



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

June 2020



Photo by Katie Robson

**VE Day 8 May 2020
75th Anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe**

Village information (continued inside back cover)

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Don't forget: Police Numbers 999 for emergencies; otherwise 101

The June issue of the News is printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd. of Linton

Letter from the Editor

Amidst the inevitable anxiety about keeping the coronavirus at bay, and the loss of income through lockdown, it was a relief to have the 75th anniversary of VE Day to celebrate on 8 May. Flags and bunting flew throughout our villages and, even better, people came out of their homes at 3pm and, after the two minutes' silence, remained out of doors drinking a toast to the WWII heroes, and then relaxed in the sun and were able to have a chat to neighbours while keeping at least two metres apart. Young and old rejoiced at this taste of freedom (see cover, page 13, and the photo on this page by Emma Turner).

Thanks and congratulations to the Granta Vale Ministry team (page 5) who have continued to provide excellent church services twice a week online via Zoom or Facebook. There is access to carefully chosen music, thoughtful pieces of text and prayers in a twice-weekly church newsletter which is available by email. Contact 7churches.seven@gmail.com for more information. While the church buildings are closed there is nevertheless considerable cost in maintaining them and running the services. See page 4 for ways to ease the financial difficulty in which the church finds itself.

Love Abington has maintained wide-ranging support to village residents and is intent on extending its services by setting up a library in the Abington Social Club and implementing a community email source of information (see pages 6, 7). Volunteers in Hildersham are not only helping with shopping but have sewn and delivered 65 sets of scrubs and 54 drawstring wash bags to Papworth Hospital (page 11). Amazing.

Abington Stores has extended its opening hours and now has a telephone payment system that is extremely helpful (page 14). Gardeners could all cheer when the green bin collections resumed on 4 May. We have had little rain but plenty of sun and plants are growing apace. See pages 9 and 12 for ways to contact the newly opened waste recycling centre at Thriplow.

The Parish Councils have embraced the telecommunication version of meetings and have continued to work hard on our behalf, not least in assessing planning applications. We have a further report on the activities of the South Cambs. District and Cambridge County Councils also. See pages 9-13.

I am indebted to churchwarden Graham Ross for providing another fascinating account of the bell tower in Little Abington Church (page 8).

Keep safe and well.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the July 2020 edition of *the Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Monday 15 June 2020 at news@theabingtons.org.uk. Photos welcome.



From the Seven Churches New Found Ways

It is now more than two months since lockdown and social distancing was announced. Since then we have come face to face with many concerns for our health and social well-being. For the most part we have managed to avoid the worst of the outbreak. We may know family and friends who have struggled with the illness and we care for them as best we can.

As well as those of us who are directly affected by the illness, there are those concerned about loss of income and what the workplace will look like in future. There are those who are concerned with mental health issues and the fear of domestic violence in the home. These are very real concerns and we need to reach out to those in need and refer them to specialist helplines. (See below)

The challenges we face have to do with both loss and life. We see much loss on our news programmes, but there is new life in our villages with many friendly gestures being exchanged. Our imagination has come into blossom with innovative ways to reach out to others. That long-distance smile by the roadside, set to brighten the day. Those homemade cakes or flowers on the doorstep come to frame our love. Staying in may have become the new going out, home cooking the new restaurant standard, but we are certainly rising to the challenge.

I don't know about you, but everything seems to have played out in slow motion. Easter seems like ages ago, Mother's Day, that first Thursday clap for the NHS. We have certainly had a lot of time to ourselves. Time perhaps to enjoy the sunniest April springtime on record, time in the garden to soak up the rays, a long drink perhaps, a drift off in the sloping chair. Apart from the trauma of Covid-19, these may turn out to be our halcyon days, a precious time to reflect on the true meaning of our existence. Just when we thought it was normal to run around in ever-decreasing circles, we have come to a time of relative calm, a time to take stock and realise that half the things we were chasing after don't matter and the other half were here all along. I sense that we are set to become a different people, ready to come out of this stronger with a greater love for ourselves and each other. As we come to realise our new perspective on life, we will be like Jacob, who when he awoke from his sleep shouted to God, 'You were here all the time, and I never knew it!'

