



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

**April 2020**



*Photo by David Farrant*

**Daffodils, a source of good cheer no matter what!**

## Letter from the Editor

The Prime Minister's message to the nation to 'Stay at home' emphasised our responsibility to ourselves, and to the community, for preventing the spread of the invisible, untreatable, potentially deadly coronavirus (Covid-19). Individuals can minimise the risk to themselves and to others by washing their hands frequently. The virus spreads through contact between people so it is vital that we all accept the government's instruction to keep our distance (2 metres) from others. The restrictions have led to the elderly and more vulnerable villagers self-isolating at home for 12 weeks, and to cancellation of church services and most Village events, and the Institute is closed (see pages 4, 20, 11-13). An early casualty was the Repair café (28 March) which will not go ahead.

There is a regularly updated and useful 'news' page on the village website about coronavirus in the Abingtons. Set up by Peter Brunning this can be accessed at [www.theabingtons.org.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-in-abington](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-in-abington)

The move to working at home and the mandatory closure of schools and many businesses is causing serious financial and economic damage requiring massive government intervention. It is heartening to know that the church is organising a LoveAbington telephone support network which will be especially valuable for those self-isolating. Many volunteers in the Abingtons and Hildersham are offering to help neighbours (see pages 4, 13). Great community support will help us through this crisis. See page 6 for advice from Granta Medical on the coronavirus outbreak.

Regrettably, because of the emergency change in working practices, the TWI Print room is closed and cannot print this magazine. The News will be on the village website and an alternative printing service has been found. Events are moving so fast that some information in this issue may be out of date by the time you read it. I apologise for that and advise you to check developments on the website and noticeboards.

This issue includes reports on Parish, District and County Council matters (pages 9, 13-15). The AALGA held a successful quiz and fundraising night (page 15). Hildersham's jam stall will continue (page 13). More interesting ancient carvings have been found at Little Abington Church (page 8). There is a new book by Patrick Daunt and advice on making social distancing fun (page 7). Details of the next community oil order appear below.

The PM has instructed us to stay at home and so we must. Keep safe and well.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the May 2020 edition of *the Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Wednesday 15 April 2020 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk). Photos welcome.

### Community Oil Order

Rod will take orders for heating oil from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May with orders delivered 7 to 10 days later. Please provide Rod with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, post code and telephone number. Contact [rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 07767 686 351.

## From the Seven Churches

We live in tumultuous times. The country is experiencing its greatest crisis since the end of the Second World War and concern, worry and fear are seeping into our lives. There is, however, also a genuine upsurge of solidarity and compassion, with people stepping forward to support their local communities and those who feel vulnerable. It's often at times of greatest trial we see the best in each other and remember what's really important in life.

As we reflect on the hope of Easter during this time of crisis, we celebrate how the new life offered by Jesus overcomes despair and death. As we are reminded of our own broken humanity in the fear and betrayal which led to Jesus' crucifixion, we also remember that the risen Jesus told his followers not to be afraid, but to receive the gift of his Spirit. We encounter this good news afresh through scripture, prayer and the work of that same Spirit, and thereby see faith, hope and love become tangible.

We will continue as churches, during this time, to proclaim faith, hope and love in Christ's name. Following recent restrictions placed on gatherings, however, we are finding different ways to worship and support one another. Our usual pattern of Sunday services is suspended for the time being, so instead we are encouraging people, from their own homes, to join together in a Time of Prayer between 10am and 10.30am each Sunday morning, and in this time to read a short passage of the bible, pray for our villages and the wider world, and give thanks. You may also wish to light a candle or read a short reflection in this time. For more information about resources for prayer and reflection at home please do contact me or ask our church administrator, Cazzy Walshe, to send you a newsletter from us by email.

Our churches will remain open during the week and people are welcome to come in for prayer and reflection, although if others are there as well please do, out of care for one another, maintain an appropriate distance. You may also know that many initiatives have started throughout our local villages, where people are offering telephone support to those who are self-isolating and showing practical love for our neighbours by helping with the delivery of food, medicines or other essentials. Please consider how you may best support such initiatives as we seek to help and love one another in the time ahead.

Revd Iain McColl, Vicar, Balsham Rectory  
[Mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:Mccoll.iain@gmail.com) - 890 693

### Members of the 7 churches Ministry team:

Jeanine Kennedy

Lay Pioneer Minister - Vicarage, Church Lane, Lt Abington -

[jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com) – 893 838

Alistair Collen

Lay Minister - 91 High St. Gt Abington –

[alistair.collen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alistair.collen@hotmail.co.uk) – 894 230

**Claire Gillett, Parish Nurse** is working from home, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 4.30pm. If you have any health concerns she will be happy to advise you.

