



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

**May 2023**



*Photo by Amanda Palmer*

**Getting up close and personal on Lamb Sunday in Hildersham**

## From the Editor

This is the first edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* that I have produced (almost) on my own because as I have put this issue together I have thrown many questions and pleas for advice at Valerie Silvey, who has been endlessly patient. For this and many other reasons, Valerie will be a very hard act to follow. She was the editor of the *News* for 16 years – that's 192 monthly publications and a remarkable tenure of what has always been a voluntary post. Valerie set high standards, maintained an efficient and strict schedule and in the process made the newsletter an invaluable village resource. I am deeply grateful for her support and delighted to have had the chance to get to know her better. Many others feel the same (see page 5).

The local and national highlight of this May is the coronation of King Charles III, an occasion that his subjects might have felt was less and less likely to take place as the late Queen's long reign continued. A weekend of celebrations is planned – see page 6 for a full programme of events for all ages. As spring really starts to appear, several village groups and clubs are launching their spring and summer activities (see pages 12 and 13) and the Diary (pages 10 and 11) shows that village cricketers are going to be particularly busy. There are both new and continuing requests for volunteers for village organisations and initiatives, including the Village Institute, Love Abington and Homes for Ukraine (see pages 5, 7 and 16).

The photos on the front cover and page 18 give an idea of the success of Hildersham's Lamb Sunday last month. Space is always a consideration when there are only 20 pages to fill but I would be delighted to receive more photos from villagers or their visitors to mark particular events or to capture village scenes.

I would like to thank everyone involved in producing and distributing *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* for their good wishes, encouragement and support as I take over. Like so many of the best things in a community, it's a team effort.

Sally Simmons

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Articles for the June 2023 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Saturday 13 May 2023 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk).

## From the Seven Churches

Early this May we look forward to a historic moment in the life of our nation when we celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, as well as enjoying a Bank Holiday weekend. As someone who usually loves any excuse for a celebration, I am looking forward to gathering with others to enjoy this occasion! On that Sunday, we will also have a special service in each of our village churches when we will mark the coronation and reflect on the life and calling of Jesus, the Servant King.

Then, on the Monday of the Coronation weekend, the Church of England is joining with others in encouraging voluntary acts of service in our communities as part of the Big Help Out (for more information about the Big Help Out go to <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>). This will be a good excuse to celebrate all the voluntary work already going on in our communities and to reach out to others and share our time and gifts. Perhaps consider how you might make a small act of kindness or service on that day, and reflect on the ripple effect it could create.

The last Sunday of the month will also be a special occasion when we celebrate Pentecost, sometimes known as the 'birthday' of the Church. At Pentecost we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem after the resurrection of Jesus. This astonishing gift of God's Spirit, as described in the Bible in the book of Acts, bound together the early church in worship and shared life, and empowered them to reach out to others in the name of Jesus. Pentecost is therefore both a celebration and helps remind the church of its calling, as we seek to share the good news of life in the Spirit.

How wonderful that we can come together to mark such times and seasons in our lives and be grateful for all that is good around us. This can shape our sense of purpose, help us cherish the time we have, and increase our capacity for joy. It can also, as Pentecost reminds us, draw us more deeply into the life of the Spirit and lead us, in all the seasons of our lives, to praise, prayer and thanksgiving.

Revd Iain McColl

## News from the Pews

We are so grateful for all the help we have received during recent events.

**The Soup Lunch**, raising money for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal, had eight different flavours of delicious homemade soup, all made by local volunteers. If you were unable to come to the lunch and would like to make a donation please hand it to our treasurer, Tony Orgee. Just over £250 was raised on the day.

**Easter Services** At Easter we were blessed with some amazing flowers in our churches, with beautiful pedestals of lilies arranged by Freda Orgee in Little Abington and Carole McCrea in Great Abington. Thank you to everyone who donated money for the lilies in memory of a departed loved one. Thank you also to our clergy who worked extremely hard over the Easter period covering services across the seven churches in the Granta Vale. It was wonderful, too, to have a large congregation to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

**Coronation** We now look forward to a very special occasion – the Coronation of King Charles on Saturday 6 May. On the following day there will be a special service along with activities for children in Great Abington Church followed by the Abington Village Coronation Celebration (see page 6).

**The Food Bank and Library** are both still available in Great and Little Abington Churches. Sincere thanks to all who donate both books and food. We know that there is still a need and that the donations are greatly appreciated.

**Church Car Park** Thankfully the Pump Track on the recreation ground is now complete, and it has been possible to open the roped-off car parking area at Great Abington Church.



