



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

**November 2020**



*Photo by Amanda Palmer*

**Outdoor church service at Hildersham, September 2020**

## Letter from the Editor

November has brought lovely colour to the leaves to cheer us as the evenings become darker. Our area has, so far, had a relatively low incidence of coronavirus so we have escaped the severe restrictions faced elsewhere. It is hard though, especially for those who live alone, to cope with not seeing family and friends and being denied access to the activities and conviviality of clubs. Experience of the much stricter national lockdown has shown what personal resilience and collective ingenuity can do to make life bearable.

The churches have maintained a programme of interesting and uplifting services, first on Zoom and now both outdoors and, recently, indoors. Note the Remembrance Day services and arrangements this year for donating to the Poppy Appeal (pages 4, 7, 20). Hildersham offers a new Pop up Teatime (page 10). Love Abington and its volunteers continue to provide listening ears and practical support (page 14). The Parish Councils are hard at work on planning issues and presenting our views to the council and district levels of local government (pages 10-13). Representations have led to reinstatement of plans for the lights-controlled junction on the A1307 at Hildersham (page 8).

Important fundraising has been organised through sponsored races for the primary school children. The PTFA has run a most successful Safari Trail which found giraffe heads peeping over a fence, flamingos in a paddling pool, pandas looking out of windows, whales in astonishing places, and much more (see page 16). Well done to Sawston which replaced the usual Fun Run with a Challenge Run for fewer participants but nevertheless exceeded its fundraising target (page 9).

Granta Medical ran an impressive drive through system of flu jabs that treated 1500 people at Duxford on 3 October. A new free delivery system for prescribed medicines is on offer and the Linton dispensary email has proved reliable (page 7).

Rod Wilcox ordered 28,800 litres of heating oil in early October for which, many thanks. Rod is now negotiating for faster internet on the former land settlement (page 13).

Pages 5 and 15 remind us that children in foster care in our region, and refugees overseas, will have a better Christmas if gifts are donated from here. The Fire Service has advice about safety and bonfire night (page 17).

Strong community support has brought comfort this summer that will be needed in the months ahead. Derek Patten, who spent his whole life in the Abingtons and, uniquely, worked for 50 years as engineer and welder at TWI, not only relished the community spirit but contributed hugely to it in all manner of ways (page 6). He will be missed.

Valerie Silvey

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

Cover photo in October News: the open-air church service illustrated was held on 30 August and not 6 September. Apologies. Ed.

## From the Seven Churches

### What is truth?

“The first casualty of war is truth.” I am not sure that anyone knows who said that first. I guess it has become something of a cliché. And like all clichés, even if true, it’s easy to disregard.

Nevertheless, it invariably comes to mind, for me, in early November when the British Legion, supplying the poppies, rolls us forward to Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday. For the remembrance of past wars (the sacrifices and heroism, the young lives cut short) always carries with it the risk of patriotism being soured and congealing into jingoistic nationalism. And the truth *about* war – both sides in the conflict, caught up in a collective, brutal dehumanising of the other side – again becomes an early casualty when love for one’s country is exploited by malign forces.

But “needs must” some will say, “You can’t win a war by being entirely truthful. It is not a good idea to pause and reflect when someone is trying to kill and destroy you. Don’t worry, when the hostilities of war are ended, we will reinstate the primacy of truth. After all, it’s a mark of civilisation”.

It is disturbing, then, that in recent peacetime the coinage of *truth* in international and national debate seems (at least in some quarters) to have become what the more powerful players think they *can get away with saying*. For example, about the consequences of climate change, or about the effectiveness of measures fighting Covid-19 and, still, about Brexit.

“Ah, but you’d be a fool to trust *any* politicians.” Another cliché, which to a degree rings true; yet can we too readily accept this as the status quo? Worryingly, has truth lost its power to change the course of things? Or should we be asking, “What is truth?”

Christians contemplating these questions can hardly fail to recall this very same question being asked of Jesus when on trial before Pontius Pilate. Jesus said “Everyone who belongs to the truth, listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?” Jesus was silent because Truth was standing before Pilate; but Pilate failed to see it.

The genius of the Remembrance Service is surely the two-minute silence in which all, Christian or not, can stand together, trying to hold some truth in that silence, however tangled our minds.

Christians these days are probably more comfortable talking about love, rather than truth; and that can surely include love of one’s country. But love left simply as a blob of thoughtless emotion or sentimentally is not quite good enough; and Christians would do well to reflect on their belief that in Christ, love and truth are one. Yet, for all of us, standing in silence before the dead youths we remember, their lives sacrificed for some sort of truth, might do well to make it our resolve, likewise, to resist any cheapening of truth.

