



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

February 2023



Photo by Kate Franklin

**Invitation Cup winners
Abington Cricket Club 2022**

Letter from the Editor

Facing the challenges of the high cost of living, climate change, industrial action and war in Europe, we need to find reasons for hope. Page 4 suggests that recognising the vulnerability of members of the community and their need of each other can provide that hope. Our ongoing community responses to the needs of others demonstrate its effectiveness. Page 5 records gratitude for the many people, including children, who have made donations to the foodbanks in the churches. These are being well used. Operation Christmas Child received over 15,000 boxes of gifts to distribute to needy children. The appeal for warm clothing and bedding to send to Ukraine met with an overwhelming response. The local Ukrainian community organised a holiday celebration meal for their UK hosts (Pages 5, 6, 7).

Reports from councillors (pages 8-9,15-17) include a new local plan for an extra 8,000 houses, moves for more 20mph schemes, action on pollution and electric charging points and ways to report the increasing damage caused by potholes.

February brings an invitation to the Cricket Club's Indoor Nets and to Pancake Tuesday, another special Abington Lunch and plans for events in the spring, not least the Coronation.

My hope to retire as Editor has been dashed *pro tem*. See below.

Valerie Silvey

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Articles for the March 2023 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Wednesday 15 February 2023 at news@theabingtons.org.uk.

Last call for a new Editor of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*

The Abingtons and Hildersham News is produced every month and printed copies are distributed, free-of-charge, by volunteers to over 800 houses and public buildings in the villages. It is also placed on the village website and in the village archive organised by the History Group.

The *News* provides, in a single document, information about events and issues associated with the County, District and Parish Councils, the churches, the medical services and the many sports, social and educational clubs. It encourages and supports communal activity. Editing the *News* is a challenge but hugely satisfying. Why not try it for a year and see how it goes.

The November advert for an editor led to one very welcome volunteer who had a fulltime job. Promoted early in January with extra responsibilities and the need to work in London rather than at home she will not now have time to edit the *News*.

I have agreed to continue until the June 2023 issue. Without an editor the *Abingtons and Hildersham News* will have to close. Don't let this happen. A new editor, or two or three volunteers willing to form an editorial team, needs to be in place by mid-June 2023. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please contact me, Valerie Silvey, on 01223 891 882 or email mrsvalerie16@gmail.com.

From the Seven Churches

When our village churches were first built, some six or seven hundred years ago, Christmas was a season of celebration and feasting that lasted for well over a month. Officially the festivities ended on 2 February, the Feast of Candlemas.

How things have changed. We know now that Christmas is over when Easter chocolates start appearing on the supermarket shelves early in January!

The Bible reading for Candlemas records the words of an old, holy man who finds the child Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. Simeon thanks God for this gift of having at last seen the child destined to be a “light of revelation” and hope to the world, and so he can die in peace. Candlemas gets its name from the candles, the lights people would bring to church on that day, to be blessed and lit through the long dark days of winter and deprivations of Lent before Easter finally arrived.

Yet for us, this February, finding reasonable things to hope for may seem something of a stretch.

Our forebears endured precarious lives. But in our generation, we have learned to take for granted predictable seasonal weather, and steady progress on many fronts: an increased standard of living, longer healthier lives, and an increasingly democratic world. And all this progress probably not driven by a God in the sky as much as by the science and reason which have made us believe that we are the masters of our own destiny.

However, there’s much happening in the world today to make us wonder if the progress we enjoyed is stalling. The relationships within, and between, nations are again creaking badly. And we are only promised increasingly severe weather events and uncertain seasonal patterns.

Falling back on the certainties of our ancestors isn’t an option. So, is there anything we might still learn from the light and hope of Candlemas, within the whole pattern of the Christian year, to help sustain us in our uncertain times? Things that perhaps our village forebears, in their lives bound more closely together, took for granted. But in a world of rivalry, greed and increasing suspicion things that we fail to see. I think there is.

In our community, we all **need** each other. And to ‘make it’ with each other we need the light of seeing our mutual vulnerabilities, and the light of compassion and sacrifice, and the light to find joy in each other as the only underpinning to give our lives real meaning and true hope.

