



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

March 2021



Photo by David Farrant

Fieldfares seeking berries in Abington gardens in February

Letter from the Editor

Daylight hours are noticeably longer, and this raises the spirits; there are more birds in the gardens and some of them are collecting nesting material so they must think it's spring. It is such a delight to see and to hear songbirds (see page 9).

Restrictions on socialising and loss of valued activities have been depressing during lockdown. It has been a trial for school children and students deprived of face-to-face professional teaching, and hard work for parents doing home schooling. Businesses and the economy are in a parlous state. The lockdown and the Covid-19 vaccination programme have, however, succeeded in significantly reducing the numbers of people infected, and those hospitalised, so the Prime Minister has now presented a cautious plan to ease restrictions, starting with re-opening schools on 8 March.

Love Abington continues to offer many forms of valuable practical support and tells us that free PPE is now available for some carers. Hildersham Parish Council records sources of help during lockdown and the County and District Councils have supplied contacts if financial help is needed for individuals and businesses. (pages 8 to 11, 15). Granta Pharmacy has a new prescription collection service at Sawston, Granta Medical updates us on the vaccination programme and Healthwatch assures us that arrangements exist for access to GP help for non-urgent problems (pages 5-7).

Church services remain suspended, but the online version is thriving. Posies of flowers will be supplied on Mothering Sunday, 14 March, and a new Parish Nurse has been appointed. See pages 4, 5, 15, 20.

There will be a population census on 21 March. The County Council and SCDC are encouraging the increase of biodiversity and plans to tackle climate change (page 10).

Too much litter is appearing, and the Abington Parish Councils encourage more volunteers to get litter collecting equipment to remedy the problem (pages 12, 14). Potholes are also on the increase and pages 10 and 15 say how to report them.

The January *News* showed pictures of local snow on 4 December; heavy rain brought floods on 24 December (February *News*). More torrential rains at the end of January raised river levels and flooded fields as shown on page 16. We could still have very cold weather to come. So, it seems incongruous that I should now remind everyone that on **28 March British Summer Time will begin and the clocks go forward one hour.**

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the April 2021 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Monday 15 March 2021 at news@theabingtons.org.uk. Photos welcome.

My thanks to members of Abington Naturewatch who agreed to my inclusion of their excellent photographs on the cover and on pages 9 and 16. Ed.

From the Seven Churches

Spring is often associated with a sense of renewal in plants and animal life, maybe even in our outlook, emerging from what may feel like a long dark winter. This Spring that feeling is intensified, looking for renewal after a difficult winter with the coronavirus pandemic. We are looking for green shoots of hope and recovery: through the vaccine programme; maybe schools returning and workplaces becoming safer; through longed for opportunities to meet with friends and family again, and greater human contact.

March is also a time when we journey through Lent, the traditional forty-day period when we reflect on our lives, perhaps give something up or take something on, and prepare ourselves spiritually for Easter. There can be a penitential feel about Lent, yet many this year may feel the weary months of lockdown have been penitence enough! At the heart of Lent, however, is a journey from the ashes of sorrow to shouts of gladness, from slavery to freedom. A journey of gratitude which recognises the true hope we have in Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection, and through the gift of his Holy Spirit.

As part of the Lenten journey, more or less in the middle of it, we also celebrate Mothering Sunday. This dates back at least to early medieval times when people would seek to return to their 'mother church' – the place where they were baptised – on that day. Whilst we may not be able to celebrate it in the ways we are used to, there will be bunches of flowers placed in all our churches on Mothering Sunday which I invite you to come and take. You may then offer them to a caring person in your life, whether a mother or someone else, as a sign of gratitude and renewal; an affirmation of that person and a reminder of the importance of human care and compassion in our lives. Whilst we have walked a hard road over the last few months, an underlying sense of gratitude, care and hope is essential to our humanity and allows us to re-discover renewal in our own lives and in the lives of others. Let us pray for this renewal in ourselves and the places where we live and work, and act with faith, hope and love.

Revd Iain McColl

Women's Day of Prayer – Friday 5 March

This year the service will be via Zoom starting at 10.30am, when we will be celebrating the words and music of the women of Vanuatu. Log in details and an order of service can be found in the weekly church newsletter or on the Granta Vale website www.grantavale.org.uk All are welcome.