Alistair Collen

### See page 16 for details of online and ‘live’ church services

We now have a variety of services both online and inside our church buildings. We are delighted to be able to use our buildings regularly now, but we still need to continue to take precautions including social distancing and the wearing of face masks whilst inside. I Would anybody planning to attend a service inside please let the relevant churchwarden know in advance, so we can keep an eye on numbers - as we are allowed a maximum of 30 people inside a church building for a service. At this present time, please may I remind you that if you are feeling unwell, please do not attend services inside our churches.

Revd Iain McColl

For details of services at all 7 churches go to <https://grantavale.org.uk>

**Donation to the church** Re Page 5 October News: George Woodley made the kneeler illustrated as well as the sampler he recently donated to the church. Both George and his late wife, Marjorie, worked on kneelers for the church.

## **News from the Pews**

It would seem we are still living in uncertain times regarding the Covid pandemic. Planned services are on the back page of this magazine; however, it is possible that the plan may alter somewhat, please therefore, do check the church notice boards for any changes that may occur.

The PCC wish to thank members of our community who kindly leave gifts for Love Abington in our churches along with financial gifts to our churches too. It is enormously appreciated – thank-you.

As with all organisations our churches continue to need financial support. Throughout this year we have not and are not able to hold our various fund-raising events – Garden Party, Concert, Christmas Fayre or large worship gatherings like Easter and Christmas, all of which boost the funds quite considerably. We would therefore really appreciate any financial gift you feel able to give to enable us to continue the valuable upkeep of our two churches. Gift Aid envelopes are available in both churches and from church wardens.

**Funeral** Sadly, we lost Bertha Hannah, one of our oldest and long-time Abington residents on 23 September. Bertha was born in Acton, London in 1927. Due to the bombing in London during the war the family moved to the security of Abington and shared a house with the Thurbourne family in Little Abington, where Bertha made a lifetime friend of Joan who now lives in Church Close. In 1950 Bertha married Malcolm Hannah who also lived in Little Abington. They moved into the newly built houses in Magna Close where Bertha remained until her passing. Both Malcolm and Bertha were active community residents and will be remembered for their fun-loving and caring natures to their friends and neighbours. The love and care of Bertha's four children, who in turn dutifully stayed with Bertha day and night since the passing of their father, reflected their parental love.

Bertha's funeral service will take place in Great Abington Church on Tuesday 27 October at 2.30pm followed by a burial in Little Abington Churchyard. The service will be led by Roman Catholic Priest Canon John Minh, following Covid restrictions. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bertha's children, Brenda, Joyce, Margaret, John and their families.

**Anne Hall**

## **Christmas Presents for children in care**

Last month there was a short article in the magazine from our County and District councillors, highlighting the Cambridgeshire County Council initiative to find more foster carers. At the same time, it is impossible to watch or listen to the news and not be moved by the continuing plight of refugee children and children who are homeless or in care. Therefore, as we approach Christmas, we will once again be collecting presents for children who are in foster care or in the care of social services in South Cambridgeshire. St Mary's Church, the Youth Group and Love Abington are delighted to support the Children's Church Council in Hildersham in gathering together the gifts from the communities in Abington and Hildersham so that they can be distributed via Anne Weitzl at Cambridgeshire social services. This Christmas please think about buying an extra present for a child or teenager who is in care. It may be the only present they receive, and it will bring them such joy to know that somebody is thinking about them. There will be more details and ideas of what to buy, how to wrap your gift and how these gifts will be collected in the December News. If you have any queries, please contact Rosemary Mead (01223 891 718)

## **Derek Patten 29.08.1940 – 05.09.2020**



Derek was born on 29 August 1940 in Ley Cottage, now called Lagdons, in Little Abington. He was the second child to Tom and Elsie and younger brother to Maureen. When he was still young, they moved across the road to No.26 High Street, next to the pottery, and after the war they moved to Abington Hall (TWI). Derek attended Great Abington Primary School and later Linton Village College. He had a part-time job delivering for John Norden the butcher and he also helped Robin Franklin on the farm at harvest time. At 15 Derek started working for

BWRA (now TWI) as a welding trainee and arc welding was to become his passion. Thousands of projects passed through his hands in his 50 years at TWI, and he contributed to many pieces of exciting research, some of which developed into 'world firsts'.

In 1960, at a dance in Haverhill, Derek met Rosamund and they were married eight years later. They lived initially in South Lodge on the TWI site, where Chris and Louise were born, and they then purchased the house on Great Abington High Street from Alan Ford which became the family home. Ros and Derek were loving parents, always supporting Chris and Louise in their endeavours.