Alistair Collen

Granta Vale Ministry Team

Rector **Revd Iain McColl** 890693: mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Curate **Revd Ben Brady** 344920: revdbenbrady@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Ministers **Steven Wheeler** 290396: **Alistair Collen** 891561

Kristi Stewart Elliott kristimse@gmail.com

Keith Day 891527: **Rosemary Mead** 891718

Hannah Threlfall hthrelfall82@gmail.com

Parish Administrator **Caroline Walshe** 891443: 7churches.seven@gmail.com

<https://grantavale.org.uk/>

News from the Pews

As we move into 2023 plans are already being discussed for various services and fundraising events throughout the year. The biggest and most notable event will undoubtedly be the Coronation of King Charles III, an 'I was there' occasion for all ages. Following the next PCC meeting the events throughout the year will be listed. (Dates for your diaries)

Throughout our December events and services very many people came through the doors of both Great and Little Abington churches. This is so encouraging, especially as the weather has been extraordinarily cold, and so we thank everyone for their support.

The foodbanks in both Great and Little Abington churches have been well used and replenished throughout the festive season. Sincere thanks to the generous people who supplied food and indeed left gifts too. We had no idea that the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers Group also support the foodbanks until their leader was spotted with an enormous bag of various food items in the church. All items were donated by the children – what a wonderful life lesson for them. Well done and thank you to the leaders.

Once again sincere thanks to all members of the various community clubs who took part in the Christmas Tree Festival enduring the freezing cold church while they produced their imaginative and amazing trees. Sincere thanks also to Glenis and her Glam Choir ladies who entertained visitors with festive songs, adding a Christmas atmosphere to the festival. Well done to everyone who took part, we cannot put events on without you.

We are extremely lucky now to have Revd. Ben Brady in our midst and living in the vicarage. If you need to speak to him at any time, please don't hesitate to do so; he would be more than happy to help or listen to anyone.

Anne Hall

John Coates

On 14 December 2022 my husband, John Coates, sadly passed away after a short battle with cancer. I, along with my two sons, would like to thank everyone for their kind words and cards, also for the support we received in the village and at his funeral on 17 January at the Cam Valley Crematorium. Our sincere thanks.

Dora Coates



Operation Christmas Child. Big Thank You

Thank you very much to all of those who filled boxes, gave items for the boxes, gave money donations, made and bought cakes, helped at the processing centre and most of all prayed.

Altogether, 15,129 boxes were checked and packed to start their journey at the East of England pop-up processing centre at City Church Cambridge during one week.

These have gone to Central Asia and Albania. Boxes from other centres will go to Ukraine and the surrounding countries for the refugee children; further boxes will go to other countries around the world. These will bring some joy in a very difficult time and the opportunity to hear about the Gospel story.

Many thanks, Jane Furlow (Connect volunteer for OCC)

Jeremiah's Café

The café is a warm place to go on a cold day. Opening times are shown on page 11. There is always someone to talk to and prices are very reasonable.

There is a special lunch on the fourth Thursday in the month. The menu for February is on page 14. All are welcome.

Granta Medical Practices Update, February 2023

Coming up next month, Granta Medical Practices, in conjunction with the Patient Participation Group, will be running their biggest ever patient survey. This will be a real opportunity to make your voice heard. While we may not be able to fix the NHS, by taking part you could help us shape the future of Granta in these challenging times.

The survey will be available shortly online and in paper form in our surgeries – we will let you all know when we go live.

Thank you in advance for completing the survey and letting us know your views.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

E. sandra.east@nhs.net

British Red Cross Mobility Aids Service

This is now at its new permanent premises at Lothbury House, Technopark, Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8PB Tel: 07590 962 907, Sat Nav: 'Lothbury House' CB5 8PB What 3 words: 'edit.flames.open'

We hire out wheelchairs and toileting aids. However, we also have a selection of donated, cleaned and serviced items, such as Zimmer frames, rollators, crutches, walking sticks etc. For these we just ask for a donation and they are yours. From time to time we have reconditioned wheelchairs which have been fully checked, serviced and cleaned and these we offer at reasonable prices. If you have any questions contact

Gaynor Farrant tel. 07817 517 871 or email gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

Rosie Hospital

Rosie in Stitches raised over £2,000 in 2022. Thank you for your kind support and we look forward to continuing to help you find unusual gifts this year. We are sharing our extensive catalogue on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/RosieinStitches/ so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts for special friends and family.

