



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

January 2012



**Plant stall at the Abington Churches Christmas Fayre
26 November 2011**

Letter from the Editor

As I write, the high street shops are having January sales in December to try to encourage everyone to spend more. However, they are gradually recognising that, in these straitened times, many shoppers are becoming much more savvy about seeking best value and bargains and leaving their credit cards at home. A wise policy in the face of continuing austerity in 2012.

Generosity has been evident in the many fundraising events reported in the following pages and there are plans for more (pages 5, 8, 9, 12, 16). Looking ahead, residents are asked to put their thinking caps on for ideas for celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in June (pages 9, 16).

The Cambridge Chord Company, UK silver medallists in male close harmony singing, entertained a packed Great Abington Church on 3 December. They practise in the Institute and are offering singing classes – free (page 18).

It is good to hear that the Abington Football Club has had a run of successes in matches and that there is so much interest in playing that it may be time to contemplate setting up a reserve side. There are funding implications for this and for buying new goal posts (page 17).

When the Christmas celebrations are over there will still be treats to come in the form of tea time at Hildersham, the traditional roast beef at the Abington Lunch Club, Burns Night specialities, a Forget-Me-Not Club meal from the Three Tuns and an AALGA Chilli supper and Quiz night. So it may be as well that GAPS is organising a running group which could help some to keep New Year resolutions about fitness (pages 9, 14, 16).

A Very 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 Sunday 15 January at

news@theabingtons.org.uk

Community Fuel Order

A fairly mild autumn has made domestic fuel supplies last longer but much colder weather has arrived and it seems prudent to plan the next Abington fuel delivery for late January or early February. Please be ready to let Dennis Mynott (891 819) know in the last week of January what quantity of oil you will need.

From the Vicarage

There is an ancient discipline of daily prayer, often exercised in the evening, called Examen. The events and encounters of the past day are reflected on. The point is to see the things that were good and the things that did not go so well, and to reflect on the people encountered along the way, but also to seek out what was hidden, and the places where God was present, even if we did not see it at the time. This helps people not only to discern God's presence, but also to find new direction for their life in the day to come.

As we end one year and begin another, it might be helpful to engage in a similar exercise for the whole year that has gone. What were the highlights, and what were the challenges? Who did we meet on the way? Where did we see something profound or beautiful or good? Did we miss anything?

Here is a blessing for you in the New Year.

May light shine on you and all those you meet
May love encircle you and all those you help
May the goodness of God lead you everywhere you go
And may God bless you.

Discussions on the book *Atheist Delusions* by David Hart

The topics tackled in this book focus on those areas where Christians and atheists disagree. Each discussion will look at a specific debate. It will not matter if you haven't been to the one before. Join us on Wednesday 11 and 18 January at Holy Trinity Hildersham at 7.30pm. There will be some further discussion in February.

Julie Norris

From the Registers

Funeral - John Chaplin

The funeral of John Chaplin of Abington Park Farm was held at St Mary's Church, Great Abington on 9 November 2011.

Our sincere condolences to John's children David, Hilary and Simon and their families.



[Apologies to the Chaplin family for incorrect reporting of the surname in the December News. Ed.]

Raymond Farrington

Ray Farrington died suddenly on 7 November 2011.

Margaret, Stephen, Julie and Jade would like to thank everybody for their kind wishes and comfort at the sad loss of Ray.

'Mr Fergie' has gone to Ray's brother Tom and the rest of the pigeons have gone to good homes. They will be missed flying over the Abington sky.

The Farrington family

[In 2010 'Mr Fergie', already winner of many trophies, won Britain's premier homing pigeon race, the North Road Championship, by flying 558 miles from Lerwick to Abington in 18 hours, 40 minutes. Ed.]

News from the Pews

Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported our various Church events in the past weeks.

The Church Fayre was well attended and raised approximately £2302. This photo and the cover photo (courtesy of James Cracknell) show the Main Hall ready for the customers. Mary has expressed her thanks to all the willing stallholders, local businesses who advertise in the programme and supporters who buy and give so generously.



The Little Abington Loop request for funding was very well supported, which will now enable the project to begin.

The Cambridge Chord Company Concert was a sell out and enjoyed by all. Our thanks to all the talented gentlemen for entertaining us (see page 18).