**Christian Aid Week 14– 20 May** This year Christian Aid is supporting Malawi where soaring costs of food and essentials are keeping people in desperate poverty. Children are robbed of the chance to go to school when their families can't pay the fees. Farmers are struggling to survive in the face of the climate crisis and its threat of devastating droughts, floods and storms. Christian Aid has worked in Malawi for 20 years empowering vulnerable communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty. This gives them the skills to grow crops that are more resilient to the climate crisis, restore soil fertility, increase harvests, learn business skills and join co-operatives to earn more for their crops. Any contributions placed in the envelopes and put through the letterbox of the address on the envelope will be greatly appreciated and add to the village collection.

And finally: sincere thanks to our retiring editor, Valerie Silvey. Thank you, Valerie, for your patience, accepting my occasional lateness in sending the News from the Pews and correcting my odd computer errors. I sincerely wish you and your patient husband, peace, rest and happiness.

Anne Hall

### **Valerie Silvey: an appreciation**

The *Abingtons and Hildersham News* continues to be part of the glue that binds the communities of Hildersham and Great and Little Abington together. For the past 16 years Valerie has been the driving force behind this publication, and her efforts have



been much appreciated by the residents of the Abingtons and Hildersham. Organising content, managing the publication costs, meeting deadlines and sorting out distribution can be a difficult and sometimes thankless task. So on behalf of all the Parish Councils and the residents of our villages, the current and recent chairs say thank you for all that you have done and may you now enjoy your retirement!

Sheila Bolden, Mark Logan, Tony Orgee and Bernie Talbot

### **Abington Village Institute – appeal for volunteers**

Several volunteers are needed to help with the smooth running of the Village Institute.

We are still looking for a **volunteer administrator**, as I mentioned in the April edition of the *Abingtons and Hildersham News*.

In addition, we are now looking for a **volunteer with technical skills**. The Institute uses a booking system that allows the management team to manage the bookings online. The booking information is also used to control the heating system in the various rooms so that rooms are warm when users arrive. Technology has moved on and so we are looking for someone who can produce a new, better system. It can be built from scratch, based on the existing one, or built out of online services that will work together to provide the overall system. This could be your project and within the needs of the Institute you would have relatively free rein and a budget to support the creation of the system.

We are also looking for someone to do the **invoicing of Institute users**. This is an essential role bringing in much of the money that allows the Institute to be maintained in a way we can all be proud of. The invoicing is currently linked to the booking system mentioned above although it could be done in other ways.

Could you or someone you know be one of these volunteers? If you would like to know more about what is involved, please get in touch with me, Bernie Talbot, on [bernie.talbot@btinternet.com](mailto:bernie.talbot@btinternet.com).

# **The Abington Grand Coronation Picnic**

**Sunday 7 May 2023, 12noon–5pm**

## **Programme of events**

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, the following activities and fun for all residents will be held on the Village Recreation Ground.

**11.45am** Residents of all ages are invited to assemble in Magna Close to prepare for the march to the Rec. Children are encouraged to wear “royal” or fancy dress, drums and tambourines welcome. There is already a rumour that royal personages have consented to lead the parade, while a pair of uniformed cavalry will bring up the rear.

**12 noon Royal March to the Rec**

**12.30–5.00pm Grand Coronation Picnic Lunch**

Bring your favourite picnic fare. Drinks will be available through the afternoon from a bar run by Abington Social Club (please note: **cash only**).

**1.00pm Pimms tent** opens, courtesy of the Coronation Working Group

**1.45pm Glams Choir**

**2.00pm Bubbly Circus (balloon modeller) and Ruby Lemon (face painter)**

**2.30pm Hoarse With No Name**, our Abington-based band

**3.00–4.30pm Afternoon tea and cake on the Rec**

**4.00pm Egg-throwing competition** under the jovial supervision of Chris Adomeit

**4.30pm Tug-of-war** (teams formed on the day)

**Throughout the afternoon Name the Bear** Guess the name and it could be yours

**6.00pm onwards BBQ and Disco at The Three Tuns** (not ticketed, BBQ first come, first served)

## **General information**

1. Gazebos, picnic chairs and so forth are welcome at the picnic, but the organisers request that they are put in place on the Rec between 9.00–11.00am.
2. Parking for people with disabilities is available at the front of the school.
3. Toilets, including an accessible toilet, are available at Great Abington Church.
4. Marshals, recognisable by blue sashes, will be on hand to assist with issues such as lost children or to contact the first aider on call.
5. Timings were correct when this programme went to press, but please watch social media for updates.
6. The generous support of Great Abington and Little Abington Parish Councils is gratefully acknowledged.

## **Other events**

**Friday 5 May, 6-11pm** Abington Social Club on Pampisford Road offers entertainment by a live singer, Bondy (who has auditioned on Britain’s Got Talent), and a kebab van will be in attendance.

