



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

January 2022



Photo by Amanda Palmer

Christmas gifts for refugee children and others in foster care – a superb collection at Hildersham church

Letter from the Editor

Despite alarming forecasts about high levels of the Omicron variant we should take heart from positive village achievements in November and December (pages 5, 7,12). The annual Poppy Appeal produced a generous level of donations. The Abington Churches Christmas Fayre was well attended and fundraising was good. The WI enjoyed their Christmas party. There was a staggeringly good response to the appeal for Christmas gifts for children in foster care, and the children in Hildersham sold homemade gifts that produced a useful amount of money to help the REACH project (cover photo, pages 5,17).

Christmas lights are appearing all over the villages in addition to the steady illumination of 24 Advent windows. The café held a Big Breakfast on 18 December and plans a special lunch of traditional roast beef in January (page 12).

The diary on page 10 lists most of the usual village events and it is to be hoped that Omicron will not prevent these happening. People seem to be voluntarily taking sensible precautions to avoid infection and that should help us to return to sharing social, sporting and educational occasions safely.

Regrettably covid infections and the need to self-isolate have led to staff shortages and suspension of the green bin collections in December. It is hoped to resume these on 12 January. Similar problems are affecting medical services. (See pages 6, 9). The Helping Hands service for our villages needs more volunteer drivers so it can maintain this valuable help for people who need transport (page 12).

There has been a healthy outbreak of tree planting. Hildersham Parish Council instigated planting trees on the Hildersham Recreation Ground as part of a project to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (page 7). Great and Little Abington Parish Councils successfully applied to the SCDC for free trees offered as part of a local government strategy to cut carbon emissions (page 9).

The Great Abington Primary School is setting up an exciting, new Outdoor Learning Project which should benefit the whole school community and will seek to involve local organisations like the Allotment Association. Fascinating details and a request for some funding are presented on page 13.

On 25 January the Pre-school is organising a bag2school collection of reusable clothes, jewellery, household linen and other items that we may, by then, be only too relieved to dispose of in the New Year decluttering.

Valerie Silvey

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

Oil orders - contact rodwillcox@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07767 686 351. by 30 December.

From the Seven Churches

I can hardly believe we have arrived once again at the beginning of a new year. May I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

What hopes and expectations do we have for 2022? We might also ask ourselves what do I want, or what could we say, what small act of kindness and care can we do for others? The pandemic has shown us how we can make a difference by all sorts of small actions to our neighbours and friends and, now, with the Omicron virus spreading we will need to carry on. Despite our hope that this pandemic is ending we must learn to live with it, and it is more important than ever to ask ourselves how can we approach the new year? The answer lies in the poem "The Gate of the Year" by Minnie Louise Haskins, which speaks of hope even when we cannot see very clearly into the future.

'God Knows'

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Darkness can be frightening. I am reminded of a time when, as a child, we had a power cut at home and out came the candles to help us to see. It happened at bedtime. My mother and two brothers and I climbed the stairs seeing the shadows dancing on the wall leading onto the landing. It felt really strange, and yet we had to trust that we would not come to any harm, and we didn't. As we go into the new year some may have had a really good time, but others may be facing bereavement or illness.

Remembering we have just celebrated Christmas and the birth of Jesus we can receive hope just like the shepherds and wise men on a journey to the manger to meet the Christ child. Jesus, the saviour of the world, comes to those in darkness helping us to take the next step forward. God loves us all so much that whatever we face we are not alone. We can trust the words of Julian of Norwich 'All things shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.'

When thinking of new year's resolutions, we could each day perform small acts of kindness with great love, as Mother Teresa of Calcutta suggests, for the vulnerable in our society. You won't go far wrong with this approach in 2022. This year in Balsham on Sunday 9th January there will once again be a Plough Sunday service, starting at 9.30am. The Balsham ploughmen have a long-held tradition of collecting money for good causes in the village. All are welcome to join us for this service to find out more about this tradition. Every blessing in 2022.

Rev.Kathy Bishop

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: jeaninekennedyqv@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

Owing to the new covid variant our church services may change. Please do check the church notice boards for any unavoidable alterations.