The Rainbow Club will meet again at the primary school on Friday 6th. Come along and see what exciting things Rosemary has planned for you.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A service will take place on Monday 16 January in Lt. Abington Church at 6.30pm.

Discussions on the book *Atheist Delusions* by David Hart. The topics tackled in this book focus on those areas where Christians and atheists disagree. Join us on Wednesday 11 and 18 January at Holy Trinity Hildersham at 7.30pm. There will be some further discussion in February.

Partridge Group. This will meet on Wednesday 11th. Talks begin at 8.15pm. Please see the information from Peter Miles (page 6).

Wheels and Squeals. We have recognised that there are quite a few 'new babies' in our parish of late. Rosemary is visiting as many as possible to discuss which day would be preferable for Wheels and Squeals. We will notify our regulars when a new date is arranged. Watch this space!

8am service. The Parochial Church Council has made a decision to try to reduce the heating costs over the winter by having the 8am service at the same Church as the main service each month.

Our Charity for the Month is Winter Comfort. A Cambridge based day shelter, this charity provides food, clothes and valuable skills for homeless people.:

Anne Hall

United Reformed Church Little Abington

Services in January

1 January 10.15am

8 January 10.15am

15 January 2.30pm

22 January 10.15am

29 January 10.15am

All are welcome.

Members

TBA

Revd Bruce Waldron and Holy Communion

Mr Mark Hayes

Dr Jeffrey Barham

Bible Reading Notes

This is the time of year when we renew our subscriptions to the BRF bible reading notes. It is also the best time for new subscribers to join. There are several versions from which to choose.

One gives short readings of just two or three verses. These are designed to be read each day. Another gives six longer passages which can either be read daily or in one or two sessions, on days when you are not so busy. Yet another is written especially for women. We have people in the villages using all of these and re-subscribing every year as they find them so helpful.

The cost is between £11 and £12 a year including postage. If you are interested in joining this scheme, contact Sally Smith on 891 384. It is possible to have a look at some of the previous copies if you would like to do this before ordering.

Mary Ransley

Mary Ransley who lived in Bourn Bridge Road, Little Abington, was 100 years old on 3 December 2011. A few years ago she moved to Hethersett Hall near Norwich, to be nearer to her daughter Brigid. She had a lunch on her birthday at Norwich and Gillian Cotgrove, Daphne Mager, Pam Clay and Margaret Bate all attended, transported there by the so kind Diana Wingfield.

Mary was a stalwart at the Abington and Hildersham churches and a leading light in the Mothers Union. She attends the church now at Hethersett, to which she walks. She also goes shopping at times into Norwich, catching the bus at the end of the drive at Hethersett Hall.

She is a truly remarkable lady and thankfully fit and well. She also retains a great fondness for Abington and all her friends here.

Margaret Bate

Partridge Group 2012

With the exception of the first meeting, timing is as usual from 8pm at the 'Tuns' for 8.30pm at the Institute.

11 January: Nick Humphrey, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the London School of Economics. A distillation of his book *Soul Dust* on the evolution of consciousness and its benign, illusory magic.

(Please note - early gathering, for start at 8.15pm)

18 January: Sarah Mandel, Co-Chaplain for Jewish Students at Cambridge University. 'Being Jewish in 2012'.

25 January: Allan Brent, Visiting Professor, King's College, London and Professore Invitato, Augustinianum (Lateran University) Rome. 'Why I became a Catholic Priest'.

1 February: Implications of the unfolding 'Genome' – details to be advised.

8 February: Bob White, Fellow of the Royal Society and Professor of Geophysics, Cambridge University. 'Global Climate Change: Moral and Ethical Responses'.

15 February: Revd. Anne Aldridge, 'Adventures of a hospital Chaplain'.

A Partridge

Little Abington Parish Council
A Quality Parish Council
Around the village



Village Energy Show: The Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership at the district council has helped some local villages to put on a show highlighting ways of using energy more effectively helping to reduce costs and our carbon footprint. These shows are open to all and cover all aspects including transport, heating and insulation, 'growing your own', use of local suppliers etc. We'd like to run one here, probably in the Institute in the spring. We'd like to involve some educational charities and we would welcome local participation, especially from village organisations and residents who have an interest in initiatives like this. It might be appropriate to have a few local suppliers of energy saving equipment – they would help to cover the costs but would not dominate the show. Please let us know if you have some ideas – especially if you could take part or help organise the show.

