



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

April 2021



*Photo by Amanda Palmer*

**Mother's Day flowers at Hildersham church 14 March 2021**

## Letter from the Editor

Many thanks to the Hildersham children who made posies of daffodils for Mothering Sunday (see cover photo), and to Love Abington whose posies were available from churches in Great and Little Abington. These offerings brought the recipients great cheer and have been warmly welcomed (pages 4, 5, 9, 16).

Love Abington hopes to resume the library service in April and offers continuing practical support including the telephone listening service, the foodbank and help with prescriptions (page 9). Granta Medical updates us on the programme of vaccinations and reminds us of arrangements for home delivery of medication (page 8).

It is encouraging that the incidence of Covid infections is reducing and gives hope that we shall see a gradual return to face-to-face meetings. Social Cycling is to resume in April, the WI is inviting offers of plants and cakes for sale at a stall early in May, and the Walking Group gives notice of a resumption in July (pages 17, 18).

We have lived through the most extraordinary year and should thank the Abington History Group for the resumé of events in 2020 which accompanies this April News. For over 20 years Jennifer Hirsh has been an indefatigable researcher of local history. It is a pleasure to offer warm congratulations to Jennifer for having this exceptional dedication recognised by a special award (pages 7, 11).

It has been good to see many new residents arriving in our villages and, no doubt like me, they will have found the recent update of the Abington Directory a really useful source of information. Congratulations to all those who set this up.

Jeremiah's Café in the Abington Institute is a highly valued community resource. For the last seven years we have been indebted to Gaynor Farrant and Gill Smith for most ably running the café, assisted by a team of volunteer helpers. Gaynor and Gill now think it time for other residents to take over and will welcome expressions of interest from people who would find this an interesting role (page 11).

Regrettably, there are instances of antisocial behaviour to record – trespassers in the Perse playing field, dog owners letting their four-footed companions run around in church leaving mud for someone else to clean up, and the irresponsible individual who put batteries in their blue bin resulting in a fire in the recycling truck (pages 5, 14).

Now for some good news. A new Parish Nurse, Kim Cox, has been appointed and introduces herself on page 6. The former United Reformed Church will not be demolished but is opening as St Edmund's Orthodox Church (page 7). Welcome to both.

Valerie Silvey

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

## From the Seven Churches

In this strange Springtime, as children have returned to school, as businesses begin to re-open and as we gradually inch along a roadmap we hope will lead us out of lockdown, we may be wondering what life will look like on the far side of the covid pandemic. What is it we long for on the other side? We may long to see friends and family again. We may look forward to a resumption of what we remember as normal; a situation where the threat is over and it's back to where we were.

Yet I also hope some of the strangeness of this time will stay with us. A strangeness which leads us to see things we once took for granted in a fresh light. Which helps us to see that, when we relinquish ideas of being in control, sometimes moments of grace may happen. The strange but tangible way in which people have been brought together, maybe more than ever before, by what has been called the 'solidarity of the shaken'.

As we arrive at Easter in the midst of this, it is good to know we can still come together to worship by holding services both inside and outside our church buildings – just as we did at Christmas time – and all are welcome to come along and celebrate the good news of Easter in this way. I also hope this Easter time we may encounter afresh the strange events of the crucifixion and the resurrection, and their power and reality in our lives today.

Easter reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end, an event which completely changes the landscape in which we live. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, to build communities of mutual trust and service, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

We have travelled a hard road over the last year, but as we look ahead with longing towards life beyond lockdown, I hope we may take with us those good things we have witnessed in these strange times and be refreshed in the power of God's Spirit. If we allow ourselves to be open to renewal, we will be in a better place to play our part in whatever creative newness of life lies ahead.

Revd Iain McColl

### 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)

Licensed Lay Ministers **Steven Wheeler** 290 396: **Alistair Collen** 891 561

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

Youth worker Sam Graham 07552 658 811 [sgraham@cambridgeyfc.uk](mailto:sgraham@cambridgeyfc.uk)

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

Parish Nurse Kim Cox (see pages 6, 20)

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

## Thanks for Mothering Sunday flowers

I was delighted to receive a beautiful posy of flowers delivered to my door on Mothering Sunday and would like to thank the organisers of this kind touch. Thanks too to all the volunteers at Love Abington for all they do.