Steven Wheeler
Licensed Lay Minister

Helpline numbers:

Mental health – Mind 0300 123 3393

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: Freephone 24-hour **0808 2000 247**

A notice from our churches

As with many churches around the country, we are engaging with people in many different ways during the lockdown, with Zoom services, online home groups and supporting local community networks. We are also encouraging people to transition to online giving as well, as the need to support Christian ministry and mission in our parishes and around the world continues, as does the need to maintain our beautiful places of worship.

If you would like to commit to giving to the church online - either regularly or as a one-off - or would like to discover more about how you might financially support the work of the local church and our places of worship, please do contact our parish administrator, Cazy Walshe, on 01223 891 443 or email 7churches.seven@gmail.com

Revd Iain McColl, Vicar, Balsham Rectory
Mccoll.iain@gmail.com - 890 693

News from the Pews

The Little Abington Churchwardens want to assure residents that although the church is closed at this time due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the churchyard remains open and welcomes those who wish to continue tending the graves of their loved ones and continuing to observe social distance.

For members of the Great Abington Church flower team who had already received the 2020 rota, (some members hadn't received the new rota) please be aware it is now obsolete due to the church being closed for an unforeseeable time. When it reopens a new rota will be completed. Unfortunately, at the time of writing we have as yet had no directive as to when it will reopen.

Anne Hall

A message from Claire Gillett, Parish Nurse

Greetings, from my home to yours.

This is indeed a very challenging time for many. I am writing to you to assure you of my love and support for all the villages I serve, The Abingtons, Hildersham, Balsham, Weston Colville, West Wickham and West Wrating.

I am so pleased that I am able to offer support to the villages as they set up the amazing community response which involves so many of you getting involved with caring for each other so admirably and in so many different ways during this Covid-9 crisis.

We are super blessed to have such a wonderful array of gifted, kind and compassionate people in our villages.

Please be assured, I am at your service and although working from home, I am able to have direct contact with many NHS services and ways of support. Therefore, please don't hesitate to contact me if you need some guidance/advice. I am available on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 4.30pm on 07498 994205. I will ring you back if you wish.

May I also remind you that, although many services and support agencies are facing challenging times, the teams at Granta Medical practice are available to you and have safe systems in place to see you or speak to you about any medical issue you may have. Also Addenbrooke's Hospital is functioning and, if you need to attend A&E, there are safe 'green' areas in which to treat you. Of course, if you have Covid-19 symptoms, you must follow the government advice. Ring 111 and get the safest and most appropriate help.

There are challenges ahead, but I am sure as a team, working together, we can come through with stronger communities and love for each other.

I look forward to meeting many more of you face-to-face in the coming months, but do ring if you need to.

God bless you

Claire Parish Nurse

Granta Vale Ministry Team

Rector **Revd Iain McColl** 890693: mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Revd Kathy Bishop 892288: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk

Pioneer Minister **Jeanine Kennedy** 893838: jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers **Steven Wheeler** 290396: **Alistair Collen** 894230

Keith Day 891527: **Rosemary Mead** 891718

Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford 891765 Carrieford@cantab.net

Parish Nurse **Claire Gillett** 07498 994 205: 7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com

Parish Administrator **Caroline Walshe** 891443: 7churches.seven@gmail.com

LOVE ABINGTON UPDATE

News from Love Abington: As we journey through this season together thank you so much to everyone who has taken time to love their neighbour. The offers of support, friendship and connection in these extraordinary times have been so vital. Please see below for an update on all that is new with Love Abington and as always do get in touch if you would like to know more or have suggestions of ways in which we can support you or those that you love.

