



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

December 2020



Photo by Andy Merryweather

A redwing contemplates his breakfast of berries

Village information (continued inside back cover)

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

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Letter from the Editor

We shall all be pleased to see 2020 come to an end. Rapidly spreading Covid-19 and government lockdowns brought disease and death, major disruption to education, livelihoods lost and, for human beings who naturally crave company, prohibition of shared activities, and isolation and loneliness. It helps that we live in attractive villages with easy access to outdoor space and the abundant plants, birds and other wildlife around us. Now here we are, nearing 2021 and with a realistic hope that an effective vaccine against the virus will be available in weeks and signal better times ahead.

Covid and lockdown prompted a truly remarkable community response with the rapid creation of Love Abington and an army of volunteers to provide good neighbourly help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, a foodbank, telephone listening service, local library and more. The Village Stores accepted telephoned and online orders and offered a delivery service. The Three Tuns supported local events and provided meals for schoolchildren when government support was lacking. The churches arranged services via Zoom and then adapted to outdoor services conducted with social distancing. The PTFA devised ways to keep the children occupied and maintain fundraising. Parish Councils have continued to deal with planning issues, road and transport projects and, with an eye to a greener future, have purchased an e-bike for villagers to try out. Hildersham is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Village Hall and has exciting future plans. See pages 4-5, 6-7, 10-15,16.

Page 8 reminds us of the plight of refugee children in foster care in this area who will be cheered by donated Christmas presents. We hope that there can be more togetherness at Christmas, including Christmas Day services in church (pages 4-5, 20). To spread a little joy, everyone is encouraged to put up Christmas lights early. On Christmas Eve the churches ask us all to put a lighted candle in the window. At 6pm on Christmas Eve please join worldwide rejoicing with two minutes of bellringing on the doorstep (page 7).

Lockdown in March led to TWI staff working from home and ended 15 years of TWI printing this magazine free of charge, for which we are truly thankful. Sincere thanks are now due to the Parish Councils of Great and Little Abington and Hildersham who have borne the printing costs since April. A sponsor has been found to pay for printing in 2021, of which more will be said in January.

Wishing you a Very Happy Christmas

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the January 2021 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Sunday 13 December 2020 at news@theabingtons.org.uk. Photos welcome.

Community Oil Order Rod will take orders for heating oil from 1 to 7 January with expected delivery from 18 January. Please provide Rod with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, post code and telephone number. Please contact rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07767 686 351.

From the Seven Churches

As we turn our gaze towards the Christmas season, we know it will be a Christmas like no other. At the time of writing there is no certainty about what we will be able to do. We'd like to have family and friends over, to sing carols together, to share joy and laughter but we are unsure what the pandemic guidelines will be. So many things we have always taken for granted seem up in the air!

It's a similar story with our Christmas church services. We will certainly have Zoom services each Sunday in December and on Christmas Day, but we don't know yet whether we will be able to hold services inside our church buildings or even outside them. We hope, however, to gather outside on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve, to listen to carols and hear the story of the birth of Jesus.

So much uncertainty, at a time of year which usually feels traditional and familiar! Yet the Christmas story is actually a mix of uncertainty, fear, hope and new life. A child, brought into a world under the rule of Rome and born in difficult circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's Gospel says, as "Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is "Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'". Words that speak of Jesus' identity and the work of the Spirit; that provide a testimony to the past, a witness to the present and hope for the future.

A traditional Christmas carol we often sing is '*O little town of Bethlehem*', written in the mid-19th century but still very popular today. The last words of this carol also declare that, in Jesus and through his Spirit, "God is with us": 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel'. I hope we get the chance to sing this and other carols this Christmas and, in this time of uncertainty, hear the good news they proclaim.

Revd Iain McColl

Notice about Church Services in December

We have enjoyed many services back in our churches since the summer but sadly until the end of this second lockdown our Sunday services will need to be online via Zoom. For those who prefer not to use Zoom or don't have ready access to it, I hope you can continue to benefit from our orders of service and reflections. Please do contact me on mccoll.iain@gmail.com or our parish administrator, Cazzy Walshe, on 7churches.seven@gmail.com if you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or by hand.

