



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

December 2021



Photo by Emma Turner

Artistic Halloween pumpkins in Magna Close 31 October 2021

Letter from the Editor

In 2021 we shared the frustration of lockdown, pleasure at the return of freedom to meet and to travel, and anxiety that continuing high levels of Covid19 necessitate use of face masks, booster vaccinations and precautionary social distancing. However, Halloween showed the great artistic flair among residents in producing Halloween exhibits. The pumpkins on the front cover are excellent examples. Well done and thank you Charlotte, Alfie and George. The Abington Churches' Christmas Fayre is another joyful occasion.

December brings opportunities to meet and celebrate Christmas. The following pages detail the carol services, special choirs singing, the delightful prospect of Advent Windows in 24 houses around the villages, the reintroduction of the Big Breakfast at the café and an Advent tea in Hildersham (pages 4 ,5 7, 16). The Gardening Club, Walking and Reading groups, and Naturewatch are among the activities continuing in December. The Partridge Group will meet by Zoom in January and a new Crafts/Hobby Group is under consideration (pages 6, 9, 11, 12).

The reports from the councils tell us of planning and transport developments and the aim is to work to improve the facilities and environment we enjoy. In contrast are those who recently inflicted graffiti and criminal damage on the Abington Recreation Ground. (See pages 8, 13, 14, 17).

Love Abington volunteers set up a multitude of support services for village residents during the pandemic and are deservedly thanked on page 6. The services are continuing.

Filling the pages of the News has not been easy during 2021 since many village events could not take place. I am deeply grateful to all who contributed articles, information and photographs. I also offer sincere thanks to the proofreaders and those who distribute printed copies to about 800 houses. Special thanks to Pat Wallman who collects copies from the printer and starts the distribution process. We are indebted to Peter Brunning for putting the *News* on the village website.

We very much appreciate the generosity of BioMed Realty in paying for the printing of the *Abingtons and Hildersham News* in 2021. We are delighted that BioMed Realty, joint owners of Granta Park, have agreed to provide another year of funding that will cover the printing costs for the year 2022. Sincere thanks are due to Orestis Tzortzoglou, Senior Development Director, who facilitated this arrangement. There are still substantial numbers of village residents who do not have access to the *News* on the website and will welcome this development. Many thanks to Bernie Talbot whose negotiations secured the sponsorship.

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and good health in 2022.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the January 2022 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Wednesday 15 December 2021 at news@theabingtons.org.uk. Photos welcome.

From the Seven Churches

As we turn our gaze towards the Christmas season, hopefully we can look forward to far more opportunities to gather together than last year! It's part of the joy of Christmas time that we may see friends and family, sing carols together and share food and laughter. Knowing how we missed out on time with loved ones throughout the Covid crisis, the poignant sense of joy in being together may be even greater than usual this year.

Christmas services also allow us to come together in a special way: to hear the story of the birth of Jesus and to celebrate this good news with carols, praise and thanksgiving. Christmas services this year will be a mix of Communion services, Christingles and carols. Some carol services will be inside our churches and some outside as they were last year, when we wrapped up warm and used torches and candlelight! There will be details of all of our services on our website: www.grantavale.org.uk, on our church notice boards and on the Christmas card you will find with a copy of this magazine.

After all we've been through over the last year, I hope the strange beauty of the Christmas story may speak afresh into our lives this Christmas. A story which is a mix of uncertainty, hope, joy and new life. A child, brought into a world under the rule of Rome and born in difficult circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's gospel says, as "Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is "Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'". A testimony to the past, a witness to the present and hope for the future.

A traditional Christmas carol we will no doubt be singing in or outside our churches, and one of my favourites is 'O little town of Bethlehem', written in the mid-19th century but still very popular today. The last words of this carol also declare that, in Jesus and through his Spirit, "God is with us": 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel'. As we come together this Christmas, may we ponder anew this joyful and life-changing good news.

Revd Iain McColl

The Christmas Presents for Refugee and Foster Children in Cambridgeshire Project in the Abingtons.