Every blessing, Jeanine x

The Hungry Caterpillar: An exciting new Hungry Caterpillar made from rock art is located at Little Abington church. He is very hungry and we would love to see him grow all the way from the Church gate and meander along the church path to the entrance of the church. I wonder how long he will grow? Please do come and add your painted rock or pebble and see how he grows each day!



Releasing your burdens: In response to the popularity of the Easter Garden situated outside Great Abington Church we have added another interactive prayer space. You are invited, as you enjoy your daily exercise around the village, to choose a stone to carry with you. Perhaps spend some time thinking about the burdens, worries and fears that you might be holding onto as you walk and feel the stone in your hand. You are invited, as you pass the church, to release your stone into the water and receive the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Telephone listening service: I would like to thank all those people who have actively supported others over the telephone over the last nine weeks. The regular phone calls have been so appreciated by those who are isolated, alone, bereaved and anxious. Drawing together in this way has helped others to feel encouraged and strengthened. If there is anyone who would like to receive a regular telephone call please do call me and I can put you in touch with Rosemary Mead and our team. Call Jeanine 893 838.

Helping to stay connected online: Thinking about getting an elderly relative set up to receive video-calls? Mobile phones, tablets, laptops – must-haves for so many, but confusing to who those who remember when red phone boxes were the way to communicate and Abington Shop had its entrance on the corner. There are good points and bad points about most options, ranging from giving the elderly relative a spare phone (cheap but maybe not easy for them to use), through to special devices for people who have never used a computer (not so cheap but easy to use). If you would like more information about options (including costs) for how to get an elderly relative set up to join in video calls, contact LoveAbington. Loveabington@gmail.com Tel Jeanine 893 838

Community Email

Love Abington is launching a community email address that will be used to deliver village news in between the monthly editions of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*. It was felt that a secondary method of reaching everyone is needed, especially in the current lockdown where we live with a forever evolving horizon. When life returns to normal this community email can be used to deliver announcements such as Parish Council AGMs, church and school events, charity events, pub and shop news.

Please use this link by typing it into your internet browser to fill out the subscriber form to join the community email group. <http://eepurl.com/g21ULD> All data held will comply with current GDPR rules; a statement is available to read upon subscribing.

Abington Library

A library, based at the Abington Social Club, Pampisford Road, was opened on **Tuesday 19 May**, providing:

- Books for adults and children
- Jigsaws
- Board games
- DVDs
- CDs

Social distancing is being observed, and hand gel is available on entering the building. All books are quarantined for a week before being reissued.

Opening times: Tuesdays 2pm to 4pm Saturdays 10am to 12 noon

This library will run in addition to the book-sharing scheme in the Institute for those picking up prescriptions.

We realise that it is quite a walk from Little Abington, so we also have a 'book hutch' outside Little Abington Church, where you can help yourselves to books. The stock of books will be changed regularly and returns collected daily.

If you are currently shielding, we will be able to deliver to you. Please contact your street coordinator in the first instance. We would be grateful for your donations of books, CDs etc., and ask that you drop them off at the Social Club when the library is open. We are short of jigsaws at present.

Prescription orders and collection

While we are under lockdown the service for collecting prescriptions has changed.

- **If your medicines are usually delivered to the shop they will now be available from the Abington Institute (in the High Street, next to the school) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 3.30 and 4.30pm.**
- If you don't usually collect them yourself please make sure the person who collects for you knows about this. If you are self-isolating a friend or neighbour might be able to help, or you can ask your Street Coordinator for assistance. The person collecting on your behalf will need to confirm that you have asked them to do it and they must know your full name and address.
- If prescriptions are usually collected from the practices in Linton or Sawston they can be delivered to the village but it takes a few days to arrange. Please e-mail Genevieve Dalton gdalton365@gmail.com or phone 07703 486 562 to request it. Please leave a voicemail if there is no answer. **DO NOT USE FACEBOOK OR WHATSAPP FOR THIS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.** We need to know your full name, date of birth and address.
- **Please note.** The doctors' surgeries are very busy at the moment, so please order any repeat prescriptions in good time. If you are aged over 70 you can telephone your order if you do not already order online.