Maureen Harper

## News from the Pews

As we tentatively walk the covid path back to some normality, we suggest that, although April services have been planned and will appear on the back page, keep a watchful eye on either the church website or notice boards for possible changes.

We are indebted to Mak and Bea for supplying Great Abington church with flowers throughout the lockdown period. We have not used our valuable flower arrangers throughout this time and so your generosity allowed us to keep our church looking fresh and beautiful with flowers. Thank you so much. It has been an enormous help.

We are currently experiencing muddy paw marks on the carpets in Great Abington church. Whilst we appreciate that dogs probably love to run around in the church we ask that you keep them on a lead when visiting the church. Thank you.

It is interesting that many have discovered a place of solace while enjoying the beautiful view of Abington Hall over the meadow sitting on the sheltered south facing benches of Little Abington Church.

Thanks are extended to the Love Abington Team and members of our churches for preparing posies for Mothering Sunday. Some of them were in our churches for anyone to collect while others were delivered to those needing a little cheer in these difficult times. Thank you to all who worked on this project.

The APCM will take place on the 12 April at 6.30pm. You are invited to join the first part of the meeting. It's a good opportunity to get an insight to the running of our churches. The meeting will be on Zoom. To join, contact the church administrator, Cazzy, on 01223 891 443.

**Easter Lilies:** On Easter Sunday there will be a beautiful display of lilies in both of our churches. The lilies are in memory of loved ones. If you wish to make a donation please put it in an envelope along with the full name of the person you wish to be remembered and leave it at Marilyn's house, 34 West Field or Anne's house, 12 Magna Close, before the end of March if possible. Also see page 6.

**Don't forget to book the Scarecrow Festival from 29<sup>th</sup> of May until the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. The bookings to take part are beginning to flow. Contact:-**  
[anneandglynhall@gmail.com](mailto:anneandglynhall@gmail.com)

This tribute to **Malcolm George Mullens** has been sent by Patsy Randall

Malcolm was once our local police constable. He moved to Abington in 1966, living in the Police House in Church Lane. Village police life came easy to PC Mullens as he held a position in Linton before coming here. During this time, it was a common occurrence to see him cycling in his uniform on the police bike around the village or visiting the school to speak to the children. Well liked, and known by everyone. After retiring in 1975 he moved with his wife to live in Church Close and went to work at Duxford War Museum until he reached 65. After enjoying 30 years of retirement he passed away at the grand age of 95 years. Thank you Malcolm for your service to our village, we will miss you but remember you with great affection.

Anne Hall

### 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.

## Easter Lilies 2021

We are upholding the tradition of placing lilies in remembrance of our loved ones in St. Mary's churches this Easter, despite not holding any services indoors. If you would like to have a lily dedicated to someone you loved but no longer see, please put a donation into an envelope with the name of the person written on it and give it to any churchwarden (see back page of magazine) or leave it at 34 West Field before Thursday 1 April. The lilies will be arranged in Little Abington and Great Abington churches for Easter Sunday and will remain there for at least a week. Our churches are always open during daylight hours in line with Covid precautions, so please go and enjoy the beauty of the arrangements.

Marilyn Broadhurst

## Parish Nurse Appointment - Kim Cox

My family have grown up in this area, living in Weston Colville and now Balsham for the last 15 years. My long nursing career within the NHS has been mainly at Addenbrookes's hospital and more recently health screening in the community.

The Parish role for me is an exciting one, in which my hopes are that I can continue to help as many people, and make a real difference to those of you who are struggling within our community during these very difficult times. I strongly feel that the future is full of hope and that we have all learnt lessons in how to care about each other once more. I am looking forward to meeting some of you and supporting you in whatever way I can.

Kim Cox, Parish Nurse



## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes 2020

Thank you for the wonderful response to the appeal in 2020 in a year that was difficult and very unusual but the whole operation went ahead despite many obstacles. There was a lot of prayer. This is to let you know that the boxes collected from this area went to:

BELARUS, SERBIA and NIGERIA.

Sorry for the delay in telling you the news but everything was delayed due to Covid. Thank you for bringing great joy to children and giving them a gift of love.

This is one of the many stories that was told after boxes have been given.

