



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

January 2018



Photo by Emma Jones

**Father Christmas at the Christmas Fayre
Saturday 25 November 2017**

Letter from the Editor

It snowed! Amazing for this part of the world and it didn't last long enough to please the children. The sudden cold weather has, however, made us think of topping up oil tanks, and details of the next community oil order are at the foot of this page.

Thanks to photographs sent to me by several people, the following pages celebrate a number of joyful, well-attended recent events (see pages, 5, 7, 18). It is especially pleasing to record a new venture, a Tag Rugby match between pupils at the Great Abington Primary School and CIS.

The diary on pages 10 to 11 shows the resumption of classes and club activities, including Film Nights and the Partridge Group talks, to energise us in the New Year. If you would like some challenging outdoor events, Cambridge PPF has a fascinating programme for January, part of which is given on page 15.

Interviews have been held for a replacement vicar but it may be some time before this process comes to fruition. Meanwhile, there will be a special Plough Sunday service at which Bishop Stephen will officiate (pages 4, 6). On 21 January there will be another and very welcome joint service held at the United Reformed Church for congregations from the Abington churches and URC (page 6).

Reports from the two Abington Parish Councils flag up some interesting planning decisions. We should also take serious note of a recent worrying incident of a phone scam (page 12) and pay attention to a proposal to merge more local medical practices. It would be helpful if we could be told what positive improvements have been achieved by the mergers that have already occurred (pages 13, 14, 18).

Turbulent political events, terrorist attacks in Europe, wars, famine and atrocities in 2017 leave us a challenging legacy as we face the New Year. The resulting damage has often been lessened by international co-operation and, at a local level, by the actions of strong communities like the Abingtons and Hildersham. So there is good reason to hope for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2018.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the February 2018 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the Editor by Monday 15 January 2018 at news@theabingtons.org.uk. Photos welcome.

Community Oil Order

Please let Rod Wilcox know the quantity of oil you want and supply your name, address, post code and phone number by 12 January. He will then place orders for delivery by 19 January.

Contact rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk or by phone 07767 686 351.

From the Seven Churches

Happy New Year from our Ministry Team! By the time you are reading this, I hope you will have heard that we have appointed a new rector to replace Dr. Julie Norris to lead our group of seven churches (see page 6).

The Church of England has a complex system of appointing priests to new posts. At the very end of the process it is the final decision of our Diocesan Bishop, who appoints and licenses the new priest.

But before that, all our churchwardens, who are all 'Bishop's Officers' appointed by the Bishop of Ely, the Right Revd Stephen Conway, have the responsibility of selecting the new Rector.

In addition to that, every parish in the Church of England has a Patron who is also responsible for appointing the parish clergy. Our seven churches all have patrons who take their part in the appointment process, and they will be coming to the Installation Service to formally present the new Rector to the Bishop. As you can see, it is a complicated procedure.

Back to celebrating the New Year! On behalf of all the members of our ministry team, may God bless you and your loved ones in the year to come.

Keith Johnson

January 2018

Once again we begin a new year which some welcome and others dread. It is a chance to begin afresh. From all the festivities perhaps we can stop for a moment to remember them and reflect on days past and look forward with a thankful heart. We have hope that as we have celebrated Christmas we can make a difference to our neighbours and friends.

The area we live in is rural and we are aware, more than most, of the changing seasons as we see the tractors ploughing the fields. It is cold and the ground hard and yet this all helps the soil to be renewed ready to grow more crops. In the light of our dependence on the weather and the need to recognise those who go out in all winds and weathers Plough Sunday offers us a tradition that goes back over centuries. More recently it has been revived in Balsham. Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land. It is traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany, the Sunday between 7 January and 13 January. Accordingly, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday: Plough Monday marks the resumption of agricultural work after the Christmas festivities. In some areas of England it was common for the farm labourers to tour the villages with their plough in a money-raising trip. After the blessing, the plough was traditionally pulled through the village led by a Fool and a 'Betsy' (a boy dressed as a woman). The procession stopped at as many pubs and friendly houses as possible for revellers to demand drinks. Pennies were also collected along the route. Anyone not paying a penny was likely to find a furrow cut across their land by morning.