The PCC would like to thank many members of our community for their help with so many church activities in December. We are so grateful for the generosity, support and friendship given to our churches throughout this time. The Christmas Fayre was a huge success thanks to the help on manning the stalls, the gifts and all who came and supported the event. Advent Windows is now well under way with some amazing windows bringing light and joy to our village. (Programs are still available in the Post Office). The Christmas Presents for Refugee and Foster children was once again an overwhelming success with bags and bags of presents. Children once again enjoyed the Christingle service. The Church Christmas Choir under the direction of Glenis Todd has been busy practising on Friday evenings in readiness for the Carol Service. All these events have involved so many people in our community and we thank them all.

The Christmas Cards/Notelets depicting pictures of the Abingtons are still available from churchwardens (see back page).

Funeral

We were saddened to hear that Roger Edwards had died. Roger was well known in the community having lived a number of years on the Land Settlement. A private funeral has taken place.

We offer our thoughts and prayers to his wife Jean and children.

Anne Hall

To the wonderful people of Abington and Hildersham

On behalf of the young people of Hildersham, Love Abington and the church, we would like to start the New Year by sending a huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously donated a Christmas present for the refugee and other children in emergency foster care in Cambridgeshire, for whom this Christmas will be like no other. We were overwhelmed by the response to the appeal which produced over 200 presents for children and teenagers. A special thank you to Maureen Harper and her knitting circle who contributed eight large bags of beautifully knitted jumpers, scarves, teddies, hats and blankets which will bring a great deal of comfort as well as warmth to the children. We would also like to thank Mary Miles, Marilyn Broadhurst and Jane Furlow for their support. Joe Dunlop, who is responsible for the refugee children in Cambridgeshire, and his colleague, Jodie, were delighted and amazed when they arrived to collect the gifts from Little Abington and Hildersham churches. The presents are being distributed from 13th to 17th December. See Hildersham presents on cover page, some Little Abington gifts above.



Your response made us realise, once again, what special communities we have in Abington and Hildersham. These children will never meet you but they will now know that there is someone out there who really cares and wants them to feel loved at Christmas. Your gifts will always be treasured. Thank you.

Rosemary Mead, and Amanda Palmer

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.

Granta Medical Practices Update, January 2022

At the time of writing this piece, we are experiencing a high level of staff absence. We have no doubt that this will continue as Covid, flu and norovirus continue to take their toll over the winter months, combined with ever-changing Covid guidelines. We will continue to try and provide the best possible service we can to all of our patients, but please bear with us as day-to-day operations may be disrupted. Below are some hints and tips to help you help yourself and in turn help us and the NHS.

SELF-CARE: You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats and upset stomachs at home. Make sure you are stocked up with healthcare essentials such as pain relief (e.g. Paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment, heartburn / indigestion treatments and a first aid kit.

USE YOUR LOCAL PHARMACIST: They can offer you advice and guidance on your symptoms and on the best treatment for you – no appointment needed. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets; many are open in the evenings and at weekends.

USE THE NHS UK SYMPTOM CHECKER www.nhs.uk: This helpful tool can guide you through your symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate health service for you.

RING NHS 111, OPTION 2: If you are experiencing a mental health crisis this First Response Service puts your mental health first. It provides 24-hour access, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to mental health care, advice, support and treatment.

If you have done all you can but feel that your problem remains unresolved, please do ring us and we will be happy to help you.

MEDICATION: If you need to order medication, please do this online via SystmOnline or the Airmid app. Details of how to do this can be found on our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk. If you do not have internet or mobile telephone access, you can send in your repeat medication slip or write in with your repeat request. Unfortunately, we cannot take prescription orders over the telephone.

Thank you for your continued understanding, patience and support.

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

Planning update: Zone 2 Granta Land planning application

A Reserved Matters application has been submitted for the Zone 2 land at Granta Park following the principles and parameters set in the outline consent granted in 2015. The proposals present the culmination of extensive design and a detailed consultation process with key stakeholders and the public. A public exhibition event was held at the Park earlier this Autumn. Further details can be found on the following website: <https://zone2grantapark.co.uk/>

The scheme will provide five new, state of the art laboratory and office buildings designed to high sustainability standards and will offer much needed research space to the Life Sciences industry. In addition, the proposals provide significant environmental enhancements, new planting zones and renewable technologies.