“At a nursery, children heard about the Christmas story and were delighted to receive shoebox gifts. The parents expressed how thankful they were, and that the children loved the gift boxes very much. One mother stopped the local partner the next day and said that she too had received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift when she was a child, and that it was the most memorable thing from her childhood.”

If you want to know more, or to look at the many photos or videos please go to:

[samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk) .

Many thanks again, hopefully you can take part again this year.

Jane Furlow (OCC connect volunteer)

## **The Church That Disappeared: A Mystery Solved!** **A Centenary Service at the New Orthodox Church at 14 High Street** **Little Abington, at 6.30pm on Wednesday 14 April 2021**

According to Wikipedia, 'A Protestant chapel was built in Little Abington towards the end of the 19th century. It closed in late 2019 and the land has now been sold. Demolition of the chapel has been confirmed'.

See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Abingtons,\\_Cambridgeshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Abingtons,_Cambridgeshire),

Well, this is certainly news to us, the owners and refurbishers of the chapel in 2021! Wikipedia had better look at its site again.

Certainly, the URC chapel closed on 15 September 2019. However, the land was not sold, and no demolition did or will take place. In reality, after its closure the church was put up for sale in early 2020 and on 6 March 2020 was bought by the Orthodox Church in the East of England. This is the local part of the Russian Orthodox Church in Western Europe and the new church is for use by its parishioners who live in the area. With churches in Felixstowe, Colchester, Norwich, Kings Lynn and Peterborough, it was high time to buy a church for Orthodox living on the Essex/Suffolk/Cambridgeshire borders.

It took the solicitors five months (surely a record for slowness? - but they blamed covid) to conclude the very straightforward sale, Cambridge Water four months to connect the church to the water supply in the road outside (another record? – they also blamed covid) and then Carpetright two months to fit the new floor (they blamed Brexit). Eleven months gone! At long last the church will be opening in April. Now called St Edmund's church, the first Orthodox service here will be a service of thanksgiving and blessing.

This will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 14 April 2021. Why on a weekday evening? Simply because this will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the day since the first service here on Thursday 14 April 1921. The church, a former wooden military building from the First World War, has been completely refurbished and one part rebuilt after extensive and very necessary work, from new foundations to new windows, from carpentry to heating, from plumbing to painting.

All are welcome!

Rev Andrew Phillips

### **Abington History group**



The Abington History Group (AHG) previously published Abington Chronicles for the years 2000 – 2010 and it is perhaps appropriate to start these again in a year of '*unprecedented*' events.

A double sided A4 sheet has been prepared by the Abington History Group, providing a month-by-month account of events in 2020 that chronicle the history of Abington during a very different year.

Hopefully once the current restrictions are over, AHG will be able to return to running some village events and to share with you all some of the research on the history of the Abingtons that we have been preparing during lockdown.

*Barry Brooks on behalf of the Abington History Group*

**Granta Medical Practices Update, April 2021**

As I write this (08/03/2021), we have now vaccinated 17,805 patients. All patients in **cohorts 1 to 4** should have been contacted and vaccinated by us. If you haven't, or if you have previously declined the vaccine but have now changed your mind, please call us on 0300 234 5555 (option 2) and you will be prioritised for our next clinic. If you know of anyone that falls into one of these cohorts but have not yet been vaccinated please let us know as soon as possible.

We are currently vaccinating patients in **cohorts 5 and 6**. Some of you may receive a letter inviting you to a vaccination centre, and others may receive a text or telephone call inviting you to an appointment at Granta Sawston.

NHS England are starting to contact patients that fall into **cohort 7** (over 60 years old) and **cohort 8** (over 55 years old). You will receive a letter direct from NHS England giving you further instructions about how to book your vaccination.

May we take this opportunity to remind everyone that, if you have booked a vaccine appointment but are not going to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer your vaccine to someone else.

We appreciate that everyone wants to know when their appointment will be, and we are working as fast as possible to get through our patient lists. Contacting us before being invited however, will not make this process move any faster. Please bear with us as our team continue to work incredibly hard to deliver the vaccine into our community.

