the proceeds will go to the work of Christian Blind Mission whose headquarters is in Oakington. The remaining 25% will support the work of Street Child World Cup, an imaginative initiative linked to the Football World Cup to be held in South Africa.

Please note the Church AGM is on Wednesday 14 April in the URC at 7.30pm.

Have you filled in your Church questionnaire? Julie and the PCC will value your comments and suggestions.

Anne Hall

## United Reformed Church, Little Abington

Services in March

7 March	10.15am	Mr Peter Sammons
14 March	10.15am	Mrs Tessa Henry Robinson, Mothering Sunday
21 March	2.30pm	Revd Bruce Waldron and Holy Communion
28 March	10.15am	Mr Dave Field

All are welcome.

Hazel Moore

## Hildersham Focus

The Hildersham Village Hall Trust Annual General Meeting was held on 15 January at which draft plans for a new village hall were presented. At present formal application for planning permission has been lodged with South Cambridgeshire District Council. It will be several weeks before there is any further news, so watch this space!

A questionnaire to think about ways forward for the church in Hildersham, as outlined in last month's magazine, was circulated to all Hildersham residents. In addition to this a 'bring and share' lunchtime meeting took place in the church on 14 February. There was a really full house and provided a wonderful opportunity to think and talk together with many, many positive suggestions. The group of children who sat together generated some very fine ideas, one of which was to form a children's choir and band.

As a result of this there will be a children's choir up and running in time for the service on Mothering Sunday, 14 March; but we need children! If you would like to join the children's choir, or play music, please contact Amanda on 894 316, Cathy on 892 848, Kate on 894 862 or Sue on 894 902 or email: [APalmer@sjcs.co.uk](mailto:APalmer@sjcs.co.uk), [cathy@myer.demon.co.uk](mailto:cathy@myer.demon.co.uk), [kate.huntsman@tesco.net](mailto:kate.huntsman@tesco.net) or [sue@davidadlam.com](mailto:sue@davidadlam.com)

### **Granta Deanery Spring Fair**



***Great Shelford Memorial Hall***

***Saturday 6 March 10am to noon***

***Cakes Produce White Elephant Toys Raffle  
China Glass Bric-a-brac Cards Gifts Tombola  
Refreshments Wide Range of Books***

**Entrance: Adults 30p Children Free**

Please note the quote!

*'It was a massive and well stocked Fair last year and well worth attending.'*

## **Mothers' Union**

### **Lent Lunch in aid of funds for Haiti**

Abington and Hildersham Mothers' Union are holding a Lent Lunch at Furze Hill House, Hildersham, at 12.30pm on Monday 15 March. If you would like to book a place please contact Muriel Crampin, 891 131 or Sally Smith, 891 384. The suggested donation is £4.

## **Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 13 January 2010.**

**Proposed Linton Wind Farm** The Council was informed that public meetings would be held at several venues, including Granta Park, between 2nd February and 2nd March about the Planning Appeal by Enertrag UK (Ltd) to build a wind farm on land near Little Linton Farm.

**'Hello Hildersham'** The Council agreed to help fund another year of the 'Hello Hildersham' magazine, allocating £250 in the forthcoming year's budget. Councillors agreed that the precept request for 2010-2011 should be £12,000, to ensure that all the budgeted costs would come from income rather than the small reserves.

**Potential loss of phone box** A notice from British Telecom, which had been pasted onto the telephone box, stated that the telephone was to be disconnected. The telephone seemed to be poorly used as it had taken several months for the notice to be brought to the attention of Councillors. Therefore the Council agreed to reconsider the matter when there was a threat that the box would be removed.

**Plans for new Village Hall** Hildersham Village Hall Trust held its Annual General Meeting in January, and exhibited the plans for the new village hall. At an extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 3 February Councillors agreed to pay the costs for submitting the planning application, to build the new village hall, to the District Council.

**Trees** During February work would be carried out on the large pine tree by the bridge. This work should ensure that the tree remains healthy for many years to come.

It is hoped that the oak tree in memory of Mr. Ivor Levitt would be planted in the spring, when the circular bench being made by Derek Patten would be completed. The Council approved the suggestion that sheep be included in the design of the bench.

Carol Sinclair kindly volunteered to be the tree warden. The Councillors were delighted that she had volunteered to assist.

