



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

January 2021



*Photograph by Amanda Palmer*  
**Hildersham Church displays Christmas presents  
for refugee children**

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

**The January 2021 issue of the News is printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd. of Linton**

**Printing costs have been met by BioMed Realty, joint owners of Granta Park.**

## Letter from the Editor

***The Abingtons & Hildersham News* is pleased to announce that we have been able to secure sponsorship for printing costs for 2021. The three Parish Councils covered the cost for much of 2020 when TWI were forced to pull out of their long-term support due to lockdown. We are delighted that BioMed Realty, joint owners of Granta Park, have agreed to provide a year of funding. We would like to thank them, and particularly Orestis Tzortzoglou, Senior Development Director, who helped to make this happen.**

This development is to be particularly welcomed by those village residents who do not have easy access to the *News* on the website. Sincere thanks are due to Bernie Talbot whose negotiations led to a sponsor being found.

Congratulations to E & E Plumridge whose excellent printing service from April to December led to Plumridge being chosen by the parish councils to print the *News* in 2021.

Congratulations to all involved in donating presents for refugee children. The appeal met with a huge response as reported on page 15 and partly illustrated in the cover photo.

This area has had a relatively low incidence of Covid-19 but the virus is spreading at a great rate, bringing severe government restrictions. At present there can be no plans for educational or sporting or social activities. However, the following pages show that there is still a programme of church services (pages 4-5, 18, 20), the parish councils will meet in January (pages 11-15), Love Abington offers a wide range of community support and we expect the schools to resume from 4 January (page 6-7). We have a report by one very satisfied user of the e-bike and the Abington Parish Councils are going to make more e-bikes available (pages 11-12).

Vaccination against Covid-19 has begun and will continue in January with, we hope, better health and real hope for resumption of normal community events (page 16). Please note that the job of Parish Nurse is being advertised (page 5).

We awoke to snow on 4 December (page 7) and may yet have really cold weather. Rod will take orders for heating oil from 1 to 7 January. Please contact [rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 07767 686 351 and provide the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, post code and telephone number.

The Partridge Group recommences this month, plans for a Pump Track on the Recreation Ground are making progress and the PTFA has novel plans for encouraging reading (page 17).

Wishing you a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the February 2021 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Friday 15 January 2021 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk). Photos welcome.

## From the Seven Churches

May I start with wishing you all a Happy New Year with the hope that 2021 will be easier for us all and that we will be meeting up with each other again.

To have a big breakthrough with vaccine is a miracle in itself, and although it may take a while to be distributed, thankfully the most vulnerable are at the top of the list. The scientists have worked hard together to beat Covid-19, and here in the Cambridge area there is so much research with medicine, engineering and so on, that we benefit from.

The parishes have changed in the last few months with a greater sense of community in the villages. People have had time to meet their neighbours because of the lockdown. Help has been given to those who had to isolate, which has been much appreciated. For those who have been helping I am sure this has given them a sense of satisfaction and wellbeing, perhaps even a sense of happiness. Martin Seligman, a psychologist, wrote a book called Authentic Happiness. In it he spoke of a group of students who came to his class to learn about happiness. He sent his new pupils out on an exercise to see who they could help as they went down the street. All the students reported back that this exercise had gone well, and in fact one of the students was quite put out with the result. When questioned why, his reply was that he had enjoyed it so much that he had made a decision not to become a banker and make loads of money but choose a different career path altogether. For 2021 there are new opportunities and horizons for us to explore as we patiently wait for the vaccine to arrive. We have much to be thankful for.

We are thankful especially to Claire our parish nurse who has just retired. She highlighted the need for a parish nurse with new initiatives to help give people support in the community and medical advice if needed, and over the years it became clear that this was not a luxury but a necessity.

So whatever situation this finds you in, be encouraged that there is support out there for all of you.

God bless.