Recreation Ground: We have had good support from local organisations for the fitness equipment, including a donation from Granta Park, and have applied for a grant. We are also considering requests for better play equipment for toddlers and for some shady trees nearby.

Trees: No sooner had the fencing by the ford been repaired than the willow tree dropped a large branch. This has been tidied up and the chestnut paling fence between the ford and the field will get a further small repair. We have been advised that the tree should be pollarded to prevent a recurrence! It may initially look a bit ugly but will soon put out new growth. The contractors will also be doing some tidying up of trees in the High Street and Church Lane.

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting on 28 November

Church PA system: We agreed to offer a contribution to the costs of a new sound system, including hearing loop provision, in Little Abington church. It is recognised that the churchyard is open for burial to all villagers, not just church-goers, and that people often ask for some form of service in the church.

Bobby Scheme: We also agreed to make a donation to the Bobby Scheme, which has advised and helped several of our older residents on home security matters.

Budget for 2012-13: We discussed this, considering a number of changes in costs, and agreed to request a 2% increase in the precept for next year.

Noise from TWI: Several residents complained about the noise levels coming from Granta Park, especially at night. This was eventually traced back to TWI, where they have been running tests on steel pipes. Although the tests are similar to those that have been made before, they are on larger pipes, which appear to cause more disturbance to local residents. TWI is most apologetic, has stopped night-time testing and has engaged a specialist consultant to investigate a solution.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

Next Meeting: Monday 23 January at 7.15pm

Public participation: Come and have your say – 15 minutes, early in meeting

Peter Brunning (Chairman)

tel: 891 960

Email: pc@brunning.org.uk

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk)

tel: 893 332

Email: clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk

Hildersham Focus

Early in November a group of children (and parents, babies and a dog) from Hildersham and Abington met at Hildersham Village Hall to make a set of Nativity figures with clay. Their models exceeded all expectations. The Holy Family together with shepherds, angels, stars, sheep, an ox and its baby, a donkey and two pigs made a fine scene. The figures were fired and glazed before being set out in the church ready for Christmas. Barney Palmer took photographs which were made into Christmas cards and sold in aid of the Sick Children's Trust and the Teenage Cancer Trust. It was a great afternoon's work.



Barney Palmer took photographs which were made into Christmas cards and sold in aid of the Sick Children's Trust and the Teenage Cancer Trust. It was a great afternoon's work.

The BBC have produced a new website that you might like to bookmark, www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo

This gives details and dates of a wide range of events and activities across Cambridgeshire and further afield. It lists not only events with a historical base, but also those of topical interest.

The next project of local interest will be connected with Michael Wood's second series of 'The Story of Nation' in March/April 2012. Watch this space.

On 13 December 1961 Ralph and Margaret Bate came to live in Hildersham with their three children, Susan, Simon and Andrew. For 50 years Margaret has contributed to the life of the village; at the Pear Tree, in the church and at all village events. Whatever the occasion, Margaret is helping in the background, usually behind the tea urn or washing up. The most recent was the auction held at the Pear Tree where Margaret's coffee and walnut cakes again raised funds for East Anglian Air Ambulance. But it is her personal touch that is most highly valued; at church on Sunday 11 December Margaret's warmth and generosity of spirit were celebrated with a cake specially made by Cheryl Wise. On 13 December the Village Hall Trust held a surprise tea party in her honour. What a special lady.

Report on the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 22 November

Village Hall The work to improve the village hall continues with the Trust planning to decorate it after Christmas. The Trust already replaced the old tube heaters with fan heaters.

Trees An oak tree supplied by South Cambridgeshire District Council has been planted near the new foot bridge, on the Recreation Ground to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Thanks to Carol Sinclair for arranging this.

Carol Sinclair has found a scheme to supply the Council with 200 metres of hedging for the price of an administrative charge of £50.00. The saplings supplied via the District Council will be used to improve the old hedge by the allotments. Please look out for notices asking for volunteers to help plant the hedging in the New Year.

Foot bridges The two new foot bridges have been installed in the Recreation Ground. When the old bridges were removed they were found to be in a very poor condition. The new bridges should enable more people to enjoy the lovely walks around the village.