Revd. Kathy Bishop (tel. 892 288)

Granta Vale Ministry Team

Rector **Revd Iain McColl** 890 693: mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Revd Kathy Bishop 892 288: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk

Pioneer Minister in training **Jeanine Kennedy**

893 838: jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers **Steven Wheeler** 290 396: **Alistair Collen** 894 230

Keith Day 891 527: **Rosemary Mead** 891 718

Youth worker Sam Graham 07552 658 811 sgraham@cambridgeyfc.uk

Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford 891 765 Carrieford@cantab.net

Parish Nurse see page 5

Parish Administrator **Caroline Walshe** 891 443: 7churches.seven@gmail.com

News from the Pews

As this article is written (15 February) we are still in Lockdown with no services being held in our churches and no indication as to when this will happen again. We are, however, hopeful that due to the amazing vaccination programme things will return to near normal very soon. For all update information go to the Seven Churches website, which gives continual up to date information, we encourage you to check regularly. Once services begin there will also be notices on both church notice boards. All our various services and times of prayer are on Zoom which you are welcome to join by contacting our church administrator Cazzy (details on the church website). It is important to keep our faith during these unprecedented times.

Funding for our churches like so many businesses and charities is a huge issue for the PCC in these times, making plans for events that probably won't happen does seem a fruitless exercise. However, we have two events which we can plan with no impact from the pandemic whatsoever.....

The first event, **Abington Scarecrow Festival**, will take place from Saturday 29 May until Saturday 5 June. We invite, and will welcome, friends and families from South Road Great Abington to Bourn Bridge Road Little Abington to take part. For further details and bookings (bookings are essential for the programme) contact; anneandglynhall@gmail.com

Our next 'Covid-safe' event will be **Advent Windows** in December. Details for this will follow later.

Our uncertain plans are the Vicarage Garden Party and the Christmas Fayre.

Anne Hall

Parish Nurse Appointment

The Parish Nurse Management Group are delighted to announce the appointment of Kim Cox as our Parish Nurse. Kim has wide experience in a variety of nursing posts both in hospital and the community and welcomes the opportunity to develop her skills in Parish Nursing. Kim and her family live locally and she is looking forward to getting to know as many of us as possible as she takes up her post – her aim is to make a difference to her patients' lives!

Kim will start her induction in March and will introduce herself in the April magazines where contact details will also be published. I am sure you will join me in offering Kim a warm welcome.

Keith Day

Granta Pharmacy Update March 2021

Our new **Automated Prescriptions Collection Point** in Sawston is now open! You can collect your medicines 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, including weekends and bank holidays. You will need a valid mobile telephone number, to which a unique pin number will be sent when your prescription is ready for collection. It's a simple as that.

To sign up to this great new service pick up a leaflet from the Sawston dispensing hatch, ring 01223 727 530 or email us on capccg.grantadispensing@nhs.net

If you can't get out to collect your medicines, why not take advantage of our **free home delivery service**. Please ring 01223 727 530 for further information and to sign up. We look forward to hearing from you.

Granta Medical Practices Update March 2021

It is amazing to think that the UK has been in an emergency state for a year. We are now in our third national lockdown, and everyday life has changed beyond all recognition.

There is, however, a tiny light at the end of this long, dark tunnel and it is shining just a little brighter day by day with the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

As I write this (08/02/2021), we have vaccinated around 7,000 of our patients in cohorts 1 to 4. We continue to work our way through the priority groups, as instructed by NHS England.

You may be invited by us, or you may receive an NHS England letter inviting you to attend a mass vaccination centre. It is entirely your choice where you would like to go. All vaccinations are recorded on a national database so please be assured that you will not be missed.

Information about the virus and the vaccine changes daily, sometimes even hourly. To keep completely up to date with the latest guidance it is advisable to look at the Government website www.gov.uk and the NHS UK website www.nhs.uk If you know of someone who does not have access to a computer and you do, please help them get the latest information.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me direct on 01223 627743 or sandra.east@nhs.net

Sandra East, Granta Communications & Patient Liaison

Online contacts: . capccq.contact.gmp@nhs.net and www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Many staff are about to start their second year on the frontline of the Covid-19 pandemic. And lots of people have told us how hard they are finding the current lockdown. With long waits for non-urgent treatment, our Healthwatch is urging everyone to stay mindful of each other's struggles and challenges.