Derek was passionate about sport. Playing football in the winter, he was known as a tenacious player with the reputation of not backing out of any tackles. He played most of his football on a pitch at the Land settlement at the top of Cutting Road, in a team with Ray Fletcher, Joe Borley, Ted Hendry, Terry Lee, George Leader, Glynn Hall, Sid Hendry, Wally Potter and many others. In the summer months Derek turned his attention to playing cricket for Abington, following in both his dad's and grandad's footsteps. He took on many roles in the club including 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain, Secretary and Youth Coach. It was a fitting honour when Derek was asked to become a trustee for the Cricket Club.

Ros and Derek were heavily involved in the community and church, helping and organising many events and activities. Derek used his talents as an engineer and welder to solve many a problem and was seen as the 'go to person' to get things fixed or made. There are many items around the village to remind us of his expertise, including the Millennium Bridge, the village sign on the bridge, the school and village institute railings and numerous commemorative gates and benches.

Derek and Ros spent many devoted years together; when Rosamund died in 2007 he was devastated by the loss, and it was something from which he never really recovered. He nevertheless remained strong for the family and kept himself busy, continuing some of Ros's commitments, which included delivering the Parish magazines\* and regular trips on a Saturday evening to light the temperamental gas heaters in Great Abington Church. Derek also served on village committees, preferring more action and less chat! He joined the Abington Walking Group, kept up his bowls and even learnt how to ballroom dance. (\* now the Abingtons and Hildersham News)

Derek showed great resilience in battling his illness over many years. His numerous friends and his family meant the world to him and, during these difficult times, chatting over a beer at the Three Tuns or sharing a cup of tea and a cake with so many kind people sustained and encouraged him. Derek appreciated this thoughtfulness immensely and his family are so deeply grateful for the way friends stepped in, again and again, to keep an eye on him and raise his spirits. We all have our own special memories of Derek and we will miss him very much.

We would like to thank all those people who have sent kind messages of sympathy and were able to pay their respects lining the street on the day of Derek's funeral. We are so lucky to be part of such a kind and loving community.

Chris, Louise and family

## November 2020

### Coronavirus Update

We continue to work hard to keep our patients as safe as possible, along with our staff and our community.

Patient access is by invitation only, following a prior telephone assessment. If the assessing clinician feels it is clinically necessary to see you, they will arrange for you to come in and see them.

Essential care, such as NHS immunisations, blood tests, smear tests, and mother and baby checks, continues to go ahead at selected sites. We carry out temperature checks on both staff and patients to minimise risk. Patients are asked to wear, and are provided with, masks when entering any of our buildings.

As we all know, coronavirus information seems to change by the day. For the very latest news go to [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

### Flu Clinics

Thanks to a fantastic community collaboration with Duxford Imperial War Museum, we held the county's first ever drive-thru flu clinic on Saturday 3 October, vaccinating 1,500 patients without the need for anyone to get out their cars. The weather was atrocious, but it did not dampen our spirits, nor that of our patients, who were cheerful and supportive throughout the day.

We are holding our next drive-thru clinic on 17 October, and we are holding smaller flu clinics at each surgery site throughout October and November. To book an appointment please ring 0300 234 5555.

### Medicines delivered for free

To sign up for free delivery, call us on 01223 727530 or email us on [capccg.grantadispensing@nhs.net](mailto:capccg.grantadispensing@nhs.net) or on [lintondispensary.gmp@nhs.net](mailto:lintondispensary.gmp@nhs.net)

### New Granta Website

Our new Granta Medical Practices website goes live in late October. It has been designed for easy navigation, has an accessibility widget, and incorporates a new, direct contact form. If you have a moment, we would love you to give us some feedback. Whilst I cannot guarantee to accommodate every comment, all suggestions will be taken into consideration. The website address is [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

Sandra East  
Granta Communications, [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net)

### POPPY APPEAL 2020

I am not able to organise the appeal this year due to Covid restrictions; however donations and purchases can be made online at [www.rbl.org.uk/poppypeal](http://www.rbl.org.uk/poppypeal). In addition, large supermarkets will be supporting the poppy appeal.

My thanks to all who have supported the appeal in the past and hopefully will again in the future.

Kay Harman, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Babraham, Hildersham and Abingtons  
Tel: 891 730 Email: [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com)

# County and District Council October report

## **A1307 Update**

After protests by Parish Councils and Local Councillors there has been a U-turn on the decision to drop the plans for a lights-controlled crossing at Hildersham. The crossing is back on the table and work is going on to try and overcome the problem of land acquisition that was one of the reasons the crossing was in doubt. We hope that local landowners will help to make this much needed safe crossing of the A1307 possible.