Please contact her directly on 0749 899 4205. or email

[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com).

This is not an emergency service.



## News from the Pews

At this time of uncertainty, it is unhelpful to list dates of events which are very likely to be cancelled. All Church services have been suspended (see page 20). We advise you to check on Social Media, the Village Website or the Church Notice Boards for up-to-date information.

Studies show that prayer reduces anxiety and depression. A reduction in anxiety allows people to process and react to external events with a more cognitive rather than emotional manner. At a time in which there is worldwide concern over an invisible virus without a treatment, a strategic and peaceful approach to problem-solving is a good thing.

If you need help during this time please contact Rosemary on 891 718 or Jeanine on 893 838. Our churches will remain open daily.

Anne Hall



Abington's river on 6 March. It is kept in good order by the Rivercare Group.

*Photo by Peter Brunning*

## Support during coronavirus

We live in such a beautiful village with a wonderful community spirit and it's really important that during these uncertain times no one feels alone or isolated

We have set up a telephone support network for **everybody** in Abington and Hildersham who is self-isolating because of health issues or age or who is feeling lonely and anxious because they are unable to meet socially and their family are far away. There will be a team of people who are able to offer a weekly telephone call and a listening ear. If you need help with weekly shopping and have a computer, we have a volunteer who will be able to help you set up on line shopping. There may be some other practical measures we can take. If you feel you would value a weekly phone call, please initially call the Vicarage on 893 838 or send a message through the @LoveAbingtonCB Facebook page. There is a telephone answer phone message if I am not available and you can email directly through the Facebook page to loveabington@gmail.com. I will pass your name and number to Rosemary Mead who will organise a member of the support team to ring you.

If you would like us to pray for you about anyone or anything please also do get in touch. It is our desire to keep everyone safe and in as positive a frame of mind as possible.

Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister

## **Coronavirus (Covid-19) update**

Unfortunately the number of people affected by the coronavirus causing Covid-19 is increasing rapidly and this new virus is taking a foothold within our community.

At Granta Medical Practices we have a dedicated Covid emergency team who are meeting daily to discuss how we can continue to provide the best possible care for our patients.

As a practice we are fortunate in having both multiple sites and a large team of people, including those with experience of managing this sort of situation. This gives us options for delivery of care that are not open to many practices during any epidemic.

### **Up to date information:**

At a national level the Public Health England website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england> and NHS UK website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> provide up to date information about the national situation and plans, and health advice.

At Granta we will be keeping our website [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk) updated regularly to reflect the local situation and our actions at Granta, along with our social media accounts. We may also use SMS messaging to mobile phones to communicate any urgent messages. Please let us know if you have changed your mobile number or have one that you haven't yet told us about.

### **Prioritisation:**

The current evidence is that for the vast majority of the population the Covid-19 virus is a mild illness which can be safely managed at home with rest, paracetamol and fluids just like a normal flu-like illness. However, for those with significant other medical problems and for the elderly it can be more serious.

With this in mind we have postponed all face to face GP appointments and some routine nurse appointments. This is for both our patient's safety and the safety of our staff. Instead we are now offering an enhanced telephone service and also a non-urgent dedicated email address, [capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net](mailto:capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net), 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. We are working hard to make sure that those who are housebound will continue to receive their medications.

As a community we can help each other – both by following the advice given and by helping look after those who may need help within our communities. If you are able to volunteer to help out in your immediate area, please email your details to [granta.socialnavigator@nhs.net](mailto:granta.socialnavigator@nhs.net)

### **Practical advice:**

First and foremost is the need to wash your hands on a regular basis – warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. This alone will help slow down the spread of the virus and help protect you, your family and our community.

Dr James Morrow, Managing Partner  
16 March 2020

**Community Hubs** Owing to the current need for social distancing, we are suspending the monthly Granta Vale Community Hubs for the time being. However, we encourage people to phone or email each other and offer support through this difficult time. For further information contact Cazzy Walshe 891 443 or at [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com)

## Social distancing can be fun – read on

These are strange times – it's clearly not life as we know it and, whether we are social distancing or, even worse, self-isolating, now more than ever we need to be imaginative and creative.

Here are a few simple suggestions to bring us together at a time when we are kept apart – in particular to connect young people with elderly folk who may be feeling particularly lonely.