The Church's year has a rich pattern of tradition which helps us to be grounded. Come along and see. We'd love to welcome you.

Kathy Bishop

Advent Concert Saturday 2 December 2017

The Tapestry Singers, directed by Jeremy Burrows, provided a memorable evening of sacred and secular music at Great Abington Church. Mulled wine and mince pies were served in the interval and the second half included a glorious solo piece performed by a talented young saxophonist. The evening concluded with the stirring communal hymn 'Lo he comes'. A very pleasant evening was had by all as the following photographs show.

Group photo by courtesy of the Tapestry Group; church interior by Tony Collett



News from the Pews

Throughout January our seven churches will be fulfilling yet another busy month, fuelled with the excitement and anticipation of the possible announcement of a new vicar.

On Friday 8 December an extraordinary first time event took place within the Granta Vale Benefice when interviews were held for a new vicar. This is the first time a vicar has been sought since the Benefice was formed. The day was planned in fine detail, with the three candidates visiting all seven churches individually along with a series of interviews by personnel connected to our churches in various capacities. It was indeed a day of contemplation and we thank all those involved.

On the last Sunday in 2017 the seven churches will join together at Holy Trinity Church in Balsham at 10am for a United Service with communion. The following week we meet again at Balsham church (7 January, Epiphany Sunday) where we will be blessed with a visit from the Bishop of Ely. Bishop Stephen has expressed a wish to preside and preach at a Parish Eucharist and to bless the Balsham Plough. This service is at 10.45am.

On Sunday 21 January we will once again join our friends at the United Reformed Church at 2.30pm, when the service will be led by Revd. Bruce Waldron, and a warm and friendly welcome always awaits us.

Dates to Note for January

Sunday 30 December – United Service at Balsham Church 10am

Sunday 7 January Epiphany Sunday – Service at Balsham Church led by the Bishop of Ely. 10.45am

Wednesday 10 January – PCC Meeting 7pm 41 Church Lane

Sunday 21 January – United Service at the United Reformed Church 2.30pm.

Charity for the Month – Winter Comfort

This charity is based in Victoria Road, Cambridge and has been in operation for over 25 years. They support people who are homeless or are at risk of losing their home. They are open seven days a week. Your contribution enables core programming to be delivered. Your contributions may be left in our Charity Boxes in both Great and Little Abington Churches. **Thank you.**

Anne Hall

Little Abington United Reformed Church

We wish all readers a Peaceful New Year and invite you to join us for any service, but especially for our United Communion Service on 21 January when we look forward to welcoming our friends from the churches in Great and Little Abington.

Preachers for January

7 January 10.15am Mr Mark Hayes

14 January 10.15am Mr Ben Palmer

21 January 2.30pm Revd Bruce Waldron (Holy Communion)

United service with St Mary's churches, Great and Little Abington

28 January 10.15am Mr Peter Sammons

For more information please contact Lynne on 893 295.

Tag Rugby

On a windy Wednesday 22 November, Cambridge International School played host to their neighbours at Great Abington Primary School for some junior tag rugby. The focus of the day was on developing new friendships, developing our rugby skills and getting a greater understanding of the core values of rugby: Respect, Teamwork, Sportsmanship, Discipline and Enjoyment.

The afternoon was based around skills and games and finished with matches where the teams were made up of both schools. It was great to see the collaboration and support between all the pupils and their resilience to keep going despite the near gale force wind.



Cambridge International School

Photo by CIS



Photo by Emma Jones

Christmas Fayre on 25 November

The annual Christmas Fayre, run by the Abington Churches, included a variety of stalls offering homemade cakes, jams, chutneys, plants, books, bric-à-brac and an excellent array of gifts. The Café was kept very busy and a raffle offered tempting prizes. Altogether, it was a pleasant afternoon, and a good fundraiser too, thanks to the efforts of the organisers and the enthusiasm of the customers.

Christingle service at St Mary's Church, Little Abington Sunday 3 December

The parents and children who came to this service shared the Christmas stories and carols in a warm and friendly atmosphere. It was a magical moment when the lights went down and the church was lit only by the candles in the traditional Christingles, candles that symbolise Christ as the light of the world.

A collection was taken for the Children's Society.

