



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

**October 2023**



*Photo by Sam Ross*

**Years of jackdaws nesting in the bell tower of Little Abington church have left their mark (see page 17)**

## From the Editor

Despite some scorching September temperatures, the unmistakable signs of autumn have appeared: the nights are drawing in, *Strictly* is back on the telly and the Abington Festival of Running will once again kick off the month on 1 October. Congratulations to the organisers and good luck to everyone taking part. In this month's *News* there are reports on a very successful year for our Primary School (page 6) and last month's fundraising event with guest speaker Gail Morecambe (page 8). We have an Autumn Sale on 7 October (page 13) and an Open Evening Concert with Granta Vale Harmony and guests on 12 October (page 17). Nowadays we see preparations for Hallowe'en and Christmas jostling each other in our calendars like seasonal products on supermarket shelves – but time spent planning is never wasted. This month there is a Hallowe'en Costume Party at the Social Club (page 16), an invitation to join the Christmas Choir (page 8) and information on preparing shoeboxes for the annual Operation Christmas Child (page 18).

The cover photo shows churchwarden Graham Ross recovering from the almost Herculean task of ridding St Mary's Little Abington of a decade of jackdaws' nests. Read all about it on page 18.

Sally Simmons

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All items for the November 2023 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Sunday 15 October 2023 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk).

## **From the Seven Churches**

At the time of writing, I am feeling grateful for the warmth and beauty of early autumn and looking forward to a variety of celebrations in our parishes. I'm delighted we will be celebrating two weddings in early and mid-autumn, and looking forward once more to Harvest Festivals in our churches. Harvest festivals in this country can be traced back to the 1840s when, in recognition of the many 'Harvest Home' celebrations, the church began to include an annual Harvest thanksgiving service in early October. This was often accompanied by bringing gifts of fresh produce and other food to church, and became an important way of celebrating the season.

Our Harvest Festivals in church nowadays are usually celebrated sometime in early- to mid-autumn. They are times when we give thanks for the many gifts of God and reflect on how we should seek to be generous in Christ's name. During our Harvest Festivals this year we will be asking for donations of non-perishable food towards the foodbank run by Reach in Haverhill and reflecting on the daily importance of gratitude and of being cheerful givers. We hope to keep in mind the kind of generosity the Apostle Paul commended in his second letter to the church in Corinth, where he encouraged cheerful generosity and linked this to praise and thanksgiving.

The medieval Christian theologian and mystic, Meister Eckhart, reputedly said, 'If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.' Showing gratitude and praise is at the heart of the Christian faith and can transform a sense of ethical duty into the work of grateful hands and hearts. Harvest thanksgiving, then, can remind us that a daily practice of gratitude and praise can charge our lives with greater purpose, joy and wonder, as well as moving us to serve those in need.

Revd Iain McColl

## **News from the Pews**

Writing for the October magazine reminds me that Christmas will be here very soon and we, as a church committee, must begin planning our Christmas services and events. It was interesting to note a message from our editor Sally who recently asked me why we only report on funerals and not baptisms or weddings. Maybe others are asking the same question. The simple answer is that we really don't have many baptisms and sadly we very rarely have weddings, both special occasions in our community.

In September the church held a hugely successful evening where we were joined by the ever popular GLAMS Choir with their wonderful and entertaining conductor Glenis Todd. The choir is now in its tenth successful year, and although singing is their priority they have formed wonderful friendships together. The evening ended with a presentation by Gail Morecambe, daughter of the famous comedian Eric Morecambe. Gail gave an amusing account of Eric's life, not only as an entertainer but as a father too (see page 8). A glass of wine was enjoyed during the interval where members of the community had a chance to meet with friends old and new. Holding any event in our village involves a lot of work behind the scenes, so we would like to thank Mak and Bea at the Village Stores for selling tickets, Tim Grout for holding fort at the entrance door, the unnamed person who kindly donated all the interval drinks and finally Glyn Hall, who provided lighting for the car park and tackled various other jobs. All our helpers at events are important to us and hugely appreciated; we couldn't manage without them.