With children and adults communicating using FaceTime, WhatsApp, Messenger, Skype or, my favourite, Zoom, and many of our older relatives with access to a computer or a tablet, I would hope that what follows can be easily set up. I am sure you can add many more inspiring ideas of your own (my list is a bit Radio Four!).

1. **Photo histories.** (Not the Instagram kind). Now is the time to dig out all those old “paper” photos of family and friends from decades back. And while you might just think about digitising them, why not bring them to life much more meaningfully. Work with parents and grand-parents using FaceTime or whatever to see if together you can “tell the story” of each photo, identify and bring to life the key characters who would otherwise be for eternity Auntie Beryl or Uncle Frank, just names rather than real people. Who were they? What were they like? What was their history? Record the conversations and suddenly you have an animated family story stretching back possibly a hundred years and connecting with generations yet to come.
2. **A History of Your Family in 20 objects.** Ask your senior family members to collect a number of objects that mean something special to them. Get them to tell the story of each piece – what memories each evokes, why this thing matters to them – and again record them doing this. Suddenly previously little considered objects take on a new significance.
3. Family **Desert Island Discs.** Become Lauren Laverne and ask parents and grandparents to tell their life-stories illustrated with their eight special tracks. Find those tracks on YouTube or whatever and produce your own show for posterity.
4. Family **Just a Minute.** On a group call, all members can play the game – with no hesitation, repetition or deviation.
5. Collective **Countdown** (you can use Zoom to share your screen) or **Sudoku** or **Jigsaws** (you can find numerous examples of these games online) or indeed any game that you can share across the ether.

So, as a village, let's start sharing ideas to make the coming days not just more tolerable but more meaningful – and fun!

David Simmonds

## Ten Letters to a Grandson, a new book by Patrick Daunt

Patrick Daunt, who died in 2013, was church warden of St. Mary's Little Abington and a stalwart of Abington Naturewatch. This previously unpublished text imagines a series of letters, written in the fourth century A.D. by a retired Roman administrator to his grandson. The letters explore classical philosophy and their apparent author's encounters with the early Christian church.

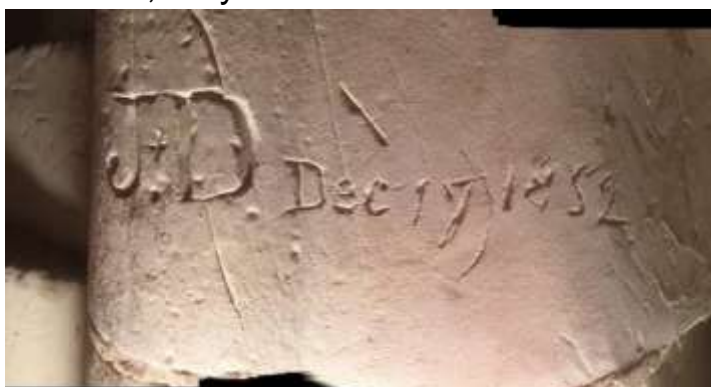
I have edited my father's original text into book format and it can be purchased via Amazon or ebay, list price £5.

Will Daunt

### Ancient Carvings in Little Abington Church (3)



Over the centuries many Abington residents have crept up the spiral steps leading to the bell chamber in the Tower to make their mark for posterity. Generally males, at least those that have carved their full names, and with a varying aptitude for spelling and writing. Backwards 'esses' (SS) appear, on one occasion twice, side by side. Does this signify something other than an inability to write correctly? Some sort of code, maybe.



My son, Sam, took the photos, with me trying to hold the light at the correct angle to pick out the letters in sharp relief - a tricky operation in the narrow confines of the stairs; certainly breaching the Government approved social distancing rules (but we do live in the same house). Sam thought that perhaps the 1852 engraving marks a tryst between J & D. If not, then what does that + indicate? Answers carved on a slab of sandstone, please.

There are several appearances of the strange symbol that looks like the outline of a foot, a particularly pointed foot. It does remind me a little of medieval drawings of people's shoes. Again, we are open to suggestions.

Note: It's a dangerous job, this church archaeology. I made a preliminary survey of the carvings a few days before the photo-shoot and while up the stairs, peering at ancient graffiti, an assistant churchwarden locked the main door to the church for the night. I had a key but, alas, it wouldn't work from the inside. It was like being in an episode of *Morse* or *Midsomer Murders*. Could I summon help by ringing the church bell? Or would my body be discovered next day, stark and cold, with broken finger nails and desperate scabble marks on the oak door? Reader, I escaped, but only because I had a key to the small chancel door.