**Salt bins** Cambridgeshire County Council had offered to supply Parish Council with salt bins at a reduced price and supply the salt free of charge. The Council decided to order one salt bin and were considering installing it in Meadowlands.

Please note that the changed date and location of the next Parish Council meeting.

### **Hildersham Parish Council Meeting**

**Next meeting: Tuesday 9 March 2010 at 7.30pm**

**To be held in Holy Trinity Church**

Public forum: comments welcome after the meeting

Keith Day (Chairman) tel: 891 527

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

# **Great Abington Parish Council**

## **Planning Applications**

S/0058/10/F – 56 North Road, change of condition of use to allow stable block to be used for business purposes, recommended approval.

### **Approval received from SCDC**

S1464/09/A- Granta Park, entrance sign.

S/1359/09/F- TWI, extension to entrance of Robert Jenkins building.

S/1817/09/F- 31 South Road, replacement dwelling.

S/1739/09/F- 1 Pampisford Road, change of use of offices to residential annexe

## **Around the village**

### **Allotments**

The Parish Council has agreed to contribute, jointly with Little Abington Parish Council, to the cost of supplying water to the new allotments. Arrangements to pay for fencing are still being discussed.

### **Lighting for the Passage between Magna Close and Meadow Walk**

The Parish Council has had an on-site meeting with a community lighting expert from the County Council. The advice we received is that the best way to deal with this problem is to keep the existing light (at the end of the path between Magna Close and Meadow Walk), but to replace the lamp with one that shines further into the passage. It was also suggested that two further lights – designed to shed light sideways rather than upwards, could be placed along the path. The first of these would be about half way along the path, and the other near the new section of fencing. The Council is aware that while some residents would welcome more light on this path, others are concerned that it could end up with too much light in the surrounding area. Please let us know what you wish, either by letter/e-mail or by attending the next 'open forum' before our next meeting.

### **Proposed Cycle Path between Abington and Sawston**

Work is continuing to reach agreement on the exact route of this new cycle path.

### **Crime Prevention Matters**

The police report that while the number of household burglaries in the area is decreasing, there have been more episodes of break-ins to garden sheds, and garages. Tools taken from these may subsequently be used for other crimes. The police say it is important to ensure all outbuildings are secure with good quality locks, including locked windows, and that any valuable equipment is independently immobilised, - for example by being padlocked to the floor. The police have a booklet on improving security of domestic outbuildings, which can be obtained from police surgeries.

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

## Linton Children's Centre

We are delighted to have our new office open in the Cathodeon Centre, Linton Library. Sure Start Children's Centres are places where all families with children under five can find easier access to health and family support, help with finding jobs and training, drop-in sessions and activities for children, and information about local childcare and early education.

The Children's Centre office is open on Wednesday 2pm to 6pm, Thursday and Fridays from 9am to 12.00 noon for any parents or carers with children under five to call in with their queries. Our administrator there is Debby Jepps.

We are slowly putting together groups in the local area and have already started 'Bumps to Babies' on Thursday afternoons from 1.15–2.45pm at the Cathodeon Centre. We welcome suggestions from the community of local needs. Our family involvement worker Tina Hickey is able to do home visits if any family has particular needs and would benefit from additional support.

We would be delighted to see you if you are able to call in for a chat!

Theresa Bateman, Children's Centre Manager

## Your Mobile Library

The Library Van will visit the Abingtons on Friday 5 and 19 March 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 March at 10.50am

## Great Abington Primary School PTFA '160 Club' winners

Congratulations to the Ricketts family and Shauna Gnanapragasam, winners of the February draw.