## **(Another) GCP Consultation**

The GCP will be consulting on their preferred new off-road route between the new travel hub/park & ride site and Cambridge. The consultation opens on October 12<sup>th</sup> and closes December 7<sup>th</sup>. The documents can be seen online at - <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambridgesoutheast/cambridge-south-east-transport-eia>

## **Call for Sites**

Many of you will have seen with interest the list of sites around South Cambridgeshire that were put forward by developers and landowners in our area. It is very important to stress that this is the initial raw list of ALL sites that have been submitted to SCDC. None has been judged by planning officers for suitability and the majority will be discounted at the first stage. We will hear from the council, in around a year, as to which ones are deemed to have some potential housing benefit and therefore will be going through to the next stage.

## **Local Electricity Bill**

In a motion backed unanimously at the most recent Full Council meeting, members of the District Council expressed their support for the cross-party bill which is currently making its way through Parliament. The aim of the legislation is to permit smaller scale green energy schemes, such as community buildings with solar panels or community wind turbines, to supply this electricity locally via the grid. Currently the costs involved mean it is not viable for smaller scale schemes to sell electricity direct to local consumers; instead, they must sell to a utility company who sells it on.

## **Solar Together**

South Cambs. outstripped other participating Councils with well over 2,000 applications to the Solar Together Cambridgeshire group-buying scheme for solar panels. SCDC worked with Cambridgeshire County Council to deliver the initiative, which is a group-buying scheme to help residents and businesses purchase high-quality and competitively priced solar panels and battery storage systems for solar panels. The scheme has now closed for registration, but if the final outcome of the initiative is successful, we cannot see why there should not be further rounds in the future.

## **South Cambs. Hall**

South Cambridgeshire Hall initially closed to the public back in March at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. It re-opened, for pre-booked appointments only, on Tuesday 15 September. Since then, fewer than 30 residents have visited the office as the vast majority of queries continue to be dealt with via the Council's website, My South Cambs. portal, online platforms such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom or by phone. As a result, to help minimise the spread of Coronavirus, the building will be closed to the public once again.

## **Civil Parking Enforcement**

There was general agreement at SCDC's latest Full Council that evaluation of the options for civil parking enforcement for South Cambs. should continue. Currently the police have the responsibility to enforce parking restriction but in practice it is understandably a low priority for them.

South Cambs. officers have been studying the options for a while now but pressure is mounting for some action on this.

There is a particular problem along the City/South Cambs. border areas because City have civil parking enforcement in place, which exacerbates the problem in neighbouring South Cambs. where people know they are less likely to receive a parking ticket.

### **Covid Community Grant**

South Cambs. will, on week commencing 13 October, release a new grant available for community groups supporting people with Covid-related issues. There is £50,000 available in the pot and we will send around the details once the grant is live.

### **Resurfacing**

The County Council have released the latest list of roads which have been selected for a light resurfacing. These are, namely: Linton – Chalklands, Palmers Close & Finchams Close. Castle Camps – High Street. Shudy Camps – Parkway. West Wickham – Maypole Croft. Some good news for the areas that will benefit from this work, which is currently planned for December.

### **Marshall Airfield Move**

Marshall's airport has officially announced the new site that they will be moving to. It is the Cranfield site, which is in Bedfordshire. You may remember that one of the sites considered was Duxford; some will be relieved it isn't moving there and others will be disappointed that the business is leaving the county.

Henry and John Batchelor

## **THE SAWSTON COMMUNITY FUN RUN CHALLENGE EVENT a huge success - £23,000 raised**

The Rotary Club of Cambridge Sawston is on target to raise an amazing amount of £23,000 for local good causes from their Sawston Challenge event held on Sunday 4 October. Having to cancel the traditional Fun Run in May, members and other Rotarians were determined to honour their commitment to raising funds for local good causes and to add to the £468,000 that the event had donated to the local community in its thirty-five year history.

The alternative event, the Sawston Community Challenge, was limited to one hundred entrants who pledged to raise at least £100 each by walking or running one of the two alternative normal routes. Having set a target of £10,000 the Rotary club is delighted that this amount will be exceeded by so much, thanks to the entrants, who braved the weather, and the event sponsor, The Cambridge Building Society, and the other commercial donors.

All entrants subjected themselves to a temperature check operated by PPP First Aid professionals to adhere to social distancing requirements and set off at 10 second intervals. Whilst there was none of the traditional stalls and party atmosphere at Sawston Village College and no bands were playing on the routes, there were supporters who cheered the entrants.

The main beneficiaries are the Sawston Village College Minibus Appeal, Cambridge Aid, the Sawston Sports Centre and many local schools and youth groups being amongst the other twelve organisations to benefit. *(Photo by Chris Worrall)*





## Hildersham Focus

We have thoroughly enjoyed our very well attended outdoor services in The Old School Wood at **Holy Trinity Church Hildersham**. What could have been more beautiful than to be surrounded by the glory of nature as we thanked God for all our bountiful harvest and prayed for those who are not in such a privileged position. See cover photo.