**Saturday 6 May 10am-12.30pm** There’s no need to watch the Coronation alone. The ceremony will be shown at the Village Institute, where you’ll find a warm welcome and light refreshments available from Jeremiah’s Café. Please let Gill Smith know if you intend to come – tel. 07941016543, email [richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk](mailto:richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk).

## Ukrainian Community in Abington

There are 13 residents in Abington. They all have jobs or are in full-time education. Many Ukrainians across South Cambridgeshire are now much more confident living here and are moving on from their first hosts – some into independent accommodation – and many need second host placements. From May about 20 households (single people or families) per month will need second hosts. There is still a need for household items for those moving into local rental properties.

Anyone in the Abingtons and Hildersham who is interested in hosting or who would like further information, please contact any of the following for an informal chat: Nick and Julia Rumble (tel. 07731 647752 or email [njcambs@gmail.com](mailto:njcambs@gmail.com)); Marilyn Broadhurst ([broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com](mailto:broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com) or 07855 182726); Jane Furlow ([jane.furlow@gmail.com](mailto:jane.furlow@gmail.com) or 07745 046921).

There is general information about hosting from South Cambs Homes for Ukraine: text ROOM to 88802; [HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk) 01954 713411; Spare Rooms for People from Ukraine at South Cambs District Council ([scambs.gov.uk](http://scambs.gov.uk)). Anton King

## PTFA Update

### School Summer Fayre

The school Summer Fayre is in the process of being organised for June. Last year's Fayre was an amazing success and a large part of that was down the generosity of the donations we received from local businesses to put in our summer raffle. If you are a local business and would like to donate something to our raffle this year, we would be very grateful. Please contact one of our chairs, Emma Webb or Katie Manion, via [ptfa@greatabington.school](mailto:ptfa@greatabington.school). Otherwise catch one of the trustees at the school during drop off or pick up.

### School shed

To help us store supplies and equipment for our events the PTFA has a shed located on the school grounds. Our poor shed is in disarray at present and in need of some TLC. Select members of the PTFA have made a start by giving it a good clear out. A big thank you to Widdington Recycling Ltd, who donated a skip to take away the materials we threw out. We really do appreciate such acts of generosity as they allow us to focus our funds directly on benefitting the children.

### Motivational Mile

On Friday 12 May the school will be holding its Motivational Mile event for the children. This event gives the children the chance to challenge themselves and participate in encouraging themselves and fellow pupils to complete the route. Parents are welcome to attend to support their children and the PTFA will be on hand to provide light refreshments to any thirsty spectators. Joanna Chapman

## Balsham Singers Spring Concert

The Balsham Singers are very glad to confirm that our traditional Spring concert will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, on Saturday 13 May 2023, at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (under 16s free) will be available from choir members, Balsham or Great Abington Post Offices or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers).

### 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](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/news) and follow the link to the pdf for the month you want.

## **District and County Councillors' Report April 2023**

### **Ukrainian guests**

South Cambs has so far hosted more than 780 Ukrainian guests, more than any other district in the country. This is a great achievement and says much about the generosity of those who have opened their homes to people in need. We still have new people arriving and others moving on for one reason or another. South Cambs is calling again for more hosts to come forward. If you have a spare room could you offer it to a Ukrainian family in need? If you can help, text ROOM to 8802 or visit the website at [www.scambs.gov.uk/spareroom](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/spareroom).

### **A1307 works**

The last element the of cycle path should be nearing completion and work on the roundabout at the Bartlow Crossing will start in early May and go on for about 40 weeks. For up-to-date information, go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership website: [www.greatercambridge.org.uk](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk) and look for the Cambridge South-East project.

### **Coronation celebrations**

If you are planning celebrations, you might like to take a look at The Big Lunch at [www.thebiglunch.com/](http://www.thebiglunch.com/). There are also grants available from South Cambs District Council: just check the website.

### **Renting privately**

If you are renting privately and having trouble getting your landlord to maintain the property to a decent standard the government has a special advice service to help. Contact: [check-how-to-get-repairs-done-in-your-rented-house.form.service.justice.gov.uk](http://check-how-to-get-repairs-done-in-your-rented-house.form.service.justice.gov.uk)

### **Combined Authority appoints new CEO**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has appointed Rob Bridge as the new permanent Chief Executive to take over from the interim CEO Gordon Mitchell, under whose leadership, the Combined Authority has been under a very significant programme of change and transformation. It would not be an understatement to say the Authority had a difficult birth but recent appointments have been of a high calibre and with help and guidance from Central Government, it appears to be making progress in terms of its governance and clarity of purpose. This is none too soon! Rob Bridge has a solid background in local government, and we wish him well.