**Sunday 28 March 2010 – British Summertime begins.  
Remember! Clocks go forward one hour.**

## Dates for your diary – March 2010

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	1	<b>Ragged Rascals Softplay Group</b>	9.30am	12
		<b>French Conversation</b>	1.30pm	
		<b>Abington Gardening Club</b>	7.30pm	17
Tue	2	<b>Art Group</b>	9.30am	
		<b>Keep Fit for the Over 60s</b>	9.30am	
		<b>Forget-Me-Not Club</b>	2.00pm	17
		<b>Keep Fit</b>	7.00pm	
		<b>Lynda's Yoga – Hildersham Village Hall</b>	7.30pm	12
Wed	3	<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>	7.30pm	
Thu	4	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	10.00am	16
Fri	5	<b>Spanish class</b>	10.00am	
Sat	6	<b>Scrapbooking Group</b>	10.00am	12
		<b>LAPC Working party –Church Lane</b>	10.00am	14
Mon	8	<b>Ragged Rascals Softplay Group</b>	9.30am	12
		<b>French Conversation</b>	1.30pm	
		<b>Abington and Hildersham WI</b>	7.30pm	
Tue	9	<b>Art Group</b>	9.30am	
		<b>Keep Fit for the Over 60s</b>	9.30am	
		<b>Keep Fit</b>	7.00pm	
		<b>Lynda's yoga – Hildersham Village Hall</b>	7.30pm	12
		<b>Hildersham Parish Council –Holy Trinity Church</b>	7.30pm	7
		<b>Reading Group – 96 High Street, Gt Abington</b>	8.00pm	16
Wed	10	<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>	7.30pm	
Fri	12	<b>Spanish class</b>	10.00am	
Sat	13	<b>Abington Naturewatch Spring Meeting</b>	10.30am	16
Mon	15	<b>Ragged Rascals Softplay Group</b>	9.30am	12
		<b>French Conversation</b>	1.30pm	
		<b>Mothers' Union Lent lunch - Furze Hill House, Hildersham</b>	12.30pm	6
		<b>Little Abington Parish Council</b>	7.15pm	14
Tue	16	<b>Art Group tutorial with Janet Edwards</b>	9.30am	
		<b>Keep Fit for the Over 60s</b>	9.30am	
		<b>Forget-Me-Not Club</b>	2.00pm	17
		<b>Keep Fit</b>	7.00pm	
		<b>Lynda's Yoga - Hildersham Village Hall</b>	7.30pm	12
Wed	17	<b>Yoga – course and drop in</b>	10.00am	

		<b>NO Dynamic Dance classes</b> <b>Hildersham School of Dance</b> – Village Hall <b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in <b>Italian class</b>	7.00pm 7.00pm	12
Thu	18	<b>Beading Group</b> – 47 Church Lane, Little Abington	10.30am	12
Fri	19	<b>Spanish class</b>	10.00am	
Sat	20	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	10.00am	16
Mon	22	<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	23	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Keep Fit for the over 60s</b> <b>NO Keep Fit</b> <b>Scrabble Club</b> <b>Lynda's yoga</b> - Hildersham Village Hall	9.30am 9.30am  7.00pm 7.30pm	   16 12
Wed	24	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in <b>Dynamic Dance classes</b> <b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in <b>Italian class</b>	10.00am 3.15pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	12
Thu	25	<b>Abington Lunch Club</b>	12.30pm	12
Fri	26	<b>Spanish class</b> <b>Wheels and Squeals</b> – URC <b>Christian Aid Lent Lunch</b>	10.00am 10.30am 12.00pm	5 4
Sat	27	<b>Rivercare litter pick-up</b> - Ford	9.30am	
Mon	29	<b>Ragged Rascals Softplay Group</b> <b>NO French Conversation</b>	9.30am	12
Tue	30	<b>NO Art Group</b> <b>Keep Fit for the over 60s</b> <b>Forget-Me-Not Club</b> <b>Keep Fit</b> <b>Lynda's yoga</b> – Hildersham Village Hall	9.30am 2.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	17 12
Wed	31	<b>Institute closed for the resurfacing of the Main Hall floor</b> <b>Hildersham School of Dance</b> - Village Hall		12

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 – Mar 9, Mar 23)
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

## Wheelie bin dates for March 2010

Mon 1	Mon 8	Mon 15	Mon 22	Mon 29
Green*	Black	Green*	Black	Green*

Green\* - bin and green boxes

**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 Botton 890 837 or at [curly\\_custard@hotmail.com](mailto:curly_custard@hotmail.com)

**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 at Hildersham Village Hall: Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm**

This class caters 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)

**Beading Group** The Beading Group has been meeting on a regular basis on the third Thursday of the month. We would now like to open it up to other needle crafts. So please come and join us if you like knitting, sewing, embroidery, crochet, tapestry, black work, needle point etc and share your craft. We meet at 47 Church Lane, from 10am to noon. The next meeting is on Thursday 18 March.