Gifts may be taken to Little Abington Church between 1.30 and 3.30pm on Saturday the 4th of December and placed under the Christmas Tree. **We thank Rosemary Mead for her continued work in the Abingtons as she continues to isolate due to Covid.**

Great Abington church Flower Rota – Patsy Randall has now taken on this duty which will begin in the New Year. If you would like to join the team, please contact her on 07765 345 714. The duty will be for 2 weeks in the year and at special services if you wish.

Anne Hall

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: jeaninekennedygv@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

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

Parish Nurse **Kim Cox** (see page 20)

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

News from the Pews

After the disappointment of the pandemic last year cancelling so many Christmas Church services and the Christmas Fayre, we hope to be blessed with a joyful revival this Christmas. Hopefully the Christmas Fayre will have taken place when you receive this magazine. We are so grateful to all of those who offered to help; members of our churches and friends of our churches, thank you all. We now move into Advent, a time of reflection. Do visit our churches during this time for personal reflections and notice the Advent Rings ready for lighting on each Sunday during Advent.

Advent Windows. This most popular event is once again taking place in our village. Twenty-four village residences take Advent to a whole new level, turning our community into one giant countdown to Christmas. Programmes are available in the Post Office or from Church Wardens £3. Fun for all ages!

The Church Christmas Choir is busy rehearsing for the Carol Service, please do go along and join them, you will be made very welcome. They meet in the Primary School on Friday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30pm.

The **Carol Service is on Sunday 19 December in St Mary's Church Great Abington at 6.30pm. Do wrap up warmly, churches are notoriously cold places. The GLAM Choir** has reformed after a long break due to Covid, they are now under the direction of our well known village choir mistress – Glenis Todd. The choir meets in Great Abington Church on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. They too will be singing at the Carol Service. Sincere thanks to Bobby Ford, who has led the choir most admirably for the last few years, but due to work commitments has had to stand down from leadership. We thank you Bobby for your work and for entertaining us at concerts and at the Carol Services throughout the last few years. The church hugely appreciated your work and generosity and wish you well.

Christmas Cards – We have some beautiful snow views of the Abingtons printed onto cards. They can also be used as birthday/thank-you cards as they are plain inside. They are available from Churchwardens - £5 for 8 cards.

Please be aware that although our churches endeavour to take all the necessary Covid precautions all the events noted above are subject to change. Please therefore check church notice boards for any further notifications.

Members of the Parochial Church Council Wish You a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas

Anne Hall

Funerals

The funeral of Elizabeth Clark-Kennedy, a long-term resident of the village, took place in Great Abington Church on 25 October. She married Alec Clark-Kennedy, a descendant of the Mortlocks who owned Abington Hall and the surrounding estate. Memorials to the family are to be found in Great Abington Church. She lived for much of her time in Ivy Lodge on Linton Road, then some years after Alec's death she moved to Church Lane in Little Abington. Her two daughters, Louise and Kate, were the 7th generation of the family to be brought up in the village. Our thoughts and prayers are with Louise, Kate and their families.

The funeral of Bertha Dernie (aged 103) took place in Little Abington Church. Bertha came from London to live with her daughter Leslie in Magna Close following the death of her husband. She and her husband were active members of the Salvation Army and we were pleased to have her funeral service led by Major Corder of the army in Cambridge. The music provided by the brass band players from the Cambridge Citadel Band was very beautiful. Bertha was laid to rest with her husband in the churchyard. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Leslie, her children and grandchildren.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM LOVE ABINGTON

Thank you to our volunteers Love Abington, a church initiative, began as the pandemic became a reality in Britain. It coincided with the desire of a group of young people who wanted all residents in our villages to know they are loved. Now, 21 months later, as we enter a new 'normal' way of life, the Love Abington project continues to ensure that everyone is cared for in our community especially as the rates of Covid remain high. Warmest thanks to everyone who has volunteered - from our wonderful Street Coordinators, the Library organisers, telephone listeners who provide a lifeline to those who are lonely or unwell, the talented women who share their creativity through knitting and crocheting prayer shawls, to amazing people who provide practical support through shopping and gardening for neighbours, through the Community Food Pantry housed in Great Abington Church. Your contribution to the welfare of everyone and the connectivity within our villages is hugely appreciated.