### **£2 bus fare extended**

The Government subsidy capping bus fares at £2 per journey was due to end this month but has been extended to the end of June.

### **Zero Carbon Communities grant**

The popular ZCC grant from South Cambs is open for bids until 2 June 2023. There is a pot of £125,000 available for community groups and parish councils to bid for up to £15,000 for a project that will help with the reduction of carbon emissions in the district. Full details and an application form can be seen at [www.scambs.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant).

### **Potholes**

The issue of potholes is raised with us every winter, when the issue is exacerbated due to the colder weather. However, this year the issue seems to be a lot worse than usual. Potholes are appearing at a faster rate than previously and holes that have been filled are reopening at a larger size than before.

Cambridgeshire Highways, which has responsibility for maintenance of public roads and footpaths, is attempting to address these as soon as possible. However, it is up against the usual constraints – staff and money. Its contractor only has a set number of repair crews that it can deploy and the department has a limited budget for filling potholes. The County Council pumps more and more money into the Highways budget every year but it is never enough to do the job thoroughly.

The Highways department is looking at improved technology to speed up and improve the quality of the process but this is some years off implementation. Its message is to keep reporting potholes via the website ([www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults)). The more reports received of certain holes, the greater the council's perception of the issue.

### **Food waste trial**

For those who have voluntarily taken part in the food waste collection trial for the last three years, thank you. The trial concluded at the end of March with three years of data under its belt. The government is insisting that food waste is collected separately by the end of 2027 and the District Council (responsible for collecting our rubbish) wanted to see if people would use a separate food caddy correctly. The good news is that over 90% of participants in the trial did, so this will be the likely new method of food collection in the future.

### **Annual report**

Our review of the County and District Councils' concerns and activities during 2022 is available online at [linton-pc.gov.uk/district-county-councillors-annual-report/news/item/district-county-councillor-annual-report-2023](http://linton-pc.gov.uk/district-county-councillors-annual-report/news/item/district-county-councillor-annual-report-2023).

### **Contact details**

District Council – John Batchelor – [johndbatchelor23@gmail.com](mailto:johndbatchelor23@gmail.com)

District and County Council – Henry Batchelor – [henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)



## **The Abington Lunch Thursday 25 May 2023**



**Fruit juice**  
**Baked ham**  
**Seasonal vegetables**  
**Rhubarb dessert**  
**Tea or coffee**

Please book your meal on 07941 016 543. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on Tuesday 23 May. 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 22 June 2023.**

### **Mobile Library**

The mobile library comes to the Abingtons and Hildersham on the fourth Tuesday of every month and stops at the following places:

West Field, Little Abington 9.40–10.20

The Shop, Great Abington 10.30–11.00

Magna Close, Great Abington 11.05–11.30

Granta Park, Great Abington 12.00–1.15

Hildersham, High Street 9.40–10.20

**Next date: Tuesday 23 May.**



## Diary for May 2023

Date		Venue Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Tues	2	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	
Wed	3	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
		<b>Physio Pilates</b>	2.20pm	11
		<b>Cricket Club</b> Home fixture	6.00pm	
Thu	4	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	9.50am	13
		<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	11
Fri	5	<b>Low impact Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Pilates</b>	10.30am	11
Sat	6	<b>Cricket Club</b> Home fixture	1.00pm	
Sun	7	<b>Grand Coronation Picnic</b> – starts from Magna Close <b>Cricket Club</b>	11.45am	6
Tues	9	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	
		<b>Tuesday Club</b>	2.00pm	12
		<b>Reading Group</b> – see page 12 for venue	7.30pm	12
Wed	10	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
		<b>Physio Pilates</b>	2.20pm	11
		<b>Allotments Association Committee</b>	7.30pm	
Thu	11	<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	11
Fri	12	<b>Motivational Mile (PTFA)</b>	9.30am	7
		<b>Low impact Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Pilates</b>	10.30am	
Sat	13	<b>Balsham Singers concert</b> , Holy Trinity, Balsham <b>Cricket Club</b> Home fixture	7.30pm	7
Mon	15	<b>Social Cycling</b> – meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00am	13
		<b>Abington &amp; Hildersham WI</b>	7.30pm	14
		<b>Great Abington Parish Council</b>	7.15pm	14
Tue	16	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	
Wed	17	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
		<b>Cricket Club</b> Home fixture	6.00pm	
		<b>Abington Group</b>	7.30pm	
Thu	18	<b>Craft Group</b>	1.30pm	12
		<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	11
Fri	19	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Low impact Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Pilates</b>	10.30am	11
Sat	20	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	9.50am	13
		<b>Abington Naturewatch</b>	10.00am	13
		<b>Cricket Club</b> Home fixture	1.00pm	
Mon	22	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Physio Pilates</b>	2.20pm	11
		<b>Abington and Hildersham WI</b>	7.30pm	14
		<b>Little Abington Parish Council</b>	8.00pm	15
Tue	23	<b>Mobile Library</b>	Morning	9
		<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	