If you would like information please contact Viki Brunning (891 960) email:[viki@brunning47.demon.co.uk](mailto:viki@brunning47.demon.co.uk) or just turn up.

## Abington Lunch Club

Thursday 25 March 2010



**Bacon Wrapped Chicken**  
**Roasted Tomatoes and Green Beans**  
**Dauphinois Potatoes**



**Lemon Tart with Crème Fraîche**

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

**Next lunch Thursday 22 April 2010**

## **News from Linton Village College**

We have had a very quiet few months at the College. Of course our students have been their usual lively and enthusiastic selves and teaching and learning has continued as normal, but visitors to the site will have been able to hear, for the first time in many months, the blackbirds singing on the walnut tree in the Henry Morris garden and the rooks croaking overhead. This is because they have not been competing with the sound of delivery lorries, diggers and drills. However, the peace and tranquillity we've been enjoying will not last long.

In March, builders return to the campus to move our mobiles and refurbish them to become a temporary staffroom, learning support area and library.

Then during the Easter holiday, the hoardings go up around the old Vic Hallam building (the grotty one made of wood) and then, joy of joys, demolition starts. The Vic Hallam was meant to last 10 years at most. It has served 40+ and seeing it being dismantled will give me great pleasure.

The demolition phase will last a month and then once the site has been cleared, the archaeologists return. They will work throughout May and June and we await their findings with bated breath. When the old Horsa building came down they found a significant Roman dwelling and Neolithic remains, so we are hoping for similar treasures.

In August, archaeology permitting, we begin a 58 week long construction phase. This building work will radically alter the appearance of the College – visitors will enter the College through a new reception area, positioned more centrally on the site, and new offices will spring up. The students will also benefit from the new social areas and the split level school library that comes with the build. We will take possession of phase 2, it is anticipated, in September 2011.

So lots to look forward to at the end of a rather noisy tunnel.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

## **Adult Education**

Linton and Sawston Village Colleges already offer a vibrant range of courses and are looking to expand their programme for 2010/2011. If you would like us to offer anything in particular then please let us know.

We would also like to hear from experienced tutors with evening or daytime capacity and anyone who has a specialism they would like to offer to others.

### **For further details please contact:**

Adult Education Office  
Sawston Village College  
01223 712 424  
sking@sawstonvc.org

## **Around the village**

**Gravel Laying:** a working party is planned for 6 March at 10.00 am. Volunteers will be welcome at the Church Lane end of the footpath to the Rec. We will also attend to other paths, including the 'snicket' between Church Lane and Cambridge Road.

**Annual Litter Pick and Village Clean up:** Please keep the Saturday morning after Easter free! Meet at the Abington Institute on Saturday 10 April at 10.00 am. Refreshments will be provided at Jeremiah's café afterwards. More details in April.

**A1307:** most Abington residents will welcome the work to improve safety at the pedestrian refuge, which is now under way; it may last until mid March. Cambridge Road residents have received a letter from the Highways department stating that the island is being replaced with a more traditional type of island, along with works to the northern carriageway. This carriageway, which has been the scene of several accidents involving heavy goods vehicles, is being repaired and widened, with new kerbing and drainage. While the works are in progress, there will be a temporary 30mph speed limit and single-line working.

**Village web-site:** a meeting with interested parties agreed to start a revamp of the web-site <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/>. Any village organisation that would like a presence is invited to submit the information to Jennifer Hirsh (see front cover).

**Burglaries:** there have been a number of burglaries in Abington, mostly overnight through rear doors and windows. The police have made it a priority to reduce these, with additional patrols and other activities. They ask us to be alert: in particular, if you see a vehicle parked near or outside a house which you know is likely to be unoccupied, make a note of the number and ring 999 if you have any doubts.

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

### **Finance**

We agreed to:

- pay costs of connecting water to the new **allotment** site on Linton Road, from a reserve already allocated.
- purchase a new computer for the clerk from reserves set aside for the purpose.  
The old one is over 5 years old; much more of the Parish Council's business is now being conducted electronically.
- apply for renewal of the Parish Council's Quality Status.
- purchase a grit bin for the junction of High Street and the A1307.

### **Planning**

The Planning Appeal for Linton Wind Farm is under way and finishes on 2 March.