We will have an online service each Sunday in December and on Christmas Day, in each case at 10am. Log in details will be available in our church newsletter. We hope to gather outside Little Abington church and Hildersham church either on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve, to listen to carols and hear the story of the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Eve we will be encouraging people to light a candle in their window in the evening and to say a prayer by it. If we can, we will also hold a service inside our churches on Christmas morning, although we must ask people who wish to attend to book in advance. Please do keep an eye on our church website, www.grantavale.org.uk and our church noticeboards, or perhaps find out by word of mouth, to see if these Christmas services outside or inside will happen. Whether or not we are able to gather in this way, I hope we may continue to support and love one another this Christmas time and know the peace of God in our lives.

Revd Iain McColl

The Abingtons and Hildersham News in 2020.

Sincere thanks to all those who supplied information useful to include in the *News*, so it was published every month of the year despite most of the usual village social and sports events being stopped. Thanks also to the proof-readers and all the people who delivered copies. Ed.

News from the Pews

This introduction paragraph is much the same as in the November Pew News. Loose plans have been made for church services in December. However, we urge you to check church notice boards weekly for changes that may occur.

As we move into the season of Advent which begins on Sunday 29 November, Advent wreaths in our churches remind us that the four candles recognise the four virtues; hope, love, joy and peace.

Zoom services will continue throughout December and plans are afoot for an outdoor carol service and a church service in Great Abington church on Christmas morning, other inside services may take place if we come out of lockdown. **Please note you will have to book if you wish to attend the Christmas morning service as we will have to abide by the government number restriction. Contact the Assistant Churchwardens, Patsy or Anne (telephone numbers on back page)**

There will be Christmas trees in both our churches throughout December where members of the community are invited to tie prayer labels onto the trees. Please do take this opportunity to visit your church and spend a quiet time of prayer or peaceful reflection.

Rosemary's article tells us of the opportunity the children in our community will have to bring a present to Little Abington church for those less fortunate than themselves. An excellent way to show their love in these difficult times (page 8).

Sadly we lost two long-time members of our community in November, Susan Walker and Valerie Benson, both of Little Abington. There are no further details at present. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families.

Anne Hall

Claire Gillett – Parish Nurse

Many of us have cause to be personally grateful to Claire for her loving care at a difficult time and therefore it is with real sadness that I have to tell you that Claire will be retiring from her post at the end of December. Some of you will know that Claire's husband, Andy, has not been well recently and therefore, since she cannot give him and her career the attention they both need and deserve, she must put family first.

Claire has been our Parish Nurse since 2016 and I want to pay tribute to all that Claire has done during her time with us. As well as being a trusted 'professional friend' to her patients, Claire has shown a commitment to Parish Nursing way beyond her contracted obligations and has developed the service to be a recognised and respected professional activity greatly appreciated by her patients and their families and much respected by all her colleagues – we shall miss her so much.

We have seen over the past five years a clear need for the services of a professional Parish Nurse and therefore I am pleased to tell you that we are now actively seeking to recruit a replacement nurse and hope to be able to make an appointment in the New Year. If you know a registered nurse who might be interested in this role, please encourage them to get in touch with Cazzy Walshe or me.

Claire has advised all her existing patients how they can access help after her retirement, and, with the aid of Granta Medical Practices, will give details in the January magazine of how new patients can obtain advice until a replacement nurse is in post.

If you would like to contribute to a retirement gift for Claire please send a cheque made payable to Hildersham PCC to me at:

Fourwinds, Linton Road, Hildersham, Cambridge CB21 6BS.

If you would prefer to make a BACS payment, these are the bank details for Hildersham PCC: **Sort Code: 20 - 17 - 19 Account No: 80085901.**

Please use 'Claire' as your reference.

Keith Day

Love Abington Update

Good Neighbour Scheme

What a year it has been! As we move towards a different type of Christmas, with many of our usual events not taking place, the Love Abington Good Neighbour Scheme is here to help where we can. Please don't feel you are alone. We have some amazing volunteers ready to bring a little cheer. Do contact your Street Coordinator, email loveabington@gmail.com, message us on Facebook, or call us on 07761 440 102. We know it is not easy to ask for help, but we all need a hand sometimes.

NEW - Winter Wellbeing Group

This is a weekly group being held at the Village Institute on **Mondays from 10.30 am to 12.00 midday**. It will run from **Monday 30 November** for 5 weeks and will be facilitated, on a voluntary basis, by Ruth Cloherty, who is a trained facilitator.

The group will enable you to enjoy the benefits of 'safe' social contact and will include:

- Discovering what we all need to feel safe.
- Exploring what makes us truly happy.
- Learning and practising mindfulness (guided meditation).
- Developing skills to increase our resilience and ability to cope with the challenging time in which we are living.

There are 9 places available.