Community Oil Order

After negotiating with six potential suppliers Rod accepted the most competitive price of 20.75ppl which, including VAT came to 21.79ppl. An order was placed with Conquest for 53,000 litres to be delivered by 22 May. Thank you, Rod (Ed.).

Little Abington Church

A Tour of the Tower

The church tower consists of the Tower Room, which is open to the public (or would be but for Covid-19), and, above it, the bell chamber. In Great Abington or Hildersham church you would be faced with a scary climb up a long ladder, especially scary if you were thinking of using Hildersham's now decommissioned and very much out-of-bounds medieval tree trunk ladder with rough wooden wedges nailed on to it. But we have it easier in Little Abington - a small arched doorway, with a heavy oak door opens onto a narrow, rather dusty, spiral stone staircase, lit every so often by arrow-slit windows. No handrail, so take care. As with all self-respecting medieval spiral stairs they climb clockwise so that the defender above can wield his weapon freely while the attacker finds his sword arm hampered by the central column. I like to think of choirboys long ago larking about on the stairs.

The stair emerges through another now doorless archway into the bell chamber itself. This is a single large space – very high, the ceiling is the underside of the tower's roof. The lower half forms an empty room, lit on three sides by glazed arched windows. The upper half is filled with the many timbers of the bell frame, huge, roughly hewn oak beams which have been fashioned as cross-pieces and scissor trusses to take the weight of the three bells that used to be hung there. At this level there are four more windows, unglazed but with wooden

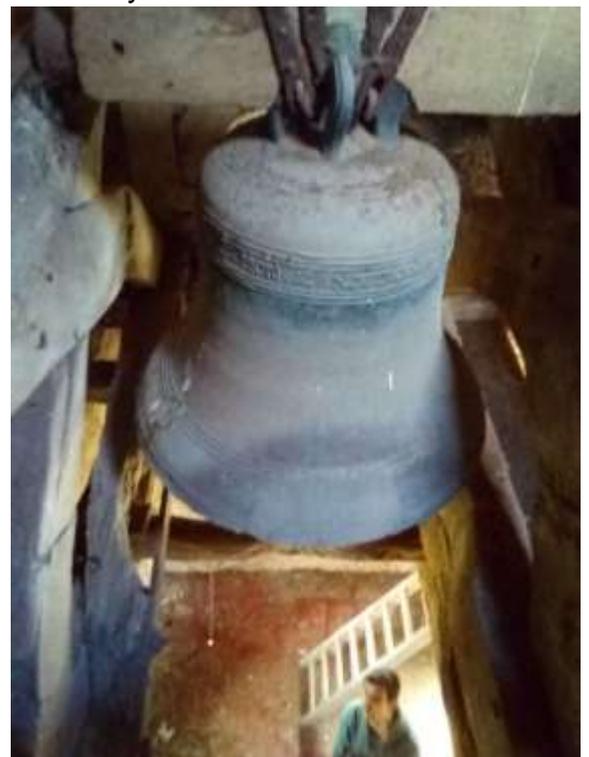


louvres to keep out the rain and with wire netting to keep at out the jackdaws that consider a church tower the very best of places to build a nest. Tangles of twigs on the window sills and floor bear testimony to the occasions when the netting was not sufficiently well maintained.

Within the framework dangles the single great bell. This is no longer swung but chimed - that is, the clapper is pulled against the static bell. Swinging a bell increases fourfold the downwards force so for safety reasons this is no longer done. There were two other bells in times past but these were removed, presumably for reasons of safety – or perhaps the bells cracked. They would have been lowered to the ground through the trap door in the floor.