Graham Ross



## County and District Council report

Note from Councillors Henry Batchelor (CCC) and John Batchelor (SCDC)  
**Report for Parish Councils – March 2020**

**A1307** As everyone will have seen, the upgrades to the road are moving forward. The eastbound bus lane and speed limit changes outside of Linton are now implemented, along with the upgraded foot/cycle path next to the road. The work on the installation of traffic lights at the Linton High Street/A1307 junction are underway (with some issues around the temporary traffic lights!) and are due to complete in March.

On a related topic, for those who keep their ear to the ground, you may well have read in local media that the Mayor of the Combined Authority has made a 'power grab' for the Greater Cambridge Partnership money and work (A1307 upgrades included). 'Our' stretch of the A1307, Haverhill to Abington, is safe and isn't changing, but the future of the rest of the project is now up in the air. This is, namely, a new park and ride site and a high speed bus route. More to follow.

**Autonomous Metro Consultation** The Combined Authority is currently running a consultation on the plans to construct an autonomous metro system in Cambridge city and the surrounding towns/villages. The ultimate proposal will run up to Haverhill and beyond, so please do take some interest and engage in this - <https://cam.consultationonline.co.uk/>

**Police and Crime Commissioner** Following the resignation of the Police & Crime Commissioner last year, the deputy has been filling in the duties of the role. Coronavirus has forced the postponement of this year's May local elections so we will have to wait another year to elect a permanent replacement.

**VE Day Celebrations\*\*** South Cambs is offering up to £1,000, via the community chest grant, for applications for commemorative plaques, books etc to celebrate this landmark. The deadline for applications to receive the money before 8 May was 15 March. More information is here - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/communitychest>

**Health & Wellbeing Strategy** The County Council is looking for comment on its draft joint Health & Wellbeing strategy with Peterborough. It's relatively arduous but still an important document. If there is any interest, the link is here - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/health-and-wellbeing-strategy-consultation>

**Complaint and Compliments** South Cambs. has launched a new portal which allows customers to raise complaints and track them through to completion. There is now also the facility to upload supporting documentation - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/feedback/compliments-complaints-and-suggestions/>

### Footnote:

**\*\*The Abington VE Day celebrations, scheduled for 8 May have been cancelled.**



**DIARY for APRIL – The Abington Institute is closed for the whole of April and may continue to be closed after that. So all scheduled classes and activities in the Institute during April are cancelled (see page 11). The Little Abington Parish Council will hold a teleconferencing meeting (page 14).**

**Wheelie bin dates for April 2020 (Abingtons and Hildersham)**

<b>Mon 6</b> <b>Blue</b>	<b>Wed 15</b> <b>Black</b>	<b>Tue 21</b> <b>Blue</b>	<b>Mon 27</b> <b>Black</b>
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**Note that *Green* bin collections are suspended from 23 March to 4 May. Food waste can go in the black bins for this period.**

**Mobile Library**

**The Mobile Library is likely to be suspended because of the coronavirus outbreak. Please consult the website for up-to-date information.**

The next scheduled date is Tuesday 28 April 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)

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

**Institute bookings:** contact preferably by email: [institute@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:institute@theabingtons.org.uk) or phone 01223 790 711

**Contacts for Café** Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or [gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com](mailto:gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com) and Gill Smith 892 759 or [richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk](mailto:richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk)

**Contacts for activities**

**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 at Abington Institute**

Contact Joan 890 629 or email [joangraham72@gmail.com](mailto:joangraham72@gmail.com) if you would like to try a class.

**Dynamic Dance Theatre School – Wednesdays from 3.15pm**

Ballet and modern dance lessons for children from 4 years old at Abington Institute. Contact Esme on 07719 816 548 or [esmewatts@hotmail.com](mailto:esmewatts@hotmail.com)

**Table Tennis – Tuesdays 7.30pm at Abington Institute**

Contact Raj Sangha on 07803 786 905.

**Physio Pilates – Mondays, Abington Institute**

Intermediate 10.30 – 11.30am	Advanced 11.45am – 12.45pm
Beginners 1.00 – 2.00pm	Advanced 2.15 – 3.15pm

Contact Christina Heinz [cambridgepilates@outlook.com](mailto:cambridgepilates@outlook.com)

**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 Mondays 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.

Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or [www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk](http://www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk)



## The Abington Lunch Cancellation



**The Lunch is being cancelled for three months  
(March, April and May)  
owing to the Coronavirus outbreak.**

**Look out for further details in future A&H News.**

### **Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute**

Regrettably, because of the coronavirus the Café will be closed in April, May and June. We have also cancelled the Special Spring Tea planned for Tuesday 7 April.