**Please remember – you will NEVER be asked for payment for the COVID-19 vaccination. Any text message, letter or telephone call requesting your bank details and/or payment should be ignored. Please pass this message on to anyone who may be more susceptible to this type of scam.**

Information about the virus and the vaccine changes rapidly. To keep completely up to date with the latest guidance please go to the Government website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and the NHS UK website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) . If you know of someone who does not have access to a computer and you do, please help them access the latest information.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me direct on 01223 627 743 or [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net) .

Sandra East, Granta Patient Liaison

**Granta Pharmacy**

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.grantadisensing@nhs.net](mailto:capccg.grantadisensing@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.

## Love Abington Update

### Library

We hope to be able to reopen the library at the Social Club on Saturday 17 April, 10am to 12noon. Please keep an eye out on Facebook and for posters in the village for confirmation.

### February Hearts

The winners of our February Hearts competition were the Buxton Warren family in West Field and Ruth, Stuart, Catherine and Meredith in Magna Close. Congratulations to both families. Thank you to everyone for taking part.

*Photo of a winning Hearts window in Magna Close*



### Flowers for Mothering Sunday

A huge thank you to the Love Abington volunteers who delivered posies to our neighbours on Mothering Sunday. We have received lots of positive feedback and are delighted to have spread some joy. The Churches were also busy with visitors collecting beautiful flower posies for their loved ones. Thank you to all the posy makers and to the Church for allowing us to join you in this wonderful tradition.

### Prescriptions

Prescriptions are now available to collect at the shop again. Thank you to Mak, Bea and team for this valuable service. Please collect your prescriptions as promptly as possible, as space is limited and a great many prescriptions are delivered each week. If you are unable to collect, your Street Coordinator would be happy to do so for you.

Please note that after 4 weeks the dispensaries ask us to return any uncollected prescriptions to them.

Granta Medical Practice are also offering free medicine delivery to your home. Please call 01223 727 530 or email: [capccg.grantadispensing@nhs.net](mailto:capccg.grantadispensing@nhs.net).

### 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 answer.

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.

### 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.

If you are short of food, please get in touch and we can arrange delivery. Please contact: David 01223 892 364, Bernie 01223 892 647, Julie 07761 440 102, or email: [loveabington@gmail.com](mailto:loveabington@gmail.com)

### Future Plans

As we move towards a more normal way of living, Love Abington is keen to hear your ideas about how we can continue to support each other post-Covid. It may be difficult for us to venture out again after so long, so maybe some small tea and cake events to ease people back into socialising, could be appropriate. If you have any thoughts, please email: [loveabington@gmail.com](mailto:loveabington@gmail.com) or call Julie 07761 440 102.

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

# County and District Council

## District and County Councillors' Report – March 2021

### **A1307 Update**

The process of upgrading the road continues, the next physical upgrade will be the installation of average speed cameras between the Suffolk border and Linton, this will take place in April.

There has also been progress on the much-needed pedestrian crossing at Hildersham. A revised design seems to have support from the local landowner so, all being good, this will be implemented in this phase.

The local liaison forum meetings are still occurring, they are public so please do register to attend the forthcoming ones.

### **Vaccines**

The vaccination process is moving forward at a good pace. The NHS are asking for people within certain age groups that haven't had their first jab yet to book one directly via the NHS website. The age groups they are asking to come forward are constantly changing, so please check if unsure - <https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/do-you-have-an-nhs-number>

### **Local Elections**

The government have announced that local elections will take place in May this year. There will be 3 votes to cast: The County Council, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

### **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 grant for business that is forced to close due to Covid, 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](mailto:Vicky.hoover@scams.gov.uk)

There is also support available from the County Council, via their 'Hub' which can be contacted through their website -

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you>

### **Budgets**

Both the County and District councils have now agreed their budgets for this municipal year, which include council tax levels. The County Council have agreed a 3.99% rise which equates to £3.38 per month on band D properties. The District Council have agreed a £5 per year rise.

### **Social Workers**

The County Council has launched a campaign to recruit more social workers in 2021. If you know anybody who might be interested in this rewarding work they can get more information here:

- <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/jobs-and-careers/we-love-social-workers>

## Census

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

## Climate and Environment fortnight

Having started 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 in March were: 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.scams.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-and-environment-fortnight-2021-events/>

## Horseheath Road, Linton

The new development at the edge of Linton on Horseheath Road has been served a 'stop' notice. This is due to drainage work being carried out without the District council having agreed to the detail of it. This means no work can occur on the site until this is agreed.