We have links to other stores on our www.rosieinstitches.org.uk website.

We are continuing to accept donations of unwanted crafting materials for our crafters to use or for us to sell on eBay. We are still recruiting new crafters to our team.

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters or display a small selection of our wares. Contact Mary Sanders on 01223 356615. Further details are given on our website www.rosieinstitches.org.uk.

Ukrainian guests and hosts celebrate on Saturday 7 January 2023



Photo by David Simmons

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ABINGTON

Another person joined the Abington Ukrainian Community in January which makes a total of 17 in eight hosting households.

On 7 January in the Institute the Abington Ukrainian community hosted a holiday celebration for their Abington hosts. This was an opportunity to sample 14 examples of traditional Ukrainian cuisine that celebrates the holiday season. Forty people attended and the opening activity was the Ukrainian community singing traditional Ukrainian carols. The atmosphere was one of joyous unity as a start to 2023.

Photo by David Simmons

Another impressive event was on 14 January when the Rotary Club of Saffron Walden parked a lorry at the school to collect “warm items” for Ukraine. The lorry was filled and the small meeting room in the Institute was also filled with items donated by the village. A truly compassionate response from the local community expressing an understanding of the needs of vulnerable citizens in Ukraine.

The donated items will be sorted and prepared for transport by UK Aid and will then be taken to Poland and Moldova where the Rotary Clubs will distribute the donations to Rotary Clubs in Ukraine that have identified the locations where the need is critical.

Clothing items can be donated locally at the Sawston Free Church on Thursday and Friday between 4 and 6pm.

18 million Ukrainian citizens are affected by the conflict.

13 million have fled their homes.

10 million have fled from Ukraine.

8 million are displaced within the country.

3 million have returned to “their homeland”.

5 million have needed emergency relief items.

8 million have needed emergency access to clean water.

626,000 have needed emergency financial support.

In the UK the Red Cross has supported 10,000 displaced Ukrainians.

In the UK the Red Cross has provided £1million of emergency funds for displaced Ukrainians.

There is still a need for host households. Anyone who wishes to assist should text ROOM to 88802. Information is available from: HFULiasion@scams.gov.uk and www.scams.gov.uk/ukraine_duty_communities@scams.gov.uk Anton King



Saffron Walden Rotary Club -Tony Collett and Saffron Walden Rotary sincerely thank all those who gave so generously last Saturday to the appeal held at Abington Primary School for winter items for displaced Ukrainians. The success was overwhelming, and the number of duvets, blankets, bedding, clothes, shoes, toys, and toiletries was so large that Jane and Helen of Jeremiah's Café came to our rescue by allowing items to be stored until our van returned for a second load. Thank you for a tremendous community response.

District and County Councillors' Report January 2023

Making Connections Consultation

Thank you to all those who fed their views into the Greater Cambridge Partnership's public consultation on their proposals to improve public transport in our area with the introduction of a sustainable travel zone that would be funded via a congestion charge.

There were record numbers of responses to this, as hoped, as it is, in our opinion, one of the most important consultations that we'll be asked to respond to. There were in the region of 24,000 responses, which equates to around 15% of the entire population of South Cambridgeshire (this doesn't sound like a lot, but it is!).

Local Plan

The Local Plan (the District Council's process of identifying sustainable locations for housing and economic development within South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City for the next 30 years) is moving forward. The latest update is that due to the very fast economic growth in the area (the predicted job growth has already been achieved halfway through the current Local Plan) the government-set formula for calculating housing need has had to be reassessed. Using the new calculation, it is now necessary to find a place for a further 8,000 houses on top of what has already been allocated. This is likely to mean either another new town in the district, or lots of small to medium-sized developments on the edge of existing settlements/villages as well as in the Green Belt.

Another complication is that the Environment Agency is now taking quite a hard line on water supply. They are saying that the area currently doesn't have enough water supply to fulfil the current Local Plan, let alone the emerging one. There is a plan to use Grafham Water's supply, but this isn't currently planned to come online until 2027.

So, not a straightforward predicament but do keep watching this space as the situation develops.