## NHS Consultations

**Audiology:** the Parish Council has been sent copies of a questionnaire about possible changes to **hearing aid** clinics; they could be held in doctors' practices or mobile vans. Anyone who would like to have their say should ask the clerk for a copy or comment online at <http://www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk/default.asp?id=1029>. Closing date 29 March.

**Musculoskeletal Services:** a similar consultation on **physiotherapy** and other services runs until 15 March.

<http://www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk/default.asp?id=1018>.

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

**Next Meeting: Monday 15 March at 7.15pm (note changed date)**

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

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

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

## News from Sawston Medical Practice

Our new 'Rapid Access Team' has, at the time of writing, been operational for just over a week. This team, comprising doctors and senior nurses, speak to all patients requesting a same day appointment. This can result in an appointment to see a member of the Team, telephone advice, a prescription or an appointment to see a clinician in a few days time if the problem is not medically urgent. During the first week of February this team dealt with 525 telephone calls; out of these 249 patients were seen on the same day that they called. We have received many positive comments about this service and are keen to improve it further.

During the same week 1932 patients were either seen at the practice, had a home visit or received telephone advice – this equates to 1 in 7 of our practice population being seen or given advice on a weekly basis. Of those seen at the practice 659 were seen on time or before their appointment time. The average waiting time for those seen a little after their allotted appointment time was 7.8 minutes.

Unbelievably 83 patients did not attend for their booked appointment – this is the equivalent of six doctors' sessions in a week. It is really important that you let us know if you cannot come for a booked appointment so that we can release it for another patient.

Please would you only order medication that is actually needed. We continually receive returned medications that we have to destroy as we are not allowed to reuse it even if the packets have not been opened. In one day alone we received returned medication that had a value of £429.00. If you are unsure about the need to continue with your repeat medications please contact the practice for advice.

Jenny Parker, Assistant Practice Manager

## Reading Group

Last month a small but enthusiastic group discussed the much loved Scottish book *Sunset Song* by LG Gibbon. Everyone was enthusiastic; it is part of a trilogy if anyone wants to read more.

9 March	<i>Reuben's Corner</i> Spike Mays	96 High St, Great Abington
13 April	<i>Short stories</i> Anton Chekhov	31 West Field, Little Abington

Please confirm your attendance at the March meeting to Gillian on 893 735.

Diana Wingfield

## Scrabble Club

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

Sheena Fraser

## Abington Walking Group

Our recent walks have achieved good numbers with 11 of us on each. One walk was a very muddy event from Hadstock to Bowers End. The other was a mild cloudy day around Lode where part of the walk was on the new National Trust White Fen which is an extension of Wicken Fen.



Do join us at the Institute at 10am for one of our future walks. March walking dates are Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>.

For further information contact Robin Harman on 891 730 [harman@onetel.net](mailto:harman@onetel.net) or George Woodley on 891 169

## Abington Naturewatch

Survivors of this winter will have much to look forward to, notably the **Naturewatch Spring Members' Meeting** which will be held in the Institute on Saturday 13 March, starting at 10.30am and finishing about noon.

We shall have plenty to discuss, above all our programme of bird watching outings and flora study walks for later in the spring and throughout the summer.

Members will receive their personal invitation nearer the date, but as usual everyone with an interest in our natural environment and its animal and plant life is welcome. There's no charge to attend, merely an opportunity to contribute to the costs of the meeting. Refreshments will be available as always at this time.

Pat Daunt (891 485)

## **Abington Gardening Club**

The next meeting is on Monday 1 March at 7.30pm when Jane Thomas from NIAB will give a talk entitled 'Vegetable Varieties Today'. Please note that the April meeting is on the 19<sup>th</sup> and not the 12<sup>th</sup> as shown in the programme.

Everybody welcome.

Kay Harman, Secretary (891 730)

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

Meetings are held on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2pm in Abington Village Institute and new members are always welcome. There is a varied programme of events and speakers followed by an informal tea and chat. New members are always welcome. The programme for March is as follows:

**2 March** A talk by Alison Horsley from the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

**16 March** A tour round the new accommodation at The Three Tuns.

**30 March** The Forget-Me-Not Club birthday party. This will be a 'bring and share' tea and a list of suggested food will be available to add your name to at the meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. It is requested that raffle prizes should have an Easter theme, for example, Easter eggs. We look forward to welcoming all members to this enjoyable annual event.