Love Abington during the winter months Winter can be a particularly difficult time for many people living in our community. We hope that this Christmas will bring great joy to people as they gather with friends and family. But for some people it can be a lonely, difficult time. If you need any support, whether practical or just a friendly chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the Love Abington face book page or by ringing **Rosemary Mead (01223 891 718)**. The listening service is very active during the winter months and Rosemary will put you in touch with a member of the telephone listening network for a confidential conversation.

Appeal for Christmas Gifts for Refugee and Foster Children in Cambridgeshire Love Abington is coordinating an Appeal for new Christmas presents for children in foster care and also unaccompanied refugee children in the care of Cambridgeshire social services. Your response last year was beyond all expectations, and we hope we can match that result this year. We look forward to seeing you at **Little Abington Church** or **Hildersham Church** on **Saturday 4 December** between **1.30 and 3.30pm** where you will be able to put your gift under the Christmas Tree. See page 7.

A Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to everyone.

Jeanine Kennedy
Rosemary Mead
and the Love Abington Team

The Partridge Group - Zoom sessions Jan & Feb 2022

The Partridge Group planning team have decided to run a number of talks and discussions in January and February 2022 as ZOOM sessions - (several people were still very concerned about rising Covid rates and face to face meetings in small rooms).

Planning is still in progress, but we already have sessions planned on:

- "The Invisible Universe", including gravitational waves - Dr Matt Bothwell, Public Astronomer, Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge [He has also recently published a book on the topic - The Invisible Universe: Why There's More to Reality than Meets the Eye (Oneworld Publications)]
- "The Good Ancestor" - How to think long term in a short-term world (discussion based on a video and book by Roman Krznaric)

More details soon - if you have ideas for other sessions, would like to be involved or added to the mailing list, please let me know - Barry Brooks (01223 892 605)

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL



We are collecting presents for refugee children and children in emergency social care this Christmas.

Please bring your gift, unwrapped, in a gift bag with a label saying for a boy or girl and age to

ST MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE ABINGTON

or

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HILDERSHAM

on

SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER

1.30 -3.30pm

A huge thank you from the young people of Hildersham, Abington and Love Abington
If you would like further details or you are unable to deliver your present on that day, please ring Rosemary Mead (01223 891 718), Julie Cooper (07761 440102) or Amanda Palmer (01223 894 316) to make other arrangements.

BIG BREAKFAST IS BACK!

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER AT JEREMIAH'S CAFÉ
IN ABINGTON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

Refuel for a hectic weekend

A bargain at £5.00 per head, a BIG breakfast includes a choice of 5 hot items from the menu with toast, plus a mug of tea/coffee, or fruit juice for children.

It is great to be able to offer this event again, but to avoid disappointment please book your table in advance, with your arrival time in one of these slots:

9.30am - 10.00am

10.00am - 10.30am

10.30am - 11.00am

11.00am - 11.30am

To book please call Gill Smith on 01223 892 759.

CASH/CARD payment on the door.

Granta Medical Practices Update, December 2021

Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break.

Make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time to ensure that **you do not run out of your medication** over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

Day and date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Thursday 23 rd December 2021	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 30 th Dec
Friday 24 th December (Christmas Eve)	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 31 st Dec
Saturday 25 th December (Christmas Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Sunday 26 th December (Boxing Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Monday 27 th December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Tuesday 28 th December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Wednesday 29 th December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 4 th Jan
Thursday 30 th December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 5 th Jan
Friday 31 st December (New Years' Eve)	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 6 th Jan
Saturday 1 st January (New Years' Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 7 th Jan
Sunday 2 nd January	Closed	Place order today, pick up 7 th Jan
Monday 3 rd January (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 7 th Jan
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 7 th Jan

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn / indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

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

Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

For further information on available healthcare services, please go to www.nhs.uk or our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services. Tel: 01223 627743 / Email: sandra.east@nhs.net

The Abingtons and Hildersham 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.