The children brought gifts and warm clothing for unaccompanied refugee children and those taken into emergency care in Cambridgeshire. Special thanks are due to Maureen Harper and the Linton knitting group for their considerable donation of clothing.



Photo by Nadia Macari-Brown

Hildersham Focus

Creative Church Day

Those who attended the Creative Church Day held on 19 November in Hildersham Village Hall produced some beautiful ceramic lanterns – and a Christmas Cake for Jimmy's Night Shelter. The lanterns were sold at Café Church Christingle on 17 December with the proceeds going to The Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who donated the ingredients for the cake, to the Huntsman family for baking and decorating it and to all those who made so many lanterns.

Hildersham Lectures 2018 – dates for the diary

Mike Petty MBE, renowned local historian, will present a talk entitled 'Floods in the Fens' on **26 January 2018**, at Hildersham Church, 7.30pm. 'Not so much a lecture, more a performance' is a phrase commonly heard from the audience at one of Mike Petty's lectures. Entry £5 including refreshments. U18s free.

23 March, Patrick Humphrys will give an illustrated talk of his Cuban experience, his own 'Marigold Hotel on Tour'

27 April, 'Surviving the Death Railway – a POW's Memoir and Letters from Home'. Local author Hilary Green describes how her parents, 68 men, their wives and mothers coped on the Death Railway 6000 miles away from Britain in WWII

25 May, 'What if Shackleton had landed; would he have got across Antarctica?' Robert Burton, guest lecturer on tours of Antarctica, will provide an answer.

HVHT Quiz Night

Hildersham Village Hall Trust is hosting a quiz night in the village hall on Friday 2 February. Tickets cost £8, which includes a hot supper. Please bring your own drinks and we'll provide the glasses. Everyone is welcome – bring your team of up to eight people or come along and join with others. Doors open at 7pm for a prompt 7:30pm start and there will be a raffle with the usual array of wonderful prizes! It's bound to be a lot of fun and very popular, so make sure to book by contacting Jill on 893 596, or email edheale@btinternet.com.

Zigzag Pilates 8 – 12 January, trial week - all group classes discounted to £6

The first week of term in January is a special at Zigzag Pilates because all of our classes can be booked on a one-off basis and will cost only £6 instead of the normal rate of £9 per session. All classes are held in Hildersham Village Hall.

Beginner/Gentle - Wednesday 10th at 6.45pm or Friday 12th at 10.15am
(including those suffering some health conditions)

Improver - Wednesday 10th at 7pm or Friday 12th at 11.30am

Pre-booking essential - Contact Rachel to book a trial session 07905105081 or email rachel@zigzagpilates.co.uk

The rest of the term will then run for the next four weeks and cost £36 - payment due before the start of the course.

One-to-one sessions can also be booked. These are held in Linton and cost £38 per hour.

Visit www.zigzagpilates.co.uk for more details. Rachel specialises in the older client.

Watercolour painting course

Anyone interested in joining a short watercolour painting course at Horseheath Village Hall, scheduled to start mid-March 2018, please contact Susan Mackenzie, 01223 891 521, sjhmac2@yahoo.co.uk

Hildersham Parish Council A Quality Parish Council



The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9 January 2018 from 7.30pm at Hildersham Village Hall, High Street, Hildersham Everyone welcome.

Linton Village College

The New Year creates an opportunity to set resolutions. For many, the indulgence of the festive season prompts a focus on developing a healthier lifestyle. For others, the new calendar year encourages a commitment to try a new hobby or skill.

The College's Sports Centre characteristically sees a spike in membership and use in January. Having such a facility for the community is part of what makes our Village College a special one. Chris Baker, our Sports Centre Manager, is keen to continue to increase participation, as is Margaret Kiddy, our Adult Education Manager, who has introduced a number of new evening classes, taster sessions and weekend workshops to develop our adult education learning programme.

The philosophy of the Village College movement was to ensure that schools were at the heart of their villages and provided opportunities for life-long learning and community activity. Having the school buildings and outdoor facilities busy outside of the school day is an important aspect of our school character, as is welcoming visitors into the College to share special moments and activities.