Village sign As some of you may have noticed, the village sign is in need of some work, as the paint on the post is peeling off. Paul Fisher has kindly volunteered to repaint the post.

Telephone kiosk Mr & Mrs Moore have asked the Council to relocate the telephone kiosk away from their bungalow at their cost. They have offered to create a recessed area in the fence to put the existing unities on (kiosk, post box, telegraph post and street lamp). Mr and Mrs Moore agreed to ensure the continued supply of electricity to the phone kiosk and to redecorate the kiosk at their cost. The Parish Council agreed to accept this offer.

Churchyard access The Parochial Parish Council asked the Parish Council to help fund some of the work to improve the access into the churchyard, as the new style hearses had been getting grounded on the mound at the entrance. The Parish Council sought advice from several organisations about whether it had the power to fund such work, and the advice was inconclusive. Given the difficulties of reconciling this conflicting advice, the Councillors decided that they were unable to make a contribution towards the work.

Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee Please would villagers think about how they would like to mark the forthcoming Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the village, and let Councillors or the Clerk know your suggestions?

Hildersham Parish Council Meetings

Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 7.30pm

Keith Day (Chairman) tel: 891 527

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

Tea-Time at Hildersham Village Hall 3.00 - 4.30pm

Thursday 12 January

Happy New Year!

Thursday 2 February

Tea with the Councillors – a chance to talk to your local Parish Council

Thursday 1 March

Macmillan Tea

Thursday 5 April

Easter Tea – with hot cross buns



Tea and cake £1. Everyone welcome.

Dates for your Diary

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Tue	3	Art Group	9.30am	14
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	
		Keep Fit	7.00pm	
		Lynda's yoga – Hildersham Village Hall	7.30pm	
		Line Dancing	8.15pm	
Thu	5	Jeremiah's Café re-opens	11.30am	11
		Abington Walking Group	10.00am	15
Fri	6	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-School Building	9.30am	12
		Children's Rainbow Club – Abington School		5
Sat	7	Scrapbooking Group	10.00am	11
Mon	9	Keep-fit for the Over 60s	9.30am	15
		Abington and Hildersham WI	7.30pm	
Tue	10	Art Group	9.30am	9
		Keep Fit	7.00pm	
		Hildersham Parish Council – Hildersham Church	7.30pm	
		Reading Group – 11 Bourn Bridge Road	8.00pm	
		Line Dancing	8.15pm	
Wed	11	Shopping trip to Morrison's Cambourne		14
		Yoga course and drop in	10.00am	11
		Dynamic Dance class	3.15pm	11
		Yoga course and drop in	7.00pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.15pm	6
Thu	12	Tea time at Hildersham Village Hall	3.00pm	9
		Karate4Kids	5.15pm	12
Fri	13	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-School Building	9.30am	12
		Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.45am	12
Mon	16	Keep Fit for the Over 60s	9.30am	13
		Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	
Tue	17	Art Group	9.30am	14
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	
		Keep Fit	7.00pm	
		Lynda's yoga – Hildersham Village Hall	7.30pm	
		Line Dancing	8.15pm	
Wed	18	Yoga course and drop in	10.00am	11
		Dynamic Dance class	3.15pm	11
		Yoga course and drop in	7.00pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.30pm	6
Thu	19	Karate4Kids	5.15pm	12
Fri	20	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-School Building	9.30am	12
		Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.45am	12
Sat	21	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	15
Mon	23	Keep Fit for the over 60s	9.30am	12
		French Conversation	1.30pm	
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	
Tue	24	Art Group	9.30am	

		Keep Fit	7.00pm	
		Scrabble	7.00pm	
		Lynda's yoga – Hildersham Village Hall	7.30pm	12
		Line Dancing	8.15pm	12
Wed	25	Yoga course and drop in	10.00am	11
		Dynamic Dance class	3.15pm	11
		Yoga course and drop in	7.00pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.30pm	6
Thu	26	Karate4Kids	5.15pm	12
		Abington Lunch Club	12.45pm	14
Fri	27	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-School Building	9.30am	12
		Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.45am	12
		Burns Night	7.00pm	12
Sat	28	Rivercare litter pick up – River bridge / Ford	9.30am	
Mon	30	Keep Fit for the over 60s	9.30am	
		French Conversation	1.30pm	12
Tue	31	Art Group	9.30am	
		Forget-Me-Not Club	1.00pm	14
		Keep Fit	7.00pm	
		Lynda's yoga – Hildersham Village Hall	7.30pm	12
		Line Dancing	8.15pm	12