The remains of a chimney made of large-diameter clay pipes – part of an old heating system – clings to one corner.

Access to the roof of the tower is by rough ladder, an exciting crawl through and over the dusty, cobwebby timbers – imagine that you are a young Hornblower creeping through the hold of a ship of the line – a second even more rudimentary ladder, and then you heave open the trap door letting a flood of daylight into the gloom to disturb the spiders. And there is a spectacular view of Abington all around.



Graham Ross

Little Abington Parish Council

Around the village

Green bins: A sigh of relief no doubt that this service has resumed. However, over the next few months the green bins may only be emptied once and not twice each month, due to social distancing restrictions. The advice is to put out both green and blue bins each time.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (Thriplow): The site has now reopened but with some restrictions. Note that you may be asked for proof that you're a Cambridgeshire resident. See: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/listings/thriplow-recycling-centre

Abington Woods: Arrangements with Granta School are now complete and pupils have named it the 'Granta Hive'. The team at Abington Woods have maintained activities with children and young families over recent months.

Meeting on Monday 27 April (via Zoom)

The Annual Parish Meeting, which was cancelled on 27 April, will not be taking place this year. Instead, we are producing an annual report that will be available to view on our website and the public can respond with any questions.

Planning meeting preceding the main meeting

Bancroft Farm (S/3921/19/FL): Erection of six dwellings and change of use and conversion of two agricultural barns to office space. Despite some minor changes including encroaching less on Protected Village Amenity Area (PVAA), recommended refusal.

27 Cambridge Road (20/01429/FUL): Resubmission of the demolition of existing dwelling and erection of three low carbon dwellings. Queries raised, including roofing material, garages, access and drainage.

Burger King Fourwentways (S/4444/19/DC): Discharge of condition 2 (Screening Scheme Drawing) pursuant to planning permission. SCDC agreed this application although LAPC had objected.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Abington Institute, High Street

Next Meeting: Monday 22 June 2020, Parish Council at 7.30pm

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

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

Updates on start times, meeting agendas and papers are published on the Parish Council noticeboard and the Abingtons website: www.theabingtons.org.uk

Next meetings at Abington Institute

Monday 22 June

Monday 27 July

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. For up-to-date news on the local impact of the coronavirus look for www.theabingtons.org.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-in-abington

Parish Council Activities during Lockdown

Parish Council life is continuing to operate remotely via Zoom meetings that will be advertised three days in advance on the Parish Council noticeboard and via the village website. Anyone wishing to put questions to the Parish Council should pass them to the Clerk at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting. Anyone wishing to observe the meeting should contact the Clerk at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting and they will be provided with a link to observe via the internet.

New Councillors

We are delighted to welcome Jill Carter and Stephen McDonnell as Parish Council members, following our AGM via Zoom on 18 May. Jill has lived in Great Abington for over 30 years and has formerly been our Parish Clerk. Stephen has lived in the village for five years and, as someone whose family loves the village, is keen to become more involved with the issues that can threaten or enhance village life.

E-bikes in the Abingtons – Update

Following the latest government guidelines on Covid-19 measures, we are hoping to hold the weekend promotional event – originally planned for mid-May – in September. We are also looking into the possibility of acquiring a parish council-owned e-bike (originally the second part of the project) sooner than September for free weekly loans to residents, but only if this can be done with complete safety under Covid-9 regulations. We'll keep you posted.

Three cheers for Lockdown heroes

Thanks everyone for helping to keep the community safe by observing social distancing. In particular three cheers from the whole village to tireless Mak, Bhadrika and team, keeping us supplied with essentials, and to those giving their time to the Love Abington group.

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/>

District Council decisions

S/4249//19/FL, 59 North Road – 1.5 storey four-bed house. Parish Council recommended approval; District Council approved.

20/01670/HF (Resubmission of S/1937/18/FL) 76 High Street. Change of pitch to garage roof, increasing height to walls. Parish Council recommended approval; District Council approved.