At the end of the autumn term, we had lots of events of this nature. Our annual Coffee and Carols was a particular highlight, as was the Christmas Concert at Balsham Church and the Christmas Fayre with Granta School. Children benefit a great deal from performing to an audience beyond the school community and working in partnership with students and adults beyond LVC. Thank you to everyone who supported these activities.

Two of our students took part in a debating competition at the Houses of Parliament in December, competing against other schools. This was a great public speaking challenge and one that provided a great deal of access to cultural capital. Students at Linton Village College are fortunate to have staff who are committed to making these enriching extra-curricular activities possible through planning trips and visits and providing opportunities to experience real-life learning. While many schools are stripping back non-academic provision due to financial and workload pressures, we remain committed to offering a rich, holistic education experience for all of our learners.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

Dates for your Diary

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Tue	2	Rivercare litter pick-up – meet at road bridge/ford	9.30am	
Wed	3	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Yoga – course and drop in	7.00pm	11
Thu	4	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	16
Sat	6	Scrapbooking Group	10.00am	11
Mon	8	French Conversation	1.00pm	
		Abingtons & Hildersham WI	7.30pm	18
Tue	9	Art Group	9.30am	
		FGMN Club	2.00pm	17
		Reading Group - 6 Church Lane, Linton	8.00pm	16
		Hildersham Parish Council – Village Hall	7.30pm	9
		Table Tennis	8.00pm	11
Wed	10	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		FGMN visit to Morrison's supermarket		17
		Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11
		Yoga – course and drop in	7.00pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	12
Fri	12	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.45am	11
		Family Film Night - doors open	6.15pm	12
Mon	15	French Conversation	1.00pm	
		Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	15
Tue	16	Art Group	9.30am	
		Table Tennis	8.00pm	11
Wed	17	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11
		Yoga – course and drop in	7.00pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	12
Fri	19	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.45am	11
Sat	20	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	16
Sun	21	Joint service at the URC Lt Abington	2.30pm	6, 20
Mon	22	French Conversation	1.00pm	
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	13
Tue	23	Art Group	9.30am	
		Mobile Library	a.m	12
		FGMN Club	2.00pm	17
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	17
		Table Tennis	8.00pm	11
Wed	24	Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	12
Thu	25	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	16
Fri	26	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.45am	11

		Film Night - doors open	6.45pm	12
		Hildersham Lecture – Hildersham Church	7.30pm	8
Mon	29	French Conversation	1.00pm	
Tue	30	Art Group	9.30am	
		Table Tennis	8.00pm	11
Wed	31	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11
		Yoga – course and drop in	7.00pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	12

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

Institute bookings: phone 01223 790 711 or email: institute@theabingtons.org.uk

Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute

Opening times in January 2018

Thursday lunchtimes	11.30am – 1.30pm (4, 11 and 18)	Lunch 25 th
Friday mornings	8.45am – 11.00am	
Saturday mornings	10.00am – 12 noon	

The café reopens on Thursday 4 January 2018.

Pancake Day Tuesday 13 February – we will be opening to serve you a delicious array of freshly made pancakes with a choice of fillings.

Contacts for Café – Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com and Gill Smith 892 759 or richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk

Wheelie bin dates for January 2018 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Wed 3	Tue 9	Mon 15	Mon 22	Mon 29
Blue	Black	Green/Blue	Black	Blue

Scrapbooking Group – We meet one Saturday of every month and welcome you to take a look any time and ask questions.

Yoga – Wednesdays 9.30am and 7pm at Abington Institute

Contact Joan 890 629 or email joangraham72@gmail.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

Table Tennis – Tuesdays 8pm at Abington Institute

Contact Raj Sangha on 07803 786 905.

Abington Pre-school Baby and Toddler Group This group runs during term time from the Annexe building at the bottom of the school playground; **open on Fridays from 9.30am to 11.30am**, for all children aged 0–3 years old. Refreshments provided for children and adults. Contact Abington Pre-school on 01223 894 246

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

Suitable for 50+ or those returning to exercise. Aerobics, toning and stretching. Exercises to raise your heart rate and tone your body; fun and friendly.

