



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

January 2020



Photo by Mary Miles

**Father Christmas arrives at the Abington Institute
for St Nicholas' Fair on Friday 6 December 2019**

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the start of a New Year. After the political turbulence of 2019 we must hope that the remarkable coming together of people of all political parties to produce a Government with a very clear mandate to take the UK out of the EU will signal a calmer and positive approach to resolving the wide-ranging problems that still lie ahead. The people's vote for the winner of *Strictly* was a joyful reflection of the skill, hard work, dedication and goodwill of contestants that offers our wider society a recipe for success.

This issue of the *News* celebrates the activities of the churches in the community and points to the need for a more stable method of funding for the religious and secular services (pages, 4, 5).

Twenty-four advent windows will be on view in the Abingtons by Christmas Day and make a pleasure of turning out on cold dark evenings to admire them. Lists of windows can be bought from the Village Shop or Assistant churchwardens. Two of the earliest windows to be on display are shown on page 14. Peter Brunning will photograph the full set and make them available on the website later on. Many thanks to him for doing so.

The Parish Councils deal with important matters of fixing potholes and faulty streetlights, recruiting help with Speedwatch and litter picking. They also ask advice on identifying the best locations for tree-planting to increase diversity, a very topical and important initiative to encourage (pages 6-8).

The winter issue of the *South Cambs. Magazine* urged everyone to recycle as much material as possible and to reduce waste. In this spirit the Pre-School will, on 31 January, be calling for bags of unwanted clothing, textiles and other items to be delivered to school between 8am and 9am. Then at the end of March we look forward to another Repair Café to help us to extend the useful life of faulty or damaged possessions. See pages 8, 13.

Meanwhile the Diary shows a wide range of activities on offer. The Partridge Group starts again and the hugely successful Cambridge Chord Company is looking for new singing voices. See pages 10-13.

Don't forget the need for continuing support of the food banks. Community support is offered by the Mobile Wardens Scheme and the Open Arms project (pages 6, 7).

Very best wishes for a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Valerie Silvey

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ARTICLES FOR THE February 2020 EDITION OF *THE ABINGTONS AND HILDERSHAM NEWS* SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 15 January 2020 AT news@theabingtons.org.uk. Photos welcome.

Community Oil Order

Rod will take orders for heating oil from 6 to 9 January, with deliveries about one week later. Please provide Rod with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, post code and telephone number. Contact rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07767 686 351.

From the Seven Churches

May I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. I can hardly believe we have reached 2020, when it seems like yesterday we celebrated the Millennium. Time is a strange concept because some events are over in a flash, especially if it is a special occasion like getting married, and yet on the other hand, we have a sense of our childhood going on forever.

I have been out of the parishes for six months to enable me to help with my new grandson, who is adorable and now almost six months old. What joy a new life brings.

My other big highlight was going to the Holy Land with a group from Bury in November. There were so many blessings on that trip. In Jerusalem we stayed opposite the wall which has been standing for centuries. The buzz and excitement was truly amazing. To visit sites I had only imagined took my breath away because on one level they were ordinary but these were the same sights that Jesus saw when he was on earth. Our second hotel was at Tiberias by Lake Galilee. To see the sun rise on a new day as the light danced on the water left me full of wonder. Jesus had seen this landscape just as I was seeing it. Amazing!

My first service now I am back is on 29 December at Balsham, and then in January we have Plough Sunday at Balsham, ensuring the tradition set up decades ago still continues. This is church life acknowledging the seasons and the place God has for us in the passage of time. I am looking forward to being part of the church family of the Granta Vale parishes again.

All in all I realise time passes quickly and we are encouraged to make the most of the time we are given. Being able to have those moments of time gives us memories we can share with others. Without it 2020 may vanish without trace.

I wish you many happy moments and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Revd. Kathy Bishop

Breakfast Café Church

After a delicious breakfast Revd. Iain McColl told two stories on the theme of peace and reconciliation. One was about the peace movement that emerged from the ashes of Coventry Cathedral in World War 2, and the other related to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall 30 years ago.

In the craft areas, there was an opportunity to make a 'circle of peacemakers'. The children drew around their hands and created a wreath from the flags of countries which are often in conflict.