The site 1 planning application (21/03822/FUL) has been revised following further consultation to provide a significant reduction in car parking spaces by reducing the multi-storey car park by one floor (a 39 spaces reduction), material biodiversity and ecological enhancements on and off site and a landscape/visual impact assessment to address specific queries raised during the consultation process. Please take a moment to review the additional information on the planning portal and feel free to lend your support by commenting on the relevant section online.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Many apologies for the delay in letting you know the outcome of the Poppy Appeal. Our area raised the magnificent amount of £2200.40. The house-to-house collection itself raised £1343.46.

A big thank you to those who donated and to the volunteers who freely gave their time to undertake the collecting.

Without everyone's help the Royal British Legion would be unable to continue with their vital welfare and benevolent work. Thank you all once more.

Joan Nevin, Poppy Area Organiser

The Partridge Group - Zoom sessions Jan and Feb 2022

These sessions are confirmed and planning is in progress for other sessions:

Wednesday 19th January - **"The Good Ancestor" - How to think long term in a short-term world** (discussion led by Barry Brooks based on a video and book by Roman Krznaric)

Wednesday 26th January - **The challenges for tomorrows General Practitioners - Dr Katie Keller**

TUESDAY 1st February - **"The Invisible Universe", including gravitational waves - Dr Matt Bothwell**, Public Astronomer, Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge .

Closer to the dates, joining details will be sent to those on the Partridge mailing list. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please let me know - Barry Brooks (01223 892 605)

Tree planting on Hildersham Recreation Ground



On 27 November 2021 volunteers from Hildersham and the Abingtons planted an area of Hildersham Recreation Ground with a mix of trees and shrubs.

This was part of the Queen's Green Canopy Project which celebrates her Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and which the Hildersham Parish Council wanted to support.



County and District Council

District and County Councillor's Report – December 2021

Local Plan Consultation

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

Greater Cambridge Partnership Transport Consultation

The Greater Cambridge Partnership are currently consulting on proposals for greener travel in and around the city of Cambridge. The proposals can be seen and commented upon here - <https://consultcambis.uk/engagementhq.com/making-connections-2021> - interestingly, for those villages off the A1307, there is a proposal for a new, more regular, bus service that serves the smaller more rural villages. It's worth supporting this proposal if this affects your parish.

Covid

With the news that there is a new strain of the Covid virus, we are hearing that as of 30 November, everyone will be required to wear a face covering when using all public transport and, in all shops, again. At time of writing we don't know if there will be any support from local authorities, as there has been since the pandemic began, but should there be, we will be reporting this in the area.

There are several walk-in clinics around the county where booster jabs can be had, on the day. Warning though, queues have been notoriously long so far, so expect a wait. Details here - <https://www.thevaccinators.co.uk/>

Household Support Fund

There is a support fund available from the County Council that is aimed at supporting families with a below average income, through the more difficult winter months. There is a fair amount of money in the pot at the moment and the fund will remain open until March 2022. Eligibility criteria and application form can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund>

Sunnica Solar Farm Application

Just over the border in Burwell, East Cambridgeshire, a planning application for an enormous solar farm has been submitted by a company called Sunnica. Due to the scale of the proposal the application will be decided by the Secretary of State. The County Council is working with Suffolk County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and West Suffolk District Council to formulate a joint response.

Afghan Refugees – Update

The three families being housed by the District Council have arrived and are settling in well. The Council has three more houses available and is waiting for the government agency to make the allocation of the refugees to them. It is good that we have been able to help in this way. The support being given is truly life changing and making a real difference.

Christmas Holiday Activities and Food Programme

For children who claim free school meals due to low income, there is a new free holiday scheme to primary and secondary school children. As usual, there are various eligibility criteria, which can all be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/holiday-activities-and-food-programme> - but it's a good new scheme, being facilitated by the

County Council in conjunction with other bodies, to help support those families that might find Christmas tougher than others this year.

Christmas

It hasn't been a straightforward year for anybody, so we hope that everyone has a relaxing Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to working with you all again in 2022.

Contact Information

District Council – John Batchelor – johnbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Suspension of green bin collections from 13 December

Green bin collections across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire were suspended from Monday (13 December) because of the number of drivers and loaders absent - particularly with Coronavirus or self-isolating.