Pilates – Fridays 10.45–11.45am at Abington Institute

Pilates exercises will help to alleviate back pain, increase core strength, improve posture and flexibility. Please book for five weeks for Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates. Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk

Senior Keep Fit – Wednesdays 11.30–12.30 at Abington Scout Hut, Church Lane, Little Abington. No classes in January and February. For more information contact: Viki Green Level 4 exercise referral specialist. Tel: 07762 902 976. Email: Victoriagreen@btinternet.com

Family/baby yoga at the Institute – Please contact Jeffi for more information on 07931 790 591

ZIGZAG Pilates at Hildersham Village Hall – contact www.zigzagpilates.co.uk and see page 8 for more details.

Film Nights at Abington Institute

This month we have **Family Film Night** on **Friday 12 January**. Doors open 6.15pm, film starts at 6.30pm. Then **Film Night** is on **Friday 26 January**. Doors open 6.45pm, film starts at 7.00pm. Everyone welcome. Usual raffle and refreshments. Look out for the poster in the Institute for full details.

If you would like to receive details of the film by email approx. 2 weeks before a screening then subscribe for free to our mailing list using the link at <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk> or email films@theabingtons.org.uk

Dianne Dawson (893 101)

Mobile Library

The next date will be Tuesday 23 January 2018, 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	End of Beech Lane near phone box	12.45–1.00pm

The Partridge Group

The Partridge Group 2018 Programme is now complete and details are posted on the website <www.theabingtons.org.uk/clubs/partridge-group/>

Week one will feature the traditional 'Mystery Speaker', details of whom will be emailed to our regular members shortly before Wednesday 10 January.

To be included please contact <starlings36@gmail.com> A. Partridge

AALGA QUIZ NIGHT – a date for your diary

Please note that the always popular Allotment Association Quiz Night will take place on Friday 16 March 2018 at 7.15pm in the Institute.

Tickets will be available in February and more information will be published in next months News.

David Milns

Beware! Scam phone calls

Please be aware of a nasty scam that has recently caused an Abington resident considerable distress. A phone caller, claiming to be "BT Security" or "TeamView", warns that there are fraudsters operating in the area and that your identity and bank security are at risk. The caller is prepared to spend a long time extracting information from you and will ask you to reveal your bank details and agree to their accessing your computer remotely. Luckily for this resident, the conversation was overheard by someone who realised it was a scam and intervened. The police advise people not to engage with callers – don't worry about being rude, just end the call – and never, ever allow someone remote access to your computer. In this instance it was a near thing but fortunately no harm was done.

Parish Council meeting 27 November

Public participation: closure of Granta Park

Feelings continue to run high about the closure of Granta Park among residents of the Abingtons. In the public participation session at November's meeting, several residents spoke about their frustration at the apparent lack of progress concerning the issue. Following their representation, the Parish Council agreed to provide possible dates for a further public meeting, to be held in the New Year, by 4 December. A number of dates have been identified. Please see the village website and noticeboards for information. Meanwhile, the Parish Council encourages residents to take advantage of the access that has been authorised, via the main entrance to Granta Park, and respect the routes indicated on the map provided.

Final budget plan

The Parish Council's final budget plan was discussed and agreed. Full details are available on the Council's page on the village website.

Planning

The Parish Council will be commenting on the planning application for an agri-tech park south of the A505 (Hinxton parish), near the McDonald's/BP garage roundabout.

Local policing

Like many other local authorities, South Cambs. has decided that there will be no new intake of Police Community Support Officers. Numbers will be reduced through natural turnover, enabling the recruitment of 50 new police officers.

The full minutes of the Parish Council meeting are on the village website and on the noticeboard in Church Lane. There was no meeting in December.

Tree felling

The removal of the large dead elm on the footpath leading to the Millennium Bridge had to be postponed. Residents will be notified of the revised date as soon as possible.