Rosemary Mead

News from the Pews

An interesting analogy: did you know that there are 39,000 Public Houses in the UK and 40,300 Churches, but sadly, like Public Houses our churches are closing too and probably for the same reason – lack of finances. Our hearts sink when we hear that a church is closing. Despite the voices of critics, we really do believe that our local churches here in Abington are a beacon of light in a world that's increasingly dark. Therefore in 2020 we intend to raise money in different ways and we hope you will be able to support us by gifting to your church. We desperately need to keep our churches active. Further details on this issue will be highlighted throughout the year.

We take this opportunity to thank those who helped at the recent St Nicholas Fair, those who so generously gave gifts and, of course, those who came and supported the event. It was a resounding success – thank you everyone.

Although the Carol Service has not yet taken place, we are indebted to our choir leaders, Glenis Todd and Bobby Ford, musical directors of the church Christmas choir and the Glam choir respectively, Keith Day our organist, all the Readers and Jeanine, who will lead the service. Thank you all, for your dedication to this wonderful Christmas service.

We also take this opportunity of thanking everyone who takes pride in their church by cleaning or flower arranging, your work is so greatly appreciated. Thank you.

The prayer tables in Great and Little Abington Churches are proving to be used almost daily, prayers may be left with or without being named and are included during a service with intercessions. Please do feel free to use this facility which is clearly needed in our community.

Rosemary Writes: A huge thank you to everyone who donated clothes and presents for refugee children and children in care in Cambridgeshire. I am especially grateful for all the knitted items done by Maureen Harper and her knitting group. The presents and clothes were distributed to delighted children in the Huntingdon area.

Wednesday 8 January – Space to Be – 7.30pm After the hectic festivities of the Christmas and New Year season you are warmly invited to come and relax and enjoy Space to Be at 55 Church Lane. For further details phone Rosemary on 891 718

Charity for January – Winter Comfort – Winter Comfort supports men and women who are homeless or vulnerably housed by offering them vital welfare service and opportunities for learning and development. They are based in Victoria Avenue Cambridge.

Sadly we have lost three members of our community within the last week – Diane Cracknell, Brian Allen and Ronnie Maynard. As full details have not yet been confirmed, notification will be given on the church and institute notice boards as soon as received. Further information will be recorded in our next magazine.

Anne Hall

Community Hubs - *Friendship, Community and Care*

Thursday 2 January 2-4pm at Balsham Church Institute, Church Lane, CB21 4DS

Tuesday 28 January 2-4pm at Abington Institute, 66 High Street, CB21 6AB

The Parish Nurse will be there as well as a representative from REACH and other services.

A1307

As you will have seen, the changes to the road are well under way. After the work is finished on the bus lane and improved footpath, the next phase will include adding traffic signals to the top of Linton and Hildersham High Streets and changing the pedestrian crossing points.

Canopy Cover

In order to increase canopy cover and benefit from the carbon capture, biodiversity and well-being that increased canopy cover brings, GAPC/LAPC are looking for areas where more trees could be planted, with the possibility of applying for free tree 'bundles' (saplings, mixed native species) from the Woodland Trust, where applicable. The Woodland Trust provides free trees only for land accessible to the public. The following sites/ideas were proposed:

- Verge along Bourn Bridge Road
- Verge along Pampisford Road outside Moorefield
- Recreation ground area near pump track, and thicken the coverage along the western boundary
- Area to south of Play Area, one or two bigger trees to provide shade in hot weather
- Magna Close
- Strip of Land from Pampisford Road to Linton Road along A1307

Potholes

With the frost and heavy rain, these are likely to increase in number in the coming weeks. Please report potholes via the Highways website preferably with a photo. The more reports the better.

Faulty Streetlights?

Please inform Cambridgeshire County Council if you spot any malfunctioning street lamps via <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/streetlighting/> You will need to quote the lamp reference number on the lamp post when reporting a malfunctioning light. For those with no access to the internet, please inform the Parish Clerk Paula Harper (contact details inside front cover).

Hedges

Big thanks to those who have tended their hedges to prevent them straying on footpaths. For those who haven't yet, can you please make it your New Year resolution!

Mobile Warden Scheme

Local Mobile Wardens, which work to support older people to live independently, can now bid for a share of £20,920 from South Cambridgeshire District Council's grant scheme.