Please note that the group is being supported by Great Abington Parish Council and Love Abington and there is no financial cost to you. The group will be delivered within Government's Covid-secure environment guidelines and you will be free to participate without having to wear a mask or face-covering whilst maintaining a 2-metre distance from other participants.

If you would like to find out more about the group and or book your place – please call **Ruth on m. 07951 977 516**

Telephone Listening Service

I may be biased, but our Listening Service is wonderful!

It is available for everyone and is confidential. 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 and I will put you in touch with Rosemary Mead.

Foodbank

Thank you for all the generous contributions to the Foodbank. With a second lockdown affecting lives and livelihoods, it is more important than ever that we increase our support for any of our fellow villagers who may be experiencing hardship. We want to make sure that everyone has a good Christmas, so we want to supplement our core parcels with little luxuries to raise spirits throughout the festive season.

So please keep the donations coming, both food items (in the basket outside the shop, see photo on the right) and cash (in the collection box at the counter). Thank you.

Please call Bernie 01223 892 647, David 01223 892 364, or Julie 07761 440 102.



Abington Library

Sadly, the library is closed during lockdown, but we hope to be up and running again from Saturday 5 December. In the meantime, we are happy to deliver books and puzzles.

Please contact your street coordinator, or call Julie on 07761 440 102. Our Book Hutch is still available, outside Little Abington Church and it is possible to make requests here too.

Light Up the Abingtons Following an idea from Little Abington Parish Council (thank you Isobel), we would like to encourage everyone to light up their houses, to spread a little joy and light! And maybe this year we can start early! Please share your pictures on the Love Abington Facebook page.

And finally... Thank you so much to all the residents of Little and Great Abington and both Parish Councils who have really pulled together and supported each other during this tumultuous year. We wish you a Very Happy Christmas and let us hope that 2021 will be an easier year.

Every blessing and warmest wishes,
Jeanine, Julie and the Love Abington Team

Worldwide Christmas Eve Jingle 2020 at 6pm

On Christmas Eve at 6pm everyone will come outside and ring a bell for two minutes to spread the Christmas spirit and help Santa fly his sleigh.

Follow the bellringing with a sing along one verse and chorus of Jingle Bells. Let's hear the Abingtons jingle and sing out loud!

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way

Jingle Bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh! what fun it is to ride
On a one-horse open sleigh

All residents, young and old, please join in this magical event that is happening around the world. After this awful year it would be an amazing memory for our community. Let us end 2020 with a bit of magic and togetherness.

Tasha Whittaker

£10,000 available NOW from Sawston Challenge success

Thanks to the success of the Sawston Community Challenge event in October extra funds are now available for local charities and good causes. The event generated over £26,000 so it far exceeded early expectations, allowing the organisers, the Cambridge Sawston Rotary Club, to make additional funds available now to local organisations. It is expected that this will be good news to those charities and organisations that are facing financial difficulties at this time.

Applications must demonstrate that funds received will benefit Cambridgeshire residents and preferably those who live in South Cambridgeshire and state how urgent the need is. To apply for funds from the £10,000 available charities and organisations should complete the application form that is on the Fun Run website www.sawstonfunrun.co.uk The closing date for receiving applications will be 28 February.

Appeal for Christmas presents for refugee and foster children in Cambridgeshire



As we experience a second lockdown, we are all wondering what this Christmas will be like. Will we be able to get together with our family and friends and enjoy Christmas as in past years? Or will it be a different sort of Christmas, a simpler occasion? As we make tentative preparations, please will you spare a thought for all the children who are looked after by Cambridgeshire social services who have experienced suffering and loss this year and who will not be with their families.

The young people of Hildersham Childrens' Church Council, the Abington Church Youth Project in conjunction with St Mary's Church and Love Abington are leading this appeal, to collect new Christmas presents which Ann Weitzl from Cambridgeshire Social Services will deliver to the refugee and foster children before Christmas.

Please imagine what a child of a certain age would like. Once you have bought your gift, do not wrap it. Please put it in a gift bag with a label on the outside saying whether it is for a boy or girl and approximately what age. If it something like colouring pencils and a sketch book, please say for a girl or boy. Unfortunately, this year, we are unable to collect clothing for these children.

We are collecting presents for a wide age range, from babies yet to be born to young people of 15.

Please bring your gift to St Mary's Church, Little Abington or Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham between 1.30 and 3.30pm on Saturday 12 December and place it in the boxes provided under the Christmas tree.