Cost of Living support & Community Chest

SCDC's Community Chest fund provides grants to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life locally. Criteria have been expanded to allow bids that include contributions for any project that has a positive impact for communities related to the cost-of-living crisis. Parish Councils of any size can also now place grant bids. A ring-fenced total sum of £20,000 has been made available for these new Community Chest grant applications, provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System, to ensure support is co-ordinated effectively and directed at those in need locally this winter: - www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/community-chest-grants/

South Cambs. District Council also has a cost-of-living 'Go Fund Me' page that is taking donations to be used to purchase items to assist those that need support over the winter months: - www.scambs.gov.uk/emergency-go-fund-me-page-will-help-residents-struggling-in-the-cost-of-living-crisis/

POPs in WUDS

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are found in various waste upholstered domestic seating (WUDS) such as sofas and upholstered dining chairs. Such materials should not be landfilled.

The law against landfilling POPs was introduced in 2007, but the Environment Agency recently announced it would become more rigorous in its enforcement. The Environment Agency declared in August 2022 that it would soon expect councils to cease landfilling upholstered seating, and to incinerate it instead. It published its Final Regulatory Position Statements on this matter on Monday 19 December 2022, with implementation starting on Sunday 1 January 2023.

The short notice over Christmas has provided little time to organise incineration capacity, and the County Council is therefore seeking an extension of at least a month while it works through options and liaises with its waste contractor Thalia (formerly Amey) and with the District Councils that collect Cambridgeshire's waste. This does however mean that from 1 January the Council will not be able to dispose of soft furnishings until a method of disposal acceptable to the Environment Agency has been identified and set up.

20mph schemes

The Highways & Transport Committee at the County Council approved the changes to the Council's policy on 20mph speed limits outlined in previous reports. The proposed timetable for applications for funding new 20mph speed limits is as follows.

- Go live with application process online for new schemes (February 2023)
- Application period (February to April 2023)
- Prioritisation (May to June 2023)
- Committee report for approval (July 2023)
- Programming and delivery of schemes (August 2023 onwards)

King Charles III Coronation Street Parties

The Council has published guidance for local groups seeking to organise street parties and highways events to mark the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. All street party applications must be received by the County Council at least eight weeks in advance (Friday 10 March 2023) via the Council's website. Highway Events applications must be submitted at least twelve weeks in advance (Friday 10 February 2023).

More information about the process can be found at

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/highway-events/coronation-events

Linton Warm Hubs

Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs. District Council are working with communities across the district to open Warm Hubs to help people struggling with fuel cost or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are now 20 up and running with another seven on the way. Linton has opened its first two Warm Hubs, these are:

- St Marys Church – Thursday 11am – 2pm
- Linton Free Church – Tuesday 1pm – 4pm

Ukraine – new hosts needed for guests

Cambridge City and South Cambs. have between them about 500 hosts for Ukrainian guests. With the war in Ukraine continuing, the six-month hosting arrangements have had to be renewed, though not all hosts are able to do so. Anyone who might be able to provide a spare room for a guest from Ukraine is asked to get in touch with SCDC. We need new homes for about 200 people. For this reason, the councils have launched the GOT A SPARE ROOM campaign. If you are interested, please text ROOM to 88802.

www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room/

Electric Vehicle Charging

The District Council has introduced a grant of up to £5,000 per application for electric vehicle charging points on community/public buildings within the district. It's a great opportunity for us to expand our electric charging network and make our area more accessible for those wanting to travel here via electric vehicle.

www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/

Contact Information

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Diary for February 2023

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Wed	1	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	17
Thu	2	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	12
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	3	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	6	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Abington Gardening Club	7.30pm	13
Tue	7	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
Wed	8	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
		Partridge Group	8.00pm	16
Thu	9	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	10	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	13	Abington and Hildersham WI – Lunch at the Gog		
		Magog Golf Club	12.30pm	13
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
Tue	14	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
		Reading Group – see page 12 for venue	7.30pm	12
Wed	15	Yoga – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		Abington Group	7.30pm	19
Thu	16	Craft Group	1.30pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Sat	18	Abington Walking Group	9.50am	12
Mon	20	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
		Social Cycling - meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00pm	13
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
Tue	21	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Pancake Day – Jeremiah's Café from	2.00pm	19
		Table Tennis	7.30pm	
Wed	22	Yoga – course and drop in	10.00am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	23	Abington Lunch (doors open)	12.45pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	24	Low impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		Film Nights– doors open	7.00pm	12
Mon	27	Rivercare and litter pickup - meet at bridge/ford	9.30am	
		Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	11
Tue	28	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	11

		Table Tennis	7.30pm	19
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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 Opening times in February 2023

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

Friday morning 8.45am – 11.00am (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th)

Saturday mornings 10.00am – 12 noon (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th)

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

Note: Page 14 for the Abington Lunch menu on 23 February.