		<b>Tuesday Club</b>	2.00pm	12
		<b>Scrabble Club</b>	7.00pm	12
Wed	24	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
		<b>Cricket Club</b> Home fixture	6.00pm	
Thu	25	<b>Abington Lunch</b> Doors open	12.45pm	9
		<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	11
Fri	26	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Low impact Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Pilates</b>	10.30am	11
Sat	27	<b>Cricket Club</b> Home fixture	1.00pm	
Sun	28	<b>Cricket Club</b>		
Tues	30	<b>Art Group</b>		
Wed	31	<b>Yoga</b> – course and drop in	9.30am	11
		<b>Cricket Club</b>	6.00pm	

For details of contacts for all the clubs and events listed in the Diary, please see the inside back cover of the *News*, or the pages on which the relevant articles appear.

**Institute bookings:** contact preferably by email: [institute@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:institute@theabingtons.org.uk) or phone 07591 064 310.

#### Jeremiah's Café Opening times in May 2023

Thursday lunchtime	11.30am–1.30pm (4, 11, 18)
Friday morning	8.45am–11.00am (5, 12, 19, 26)
Saturday mornings	10.00am–12 noon (13, 20, 27)

**Contacts for Café:** [helenstchowe@btinternet.com](mailto:helenstchowe@btinternet.com) and [helen.rogers.uk@gmail.com](mailto:helen.rogers.uk@gmail.com)

**Note:** see page 9 for the Abington Lunch menu on 25 May.

#### Wheelie bin dates for May 2023 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

<b>Tues 2</b> <b>Green / Blue</b>	<b>Tues 9</b> <b>Black</b>	<b>Mon 15</b> <b>Green / Blue</b>	<b>Mon 22</b> <b>Black</b>	<b>Tues 30</b> <b>Green / Blue</b>
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#### Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am

Contact Joan 890 629 or email [joangraham72@gmail.com](mailto:joangraham72@gmail.com) if you would like to drop in.

#### 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](http://www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk)

#### Physio-led Face to Face Pilates – Mondays, 2.20–3.20pm

For Beginners/Intermediate. Max. six participants. Classes £12 per session. Book three sessions (£36 non-refundable). Contact Christina Heinz on [cambridgepilates@outlook.com](mailto:cambridgepilates@outlook.com).

#### Line Dancing – Wednesdays, 1pm–2.30pm (term time)

Qualified line dance instructor, Lisa Mason, now runs drop-in classes suitable for all ages and welcomes beginners to intermediate level. Bring a drink and suitable shoes. Contact [lisa.lmsd@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lmsd@gmail.com) or tel. 07958 788 292.

#### 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, tel. 07884 932 215 or email [haverhi11@talktalk.net](mailto:haverhi11@talktalk.net).

### **Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group**

This Group is open **every Monday and Friday** morning (term time only) 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 [abingtonannexooffice@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonannexooffice@gmail.com)

### **Abington Gardening Club**

Members are reminded that club meetings have ended for the summer break. The first garden visit is on Wednesday 24 May when we go to Bradfield St Clare near Bury St Edmunds. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the summer programme or more information. Kay Harman, Secretary, tel. 891 730, email: [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com).

### **Film Nights**

Film Nights are suspended during the spring and summer months and will start again in September. For more details, please sign up to our Film Nights newsletter at [www.theabingtons.org.uk/the-institute/film-nights/](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/the-institute/film-nights/) or at our email address: [films@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:films@theabingtons.org.uk).

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

Our first meeting this month will be on Tuesday 9 May at 2pm, when we will celebrate the King's Coronation with a Royal Quiz. We will have a red, white and blue theme so if you feel like dressing in those colours, please do. If you have any royal memorabilia to bring with you and share that would be very welcome. I am sure there will be lots of memories to talk about. On 23 May Jane Furlow will be visiting us to tell us about the Abington Ukrainian Refugee Experience. We look forward to seeing you. New and old members will be welcome as always. Please contact me for further details. Jenny Milns (tel. 890 252)

### **Reading Group**

9 May	<i>Family Album</i> Penelope Lively	Mary Conochie
13 June	<i>Sorrow and Bliss</i> Meg Mason	Sue Batty
11 July	<i>Still Life</i> Sarah Winman	Annette Williams

We will meet at 7.30pm at Mary's to discuss *Family Album*. Please confirm attendance to Mary and copy me in. Valerie Hefford

### **Abington Craft Group**

The next meeting of the Craft Group is Thursday 18 May, 1.30 to 4.30pm at the Institute. Please bring your own projects. All welcome. For more information, please email [Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com](mailto:Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com), tel. 07970 614 194.