If you are unable to deliver your present on that day, please ring Rosemary Mead 01223 891 718, Amanda Palmer 01223 894 316 or Julie Cooper 07761 440 0102 to make other arrangements.

Thank you for your generosity. I know many of you have already supported the wonderful Christmas Shoe Box appeal organised by Jane Furlow, so I would like to thank you for your continued generosity and kindness. The foster children will be so delighted that someone is thinking about them.

Rosemary Mead

Partridges Under Cover

Virtual Partridge meetings are in planning, beginning in January 2021. Starting on Wednesday 6th the format will be a video or document on current issues of a moral/ethical nature, followed by a managed 'Zoom' discussion.

The programme is in preparation and details will be able to be viewed on the village website. <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/clubs/partridge-group/>

A Partridge <starlings36@gmail.com>

Granta Medical Practices Update December 2020**Coronavirus**

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

Patient access continues to be 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 must wear a mask if entering any of our buildings.

Coronavirus information changes rapidly. For the very latest news and guidance, please go to www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ and www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Holiday Season Opening Times & Repeat Prescription Schedule

Day and date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Wednesday 23 rd December 2020	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 30 th Dec
Thursday 24 th December (Christmas Eve)	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 31 st Dec
Friday 25 th December (Christmas Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Saturday 26 th December (Boxing Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Sunday 27 th December	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Monday 28 th December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Tuesday 29 th December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Wednesday 30 th December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 5 th Jan
Thursday 31 st December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 6 th Jan
Friday 1 st January 2021 (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 6 th Jan
Saturday 2 nd January 2021	Closed	Place order today, pick up 6 th Jan
Sunday 3 rd January 2021	Closed	Place order today, pick up 6 th Jan
Monday 4 th January 2021	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 7 th Jan

You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs easily at home. Make sure you keep stocked up with health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn/indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time, and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Your local pharmacist can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets with many open evenings and weekends.

If you need urgent medical assistance when we are closed please use the NHS 111 service.

If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

For further information on alternative services, please go to our website

www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

Repeat Prescriptions

Please make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in a timely manner to ensure you are not without medication over the Christmas and New Year break.

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

County and District Council November 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 and ride site and Cambridge. The consultation is open now and closes on 14 December. The consultation documents can be seen online at <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cset-eia>

Covid Community Grant South Cambs. has released 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 has released the latest list of roads which have been selected for a light resurfacing. These are namely: Linton – Chalklands, Palmers Close and Finchams Close, Castle Camps – High Street, Shudy Camps – Parkway, West Wickham – Maypole Croft. Some good news for the areas that are benefiting from this work, which is currently planned for the first two weeks in December.

Covid support Given another national lockdown, the councils are gearing up to assist communities where possible. We are in 'Patch 1' and the best contact for support at the District Council is Vicky Hoover – Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk

The best contact at the County Council will be the 'County Hub' which can be found on their website - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you>

New planning updates The planning department at SCDC is introducing a new circular email to parish councils which details all the new and currently live planning applications. Do send comments to John and Henry if you find this useful or equally if this is information overkill.

Social housing allocation policy SCDC is currently consulting on minor changes to the social housing allocation policy. The consultation is currently live and runs until December 18th. The info can be found here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/comment-on-proposed-changes-to-social-housing-allocation-policy/>

Henry and John Batchelor



Abington Parish Councils provide an E-bike (see page 14)

Little Abington Parish Council

Around the village

Reporting fly-tipping, incidents and more: You can report issues you see around the village direct to the relevant local authority. Details of whom to contact are given on our website: www.theabingtons.org.uk/parish-councils/report-fault-roads-lights-fly-tip/. For incidents you witness at Fourwentways (or elsewhere) please contact the police – the more evidence they receive that an area is problematic or dangerous, the sooner we will see changes.

Speedwatch: We will be restarting our Speedwatch sessions around the village in the new year after a winter break partly enforced by the latest lockdown. We are delighted that Paddy Keane, who lives in Moorefield Close, is going to take over the co-ordination role.

Buddy bench: The wooden bench on the corner of Church Close has a new status – as a bench where new friendships can be formed. We are encouraging people to use it as a place to make new friends as well as meet old ones.

Bonfires: Please do not light bonfires one hour before dusk or leave them burning overnight and avoid them when the weather conditions will cause an inconvenience to your neighbours.

