



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

February 2018



Photo by David Farrant

Snowdrops in Sluice Wood Little Abington, January 2018

Letter from the Editor

At last we have the welcome news that the Bishop of Ely has appointed a vicar for the seven churches, including those of Great and Little Abington and Hildersham. This must be a great relief to all those in the Ministry Team and the churchwardens who have maintained services and church events since August 2016. We can look forward to welcoming the Revd Iain McColl and his family in early April (see pages 4-5). More details next month.

There was a joyful Plough Sunday service at Balsham for all seven churches on 7 January (see page 5). Another of the popular Messy Church services will be on 4 February and will be held in the Institute (page 6). Scarcely have we got used to it being 2018 than we should take note that Lent begins on 14 February and Easter Sunday will fall on 1 April. Pancakes will be served in Jeremiah's Café on 13 February (page 11).

January has brought extraordinarily variable weather, including blue skies and sunshine, very cold days, heavy rain and strong winds that damaged buildings. Thank goodness that Rod Wilcox organised the delivery of heating oil in the Abingtons and there is a Heating Oil Syndicate in Hildersham to keep the residents well supplied (pages 8, 13). The days are noticeably lengthening, and snowdrops are appearing to remind us that spring may not be far off (see cover photo).

February is the month when two green bin collections start again (page 11). Bearing in mind the Blue Planet II warnings on TV about the environmental damage that plastic causes, we need to make maximum use of the blue bins for recycling.

The Parish Councils remind us of important transport-related matters (pages 13, 14). Speedwatch is operating again and more volunteer helpers would be welcome. Parked vehicles on the High Street, from Lewis Crescent to Pampisford Road, are causing obstacles for buses and it would be hugely detrimental to village users of the service if this congestion led to re-routing of buses. The parking charge at Park and Ride sites is to be discontinued.

The Abington Cricket Club had a very successful season in 2017 and it is good to have a report on page 18. Many residents, whose lawns have been torn up by crows searching for juicy chafer grubs, will sympathise with the club whose ground has been similarly vandalised. We wish the Cricket Club every success in 2018 both in competitive matches and in restoring the well-kept ground.

Valerie Silvey

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

From the Seven Churches

The Appointment of the Revd Iain McColl as Priest-in-Charge (Rector Designate) of the Granta Vale Group of Churches

We are very pleased that The Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway has appointed the Revd Iain McColl to be our new Priest-in-Charge (Rector-Designate). The Revd Iain McColl comes to us from St. Peter's Henleaze, Bristol.

He is married to Anna, and they have two children, Owen and Bethan. Revd Iain McColl worked as a lawyer for some years before he was ordained in the Church of England.

The Bishop will conduct the Licensing Service for the Revd Iain McColl at 7pm on Thursday 12 April at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. (Further details will be announced in due time).

Revd Iain McColl and his family will be moving into the Rectory in Balsham. Please remember them in your prayers as they make the move from Bristol to Cambridgeshire.

Note:

The Granta Vale Group of Churches consists of the following parishes:

Great & Little Abington	Hildersham
Balsham	Weston Colville
West Wickham	West Wrating



Photo by Laura-Jean Ross

Little Abington Church ready for Midnight Mass 24 December 2017



Photo by Carrie Pemberton-Ford

**Balsham Plough blessed by Bishop Stephen Conway
Plough Sunday service at Balsham Church 7 January 2018**

The New Year has begun with great excitement with a visit from Bishop Stephen to Balsham for a united 7 churches service which included the Blessing of the Plough. It was a wonderful occasion with a full church, including a number of the ploughmen in their costumes, which were much admired by the Bishop.

We welcome the appointment of our new rector, Revd Iain McColl, who will be living in the Balsham rectory, along with his family. Bishop Stephen will be making a return visit to conduct the Licensing Service at 7pm on Thursday 12 April, at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. (Further details will be announced in due time).