### **Cancelled Diary events:**

Because of the coronavirus restrictions the following events have been cancelled for April and most are cancelled for at least April, May and June. Check with contacts to be sure.

- |                     |                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday              | Baby & Toddler Group<br>Physiopilates<br>Social cycling<br>French Conversation<br>Abingtons & Hildersham WI<br>Gardening Club |
| Tuesday             | Art Group<br>Forget-Me-Not Club<br>Reading group<br>Community Hub<br>Scrabble<br>Table Tennis                                 |
| Wednesday           | Dynamic Dance Class<br>Yoga                                                                                                   |
| Thursday            | Abington Lunch                                                                                                                |
| Friday              | Film Night – next possibly in September<br>Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates<br>VE Day Celebrations Friday 8 May                |
| Thursday & Saturday | Walking Group April, May and June                                                                                             |
| Saturday            | Scrapbooking<br>Annual Litter Pick and Plogging<br>Naturewatch Members' meeting and visits                                    |

Also Lambing Sunday, Hildersham

HVHT Quiz, Hildersham

Granta Park Talk - 'Faith, Hope & the Global Economy' - 1<sup>st</sup> May

Regrettably this lecture has had to be cancelled.

### **Recreation Ground**

**Following the government restrictions imposed on 23 March 2020, the play area and outdoor gym are closed.**

## Film Nights at Abington Institute

Following the government guidelines on social distancing and to ensure everyone's well-being we have cancelled the Film Nights planned for March, April and May.

This will take us to the end of our season, we hope to be back in September with a whole new season of films for you to enjoy. Thank you all for your support. Have a wonderful and healthy summer.

The Film Night Team

## Abington Walking Group

With great regret we have to discontinue walking for the next three months at least. This will mean no social evening and no Midsummer walk and picnic this year.

.For further information, please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com)

George Woodley on 07733 167 341 [georgewoodley@talktalk.net](mailto:georgewoodley@talktalk.net)

## Naturewatch

The latest information on the Coronavirus has meant that Naturewatch has cancelled its plans for a Members Meeting and various visits for the next few weeks. Copies of the 2019 Naturewatch Record report will be available soon for £1 and we will find a way of distributing them. If you would like one please get in touch.



Meanwhile keep an eye on the Naturewatch Blog which will continue to post regular observations. You can also send in regular reports. Access can be found at <http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com/>

David Farrant



**Buzzard flying over Old Railway Cutting**  
*Photo by Andrew Merryweather (on Naturewatch blog)*

## The Balsham Singers' Concert 2020 on Saturday 16 May at 7.30pm

Sadly we have had to cancel this concert because of the coronavirus outbreak and concerns about infection. We plan to resume in the autumn with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert in December 2020.

Thank you all for the support from the community.

## Hildersham Focus

### Coronavirus causes cancellations.

**Easter Tea Time and Hot Cross Buns** will have to wait until later in the year owing to the present situation on gatherings.

### Lamb Sunday 15 April - Cancelled.

### Holy Trinity Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm

### Hildersham Village Hall Trust Quiz Night planned for 1 May but cancelled.

### Hildersham Jam Stall

Following last month's sad story about theft from the stall, we're pleased to report new security measures. The cash box is now locked with both its own key and a padlock. Thank you to everyone for your kind words and continuing support.

## Hildersham Parish Council

### Report on the Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 10 March 2020.

**Coronavirus** Some Hildersham residents have volunteered to assist those self-isolating by offering to deliver food and prescriptions, post mail, as well as offering people the opportunity of a friendly phone call. All households in Hildersham should have received a flyer through their doors with the contact details of coordinators. If you require assistance please contact the volunteer coordinators : Mark Logan (891 897) or Billie Chapman (07834 210 582).

#### Other matters

After much consideration, the council plans to amend **the allotment-holder's contract** for any new allotment holders, to remove the option to keep poultry or rabbits, in a bid to reduce the on-going problem some tenants have with rats on their plots. Current allotment holders are required to get the council's permission to keep poultry or rabbits on their plots, which will no longer be given. The two allotment - holders with poultry will not be affected.

**Fence damage** The council's complaint about the damage done to the fence by the ditch at the entrance to the Recreation Ground hasn't progressed well. The company have had a number of staff leave and the complaint has been lost. Correspondence continues with the company and we hope to get the fence fixed soon. Meanwhile, the council has sought a price from a local fencing contractor.