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

Abington Institute Administrator:

Jennifer Hirsh (tel. 893 352 or email jennifer@hirsh.demon.co.uk)

Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute

Opening times in January

Tuesday afternoons	Not open in January
Thursday lunchtimes	11.30am to 1.30pm (5, 12, 19), Lunch Club on 26 th
Friday mornings	8.45am to 11.15am (6, 13, 20, 27)
Saturday mornings	10am to 12 noon every Saturday

Café re-opens Thursday 5 January

Wheelie bin dates for January 2012

WED 4 Green/Blue	TUE 10 Black	Mon 16 Green/Blue	Mon 23 Black	Mon 30 Green/Blue
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Scrapbooking Group – We meet the first Saturday of every month and welcome you to take a look any time and ask questions. For more information or to book please call Lesley (562 549) or llat22@ntlworld.com or Kirsty (890 837) or at 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 for details.

Yoga - Wednesdays 10am and 7pm at Abington Institute

Contact Joan 890 629 or email joanyoga@yahoo.co.uk

Lynda's Yoga – Tuesdays 7.30–9.30pm at Hildersham Village Hall

Lynda's friendly Yoga Class in Hildersham is for all abilities. For further details please contact Lynda on 891 525) lynda.saltmarsh@btinternet.com or www.lyndayoga.co.uk

Karate4Kids – Thursdays at 5.15pm at Abington Institute

Beginners' course for children. Contact Bradley Prince 07511 348 360.

Low Impact Aerobics – Fridays 9.30-10.30am at Abington Institute

Aerobics, toning, strengthening and stretching suitable for the over 50's. Exercises to raise your heart rate and tone your body, fun and friendly. Please book for 5 weeks.

Pilates – Fridays 10.45-11.45am at Abington Institute.

Pilates exercises will help to alleviate back pain, increase core strength and mobility. All exercises are based on your mat. Please book for 5 weeks. For Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates contact Disa Bennett on 729 604 or disa_bennett@hotmail.com

Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group 9.30am Fridays

This baby and toddler group for 0 to 3 year olds will be held every Friday during term-time from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Pre-School building. Come along for play, chat and refreshments. There is no need to pre-book. For more details contact Louise on 890 237 or email at louise1108@hotmail.com

Line Dancing – Tuesdays 8.15 to 9.45pm at Abington Institute

Line dancing will restart on 3 January at the usual time of 8.15pm.

Viki Brunning (891 960), viki@brunning.org.uk

French Conversation Group – Mondays at 1.30pm at Abington Institute

For details contact Rachel Haining (892 004) or Judy Davies (890 286).

Jeremiah's Café on Friday Mornings

Come and join the **Friday Morning Knitters (9.30-11.00am)** at the café.

Everything from Aran pattern to Norwegian circular to child's poncho to blanket square. If you are not a knitter please feel free to bring your crochet, X-stitching, beading, embroidery or any other needle craft. Anything goes and everyone welcome. Some needles and yarn supplied.

Enjoy a good knit and natter on a cushioned chair with a bottomless pot of tea available....60p

Burns Night at the Village Institute – Friday 27 January 2012

'Come and celebrate the life and work of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns with a taste of haggis and "a wee dram" to toast the Lassies!'

Enjoy or experience for the first time a meal of haggis, neeps and tatties, then dance a Scottish reel or two! Tickets for a three course meal with a taste of Scotland will go on sale Thursday 5 January. Doors open at 7pm for drinks and canapés.

For further details, please contact Charlotte Adams on 893 018 or

cmhadams@yahoo.co.uk

Proceeds to the Loop System Appeal for St Mary's Church, Little Abington

Farmers' Market at Linton Village College

Saturday 7 January 2012, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Great Abington Parish Council

Happy New Year to all residents of Great Abington.

Looking back over the past year, we would like to thank all the people who have contacted us about village concerns, whether by attending the 'open' session before the meeting, or by writing/e-mailing the Parish Clerk. By far the greatest number of these have been helpful suggestions, thus making the council's decisions easier to agree and more relevant to the needs of the village

We would also like to thank everyone who, in the past year, has responded to our requests for help on a number of matters. To those who have cleared up after your dog, cut back your hedges, and avoided parking on grass areas and pavements – a big 'thank you'. To those of you still thinking about this – we are sure this will be your New Year's resolution – so thank you in advance!