In the meantime, spring is on its way and already the snowdrops are coming out (see page 4). Buds are appearing on the trees and the birds are singing lustily. It won't be long before the bulbs will be coming up giving a wonderful splash of colour to hearten us on our way. The nights are drawing out and it is time to look ahead.

Later this month, on 14 February, it is Ash Wednesday, with services at Balsham and Hildersham, marking the start of Lent. People usually consider giving up something for Lent but I like to commit to doing a little something extra; maybe a quiet time of a few more minutes than normal, or being aware of a person who is lonely and needs a visit. Lent is a time to reflect and say sorry, and being aware of our effect on those around us is no bad thing. So maybe instead of a New Year's resolution it might be an idea to focus on searching inwards to ourselves, and outwards to those around us.

With all good wishes
Kathy Bishop

News from the Pews

Easter will be upon us early this year with Shrove Tuesday (otherwise known as Pancake Day, traditionally a feasting day before the start of Lent) being on 13 February, followed by Ash Wednesday when a service will be held at Hildersham Church on this eve.

We are delighted by news of the appointment of our new vicar, Revd Iain McColl, whom we look forward to welcoming in April (see page 4).

The Christingle Service this year raised £111.50, thank you to all who attended.

The PCC wish to thank most sincerely the Abington Community Choir which led the Carol Service under the direction of Glenis Todd and pianist Marion Macintyre, also the Glam Choir that performed under the direction of Bobby Ford. Thank you to both choirs and our faithful organist, Keith Day, for great dedication to our Christmas Carol Service.

The PCC also wish to thank our Lay Minister Rosemary Mead who worked tirelessly throughout the Christmas period leading the School Advent Assembly, the Distribution of Christmas Gifts to various members of our community, the School Carol Service, Christingle Service and finally the Crib Service. Well done Rosemary.

Rosemary forwards grateful thanks from Cambridge Social Services to all those who gave clothing and gifts for the refugee children and those in foster care in and around Cambridge. Everything was delivered in time for Christmas. What a wonderful opportunity to send gifts to these needy defenceless children at Christmas. Thank you, Rosemary.

Rosemary's work continues with preparations for **Messy Church** which will be held this time at the **Village Institute on Sunday 4 February**, 3.30 until 5pm when tea will be served in the foyer until 5.30pm. The theme will be 'Let Your Light Shine'. There will be stories, songs and creative crafts. This is a service for everyone to enjoy. For further details contact Rosemary on 891 718 (see page 6).

Space to Be – Wednesday 7 February at 7.30pm at 55 Church Lane Little Abington. If you are in need of some rest, reflection and relaxation during these cold winter days, do come along. **Further details from Rosemary.**

Charity for the Month – The Arthur Rank Hospice Cambridge. Our local hospice supports and cares for patients and their families throughout the Cambridgeshire area who have life limiting illnesses. The service is given free of charge. This is a charity close to many hearts in our community; we hope you feel you are able to support it. There are charity boxes in both our churches. – Thank you.

Burials in Little Abington Churchyard

A graveside funeral was held for **Lisa Richards** of Magna Close on Wednesday 20 December. Our sincere condolences to her husband John and family.

The burial of **Freda King** took place on Friday 12 January following a service at the United Reformed Church. Our sincere condolences to her daughter Sharon and family.

Anne Hall

Little Abington United Reformed Church

We would welcome you any Sunday – our church is welcoming, warm and we are blessed with amazing people to lead our services. Hope to see you soon!

Preachers for February

4 February	10.15am	Mrs Sarah Devereux
11 February	10.15am	Mr Bryan Ellicott
18 February	2.30pm	Revd Bruce Waldron (Holy Communion)
25 February	10.15am	Revd Elizabeth Caswell

For more information please contact Lynne on 893 295.