County and District Council

District and County Councillors' Report – November 2021

Local Plan Consultation

Following the publication, by the District Council, of the preferred sites for development, there is now a public consultation on these proposals that is live and runs until 16 December. The proposals are to concentrate all major development into existing and forthcoming settlements, such as Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne etc. and leave the villages as they are, as villages. The documents can be commented upon here - <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan> . If people are broadly in favour of the principle of keeping major development in the existing settlements, please do comment and say so.

Enhanced Covid Response Area

Following the steep increase in positive Covid cases and hospitalisations in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough over recent weeks, central government has designated the county as an 'Enhanced Response Area' which means that we are allowed more funding to support the battle against the virus. It also means that some venues, such as schools, could enforce mask wearing again. So, the message is, the virus hasn't gone away, so please continue to act with caution.

Watercourse Reinstatement Grant

There is a grant available from the County Council to help address local flooding issues, specifically where the riparian owner either cannot be identified or is unable to undertake the necessary work themselves. Full details and the application form can be found at - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/riparian-watercourse-grant>

Food waste collection trial_South Cambs. DC is currently undertaking a food waste collection trial – to see if splitting food waste out from general green waste reaps any tangible benefits. We will share the results of the trial once they are published.

20mph Zones_The County Council has started the process of reducing the barriers to creating more 20mph zones in Cambridgeshire's villages and towns. Currently the process is quite restrictive, as the criteria for 20mph zones are very rigid and officers tend not to deviate from them. Hopefully we will be able to announce that the County Council is able to relax the criteria somewhat in coming months.

New County Council Chief Executive The County Council is on the verge of appointing a new Chief Executive. At time of writing the decision is still confidential but I'm sure it will be publicised in local media, so do keep an eye out.

Contact Information

District Council – John Batchelor – johnbatchelor23@gmail.com

County & District Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Diary for December

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Wed	1	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
Thu	2	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	11
Fri	3	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	4	Naturewatch	10.00am	12
		Christmas gifts for children in care – Lt Abington Church and Hildersham Church	1.30pm	7
		Advent Tea – Hildersham Church	2-4pm	16
Mon	6	Rivercare and litter pickup - meet at bridge/ford	9.30am	
		Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Abington Gardening Club	7.30pm	11
Tue	7	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
Wed	8	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
Fri	10	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	13	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		WI Christmas Party – Gog Magog Golf Club	7.00pm	11
Tue	14	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	19
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
		Reading Group	7.00pm	12
Thu	16	Potential Crafter's Group	10.00am	12
Sat	18	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	11
		Big Breakfast – booking information on page 7		7
Sun	26	Abington Walking Group - Boxing Day stroll	10.00am	11
Wed	29	Rivercare and litter pickup - meet at bridge/ford	9.30am	

For details of contacts please see inside back cover or articles where indicated.

Institute bookings: contact preferably by email: institute@theabingtons.org.uk or phone 07591 064 310.

Jeremiah's Café in Abington Village Institute

Opening times in December 2021

Thursday lunchtime 11.30am – 1.30pm (2nd, 9th, 16th)

Saturday mornings 10.00am – 12 noon (4th, 11th) 18th see page 7

Contacts for Café – helenstchowe@btinternet.com and helen.rogers.uk@gmail.com

Wheelie bin dates for December 2021 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 6	Mon 13	Mon 20	Wed 29
Black	Green/Blue	Black	Blue

N.B. Winter Collection:-Green bins will be collected once a month from December to March.

Yoga – Wednesdays 9.30am at Abington Institute

Contact Joan 890 629 or email joangraham72@gmail.com if you would like to drop in and try a class.

Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates – Fridays, 9.30am and 10.30am

Aerobics, toning and stretching, exercises to raise your heart rate and tone your body, fun and friendly. Pilates will help to alleviate back pain, increase core strength, posture and flexibility. Please book for five weeks for Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates. Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk

Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting is on Monday 6 December at 7.30pm at the Institute when Andrew Sankey will give a talk entitled 'Sissinghurst – More Than A White Garden'.