### **Scrabble Club**

The next meeting of the Scrabble group will be on Tuesday 23 May at 7pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Sheena Fraser

### **WI Plant and Cake Stall**

The Women's Institute is selling locally grown plants  
and homemade cakes and produce outside Abington Village Institute on  
**Saturday 13 May, 9.30–11am.**

Come and buy quality plants for your garden and delicious home bakes at bargain prices.

## Abington Naturewatch



On Saturday 20 May at 10.00 am in the Institute we will have our Spring Meeting. We will summarise the early reports, discuss our planned visits for this spring/summer and what you might be seeing in your gardens. Everyone is welcome and the café will be open if you would like a coffee before we start.

For details of local observations and our monthly summary check out the Naturewatch blog at [abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com/](http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com/). David Farrant

## Abington Bowls Club

A hint of warmth in the weather is a reminder that the 2023 lawn bowls season is just around the corner. Fresh from last year's wonderful promotion season, we will be playing in Division 3 of the Cambridge & District League. The higher level means harder games, no doubt, but I am sure that we will do the village proud. We start playing in May, although the early games will all be away.

Please come to watch our games. And if you fancy having a go yourself, please get in touch with me – Graham Ross (891564). Or simply turn up if you see any of the club members on the green and make yourself known. Everyone welcome.

Results (with illustrations) will be reported on the Abington Village Community Facebook site. And as ever, hanging on the wall outside the green will be the Barra Board showing results and league positions.

## Social Cycling

On 17 April six cyclists enjoyed a ride of some 16 miles taking in Balsham and a circuit through delightful countryside and the villages of West Wrating, Weston Green and Weston Colville. Larks were on the wing, a whitethroat sang from the hedgerow all in bloom, a buzzard flapped away across the fields and we were blessed by a warm spring sun. This was an undulating route, and the reward for our efforts in the shape of hot drinks and delicious cakes at the Balsham café was richly deserved, before we cruised down the long hill on the homeward leg. Our next ride will be on 15 May, meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road at 10.00 am. Why not join us?

## Abington Walking Group



Our most recent walk was to Debden. Your May strolls are on Thursday 4th and Saturday 20th. Do join us to enjoy the countryside at perhaps its best in the spring. All 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.

We hope to have a pub lunch in the next few weeks so do join our Whatsapp group for the latest news. We look forward to seeing you. For further information please contact Robin Harman tel. 891 730 or [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com).

## Sawston Fun Run – Sunday 7 May

The Sawston Fun Run is back! This year our two major charities will be Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Cambridge Cancer Help Centre. In addition to this we will be supporting various smaller charities, and once again be handing out dictionaries for life to students at our local Primary Schools. Last year's event attracted over 1,100 entrants, and we were able to donate £14,250 to local charities and organisations. Enter online via the website: [www.sawstonfunrun.org](http://www.sawstonfunrun.org). Entry fees £14 for adults, £6 for children in school years 1–11.



## Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

The annual Abingtons Litter Pick, organised this year by Great Abington Parish Council, took place on Saturday 15 April. Many thanks to all those residents of Great and Little Abington who took part. In all over 25 bags of rubbish were collected.

Thanks are also due to South Cambridgeshire District Council for provision of the litter pickers, thick gloves and black sacks, to Little Abington Parish Council for the loan of their high vis jackets and to the Institute (Gill Smith and Gaynor Farrant) for providing refreshments. A special thanks also to Sheila Bolden, Chair of LAPC, for her support.

On a separate note, the next meeting of GAPC is on **15 May**, when the Parish Council hopes to be able to co-opt a new Parish Councillor to fill the present vacancy.

### Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

**Tony Orgee (Chairman)** [tonyorgee@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 15 May 2023 at 7.15pm. It will be followed by a Parish Council Meeting.** There will be opportunities at the start and close of the meeting for members of the public to speak to the council about matters of concern. Notices, agendas and minutes are posted on the Parish Council notice board located at the entrance to Magna Close or available from the Parish Clerk.

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

## Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

In April it was our WI's turn to host the Annual Group Meeting with Linton and Balsham WIs, which began traditionally with a lively rendition of *Jerusalem*. With the King's coronation approaching, we asked members to wear something purple and to bring mementos they had of Queen Elizabeth's crowning as conversation starters on their tables.