The members of the Parish Council wish all residents a very happy New Year.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

Next meeting: **Monday 22 January 2018 at 7.15pm**

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

Peter Brunning (Chairman)

tel: 891960

Email: pc@brunning.org.uk

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk)

tel: 893 332

Email: clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk

www.theabingtons.org.uk/parish-councils/little-abington-parish-council/

Planning

S/4101/17/FL Linton Road, Great Abington

Replacement of two existing kennels blocks with new buildings. Modification of two other kennel blocks to create enclosed kennel runs. Parish Council recommended approval

S/3894/17/FL 57 North Road, Great Abington

Demolish the existing conservatory and replace with single storey extension. Build new garage. Parish Council recommended refusal

S/3868/17/FL Site 5 (Steinmetz Building), Granta Park

Electron Microscope extension to research and development building. Parish Council recommended approval

S/3795/17/FL 50, North Road, Great Abington

Retrospective installation of all-weather equestrian riding surface. Parish Council recommended approval

Health Centre

There is a proposal to merge the Granta Medical Practice with Shelford Medical Centre, enlarging the service offered in our area. This is currently out for consultation, and if you've got any comments contact Gerard Newnham – gerard.newnham@nhs.net or 01223 727 555 (see also page 18).

Neighbourhood Plan

The feedback from the last consultation has been analysed and changes made to the plan. At the last minute the South Cambs. highways team changed its initial advice and has requested a traffic survey be carried out. This will take place in early January and, when complete, will be added to the plan, which will then be submitted to South Cambs. for the next step of the process.

Shire Hall

A County Council working party is still working on proposals to move the council's HQ out of Shire Hall in Cambridge which is expensive to maintain. Options it is developing for alternative new premises are Alconbury and Northstowe. With the new Mayor having proposed to review local government arrangements in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, however, it is not clear that there will continue to be a County Council.

Strategic Bus Review

The Mayor and Combined Authority have agreed to spend up to £150,000 on a strategic review of bus provision in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Cambridge City Stadium

At its November meeting South Cambs. planning committee granted planning permission for a new stadium for Cambridge City Football Club in Sawston.

The previous planning permission was overturned at judicial review on a technicality. Although it is derelict land, the site is in the Green Belt. And although recreational use is an allowed use of Green Belt land, the planning policy hurdles are still huge. The committee voted by eight votes to two in favour of the development because of the very special circumstances. Those were predominantly

the improvement of the site, with open parkland, the Club's pitches, and of fulfilling the shortfall of recreational space in the village.

The petition presented at the meeting showed that there is widespread backing for the proposal in the area and from a majority of Sawston residents. This is a fantastic result for the village of Sawston and for the whole district. It is great that the Club is back on track to getting a new permanent home.

The Three Hills

As a village we are really lucky to have a vibrant pub in the village which has great local support. If you are thinking of trying another village, The Three Hills pub in Bartlow has been closed for over a year now and, after a local investor was persuaded to buy the pub and invest heavily in its renovation, they are due to open in time for Christmas this year. The official open date is Friday 15 December.

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

Bernie Talbot (Chairman) tel: 892 647

Planning Committees: Usually Mondays, as required, 6.30pm. See notice board for dates or contact the parish clerk.

Next Parish Council meeting Monday 15 January 2018, 7.15pm.

There will be an opportunity early in the meeting for members of the public to speak to the council about matters of concern. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Parish Council notice board located at the entrance to Magna Close or available from the parish clerk.

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

Start your New Year Active with Cambridge Past, Present and Future (PPF)

Orienteering for all :- Sunday 14 January: 11am to 3pm

Orienteering is a great way to enjoy the outdoors without the need for smartphones and GPS, and you'll get exercise without even realising it! Experience a sense of fun and achievement navigating your way around beautiful Wandlebury Park on three courses of varying length and complexity. Walk, run, individually, in pairs, or in groups for an active afternoon in the countryside.

NB: No need to book – follow the signs from the main car park to the registration area. Start from 1pm through to 3pm. Suitable for all ages but children must remain accompanied by an adult. Wear sensible footwear and clothing. All competitors take part at their own risk. £10 per family/group, individuals £5 (members £8/£4).

Winter Tree Identification: - Saturday 20 January: 1pm to 4pm

Join the Cambridge PPF team for this fascinating workshop for adults in the beautiful winter scenery of the Country Park. Learn the basic skills needed to identify our common native trees in the winter using bark, buds, shape and form (and leaves and seeds when available!) and then put them to the test on a guided stroll around Wandlebury – a perfect relaxing afternoon.

NB: For adults only. Booking essential. £8 per person (members £6). Wear sensible clothing according to weather and sturdy shoes.