Pampisford Estate has agreed to fit a **non-slip surface on the foot bridge** between Hildersham and Great Abington, to make it safer to use. The tree that had fallen across the rivers has had branches removed that were hanging down into the river. The tree will remain where it fell. Several gates along local footpaths have broken or damaged fence posts that need to be fixed by the landowner. Pampisford Estate will be contacted about fixing their gates.

The Council is still awaiting news from the Highway Department about **moving the junction warning sign** on Back Road to the brow of the hill. There has been no response to the Council's report that a number of the beech trees, on the triangular verge at the junction with the A1307, have died so need to be cut down. Our County Councillor agreed to assist us with getting a response from the Highway Department.

The Parish Council is investigating getting **intelligent bus stop signs** installed to advise travellers when the next bus is likely to arrive. During April the paths should be swept to clear up the leaves and any other debris around. The council has hired a second and final skip to assist allotment holders clear their plots of debris that many inherited from previous tenants.

**Pot holes etc.**, If you notice a fault with the highways, such as pot holes, you can report them using the following link: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

**The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council was to be the AGM and Parish meetings on 12 May, but it is likely that this may become an electronic meeting, to keep every safe. So there is unlikely to be a meeting the public can attend.**



## Little Abington Parish Council

### Around the village

**e-bike scheme:** We are involved in the village e-bike project, together with Great Abington Parish Council. Plans have had to be put on hold in the present crisis. See page 15.

**Abington Woods:** The headteacher of Granta School and Deborah James came to the meeting to tell us that Cambs. County Council has agreed to buy the buildings, offering their use to Granta School – and that Holme Court School is to move out to Cherry Hinton Hall. The site is still available to the local community as well as other organisations. For more information and bookings email [abingtonwoods@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonwoods@gmail.com)

**Litter pick:** This annual event planned for Saturday 4 April has been cancelled.

### Meeting on Monday 27 January

#### Planning applications

**S/4444/19/DC - Burger King, discharge of planning conditions:** The proposed solutions to improve the visual aspect of the building were disappointing and there has been no improvement in the quantity of litter.

SCDC has failed to enforce litter-picking conditions and it was agreed we would now contact the head offices for Euro Garages (Burger King).

**S/0160/20/TC - Tree works at 26 High Street:** Recommended pollarding and reducing the crown so it no longer hangs over the boundary fences of properties in Church Close.

**S/0156/20/TC - Tree works, 50 High Street:** No objections, but it was noted that the tree is within the boundary fence of 52 High Street.

#### Next meeting at Abington Institute

Due to the current public health concerns and government advice Little Abington Parish Council will hold its meetings by telephone/video conference until further notice. Members of the public are welcome to join to address the parish council during scheduled public participation time or to listen to discussions. Letters/e-mails will also be accepted. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

**Next Meeting: Monday 27 April 2020 Parish Council at 7pm followed by Annual Parish meeting at 8pm where the main topic will be Climate Strategy.**

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

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

Next scheduled meeting dates: Monday 27 April 2020, Tuesday 26 May 2020,  
Monday 22 June 2020

Updates on arrangements, meeting agendas and papers are published on the Parish Council noticeboard and the Abingtons website: [www.theabingtons.org.uk](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk)

**e-bikes in the Abingtons**

We have sadly had to postpone the e-bikes in the Abingtons project as a result of Coronavirus. We will review the situation in July, and hope to resume the project along the same lines as originally intended, but with the August 2020 Bank Holiday weekend as the trialling weekend, and the weekly leasing of the parish council owned e-bike following this trialling weekend. If you have seen the e-bike event posters around the village, please enjoy them (we'll be taking them down but if any remain by accident), and just imagine the dates concerned are some time in the not too distant future!

**Hedges and Trees**

Thanks to all the parishioners who took action to cut back before the deadline of March 1st. In cases where there was no action in response to the Parish Council's letter, we will be following up and will expect action early in September.

**Planning**

For more information on the applications below use the reference given below at :- <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

**District Council decisions:**

S/1567/19/FL - 25 South Road 3 Bed dwelling adjacent to piggery. PC recommended refusal. District Council refused.

**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 18 May 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](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com) (892 000)

**AALGA**

The AALGA held a most successful quiz on 28 February. £165.75 was raised from the raffle and will be passed to Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis (APR). Many thanks to all who supported it.