Henry and John Batchelor



The British Association for Local History (BALH) present an annual award for local historians who have made significant voluntary contributions to the subject.

The Abington History Group are extremely pleased that a 2021 BALH Personal Achievement Award for Local Historians has been given to Jennifer Hirsh for more than twenty years of devoted effort researching, documenting and sharing the history of the villages of Great and Little Abington.

The 2021 Awards will be presented during the BALH Local History Day in June.

Please join us in congratulating Jennifer for this very significant and well-deserved achievement.



## Jeremiah's café

After seven years of running the café at the Institute Gill and I have decided to stand down and let another couple take up the reins. We would advise two people to take charge as then you can divide the responsibilities between you.

It would be excellent to see the next generation take over and it is a great way of getting to know people and provide an enjoyable service for the community. Gill and I will still remain as volunteers and when it comes to taking over we are obviously very happy to help with the transition.

We have both thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and providing a place for people to meet and enjoy each other's company along with tasty home cooked food.

If you are interested and would like to know more of what is involved then please contact either Gaynor Farrant or Gill Smith.

[gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com](mailto:gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com)  
[richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk](mailto:richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk)

Tel: 07817 517 871

Tel: 01223 892 759

## Hope ahead?

Covid 'numbers' are continuing to go in the right direction and indicators are encouraging. We know it has been a long time but please follow the guidance on Covid safety for a little longer. Small kindnesses go a long way to make life more tolerable for others so please remember to give whatever support you can to others, particularly those who are vulnerable. A kind word or a small bit of practical support can go a long way. A special 'thank you' to the volunteers who are offering support via Love Abington.

## Exercise is vital

As the spring is making an appearance more of us are making use of the network of footpaths for exercise. The Parish Council has been pressing for improvements to the footpath crossing over the A1307 near West Lodge Pet Hotel. Visibility is greatly restricted by trees growing on Highway land on the Hildersham side. We have now, eventually, been promised that the visibility will be improved there very soon. Could we remind those using this footpath to leave Linton Road near the footpath sign rather than go through the West Lodge car park, which is private land.

## An idea for a lovely spring walk

Cooks Pen Farm in Hildersham is embracing Agroforestry! Agroforestry is a land-use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pastureland, enhancing the functionality and sustainability of the farming system. This intentional combination of agriculture and forestry has multiple benefits, including enhanced yields, increased biodiversity, improved soil structure and health, reduced erosion, and carbon sequestration. If you walk along the footpath from Hildersham and Linton, you pass land belonging to Cooks Pen Farm. The fruit trees and bushes are currently being planted and should come into blossom very soon – a sight that will provide a glorious spring welcome, and which will increase in beauty and impact year on year. We applaud this highly environmentally sound venture. It would be lovely to see it rolled out over more arable land in our area.

## E-bikes in the Abingtons

It's not too late to book your free week with the GAPC owned e-bike. An e-bike can be quite a big investment if you're not sure. This scheme was set up so the residents of the Abingtons can see if an e-bike would work for them. The scheme is due to end in August so book up before it is too late. Loans run from Saturday morning to Saturday morning and the e-bike is sanitised between loans. For more info and to book your week with the bike please email [ebike@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:ebike@theabingtons.org.uk).

## Faster Broadband

Great and Little Abington Parish Councils are working on upgrading internet provision to 'superfast fibre to the premises' (FTTP). There is a government scheme which will provide funding for every house and business that joins the scheme and if we get enough residents and businesses interested it may cover all the costs. Time is now short but if you are still interested you will find a flier about it in the recently delivered Abington Directory.

## Planning

Please attend a planning meeting (virtually) if you would like to make a comment that we can consider in our debate before agreeing on the Parish Council's recommendation to SCDC. If you have views on a planning application, you should also 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.

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

### **Parish Council recommendations**

There have been no planning applications considered since the last report.

### **District Council outcomes**

20/05315/HFUL - 10 Chalky Road - Single storey rear extension and internal alterations. Parish Council recommended approval. District Council approved.

20/05001/HFUL – 23 Magna Close - two storey front extension and single and double storey rear extension. Parish Council recommended approval. District Council refused.