Rev Kathy Bishop

### Granta Vale Ministry Team

Rector **Revd Iain McColl** 890 693: [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)

**Revd Kathy Bishop** 892 288: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)

Pioneer Minister in training **Jeanine Kennedy**

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

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**Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford** 891 765 [Carrieford@cantab.net](mailto:Carrieford@cantab.net)

Parish Nurse Vacancy, see pages 5, 20

Parish Administrator **Caroline Walshe** 891 443: [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com)

## News from the Pews

Although we have been blessed with the opportunity of being vaccinated against Covid, this will undoubtedly take time, therefore we will continue to follow all Covid directives in our churches. This may mean that a church will be closed for 72 hours following a service. However, as we are extremely fortunate to have two churches in our midst, one church will be open.

Members of our community and visitors are invited to write a short prayer on the provided tags to hang on the beautiful Christmas trees in both of our churches. Sincere thanks to Dr Hwa Hsing and Lisa Foo for donating the Great Abington Christmas tree.

**A thought for the New Year:** Let your Faith be bigger than your Fear

**Funeral** – The funeral of Valerie Benson took place on Wednesday 9 December at Cam Valley Crematorium, following her sudden passing on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November in Addenbrookes Hospital. Val (as she was affectionally known) came to live at Jeremiah's Cottage after returning from Japan with her husband Malcolm following their teaching careers there for many years. In retirement she enjoyed going to U3A lectures in Cambridge and was a volunteer in the out-patients department at Addenbrookes Hospital. She will be sorely missed for her friendship and her cheery infectious giggle.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Val's husband Malcolm and her family.

Members of our community will be saddened to hear that Margaret Jones has died. Margaret had lived on the LSA where her husband worked a holding. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughters Emma and Elizabeth.

Anne Hall

## 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](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com) Tel: 01223 891 443

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

**Closing date for applications 31 January 2021**

**Interviews mid February**

**Parish Nurse Training 26-29 April 2021**

# Love Abington Update

## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! Let us hope that 2021 will see us meeting up again. Whatever we may face this year we can be sure, as evidenced by 2020, that we live in a community that cares for each other. Thank you to all our caring, wonderful volunteers, our Street Coordinators and telephone listeners, our Foodbank coordinators, our librarians, our delivery drivers, and our Churchwardens as well as our Parish Councils, The Social Club, The Three Tuns, and our local shop.

Love Abington continues to be a team effort and we are delighted to introduce Izzy Rose to our core team.

Izzy writes: *Hi my name is Izzy and I have recently joined Love Abington. I do this in my spare time alongside being a full-time nanny. I recently moved to the village at the beginning of the year and wanted to join Love Abington to give something back. I have been welcomed by everyone in the village and feel very grateful to live here- because of the surroundings and the people. I'm going to be helping with uploading regular updates to social media for the Love Abington pages, and also anything else I can do in the village to help!*

## Good Neighbour Scheme:

Do contact your Street Coordinator if you would like to link up with others or need any assistance. If you don't already know your Street Coordinator please do contact Love Abington by email at [loveabington@gmail.com](mailto:loveabington@gmail.com), or message us on Facebook, or call us on 07761 440 102. Please also join our Love Abington page on Facebook.

## Winter Wellbeing Group

This group has been a welcoming space where new friendships have been made. All are welcome. Thank you to our group facilitator Ruth for sharing her expertise. There are many wonderful aspects to the group and the Mindfulness has been relaxing and hugely beneficial. As we go to press, we are not sure how the group will move forward, so please look out for posters in the village. Interest has been expressed in attending evening sessions, as some people are working during the day and we are seeing if this might be possible in the future.

Thank you, also, to Great Abington Parish Council for covering the cost of hiring the Institute, to allow the group to go ahead.

## Telephone Listening Service

We are so thankful to our team of listeners led by Rosemary who has been making 100's of regular calls to help people stay connected, safe, and cared for. January can feel like a long month, especially if we are unable to get outside much. If you would like to receive a friendly, confidential weekly call please contact Julie Cooper on 07761 440 102 who will put you in touch with our team.