Brian Hayden-Jones

## **Abington and Hildersham Women's Institute**

The March Annual General Meeting was a chance to reflect on the highlights of our past centenary year and scrutinise our healthy accounts before electing our President and Committee. As there were no new nominations, Janyce Garrod was re-elected as President, as were the existing committee members, who were thanked for their contribution to the smooth running of our WI.

To add special interest to the AGM, Elly Rusted of the Pantry Underwear shop came to show us how she had initially set up her business in Camden and Liberty's, London, before opening on the High Street in Saffron Walden. Her vision was to transform the dreaded task of buying a new bra into a delight for women: providing a comfortable, inviting and safe space where fully trained staff could offer the fitting of quality, mostly British-made underwear in a wide range of sizes and styles at a reasonable price (£5 discount for WI members!). Elly is a very personable young lady who certainly fits the WI slogan 'Inspiring Women'.

Marilyn Broadhurst (893 214)

## **Scrabble Club**

The next meeting of the Scrabble Club on 7pm on Tuesday 28 April 2020 has been cancelled because of the coronavirus.

## **Girlguiding Linton District**

It has been a fabulous start to the New Year. Two new leaders have come forward to join us who will help at Linton Brownies. One of our young leaders has created a Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for us. You can see what we have been up to by looking at Linton District@. The Guides had an amazing end to the year and went on an Anglia Region camp "Supanova" with 600 other Guides from Anglia Region and also a trip to the panto. They also ran their annual jumble sale in March enabling people to hunt a bargain or two and enjoy a cake and a cup of tea.

Our Brownies had Christmas parties and Christmas fayres running stalls and handling the money as well as eating cake. Our Guides ran their annual jumble sale, they have also travelled the globe in one evening visiting Japan, America, Russia and Ireland and made penguins out of icing and decorated beautiful stones.

Our Rainbows made bee houses and bird boxes to give to the station adopter at Dullingham Station who will put them up there and the other stations in the area.

All our girls, from Rainbows to Rangers attended a county STEM day in February, as our district thinking day activity, and learnt a lot, so our county are going to do the same again next year.

The coronavirus has postponed arrangements including sleeping under the planes at Duxford for a night but one of our leaders is posting activities online for all our girls to entertain them and give them Guiding without meeting. We have also had our annual awards to celebrate everyone's achievements in Guiding. If you would like to find out more or get involved in any way contact Louisa at [lintondistrict@gmail.com](mailto:lintondistrict@gmail.com).

Louisa Linton DC

**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](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/news) and follow the link to the pdf for the month you want. For up-to-date news on the local impact of the coronavirus look for [www.theabingtons.org.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-in-abington](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-in-abington)

## Linton History Society meeting, January 2020

At our first meeting in 2020 we welcomed local historian Jennifer Hirsh who gave us a wonderful insight to David Lane, without whom there would never have been an Abington Pottery or a story to tell. Jennifer was able to photograph him at work in his beloved workshop which was originally given to him by local farmer Ivan Clarke many years ago. It stood the test of time and remains there today, a year after David passed away at the age of 90.

The history of the original three cottages which eventually became Abington Pottery was extremely interesting. Clearly shown on a 1603 map of Abington, the cottages were originally a Hall House, having no chimney, only an open fire in the middle of the hall; traces of charring on roof timbers were discovered during renovation. With the aid of drawings and maps, Jennifer explained the various alterations which have taken place throughout the centuries. Over time the Hall was converted into three cottages with very basic amenities. In 1938, at a cost of £1,140 some 15 cottages in the village of Abington came into the ownership of the Cambridge Cottage Improvement Society, including £140 paid for the 3 cottages which was to become the pottery. The mullioned window on the front of the property only 'came to light' during renovations carried out in 1960.

David Lane was born in Ilford, Essex in 1928 and from an early age took a keen interest in crafts. Pottery was to become his keen interest and after taking a teacher training course, and travelling extensively it was to become his life time career. In 1964 he was invited by the Rural Industrial Bureau to view some 500 year old Grade 2 listed cottages owned by the Cambridge Cottage Improvement Society in the village of Abington. Obviously seeing the potential, David moved in with his wife and young family, even though the amenities were still relatively basic. Much hard work went into altering the buildings and facilities plus the workshop needed for the Abington Pottery to become successful. In addition, Abington Pottery became a familiar stall two days a week on Cambridge Market Square for 40 years.