**Sunday 4 February
Great Abington Institute
from 3.30pm to 5pm**



Fun and worship for families and children OF ALL AGES

- Creative arts/Activities
 - Play/Songs
 - Make a snowman
- Stained glass window biscuit
 - Chromatography
 - Make a lighthouse

Followed by tea for all 5-5.30pm

The theme for our Winter Seasonal Messy Church
is 'Let your Light Shine'

**Please note that children must be
accompanied by an adult.**

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service Bulletin

On-call firefighters are a vital part of today's fire and rescue service, providing an efficient, effective service that gives emergency cover to more than 90 per cent of the UK. In Cambridgeshire they make up 56 per cent of the workforce.

An on-call firefighter is not based at a fire station but carries a pager and responds to emergency incidents as and when they happen. They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available, plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights (one evening a week for two hours).

On-call firefighters are men and women who may have other jobs and are able to provide evening, daytime, or weekend cover. When they are on-call they may be at home, working for themselves or for a nearby company, or out in their local community within our 5 minute radius of the station itself. Our on-call Firefighters are mainly located in rural communities, small towns and villages, and we will be able to tell you if you are within range to apply to be an on-call firefighter.

If you are interested in becoming an on-call firefighter please go to our website at www.cambsfire.gov.uk and search for on-call firefighter under the careers section or contact the recruitment team at recruitment@cambsfire.gov.uk

Hildersham Focus

Quiz Night – change of date

The quiz night will be held on Friday 16 March. Full details will be given next month but if you would like tickets or further information now, please contact Jill on 893 596, or online at edheale@btinternet.com

Hildersham Jam Stall

In December, we sent £211 to EACH, making a grand total of £453 donated in 2017. Thank you to everyone for your continuing support. We also much appreciate all the donations of preserves, produce, jars and lid covers.

Hildersham Oil Syndicate

The oil syndicate has run for more than ten years, begun by Phil Wise and then managed first by Darren and then by Nettie Long. Thanks to Nettie we have a monthly reminder to place our orders for oil at a very competitive price and prompt delivery. If you would like to take advantage of this excellent service, please contact Nettie on 07714 774 626 or on Cambridge 890 969.

The Appointment of the Revd Iain McColl as Priest-in-Charge (Rector Designate) of the Granta Vale Group

We are very pleased that The Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, has appointed the Revd Iain McColl to be our new Priest-in-Charge (Rector-Designate). Revd Iain McColl comes to us from St. Peter's Henleaze, Bristol. The Bishop will conduct the Licensing Service for the Revd Iain McColl at 7pm on Thursday 12 April at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham.

See also page 4.

Hildersham Parish Council

A Quality Parish Council



Report on the Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 9 January 2018.

The defibrillator familiarisation training evening was very well attended on 28 November. The access code to the equipment has been circulated as widely as possible in Hildersham, but if you do not have the details please contact the Clerk. There are plans for basic instructions to use the equipment along with access code, to be circulated within Hildersham in the next few weeks.

The council hopes to have the electricity supplied to the two new lights in Beech Row and opposite the village hall as soon as possible. The delay has been caused by Balfour Beatty underestimating the length of cabling/trenches required to connect the columns to the power supply.

The council agreed to engage a pest control company to deal with the rats on the allotments and will be contacting allotment holders to highlight measures they can take to make access to feed and shelter harder for the rodents on the allotments.

As grass maintenance has been unsatisfactory for the last few years, with infrequent and poor quality grass cutting the council has decided to get the work done by a Hildersham resident.

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13 March 2018 from 7.30pm at Hildersham Village Hall, High Street, Hildersham Everyone welcome.

Linton Village College

With the cabinet reshuffle in January came the announcement of Justine Greening's resignation and a new Secretary of State for Education: Damian Hinds. During my two years as Principal at LVC, there have been three different ministers in this top position. Nicky Morgan was known for her focus on character education, Justine Greening for using schooling as a vehicle for social mobility. We are still awaiting details of Mr Hinds' vision and values.