CEO Sandie Smith says "Our NHS and care services are under huge stress and the staff are working incredibly hard to support the sickest patients, at the same time as continuing to be there for everyone who needs care. They are also rolling out the Covid-19 vaccine (over 147,000 vaccines as of 31 January). As the number of people in hospital with Covid hopefully continues to decline, more of the people waiting for non-urgent treatment will be seen. Unfortunately, it will still be many weeks or even months for some patients and, understandably, it is a very stressful time for those who are continuing to wait.

Sandie reassured people that they had not been forgotten. She said that GP referrals were continuing and were being triaged. Hospital waiting lists are being managed with patients most at risk from a delay in diagnosis or treatment being seen first.

Tell us about your experience.

How are you managing? The way most services are provided has changed to help keep people safe from Covid-19. So please keep sharing your health and care experiences with us. Your feedback can help services spot issues that are affecting care.

Phone 0330 355 1285 or online www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

NHS PRIORITY GROUPS FOR VACCINATION



COVID-19 vaccination

First phase priority groups



Priority	Risk group
1	Residents in a care home for older adults and Staff working in care homes for older adults
2	All those 80 years of age and over and Health and social care workers
3	All those 75 years of age and over
4	All those 70 years of age and over and Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those under 18 years of age)
5	All those 65 years of age and over
6	Adults aged 18 to 65 years in an at-risk group*
7	All those 60 years of age and over
8	All those 55 years of age and over
9	All those 50 years of age and over
10	Rest of the population (to be determined)

* Blood cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma); diabetes; dementia; a heart problem; a chest complaint or breathing difficulties, including bronchitis, emphysema or severe asthma; a kidney disease; a liver disease, lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (such as HIV infection, steroid medication, chemotherapy or radiotherapy); rheumatoid arthritis, lupus or psoriasis; have had an organ transplant; had a stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA); a neurological or muscle wasting condition; a severe or profound learning disability; a problem with your spleen, eg sickle cell disease, or you have had your spleen removed; are seriously overweight (BMI of 40 and above); are severely mentally ill.



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British Summer Time begins – Sunday 28 March, clocks go forward one hour

Love Abington Update

Flowers for Mothering Sunday 14 March

The Churches have always provided beautiful posies of flowers at the Mothering Sunday service each year. Although there will be no service this year, they would like to invite everyone to come to either Great or Little Abington Church to collect a posy for a loved one or a neighbour who may need some comfort on this special day. Love Abington volunteers will also help to deliver posies to those who are unable to leave their homes. Great and Little Abington Churches will be open from **9.30am to 4.30pm on Sunday 14 March.**

February Hearts

Thank you to everyone who took part in 'February Hearts' by displaying hearts in their windows. It was lovely to see them throughout the village and they were all so creative. We hope they have spread a little love and joy. We will announce the prize winners in next month's News.

Prescriptions

Please note that the dispensaries have asked us to return any uncollected prescriptions after four weeks. If you are unable to collect your prescription from the Village Institute, your Street Coordinator would be happy to do so for you.

Granta Medical Practice are also offering free medicine delivery to your home.

Please call 01223 727 530 or email: capccg.grantadispensing@nhs.net

Prescriptions are available for collection from the Institute on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, between 3.30 to 4.30pm.** If you have any queries, please call: 07908 029078.

Telephone listening service

Our Listening Service offers a weekly phone call, for a chat and to share concerns. Finding someone who will listen can relieve the weight of anxiety even if there is no immediate solution. It is important for us to name our fears but not dwell inside them. If practical problems arise, then our marvellous team of street coordinators will be able to help you with those situations and the telephone listener can put you in touch with them.

Please consider ringing 07761 440 102. All calls are treated in the strictest confidence. Rosemary Mead will organise a member of the telephone listening team to ring you and arrange a suitable time to contact you on a weekly basis.

Our Volunteers enjoy helping!

We want to emphasise that our volunteers really enjoy meeting and assisting our neighbours. We understand that it is not always easy to ask for help, but it is good for us too. Please contact your Street Coordinator if you would like assistance with shopping, collecting prescriptions or for anything you need help with. If you need your Street Coordinator's contact details, please call Julie: 07761 440 102

Food Bank

We continue to welcome food or cash donations at the shop. Thank you for your generosity so far; it is really making a difference. Thank you to Mak and Bea for being the collection point for the village.