Mobile Wardens can help with practical tasks such as making light meals, shopping, making appointments, filling in forms and collecting prescriptions, and they are a valuable source of information, helping clients to locate other services they might find useful.

The deadline to apply is 24 January. Full info and application form can be found here - <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/mobile-wardens>

Planning

For more information on the applications below use the reference given below at :-

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Parish Council recommendations:

S/3715/19/FL - 33A, Magna Close, Rear dormer extension. Parish Council recommended refusal.

District Council decisions:

S/2693/19/FL - 23, South Road, two storey three bed dwelling. Parish Council recommended approval. District Council approved.

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

Bernie Talbot (Chairman) tel: 892 647

Planning Committees: These are arranged as required when applications are received. See notice board for dates or contact the Parish Clerk.

Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 20 January 2020 at 7.15pm

There will be opportunities at the start and close of the meeting for members of the public to speak to the council about matters of concern. Notices, 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)

County and District Council report

Note from Councillors Henry Batchelor (CCC) and John Batchelor (SCDC)

Local Plan Consultation The next phase of public consultation on South Cambs. forthcoming Local Plan begins on 13 January. It is what will shape the way South Cambridgeshire will look for the next few decades. Links to how to engage with this will be in our next report.

Mobile Warden Scheme South Cambs. has reopened the bidding for funds for grants for Mobile Warden schemes in the District. The bids are open as of now and end 24 January. Full information and application form can be found here - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/mobile-wardens>

A14 The new link road from the A14 which bypasses Huntingdon opens this month.

Christmas A quick note from us both to say Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and we look forward to working with you all in 2020.



Open Arms – Making connections

Some 50,000 people may be at risk of loneliness in Cambridgeshire, so chances are some of them live near you. In winter life may get lonelier; we all tend to stay indoors for longer. For some people, ill health and bad weather may confine a greater number to their homes, the fear of falling in icy weather and darker nights mean they're too nervous to go out.

Villages are great at keeping the community connected, though it's easy to overlook the impact of seasons. In winter, timing events or meetings in daytime, or providing door to door transport, can help to prevent isolation. Helping with shopping, especially bulkier items, gives an opportunity for a chat, or sharing a treat. The Open Arms project supports action against loneliness so if you have an idea that could help build connections in your community please contact us on: **01954 211 919** or email sarah.b@care-network.org.uk

Little Abington Parish Council

Around the village

Grit bins: We have six grit bins, located in areas where roads might be icy, for residents to use as required. They are not intended for private use such as on a driveway. If you notice the grit levels are getting low please contact the clerk (clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk or 07703 486 562) so that we can ask the County Council to top them up.

Litter-picking: We have 20 sets of equipment to lend out to organised groups or individuals wishing to tidy up the village. Please contact the clerk (details above) if you are interested. The annual litter pick will be held on Saturday 4 April and will be widely advertised closer to the time.

Comfort Café: The owners of the site have tidied it up and barricaded it to stop any more fly-tipping. We are expecting a planning application soon for the site.

Speedwatch: We will continue to carry out sessions over the winter, particularly on Cambridge Road and Pampisford Road where there are always a few offenders. If anyone would like to join our small team please contact Suzanne on 07720 300 974. Thanks to those in the village who give us their support as they drive by carefully.

Planning meeting on Monday 16 December

Bancroft Farm, Church Lane, S/3921/19/FL: For discussion there is a revised proposal for six dwellings and the change of use and conversion of two agricultural barns to office space.

Next meetings at 7.15pm at Abington Institute

Monday 27 January and 24 February

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

Next Meeting: Monday 27 January 2020 Parish Council at 7.15pm

Sheila Bolden (Chairman) tel: 07754 Email: shelen@btinternet.com
659929

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk) tel: 07703 Email: clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk
486562

The meeting agendas and papers are published on the Abingtons website: www.theabingtons.org.uk

Repair Café 28 March 2020 – a date for your diary

The next Abingtons Repair Café will run at the Village Institute, from 10am to 1pm on the morning of Saturday 28 March. As before, the café aims to bring together experienced repairers with people who would like to have their faulty or damaged possessions repaired free of charge and brought back into use, instead of being binned.