In many ways, it is great that since Blair's 'Education, education, education' pledge in his 1997 speech, schooling has become a more pressing priority for the government. However, Greening's exit signals yet more change for the profession. Given the amount of turbulence since 2010, teachers are understandably anxious about what policies the new Secretary of State may introduce to make his mark.

In recent years there has been substantial profile given to ministerial priorities including free/grammar schools, free breakfasts/lunches and school funding, to name a few. This has been against a backdrop of significant government-driven reform that has seen the removal of National Curriculum levels, new, more challenging, primary and GCSE testing and a hike in accountability.

The doorstop manifesto released by the Headteachers' Roundtable, a national non-political educational think tank of which I am a member, has the following guiding principles: 1. The pace of educational change should not be affected by party politics, 2. Schools must be able to offer all their pupils the chance to thrive, 3. Educational change should begin by identifying the desired outcomes for children, 4. Prioritising high quality teaching & learning and the curriculum will lead to world class assessment and accountability, 5. The teaching profession should be centrally involved in developing future education policy.

In 2012, Mr Hinds published an All-Party Parliamentary report in which he stated a need to "focus first on quality of teachers and teaching". I hope that his 18 years in the hospitality industry have given him a disposition to listen to and serve the education community.

People are incredibly important in education, but it is children, not political preferences, that need to be at the centre of education policy.

Helena Marsh

Sawston Village College – new course in French cuisine from 25 April 2018

- Week 1: Degustation and choux pastry
- Week 2: Quiche Lorraine and chocolate tart
- Week 3: Stuffed vegetables and tapenade
- Week 4: Tatin tart and Chantilly cream
- Week 5: Galettes from Brittany
- Week 6: Nicoise salad and pissaladiere
- Week 7: Beef Burgundy
- Week 8: Floating Islands

French cuisine runs on Wednesday evenings, 7pm – 9pm for 8 weeks at a total cost £88.

For more information email community@sawstonvc.org or phone 01223 712 424.

Fanny Bara Moreau

Dates for your Diary

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Thu	1	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	16
Fri	2	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Low Impact Aerobics Pilates	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am	11 11 11
Sat	3	Scrapbooking Group	10.00am	11
Sun	4	Messy Church – Abington Institute	3.30-5pm	6
Mon	5	French Conversation Abington Gardening Club	1.00pm 7.30pm	
Tue	6	Art Group FGMN Club Table Tennis	9.30am 2.00pm 8.00pm	17 11
Wed	7	Yoga – course and drop in Dynamic Dance Class Yoga – course and drop in Partridge Group	9.30am 3.15pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	11 11 11 12
Fri	9	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Low Impact Aerobics Pilates	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am	11 11 11
Mon	12	Abingtons & Hildersham WI	7.30pm	17
Tue	13	Art Group Pancakes at Jeremiah's Cafe Reading Group – 21 Cambridge Road, Little Abington Table Tennis	9.30am 2-4pm 8.00pm 8.00pm	
Wed	14	Yoga – course and drop in FGMN visit to Morrison's supermarket Yoga – course and drop in Partridge Group	9.30am 7.00pm 8.00pm	11 11 12
Sat	17	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	16
Tue	20	Art Group FGMN Club – lunch Table Tennis	9.30am 12.45pm 8.00pm	
Wed	21	Yoga – course and drop in Dynamic Dance Class Yoga – course and drop in Partridge Group (last meeting)	9.30am 3.15pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	11 11 11 12
Thu	22	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	16
Fri	23	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Low Impact Aerobics Pilates Film Night – doors open	9.30am 9.30am 10.45am 6.45pm	11 11 11 12
Sat	24	Family/baby Yoga	10.00am	11
Mon	26	River litter pick-up – meet at road bridge/ford French Conversation Little Abington Parish Council	9.30am 1.00pm 7.15pm	
Tue	27	Art Group Mobile Library Scrabble Club	9.30am a.m. 7.00pm	12 17

		Table Tennis	8.00pm	11
Wed	28	Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11

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 February 2018**

Thursday lunchtimes	11.30am – 1.30pm (1, 8 and 15) Lunch 22 nd
Friday mornings	8.45am – 11.00am
Saturday mornings	10.00am – 12 noon

Pancake Day Tuesday 13 February, 2-4pm – Come and enjoy pancakes with a choice of fillings and a hot drink for just £3. Everyone welcome.