If you are short of food, please get in touch and we can arrange delivery. Please contact David on 01223 892 364 or Julie on 07761 440 102, or email: loveabington@gmail.com

Headroom

The BBC have launched a new website with ideas to support our wellbeing. It includes everyday tips; inspiring personal stories; music and nature soundtracks; links to programmes about nature; help with sleep issues and many more ideas. It looks great and there are ideas for every age group. Contact www.bbc.co.uk/headroom

PPE for Carers

The Government has confirmed that unpaid carers across the country, who do not live with the people they care for, can now benefit from free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through a new national scheme. Locally, if someone is a carer to a relative, and requires PPE, they could be entitled to free PPE until the end of June 2021. They will need to email ppe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to request an order form. PPE can then be collected from a PPE Hub in the county – these are based in Peterborough, Huntingdon, March, Cambridge (Trumpington).

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

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 29-31 January

The last weekend in January found great numbers of people recording birds for the RSPB. The following and many more were recorded in the Abingtons. Blue Tit and Robin by Barry Brooks; Great Spotted Woodpecker and Goldfinch by David Farrant. What joy!



County and District Council

District and County Councillors' Report – February 2021

A1307 Update

The process of upgrading the road continues and we have an update this month. The proposed west-bound bus lane past Linton, which would have served very few buses (and little purpose) for a £1M+ investment, is now recommended for removal from the scheme by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), this followed some good campaigning by your parish councils and local councillors. The much needed signalised pedestrian crossing at the Hildersham junction is now making forward progress, with a re-designed scheme more acceptable to the landowner.

However, some negative news is that the travel hub (a mini park and ride) at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton has been removed from contention owing to a lack of confidence that it would receive planning permission. There is space for a travel hub, albeit it isn't in the GCP's plans to build one with the funds that they have. Also, there currently aren't any plans to build any pedestrian foot/cycle/equestrian paths to the east of Linton, meaning some villages, which aren't located on the road, wouldn't be able to feed into the A1307 corridor and use the new upgrades – the main thrust of the GCP funding was to get people out of cars and onto public transport/greener modes of transport. Pressure will be maintained for this and as much support that parish councils and members of the public can put onto the GCP for this, the greater the demonstration is that this is wanted!

Vaccines

The local surgery, Granta Medical Practice, has begun rolling out the Covid vaccinations from the Sawston centre and is making good progress. Feedback on delivery has been positive so far but do let John and Henry know if anyone has come across any issues. There is support for those that need help travelling to their appointment available from the County Council.

Local Authority Covid Support

At time of writing, we are still in national lock-down, with restrictions as laid out by government, which can be seen here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Small support grants for businesses that are forced to close due to Covid, are available from the District Council - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/businessgrant>

There is also financial support for 'wet pubs' from the District Council, this is to support pubs, and other businesses, whose income is more than 50% from drinks alone - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/financial-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-s-pubs-now-available/>

Also available from SCDC is a 'Covid Co-Ordinator' who can assist with most things Covid related, including advice and directing to these various grants. Her name is Vicky Hoover – Vicky.hoover@scams.gov.uk

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

Budgets

February is budget month, where local authorities will agree a budget for the forthcoming municipal year. It is likely that council tax will be increased on both District and County councils, we will report back in March with specifics after they are agreed.

Parliamentary Boundary Review

There will be a review of the parliamentary boundaries this year. These are the areas that our MPs will cover. Interestingly, given the increase in numbers, the East of England will need to have more MPs, so it will be interesting to see where they are allocated. There will be a public consultation later in the year, about which John and Henry will update you.

Census

This year brings the next Census, which will take place on 21 March. The County Council has a liaison team helping with the roll out and completion of this process.

Local Directory

South Cambs. have set up a local business directory to help promote local business during this time of difficulty, which looks set to continue. Businesses can register themselves on the website and be seen publicly - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-business-directory>

Doubling Nature Strategy

A high-level strategy for 'Doubling Nature' in South Cambridgeshire, setting out an approach to increasing wildlife-rich habitats and the tree canopy and improving access to green spaces, has been given the go-ahead by the SCDC Cabinet. As part of the strategy, SCDC will aim for 20% biodiversity net gain from new developments.

Climate and Environment fortnight

Starting on Monday 22 February, the Council will be marking Climate and Environment fortnight 2021 with a series of free online webinars featuring guest speakers, activities and information to help people think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and in turn help tackle climate change.