We had invited the Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson to enlighten us on "Crowns and Coronations" – an informative illustrated talk with music and amusing anecdotes. In 8000BCE Egyptian Pharaohs acted as intermediaries between the gods and the people: their coronation ceremonies lasted a whole year! In England, religion and monarchy are still closely linked: the first, most sacred part of the coronation ceremony is the anointing of the sovereign with holy oil on the forehead, hands and chest by the Archbishop of Canterbury. King Charles will hold a golden orb topped with a cross to show that power comes from God, while Camilla will carry an ivory sceptre topped with a dove to represent the Holy Spirit.

After a fun royal quiz over refreshments, one lucky member went home with a bumper hamper of royal goodies. Next year it's Balsham WI's turn!

Members are reminded that annual subs were due in April – please pay Gill Smith as soon as possible. Remember to get baking/planting for our annual stall outside the Institute on 13 May (see page 12).

Next meeting: Monday 22 May at 7.30pm, when we will have a talk on "A musician's journey through the highs and lows of the 60s" by David Caulfield. New members and visitors are always welcome.

# Little Abington Parish Council

## Speedwatch

The Speedwatch team, made up of residents throughout the village, is ready to resume activities after the winter recess. If you wish to take part in our hour-long sessions, on a number of specified roads and at various times of day (in daylight), then please contact either the clerk or the chair. And our thanks are due to Paddy Keane, who has been our coordinator for the past two years and who has now stepped down.

## Hedges and overhanging trees

Please make sure that hedges, shrubs and trees are not obstructing pavements or street lighting. And do remember that the Highways team can charge for the removal of overhanging branches that obstruct a pavement.

## Work on the A1307

The work to build the new cycle way between here and Linton was more complex than foreseen as the drainage system needed to be completely replaced with new pipes, gully pots and catch pit chambers. Let's hope the cycleway is now finished and the traffic is flowing freely again.

## Meeting on 29 March

Sluice Wood is to be managed by a steering group that is planning some new trails, with input from the village Naturewatch and Rivercare teams.

## Planning updates and decisions

22/05524/HFUL, 49 Cambridge Road: Single storey ground floor rear and part side extension and garage conversion. Approved

23/01166/HFUL, Abington Pottery, 26 High Street: Single storey rear extension, air source heat pump, fencing plus other minor alterations and refurbishments. Awaiting decision.

22/05549/OUT, TWI Granta Park: Numerous modifications to existing buildings, two new buildings, carparking and landscaping. Some new drawings submitted regarding building heights but our objection still stands.

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute

**Next Meetings:** Monday 22 May 7.30pm (AGM); Monday 24 July 7.30pm

Sheila Bolden  
(Chairman)

[Cllr.sbolden@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Cllr.sbolden@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Jessica Ashbridge  
(Clerk)

[Clerk@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

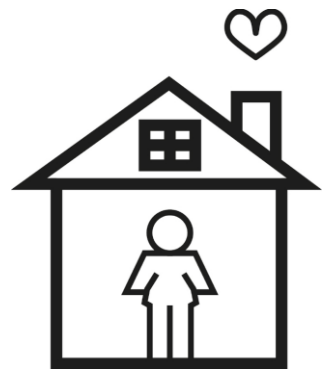
If you would like to participate in a meeting, please contact the clerk. Details of start times are on the new website and the Parish Council noticeboard. The meeting agendas and papers are published on the Council's website: [www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/](http://www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/).

## News from Love Abington

We are looking forward to joining the village community for a weekend of festivities to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III on 6 and 7 May.



To mark his coronation, King Charles has asked that we focus on building up relationships within our communities so that we can alleviate loneliness and isolation, which are such negative influences in our society today.



We are very fortunate to live in the Abingtons where people do look out for one another. Please collect an invitation card that you may like to give to a new neighbour or someone who lives alone or cares for a young family, inviting them for **Tea and a Chat** at a time that is convenient to you. These cards will be available at the 'Tea on the Lawn' on Sunday 7 May or from Great Abington Church from 12pm. We are grateful to Catherine Orgee for her lovely design and for printing these cards.

## Love Abington Coordinator

It is not too late to apply to become the Love Abington Coordinator. The closing date is 15 May. The coordinator will oversee the activities of the steering committee and lead the new initiatives.

Are you someone who

- enjoys making connections with people and being a good listener
- is a good communicator
- displays sensitivity towards and understanding of others
- enjoys working as part of a small team
- is willing to devote some time each week to the village community
- has good interpersonal and administrative skills needed to oversee, coordinate and sometimes lead community-wide projects
- is happy to work alongside an administrator who will keep a database of volunteers, set up a WhatsApp group and publicise Love Abington events via Facebook?