## Abington Library

The library is open again at the Social Club in Pampisford Road

**Tuesdays 2 pm to 4 pm**

**Saturdays 10 am to 12 pm**

Please wear a mask, sanitise your hands on entry and remain 2 metres apart from other visitors. The library will be well ventilated, so please wrap up warmly. We will need to record your contact details for the Track & Trace system and these details will be securely destroyed after 21 days, following Government guidelines.

Thank you for supporting the library in 2020.

## Foodbank

Thank you for your kind food and cash donations to the Foodbank. Thanks also to Mak for collecting on our behalf. January can be a lean month and, with uncertainties in the job market, there may be neighbours who we can help. So please keep the donations coming, both food items (in the basket outside the shop) 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.

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

## Abington in the snow – 4 December 2020



*Photos by Charlotte Smith: Left The Millennium Bridge, Right High Street, Great Abington*



*Photo by David Farrant: Coach road off Bourn Bridge Road*



*Photo by Andy Merryweather: Jay in Great Abington*

## County and District Council December report

### **A1307 Update**

The upgrades to the A1307, managed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), continue with the next steps being installation of average speed cameras between Haverhill and Linton, a new roundabout at the end of Bartlow Road in Linton and remodelling of the Dean Road junction. Attempts are being made to move ahead with plans for the signalised pedestrian crossing at Hildersham but there is difficulty securing the land required. The GCP is trying all avenues, including compulsory purchase, which will increase the project time as this is not a quick process.

### **(Another) GCP Consultation**

The GCP is still consulting on their preferred new off-road route between the new travel hub/park & ride site and Cambridge. This is a huge piece of infrastructure, so please do engage. The consultation closes on 14 December. The consultation documents can be seen online at –

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cset-eia>

### **Local Plan**

The joint Local Plan, being drawn up between South Cambs. and the City councils, is moving forward. The latest update is that the findings from the consultation last year have been collated and published. The councils will take this information on board while formulating their preferred options, which are likely to be published next autumn. If you'd like to see any of the documents, including the proposed locations of developments, you can see all the information here –

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/>

### **Brexit**

You may have seen the national advertising campaign urging businesses to prepare for Brexit, please do encourage local businesses in your areas to take heed of this. This is still happening and very soon. If commercial advice is needed, the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce is always very useful –

<https://www.cambridgeshirechamber.co.uk/brexit/>

### **Resurfacing**

As previously reported, the County Council are resurfacing some roads in our area. This is due to occur in the first two weeks of December, please keep an eye out for the signs on the street.

### **Covid Support**

At the time of writing, we are about to exit the latest national lockdown and are coming out into 'Tier 2', which has its own set of restrictions, as laid out by government. This will of course have some impact on people and local business. There is a small support grant for business that is forced to close due to Covid, available from the District Council – <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/businessgrant> also available from SCDC is a 'Covid Co-Ordinator' who can assist with most things Covid related. Her name is Vicky Hoover – [Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk)

There is also support available from the County Council, via their 'Hub' at their website – <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you>

## **Social Housing Allocation Policy**

As previously reported, SCDC are still consulting on minor changes to the social housing allocation policy. The consultation is running until December 18<sup>th</sup>. The info can be found here – <https://www.scambsgov.uk/comment-on-proposed-changes-to-social-housing-allocation-policy/>

## **Sunnica Solar Farm Consultation**

Not strictly in our area, or District for that matter, but there are proposals for an enormous solar farm based in East Cambridgeshire, across 4 sites. The company is currently consulting on these proposals and anybody can comment here – <https://sunnica.co.uk/proposals/>

## **Horseheath Road, Linton**

Due to scheduled footpath works relating to the new housing development, the top part of Horseheath Road will be closed, permanently, from January 11<sup>th</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup> whilst the work goes ahead. The official diversion is via Bartlow Road.