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 February 2018 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 5	Mon 12	Mon 19	Mon 26
Black	Green/Blue	Black	Green/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.

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

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

Film Nights at Abington Institute

The **Film Night** is on **Friday 23 February**. Doors open 6.45pm, film starts at 7.00pm. Everyone welcome. Usual raffle and refreshments. See the poster in the Institute for full details.

If you would like to receive details of the film by email approx. two 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)

The Partridge Group

The Partridge Group 2018 Programme is complete and details are posted on the website <www.theabingtons.org.uk/clubs/partridge-group/> Last meeting on 21 February.

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

Mobile Library

The next date will be Tuesday 27 February 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

AALGA QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 16 March

The Abington Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association's (AALGA) annual Quiz Night will take place in the Abington Institute on Friday 16 March 2018. Doors open at 7pm for a prompt start at 7.15pm. A fish or sausage or veggieburger and chips supper will be served during the quiz, and there will also be a raffle on the night. You are invited to bring your own drinks.

The quiz is for teams/tables of eight people. Tickets, priced at £7.50 inclusive of supper, must be bought in advance and can be obtained at the village shop from the middle of February (our thanks to Ravinder).

Please form your teams with a team leader. The team leader should then:

1. Ensure that each member of your team of eight has purchased a ticket
2. Find out the supper choices for your team
3. Contact Lindsey Rushmore (garden@lindseyrushmore.co.uk) by 9 March at the latest to place your team's supper order – the default is fish and chips.

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

David Milns, Chair, AALGA

New Year's Eve Party

A massive thank you to everyone who supported the New Year's Eve party held at the Abington Institute. 100% of money from donations, ticket sales and the raffle has been donated to the British Heart Foundation. Between us we raised £1112.00.

Emma Turner

Village News on the website To see the News before the printed copy reaches you, and to see the pictures in colour, go to www.theabingtons.org.uk/news and follow the link to the pdf file for the month you want.

There was no Parish Council meeting in December.

Grit bins

The Parish Council has purchased grit bins that have been located in spots that are particularly hazardous in icy weather. They are for the use of residents on roads and pavements only, not on private property. There is a shovel in each bin. If you need to spread grit and find that the shovel is missing and/or unusable, or that the grit is running low, please let the Clerk know as soon as possible. If you know a place in the village where a grit bin would be useful, please let the Clerk or any member of the Parish Council know.

Village maintenance

Little Abington Parish Council has a village maintenance contract that is coming up for review this year. Residents are invited to give LAPC any feedback about the way the contract is working. If you would like to have some input into specifying the new contract, please contact the Clerk. The current specification can be found on the LAPC page on the village website.

Speedwatch

You might have noticed that the Speedwatch team has been out a few times in the past few weeks. We're still looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

Next meeting: **Monday 26 February 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/

News from Abington Woods

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Woodland Spring clean. The paths and surrounding banks are looking much better. I would also like to thank all of you who have given your time to helping with the planting of spring bulbs in and around the Woodland. We are planning a spring start to our calendar of activities this year so be ready to enjoy all the efforts of the community after the woodlands winter rest. Some early bulbs are already starting to peep through.

Deborah James

Community Oil Order

An order was placed with Goff for 55,000 litres of oil to be delivered by 23 January. Many thanks to Rod Wilcox for arranging this. (Ed.)