There will be a charity raffle so please remember to bring a wrapped raffle prize.

New members are very welcome.

Kay Harman, Secretary, Tel 891 730 email: robandkayharman@gmail.com

Abington Walking Group

Your December walks are a little different this month. There will be the usual walk on Thursday 4th but on Saturday 18th we will have a short walk around the village followed by an optional brunch at the Institute at 11am.

For anyone needing to clear their head after the festivities there will be the usual Boxing Day stroll to Hildersham Woods, down to Little Linton then Hildersham and back home.

Look forward to seeing you all.

As usual we depart from the Institute at 10am by shared transport to the walk venue.

We will soon have our walk dates for next year. If you would like a copy let us know. All good wishes for Christmas to all of our walkers and look forward to seeing you in 2022.

For further information and dates for the rest of the year please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 or robandkayharman@gmail.com

George Woodley on 891 169 or georgewoodley@ge29gew@gmail.com



Social Cycling

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our cycle ride for a variety of reasons, so the next one will be on Monday 17 January 2022. We shall meet at 9.30am at 1 Bourn Bridge Road.

Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

Scrabble Club

There is no Scrabble Club meeting in December. Our next date will be on Tuesday 25 January at 7pm in the Institute. New members very welcome.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Sheena Fraser

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Our November speaker was unable to come at the last minute, but we went ahead with our planned fish & chip supper and a fishy theme to our evening of entertainment, which included a table quiz, a fisherman's tale, Ocean Bingo and a song – not Jerusalem, but Cockles and Mussels! A very enjoyable evening with much chatter and laughter while discovering more about sea life. Our WI Christmas party will be on 13th December at the Gog Magog Golf Course, arriving at 7 for 7.15pm.

1st meeting of 2022: Monday 10 January - The Splendour of Jewellery with Jason Middleton

Visitors & new members always welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst

Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

The Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group is open every Monday morning (term time only) from 9.30 –11.30am, in the Abington Annexe building at the bottom of the primary school playground. Last time this term, 13 December; recommence 10 January. No need to book in advance. Contact 01223 894 246 (Abington Annexe Office) or email abingtonannexeoffice@gmail.com

Reading Group

14 December	Christmas meeting	Valerie Hefford
11 January 2022	The Madness of Grief: a Memoir of Love and Loss <i>Rev. Richard Coles</i>	Dinah Brooks
8 February 2022	TBA	

We will meet at 7pm for the Christmas meeting. If you have not already confirmed please do this as soon as possible. If you would like to bring a Christmas poem or story to read, this would be very welcome. Please also do a Lateral Flow Test before attending out of respect and courtesy to all.

We would welcome new members. If interested, please email me:

vhefford@yahoo.co.uk

Valerie Hefford

Second call for Crafters

In April 2020, I put a message in the *Abingtons and Hildersham News* to gauge interest in setting up a Craft/Hobby group in Abington. While a number of people were keen, the pandemic put a brake on planning.

Thanks to the current good vaccination levels and the ability to meet safely, groups are now operating. Hence my second call for crafters who would like to spend time with others, relaxing, sharing ideas, tapping in to more experienced crafters and in the process, promoting creativity and well-being.

To reach as many people as possible, I plan to be at the Institute Café on Thursday 16 December to meet anyone interested to find out what ideas, what time and what facilities people would need. I'll arrange a second date in early 2022, on a Saturday.

If unable to meet me at the Institute, please contact me on 01223 892 838 or email Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com.



Naturewatch Meeting

A reminder that on Saturday 4 December, Naturewatch will be holding a meeting at 10am at the Institute. We would welcome anyone new to the village who is interested in helping us record the wildlife in the area. We will review what has been reported over the summer and highlight some of our favourite sightings. If anyone would like more details or can help support us, please ring me, David Farrant, on 01223 892 871.