## **Uttlesford Local Plan**

Some of you may remember that last year Uttlesford District Council (directly to the south of us, North Essex) submitted plans to a government inspector to allocate 10,000 houses near Great Chesterford as part of their Local Plan. The inspector told them to go away and start again, which they are now doing and are asking for public engagement in this process. Uttlesford still need to allocate these houses somewhere and there is still a risk of them trying to do so on/near to the South Cambridgeshire border, which will directly affect our infrastructure etc etc. John and Henry will keep you as up to date as possible from the local authority angle but do keep your ears to the ground!

South Cambs. now have an online customer-facing business directory to help signpost people to local businesses. It's free to sign-up and only takes a few minutes. Here's the link – [www.scambsgov.uk/local-business-directory](http://www.scambsgov.uk/local-business-directory)

Henry and John Batchelor

## **Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service**

**The following simple fire safety check list can help you avoid a fire in your home.**

**NEVER overload sockets:** Multi-socket adapters often used to provide more plug sockets quickly and easily, are particularly popular in winter. If used incorrectly these can be very dangerous and cause electrical fire through overloading the socket. 'One appliance, one socket' is the safe way.

**Switch off, Turn off:** If it isn't meant to be left on (like fridges, freezers) switch it off and turn it off at the plug when not in use.

**Charge safely:** Only use electrical charging devices for the purpose they were intended for, avoid buying counterfeit, cheap, chargers for electrical items and always keep leads away from cookers and hobs.

**Fat-Free, Fire-Free:** Fat can build up slowly over time through regular use of kitchen devices, and this increases the chance of fire when cooking. Ensure you regularly maintain hobs, grills and ovens keeping them clear of fat build-up and safer from fire.

**Distraction causes fires:** Over 50% of fires in the kitchen are caused by distraction. Pay attention and avoid cooking if under the influence of alcohol or medication or feeling tired. Stay safe.

## 2021

A happy Christmas and New Year to all our residents. Let's hope for an easing of the difficult restrictions on our lives, and repeated thanks to all those in our community who've done such sterling work in reaching out to those in particular need, including Mak, Bhadrিকা and our wonderful village shop, the volunteers of Love Abington and the Three Tuns. We know that there are lots of members of our community who, quietly and often unseen, give support for others who need help. We applaud these people most of all.

### **Hildersham Cross Signalised Crossing**

At the time of writing we await an update from Greater Cambridge Partnership on whether they are pursuing a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire land for the planned Linton Greenway around the planned Hildersham Cross Signalised Crossing. We also await clarification on whether land acquisition is necessary for the building of the crossing itself. If, like us, you feel that this is a development worth pursuing for the benefit of active travel, a cleaner environment and a road where HGVs are discouraged from speeding by the presence of pedestrian traffic lights, please write to our local Councillor Henry Batchelor [cllr.batchelor@scams.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.batchelor@scams.gov.uk) to express your views. The GCP website <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/> has some general information on the scheme.

### **Subsidised Commercial E-bike Scheme**

GAPC is delighted to announce that our bid for a Zero Carbon Communities Grant from South Cambs. District Council has been successful! In the coming months we will be installing a geofenced docking station (essentially just a 4x2m area of hard-standing) for a fleet of 4 e-bikes which will be bookable via an app and available at half price for the first year of operation. More news to follow as developments occur.

### **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. This scheme lasts only until end August 2021 so don't miss out! 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**

Parish Council life continues to operate 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 below at:- <https://www.scams.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

## **Parish Council recommendations**

20/04441/HFUL - 42A North Road, Paddock Cottage - Erection of detached garage. Recommended approval.

20/04402/HFUL - 97 High Street - Single storey rear extension. Recommended approval.

20/04104/FUL - 19 South Road - Erection of 2-storey dwelling house. Resubmission of 20/03362/FUL - Land Adj. 19 South Road Amendment - Reduction in gross internal floor area and clarification of ridge height compared to the existing dwelling. Recommended refusal.

## **District Council decisions**

20/04052/FUL - The Watson Building 11 Granta Park Great Abington CB21 6GP. Retrospective installation of insulated ventilation ductwork to external facade. Parish Council recommended approval. District Council approved.