Congestion in the High Street

There have been a number of issues with buses not being able to navigate the section of the High Street from Lewis Crescent to Pampisford Road. There are many people who rely on the bus service going through the village and we don't want to lose it because of problems caused by cars parked half on the road and half on the pavement. We are seeking residents' views on having double yellow lines on both sides of the road. Please contact the Clerk, Paula Harper, to give us your opinion.

Hedges

Some hedges are growing out onto pavements in the village. These are creating a danger for users of wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs who have to use the road instead of the pavement thus putting them in danger. Would all residents check and cut back their hedges now, as they should not be cut between 1 March and 31 August to avoid the bird nesting season, so February is a good time.

Rubbish

There will be the annual village clear up nearer to Easter (date to follow). There seem to be a number of sites around the village where bottles and cans are being dumped. Can we ask residents to use bins for this rubbish and not to litter the village. If you see any and could put them in a bin then please do so, you don't have to wait for the official village clean up day.

Park and Ride Parking Charge

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has agreed to subsidise the removal of the charge to park at the P&R sites from April this year. Since the charge was introduced, usage of the Park and Ride service has dropped significantly.

A1307 Improvements

The final option for the A1307 will be consulted on from 9 February. There are three options but the proposals for the Haverhill to A11 are the same for them all. As this first phase of road safety and bus priority measures is, hopefully, non-contentious work could start possibly as early as this summer. Detailed proposals can be seen on the website: www.greatercambridge.org.uk look for 'Cambridge South East Transport Study'.

Affordable houses at Moorefield

Five of these will be in the hands of the council in March/April. These will be advertised on Homelink <http://www.home-link.org.uk/>. First priority will go to those who have a connection with the village. The two fixed equity properties will be dealt with by BMA Property Group and will be on the open market with a bias towards local people. They will initially be looking for older people wanting to downsize, as they are bungalows.

Village Gazebo

A large gazebo has been purchased for the use of organisations that are holding events. If your organisation would like to use the gazebo please contact the Clerk.

Update on public access to Granta Park/TWI

There have been a couple of meetings with Granta Park and TWI. The Parish Council is still working hard to resolve the access issue. Before the new amenity building opens there will be negotiations with its managers to see if there can be a basic membership which would give access to the site. Just a reminder that you can

access the site from the main gate, where you have to sign in and can then walk in some areas of the Park.

We are aware that village residents would like to have another public meeting and this is something we will arrange when further progress has been made.

First Aid courses

There will be two first aid courses at the Village Institute on 8 February. The morning and afternoon courses will cover how to use the defibrillator which is housed on the outside wall of the Institute. Please contact Gaynor Farrant if you are interested in attending or you would like to attend but would need an evening course.

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council elections will be held in May so now is the time to consider getting involved and putting your name forward to the Clerk.

Planning

Parish Council Recommendations

S/4335/17/LB – The Three Tuns. Replace existing extraction fan from kitchen.

Parish Council recommended approval.

S/4322/17/FL – Granta Park, new entrance to Bevan Braithwaite building.

Parish Council recommended approval.

District Council decisions

S/3795/17/FL – 50 North Road, retrospective equestrian surface.

Parish Council recommended approval and District Council approved.

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 26 March 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)

Fantastic February Fun with Cambridge Past, Present and Future (CambridgePPF)

Basket Weaving at Wandlebury Saturday 3 February: 10am to 4pm

Experiment using willow to weave a simple basket as you learn the basic techniques, guided by an experienced basket weaver. Beginners and improvers welcome. Tools, tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided, but bring a packed lunch. You'll be able to take your basket home with you too. Meet at the Stable Rooms. Wear warm clothes – the Stable Rooms will be cool!

NB: £45 per adult or accompanied child aged 14+ (members £40). Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings must be made and paid in full 48 hours beforehand.

Family Bushcraft Fun Saturday 24 February: 11am to 3.30pm

The whole family will have fun learning some of these essential bushcraft skills: making shelters, starting fires, cooking on open fires, using camouflage, playing outdoor games and tracking around the park. A great chance for quality time with the family, learning useful skills.