The topics covered will be: Greener businesses - Thursday 25 February; Sustainable farming in Cambridgeshire - Friday 26 February; Greening your older home, tips and inspiration - Tuesday 2 March; Shrinking your Carbon footprint webinar - Wednesday 3rd March; Food for our Future workshop - Thursday 4 March. For more details see <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-and-environment-fortnight-2021-events/>

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant

Of the three sites considered, Anglian Water have selected the site between Fen Ditton and Horningsea to relocate Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Henry and John Batchelor

Abington Hall – a note from TWI

TWI are currently engaged in a project to undertake some much-needed renovations and repairs to Abington Hall. The work will be jointly funded by public grant and by TWI and should result in significant improvements to both the inside and outside of the building.

As a Grade II* Listed building there are protections in place as to what construction work we can and cannot do that we must adhere to and we are in discussion with the Conservation Officer at Greater Cambridge Planning on this subject to ensure we work collaboratively to meet these requirements. We are also in the process of engaging specialist contractors to undertake the restoration work, which will comply with the Conservation Officer's requirements. The project, which is in the planning stages, should be completed by the end of March 2022 to satisfy the funding body requirements. We will share information on the progress of the renovations as work gets under way.

Potholing for beginners

Hey, road users! Any cavernous craters along your local routes? Fancy telling someone who can repair them? If so, be a hero and visit

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults> to tell them all about it.

Light at the end of the... lamp posts

Is it darker than normal in your life? Look up and check your street lamps are working – if not, please make a note of the lamp post number and report the fault at

www.scamb.gov.uk/environment/street-lighting/report-a-street-lighting-fault/

A Load of Rubbish...

Lockdown or no, the litter bugs are out in force and our verges are choking with plastic and other waste. Sadly, because of lockdown, parish councils are not permitted to run the usual annual Litter Pick which happens in spring. However, if individuals wish to add an extra purpose to their daily constitutional, by volunteering to fill a bag or two, please contact Little Abington Parish Council clerk Genevieve Dalton (littleabington@clara.co.uk) for what you need to pick up litter safely and easily (high vis waistcoat, grabber, gloves and bag), and for instructions on where to leave full bags.

Hope ahead?

The Covid-19 'numbers' are finally starting to add up to a brighter picture. Hospital admissions are falling, and the number of people vaccinated rises in leaps and bounds every day. We await clarification on 22 February on a timescale for the easing of lockdown. Meanwhile, please follow Government guidance on Covid safety and continue with the vital and kind support of the vulnerable. A kind word or a small bit of practical support can go a long way. Continued thanks to our fabulous village shop, The Three Tuns, Love Abington and all those who have given their valuable time to help those in need.

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.

Parish Council 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 that we can consider in our debate before agreeing the Parish Council's recommendation to SCDC. It is also a good idea to make your comment on the South Cambs. website (link below) as this will ensure that the planners take your view into consideration in their decision-making.

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.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Parish Council recommendations

20/05332/HFUL – Helton House 43 North Road – Single storey rear extension etc. Recommended approval.

20/04660/FUL – 44c North Road - Erection of new detached dwelling to replace existing barn. Recommended refusal.

20/05310/S73 – 5 Magna Close – variation to simplify porch design. Recommended approval.

20/02715/REM – Land Lying to South of 5 Chalky Road - Approval of matters following outline planning permission S/1233/19/OL for new dwelling with basement area and garage. Recommended approval.

21/00104/FUL – Recreation Ground Great Abington. Proposed change of use and conversion of part of the grounds into a cycle pump track. Recommended approval.

District Council decisions

20/05065/S73 – 34 South Road – (S/1848/FL). Proposed garage, garden equipment store and home office/ gym. Resubmission of 20/02099/HFUL PC recommended refusal. DC refused permission.

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 15 March 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)

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

Little Abington Parish Council

Around the village

Litter-picking

Residents in both Little and Great Abington have continued to pick up litter during the latest lockdown – ten bags were filled recently along Pampisford Road in Great Abington. Thanks to everyone who has been involved and please remember that we have equipment (litter-picker, gloves and bags) available from the clerk and we can arrange for the bags to be collected so you don't have to put them in your own black bin.