20/04197/HFUL – 21A South Road – Erection of garden studio. Parish Council recommended approval. District Council approved.

S/4423/19/FL – 36 South Road – demolish piggery and change of use and erection of a log cabin. Parish Council recommended approval. District Council refused.

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

## **Disruption from Works in Linton Road and Meadow Walk, Abington**

CB Groundworks will be completing a sewer connection for the new development on Linton Road, Great Abington. Work starts in the week commencing 18 January 2021. They are required to connect into an existing manhole within Meadow Walk. 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.

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.

Traffic will be managed with 2-way and 3-way traffic lights. There will be Advance warning signs and letter drops to all affected residents

**Contact for further information.**

**Cambridgeshire County Council Streetworks inspector Ben Ely**

## E-bike it, you'll like it – a user report

What a great idea the village e-bike loan project is. I hope everyone is aware of this scheme, which gives the opportunity for all cyclists and potential cyclists to really put an e-bike through its paces. A week's loan is long enough for you to test how an e-bike would suit your life style and bike usage on a variety of journeys.

I borrowed the e-bike for a week in November. My main concern was that it would be too heavy and cumbersome to handle, as I'm just a five-footer. But I was wrong. The step-through design makes it easy to get on and off, and the saddle can be readily lowered to a comfortable height. The e-controls are simple to use after a short handover session, and you're ready to roll.



*Photo by Sam Harvey: Cllr Pippa Heylings tries out the e-bike in Great Abington*

I took a ride over the Gogs to see how the bike would cope. I also used it for errands around the village and for a trip to Linton. All went extremely well: uphill, no problem; headwinds, thrust aside; keeping up with an energetic fellow cyclist, effortless. I took it over the A11 footbridge, where you can use the electric assistance to help walk it up the slope, but I did need to call in an extra pair of hands for the downward side.

All in all, my trial of an e-bike was a very successful experience, and it didn't need a recharge all week. I'm seriously thinking of getting one when we're again free to roam the bike shops.

Thanks are due to the village team running the loan scheme which made this possible.

Gill Smith

(Email [ebike@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:ebike@theabingtons.org.uk) if you're interested.)

## Bourn Bridge Road Protected Verges

Protected Roadside Verges, (PRVs) represent the largest area of unimproved grassland in the county. This important habitat supports a variety of plants and animals including rare flowers. The best of these have been designated as PRVs to raise awareness of their importance.

Our PRVs on Bourn Bridge Road are marked by wooden posts and were started in 2005 when Pat Daunt and others started our local Naturewatch. They are recorded on the County Council List as S52. The PRVs are maintained by the Parish Council with a careful cutting regime and have been assessed each year around June for the flower species present. The number of species has slowly improved such that in 2020 Naturewatch recorded 32 species. This is very encouraging and in line with what you would find on the Roman Road and other natural chalk grassland sites in the county.

During lockdown people on their daily walks started walking along the northern side of the verges and a bare earth path has appeared which is slowly spreading over the verge. It is difficult with the traffic but to help preserve this important verge can we please ask people to walk on the road if possible. If not to keep in single file only, up against the hedge. It is very important to preserve this unique habitat for the future.

David Farrant, Naturewatch.

## Little Abington Parish Council

### Around the village

Merry Christmas and let's hope 2021 is an improvement on 2020!

### Walking on Bourn Bridge Road

A reminder that the verge is not a public right of way and everyone needs to take care not to trample on the many varieties of wild plants growing there. We suggest walking in single file. See page 12.

### Brexit outcome

Who knows if we'll have a deal or not by the end of the month? For up-to-date business advice go to Chambers of Commerce at:

[www.cambridgeshirechamber.co.uk/brexit/](http://www.cambridgeshirechamber.co.uk/brexit/) or [enquiries@cambscci.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cambscci.co.uk).

### Abingtons website archive

Summaries of old parish council minutes dating back to 1894 are available on the Abingtons website ([www.theabingtons.org.uk/parish-councils/little-abington-parish-council/](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/parish-councils/little-abington-parish-council/) – at the right-hand side under History).