20/05065/S73 – 34 South Road – remove limitation of use, to allow the staff accommodation to be retained. Parish Council recommended refusal. Application withdrawn.

### **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 17 May 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)

### **Abington Oil Club.**

The oil club, which is run for residents of the Abingtons, is organised by a resident as a service to the community at a zero cost. All residents are welcome to join. All you have to do is email Rod Willcox at [rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk) with your name, address, email and telephone number and you will be added to the master list.

Rod sends out an email to all members in early January, May and October, requesting the quantity of oil required. The minimum order is 500 litres. Once this information is received it is collated, and negotiations are carried out with five suppliers to obtain the best price. Members are then informed of the price received and the supplier. Depending on the successful supplier they will telephone you for payment, or you will phone them. Deliveries normally commence during the second week of the month.

Come and join us!

### **Fibre Broadband for the former Land Settlement site**

A survey has been carried out, and it is currently in the BT planning department. I have been told this will be finalised by the end of April, it then gets passed to the next department. Virtually impossible to obtain any exact dates or procedures, however I am confident the installation will be carried out this year.

My foot is permanently on the accelerator.

Rod Willcox

# Little Abington Parish Council

## Around the village

### Perse playing fields

The independent school that owns the two playing fields at the edge of the village is concerned that adults and children have been trespassing on the land to practise golf, run and play football. With the ban on outdoor sport being lifted on 29 March we ask the trespassers to move back to the usual village facilities and golf clubs.

### Recycling vehicle

Some of us witnessed the entire contents of a recycling truck dumped on the corner of Church Lane in February. The reason was a small fire on board caused by batteries being thrown into a blue recycling bin. So, a reminder that **batteries should always be placed in a separate bag for collection with the blue bin or taken to the waste recycling centre** at Thriplow.

### Local virus data

The latest available data for positive cases of the virus for a group of villages including the Abingtons is posted on the parish council noticeboard. Since the last week of February our figures have been the lowest possible at 0–2 positive tests and let's hope that continues. For more details relating to vaccinations, hospital admissions and deaths for South Cambridgeshire go to <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>.

### Meeting via Zoom, Monday 22 February

We discussed Greater Cambridge Partnership's plans for the route of the Linton Greenway which should include a safe pedestrian route along Bourn Bridge Road. We requested a meeting with the GCP to discuss the proposals. (You can sign up for regular updates here: [www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/greenways](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/greenways).)

The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme for both Abingtons has attracted a good response and is still open for anyone interested who has not yet signed up. To find out more, go to [www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk) and, to sign up, contact the clerk.

## Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute or via Zoom during lockdown

**Next Meeting: Monday 26 April 2021, Parish Council at 7.30pm**

Sheila Bolden (Chairman)	07754 659 929	Email: <a href="mailto:shelen@btinternet.com">shelen@btinternet.com</a>
Genevieve Dalton (Clerk)	07703 486562	Email: <a href="mailto:clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk">clerk@littleabington.clara.co.uk</a>

### Next meetings (via Zoom)

Monday 26 April,

Monday 24 May

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)

## Abington Naturewatch

Abington Naturewatch was established in 2005 to monitor and record the wildlife, to encourage protection of wildlife and flora, and to promote awareness of the natural environment in the Abingtons. Each year the project team have produced a written report, The Record, summarising reports of sightings throughout the year. The Record has increased from 30 pages to 48 over the years and is widely distributed to other organisations throughout the county. More recently Naturewatch has created a website where reports and photographs are added as they occur and each month a summary of observations is added. This can be accessed via <http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com> .

In a normal season we will hold spring and autumn meetings and organise visits to local places of interest e.g. the Ouse Washes, the Roman Road, Welney and Lackford Lakes. However, Covid has imposed restrictions on our activities in the last year. We hope that the lifting of restrictions will allow us to do more later in the year. The fact that more people have stayed at home, become more interested in their garden and gone on local walks, has led to a greater appreciation of our local wildlife and a large increase in reports to Naturewatch.