There will be more information on the café in next month's issue of the *News*. Meanwhile we should all start thinking about what we might take for repair.

Richard Smith

Hildersham Focus

Hildersham Village Christmas Lunch



The Village Hall was buzzing on Monday 9 December when 44 of us enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch. Thanks to everyone's generosity with the raffle, we raised £100 for a donation to Jimmy's Night Shelter charity in Cambridge.

Photo by Emma Jones

The next Village Lunch will be in the spring – date to be announced.

New Year Teatime Thursday 9 January, 3.00 – 4.30pm

Come and join in with some winter warmth in Hildersham Village Hall.

Tea and Cake £1. Everyone welcome.

Café Church may have a majestic theme on Sunday 19 January at 4pm.

A huge 'Thank You' to all members of the Hildersham community who have kept our church sparkingly clean and looking well loved, and also made more beautiful with glorious flower arrangements.

Hildersham Lectures will begin again in the spring. Details in later issues of the *News*.



NEW YEAR AND NEW ZIGZAG PILATES CLASSES

Zigzag Pilates runs busy classes for men and women in the tranquil setting of Hildersham Village Hall and has also recently expanded to Balsham holding small classes and 1-1 sessions in the old Butchers Shop on Monday mornings.

Classes are held on Wednesday at 5.45pm and 7pm, Friday morning at 10.15am and 11.30am and new classes on a Tuesday morning at 9.30am and 10.45am. Some of these classes are perfect for more mature learners. One of the new Tuesday sessions will be a general Pilates class and the other a standing and seated Pilates class (so no need to get down to the floor).

Each hour-long session costs £9 (excluding the slightly shorter Tuesday standing and seated session which costs £7.50) these are booked in a block each term.

Please get in touch if you would like to give Pilates a try in 2020, email Rachel@zigzagpilates.co.uk or contact 07905105081 and visit www.zigzagpilates.co.uk to find out more.

Hildersham Parish Council

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at Hildersham Village Hall from 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Thu	2	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	16
Tue	7	Reading Group –51 Church Lane, Lt. Abington	8.00pm	16
Wed	8	Space to be – 55 Church Lane, Little Abington	7.30pm	5
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	12
Thu	9	Social cycling	9.30am	12
		New Year Teatime – Hildersham Village Hall	3.00pm	9
Fri	10	Film Night	Evng	12
Sat	11	Scrapbooking Group	10.00am	11
Mon	13	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Physio Pilates – four classes, first starts at	10.30am	11
		French Conversation	1.00pm	
		Abington & Hildersham WI	7.30pm	15
Tue	14	Art Group	10.00am	
		Hildersham Parish Council – Village Hall	7.30pm	9
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	11
Wed	15	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	12
Fri	17	Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.45am	11
Sat	18	Abington Walking Group	10.00am	16
Mon	20	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Physio Pilates – four classes, first starts at	10.30am	11
		French Conversation	1.00pm	
		Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	7
Tue	21	Art Group	10.00am	
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	15
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	11
Wed	22	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	12
Thu	23	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	15
Fri	24	Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.45am	11
Mon	27	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Rivercare & litter pick-up – meet at ford/bridge	10.00am	
		Physio Pilates – four classes, first starts at	10.30am	11
		French Conversation	1.00pm	
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	8
Tue	28	Art Group	10.00am	
		Mobile Library	a.m.	12
		Community Hub	2-4pm	5
		Scrabble Group	7.00pm	15
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	12
Wed	29	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Dynamic Dance Class	3.15pm	11
Fri	31	Pre-school Bag 2 School event	8-9am	13

Abington Social Cycling

Please join us for the next ride on Thursday 9 January starting from the Institute at 9.30am. See you there.

Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871

Film Nights at Abington Institute

The Institute holds a Film Night on various dates through the year. Everyone is welcome. Look out for the poster in the Institute for details. To receive notification by email approximately two weeks before a screening join our mailing list at <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> or email an enquiry to films@theabingtons.org.uk.

Mobile Library

The next date will be Tuesday 28 January 2020, 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	12.45–1.00pm (near phone box)

Partridge Group

The exciting and varied programme of talks/discussions is close to being finalised; beginning Wednesday 8 January and running to mid-February 2020.