We have now returned indoors with all the appropriate safety measures in place. There is plenty of space for us to be socially distanced but we felt a real sense of togetherness as we hummed the hymn behind our masks. How very lucky we are to have a fabulous organist to accompany us and give us perfectly chosen music throughout which we can pray and contemplate.

Please remember that the church is open every day for private prayer and there are masks and hand sanitiser if you have forgotten.

### Pop up Teatime

We don't always know how everyone is feeling at the moment as we are not all out and about as much as usual so a few members of the church community popped round to Meadowlands for the first pop up and then Walnut Tree Green for our second outing.

There are quite a number of cake bakers in the village so we offered a plate of cakes and a cup of tea to those we visited but we felt that the most special thing about our visits was having a good chat and catch up with villagers. We all had so much to say that it took us quite a while to visit all on our list but what an enjoyable time we all had.

Do let us know if you would like a visit to your door or if there is someone you feel would benefit from cake and a chat next time we pop up.

Please email Amanda [amjpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:amjpalmer@gmail.com) or [Katehuntsman1@gmail.com](mailto:Katehuntsman1@gmail.com)

### Children's Church Council

The children are now back in church for their CCC meetings although we still do activities outdoors when we can.

Our meeting on 16 October involved lots of discussion about children who are having a very difficult time, most notably refugees and children in emergency foster care. We know from social services that donating gifts this year is more complicated than usual so we are waiting to hear how we can help as the CCC are very keen to make Christmas special for these children.

The activity for this month involved glass painting using the theme of remembering as we approach All Hallows.

Our Trinity bunting is growing as more pieces are being added each month.

## Hildersham Parish Council

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on **10 November**. 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/concern before the meeting.

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

# Little Abington Parish Council

## Around the village

**e-bikes:** Several residents from Little Abington have borrowed the community e-bike and apart from some poor weather they have all enjoyed the experience. The week starts and finishes on a Saturday morning and you must be over 18. Contact [ebike@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:ebike@theabingtons.org.uk) to find out more and make a booking – we still have weeks available in November and December.

**A1307 consultation:** Up to Monday 14 December we have the opportunity to comment on the Cambridge South East Transport project and the Linton Greenway: [www.greatercambridge.org.uk/CambridgeSET](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/CambridgeSET). Please also share your views on the Linton Greenway route (through or round the village) with the clerk.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership will be carrying out an environmental impact assessment. Cambridge PPF has published its views on its website which is worth reading: [www.cambridgeppf.org/south-east-cambridge-busway](http://www.cambridgeppf.org/south-east-cambridge-busway) .

## Planning meeting via Zoom, Monday 5 October

**S/3921/19/FL. Bancroft Farm, Church Lane (amendment).** Erection of six dwellings, change of use and conversion of two agricultural barns to office space. Design alterations and re-siting of plots 1 and 2. The site still encroaches on a Protected Village Amenity Area, so, with other concerns, we recommended refusal.

**20/03409/FUL. The Portway, Granta Park.** Internal and external refurbishment together with associated works. Recommended approval.

**20/03631/HFUL. 9 West Field.** Ground floor rear extension, loft conversion, new dormer window and internal alterations. Recommended approval.

**20/04042/PRI01A. 39 West Field.** Prior approval for a single storey rear extension. Queried why we were informed of decision but not consulted.

## Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute or via Zoom during lockdown

**Next Meeting: Monday 23 November 2020, Parish Council at 7.30pm**

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

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

## Next meetings (via Zoom)

Monday 23 November

Details to be confirmed regarding start times and venue on the Abingtons website and the parish council noticeboard. The meeting agendas and papers are published on the Abingtons website: [www.theabingtons.org.uk](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk)

## Your Parish Council

Parish Councils are the lowest tier of local government. The next tier up is South Cambridgeshire District Council and then Cambridgeshire County Council. Anyone interested in knowing which council is responsible for a particular service can find out from the SCDC or CCC website.

Parish councils have several localised responsibilities and are also able to represent the wishes of local people to the other authorities. One area where Parish Councils can act is the establishment of neighbourhood plans. GAPC produced one for the former Land Settlement, which was adopted by South Cambs. District Council, our local planning authority, in 2019. These plans have statutory weight and become part of the overall development control implemented by the local planning authority.

## Road Safety Improvements

The Parish Council has applied for a Local Highways Improvement grant. The proposal is to introduce speed restrictions in the village, either in the form of a speed limit or as a speed zone, with the limit being lowered to 20mph. Residents may notice speed monitors on lampposts which are to gather feasibility data for the initiative.

## Dog Waste

There have been reports of dog walkers disposing of full poo bags in private dustbins. Please use the public waste bins, clearly marked. There are quite a few bins around the village so there is no excuse for not picking up the waste and for not disposing of it appropriately.