Wheelie bin dates for February 2023 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Mon 6

Green / Blue

Mon 13

Black

Mon 20

Blue

Mon 27

Black

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, improve 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

Line Dancing - Wednesdays 1pm to 2.30pm, term time at Abington Institute

Qualified line dance instructor, Lisa Mason, now runs drop-in classes suitable for all ages and levels and welcomes beginners to intermediate level. Bring a drink and suitable shoes. Contact email lisa.lmsd@gmail.com or phone 07958 788 292.

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. No need to book in advance. Contact 01223 894 246 (Abington Annexe Office) or email abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com

Scrabble Club

The next meeting of the Scrabble Club will be on Tuesday 28 February at 7pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome.

Sheena Fraser

Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting is Monday 6 February at 7.30pm in the Institute when Robert Turner will give a talk on a visit to Keukenhof in Holland. Subscriptions are £10 members, £3 guests. All welcome.

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

Film Nights

Our next film will be on Friday 24 February 2023 at 7.30pm in the evening (doors open at 7pm). We hope to see you there!

For more details please sign-up to our Film Nights newsletter at www.theabingtons.org.uk/the-institute/film-nights/ or at our email address films@theabingtons.org.uk.

The Tuesday Club (formerly the Forget-Me-Not Club).

Our first meeting in February will be on Valentine's Day, 14 February at the usual time of 2pm. To celebrate the day, you are invited to bring a favourite appropriate poem to share. The second meeting on 28 February at 2pm we are pleased to welcome back David Farrant to update us on the local Naturewatch.

We look forward to seeing you.

New and old members will be welcome as always.

Please contact me for further details.

Jenny Milns (890 252)

Reading Group

14 February	<i>My Name is Lucy Barton</i> Elizabeth Strout	Anna Heron
14 March	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> Bonnie Garmus	Lisa Pechey
11 April	<i>Sorrow and Bliss</i> Meg Mason	Sue Batty

We will meet at 7.30pm at Anna's to discuss *My Name is Lucy Barton*. Please confirm attendance to Anna and copy me in.

If interested in joining our group, please email me: vhefford@yahoo.co.uk.

Valerie Hefford

Abington Walking Group

Our first walk of 2023 was over Therfield Heath at Royston where it tested our hill-climbing skills !

Your February strolls are on Thursday 2nd and Saturday 18th.

We continue to walk throughout winter – weather permitting (we miss very few !!).

All of the 2023 walk dates are on the Institute notice board.

The walks start from the Institute at 10am by shared transport to the walk venue.

Look forward to seeing you.

For further information please contact:

Robin Harman on 891 730 or robandkayharman@gmail.com



Granta Vale Harmony

Granta Vale Harmony is a mixed *a capella* singing group. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Abington Institute, and anyone is welcome to join in.

Contact details – Peter Lester telephone 07884 932 215 or email haverhi11@talktalk.net

PTFA Update

School Disco

Our first main event at the start of the year was the school disco on 27 January and as always it was a very popular event with the children. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to help at this event; your support is crucial to helping us make these events possible. Also, a thank you to Mark Donovan for supplying the music for the evening. A great time was had by all.

Welcome Bingo

We are very excited to be bringing back our Welcome Bingo event, which we have not been able to hold since the start of the pandemic in 2020. The date is set for Friday 24 February and is a great opportunity for new parents at the school to come along and meet other parents, but also a night of great fun for all. Numbers are limited for this event, so, if you are keen to attend, get your team's name ready to submit! Further details regarding this event will soon be released by the PTFA .

PTFA Meetings

Members of the PTFA typically meet once each half term to discuss and organise our up-and-coming events for the school. The PTFA is not only for parents and teachers, but as the name suggests, for friends of the school who are also welcome. If you would like to attend one of our meetings to find out more about what we do, and potentially help volunteer at one of our events, we would love to hear from you. In the first instance please message us via ptfa@greatabington.school.