Jennifer had brought along a small selection of her own pots, jugs and plates made by David, and concluded the evening by showing pictures featuring the designs and patterns, so distinctive of the Abington Pottery. Like most excellent works of art, the Fitzwilliam Museum hold a piece of his work, and rightly so. A well-received talk and wonderful example of 'history on your doorstep'.

Margaret Creek Tel 01223 893915  
Email [ldhscams@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:ldhscams@pobroadband.co.uk)

### Calling all Crafters!

I am keen to create a monthly drop in session at the Institute where we can work on current craft projects, share skills and problems with friendly like-minded people. If you would be interested, have a project or would join for coffee/tea, cake, chat and inspiration please contact me on 01223 892 838 or email [glynis.brookman@btinternet.com](mailto:glynis.brookman@btinternet.com) .  
Something to contemplate when the coronavirus has run its course!



## **Linton Village College**

March has been an eventful month. The spread of the Coronavirus has been, and continues to be, one of those 'once in a generation' events that the UK government has had to assess, mitigate against and put in place contingency plans in double quick time. Similarly for the College, balancing the rhythms of the academic year (including the approaching exam season) and the reality of student, parent and staff absences as the outbreak has developed, has been a careful balancing act.

Despite the disruption of the Coronavirus, the College still managed to stage the annual school performance in March. This year, the students put on 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle'. The Arts, and the school production in particular, takes students on a journey that grows them in quite extraordinary ways; the countless rehearsals, learning of lines and final performances develop extraordinary resilience and grit in the participants. I attended the Saturday performance and it still amazes me how students who might be usually quiet and modest in lessons blossom into confident and accomplished actors on stage. Brecht demands a lot of his cast and it was wonderful to see the students rise to the challenge, guided and led by the Drama Department.

By the time you are reading this over 100 English GCSE students may or may not have travelled, depending on the emerging Coronavirus situation, to Cambridge to watch 'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley. It is a play that sometimes provokes fierce discussion around social hypocrisy and the boundaries of justice and responsibility. I recently read a critique of the play in a 'right of centre' magazine that was scathing of the plot and Priestley's socialist motives. At the same time the article was keen to explain how Priestley's skilful writing was able to draw in, and dupe, the audience into sharing his world view. In other words, according to the article, Priestley's ideas are preposterous but he is a dangerously clever advocate of them and we have to beware.

The magazine article is a clear example of how the issues Priestley raises are as divisive in 2020 as they were in 1945 when the play was first performed. The teaching profession carries a great responsibility in educating students to be independent, critical thinkers who make up their own minds around some of the big questions in politics and society. 'An Inspector Calls' is rich material for debate and I know the students enjoy discussing these big questions in lessons which undoubtedly inform their beliefs and thinking.

Experiences such as 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle' and 'An Inspector Calls' are essential parts of a rich curriculum that grows passionate lifelong learners in the spirit of the Village College ethos. They also provide students, and especially Year 11 students at this time of year, with the grit to keep working for the upcoming GCSEs when the end isn't quite in sight. If you have a moment over Easter, I hope you can spare a thought for the Year 11s who will spend most of their break revising hard for the approaching exams. In the meantime, I hope you all have a restful Easter.

Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal

## Church Services for April 2020

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings  <i>Which you may care to read at home.</i>
April 5 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday	<b>CHURCH SERVICES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE</b>			Matthew 21.1-11 Isaiah 50.4-9a Matthew 26.14-27.end
April 9 <sup>th</sup> Maundy Thur.	<p>As a consequence of the Covid 19 pandemic all normal services in our churches are suspended indefinitely. We do however invite you to join together with us <b>in your own homes</b> between 10am and 10.30am on Sundays for a "Time of Prayer" when, although not in Church, we can all be together in spirit.</p> <p>If you would like more information or a newsletter please contact Caroline Walshe – Church Administrator  <a href="mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com">7churches.seven@gmail.com</a>            01223 891 443</p>			Exodus 12.1-14 John 13.1-17,31b-35
April 10 <sup>th</sup> Good Friday				Isaiah 52.13-53.end Hebrews 10.16-25 John 18.1-19.end
April 12 <sup>th</sup> Easter Day				Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18
April 19 <sup>th</sup>				Acts 2.14a,22-32 John 20.19-end
April 26 <sup>th</sup>				Acts 2.14a,36-41 Luke 24.13-35

### Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
April 5th	Lent	Judy Davies (Cleaning)	Lent
April 12th	Anne Hall	TBA	TBA
April 19th	and	Mary Miles and	Kirsten Newble
April 26th	Patsy Randall	Sylvia Gilmour	Elaine Moore

### 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 (see page 4)

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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