Meeting via Zoom, Monday 26 October

The Council discussed the Cambridge South East Transport project and the Linton Greenway. Some areas of concern are: the pedestrian and cycle access to the P&R from Abington will be over the A11 footbridge, and this is also part of the Linton Greenway cycle route to Cambridge, but the GCP does not say it will widen the bridge; the road layout could increase traffic travelling to the Fourwentways roundabout and lead to more congestion on Cambridge Road; the locations of the bus stops for the busway are on the outskirts of neighbouring villages so residents who want to travel to the Sawston medical practice or shops in Shelford will either have a very long walk or will use alternative means of transport; and as the P&R is on the Green Belt the impact needs to be mitigated and the GCP should say how many trees they will plant.

(We have the opportunity to comment on this until Monday 14 December on www.greatercambridge.org.uk/CambridgeSET. The GCP only listens when lots of people comment, so please make your views heard.)

Planning 20/03631/HFUL, 9 West Field. Ground floor rear extension, loft conversion, new dormer window and internal alterations. Approved by SCDC.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute or via Zoom during lockdown

Next Meeting: Monday 25 January 2021, Parish Council at 7.15pm

Sheila Bolden (Chairman)

tel: 07754 659929

Email: shelen@btinternet.com

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk)

tel: 07703 486562

Email: clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk

Next meeting of LAPC (via Zoom)

No meeting in December

Monday 25 January

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

Hildersham Focus

Hildersham Jam Stall

In October, we donated £460 to East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) making a total of £891 raised so far this year. We have already beaten our annual record and are set to raise more than £1,000 by the end of the year, which would be a truly remarkable achievement.

Our efforts have come to the attention of EACH Fundraising, who would like to feature the jam stall story in local media. Phillipa Graham asked if we could send a write-up and some photos and they have now prepared a press release. She can't guarantee that it will be picked up but will do her best.

We are so grateful to our faithful supporters. Thanks to generous gifts of fruit - redcurrants, rhubarb, damsons and jostaberries, to name a few – we have a wide variety of preserves available on the stall. A huge thank you, too, to everyone who buys, donates jars and fabric and makes jar covers.

100 years of Hildersham Village Hall

Our much-loved Village Hall was purchased for Hildersham in November 1920. At a Parish Meeting, on 17 November 1920, it was agreed to buy one of the Government huts at a sale to be held on 23 November. The meeting was chaired by the Rector and a committee appointed of members Messrs. Taylor, Conder, Franklin and French. The hut itself would cost £83 12s and, after various costs incurred in dismantling, reconstructing and furnishing, the total would be about £140. This must have been a considerable sum at the time; it equates to around £6,300 today.

An extension to the hall was built in the 1970s and a Big Lottery grant in 2015 enabled extensive and much-needed refurbishment. However, the main structure of the hall is still standing after 100 years and has done the village proud. Currently, the hall is closed due to Covid restrictions, but we look forward to the day when we can reopen for classes, parties, quizzes and all the events that contribute so much to village life.

John Myer

The Holy Trinity Church congregation and the Hildersham villagers were extremely sad to hear of John Myer's death in mid-November. John had been ill for some time, not that many would have known, such was his characteristic good humour, outgoing disposition and concern for the welfare of others. John was a stalwart of the village in many settings and we will miss him. Our love and thoughts go to Cathy, Rachel and Ben. An obituary will be published in the next *Abingtons and Hildersham News*.

Childrens' Church Council

At their November meeting, the Childrens' Church Council (CCC) watched some videos to give them a deeper understanding of the challenges facing refugees. This engendered much discussion and confirmed the real need to offer presents at Christmas to the refugee children in Cambridge and the villages. The children of the CCC will have a Christmas tree decorating timetable in order to prepare safely the tree in Church under which the gifts will be placed.

Rosemary Mead's article on page 8 elaborates further on this theme.

Holy Trinity Church continues to open daily for private prayer, in line with government restrictions there are currently no services at Church.

Hildersham Parish Council

Report on the Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 10th November 2020.

Another reminder for 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. Please contact the volunteer coordinators: Mark Logan (891 897) or Billie Chapman (07834 210 582).

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on 12 January and is likely to be another remote meeting. Parishioners are very welcome to join us. We use 'zoom.uk' and the meeting ID and password are on the agenda, on the noticeboard and on the Parish Council website : <https://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk> You are welcome to raise matters by emailing or contacting the Clerk with details of your query/concern before the meeting.

The Council hopes to be able to hold a public meeting in the new year to register Parish Councillors as the Trustees for the two Trusts that will take responsibility for the Recreation Ground land and the allotment land, North and South Holding. Any possible changes to land use would require full consultation with the community, as well as getting authorisation from the Charity Commission to change the deeds of the Trust.