Green bin collections are planned to resume on Wednesday 12 January 2022 in line with the previously published revised Christmas schedule.

In addition to staff shortages for COVID-related reasons (sickness and self-isolation), there is also a national shortage of HGV drivers and a lack of agency staff because of demand for them elsewhere such as in supermarkets.

The suspension will allow crews to concentrate on emptying black and blue bins during the festive period when more waste and recycling is traditionally generated.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/green-bin-collections-suspended-from-monday-13-december/>,

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/news/2021/12/08/green-bin-collections-suspended-from-monday-13-december>

Tree planting on the shared Great and Little Abington Recreation Ground – SCDC scheme to take up carbon emissions



The trees arrived last week and were planted out on our shared recreation ground. They are all native species Oak, Hornbeam, Wild Cherry and Rowan and the area is now really starting to look like a very pleasant 'treescape'.

The first picture has a group of 7 together and 3 nearer the river. Second Picture shows an Oak and a Hornbeam joining up an avenue which includes last year's '3 free trees'.

David Pimblett (With help from Richard Smith, Helen Pimblett. Dexter kept the area rabbit free!)

Diary for January 2022

Date	Venue	Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Tue	4	Art Group	10.00am	19
Wed	5	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
Thu	6	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	11
Fri	7	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	10	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Abington and Hildersham WI	7.30pm	12
Tue	11	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	12
		Reading Group	7.30pm	12
		Hildersham Parish Council - Village Hall	7.30pm	17
Wed	12	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
Fri	14	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	17	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Social cycling – 1 Bourn Bridge Road	9.30am	11
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	16
Tue	18	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
Wed	19	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
Fri	21	Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	22	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	11
Mon	24	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	15
Tue	25	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Forget-Me-Not Club	2.00pm	12
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	11
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
Wed	26	Yoga – course and drop	9.30am	11
Thu	27	Abington Lunch	1.00pm	11
Fri	28	Low Impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	31	Rivercare and litter pickup - meet at bridge/ford	9.30am	

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

Diary details correct when going to press but Omicron may result in some changes.

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 January 2022

Thursday lunchtime 11.30am – 1.30pm (6th, 13th, 20th) Lunch 27th

Saturday mornings 10.00am – 12 noon (8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th)

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

Wheelie bin dates for January 2022 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Thu 6 Black	Wed 12 Green/Blue	Tue 18 Black	Mon 24 Blue	Mon 31 Black
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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

Physio-led Face to Face Pilates on Mondays at Abington Institute

Mondays 2.20 to 3.20pm for Beginners/Intermediate. Max 6 participants. Classes £12 per session. Book 3 sessions (£36 non-refundable).

Contact Christina Heinz on cambridgepilates@outlook.com

Abington Gardening Club

Best wishes from the committee for a Happy New Year and a reminder there is no meeting in January. The next club talk will be on Monday 7 February.

New members are very welcome

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

Abington Walking Group

Weather permitting we do walk all year round and our first one for 2022 in January is Thursday 6th followed by Saturday 22nd. Look forward to seeing you all.



As usual we depart from the Institute at 10am by shared transport to the walk venue. If you would like details of all our walk dates for the new year please let us know or see notices in the Institute or noticeboard.

All good wishes for 2022, keep well and safe.

For further information 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 last 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.

The next meeting of the Scrabble group will be on Tuesday 25 January at 7pm in the Institute. We will use the meeting room and can overflow into the café area to maintain a safe distance. New members very welcome

Sheena Fraser

Abington Lunch

If rules permit, we will be holding the Abington Lunch again on Thursday 27 January at Abington Institute at 1pm. The menu will be our annual seasonal roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

Those who are interested and are not yet on our list please ring 07941 016 543 to book your place. We will be limiting numbers to 30 to prevent overcrowding.

New customers will be given a copy of the current COVID rules in operation at the Institute before the day and the wearing of masks is mandatory until seated.

Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

This 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. We start again 10 January. No need to book in advance. Contact 01223 894 246 (Abington Annexe Office) or email abingtonannexeoffice@gmail.com

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Despite dire warnings of a rapid increase in Covid 19 infections, our WI Christmas party went safely ahead in December and was much enjoyed by the 23 members who were able to attend. President Janyce wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and good health for the New Year and reminds members to read the CFWI Newsletter online or the relevant pages of WI Life magazine about the new Resolutions in preparation for voting at the January meeting. Our speaker, Jason Middleton, is a gem expert, so it would be good if members could bring a piece of their favourite jewellery to the meeting. We wish all our members a happy, healthy and hopeful New Year.

Next meeting Monday 10 January – The Splendour of Jewellery

Visitors & new members always welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst

Reading Group

11 January 2022	The Madness of Grief: a Memoir of Love and Loss <i>Rev. Richard Coles</i>	Dinah Brooks
8 February	Becoming <i>Michelle Obama</i>	Lisa Pechey
8 March	The Holiday <i>TM Logan</i>	Sue Batty

We will meet at 7.30pm at Dinah's all being well to discuss The Madness of Grief with wine and mince pies! Please confirm attendance to Dinah and copy me in. Please also do a LFT before attending out of respect and courtesy to all.

We would welcome new members. If interested, please email me at vhefford@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Hefford

Forget-Me-Not Club

Welcome to the New Year to all members and villagers who would like to join us. If you are over 50 years of age and would like to come and try an afternoon or two with us we will be delighted to meet you. Perhaps you are new to the village or have some time on your hands and would like to make some new friends over tea.

We meet as always in the Village Institute. Our programme for January is as follows:

11th January 2022 at 2pm. We will be toasting in the New Year. Please bring some Christmas tales/memories with you recent or old to share.

25th January 2022 at 2pm. Our Parish Nurse, Kim Cox will join us to introduce herself and talk about her role.

The Committee and I look forward to seeing you all in January. Please contact me for any further information.

Jennifer Milns

Helping Hands which has been running for many years in our village, is in need of volunteer drivers to enable us to continue this valuable service. We provide transport assistance for appointments to local health centres, hospital, dentist etc. Volunteer drivers are paid mileage by the client to cover the cost of petrol. If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact Helen Pimblett on 01223 891 746.

Great Abington Primary School

The Outdoor Learning Project

I am writing this article to bring your attention to our plans for changing the outdoor environment to improve learning at the school. The Outdoor Learning Project is the first major community project initiated at the school since the acquisition of additional land over 10 years ago. The proposed location for the project is on this land opposite the Annex entrance. The aim is that the first phase of the project will be completed during the Easter holidays 2022 with the second, planting, phase completed in the Autumn. In addition, alongside this project, secure bike sheds are planned at the end of the space adjoining the recreation ground where the new pump track will be built prior to Easter 2022.

This ambitious project includes a growing area with a greenhouse (special toughened glass!), raised beds and a mini orchard. Water and electricity services will be provided. There will also be earth mounds, logs, a living willow structure, large boulders, mature trees, a fire pit, benches and much more. For details and plans of the project please refer to <https://www.greatabington.school/outdoor-learning-project-2022/>.

The proposed outdoor space will encompass many aspects of learning throughout the seasons developing curiosity, creativity and the experience of our nine School values. It aims to support awareness of climate change, sustainability, soil to plate themes and enterprise skills as part of lifelong learning skills, personal development and wellbeing. Our Vision statement, set out alongside the plans and sketches, confirms the great range of curricular opportunities, personal development and learning experiences that will be provided.

The project is for the whole school community; pupils, babies and toddlers, preschool and out of school and holiday clubs. We are working to involve the wider local community including the Allotment Association, Gardening Club, Naturewatch and other experts and volunteers seeking their guidance and future involvement. We are also seeking to involve the Parish Councils, Granta Park, the Botanic Gardens and others.

The project will cost approximately £55,000 - £60,000, half of which has already been raised and we are now reaching out to the local community including businesses, landowners and others for further support. A local family has pledged £10,000 towards the project if we can match this with community funding. We do hope that you will feel able to contribute and support us. Any donation, however big or small, will be greatly appreciated and remain confidential.

To conclude, this is an ambitious and exciting project that will benefit our children, now and in the future, and the wider community. I hope that you will feel that you can support it. We will be providing further updates throughout the course of the project.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you require any further information or have any queries at all please do not hesitate to contact Guy Underwood or myself.