## E-bikes in the Abingtons

The Parish Council has applied for a Zero Carbon Communities Grant from South Cambs. District Council to subsidise a commercial e-bike share scheme with a docking station in the village. The grant would enable residents to hire the bikes at half price for a year. This scheme is entirely independent from the GAPC owned e-bike scheme which is set to run until the end of August 2021.

Book your free week with the GAPC-owned e-bike to see if an e-bike will fit with your lifestyle either for commuting or for exploring the area. Loans run from Saturday morning to Saturday morning and the e-bike will be sanitised for Covid-19 safety between loans. For more info and to book your week with the bike please email [ebike@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:ebike@theabingtons.org.uk).

## Life under Covid-19

Parish Council life is still operating remotely via Zoom meetings which 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.

## Planning

Please attend (virtually) a planning meeting if you would like to make a comment, or you can comment on the South Cambs. website (link below). You can also report planning infringements to the planning enforcement team via this site.

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

## Parish Council recommendations

Ref 20/03739/HFUL - 32A South Road - Single storey rear extension and alterations to existing dwelling. Recommended approval

## District Council decisions

20/03344/PRI03Z – Depot Cutting Road, Prior approval for Change of Use from Light Industrial to Dwelling house. PC recommended refusal. District Council refused.

20/02597/FUL – Land at 61 North Road. Erection of a 3-bed detached dwelling house with basement to replace existing piggery. PC recommended refusal. District Council approved.

20/03362/FUL – 19 South Road. Withdrawn

20/03221/FUL - Land North of Linton Road Great Abington

Increase of the garage roof pitch plots of plots 3 and 8 in order to convert roof space into room with external side stairs access. PC recommended refusal. District Council approved.

S/0657/19/FL – 22 South Road. Retention of temporary separate dwelling. PC recommended refusal. District Council refused.

### Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute or via Zoom during Covid restrictions

**Bernie Talbot (Chairman) tel: 892647**

**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 January 2021 at 7.15**

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)

## Improving internet speeds for the former LSA properties

Earlier this year I distributed a flyer to all residents on the land settlement, asking if they would be interested in my approaching Openreach to see if we could improve our internet speeds, by installing fibre to the house (FTTH). 39 residents responded, confirming an interest in taking it further with Openreach.

My negotiations with Openreach have taken some time. However, they have now carried out a survey of the area and initially confirmed it is possible to install fibre to the house, with an overhead system. This would give speeds of 1 Gbps. On the basis of 39 properties being upgraded the estimate is £430.00 per property; however, this figure will be substantially reduced, as they have not taken into consideration any central government grants, or voucher schemes to improve internet speeds for rural communities. This would certainly be available as South Cambridgeshire District Council will have funding. Openreach are looking into this. Also, if we can increase the number of residents participating, this would reduce costs.

I will keep you updated through this magazine. If you are not on the initial list, and would like to be included please contact me at [rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk).

Rod Wilcox

## Community Oil Order

An order was placed for 28,800 litres with delivery commencing 12 October. The most competitive quote was from Goff at 24.95 ppl which, with VAT, came to 26.19ppl. Thank you Rod. (Ed.)

## Love Abington Update

### Good Neighbour Scheme

As we move towards winter, we will all be staying inside more, which may lead to isolation and loneliness. Please keep an eye out for your neighbours and if you have any concerns, please contact your Street Coordinator or call Love Abington on 07761 440102.

### Telephone Listening Service

A reminder that our Listening Service continues to support people in the village. This service is available for everyone and is confidential. We all need a friendly ear sometimes and a weekly call can help us feel connected and cheer us up at this uncertain time. If you would like to receive a call, please contact Julie Cooper on 07761 440 102 to be put in touch with Rosemary Mead.

### Staying in Touch Online

Unless you have a teenager or youngish person in your household, it can sometimes be tricky to navigate the intricacies of the internet. Or is it just me? We have an expert on the Love Abington team who can help. Pat can provide information about options, including the costs, of helping an elderly relative to join video calls. Please call Love Abington 07761 440 102.

### Community Email

A community email address has been launched, which will provide a quick channel of communication to our community. As life returns to normal, this email can be used to deliver announcements from the Parish Councils, shop, school, Church, pub and the Good Neighbour Scheme.

Please type this link into your internet browser: <http://eepurl.com/g21ULD>

All data held will comply with GDPR rules. Please direct any queries to Charlotte Adams [cmhadams@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cmhadams@yahoo.co.uk)

### Abington Library

If you are unable to visit the library and would like to borrow books or puzzles, please contact your Street Coordinator who will be able to borrow on your behalf. If you could let us know the type of books you like and or an author you enjoy, we will try and find something suitable. We have an amazing range of books, all provided by the community.