Looking forward to 2012, we shall have the Localisation Act in operation this year. This promises that local councils will have more chances to influence local issues. However, other government legislation suggests that it is going to be more difficult for us to recommend refusal of planning applications. There will also be stricter enforcement of planning regulations, including the erection of buildings where planning permission has not been given.

Planning application

S/2055/11 – 165 High Street - demolition of garage and conservatory and erection of extension and new garage. Recommended approval.

Police matters

Following a further robbery at a Cambridgeshire post office, the police have asked us to look out for cars or vans, not usually seen in the area, that appear to be watching the post office. These usually contain several people. The police recommend that if you have suspicions about a vehicle you should dial 999, and hopefully this will prevent further crimes taking place.

There is a new number for non-emergency matters about which you may wish to contact the police. It is much simpler than the last one – you just dial 101. This number will be used throughout the country. For emergencies, when someone is in immediate danger, or when a crime is actually being committed, continue to phone 999 for an instant response.

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Village Institute

Planning Committee: Alternate Mondays (as required), 6.30pm in the Institute.

See notice board for dates or contact the Parish Clerk.

Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 16 January 2012 - 7.15pm, time for parishioners to raise matters of concern, followed by the Council 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(891 384); Paula Harper (Clerk): harper802@btinternet.com (892 000)

Abington Lunch Club
Thursday 26 January 2012



Soup

**Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy**



Sherry Trifle

Please book your meal on 07789 585 399. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 24 January. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Please remember doors open at **12.45pm**.

Next lunch Thursday 23 February 2012

Forget-Me-Not Club

Forget-Me-Not Club members recently enjoyed a Christmas meal at TWI, Carols and Coffee at Linton Village College, members plus others also had a day out in Norwich. We are now looking forward to events in the New Year.

Tuesday 3 January – After a welcome drink of sherry, Revd Bruce Waldron will give us some inspiration as we welcome 2012. His talk is entitled "A Sum of Parts".

Wednesday 11 January – Shopping Trip to Morrison's at Cambourne.

Tuesday 17 January – Julia Gunning from Little Abington PC will talk about the proposed Abington Outdoor Exercise Gym.

Tuesday 31 January – Meal from the Three Tuns.

We are celebrating the Chinese New Year with a special meal from the Tuns, followed by ice-cream and tea/coffee. Members not wishing for a Thai meal may have soup and a roll. Lunch will be served in the Institute at 1.15pm prompt so please arrive by 1.00pm. Entrance fee will be £4 (£2 club fee/£2 meal) and £6 to non-members. Please book for this event. A list will be available to sign up at the two previous club meetings. Do come along and join us for this exciting celebration.

If you are not a member of the club but would be interested in joining us for any of the above events, please do come along.

More information regarding any of the above activities, please contact;

Anne Hall, Chairman (892 275) Sue Toates (891 555)

Village Chilli & Quiz Night Friday 3 February at the Abington Institute

Organised by the AALGA but open to all this event will run from 7.30pm to 11pm. Tickets, costing £5 including supper, will be available from the Village Stores (bring your own drink).

Abington and Hildersham Women's Institute

On 12 December 25 members sat down to a Christmas meal provided by Lesley's Lunches. A lovely hot main course was followed by a delicious pudding. Afterwards we were entertained by the Stapleford hand bell ringers who played us some tunes from their repertoire, and finished off with several carols that we could sing along to. We all went home feeling Christmas was on its way.

Next meeting - Monday 9 January. A Games and Social evening at Abington Institute at 7.30pm.

Hazel Webb

Reading Group

We all enjoyed a happy Christmas meeting at Gillian Cotgrove's home. It was a warm and relaxed occasion.

10 January	<i>The Hare with the Amber Eyes</i> Edmund de Waal	11 Bourn Bridge Road, Little Abington
14 February	<i>Becoming Queen</i> Kate Williams	4 Lewis Crescent Great Abington

Please confirm your acceptance for the January meeting with Judith Allen on 891 455.

Diana Wingfield

Mobile Library

Tuesday 17 January 2012, times as follows.