Joanna Chapman

Social Cycling

A group of five wrapped themselves up and braved the chilly weather to cycle 24km with a very pleasant stop at the Docky café having battled up the Magog hill! The next ride will be on Monday 20 February at 10 o'clock from 1 Bourn Bridge Road so please do not forget to put the date in your diary. Come and join us for great fun, good company and excellent pit stops. Gaynor Farrant 07817 517 871 or gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

Abington Craft Group

Next meeting on Thursday 16 February, 1.30 to 4.30pm on the Institute terrace.

It's DEMO time. Irena from Sew Knit Craft, King Street, Cambridge is coming to teach crochet. She will bring some supplies – crochet hooks and wool, but please bring your own if you have them. Everyone welcome. Tea and cake provided - £2 per session. For information email- Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com or telephone 07970 614 194.

AALGA QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 3 March

The Abington Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association's (AALGA) annual Quiz Night has returned to the social calendar and will take place in the Abington Institute on Friday 3 March 2023. Doors open at 7.15pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm. A supper – fish (can be gluten free) or plain or battered jumbo sausage or veggie burger, all plus chips – will be served during the quiz. There will also be a raffle on the night – proceeds to Love Abington to support their foodbank activity. Tickets are £10 per person inclusive of supper. You are invited to bring your own drinks.

The quiz is for teams/tables of eight people. Please form your teams with a team leader ready to buy a block of eight tickets. Tickets should be bought from Gill Smith (email: richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk or tel. 01223 892 759); they will be available on a first-come-first-served basis from the beginning of February. Team supper orders should be confirmed to Gill Smith by 28 February. The default will be fish and chips.

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Richard Smith, AALGA

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

On the night of our January meeting the rocket launch from Cornwall to send the first satellites from British soil into space unfortunately failed, but our speaker, Jonathan Clough from the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, took us into the skies with fascinating scenes of the planets and their associated circling moons and stars. Blue and blue-white stars are bigger, brighter, hotter and younger (live 15 – 20 million years!), while yellow stars, like our sun, are cooler and middle-aged. Red dwarfs are tiny and dim and can only be seen with a powerful telescope. We ventured out onto the balcony to see Jupiter and Mars and some stars, but unfortunately the clouds obscured much of the night sky.

Four resolutions had been shortlisted for this year's national WI campaign and our votes were overwhelmingly in favour of "Online gambling harm: time for action". Online gambling profits (£5.3 billion in 2019) are increasing, while the Gambling Commission has not adjusted to online/mobile technological changes. This resolution seeks updated regulation to address these issues as well as increased support for those affected by problem gambling, particularly women and children. We have to wait for the NFWI meeting in June to see if other WI members vote for this resolution but it is always good to raise awareness amongst ourselves.

Next meeting: Monday 13 February 12.30pm: Party at Gog Magog Golf Club (please note the time and venue rescheduled from December due to snow!)

Marilyn Broadhurst

PANCAKES

**ON SHROVE TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY – 2pm to 4pm
AT JEREMIAH'S CAFÉ**

Come and enjoy a freshly made pancake with your choice
of topping (*lemon and sugar or apple and cinnamon*)
and a hot or cold drink

Booking is advisable. Please call Gaynor Farrant on 07817 517 871

or email gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

CASH/CARD payment on the door.



The Abington Lunch Thursday 23rd February 2023



**Fruit Juice
Sausages and mash,
Seasonal vegetables
Bread and butter pudding and custard
Tea or Coffee**

Please book your meal on 07941016543. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 21st February. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Doors open at **12.45pm**. Note that the lunch is open to **ALL** Abington and Hildersham residents. Guests only by special arrangement. **Only £5.**

Next lunch Thursday 23rd March 2023

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

Great Abington Parish Council

An Active Council

Posters As a community we welcome and are very well informed of upcoming events by posters placed around the village. Once the event is over please can organisers ensure that the old posters are removed as soon as possible to allow space for new information to be placed there. Thank you.

Potholes Several residents have reported damage to their vehicles caused by potholes, especially along Pampisford Road. If your vehicle has been damaged by the recent potholes you may be entitled to make a claim to recover the cost of repair. For more information on how to do this follow the link highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/. Scroll down the page to download a form.