NB: Booking essential. £30 per family/small group, children must remain accompanied throughout. Dress according to the weather, bring a packed lunch and a drink, meet at Wandlebury Stable Rooms.

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 or call 01223 243830 extension 207



Abington Lunch Thursday 22 February 2018

Fruit Juice



Chicken, Ham and Leek Pie with Mashed Potatoes, Winter Vegetables and Gravy

Lemon Cheesecake with Compôte Tea or Coffee

Please book your meal on 07789 585 399. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 20 February. 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 March 2018

Reading Group

13 February	<i>His Bloody Project</i> Graeme Macrae Burnet	Sylvia Gilmour
13 March	<i>The Pearl that Broke its Shell</i> Nadia Hashimi	Sally Turnidge
10 April	<i>Three Things about Elsie</i> Joanna Cannon	Diana Wingfield

Please confirm your attendance in February to Sylvia.

Lisa Pechey

Abington Walking Group

The January walks started with a fine day on the first Thursday and a local trip to Babraham. The Saturday was not so good weather wise with a hardy few braving the rain to Devil's Ditch, Newmarket.



Weather permitting, we walk all year round and our next walks are on Thursday 1 and Saturday 17 February.

For further information, please contact:

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

Abington Gardening Club

On Monday 5 February in the Institute at 7.30pm Jim Forrest will give a talk entitled 'Gardens of NW Scotland'. Hilary Thomas will be the speaker on Monday 5 March giving a talk entitled 'A Garden for all Seasons'. All welcome. Visitors £3.

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

Forget-Me-Not Club

At our first committee meeting for 2018 it was realised that we need to have three or four more members to go on the trips to Morrison's to make it viable. To join this outing you need to be a member of the club, which costs £5 per year, but you do not need to come to the fortnightly meetings. To cover the cost of the mini bus each outing costs £5 per person, which is a reasonable rate as Camborne is some distance from Abington. Please contact Anne if you wish to join this trip.

Speakers are being arranged for 2018 along with occasional lunch. This month we are delighted to have managed to contact Charlie Haylock. Charlie has a massive interest in dialects and the English language as a whole. His talks are well documented throughout the East Anglia region, do join us, non-members are welcome - £4 entrance fee.

We also have a meal from the Three Tuns booked, courtesy of Chris and Karen who bring the meal to us, always an enjoyable date on the calendar. The meal is subsidised by both the proprietors and the club. You will need to book either at the club or by phoning Anne.

Dates for February

Tuesday 6 February 2pm – Talk by Charlie Haylock

Wednesday 14 February – Trip to Morrison's

Tuesday 20 February – 12.45 prompt for 1pm start – Meal from The Three Tuns

Please note £5 entrance fee - £2 Club Fee - £3 Meal

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

Scrabble Club

The next meeting of the Scrabble Club is on Tuesday 27 February at 7pm in the Institute. New members very welcome.

Sheena Fraser

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

We had a good turnout at our first meeting of 2018 to hear a most interesting and entertaining talk by Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson on 'Whatever happened after Henry VIII?' After a reign of turmoil, tyranny and overindulgence Henry died aged 55 and his son by Jane Seymour became king. Edward VI, aged only 9, was known as 'The Boy King', the first monarch to be raised a Protestant. He was a sickly child and the country was run by his protectors: firstly, the Duke of Somerset, his uncle, then by the Duke of Northumberland. Before he died at 16, he wrote his Device of Succession which led to 50 years of women on the throne: firstly, Protestant Lady Jane Grey, who only reigned for 9 days, then unpopular Mary I, who tried to restore Catholicism and had 300 Protestants burned at the stake, followed by Elizabeth I, a Protestant and last of the Tudor monarchs. Considered one of the country's most successful and popular monarchs, she was clever, enigmatic and flirtatious. Her reign was marked by increased international exploration and trade, greater stability for the Church of England and expansion of the arts and academic institutions. Despite conspiracies against her at home and conflicts abroad, her 45 years on the throne helped forge a sense of national identity.