Please may I draw your attention to **Tuesday** evening of **28 January** (rather than a Wednesday) in order for us to accommodate Matt Bothwell who was unable to make Wednesday due to work commitments. We are still in contact with Lord Martin Rees's 'Existential Threats' organisation CCSER for an enthusiastic representative to speak and/or take us through his latest (September 2019) video.

Details are available at <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/clubs/partridge-group> and members will be reminded of dates as usual shortly before talks.

A Partridge



New Year, New Man? Do you love singing?

Cambridge Chord Company (CCC) a men's Barbershop Chorus, meet every Thursday in the Abington Village Institute. We will be running a FREE 'Come & Sing' event for 4 weeks commencing Thursday 23rd January to February 13th from 7.45pm to 10pm. Why not come along for a fun and relaxed evening and sing with us. For more information and to book your place contact: Peter Lester at info@singccc.org or 07884 932215 or go to www.singccc.org

Great Abington PTFA

Your School Lottery Don't forget the school lottery operated through www.yourschoollottery.co.uk. Tickets are £1 each and there is a draw every Saturday at 8pm. You could win either the Great Abington jackpot or the national Your School Lottery jackpot of £25,000. Buy your tickets online today!

Further Events:

Coin Challenge - 13 January - 7 February 2020

All classes will bring their spare change to raise money for new wet play games.

PTFA meeting on 28 January. All welcome.

Winter Disco - 7 February 2020



Abington Pre-School (01223 894 246) is having a 'Bag 2 School' event on Friday 31 January. This is an opportunity to donate some of your unwanted clothes as Abington Pre-School will get £0.40 per kg! Please bring your items in a strong bin bag to be left outside the village institute on **Friday January 31st 8am - 9am**. Thank you.

Bag 2 School only accept the following **'good quality'** items for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags; Hats; Bags; Scarves and ties; Jewellery; Lingerie; Socks; Belts
- Soft toys; Household linen; Household curtains; Household towels; Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

<https://bag2school.com/>

Abington Pre-School Charity No: 1027241 Ofsted No: 221750

Jazz and Sparkles Part 2 at 7.30pm, 11 January at Linton Village College

Chase the January blues away with Jazz and Sparkles Part 2. Enjoy an evening of jazz from Linton Jazz, Linton Village College Jazz Band, The Belles Choir and Hannah Horton.

This is the second in a series of concerts hosted by this group which raised a total of £3000 00 for the music department two years ago, allowing Linton Village College to buy another piano for the college studios. This year they will split the proceeds between the LVC Music Department and Reach charity which helps people with debt advice, food banks and pastoral care. Portable Pint will provide a bar on the night.

Doors open 7.30pm; tickets on sale via <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/linton-village-college/jazz-and-sparkle/2020-01-11/19:45/t-mkymer>

New Year Inspiration – Courses & Workshops at LVC

Looking for something new and interesting to do in the New Year? Want a new skill or hobby and the opportunity to meet new people? Look no further than Linton Village College where you can sign up to one of our daytime or evening courses or a one-day Saturday workshop.

In addition to our regular programme, we have four exciting new courses starting week commencing 13 January 2020:

Japanese for Beginners : 10 week course (£125) – Thursdays 7 – 9pm

Reiki Relaxation & Stress Management : 5 week course (£85) – Tuesdays 7 – 9pm

Sewing for Beginners : 5 week course (£65) – Mondays 7 – 9pm

Cookery Course : 5 week course (£65 + ingredients) – Mondays 7 – 9pm

On Saturday 8th February we will be running one-day workshops as follows:

Vegetarian Indian Delights – cookery workshop (£45 + ingredients) – 10am – 4pm

Skincare & Facials – practical, hands-on workshop – 10am – 4pm

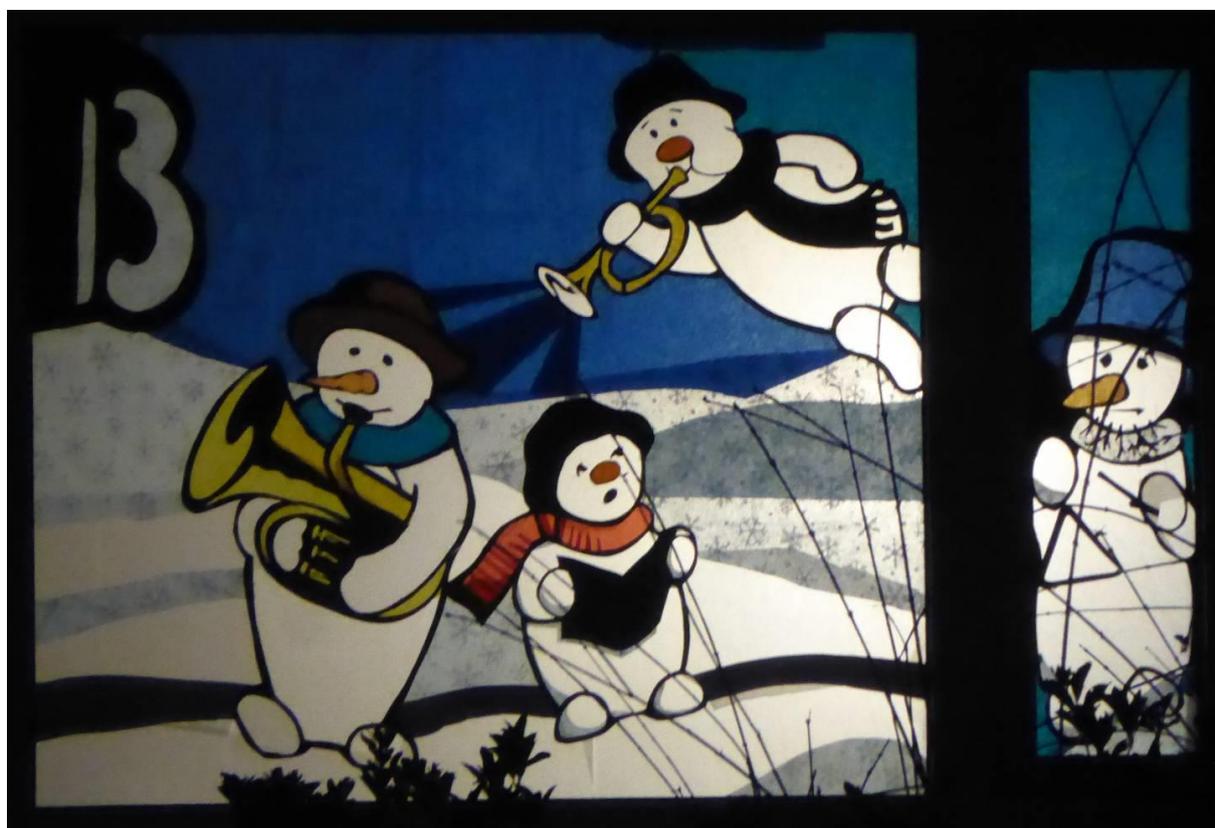
Pies & Pastries – cookery workshop (£45 + ingredients) – 10am – 4pm

For more information on our course and workshop programmes please visit our website at www.lintonvillagecollegeadultlearning.co.uk or contact us via email adult.education@lvc.org or telephone 01223 891223 Ext 303 or 317.

Advent Windows – examples of the full set of 24



Great Abington



Great Abington
Photos by Peter Brunning



Abington Lunch

Thursday 23 January 2020



Fruit Juice

**Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy
Roast Potatoes and Winter Vegetables**

Seasonal Pudding

Tea or Coffee

Please book your meal on 07789 585 399. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 21 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 27 February 2020

Abington and Hildersham Women's Institute

Our Christmas Party was held at The Gog Magog Golf Club.

Thirty members had an excellent evening with good food and prettily set festive tables. There was plenty of happy chatter amongst friends. We were all entertained with some very intriguing table magic which left us all rather amazed.

The President Janyce Garrod thanked Bethany Walker Vice President for all her assistance over the past year. Bethany is moving from the area and we all wished her well in her new home, she also thanked Ann Cousins for organising the evening, and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Members were reminded that subscriptions for 2020 are due in January: £43 payable in cash or by cheque to Abington Women's Institute

Next Meeting 13th January - Spend a Penny by Mark Lodziak

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst (893 214)

Forget-Me-Not Club

The Committee wish all our members a Peaceful and Happy New Year.