Community Oil Order

Rod will take orders for domestic heating oil from 26 to 30 December with expected delivery by 14 January. Please provide Rod with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, post code and telephone number. Please contact rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07767 686 351.

Commercial e-bike share scheme

Bernie Talbot and his team are continuing to work on enabling the scheme to proceed as planned; look out for updates.

Emerson Park – affordable homes and social housing update

After a great deal of local interest, the sales of all four First Homes (see last month's Village News for further information), which are one-bedroom maisonettes with a private garden, on the Emerson Park, Linton Road development have been agreed. In addition, SCDC expect the social housing homes to be handed over in early December. We look forward to welcoming the residents into our community soon.

Moorefield

The transfer of the open space at Moorefield to the Parish Council has been agreed and the Council are now waiting for Hill Residential to complete.

Planning

Please attend a planning meeting 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.scams.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Parish Council - applications received

21/04530/FUL – 14 Magna Close - Change of use from existing timber outbuilding to hairdressing salon

21/04192/FUL – Land adjacent 34 South Road – erection of 1.5 storey dwelling with double garage.

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

Tony Orgee (Chairman) tonyorgee@gmail.com

Planning Committees: These are arranged as required when applications are received. See Parish Council notice board for dates or contact the Parish Clerk.

Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 17 January 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)

Vandalism on the Rec

The Abington Recreation Ground Committee is sad to note a recent outbreak of graffiti and criminal damage. It is disappointing that some people care so little for the community and their enjoyment of the facilities provided. However, we are very grateful to members of the community who have come forward to repair the damage and help to identify some of the miscreants.

The parish councils fund the recreation ground so senseless damage causes inconvenience and expense - and even danger - for everyone in the village.

Little Abington Parish Council

Abington Woods event

Deborah James and her team opened up Abington Woods to celebrate autumn on 23 October with 'food, fun and fire'. It was a fabulous event, particularly for families with young children, so look out for the next one.

Sluice Wood

Over the past year we have sought ACV status (asset of community value) for this part of the village, supported by our many dog walkers, but an SCDC internal review has reversed the initial decision to grant ACV status. The fact that there is no public right of way to access the woods makes it hard to contest the decision.

Graffiti and damage

There has been a recent outbreak of graffiti and criminal damage on the recreation ground. Fortunately, residents have come forward to repair the damage and identify some of the miscreants, but please watch out for such activity and take action against it if possible. See page 13.

Parish Councillor vacancy

Peter Brunning will be standing down from the council after nearly 17 years' service, including 11 years as chair. This means there will be a vacancy in the new year. If you are interested, please get in touch with Sheila Bolden.

Overhanging branches

Just a reminder that any shrubs and trees overhanging pavements and footpaths or obscuring street lights need to be cut back before the Highways team charges for their removal.

Recruitment of a new clerk

If you wish to find out more about this part-time position you still have time, so please get in touch with Sheila Bolden (and it is paid).

Meeting on Monday 25 October

Planning

21/03971/LBC 26 High Street: External repointing of brickwork and insertion of new flue liner, chimney pot, register plate and wood burning stove. Approved.

21/1257/TTCA 36a Church Lane: Fell silver birch tree in driveway. Approved as tree to be replaced.

Planning decisions

21/03908/S73 43 Church Lane: Variation of condition 2 (Occupation) of planning permission. SCDC approved.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute

Next Meeting: Monday 24 January 2022, Parish Council at 7.15pm

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

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

Next meetings

No meeting in December

Monday 24 January

If you would like to participate in a meeting in person or via Zoom please contact the clerk to make arrangements.

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

400 Trees Planted for Jubilee

Over 400 trees have been planted at Coton Countryside Reserve to help the planet and celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Twenty volunteers had fun planting the trees on Saturday 13 November, which took them two hours.



The new woodland is being created by local independent charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future and was led by James Allsop, Senior Warden "The area where we have planted the trees was once farmland. When the trees grow up, they will create a new area



of woodland that will provide wildlife habitat, reduce air pollution and store carbon. The trees will also form part of the Queen's Green Canopy Project to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. We are really grateful to the volunteers who did a fantastic job."