If this is you, Love Abington would like to hear from you. Please contact Amaris on [loveabington@gmail.com](mailto:loveabington@gmail.com).

## Welcome Pack for new residents

Love Abington is in the process of producing a simple **Welcome Pack** for new residents in the villages. If you are new to the village or would like a pack to give to a new neighbour, please contact Anton King (Little Abington) on 01223 891514 or Carol Thexton (Great Abington) on 01223 891731 or email Carol at [carol.thexton@gmail.com](mailto:carol.thexton@gmail.com).

## The Foodbank scheme

April saw an increase in many standard bills including the cost of food, as the cost-of-living crisis becomes a daily reality. We want to ensure that nobody in our villages has to choose between eating and heating. Our Foodbank has therefore partnered with the Cambridge City Foodbank, run by the Trussell Trust, to provide support for those facing a genuine food emergency. If you need help, we can – subject to certain criteria – issue vouchers to provide some of the basics. For more details and in full confidence contact us on 07928 589982.

In addition, our community food banks at Great and Little Abington churches will continue to provide food. We are grateful to everyone who leaves food at these points for others to collect.

Rosemary Mead

## May Services at Granta Vale churches

(not Abingtons and Hildersham: 10.30am Online Fellowship available for all)

<i>DATE</i>	<i>9.30 am</i>	<i>11.00 am</i>	<i>6.00 pm</i>
7 May	Communion <i>West Wratting</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i> <i>Weston Colville</i>	
14 May	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	Evensong <i>West Wratting</i>
21 May	Communion <i>West Wratting</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	Evening Prayer <i>Weston Colville</i>
28 May	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	



# Hildersham News

## Emmaus Collection

A very big thank you to everyone who emptied their lofts and garages of items that filled the Emmaus van and will hopefully, with the money they raise, enhance the lives of those who come to them for help. We will have another collection in the autumn.

## Children's Church Council

This is a very busy time of year for the children with lots of activities to plan and take part in. Our Easter bunny production line was held outside Hildersham Church in the spring sunshine and we all had an extremely productive morning creating bunny bags containing chocolate mini eggs and an Easter Greeting, which the children and some very helpful parents then distributed to every house in Hildersham.

A beautiful Easter Garden was made with lots of nature from the churchyard which was blessed by Kathy Bishop on Easter Sunday.

## Lamb Sunday

The shepherd, Andrew, was a little concerned earlier in the month as the short spell of warm weather had encouraged all the ewes to lamb very quickly so we were not sure how many lambs would remain in the barn.

However, things slowed down and all our visitors – around 220 people – had a wonderful afternoon watching the lambs enjoy the warmth of the barn before they are able to gambol in the fields.

Zac Clay, who had special instructions from Andrew, was able to show people how to gently handle some of the lambs (see cover photo).

We were very lucky to have such a beautiful spring day to really appreciate these little miracles of nature.






## Girlguiding

Now is the time in our district for camps, holidays and overnights. The Jarman Centre is holding its ever-popular Family Day on 4 May with a Coronation theme.

We are extremely proud that our Cambs. East county commissioner has just become Anglia region's deputy commissioner. Our newly appointed Chief Guide was also Anglia region's chief commissioner. How amazing to be able to grow from being a Rainbow or Brownie to volunteering as Chief Guide. We are beginning the biggest Girlguiding rebranding in 113 years and have five new adventure badges for our girls – snow, water, sport, height and land.

Girlguiding also asks girls, parents and volunteers if they would like to take part in focus groups and surveys to ensure Guiding stays current. Take a look at our website [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested) to find out more or better still come and see what we do. Linton District has something for everyone of every age very near you. Contact Louisa tel. 07711 614 328 or email [lintondistrict@gmail.com](mailto:lintondistrict@gmail.com).

## **Church Services for May 2023**

<i>DATE</i>	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	<i>Readings</i>
7 May	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Communion	TBA
14 May		11.00am Communion		Acts 17.22-31 John 14.15-21
21 May	11.00am Communion		6.00pm Evensong	Acts 1.6-14 John 17.1-11
28 May Pentecost		6.00pm Evensong	11.00am Communion	Acts 2.1-21 John 20.19-23

### **Church Flower Rota**

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
7 May	Patsy Randall and Anne Hall	Carola Wolverston	Rosalinde Gray
14 May	Anne Godden	Fiona Snell and Tricia Hayden-Smith	Rosalinde Gray
21 May	Anne Godden	Fiona Snell and Tricia Hayden-Smith	Kate Huntsman
28 May	Helen Pimblett	Marilyn Broadhurst and Kate Franklin	Kate Huntsman

### **Churchwarden**

<i>Great and 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