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute or via Zoom during lockdown

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 July 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)

Hildersham Focus

Scrubs for Papworth Volunteers in Hildersham continue to make scrubs and bags from locally donated duvet covers for use at Papworth Hospital – apparently staff much prefer Thomas the Tank Engine to their usual less chirpy design. The scrubs featured in a BBC TV news item in early May. By 18 May, 65 sets of scrubs and 54 drawstring wash bags had been delivered to Papworth.

Hildersham Helpers are still whizzing backwards and forwards to Abington Stores to collect and deliver food orders for those in the village who benefit from this service. Another team of willing helpers are delivering weekly fruit and vegetable orders from Hillary's Wholesale in Cambridge.

Church News Services are now 'zoomed' to the Hildersham congregation and those of the other '7 Churches' and while the church remains closed for the moment the grounds provide a peaceful and contemplative space for those visiting graves. The grounds are being sensitively maintained to allow wild flowers to be enjoyed. Regular checks of the Church are taking place to ensure all is well.

VE Day VE Day saw celebrations on a smaller scale than might have been the case although many houses displayed flags and bunting. Glasses were raised and scones enjoyed across driveways and hedges.

Welcome Wanderers Hildersham has noticed that runners, walkers and cyclists from nearby villages have chosen to share the beauty of the blossom, the lambs and the spring green against clear blue skies. We have all enjoyed the exchange of cheerful greetings.

Hildersham Parish Council

Report on the Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 12 May 2020.

If there are any residents who find themselves needing to self-isolate please contact the group of Hildersham volunteers who are delivering food and prescriptions, posting mail, as well as offering people the opportunity of a friendly phone call. All households in Hildersham will have received a flyer through their doors with the contact details of coordinators. If you require assistance please contact the volunteer coordinators: Mark Logan (891897) or Billie Chapman (07834 210582).

The Council authorised the repairs to the fence, by the entrance to the Recreation Ground, to be carried out by a local business. There has been no response from the play equipment suppliers whose delivery contractor damaged the fence.

The annual inspection of the play equipment highlighted a couple of improvements that the Council will carry out, including increasing the area of the safety rubber matting below the slide and replacing a swing seat.

Several gates along local footpaths are broken or have damaged fence posts that need to be fixed by the landowners, including one into the Recreation Ground that the Council needs to repair. Pampisford Estate has been contacted about fixing their gates.

Since the Parish Council met, we have been advised that the intelligent bus stop signs requested will be installed both sides of the A1307, at the same time as work to reconfigure the Beech Row/A1307 junction is carried out.

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 will be on Tuesday 14 July. If it is an electronic meeting, parishioners are very welcome to join us. We use 'zoom.uk' and the meeting ID and password are on the agenda. If you have a matter you would like to raise without 'attending' the meeting, please email or contact the Clerk with details of your query. Please check the noticeboard or website for details nearer the time.

County and District Council report

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

We hope that you and your families are all keeping safe at this difficult time. We know about all the good work going on in the villages to support the vulnerable and elderly. Well done everyone, keep up the good work.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Do please continue to work with the SCDC Patch Manager, Sarah Grove, who is coordinating the effort in our area. Her contact address is: duty.communities@scamb.gov.uk. If emailing Sarah, please put 'Patch 1' into the subject line, so that it gets to her faster. Of course, we are also available to help wherever we can. Information is also available at <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

Cambridgeshire County Council

The County Council has a 'hub' online where information regarding volunteers can be accessed: - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you> - A simple online search should find you the correct webpage. This is a hub for links to volunteer support as well as help/advice for businesses.

The County Council is also coordinating the assistance for those individuals who class as 'shielded' and so require more support, as they have health conditions which restrict their outside movements more seriously. If you think you know somebody who falls into this category, do let Henry know and he can make sure the County are aware of them.