Cambridge Past, Present & Future will be planting a further 4,000 trees this winter as part of its effort to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. Volunteers are needed to help plant the trees and tree planting events are being organised throughout the winter at

Coton Countryside Reserve and Wandlebury Country Park. Tools, instructions and trees are provided. The next tree planting is on Sat 11 Dec near Coton village, details can be found on the events page at www.cambridgeppf.org

For further information about the tree planting event on 11 Dec

<https://www.cambridgeppf.org/Event/plant-a-tree-for-free>

For further information about Cambridge Past, Present & Future <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/>

James Littlewood at ceo@cambridgeppf.org or 07900905334

House Deeds - Can you help the Abington History Group?

The Abington History Group (AHG) exists to research the history of the villages of Great and Little Abington, and to share their findings with the local community. We periodically hold open events at the Village Institute and publish items in Aspects of Abington History (AAH) and plan to publish a new version for December 2022.

Recently we were lent the deeds of a house in the High Street which included data about ownership of the house going back to around 1900. This provided new and valuable information about properties in the Abingtons, some originally owed by Neville Pegg, the Estate Manager for the Emerson family in the 1920s.

Does anyone else in the Abingtons have copies of deeds for their house going back to the 1930s or earlier? If you do, AHG would be very interested in having sight of the documents to learn more about historic property ownership in the villages. If you have old deeds and would be happy for us to see them, please contact our Chairman Barry Brooks at [.Abingtonhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:Abingtonhistorygroup@gmail.com)

Hildersham News

Remembrance Service 14 November 2021

The service was held in the churchyard, and we were delighted to welcome an opening parade by Abington Jeremiah Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who processed through the village to the church. We were equally pleased with how engaged and involved the children were with the service, during which the names were read out of those from the Abingtons and Hildersham who lost their lives in the two World wars and the Korean war.

Afterwards a short service was held inside the church to dedicate the wonderful new altar cover with matching pulpit and lectern falls generously given to the church by John and Cathy Myer and exquisitely made by Jenny Logan. It is lovely to think that these altar cloths will be used and seen for many years to come.

CAROL SERVICE

**Hildersham Carol Service will be held outside on Sunday 19 December at 3.00pm. In place of our usual candlelit service, we might be blessed by a gorgeous sunset to accompany our singing.
Do stay for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.**

Children's Church Council



We had a very industrious Creative Church Day on 13 November. We are hoping to see lots of customers to purchase the Christmas decorations the children have made, all of which are made entirely from natural found and recycled materials. Just a reminder that these decorations will be on sale at the Hildersham Church Advent Tea Party on Saturday 4 December between 2 and 4 pm. The children would also like to remind you that Christmas gifts for refugees can also be brought to the church between these times. We hope very much to see a repeat of the generosity shown towards local refugees last year.



Advent Tea Party

Do join us at Hildersham church, on **Saturday 4 December between 2.00 and 4.00pm, for festive tea and cake**. There will also be an opportunity to browse two or three craft stalls, offering decorations, cards, calendars in addition to the decorations made by the CCC.

Gifts for refugees can be brought during the tea party. Gifts should be bagged and labelled (age and most appropriate gender).

Hildersham Parish Council

Report on the Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2021.

A post and wire fence has been erected around the area where the Parish Council plans to establish a copse. The 140 small trees (whips) are due to arrive at the beginning of December and councillors are keen to involve the community, including local children and youth groups in planting the trees. Please contact the Clerk or any councillors to let them know if you would like to get involved in planting the trees.

The Recreation Ground Trust and Field Garden Trust meetings are being held after each Parish Council meeting. The land previously administered by the parish council, including the allotments, the Recreation Ground, North and South Holding will be managed by the Trusts.

Building work to improve the A1307/Beech Row and Pampisford Road/A1307 junctions is due to start in the Spring of 2022. The Highways Dept. has asked if a site office can be installed in the South Holding for the duration of the construction work at the junction.