Did you know? Great Abington Parish Council uses part of its precept (a tax that Parish Councils charge their local residents to cover spending on service delivery within the community) to fund the running costs of streetlights in the village.

Planning

22/05349/HFUL – 35 South Road – Two-storey side extensions, two-storey front extension, two-storey rear extension, internal re-modelling.

22/03880/FUL – 127 High Street. Erection of a detached dwelling.

District Council decisions

22/1265/TTPO – 29 Magna Close – Beech – crown thin 25-30% (and remove major dead wood). Refused.

21/01813/CONDC – Land adjacent to 22 South Road - Submission of details required by condition 6 (Energy Statement) of planning permission. Discharged in full.

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 20 March 2023 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)

Abington Cricket Club Indoor Nets Session

Abington Cricket Club will be hosting Indoor Net Sessions at The Leys School sports centre during February and March 2023.

All adults interested in playing cricket in the 2023 season are invited to attend. It is perfect opportunity for all skill levels to practise in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Cost: £2.00 per person per session

Time: 7 to 9pm (All)

Dates:	6 February 2023	13 March 2023
	20 February 2023	20 March 2023
	6 March 2023	27 March 2023

For more details, or questions about adult and junior cricket in Abington, please email david@pimblett.me.uk. (See cover photo.)

Little Abington Parish Council

Developments at TWI

To explain how TWI is planning to upgrade its facilities (Project Reform), the project team is holding a public meeting on Monday 30 January from 6.30 to 8pm at the Institute. It will include a short presentation at 7pm. This will be followed by a meeting of Little Abington Parish Council to discuss the Council's response.

Little Abington website

You may remember that we launched our own website dedicated to the Parish Council back in April 2022: www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/. If you need to refer to minutes of past meetings, details of our accounts or find out about current issues, it's all available in an accessible format.

Potholes

If you wish to report a pothole (highways fault), normally considered non-dangerous, use the Cambridgeshire County Council online Highways Reporting Tool: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults. Details of how to make a claim for damage to a vehicle or personal injury caused by defects on the highway are set out on the same page.

Warm home discount

The warm home discount scheme provides a discount of £150 off electricity bills. Most payments should have been made by mid-January but if you've heard nothing and believe you are eligible go to this website: www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute

Next Meeting: Monday 27 March 2023, Parish Council at 7.30pm

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

Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk) Email: clerk.lapc@gmail.com

Next meeting Monday 27 March

If you would like to participate in a meeting, please contact the clerk. Details to be confirmed regarding start times are on the new website and the Parish Council noticeboard. The meeting agendas and papers are published on the Abingtons website: www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/

The new publication by the Abington History Group Chronicling the history of the Abingtons during the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II

The new AHG publication chronicles the history of the Abingtons and key world events during the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II from 1926 to 1952 and on to 2022. Copies are on sale in the village shop for £3.

The Partridge Group

The Partridge Group has a meeting planned for Wednesday 8 February 2023. Dr Shuaib Nasser, Consultant in allergy and asthma at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, will talk about *Dying from Asthma*. The talk and discussion will start at 8pm in the Terrace Room of the Village Institute. Please contact Barry Brooks for further details: email b.m.brooks@talk21.com

Hildersham News

The Children's Church Council

We met on 21 January and celebrated the birthdays that fell in the holiday with chocolate cake and a hot chocolate before we got our heads down to discuss our plans for 2023. The children have lots of exciting ideas for the year ahead, beginning with the design of a treasure hunt based on all the animals in our Old School Wood sign that we hope will be fun for visitors to the church.

One of our members was very keen that we should pay as much attention to Father's Day as we do to Mother's Day, so fathers can look forward to extra special attention in June.

Our notice board needed a new look, so we have a "We are the CCC" picture board introducing ourselves to visitors to the church. One of our questions for the biographies is "What is your wish for the world in 2023?" The response from one of our children was "My wish is for everyone to treat everyone like family".

We couldn't agree more!

Hildersham PCC has also met to discuss the year ahead, adding items to the already active calendar. So, keep an eye out for dates for quiz night (see page 18), rolling supper, tea parties etc.