Remote Working and Voting

Both the County and District Councils have begun to resume committee meetings again, so significant decisions at both authorities will be made again.

Planning

The planning department at South Cambs continues to function, with most applications being processed by officers in the usual way. More than 90% of planning applications are decided under delegation.

Parish Councils should continue to provide their comments in the usual way.

It has not been possible to hold Planning Committee meetings or to process applications that parish councils or local members have requested to go to committee. There is a significant backlog of these applications.

The Planning Committee resumed with the first remote meeting on Wednesday 13 May. The sole purpose of this meeting was to agree the procedural protocols that will allow us to hold meetings remotely. The first proper meeting, when we will start processing planning applications again, is scheduled for a later date.

Parish Council and member requests for applications to go to committee could not be processed until a change to the constitution took place to make the delegation process 'legal'. This happened at the Council meeting on 21 May opening the way to start working through the backlog from Friday 22 May.

Remote working committees are new to us all, and no doubt there will be difficulties. So please bear with us as we do our best to get things right.

Community Capital Fund

There is a new funding opportunity available at the County Council called the Community Capital Fund. There is significant funding available for community groups and parish councils to bid for, as the total pot amounts to £5 million.

The fund is mainly designed to assist with community engagement and involvement projects. Please do take a look at the full set of criteria here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/communities-capital-fund> - do contact Henry directly for any additional support on this.

Green Bins

The green bin collections started again on Monday 4 May. To start with, it is a reduced service. People will be guaranteed one collection per month with the possibility of a second if there is capacity in the service. The message is put out your green bin on the usual green bin day. They will definitely be collected once and if they are collected twice in the month, this is a bonus. The reason for the original suspension of the service was the reduced number of bin men and women because of the virus. Also, SCDC operate with fewer people in the cab, 2 rather than 3, to maintain social distancing.

Household Recycling Centres

The County Council, which runs the household recycling centres in Cambridgeshire, have reopened the centres on Monday 11 May. There will, of course, be restrictions in place to keep social distancing. Full details can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/re-opening-of-household-recycling-centres>

Business Relief Grants

A plea to everyone who either runs a business or knows someone who does. Have you/they applied for financial business relief from the District Council? If you/they qualify, there is potential to apply for up to £25,000. More details can be found on the SCDC website, by emailing businessgrants@scams.gov.uk or by contacting John and Henry.

Henry and John Batchelor

VE Day Friday 8 May 2020 in Abington



Photos on left by Tasha Whittaker, on right by Derek Smith

The flags and bunting and people come out to commemorate the end of WWII in Europe

DIARY for June – The Abington Institute is closed until further notice. All scheduled classes and activities in the Institute are cancelled.

Institute bookings: – contact preferably by email: institute@theabingtons.org.uk or phone 01223 790 711

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

Date		Meetings to be held using Zoom	Time	Page
Tue	9	Reading Group	8.00pm	13
Mon	22	Little Abington Parish Council	7.30pm	12

Wheelie bin dates for June 2020 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 1 Green/Blue	Mon 8 Black	Mon 15 Green/Blue	Mon 22 Black	Mon 29 Green/Blue
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Reading Group

9 June	<i>Celestine: Voices from a French Village</i> Gillian Tindall	Jennifer Hirsh
14 July	<i>The Sentence is Death</i> Anthony Horowitz	Valerie Hefford
11 August	<i>Everything I Never Told You</i> Celeste Ng	Sylvia Gilmour

Please email comments on June’s book or share by Zoom on Tuesday 9 June.

Lisa Pechey

Abington Gardening Club

The committee have regretfully decided that in view of the current situation we have cancelled the summer garden visit programme. It is hoped that we can resume in September when we will start with a social evening and AGM.