### Gun security

The National Crime Agency warns of increasing shotgun thefts and encourages those people who own a gun to take additional measures to store them safely and securely.

### Meeting via Zoom, Monday 23 November

#### Planning

**20/04343/HFUL 30A Church Lane.** Front extensions and new brick wall. Objected to the application – replacing the hedge with a 1.7m high brick wall would be out of keeping with nearby properties.

**20/04649/HFUL 15 West Field.** Single-storey rear extension to replace conservatory. Supported application.

### Planning meeting via Zoom, 9 December

**S/3921/19/FL (amendments), Bancroft Farm, Church Lane.** 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. Main amendment related to carport design. Recommended refusal as the carports are too narrow to be used conveniently, potentially causing on-street parking on Church Lane.

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute or via Zoom during lockdown

**Next Meeting: Monday 25 January 2021, Parish Council at 7.30pm**

Sheila Bolden (Chairman)      [07754 659 929](tel:07754659929)      Email: [shelen@btinternet.com](mailto:shelen@btinternet.com)

Genevieve Dalton (Clerk)      [07703 486562](tel:07703486562)      Email: [clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk](mailto:clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk)

### Next meetings of LAPC (via Zoom)

Monday 25 January, Monday 22 February

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)

## Hildersham Focus

**JOHN MYER- a message from Cathy, Rachel and Ben.**

**I really find it hard to say sufficiently how much we as a family have been moved by everyone's many kindnesses. Your messages since John died have been a great source of comfort. Thank you, each one has lifted our hearts.**

**Hildersham records with pride** that, in October, Cathy Myer was the recipient of the Etheldreda Medal, an award in the gift of the Bishop of Ely. This honour was bestowed on Cathy in a special service in Ely Cathedral. It was wonderful that John was able to attend the ceremony and witness Cathy being honoured in this way. The medal recognises exceptional people who have sustained good works in a community over a number of years and whose service would come close to being nominated for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. *Photo by Amanda Palmer*



As a village we have for a very long time been truly blessed to have Cathy's devotion, pragmatism and immense generosity, both practical and spiritual, to village residents and to all aspects of the flourishing Church, a Church that reaches out to us all.

### **Children's Church Council**

The children have been very busy this Advent and spent a Friday evening making cards and stamping labels assisted by Henrietta (a former CCC member). The cards and labels were delivered along with homemade mince pies to every Hildersham household wishing them a very happy Christmas. Villagers were invited to write a short message or Christmas wish on the label and take it to the Church to decorate the tree.

As recorded in last month's magazine, an initiative that the CCC was keen to promote was the donation of Christmas gifts to refugee children in Cambridge, of which there are at least eighty. We allotted a time when gifts from the village could be brought to the Church and we were delighted by the response which (when combined with the same initiative in Abington) led to over 150 gifts being sent to children whose experiences of the world have included leaving homes and friends and loved ones in search of safety. The cover photo shows some of the donated presents on display at Hildersham church. See also page 15.

### **Hildersham Parish Council**

For any residents 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 2021 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 at : <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.

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

## To the wonderful people of Abington and Hildersham,

On behalf of the churches in Abington and Hildersham, the Children's Church Council, the Abington Youth Project and Love Abington, I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for making such a difference to so many children's lives in Cambridgeshire this Christmas. Our appeal for Christmas gifts for refugee and children in emergency foster care in Cambridgeshire produced a response beyond our wildest dreams.



*Photo by Anna Cooper: Gifts on display at Little Abington church*

Once again, the generous, caring communities of Abington and Hildersham rose to the occasion, even in these extremely hard times. On a cold, winter's afternoon in December, people arrived at St Mary's Little Abington and Holy Trinity Hildersham with beautiful, thoughtful gifts which filled the large spaces around the Christmas trees in the two churches.