Vice Chair of Governors Mark Carter

Little Abington Parish Council

A1307 at Hildersham The road safety improvements planned for the Hildersham crossing have been postponed till March 2022. Watch this space.

New clerk We have appointed a new clerk: Jessica Ashbridge. She is already the clerk for Weston Colville and Horseheath parish councils and so comes with plenty of experience. She takes up the post at the beginning of March.

Parish councillor vacancy With Peter Brunning's departure after nearly 17 years' service, we are looking to fill the vacancy. If you are interested, please get in touch with Sheila Bolden to find out what's involved.

Meeting on Monday 22 November

We are concerned over the lack of delivery of a number of S106 initiatives related to previous planning agreements on Granta Park. We will be following this up with the planning officers at SCDC.

Planning

21/03187/HFUL 1 Ley Rectory Farm Barns, Hildersham Rd. Conversion of storage barn to habitable rooms with a minor amendment. LAPC approval.

Planning decisions:

21/1257/TTCA. 36A Church Lane. Fell silver birch tree. Withdrawn.

21/04045/HFUL 6 Bourn Bridge Rd. Extensions. LAPC supported and SCDC agreed.

21/04041/PRIOR 44 High Street. Change of use. LAPC supported and SCDC agreed.

21/03971/LBC 26 High Street. Various works. LAPC supported and SCDC agreed.

Planning meeting on Wednesday 1 December

21/03039/FUL Bancroft Farm, Church Lane. Demolition of existing dilapidated agricultural buildings and hardstandings. Erection of five dwellings. Conversion of two redundant barns to form a detached dwelling and an office.

Recommended refusal: worse flooding than already experienced, increased traffic on a dangerous corner, PVAA still encroached upon, overdevelopment and loss of rural character.

S/1110/15/CONDA Phase 2 Granta Park. Various details of proposed development of the site in Land Zone 2.

Recommended refusal: Additional traffic and local impact and requirement for traffic modelling, excessive parking capacity.

Planning meeting on Wednesday 15 December

21/05048/FUL Land adjacent to 51 High Street, Little Abington. Erection of 1 dwelling house. Recommended refusal: site is outside village development limit, which planning rules are specifically designed to protect and enforce; detracts from an attractive entrance to the village; would have a detrimental impact on the setting of several listed buildings looking on to the proposed site; would increase traffic through an entrance with poor lines of sight; would potentially open the way to further development.

21/04914/HFUL 48 High Street, Little Abington. Retrospective external and internal alterations. **21/04915/LBC 48 High Street, Little Abington.** Retention of external and internal alterations. Concern that the external soil pipe is unsightly.

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

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

Your care home experiences wanted!

Do you, a loved one, family member or friend live in a Cambridgeshire or Peterborough care home? Health and social care champion Healthwatch Cambridgeshire is calling out to local families to share their experiences of care homes over the last 12-18 months.

From communications and visiting restrictions to Covid testing and end of life care – they want to hear what it's been like for you. What you tell Healthwatch will help local health and care services prepare better for the future.

If you're not online, get in touch and they can send you a paper questionnaire and a pre-paid envelope. Call 0330 355 1285.

Share your views at: <https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/care-home-survey>

Reminding Dog Walkers to control their dogs

The following comments concerning dogs that are not properly under the control of their owners were made by those responsible for Magog Down, a popular walking location. The Abingtons and Hildersham have welcomed many new residents recently and there has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of dogs being walked and a noticeable increase in dog poo that has not been picked up and properly disposed of by their owners. So, it seems timely to use the Magog Down advice as a reminder to dog owners of their responsibilities.

“Be aware that the [Dangerous Dogs Act](#) applies to all dogs and this states that it's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere.

- Your dog is considered dangerously out of control if it:
 - *injures someone*
 - *makes someone worried that it might injure them.*
- **You can get an unlimited fine or be sent to prison for up to 6 months (or both) if your dog is dangerously out of control.** You may not be allowed to own a dog in the future and your dog may be destroyed.
- A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if either of the following apply:
 - it attacks someone's animal
 - the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal
- **If you let your dog injure someone you can be sent to prison for up to 5 years** or fined (or both).
- A farmer is allowed to kill your dog if it's worrying their livestock.