As the Institute will be undergoing maintenance, our first meeting of the year will be on the 21 January, when a representative of Oakhouse Foods will be our guest speaker.

We look forward to welcoming our members and also warmly invite new members to join us in 2020. No payment required for a first taster session. Please contact me for any further information.

Jenny Milns (tel.890 252)

Scrabble Club

The next meeting of the Scrabble Club will be at 7pm on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at the Institute.

Sheena Fraser

Reading Group

7 January	<i>Out of the Woods, but not Over the Hill</i> Gervase Phinn	Dinah Brooks
11 February	<i>The Past is Myself</i> (& if keen its sequel) <i>The Road Ahead</i> Christabel Bielenberg	Lisa Pechey

Please confirm your attendance on 7 January to Dinah.

Lisa Pechey

Abington Gardening Club

Happy New Year to everyone.

The next meeting is on Monday 3 February when Matthew Long will give a talk entitled 'Bulbs Galore, Spring Planting for Summer', and he will be bringing bulbs for sale.

All welcome.

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

Abington Walking Group

Our January walks are on Thursday 2nd and Saturday 18th.

We wish all of our walkers a Happy and Healthy New Year.



The 2020 walk dates for your diaries are now available.

We would welcome more walkers – meeting at the Institute at 10am and sharing transport to the walk venue. Anyone outside the village is welcome to join us for a very sociable stroll of about 5 miles.

For further information, please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 robandkayharman@gmail.com

George Woodley on 07733 167 341 georgewoodley@talktalk.net

Cambridge Past, Present and Future (PPF)

Winter Tree Walk at Wandlebury Country Park

Wednesday 16 January: 10am to 12 noon

Join one of our Wardens for a gentle guided walk around Wandlebury to learn how to identify winter trees. Meet at the noticeboard in the car park.

Free but donations welcome.

Volunteer Work Parties – Tuesdays every week

Details at <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/volunteer-outdoor-work-parties>

Winter Flowers

Details at <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/things-to-see-do-at-wandlebury>

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

Linton Village College

Much of the magic of Christmas arises from the traditions that serve to remind us of the important things in life, family and community; Christmas lunches appear, Carol services take place, decorations festoon our homes and mulled wine keeps out the cold. It is no surprise then that Christmas is a key time in the College calendar in expressing those values.

The Music Department, led by Helen Jukes, is integral to Christmas at Linton Village College. Holy Trinity Church, Balsham was packed to the rafters, on 10 December, for the Christmas Service. Students from all years performed a wide range of favourites including Elgar's 'The Snow', 'Chanson de Nuit' as well as carols by Britten and Rutter. The Year 7 choir also put together a Christmas medley with a big band. It was a truly heart-warming sight to see proud parents, grandparents and excited students together in church celebrating and enjoying the festive spirit. It is a huge event to organise and our thanks go to Mrs Jukes for her leadership, and Holy Trinity Church for hosting, in making the service such a success.

As if that wasn't enough, the following week the Drama and Music Departments also hosted a 'Live Lounge for Cambodia' evening of music and drama to raise money for the Year 11 expedition to Cambodia. The set included performances from Mrs Clark's Music Theatre and a preview of The Caucasian Chalk Circle as well as some solo items. A busy Christmas indeed for the Arts Faculty!

It is sometimes easy to forget that Christmas traditions don't just happen. They require nurture, love and hard work to maintain them. This year, one LVC tradition lapsed that we shall restore for Christmas 2020. Twenty five years ago, Jenny Pullin, Head of Food Technology and Lead Tutor, hosted an afternoon tea for 20 members of the community as part of a Year 9 project. It grew! Since then, Mrs Pullin (now in her 36th year at the College) organised the 'Coffee and Carols' morning each December in the College Hall, complete with music, decorations and Year 9 students serving food and refreshments to over 120 members of our local community. To see three, sometimes four, generations from the villages sharing Christmas was a wonderful example of the Village College community ethos being lived out and has often brought out the odd sentimental tear in staff, guests and students alike. Charities including CLIC Sargent, Haverhill Food Bank and Anglia Air Ambulance have also benefitted from the event's raffles through the years.