Coppicing Woodland at Wandlebury: - Wednesday 24 January: 10am to 3pm

Join this volunteer work party to help us care for the park. Learn this ancient technique, which provides a constant supply of useful wood while rejuvenating trees and increasing biodiversity. The day will involve cutting with hand saws, as well as stacking and sorting cut branches. Wear warm, waterproof clothing and tough shoes, bring a packed lunch and drink. All are welcome.

NB: Free event and no need to book – just turn up on the day. Meet at Wandlebury car park notice board. All instruction, equipment and tools provided. Donations are always welcome.

Directions: Wandlebury Country Park is on the A1307, 2.5km south of the Addenbrooke's roundabout. CB22 3AE. Parking is available on site and costs £3 per vehicle, members free.

For more information: email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 01223 243 830 extension 207 or visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on



Abington Lunch

Thursday 25 January 2018



Fruit Juice

**Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding and Roast Potatoes
Parsnips and other Seasonal Vegetables with Gravy**

Old English Syllabub Trifle

Tea or Coffee

Please book your meal on 07789 585 399. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 23 January. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Doors open at **12.45pm**. Note that the lunch is open to **ALL** Abington and Hildersham residents. **Only £5.**

Next lunch Thursday 22 February 2018

Reading Group

9 January	<i>The Shoemaker's Wife</i> Adriana Trigiani	Lisa Pechey
13 February	<i>His Bloody Project</i> Graeme Macrae Burnet	Sylvia Gilmour
13 March	<i>Daughters of the Night Sky</i> Aimie K Runyan	Sally Turnidge

Please confirm your attendance in January to Lisa.

Lisa Pechey

Abington Walking Group

Our December walks started not very well weather wise with only a few of us getting wet at Little Walden, but this was followed by an enjoyable lunch.



The Saturday that preceded the 'big breakfast' was again poorly attended, but it was a very frosty morning around the land settlement and engendered hearty appetites.

The next walks are on Thursday 4 and Saturday 20 January.

Thanking all of our walkers for their continued support and wishing everyone a very happy New Year.

For further information, please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 robandkayharman@gmail.com or
George Woodley on 891 169 georgewoodley@talktalk.net

Forget-Me-Not Club

Following our most delightful Christmas Lunch (*photo by John Dodsworth*), we return to a relatively quiet start to our first meeting in 2018 with a toast to the New Year followed by a quiz.



As a club for senior citizens we are extremely privileged to have a Parish Nurse (Claire Gillett RGN) who has visited the club on occasions and is only a phone call away if we need advice or guidance on health or social issues. This year however, she will be visiting the club using the Terrace for

private consultation, along with blood pressure checks. Her visits will be listed in the FGMN Club news. Claire wishes to emphasise that these visits are not just for FGMN Club members as, with all her work, she helps and advises ALL ages within the community. No appointment is necessary; please wait in the Café area where Claire will collect you and take you through the back corridor to the Terrace. A Collection Box will be placed at the door on these days if you wish to contribute towards funding this project.

Further to this, arrangements have already been made for both senior and eligible members of our community to have a Flu Jab next October. Date to be advertised nearer the time.

By popular request Jennifer will again be giving a talk on the History of the LSA. Interestingly there are 16 members of the club (25%) who have been connected with the LSA at sometime in their life, all of whom have interesting tales to tell. The LSA has now developed hugely and is of course all privately owned. If you are a relative newcomer to the area and have wondered 'what life was like' during the LSA working years, do come along to the talk, you are most welcome.

Dates for January

Tuesday 9 January 2pm – New Year Welcome and Quiz

Wednesday 10 January – Visit to Morrison's Supermarket

Tuesday 23 January 2pm – Talk by Jennifer 'Life on the LSA'

And consultation visit from the Parish Nurse 2 till 4pm.

Anne Hall (892 275) or anneandglynhall@gmail.com

Scrabble Club

The next meeting of the Scrabble Club is on Tuesday 23rd January at 7pm in the Institute. New members very welcome.

Sheena Fraser

Abington Gardening Club

Happy New Year to everyone. There is no meeting in January, the next meeting will be on Monday 5 February when Jim Forrest will give a talk entitled 'Gardens of NW Scotland'. All welcome.