We collected well over 200 gifts and we needed two large cars to take them to the distribution point. Social Services were delighted because they were deeply concerned that these children would not be remembered at all this year. These children will never meet you but they will now know that there was someone out there who really cared and wanted them to feel loved at Christmas. Your gifts will always be treasured.

A special thank you to all the young people, to Amanda Palmer, Mary Miles, Marilyn Broadhurst and Julie Cooper for all their time and effort in making this appeal a success.

Rosemary Mead

**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](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/news) and follow the link to the pdf for the month you want

## Update January 2021

As I write this, the COVID-19 vaccine delivery has just begun, with the first vaccines being given yesterday. It suddenly feels like there is hope and a light for us all at the end of this very long dark tunnel.

The vaccine is currently being offered to patients in priority groups first, namely:

- People aged 80 and over who already have a hospital appointment in the next few weeks
- People who work in care homes
- Health care workers at high risk

It will be offered more widely as soon as possible. For further information on priorities and delivery schedules please go to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

The general public are asked not to contact their GP surgeries regarding the vaccination programme. The NHS will contact everyone direct when it is their turn to have the vaccine.

In the meantime, thank you all for continuing to abide by all the social distancing, the wearing of face masks and hand hygiene guidance.

We will keep our website and social media channels updated with developments.

Happy New Year!

Sandra East, Granta Communications & Patient Liaison  
T. 01223 627743 E. [capccg.contact.gmp@nhs.net](mailto:capccg.contact.gmp@nhs.net)  
W. [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

## Your feedback helps NHS and care teams support us all

Have you seen your GP lately? Had a hospital or dental appointment? Perhaps you have care services at home or visit a loved one in a care home.

If you, a family member or friend have used a local health or care service, Healthwatch Cambridgeshire/Healthwatch Peterborough wants to hear about your experience – good or bad.

We are the local health and care champions. And by sharing your feedback with us, local NHS and care services can find out what is working well or needs improving.

Please support our new campaign 'Because We All Care' by giving your feedback about the services you are using.

It is being run with the Care Quality Commission and follows on from our big Covid-19 survey across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough earlier this year.

It only takes a few minutes to share your views with us. And your feedback helps services to continue providing the right support to local people.

Share your views online at

[www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views)

You can also call Healthwatch on 0330 355 1285, text your views on 0752 0635 176 or email [enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk)

## Partridges under the Covers

The first three Partridge Group evenings next year, on 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January are entitled “Our world faces many perils” – Lord Martin Rees, CSER/CU, “Life on other planets” – Matt Bothwell, Institute of Astronomy/CU and “Lessons on leaving the world better than you found it” – Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner.

All updated detailed information regarding the programme and preparation/s will be on the Abington website as you read this, and reminders sent in advance of meetings.

A Partridge

<http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/clubs/partridge-group>

## Pump Track on Rec

The Recreation Ground Committee is pleased to say that we now have a professional design for a bike track, adjacent to the MUGA and the school grounds. We are seeking quotes and further finance for it. We intend to apply for planning permission over the winter and, with luck, get it built next summer. We are updating the information on the webpage: <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/parish-councils/abington-recreation-ground/pump-track-proposal/>

Peter Brunning, Abington Recreation Ground Committee

## PTFA Upcoming Events:

1st February 2021 - Pyjama Day (non-uniform)

All pupils will be allowed to attend school in a pair of pyjamas and donate £1 to Great Abington PTFA. We are hoping that this will also help us launch our month long read-a-thon through Read for My School. The theme is "Get cozy to read!"

Read for My School - Pupils of Great Abington Primary School will be able to sign up for a sponsored read-a-thon for the entire month of February on the Read for My School website -[www.readformyschool.com](http://www.readformyschool.com) Parents, carers, family members and friends can all sign up to donate and sponsor through the website.

Cory Rivers

## Reading Group

12 January 2021	<i>Unreliable Memoirs</i> Clive James	Dinah Brooks
9 February 2021	<i>Tuscan Rose</i> Belinda Alexandra	Lisa Pechey

If meeting face to face is not possible please email comments on the January book to Dinah or share by Zoom on 12 January.