Improving broadband speeds

If you would like faster broadband speeds (who wouldn't, given the reliable access to TV services, even for households with multiple users, plus pricing can be lower than conventional broadband services), then please take advantage of the Gigabit Voucher Scheme that offers funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband. To join the scheme please contact the clerk now, providing your name, home and email addresses. (To see how it has benefited a Cambridgeshire village go to www.spaldwick.com/broadband). Also see page 11 in February *A&H News*

Pump track, recreation ground (see p17)

A planning application for a new cycle track at the edge of the football field between the outdoor gym and the gate near the church has now been submitted to SCDC. With funding potentially available from British Cycling we are asking residents to view the proposals and offer feedback and support. Go to the Abingtons website (under Parish Councils/Abington Recreation Ground) and send feedback to PumpTrack.Feedback@greatabington.school

Meeting via Zoom, Monday 25 January

Planning

20/04982/HFUL 15 Bourn Bridge Road (extension at rear) – Recommended approval.

20/04343/HFUL 30a Church Lane (replacement of conservatory) – Recommended refusal due to size of the extension, loss of light and privacy, concerns about rerouting drains and potential disturbance and noise, parking and traffic related to business activities.

SCDC decisions

S/3921/19/FL Bancroft Farm (six houses and two offices) – Planning committee met on 10 February and agreed 7 votes to 4 to refuse application for two reasons: PVAA encroachment/impact and character/heritage impact.

20/04343/HFUL 30a Church Lane (replacement of conservatory) – Approved

20/04649/HFUL 15 West Field (extension) – Approved

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute or via Zoom during lockdown

Next Meeting: Monday 22 March 2021, Parish Council at 7.30pm

Sheila Bolden (Chairman) 07754 659 929 Email: shelen@btinternet.com

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

Next meetings (via Zoom)

Monday 22 March Monday 26 April

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

Children's Church Council

The Children's Church Council have had their first meeting of 2021 and zoomed in February to discuss many ideas for the year ahead.

They were most excited to receive an extremely generous donation from a Hildersham Parishioner and have been putting their thinking hats on as to how they will best use this gift.

Of course, they were very keen to be thinking about mothers on Mothering Sunday 14 March and have therefore planned to create small posies of daffodils which will be placed in a basket outside the church for people to take and think about the mothers in their lives.

Lent began in mid-February and so did the Lenten journey of forty days. The children are making a paper chain adding a link each day on which they have written how Jesus was part of their 'thinking and doing lives' on that day. Their completed Lenten journeys will decorate the church at Easter.

Easter plans are still hatching!

Church Opening

We know that many have found a few moments solace at Holy Trinity over the last months; do please continue to visit. The church remains open during daylight hours. Please do follow the government guidelines to keep everyone safe at this time.

Hildersham Parish Council

Please remember that any Hildersham residents needing to self-isolate can contact the Hildersham volunteers who will deliver food, prescriptions and post mail. If any Hildersham resident needs assistance getting to their appointment for their Covid-19 vaccine, please contact Billie Chapman. The volunteer coordinators are: Mark Logan (891897) or Billie Chapman (07834 210582).

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 9 March 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.

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

British Summer Time begins – Sunday 28 March, clocks go forward one hour

Floods arrive once more - January 2021



View towards Little Abington Church *Photo by Andy Merryweather*



Hildersham footbridge- *Photo by Andy Merryweather*



View west from Bourn Bridge towards A11 – *Photo by Barry Brooks*

Girlguiding Linton District



This month, it is all about achievements by our girls and leaders, in Linton district. During the last year, from January 2020 to December 2020, our district has earned well over 1,000 badges. Quite an achievement considering we are not allowed to meet face to face. This covers every age and section from Rainbows 5-7, Brownies 7-10, Guides 10-14 and Rangers 14-18. We have also had one of our Rangers, Morgan, gain her Commonwealth Award. Our County Commissioner, Claire, presented it to her at one of their virtual meetings. We have had one Brownie, Ella from Horseheath, gain her Brownie Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest achievement that can be gained in each section. Megan, who is one of our Guide leaders, has been presented with her Leadership Qualification. All this has been achieved whilst we have had Covid-19 and not been allowed to meet face to face.

If you are interested to find out more about us or would like to join us as a girl guide or help one of our units look up <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/> If you are over 18, and would like to join an adult only group, have you ever thought of joining the Trefoil Guild? There is one in Linton and they are having all sorts of fantastic fun, currently virtually, due to restrictions, so do look them up at <http://cambseastguides.org.uk/about-us/trefoil-guild>

Whatever you would like to do, whatever age you are, and however much time you have to spare, there is something for you. You can even get involved and never leave the house, even when we can meet face to face.