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

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Given the snow and icy weather, we were pleased to celebrate our December meeting with a party in our warm and cosy Village Institute. The Poppies Catering Service prepared a delicious meal for us served on festive tables and the wine and conversation flowed with a background of Annette's slides of WI activities and Christmas music from St. Paul's choristers to Cliff Richard. Ann's fun quiz on sweets challenged our brain cells and memories, and a raffle rounded off a most enjoyable festive evening.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS! Please note subscriptions due for 2018 : £41 cash or cheque payable to Abington Women's Institute.

Next meeting: Monday 8 January - Whatever happened after Henry VIII? A talk by Revd. Dr. Nicholas Henderson. Visitors and new members welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst (893 214)

Granta and Shelford Medical Practices Proposed merger

The NHS is changing rapidly. General Practice remains the bedrock of the NHS but needs to adapt to be able to meet both current and future needs of our populations.

Nationally there is already a significant shortfall in GP numbers and this is going to get worse. With an aging population, health care needs are more complex and patients are attending the surgery much more frequently than in the past. Put simply, the traditional general practice which has worked so well for so long is no longer able to service patient needs. Government policy is that only large general practices will get access to new funding streams. Without this additional resource, patient care will suffer.

The GPs of both Granta Medical Practices (Barley, Royston, Linton and Sawston) and Shelford Health Centre believe that the best option for maintaining and improving services for our patients is through coming together to form a single practice. At present the practices are consulting on this proposed merger. We are keen to seek views of all those who might be affected.

The practice teams already work very closely together. We believe that by coming together the existing services provided to our patients will not just be more sustainable but that we will be able to add new services, enabling improved care in our practices. A merger also facilitates the hoped-for integration of community nursing and support teams with the practices as part of the nationally recognised "Primary Care Home" model of integrated care.

There is no suggestion of, or intention to, shut any of the surgeries down nor to stop providing core general practice consultations from each site. Some administrative and specialist services may be delivered from a single location.

Already the Granta merged practices are better placed to retain and recruit clinical staff than many surrounding practices, ensuring high levels of continued service despite the national shortage of doctors and nurses in primary care.




Shelford and Granta Medical Practices are committed to providing the best possible care for our patients within the NHS system.

We are keen to evolve to remain as relevant for our community in the next half century as we have been since the foundation of the NHS. Together, with some 44,000 patients, we will be big enough to deliver modern healthcare while remaining small enough to care and be responsive to our patient needs. If you have any queries, please contact:

Gerard Newnham
Practice Business Manager
Granta Medical Practices
T. 01223 727555
gerard.newnham@nhs.net

Sandra East
Admin & Communications Manager
Shelford Medical Practice
T. 01223 843661
sandra.east@nhs.net

Church Services for January 2018

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
7 January Epiphany	10.45am United Eucharist at Balsham with Bishop Stephen			
14 January		4.00pm Evensong	9.15am Communion	1 Samuel 3.1-10 John 1.43-end
21 January	2.30pm United Service for URC and Abington Churches at URC		4.00pm Café Church	Genesis 14.17-20 John 2.1-11
28 January	10.45am Communion		9.15am Communion – Prayer Book	Malachi 3.1-5 Luke 2.22-40

Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
7 January	Anne Hall and	Gaynor Brookes	Kirsten Newble
14 January	Patsy Randall	Gaynor Brookes	Kirsten Newble
21 January	Anne Hall and	Gill Smith	Lizzy Griggs
28 January	Patsy Randall	Gill Smith	Lizzy Griggs

Churchwardens

<i>Hildersham</i>	Cathy Myer	'Woodside', Hildersham	892848
	Andrew Westwood-Bate	5 Sleaford Close, Balsham	892430
<i>Great Abington</i>	Tony Collett	23 Meadow Walk, Great Abington	893447
<i>Little Abington</i>	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564

Assistant Church Wardens

<i>Great Abington</i>	Anne Hall	12 Magna Close, Great Abington	892275
	Patsy Randall	77 High Street, Great Abington	07765 345 714
<i>Little Abington</i>	Mary Miles	36 Church Lane, Little Abington	891083
	Marilyn Broadhurst	34 West Field, Little Abington	893214

Parish Nurse

Claire Gillett	<u>Not 24 hrs</u> , please leave a message if no reply - Claire will respond when next on duty.	07498 994205
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