After many years as the volunteer Tree Warden for Hildersham, Carol Sinclair has stepped down. The Parish Council would like to thank her for her tireless work and energy planting new trees and ensuring that the mature trees were well maintained on the Recreation Ground. Helen Reynolds has kindly agreed to take on this role for the village.

After months of waiting for the concrete pillars to be available, the repairs to the fence near the entrance to the Recreation Ground are under way. The contractors plan to reuse the existing metal posts that fit into the concrete pillars.

Some of the safety improvements to the Hildersham crossing may not be possible, as the additional land required to build the scheme does not seem to be available for sale.

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 12 January 2021. Please check the notice board or website for details nearer the time to find out whether the meeting is being held remotely or in the village hall.

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



Hildersham made scrubs for the NHS



Magna Close came out to cheer the NHS

Hildersham Cross Signalised Crossing

This road safety improvement and essential part of the planned Greater Cambridge Partnership, Linton Greenway, providing a safe cycle, pedestrian and equestrian route to Cambridge from Linton is now back in the plans, which is great news. However, a local landowner is refusing to sell the small area of land required to construct the crossing and adjacent pathway. It is likely that GCP will now resort to a compulsory purchase order, both costly to the taxpayer and time-consuming, to enable this vital eco- and health- and lifestyle-beneficial scheme to proceed. A great shame to hinder outcomes that would be of huge benefit to many, not least our beleaguered environment.

Return of the Pampisford Road post box

Residents of the southern half of the village will be glad to know that the vanished (allegedly stolen) Royal Mail post box by the footpath to Chalky Road at the top of the High Street has now been replaced. Many thanks to our Parish Clerk and to those who contacted Royal Mail, as it undoubtedly helped the cause.

E-bikes in the Abingtons

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.

Life Under Covid

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.

Season's Greetings from your Parish Council

Bernie, Tony, Paula, Louise, Jane, Jill, Stephen and Emma wish you all the best for a Happy Christmas and better things for 2021!

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 following applications use the reference given below at :-

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

Parish Council recommendations

20/03362/FUL - Land Adj. 19 South Road - Erection of a 2-storey dwelling. Parish Council recommended refusal.

20/04197/HFUL - 21A South Road – Erection of garden studio. Parish Council recommended approval **on condition** that it has the same conditions applied to it as those applied to associated dwelling on application 20/02220/S73 21A South Road - Removal of condition 1 (Occupier) for planning permission S/0759/95/F.

District Council decisions

S/3387/19/RM - Strawberry Farm Pampisford Road - Approval of matters reserved for appearance landscaping layout & scale following outline planning permission S/1433/16/OL for residential development comprising 8 dwellings including affordable housing provision landscaping and associated infrastructure. Parish Council recommended refusal. District Council approved.

20/03409/FUL - The Portway Granta Park. Matters reserved for appearance landscaping layout & scale following outline planning permission S/1433/16/OL for residential development comprising 8 dwellings including affordable housing provision landscaping and associated infrastructure. PC recommended approval. District Council approved.

20/02005/FUL - Land North of Linton Road - Alteration to previously approved application (S/3564/17/OL and S/1478/19/RM) comprising the change to two out of three x 2 bed houses into four x 1 bed flats - with individual access to each unit. PC recommended refusal. District Council approved.

20/03170/HFUL – 5 Chalky Road. New workshop. PC recommended refusal. District Council approved.

20/03694/HFUL – 20 Magna Close. Two storey side extension. PC recommended approval. District Council approved.

20/03665/CL2PD – 45 North Road. Certificate of Lawfulness for conversion of part of existing outbuilding to form annex incidental to the main dwelling house for family member. PC recommended refusal. District Council refused Certificate of Lawfulness.