We are still open at the Social Club in Pampisford Road on:

**Tuesdays 2pm to 4pm, and Saturdays 10am to 12pm**

Please wear a mask when you visit us.

Our 'Book Hutch' is also available, outside Little Abington Church. It is possible to make requests here too.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting our library and to the Social Club who have made us so welcome.

### Foodbank Update

First, we would like to thank all the kind Abington residents who, over many months, have contributed to our Foodbank. Your generosity has meant that we now have a plentiful supply of many core items and even an excess of some (soups, tins of tomatoes and baked beans in particular).

We are now moving into a new and more nuanced phase and we want to ask for your continuing support as we approach autumn.

Our experience so far is that, while people continue to need basic staples (pasta, soups, tea/coffee, etc.), people also miss out on some of life's little treats. So we are very keen to receive donations of chocolate and luxury biscuits, for example – even hygiene products and cosmetics, particularly in the run-up to the festive season.

Please consider adding these to your foodbank donations. (We can only accept long-life/non-perishable items, of course.)

We also welcome cash contributions so that we can prepare packs tailored to the needs of individuals and families. Abington Stores has kindly agreed to host a cash collection point for anyone who would like to give the occasional £1 or their loose change. To get this going, Mak and Bea have most generously donated £100 - this is a fantastic gesture that will help us help others in the villages.

So, please keep the contributions coming – we appreciate everything we receive.

Every Blessing Jeanine, Julie and the Love Abington Team

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Christmas 2020 has not been cancelled. OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is going ahead. Boxes are given to any underprivileged child regardless of faith or no faith through churches or other Christian organisations. It aims to show God's love in a tangible way.



Collection week is **9 to 16 November**. You can get your own shoebox and cover it, or I have flat pack ones, also leaflets. There are three age groups 2-4yrs, 5-9yrs, 10-14yrs, boys or girls.

If you would like to take part in this fantastic project you could do one of three things:

Fill a shoebox with exciting items that children will love to receive.

Donate items for a shoebox, - stationery, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, soap, flannels, comb, small toys, soft toys (can be home-made) skipping rope, puzzle, balls, colouring book, jewellery.

Donate some money to use for transport costs or to buy items (each box costs £5 to send so this is the suggested amount).

Please contact me on 893 232 / 07745046921 or [jane.furlow@gmail.com](mailto:jane.furlow@gmail.com)

The web link <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>.

## Healthwatch

### Three-month Covid survey – final report is published today, 22 October 2020

Our survey ran from May to August and aimed to find out how changes to health and care services were affecting people. We listened to a wide range of people, particularly those most likely to be affected including carers, older people, people with disabilities and those not online.

Were you one of the 1,131 people who took part? Then a big thank you for sharing your experiences with us. What you told us has already helped shape local NHS winter and recovery plans.

There are lessons for all, including the following:

**Making sure communication about changes to services and to people's treatment or care is clear and given at the appropriate time.**

**Tackling health inequalities - especially where people's needs have not been met under the Accessible Information Standard.**

**Building on the use of technology to communicate with people but also finding solutions for people who cannot manage remote consultations.**

**Addressing digital exclusion - many people in our area don't have the confidence, skills, internet connection or equipment to get online.**

**Understanding the impact of isolation on new families and what the disruption of services has meant for families with children or family members with additional needs.**

**Please keep sharing your views**

Contact details: [www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk) or phone 0330 355 1285

## PTFA Update

Dear Abington Community, Parents and Carers,

First, we just want to say thank you for your participation in our first ever Abington Safari Trail. We were overwhelmed by the overall response from the Abington community, not just the school community. Our pupils and village children had a fantastic time finding your displays and reading your information posters.

Thank you so much.



Our next event is the nationwide Christmas Shopping Virtual Balloon Race on 1 December 2020. During November feel free to sign up to eco racing, find Great Abington Primary School under a 'causes' search and buy your balloons for £3.00 each. You will then be able to decorate them as you wish. Then, at 9am on Tuesday 1 December, all purchased balloons will launch from Harrods in London for a 7-day race across the skies. Your virtual balloons will experience real racing and weather conditions, as eco racing uses both to determine trajectory and speed. It is advisable to buy more than one balloon as some of them do go 'pop'! You will be able to track and see your balloon on the website. Prizes include £500 for the first place, an iPad for 2nd and 10 £10 book vouchers for 3rd place. Go to [www.ecoracing.co](http://www.ecoracing.co) and sign up today to join the fun. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Cory Rivers

# Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Bulletin

## Show respect this bonfire night

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is joining forces with local authority partners and emergency services to help keep people safe this bonfire and fireworks season. With many organised events cancelled across the county, emergency services are preparing for a busier night than usual.