Recent programmes from David Attenborough and others have emphasised the issues surrounding our planet and wildlife. Also, many new families have moved into the village recently and have, I hope, become interested in the Abington area. Naturewatch would be pleased to see as many new members as possible join us in promoting the awareness of our local environment. My contact number is in this magazine or Email [davidfarrant985@btinternet.com](mailto:davidfarrant985@btinternet.com) if you would like more information. Full details of the Project Team and reports are on the blog.

David Farrant

## Bourn Bridge Road Protected Verges

Many thanks to those who have abided by the requests not to walk on the Protected Verges which are starting to recover. We have been asked some questions which I will attempt to clarify.

- The PVs are not new. They have been in existence since 2005 and it is only in the last year that they have been used as a path.
- There is a concern that the road is too dangerous to walk along. It certainly is not right to have a 50mph speed limit on the narrow road but it is fine to step onto the verge whilst the vehicle goes past and then back onto the road again. It also forces the vehicle to slow down. The Parish Council can ask for the road to be given “Quiet Road” status under the Transport Act of 2000 where the speed limit can be reduced.
- The PV does stretch right across to the hedge on the north side.
- The PVs are registered with the County Council as important areas of unimproved grassland of which numbers in the county are dwindling. 32 species of plants have been recorded in our PV.

Thanks again for the support.

David Farrant – Naturewatch

## Hildersham Focus

Hildersham PCC's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 April at 7.30pm. All members of Holy Trinity Church are welcome to this Zoom meeting, details will be in the Parish newsletter.

Outdoor services resume on Sunday 21 March. Each service has an appointed service coordinator. In advance of the service you wish to attend, please contact the relevant person below.

Sunday 28 March 9.00am - Anne-Marie Melloy [a\\_melloy@hotmail.com](mailto:a_melloy@hotmail.com)

Sunday 4 April 10.00am - Kate Huntsman [katehuntsman1@gmail.com](mailto:katehuntsman1@gmail.com)

### Children's Church Council

The CCC turned their hands to flower arranging and made posies for Mothering Sunday using daffodils generously offered by Hildersham Hall. The children have continued to add to their paper chains as part of their Lenten journey. They may have been inspired by one of Pope Francis's Lenten messages in which, amongst other suggestions, he urged us to 'fast from hurting words and say kind words'. The CCC are now thinking about Easter celebrations.

Hopefully many of you will have had an opportunity to admire the snowdrops in the churchyard; this month your contemplation will be aided by (with thanks and *apologies* to Wordsworth)

'A host of golden daffodils;  
Beside the *church*, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze'.

## Hildersham Parish Council

### Report on the Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 9 March 2021.

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 (891 897) or Billie Chapman (07834 210 582) for prescription collection and shopping.

The Council was trying to find a local contractor to fix the bus shelter light on the Abington side of the A1307, as the supplier's quotation was very expensive. In the next few weeks the paths should be swept through the village to clear the leaves and debris. Repairs were still required to the two broken gates near Meadowlands and the field where the donkeys graze.

The Council will consult with the households neighbouring the Recreation Ground about its plan to create a copse area to the right of the Recreation Ground (when standing on the road). Please contact the Council if you would like to know more about this project.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of people requesting allotments and consequently there is a fairly lengthy waiting list. Unfortunately, allotments do not become vacant very often so applicants are likely to be waiting years rather than weeks for a plot.

The Hildersham section of the Neighbourhood Plan has been completed, but work is still required to the Linton policies and environmental assessments. The completed plan is likely to be open to public consultation in 2023/4.

Agreement had been reached with a local landowner for a small area of land to be purchased to enable the pedestrian crossing area to be created on the A1307. Work to improve safety at this junction should start in the next few weeks.

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 11 May 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 by contacting the Clerk with details of your query/concern before the meeting.

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

## **Abington & Hildersham WI**

April normally heralds the annual CFWI Council meeting with celebrity speakers, a review of the year by the chairman and awards for prize winners of annual competitions, but all of this has been postponed for the time being. Votes for Resolutions have taken place, however, and a national campaign will be launched *"to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer."*

Payment of subscription fees was deferred because of the pandemic but has now been requested for April. Our committee felt this was still unfair on Institutes which had been unable to meet for over a year and has decided that only National and Federation fees would be payable, the remainder being covered by our existing funds from last year. If you have not yet paid £22.40 to our Treasurer, Gill, please get in touch with her as soon as possible (tel.892 759).