Little Abington West Field	10.00-10.30am
Great Abington North Road	10.40-11.10am
Magna Close	11.20am-12.10pm
The Shop	12.15-12.35pm
Hildersham Church Green	12.45-1.00pm

Abington History Group

400 years of Abington Maps

Advance Notice – Sunday 12 February – put the date in your diary now
Afternoon in the Institute – free to everyone

Tel: 01223 893 352 Email: jennifer@hirsh.demon.co.uk

Abington Walking Group

Our most recent walks have taken us to The Chesterfords and Stetchworth.



We continue to walk throughout the winter (weather permitting) and the dates for all of our 2012 walks are now available.

The January walks are on Thursday 5 and Saturday 21.

We wish all walkers a happy and healthy 2012.

For further information contact Robin Harman on 891 730 harman@onetel.net or George Woodley on 891 169 georgewoodley@talktalk.net

Run for Fun - 2012 Beginners Group Great Abington Primary School- Recruiting Now! Mondays 8.50am - starts Monday 9 January 2012.

Come and join our Beginners Running Group; we meet weekly during term time, at the school playground gate (in the cricket field). These running sessions are for adults who are complete beginners or those who wish to run as part of a group.

Running is a safe and enjoyable way to health and fitness. Joining a group is an excellent way to meet people and get fit while enjoying the local environment. Sessions will be led by Vikki Green, professional running coach, and will include an appropriate warm up and cool down activity.

Fees for Spring Term are £27.50 (11 weeks). All profits go to Great Abington Primary School PTFA. For more information or to sign up please contact Liz Shields, telephone 01223 891526 or email lzshlds@googlemail.com

Fund raising - Recycling

GAPS has started a recycling programme which includes a collection day each term for textiles, mobile phones and printer cartridges. Next collection day is Monday 6 February. The school is paid by an independent recycling company and the proceeds will be added to our Land Appeal that pays for additional playground space for the children.

Clothing or other textiles (sheets, curtains etc), and shoes should be bagged and put over the fence in the school parking lot by the office gate by 11am in the morning. A box will be in the school office for printer cartridges and mobile phones (which can be non-functioning).

We will be very grateful for any contributions.

Lizzy Gresham (897 883)

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Abington

Preparations are under way for Abington's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. We are looking for people to come forward and join the committee to help with various events already in the pipeline, and to come up with more great ideas to make the beginning of June 2012 something to remember!

Street Luncheon, Over 60's tea, competitions,
Tug of War, children's events.

A Royal Village Feast – to include: stalls, games, rides, refreshments, evening band, bar and BBQ! (tbc)

Road closure in the centre of the village, outside the school and Institute will be organised and the surrounding areas (tbc) will be the focus of these events.

Please contact Tasha Whittaker (dollslines@aol.com) Great Abington or Charlotte Adams (cmhadams@yahoo.co.uk) Little Abington.

Abington United Football Club

Recent Results

Abington United 3-1 Steeple Morden
Abington United 4-3 Gransden (cup)
Abington United 3-2 Steeple morden (cup)
Abington United 7-5 Hundon res
Abington United 6-0 Eaton Socon
Wilbraham 0-4 Abington United
Abington United 5-3 Fulbourn Institute A
Abington United 12-0 Lode
Abington 3-3 Orwell
Linton Granta Res 2-1 Abington United

Forthcoming Fixtures

7/01/12 Abington vs Cambridge Ambassadors (cup game)
14/01/12 Abington vs Hardwick (cup game)
21/01/12 Abington vs Linton Granta Res

Abington FC went on a nine game unbeaten run before that ended with defeat to rivals Linton Granta Res. It was a game packed with emotion and some great football from both sides but it was Linton that got the bragging rights in this one. Linton trailed 1-0 at the break thanks to a Neil Gilzean penalty but they fought back with a stunning free kick and penalty from Joe George. But Abington must take some positives out of the game as in fairness they didn't deserve to lose and could have won the game themselves.

The recent run of results shows Abington are in 3rd place in the league and well placed to finish in the top four if form continues, and are also in two cup games, for which the next rounds will be played in January, so all to play for in the 2nd half of the season. It's been a good start to the season, with some older former faces returning to the club, including the likes of Keith, Jason Mannion, Asa Smith, and this, with some village faces, has made it a very tough looking and challenging side this year. There might be talks over the summer to see if it would be viable for the club to start up a reserve side because a few older and young faces are struggling to get in the team and match practice, but obviously it comes with more bills, set up costs, people to run it and needs a committed squad of at least 15-20 to be worth it.