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute or via Zoom during Covid restrictions

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 January 2021 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)

NOTIFICATION OF FORTHCOMING DISRUPTIVE WORKS

Town	Abington
Street	Linton Road & Meadow Walk
Works Promoter	CB Groundworks
Brief description of works	<p>CB Groundworks will be completing a sewer connection for the new development on Linton Road, Great Abington.</p> <p>They are required to connect into an existing manhole within Meadow Walk.</p> <p>The works are estimated to take between 8 – 10 weeks to complete due to the number of chambers that are required and the depth of excavation that is needed in a tight side road.</p> <p>Work will start in Meadow Walk at the side of number 11. The excavations are estimated to be over two metres in depth but slowly rising as they head back towards the development site.</p>
Estimated Start and End Dates	Week commencing 18 Jan 2021.
Duration	8 – 10 weeks
Traffic Management Options	2-way and 3-way traffic lights
Expected disruption	Some disruption to traffic and residents
Conditions	Advance warning signs and letter drops to all affected residents
CCC Officer Contact for further information	Ben Ely Streetworks Inspector Cambridgeshire County Council

PTFA Update

Thank you very much to all parents and carers who sponsored Abington pupils for the Abington Fun Run 2020. We raised over £3,000! Our virtual balloon race will begin on the 1st of December at 9am. If you haven't already done so, purchase and decorate your balloons at <https://ecoracing.co> and search for 'Great Abington Primary School'.

Due to lockdown restrictions during the month of November, we've put the Elfridges shop on temporary hold. Should the lockdown rules ease, Elfridges will run on 14th and 15th December. Children will be able to purchase gift labels for £2 and choose gifts for their parents, carers, friends, and family. Please check with the PTFA for more details after 2 December.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all local businesses, families and community members for supporting us this year. We are truly grateful and would not be able to fundraise the way we do without you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely, Great Abington PTFA



Photo by Cory Rivers reminds us of the fun of the Safari Trail - flamingos seen in Great Abington

Fun Run

On Thursday 22 October all the children of Great Abington Primary school completed a 0.5 or 1 mile fun run around the village recreation and cricket grounds in their Covid bubbles. The children had great fun and motivated each other and successfully raised over £2,500 towards the school.

Local Abington companies Our Crew supplied the chip timing system and cards, while TWI provided the lanyards to allow each child to have a personalised 'model' for completing the race.

Our Crew owner Peter Harding said "It was great to be able to adapt our system for the race timing, and to see the five classes of children being so motivated to achieve the goal of running around the course to raise money for the PTFA. Our Crew supply crew accreditation systems using contactless cards to the TV Broadcast and Live event industry. Their system has been re-written to provide for managing technical crews on Covid-19 safe events with customers including ITV show The Masked Singer.

Many thanks go to both firms and also TNS, the village shop and the Cricket Club for their support in this event. A final thank you to the marshals who helped on the day and the community for keeping the area clear during the race.

The Abington 10k committee.

Great Abington School Governors and Staff thanked Chris and Karen from The Three Tuns pub in the village for their generous support to the children from the school who receive school meals during term time, but not normally in the holiday periods. During half term they provided a meal to those children if requested.

There is of course nothing normal about this year as we all know. Marcus Rashford (22-year old Premier League football star) has led the charge in this matter, and Chris and Karen have joined in! Many thanks to them for this.

The LOVE Abington community group are also continuing their excellent support for vulnerable families during this time. And our local shop deliveries remain available. It is so good to have this generosity and cooperation at the heart of our village.

Best wishes

Helen Howe Chair of Governors, Great Abington Primary School

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

The Committee was really keen to reunite members for our Christmas Party at the Gogs Golf Club in December, but sadly the increase in cases of Coronavirus and the November lockdown made us rethink our plans and the party will not now take place this Christmas. The Government guidelines on social distancing, mixing of households and car-sharing mean that our get-together is impossible at the moment. We are concerned for the welfare of all our members and do not want to take any action which might jeopardise the opportunity to spend time with our families and friends at Christmas. In the light of what the Prime Minister announces at the beginning of December, the Committee will look again at the programme of meetings for 2021, hoping that it will not be too long before these can recommence. In the meantime, we will be thinking of you all and wish you a very happy and joyful Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

Marilyn Broadhurst

Girlguiding Linton District Autumn 2020

What a term we have had here in Linton District. Our Guiding county of Cambs. East has produced its annual review showcasing some of the amazing things our leaders have done with our girls. Keep a look out for a copy near you. We have dealt with lockdown again and have had many virtual meetings. Girls were encouraged to do an age-related activity for children in need, and remembrance was shared at home.



Our Guiding light is shining brightly as we near Christmas and although we will not have the usual parties and Christmas fayres there will still be much fun to be had. Inspiration can come from many sources and it is wonderful to see our girl's wave hello... as they are passing.