Magog Down always asks visitors to follow the [Countryside Code](#) anyway. That means you must have your dog under control at all times, and if you are unsure whether you can control your dog, then you must walk it on lead. The permission to walk "off-lead" in defined areas of Magog Down is conditional on keeping effective control at all times: i.e., keep your dog in sight at all times and be confident it will return on command.”

2022 A happy Christmas and New Year to all our residents. On behalf of our community the Parish Council gives thanks to all those who've done such sterling work in continuing to reach out to those in particular need throughout these difficult times. We know that there are lots of members of our community who, quietly and often unseen, give support for others who need help.

Potholes With frost and heavy rain, these are likely to increase in number in the coming weeks. Please report potholes via the Highways website preferably with a photo. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

Faulty Streetlights? Please inform Cambridgeshire County Council if you spot any malfunctioning street lamps via <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/streetlighting/>. You will need to quote the lamp reference number on the lamp post when reporting a malfunctioning light. For those with no access to the internet, please inform the Parish Clerk Paula Harper (contact details inside front cover).

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.scambs.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

21/05216/HFUL – Plot 3 - Land Rear Of Strawberry Farm Pampisford Road Great Abington Cambridgeshire CB21 6AQ . Installation of outdoor swimming pool, ancillary pool house and associated infrastructure and works

21/05165/REM - Phase 2 Land Zone 2 Granta Park Great Abington Cambridge CB21 6AL . Reserved Matters application for a Research and Development buildings and associated car parking comprising layout, scale and appearance of the buildings, landscaping and associated infrastructure with respect to the individual development plots (including parking), pursuant to outline application S/1110/15/OL. See also page 6.

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 2022 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)

Hildersham Church News

Children's Church Council

An enormous 'thank you' from the CCC for the huge number of Christmas presents donated for refugee children and for emergency social care referrals. The children were thrilled by the generosity of local residents. Such was the response it proved a challenge to squeeze all the gifts, along with the donations from the Abingtons, into the two cars that came to collect them. See cover page photo.

These gifts surrounded the Christmas tree at the Advent Tea Party in the Church. A jolly Christmas atmosphere welcomed all who came to enjoy the considerable selection of homemade cakes and biscuits. The children's stall selling entirely sustainable handmade decorations and cards was busy throughout the afternoon. Other craft stalls were equally busy, some even taking orders.

The proceeds of the Tea Party amounted to £365. The CCC decided that the money



raised should be spent on items of homeware for Reach Community Project's service users. A shopping list was drawn up by the children which funded items such as towels, toasters, bed linen, duvets and crockery. These and more were distributed to those in need within a week of the Tea Party. A sum of money was also made available from these funds for the specific needs of a particular family who had recently lost a parent.

Churchyard Clean Up

Storm Arwen did not deter an intrepid group of Hildersham villagers from sweeping, digging, clearing, carrying, lifting, huffing and puffing to keep our churchyard welcoming and cared for.

Photo by Amanda Palmer

Springtime will soon beckon, with thoughts turning to an Easter Tea Party and Plant Sale.

Hildersham Parish Council

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)

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 894246 if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance. Abington Pre-School Team

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

(10.30am Online Service available for all)

<i>DATE</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>pm</i>
2 nd January		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
9 th January	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Plough Sunday 9.30am <i>Balsham</i>		
16 th January	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wrating</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
23 rd January	Communion <i>West Wrating</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i>		
30 th January	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> 9.30am	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

Church Services for January 2022

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings
2 January	10.30am United 4.00pm Evensong	Communion	at Balsham	Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12
9 January		10.30am Communion		Isaiah 43.1-7 Luke 3.15- 17,21-22
16 January	9.00am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	Isaiah 62.1-5 John 2.1-11
23 January			10.30am Communion	Nehemiah 8.1- 3,5-6,8-10 Luke 4.14-21
30 th January		4.00pm Evensong	9.00am BCP Communion	Ezekiel 43.27- 44.4 Luke 2.22-40

Church Flower Rota

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
2 January	Anne Hall	Marilyn Broadhurst	Kirsten Newble
9 January		Mary Miles and	Kirsten Newble
16 January	and	Sylvia Gilmour	Kirsten Newble
23 January		Lesley Crisp and	Kirsten Newble
30 January	Patsy Randall	Rosemary Mead	Kirsten Newble

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