Louisa, Linton District Commissioner

For the children and adults of Abington - Cycling into the future

The Abington Recreation Ground Committee is looking for input into a cycling development plan for the village. An application for a new cycle track has now been made (see page 14).

Please email PumpTrack.Feedback@greatabington.school if you want to learn more or to leave any feedback. You can see the proposed pump track development plan at [The Abingtons | Pump Track Proposal](#).

As part of the plan we would like to be able to help provide training, and support usage groups and clubs for:

1. Cycling for pleasure on road and cycle lanes
2. Commuter cycling
3. Off road Mountain bike cycling
4. BMX and pump track cycling
5. Racing and competitive cycling
6. Cycling in later life
7. Assisted cycling (electric bikes)
8. Scooters and wheelchair
9. Others

The Abington Recreation Ground Committee, Alan Cooke

Lockdown stories

Love Abington would like to hear from any residents of the Abingtons and Hildersham who have lockdown stories to tell. What have you done to keep busy and sane? What were your main struggles? What has cheered you up? Send to loveabington@gmail.com Thank you.

Reading Group

9 March	<i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> Delia Owens	Rachel Haining
13 April	<i>Machines Like Me</i> Ian McEwan	Liz Obstfeld
11 May	<i>Three Women and a Boat</i> (US version <i>The Narrowboat Summer</i>) Anne Youngson	Bev Dennis

Please join us on Zoom at 5pm to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* or email your comments to the group beforehand. We hope to meet in person in May!

Valerie Hefford

Abington & Hildersham WI

I am writing this before the Prime Minister sets out his plan for the easing of lockdown, but I think it unlikely that life will have changed very much for most of us yet, except that you will have had your first dose of vaccine and are hopefully feeling well. I hope the pretty Valentine's cards and puzzles helped to cheer and amuse you during the cold days of February - please remember to let Janyce or Marianne know that you are re-joining the WI again this month so that we can plan future activities.

We know that there are many new ladies residing in Abington & Hildersham that sadly we have not yet had the opportunity to meet - do please get in touch with our secretary, Marianne, via telephone 01223 893 956 or 07739 671 863 or email mperry47@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to know more about the WI. We would be delighted to have you join us!

Marilyn Broadhurst

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – March 2021

		Venue – via Zoom	Time	Page
Tue	9	Reading Group Hildersham Parish Council	5.00pm	18 15
Mon	15	Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	13
Mon	22	Little Abington Parish Council	7.30pm	14

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 March 2021 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 1 Black	Mon 8 Green/Blue	Mon 15 Black	Mon 22 Green/Blue
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Twice-monthly green bin collections resume in March.

Church Services for March 2021

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings <i>Which you may care to read at home.</i>
7 th March	CHURCH SERVICES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE			Exodus 20.1-17 John 2.13-22
14 th March Mothering Sunday	<p>Sadly, all normal services in our churches are currently suspended although the churches remain open for individual private prayer. We do however invite you to join us in your own homes between 10.00 and 10.30 am on Sundays for an online "Time of Prayer" and at other times as notified on our website (https://www.grantavale.org.uk) and in our newsletter.</p> <p>This situation is being kept under review so please watch Church notice boards or the website for updates.</p> <p>If you would like more information, or a newsletter, please contact Caroline Walshe – Church Administrator 7churches.seven@gmail.com 01223 891443</p>			Exodus 2.1-10 Luke 2.33-35
21 st March				Jeremiah 31.31-34 John 12.20-33
28 th March Palm Sunday				Mark 11.1-11 Mark 14.1-15.end

Church Flower Rota

	<i>Great Abington</i>	<i>Little Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
7 th March	Lent – no flowers	Marylin Broadhurst (clean)	Lent – no flowers
14 th March	Lent – no flowers	Marylin Broadhurst (clean)	Lent – no flowers
21 st March	Lent – no flowers	Amanda Marns (clean)	Lent – no flowers
28 th March	Lent – no flowers	Amanda Marns (clean)	Lent – no flowers

Churchwardens

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

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

Parish Nurse

We are currently inducting Kim our new Nurse but, if you need help now please contact the following:	For Health Issues: Kelly Austin at Granta Medical, Linton Site	0300 234 5555
	For Spiritual help: Revd Ian McColl or any of the Ministry Team via Parish Administrator	890693 891443