There have been night-time stargazing challenges from Anglia, our Girlguiding region, and as usual our website is full of exciting activities, challenges and awards to do for every age from 5-18 and beyond! Take a look at our website on www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/adventures-at-home which is packed full of new ideas and activities. As always, we are offering our full programme of adventures, with adaptations to make it accessible at home, building skills, earning badges and awards and having time with friends. There is also a special Pantomime Happening in December for everyone in Guiding to see at home. Oh, no there isn't!!! Oh, yes there is!!! Those who were Brownies with us last year had the opportunity to have a go at making slime and custard pies.

Louisa, Linton DC lintondistrict@gmail.com

Reading Group

8 December	Christmas festivities on Zoom	
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 but we plan to meet on Zoom at 5pm to raise a Christmas toast!

Valerie Hefford

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - December

		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	7	Wellbeing Group	10.30am	6
Tue	8	Reading Group – via Zoom	8.00pm	17
Mon	14	Wellbeing Group	10.30am	6
Mon	21	Wellbeing Group	10.30am	6
Tue	22	Christmas Table Centres		18

Contacts for classes on page 19.

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

Wheelie bin dates for December 2020 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 7	Mon 14	Mon 21	Mon 28
Black	Green/Blue	Black	Blue

Freda's Make your Own Christmas Flower Table Centre

In view of not being able to meet for the usual Christmas Flower Workshops, there will be packs and a step-by-step guide available to make your own Christmas Table Centre at home. Packs available on Tuesday 22 December. To register your interest and to get further information please email Freda at fredaorgee@gmail.com or telephone 01223 891 464 by Friday 11 December 2020 at the latest. Limited availability.

Freda Orgee

Improved Internet speeds for properties on the former LSA

Openreach has confirmed verbally that the upgraded fibre installation can be achieved in the next nine months at no cost to the consumer, and no disruption as it will be an overhead system. At this stage BT estimate the monthly charge for fibre internet will be between £24 and £29 per month. The speed will be 1 GBPS. They have asked for a final list of customers. This will be your last chance to join in this scheme. We require a further 20 residents to commit in order to achieve the installation, so please email me your details if you are interested in participating. rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Nurse Vacancy – Part time

Nursing in the community

Connecting with the health needs of local people

We are looking to employ a **Registered Nurse** to work with our Ministry team in partnership both with the local NHS Medical Practice covering the area and with voluntary community groups. You will be providing a nursing service that integrates spiritual, physical, psychological, emotional and social health with the local community, regardless of their faith. 15 hours per week. (Job share considered) Based on NHS Band 5 pay scale. Applicants from any nursing background are welcomed but must be willing to undertake the Parish Nursing Ministries UK training, and there is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for the applicant to be a practising Christian.

For an application pack and full job description please contact

Mrs Caroline Walshe. Email: 7churches.seven@gmail.com Tel: 01223 891 443

www.grantavale.org.uk

Closing date for applications 31 January 2021

Interviews mid February

Parish Nurse Training 26-29 April 2021

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	Valerie Hefford	890 544
Scrabble Club	Sheena Fraser	893 336
Abington Walking Group	Robin Harman, George Woodley	891 730 891 169
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

Village News on the website To see the News before a printed copy is available and to see the photographs 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 Covid-19 go to www.theabingtons.org.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-in-abington

Church Services for December 2020

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings <i>Which you may care to read at home.</i>
6 th December	CHURCH SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS			Isaiah 40.1-11 Mark 1. 1-8
13 th December	<p>At the time of writing all normal services in our churches are suspended although the churches remain open for individual private prayer. We do however invite you to join together with us in your own homes between 10.00 and 10.30 am on Sundays in Advent and on Christmas Day for a "Time of Prayer when, although not in Church we can all be together in spirit. If desired you can join these services online – see newsletter for login details. We very much hope to be able to hold some face to face services over Christmas but as yet do not know what may be possible so, do please watch our website (www.grantavale.org.uk) or church notice boards for further information</p> <p>If you would like a weekly newsletter please contact Caroline Walshe – Church Administrator 7churches.seven@gmail.com 01223 891443</p>			Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end John 1.6-8,19-28
20 th December				2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Luke 1.26-38
25 th December Christmas Day				Hebrews 1.1-12 John 1.1-14
27 th December				Exodus 33.7-11a John 21.19b-end

Church Flower Rota

	Great Abington	Little Abington	Hildersham
6 th December	Advent – No Flowers	Amanda Marns (Cleaning)	Advent – No flowers
13 th December		Helen Rogers (Cleaning)	
20 th December		Helen Rogers (Cleaning)	
24 th December	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers
27 th December		Marilyn Broadhurst	Kirsten Newble

Churchwardens

<i>Little Abington</i>	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564
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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

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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