Anne Hall, Vice Chairman

## **Abington United Football Club**

Recent results

Lode 2 – 6 Abington (League game)

Ely Crusaders 2 – 1 Abington (Quarter final cup)

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Melvin Boughtwood for his kind donation to the Football Club and help with the pitch maintenance. We are always looking for help with the club, whether it's by donating money, no matter how small, to pay for new equipment, or to cover fees for changing rooms etc.. It would be very welcome and greatly appreciated.

Future fixtures are

27 Feb 2pm Abington United vs Steeple Morden

6 Mar 3pm Abington United vs Great Shelford A

13 Mar 3pm Abington United vs Linton Granta Res

20 Mar 3pm Abington United vs Foxton Res

27 Mar 3pm Abington United vs R H S United Res

We hope to see you all at our next home game to support the only Abington village football team.

David Boughtwood (0775 4046 8797)

## **Abington Jeremiah Scouts**

As you may all be aware, the Scout section of the Abington Jeremiah's has now been suspended because no volunteers came forward to assist in the meetings. It was a hard decision to make. The children are very disappointed that Scouts are no longer meeting and Erica is not happy at having to let them down. We also have a problem of the Cubs and Beavers being unsettled because there is no troop to progress to.

Having had no response to our many attempts to recruit someone, we are in danger of losing the Troop permanently and putting the other sections in jeopardy. I urge all parents and friends to consider seriously the role of leader to save the group from potential closure. This is for your children; they are the ones who are missing out. Please talk to Tim Morgan about the small amount of training and commitment it entails.

We also need parent representatives for the Executive Committee; a few meetings a year and a bit of fundraising is all it takes

Please consider helping before it is too late. Contact Tim (842 075) or me (894 482).

Tony Waddington (Executive Committee Chair)

## **Linton Music Society**

**Saturday 27 March at 7.30pm at Linton Village College**

The Jenkinson Farr Duo, Katherine Jenkinson *cello* and Alison Farr *piano*, will play Vivaldi Sonata No 6 Rv46, Shostakovich Sonata for Cello and Piano Op 40, Fauré *Elegie*, Beethoven Sonata in D Major Op 102 No 2.

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

## **25<sup>th</sup> Sawston Fun Run on Sunday 9 May 2010**

Charities and organisations that will benefit from this year's 25<sup>th</sup> Sawston Charity Fun Run and Walk have been announced and entries for this highly popular event are now accepted. Organisers, the Rotary Club of Sawston District, have ambitious plans to mark this milestone by raising the highest amount ever on 9 May for the event that has annually attracted over a thousand entries.

This year money raised will go towards helping babies and young children who are acutely ill, those who need urgent medical support and a whole range of local community groups.

Entrants will be able to register and pay on line via the website: [www.sawstonfunrun.co.uk](http://www.sawstonfunrun.co.uk) as well as at branches of Cambridge Building Society and reception at Sawston Village College. Entry fees are £4 for entrants in school years 1 to 11 and £8 for adults of 17+ years on 9 May 2010.

Tony Collett, marketing officer, the Organising Committee: 01223 893 447 mobile: 07748 032 302 email: [t.collett@virgin.net](mailto:t.collett@virgin.net)

## Church Services for March 2010

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
7 March	10.45am Family Service	8.00am Said Communion	9.15am Communion	Isaiah 55. 1-9 Luke 13. 1-9
14 March Mothering Sunday	8.00am Said Communion	9.15am Family Service	10.45am Family Service	Exodus 2. 1-10 Luke 2. 33-35
21 March Passiontide begins	8.00am Said Communion	10.45am Family Communion ROOTS for Children	9.15am Communion	Isaiah 43. 16-21 John 12. 1-8
28 March Palm Sunday	10.45am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	Isaiah 50. 4-9a Luke 22. 4-end Ch23

### Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
7 March	The Eady Family	Mrs. Mager Cleaning only required	LENT (No Flowers)
14 March	The Eady Family	Mrs. Mager Cleaning only required	LENT (No Flowers)
21 March	The Eady Family	Mrs. Broadhurst Cleaning only required	LENT (No Flowers)
28 March	The Eady Family	Mrs. Broadhurst Cleaning only required	LENT (No Flowers)

### 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