There is an emerging concern that more people will plan displays and bonfires to celebrate in their own gardens, which could pose significant risk for those involved.

We are asking everyone to show respect this Bonfire Night.

While most people enjoy fireworks responsibly, they can quickly become a disaster and, in the wrong hands, they can cause injury and damage to property. Fireworks are explosives and should be treated with respect. Only use fireworks in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the firework safety code, ensuring all necessary safety precautions are taken.

We would strongly discourage people from lighting bonfires in back gardens as they present significant risks to residents if they get out of hand. Not only this, but the smoke can also aggravate coronavirus symptoms for those who might be shielding or isolating.

We encourage residents across the county to think twice before having their own displays and lighting bonfires in their gardens this year. Not only do these present risks for residents and our crews, but with the pandemic still with us we all have a responsibility to ensure we do not put unnecessary strain on emergency services.

It is also really important that residents remember the government's rule of six to help control the spread of COVID-19.

If you intend to buy fireworks for a home display, please follow the firework safety code:

- Only buy fireworks marked with a CE mark
- Don't drink alcohol if you're setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and always follow the instructions carefully when using them
- Light them at arm's length using a taper and stand well back
- Never go back to them once they are lit. Even if a firework hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never throw fireworks, and never put them in your pocket
- Respect your neighbours – don't let off fireworks late at night and remember there are laws in place you must follow
- Take care with sparklers – never give them to children under five. Even when they've gone out, they're still hot, so put sparklers in a bucket of water after use
- Keep your pets indoors throughout the evening.

Fireworks can cause a great deal of distress to animals. In a recent survey, 62 per cent of dog owners reported their pets showing signs of distress during fireworks season, with 54 per cent of cat owners experiencing the same.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and the National Fire Chiefs Council are supporting the [RSPCA's Bang Out Of Order campaign](#), encouraging the responsible use of fireworks and the adoption of tighter regulations concerning their use.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - November

		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Wed	4	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	
Tue	10	Hildersham Parish Council Reading Group – via Zoom	7.00pm 8.00pm	10 18
Wed	11	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	
Wed	18	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	
Mon	23	Little Abington Parish Council (via Zoom)	7.30pm	11
Wed	25	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	

### Contacts for classes on page 19.

**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)

### Wheelie bin dates for November 2020 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 2	Mon 9	Mon 16	Mon 23	Mon 30
Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue

The winter collections, with only one green bin collection each month, start in December.

### Reading Group

10 November	<i>Agent Running in the Field</i> John Le Carre	Diana Wingfield
12 January 2021	<i>Unreliable Memoirs</i> Clive James	Dinah Brooks
9 February 2021	<i>Tuscan Rose</i> Belinda Alexandra	Lisa Pechey

There is no book title for December and no plans to meet so far. We hope to meet face to face in November. If this is not possible please email comments to Diana or share by Zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Valerie Hefford

### Abington Gardening Club

The Committee has regretfully decided to suspend meetings until further notice owing to the latest government instructions concerning Covid-19.

It is hoped that the summer visit programme for next year will go ahead.

Kay Harman, Secretary

Tel: 891 730, email: [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com)

### Abington Pre-School and GAPS committee vacancies

The Abington Pre-School and the Great Abington Primary School need to recruit new committee trustees. We are urgently seeking new members to join the team as charity trustees. If you are interested please email Selena [abingtonannexesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonannexesecretary@gmail.com)

## Church Services for November 2020

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings
1 November	10.00am Time	of	Prayer (Zoom)	Revelation 7.9-end Matthew 5.1-12
8 November Remembrance Sunday	10.00am Time	of <b>10.45am Remembrance Service</b>	Prayer (Zoom) <b>10.45am Remembrance Service</b>	Wisdom 6.12-16 Matthew 25.1-13
15 November	10.00am Time	of <b>4.00pm Evening Prayer</b>	Prayer (Zoom)	Zephaniah 1.7,12- end Matthew 25.14-30
22 November	10.00am Time <b>10.00am Morning Worship</b>	of	Prayer (Zoom) <b>9.00am Communion</b>	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20- 24 Matthew 25.31-end
29 November Advent Sunday	10am Time <b>9.00am Communion</b>	of	Prayer (Zoom) <b>6.00pm Evening Prayer</b>	Isaiah 64.1-9 Mark 13.24-end

### Church Flower Rota

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
1 November	Anne Hall	Freda Orgee	Muriel Crampin
8 November		Freda Orgee	Muriel Crampin
15 November	and	Kate Franklin/Fiona Snell	Anne Marie Melloy
22 November		Kate Franklin/Fiona Snell	Anne Marie Melloy
29 November	Patsy Randall	Amanda Marns (clean)	Advent

### Churchwardens

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
<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 Church Wardens

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

### Parish Nurse

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