Amanda Palmer

Hildersham Jam Stall

In December, we donated £940 to East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH). Despite variable cropping due to 2022's weather extremes, we have made good use of local plums, damsons, apples, blackberries and, for good measure, a huge pumpkin! We're pleased to be offering an interesting variety of preserves as well as seasonal vegetables and plants.

Thank you so much to all our supporters who make this charity donation possible.

Jill Heale tel 893 596, edheale@btinternet.com

Hildersham Parish Council

Report on the Hildersham Parish Council meeting held on 10 January 2023

David Mercer explained that he had met a CCC Highway officer who highlighted that the width of Back Road at the Back Road/High Street point was dangerous, noted that the white lines had not been painted properly, and suggested that the description "dangerous junction" be inserted in the application. Various remedies were discussed including a 20-mph speed limit, moving the signs back, or a four-way Give Way junction. David Mercer submitted the Local Highway Initiative application form to fund improvements with a request for a four-way Give Way junction.

A four-page Gardens Questionnaire was printed and delivered to all village households with the aim of creating a Nature Recovery Plan for Hildersham. Councillors had now received a letter explaining what information had been received and suggesting that the Hildersham Parish Council grass-cutting programme be altered to accommodate and encourage the various red-list species that had been noted. It is hoped that further investigation will take place in the spring.

Councillors selected the stand for the new locally designed footpath map from the three quotations obtained. It is hoped that the sign will be erected in the next few months.

If you notice a fault with the highways, such as potholes, 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 7 March 2023 in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: <https://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk>

Hildersham Spring Quiz 31 March – Save the Date

Hildersham Village Hall Trust is pleased to announce the return of the ever-popular Spring Quiz. It will be held on Friday 31 March in the Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start. A hot supper is included in the ticket price of £8 and a vegetarian option is available. Bring your team of up to eight people or come along and join with others.

We look forward to seeing you!

Look out for locally delivered flyers and full details to be published in the March News.

A Passionate plea for our Protected Verges

The grass verges on either side of Bourn Bridge Road from leading toward Newmarket Road are designated Protected Verges. This status was confirmed in 2004 after a lot of work by the Naturewatch Group. Since then, these verges have flourished and have been a source of over 30 species of flowers and grasses together with numerous insects and small mammals. Every year recordings are made, and the results can be seen in the Naturewatch Annual Report.

Until about three years ago these verges provided a wonderful sight each year and careful mowing is also organised. However, after a devastatingly dry summer in 2022 and erosion from footfall alongside the eastern verge the results are not good. These verges are a very important part of our natural environment, providing wildlife corridors and a large variety of flora that attracts diversity. Please try not to walk on the verges. The road is narrow and there is a lot of speeding but for safety just step briefly onto the verge and then return to the road.




We are all in a difficult place at the moment and, because of this, the most important issue of the FUTURE of our PLANET is in danger of being forgotten. This is devastating. We can all do our bit in many ways that may seem small but collectively add up to something worthwhile. Think of your children, grandchildren and their children and help to offer them a future.

February Services (not Abingtons and Hildersham)

10.30 Online Fellowship available for all

DATE	9.30 am	11.00 am	pm
5th February		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
12th February	Communion Weston Colville Morning Worship West Wickham	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Evensong 6.00pm <i>West Wrating</i>
19th February	Communion <i>West Wrating</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
26th February	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

Church Services for February 2023

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
5 th February	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Isaiah 58.1-9a Matthew 5.13-20
12 th February		11.00am Communion		Romans 8.18-25 Matthew 6.25-end
19 th February	11.00am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	Exodus 24.12-end Matthew 17.1-9
22 nd February Ash Wednesday			7.30pm Communion	Joel 2.1-2,12-17 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21
26 th February		4.00pm Evensong	11.00am Communion	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Matthew 4.1-11

Church Flower Rota

	Gt. Abington	Lt. Abington	Hildersham
5 th February	Patsy Randall	Fiona Snell & Tricia Hayden-Smith	Kirsten Newble
12 th February	Patsy Randall	Fiona Snell & Tricia Hayden-Smith	Helen Humphrys
19 th February	Patsy Randall	Marilyn Broadhurst & Flo Apcar	Helen Humphrys
26 th February	Lent	Marilyn Broadhurst & Flo Apcar (clean only)	Lent

Churchwarden

<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