The new solar light and battery unit will be installed over the next few weeks, and if it works well, the council plans to install a similar unit in the bus shelter on the Hildersham side of the A1307.

The Highways Dept. has confirmed that it plans to paint the bridge over the ford once funds for the next financial year are available. The council had asked if the work could include all the hand railing too.

The council was very pleased with the new picnic bench for the play area which was kindly assembled and installed by Rob Clay.

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 11th January 2022 in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: <https://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk>

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

Friends of the Rosie Hospital

<http://www.rosieinstitches.org.uk/logo2.jpg>

We hope that all our customers have managed to avoid the coronavirus and are all in good health.

Our profits through Rosie in Stitches are over £1,000. We have received £720 this year from PayPal shoppers rounding up for charity at the checkout. The Friends of the Rosie charity are registered with Paypal, eBay, Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising so that customers can donate to our charity at the checkout. We are continuing to join marketplace events on facebook, details are on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RosieinStitches/>

If you have been tidying another cupboard, we are still welcoming donations of craft materials. We need to find alternative storage space for the items we have for sale. If you have a garage or a shed that you are not fully using would you consider letting it out to our charity.

We are still unable to run our Friends of the Rosie tea bar in Clinic 21 due to Covid19, and are unable to say when it will be open again as most of our volunteers are of retirement age or older. We need more volunteers. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Ann Laskey (annlaskey@icloud.com) for more details. New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of knitters, provide transport for our volunteers, display a small selection of our wares or to help on the Rosie tea bar. Contact Mary Sanders on 01223 356615 for further details or our website www.rosieinstitches.org.uk. We wish all our supporters a wonderful winter and hopefully a family Christmas too. All the very best for 2022.

Abington Pre-School bag2school collection on Tuesday 25 January 2022

Pass on your unwanted clothing and other items!

Donations ONLY ON THE DAY

Outside the primary school reception 8am to 9.30am

Abington Pre-School gets money back on the weight of the donations. bag2school is an ethical company that redistributes clothing and other items across the world.

<https://bag2school.com/>

Collect a bag2school bag from preschool or put your items in tied bin bags.

bag2school accept the following good quality items for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags/Hats/Bags Scarves/Ties Jewellery
- Lingerie Socks/Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen/curtains/towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)




Please phone 01223 894 246 if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance. Abington Pre-School Team

December services inside the churches indicated (not Abingtons and Hildersham)

<i>DATE</i>	<i>9.00 am</i>	<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>3pm/4pm</i>	<i>6pm/11.30pm</i>
5 th December		Communion <i>Balsham</i>		
12 th December	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>		Christingle <i>West Wrattling</i> 3.00pm <i>Balsham</i> 4.00pm	
19 th December	Communion <i>West Wickham</i>	Carol Service <i>West Wrattling</i>	Carol Service (outdoor) <i>Balsham</i> 4.00pm	
24 December Christmas Eve			Crib Service <i>Weston Colville</i> 4.00pm <i>West Wrattling</i> 4.00pm	Carol Service <i>West Wickham</i> 6.00pm Communion <i>Balsham</i> 11.30pm
25 th December Christmas Day	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> 9.30am	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>		
26 th December		Communion <i>Balsham</i>		

Church Services for December 2021

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings
5 th December	10.30am United	Communion 4.00pm Evensong	at Balsham	Malachi 3.1-4 Luke 3.1-6
12 th December		10.30am Communion and Christingle		Zephaniah 3.14- end Luke 3.7-18
19 th December	6.30pm Carol Service		3.00pm Carol Service (outdoors)	
24 th December Christmas Eve		11.30pm Communion		
25 th December Christmas Day	10.30am Morning Worship		10.30am Communion	

Church Flower Rota

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
5 th December	Advent – no flowers	Marylin Broadhurst (clean)	Advent – no flowers
12 th December	Advent – no flowers	Helen Rogers (clean)	Advent – no flowers
19 th December	Anne Hall and	Helen Rogers (clean)	Advent – no flowers
26 th December	Patsy Randall	Christmas	Christmas

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

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