Next meeting: Monday 12 February - My extra life by Margaret Blanchard, who has many films to her name. New members and visitors welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst (893 214)

Abington Cricket Club 2017

2017 was a good season for the club- two cup wins and a promotion shared between all three senior weekend teams thanks to fifty-eight different players. The first team played a great final to win the CCA Invitation Cup. The threes despite being relegated in the league managed to retain the Lower Junior Cup and the 2nd XI just got better and better as the season progressed, as some of the more ‘experienced’ members of the club combined to significant effect. Our two midweek teams stoically maintained their league status.

We have tried our damnedest to maintain what we think is the best ground in the area despite being under siege from first moles, then rabbits and finally, but increasingly, the incessant pecking of rooks, crows, magpies and other birds, after the chafer grubs in the ground, that’s almost destroying the grass. A not uncommon local problem which seems to have no legal fix.

We hugely enjoyed another annual dinner and awards evening at Saffron Walden Golf Club, thanks to organiser Russell Knight. Award winners that I can recall were, Chairman’s award: Julie Barnes. Top performance: Harry Franklin 5-24 v Fulbourn. Top batsman 1st team: Ben Richards, 2nd team: Harry Randall. Top bowler 1st team: Harry Franklin, 2nd team: Martin Little

Next season we have new midweek captains - Dave Lowe is to lead the first team and Dave Thompson the seconds. Russell Knight will continue to run and organise the junior section. All the teams enjoy support and any new players or volunteers will be extremely welcome. For a village cricket club to maintain a truly wonderful ground and put out five senior teams a week doesn’t happen by accident, so please do step forward whether as a player or potential helper. Finally, many thanks to everybody who contributes already, including sponsors and of course Granta Park for the use of their ground allowing the thirds to play in the village.

David Pimblett

Granta Medical Practices

We have been providing a travel service here at Granta for over 30 years. To meet an ever-increasing demand for travel advice, vaccinations and malaria tablets for travellers we will be expanding our service in the New Year.

We can offer our travellers the opportunity to purchase mosquito nets, insect repellents and travel packs with all those essential remedies, along with medical first aid kits and needle packs.

If you are planning to travel abroad, please download a risk assessment form from the website or collect from reception. We will then provide advice on the recommended vaccinations and any advice you may need for your trip. We will contact you to book an appropriate appointment for you. This may be in our private clinic if you require yellow fever, rabies, Japanese encephalitis or malaria tablets, which you will need to pay for, or an NHS travel appointment will be offered if just needing hepatitis A, typhoid or a tetanus booster, which are free.

Please remember, some vaccines need 4 – 6 weeks to complete courses, so please contact us in good time.

Sandra Johnson, Travel Lead (who will be supported by appropriately qualified nurses).

Jane Bertram, PA to Granta Management Team

Church Services for February 2018

<i>DATE</i>	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	<i>Readings</i>
4 February	3.30pm Messy Church (Institute)		6.00pm Evensong	Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14
11 February		4.00pm Evensong	9.15am Communion	2 Corinthians 4.3-6 Mark 9. 2-9
14 February Ash Wednesday			7.30pm Communion	2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 John 8. 1-11
18 February	9.15am Communion		4.00pm Café Church	1 Peter 3.18-end Mark 9.1-15
25 February		10.45am Communion	9.15am Communion (BCP)	Romans 4.13-end Mark 8.31-end

Church Flower Rota

	<i>Great Abington</i>	<i>Little Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
4 February	Anne Hall and	Fiona Snell	Helen Humphrys
11 February	Patsy Randall	Fiona Snell	Helen Humphrys
18 February	No Flowers - Lent	Helen Rogers (Cleaning)	No Flowers - Lent
25 February	No Flowers - Lent	Helen Rogers (Cleaning)	No Flowers - Lent

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