The club is looking to replace the present tired, bent goals with new moveable ones to save the pitch getting worn too much. The idea would be for the existing better condition goal post to be erected off the pitch to allow kids/school etc to use this rather than train on the pitch. This would benefit the club as well as the village. The FA might pay for half the goal post price and the club would have to find the rest. This is the route I believe the club would like to take and we are hoping to have some donations from villagers/companies/businesses to help us raise the £800-£1000 we need to purchase these, so if you can help in any way no matter how small we would like to hear from you.

We would like to thank current sponsors and regular sponsors for their continued support and donations to the club. So we thank TWI for their committed donations to the club, Mr Chris Nutt for his continued support by paying for our training and match balls each season, which is a great gesture and help to the club. We also thank the Recreation Ground Committee which continues to raise funds for us to do pitch renovation work at the end of each season to keep improving the pitch each year.

If you are interested in helping the club then please contact one of the people below. Many thanks. Everyone at Abington United FC wishes you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Boughtwood dboughtwood@yahoo.com
John Webb (snr) 07748563322

Learn to Sing A capella Close Harmony



Encouraging men to sing

Following the successful show at Great Abington Church on Saturday 3 December the Cambridge Chord Company is running a 'Learn to Sing' Course. Supported by a national music educational charity, this course aims to encourage more men to take up singing. It will welcome newcomers and those who have sung for a while. You will learn within a group, which makes it less

daunting. Come along. **It's free!**

- You do not have to be able to read music
- No experience necessary
- Men of all ages welcome

There are men who would love to sing. Most of them never get round to it, don't have the opportunity, or maybe are too self-conscious to give it a go.

The simple fact is that just about everyone can sing. This free course will help you to discover your voice. There's no need to worry about reading music, the simple teaching methods will help you to learn a song quickly.

The six week course starts on Thursday 19 January at the Abington Institute.

For further details and registration phone Stephen Brown (833 725) or contact

www.cambridgechordcompany.co.uk/sing-course

Linton WEA Course for the Spring term 2012




We are all looking forward to welcoming a new, but local, speaker and expert **Chloe Cockerill** next spring at Linton WEA. This term our subject title is ***Helms, Hatchments and Hedgehogs - Heraldry: it's all around us.***

This course is a straightforward introduction to what is often dismissed as an esoteric subject. It will trace the history of heraldry from the 12th to the 21st centuries from chivalry, jousting and tournaments to the arms of a supermarket. Many examples from local churches, Cambridge schools and colleges will be included. For our course visit we hope to go to Windsor Castle and Chapel.

See www.lintonwea.org.uk/courses2.htm for more details.

We start our ten week term at Linton Village Hall on **Tuesday 10 January 2012** at 10am. Each session lasts until 11.45 am, with a break for a cup of tea and a chance to catch up on the local news half way through. We are a very friendly group and you will be more than welcome to come and join our truly happy Tuesday mornings. The fee for the 10 week course is just £45 and there is help for people on benefits and low family incomes. For **ALL** enquiries about the course please contact the branch secretary on 01223 290 420

Church Services for January 2012

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
1 January Naming & circumcision	8.00am Communion 4.00pm Evensong		9.15am Communion	Numbers 6.22-end Luke 2 15-21
8 January Epiphany		9.15am Communion	10.45am All Praise	Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12
15 January		8.00am Communion 10.45pm All Age Praise	9.15am Communion	1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20] John 1.43-51
22 January	9.15am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	Genesis 14.17-20 John 2.1-11
29 January	10.45am United Service			Deuteronomy 18.15-20 Mark 1.21-28

Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
1 January	Brenda Bush	Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Crampin
8 January	Brenda Bush	Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Crampin
15 January	Tasha Whittaker & Naomi Froment	Mrs Crisp & Mrs Mead	Mrs Newble
22 January	Tasha Whittaker & Naomi Froment	Mrs Crisp & Mrs Mead	Mrs Hunter
29 January	Janet Stanley	Mrs Turnidge	Mrs Humphrys

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
	Vacancy		