We are looking forward to meeting many of you - but not all at once and socially distanced, of course, at our Plant and Cake Sale outside the Village Institute on Saturday 8 May 9.30 - 11am. We would be very grateful for donations of plants, cakes & bakes for the stall either on the day or preferably delivered beforehand to any Committee member.

We hope the vaccination campaign and reduction in Covid 19 cases will continue, so that we can all meet together again at a Garden Party in the summer - something to look forward to!

Marilyn Broadhurst

## **Linton Netball Club**

Linton Netball Club always welcomes new members. If you are interested in joining please contact us to arrange your first session. We train every Monday (term time) on the outside courts at Linton Village College. Juniors train 6-7pm and Adults train 7.30-8.30pm. For more information please email us at [lintonnetball@gmail.com](mailto:lintonnetball@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.lintonladiesnetball.weekly.com](http://www.lintonladiesnetball.weekly.com) .

Rebecca Free

## Social Cycling

We are back! There will be a ride on Wednesday 21 April meeting outside the institute at 9.30am. As we are only allowed a group of six it will be on a first come first served basis, so please contact me on either 07817 517 871 or at [gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com](mailto:gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com). We look forward to seeing you.

## Abington Walking Group

What a very frustrating year it has been in many respects including missing a nice social group walk.

However, with light now at the end of the tunnel and a road map out of our current restrictions, we are very pleased to tell you that subject to no further government guidance we will recommence our walks on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

We are very much looking forward to meeting up with our regular walkers plus anyone else who would like to join us including our new villagers at Larkfield.

For further information, please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 or [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com)

George Woodley on 891 169 or [georgewoodley@ge29gew@gmail.com](mailto:georgewoodley@ge29gew@gmail.com)



## Reading Group

13 April	<i>Machines Like Me</i> Ian McEwan	Liz Obstfeld
<b>18 May</b>	<i>Three Women and a Boat</i> (US version <i>The Narrowboat Summer</i> ) Anne Youngson	Bev Dennis
8 June	<i>Audubon's Elephant</i> Duff Hart Davis	Sally Turnidge

Please join us on Zoom on 13 April at 5pm to discuss *Machines Like Me* or email your comments to the group beforehand. Please note the change of date for May. If we are allowed, we plan to meet at 3pm in Bev's garden.

Valerie Hefford

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – April 2021

	Venue	Time	Page
Tue 13	<b>Reading Group</b>	3.00pm	18
Wed 21	<b>Social Cycling</b> meet outside Institute	9.30am	18
Mon 26	<b>Little Abington Parish Council</b> via Zoom	7.30pm	14

**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) See page 11

## Wheelie bin dates for April 2021 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

<b>Wed 7</b> <b>Green/Blue</b>	<b>Tue 13</b> <b>Black</b>	<b>Mon 19</b> <b>Green/Blue</b>	<b>Mon 26</b> <b>Black</b>
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Mon 29 March Black bin.

Easter Monday 5 April

## Church Services for April 2021

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings  <i>Which you may care to read at home.</i>
	<p><b><u>Service Details</u></b></p> <p>Although Services for Easter Day are detailed below, Services during Holy Week and for the remainder of April are yet to be finalised.</p> <p>Do please watch Church Notice Boards, our Website (<a href="http://www.grantavale.org.uk">www.grantavale.org.uk</a>) or our Newsletter for further details. If you do not receive our Newsletter but would like to do so, then please contact; Caroline Walshe – Church Administrator <a href="mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com">7churches.seven@gmail.com</a> 01223 891443</p>			
4 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Day	10.00am Easter Communion via 'Zoom'			Acts 10.34-43
4 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Day		11.00am Easter Outdoor Service	10.00am Easter Outdoor Service	

### Church Flower Rota

	<i>Great Abington</i>	<i>Little Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Anne Hall	Easter	Easter
11 <sup>th</sup> April	and	Sylvia Gilmour/Mary Miles	Rosalinde Gray
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Patsy Randall	Antonia Kilcommons and Claire Hinga	Rosalinde Grey
25 <sup>th</sup> April			Elaine Moore

### 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

Kim Cox	<u>Not 24 hrs</u> , please leave a message if no reply - Kim will respond when next on duty.	07498 994205
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