Valerie Hefford

**Contacts for village organisations on page 19** – If I have not listed the persons currently involved please let me know so the list can be updated. Ed.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – January 2021

		Venue – via Zoom	Time	Page
Wed	6	Partridge Group		17
Tue	12	Hildersham Parish Council Reading Group Partridge Group	8.00pm	14 17 17
Mon	18	Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	11
Wed	20	Partridge Group		17
Mon	25	Little Abington Parish Council	7.30pm	13

**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 January 2021 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Wed 6	Tue 12	Mon 18	Mon 25
Black	Green/Blue	Black	Blue

**Note that Blue bin collection is on Wed 30 December (changed from Mon 28 December)**

### November services (not Abingtons and Hildersham) 10am Zoom services available for all 7 churches)

DATE	9.00 am	10.00 am	4.00/6.00 pm
3 January Epiphany		Morning Worship <i>West Wickham and West Wrattling</i>	
10 January	Communion <i>Balsham and West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i>	Morning Worship <i>West Wrattling</i>	
17 January	Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham, West Wickham and West Wrattling</i>	
24 January	Communion <i>Weston Colville and West Wrattling</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
31 January	Communion <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>West Wrattling</i>	

## Village organisations

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
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
<b>Sport and Youth activities</b>		
Low Impact Aerobics/Pilates	Disa Bennett	07798 754 029
Physio Pilates	Christina Heinz	
Yoga	Joan Graham	890 629
Table Tennis	Raj Sangha	07803 786 905
Abington Social Cycling	Gaynor Farrant	07817 517 871
Dynamic Dance Theatre School	Esme Watts	07719 816 548
Abington Cricket Club	David Pimblett	891 746
Abington United Football Club	Denis Tiplady	290 646
Abington Aztecs (Football)	Malcolm Peters	07860 863 723
Abington Bowls Club	Graham Ross	891 564
Abington Social Club	Christine Hammond Rick Stock	891 777 07768 707 567
Keep Fit	Gill Dowden	893 533
Abington Out-of-School (GAPS)	Georgi Blyth	07851 933 451
Abington School PTFA (Chair)	Cory Rivers	07964 191 698
Abington Pre-school (all day)	Angela Lindsay	07974 051 871
Abington Pre-school		894 246
Abington Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Ruth Beach	894 461
Linton Netball Club	Bridget Savill Angela Bridgeman	07972 598 668 07729 879 300

## Church Services for January 2021

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
<b>Each Sunday 10.00am Time of Prayer via 'Zoom'</b>				
3 <sup>rd</sup> January Epiphany				Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12
10 <sup>th</sup> January Baptism of Christ	10.00 am Communion		6.00 pm Evening Prayer	Genesis 1.1-5 Mark 1.4-11
17 <sup>th</sup> January		10.00am Morning Worship	9.00 am Communion	1 Samuel 3.1-10 John 1.43-end
24 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am Morning Worship		6.00 pm Evening Prayer	Genesis 14.17-20 John 2.1-11
31 <sup>st</sup> January	10.00 am Communion			Deuteronomy 18.15-20 Mark 1.21-28

### Church Flower Rota

	Gt. Abington	Lt. Abington	Hildersham
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Anne Hall	Marilyn Broadhurst	Kirsten Newble
10 <sup>th</sup> January		Mary Miles and	Kirsten Newble
17 <sup>th</sup> January	and	Sylvia Gilmour	Kirsten Newble
24 <sup>th</sup> January		Carola Wolverson	Kirsten Newble
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Patsy Randall	Carola Wolverson	Helen Humphrys

### 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

We are currently recruiting a new Nurse – see page 5. If you need help now please make contact with the following:	For Health Issues: Kelly Austin at Granta Medical, Linton Site	0300 234 5555
	For Spiritual help: Revd Ian MacColl or any of the Ministry Team via Parish Administrator	890693 891443