Mrs Pullin continues to be Exams Officer at LVC but as part of her phased retirement has relinquished leadership of the event. In the words of Austria's most famous pensioner though: 'Coffee and Carols will be back' for 2020. Our thanks to Mrs Pullin for all her hard work and organisation of such an important event for so many people for the last quarter of a century.

LVC's annual Charities Fayre on the last day completed the autumn term. Students raised money for a number of local charities through an array of different stalls and activities. The students' entrepreneurial skills were very much on show in a celebratory atmosphere. It is a wonderful way to end the term in the Christmas spirit and to remind everyone of the values of giving, family and community.

Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal

Granta Medical Practices Rated Outstanding by Care Quality Commission



The Care Quality Commission inspected our GP practice in October and has rated it as outstanding, a mark of quality that is shared with only 5 of the 88 GP practices in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough health system.

This is first and foremost an opportunity to remind ourselves how tirelessly all 165 Granta staff work day in day out. Many of them are our neighbours in our communities. They all deserve a big Thank You Team Granta! Their jobs have never been easy and have become much harder and more stressful over the past decade. Funding for healthcare is not keeping up with growing demand and finding people who are prepared to serve their communities as doctors and nurses is becoming ever more difficult. Fewer GPs and nurses care for more patients. This trend makes small general practices very vulnerable. A couple of retirements or long-term illnesses can lead to the collapse and closure of a practice, as we have witnessed recently in our own vicinity.

Granta has been created over the past four years through a merger of four well-run independent practices at Linton, Sawston, Barley/Market Hill and Shelford for one reason only - to create a sustainable GP practice that is fit to weather the funding and workforce crises, is able to attract and retain excellent staff, and will continue to offer reliable services to our communities. Granta is now of the right size for a modern GP practice and will not grow further. The practice is big enough to survive and thrive but remains small enough to care for our communities and retain the team spirit that is critical for general practice. The CQC rating is an external validation that Granta has chosen the right path.

Granta's outstanding rating is not 'mission accomplished'. There is lots of work still to do. The on-the-day access at Granta for urgent needs is excellent, but access to bookable appointments at all sites needs to be improved. The merger has led to changes in the provision of local services and challenges local identity, which is a concern to both patients and clinicians. These issues have been raised by the Patient Participation Group, which is helping the Granta team to understand how best to respond to workforce pressures, maintain the local identities of our practice sites and continue to offer patients access to their preferred doctor as much as possible.

Granta is grateful to all patients who provide feedback on its service and offer suggestions for improvements, and particularly to the members of the Patient Participation Group, who act as critical friends. For us, Granta is more than a business, it is a community asset. Both patients and staff can be proud of the outstanding rating. This gives us the reassurance and motivation to continue the journey to making Granta one of the best GP practices in the country.

*Dave Arnold & Anne Thompson
Co-chairs of the Granta Medical Practices Patient Participation Group
Stefan Scholtes
Independent Patient-Chair of Granta Medical Practices Board*

Village News on the website

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

Church Services for January 2020

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
2 nd January		9.30am Communion		1 John 2.22-28 John 1.19-28
5 th January	10.30am	United Service (4.00pm Evensong)	at Balsham	Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12
12 th January	10.45am Communion		9.15am Communion	Isaiah 42.1-9 Matthew 3.13-end
19 th January		10.45am Morning Worship	4.00pm Café Church	Isaiah 49.1-7 John 1.29-42
26 th January	9.00am Breakfast and Café Church	8.00am Communion	6.00pm Evensong	Isaiah 9.1-4 Matthew 4.12-23

Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
5 th January	Anne Hall and	Marilyn Broadhurst and	Kirsten Newble
12 th January	Patsy Randall	June Waring	Kirsten Newble
19 th January	Anne Hall and	Sylvia Gilmour and	Lizzy Griggs
26 th January	Patsy Randall	Mary Miles	Lizzy Griggs

Churchwardens

Hildersham	Vacancy		
Great Abington	Tony Collett	23 Meadow Walk, Great Abington	893447
Little Abington	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564

Assistant Churchwardens

Great Abington	Anne Hall	12 Magna Close, Great Abington	892275
	Patsy Randall	77 High Street, Great Abington	07765 345 714
Little Abington	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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