Kay Harman, Secretary

Tel 891 730 email: robandkayharman@gmail.com

Abington Post Office and Stores

New Shop Opening Times & Payment via the Telephone Instructions:

The shop will be open as follows:

Monday to Saturday 8am to 7.30pm Post Office 9am to 5pm

Sunday 8am to 3.30pm Post Office Closed

Abington Stores now offers an online ordering system with delivery and click & collect services. The shop is now able to take payment for orders via the telephone. Please call the shop on 891 271 and have your payment card handy.

Please use the following Google form to place your order: <https://forms/g/e/7xdJnnfvJleSW9P1A> or email loveabington@gmail.com if you would like the Google form emailed to you.

Mak and Bea would like to thank everyone for their continued support for the shop and the delivery teams who continue to assist in ensuring that customer’s needs are all met.

A Food Bank collection point is just outside the shop. A list of items particularly needed for the Food Bank is posted nearby.

Details of the Local and on-line food and other supplies Directory can be found on the village website and a list was on pages 8, 9 of the May News.

Village organisations

Name	Contact	Phone Number
Abington Institute – Chairman	Bernie Talbot	892 647
Abington Institute – Bookings	Dianne Dawson	790 711
Abington and Hildersham WI	Marianne Perry	893 956
Abington Allotment Assoc. (AALGA)	Brian Hayden-Smith	894 046
Abington Gardening Club	Kay Harman	891 730
Abington History Group	Jennifer Hirsh	893 352
The Abington Group (Ladies)	Freda Orgee	891 464
Forget-Me-Not Club	Jennifer Milns	890 252
Helping Hands	Helen Pimblett	891 746
Art Group	Lois Bull	893 491
French Conversation	Rachel Haining/ Judy Davies	892 004 890 286
Italian	Rachel Haining	892 004
Naturewatch	David Farrant	892 871
Reading Group	Lisa Pechey	894 993
Scrabble Club	Sheena Fraser	893 336
Abington Walking Group	Robin Harman, George Woodley	891 730 07733 167 341
Sport and Youth activities		
Low Impact Aerobics/Pilates	Disa Bennett	07798 754 029
Physio Pilates	Christina Heinz	
Yoga	Joan Graham	890 629
Table Tennis	Raj Sangha	07803 786 905
Abington Social Cycling	Gaynor Farrant	07817 517 871
Dynamic Dance Theatre School	Esme Watts	07719 816 548
Abington Cricket Club	David Pimblett	891 746
Abington United Football Club	Denis Tiplady	290 646
Abington Aztecs (Football)	Malcolm Peters	07860 863 723
Abington Bowls Club	Graham Ross	891 564
Abington Social Club	Christine Hammond Rick Stock	891 777 07768 707 567
Keep Fit	Gill Dowden	893 533
Abington Out-of-School (GAPS)	Georgi Blyth	07851 933 451
Abington School PTFA (Chair)	Cory Rivers	07964 191 698
Abington Pre-school (all day)	Angela Lindsay	07974 051 871
Abington Pre-school		894 246
Abington Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Ruth Beach	894 461
Linton Netball Club	Bridget Savill Angela Bridgeman	07972 598 668 07729 879 300

Church Services for June 2020

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings <i>Which you may care to read at home.</i>
7 th June Trinity Sunday	CHURCH SERVICES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE			Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end Matthew 28.16-20
14 th June	<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 in your own homes between 10.00 and 10.30 am on Sundays for a 'Time of Prayer' and on Thursday at 9.00 pm for Compline when, although not in church, we can all be together in spirit. If desired you can join these services online – see newsletter for details.</p> <p>If you would like more information or a newsletter please contact Caroline Walshe Church Administrator 7churches.seven@gmail.com 01223 891443</p>			Genesis 18.1-15 Matthew 9.35-10.23
21 st June				Genesis 21.8-21 Matthew 10.24-39
28 th June				Genesis 22.1-14 Matthew 10.40-end

Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
	No flowers or cleaning while churches are closed.		

Churchwardens

<i>Hildersham</i>	Vacancy		
<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 Churchwardens

<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 (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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