### **Autumn appeal for Little Abington churchyard**

Our churchyard contains not only the graves and memorial stones of generations of village residents but also beautiful trees, wildflowers and wildlife. The large yew tree is reportedly the oldest in Cambridgeshire. The five benches donated in memory of loved ones are used by many to sit and enjoy the peace of the churchyard surroundings and well-behaved dogs are welcome here. We really appreciate the care and efforts of the families and friends who regularly tend the graves of their loved ones and KA Gardening Services do their best to keep the grass areas under control (each cut alone costs £150). However, the time has come for more extensive maintenance and upkeep, such as tree surgery, hedge-cutting and attention to monuments. We would welcome any offers of help to keep the churchyard tidy but need to pay specialists for tree surgery. To raise funds for this work we will be holding a sale of plants and cakes outside the Village Institute on Saturday



7 October, 9.30–11.30am. If you can help by donating plants or cakes, please bring them along that morning or contact the Little Abington Churchwardens (see back page).

### **Funeral**

The funeral of Maureen Brenda Harper, who died aged 94 on 5 August, took place at Sawston Catholic Church, where Maureen was a regular worshipper. The funeral was followed in the afternoon by a short service in Little Abington Church where the Committal took place in the churchyard. Maureen was a deeply respected member of the community, especially on the LSA where she and her husband David lived for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maureen's children, Jonathan, Nick, Mike, Chris and Clare, her grandchildren, Gareth, Matthew, Karl, Daniel, Adam, Louisa, Kaya, Abigail, Charlotte, Tom and Ben, and her seven great-grandchildren (an eighth is expected shortly).

Anne Hall

**Charlotte Harper, Maureen's granddaughter, writes:** On 6 September, friends and family joined in two services between St Philip Howard Parish Church and Little Abington's St Mary's to celebrate the life of Maureen Harper of South Road, Great Abington.

Maureen was born in Bath on 17 April 1929. Her childhood was spent happily in Melksham, Wiltshire, where her family ran a furniture shop. An only child, Maureen fondly remembered a childhood of lone adventuring on her bicycle and enjoying the company of dogs, a pony, and her guinea pigs. It was during her education at St Mary's Convent, Bratton, that Maureen's lifelong commitment to her faith began.

Despite the friction of their religious difference, Maureen married David Harper in 1955 following a last-minute invitation to his 21st birthday. After the birth of their first child, the couple took on the tenancy of 27 South Road in 1959, marking the beginning of their young family's life together as farmers.

Retirement gave Maureen the opportunity to steep herself thoroughly in volunteering for the benefit of the church, village and international community. In the 1990s, she began delivering the Eucharist to the housebound of the parish and visiting the Catholic patients at Addenbrooke's. She also performed readings at weekly and Sunday masses at St Philip Howard and her devotion was recognised when she was awarded two Medals of the Diocese.

Maureen was proactive in creating new ventures to bring people together. Also in the 1990s, she helped found the Mother Teresa Knitting Group between St Philip Howard and Linton, whose creative efforts went to support Knit for Peace. For many years she baked cakes for the benefit of the Arthur Rank Hospice and, closer to home, she was pivotal in the re-ignition of the village's Helping Hands initiative, volunteering as a driver and the coordinator until the early years of her ninth decade.

## **Ada Kennedy – a celebration**



On 3 September, the Kennedy family held a special get-together for around 60 people to celebrate Ada's 100th birthday. For this very special occasion, her grandson and other guests came from Australia and her son Michael and wife Pam from Northern Cyprus. Her great-grandchildren, including a great grandson born just four weeks earlier, were also there.

Ada was 16 and living in London when the Second World War broke out. She tells me she wouldn't go down to the air raid shelters and preferred to hide under a table in the house. She has always had a good work ethic, working in an ammunitions factory during the war and after that at the laundry with her mother Ada.

For a better life, the family moved from London to the new town of Harlow. After bringing up her three sons – Michael, Graham and Tony – she worked at STC in Harlow soldering electronic components onto PCB boards. She retired at 60 and in the same year sadly lost her husband to a heart attack at the young age of 58. She has since lived on her own, coping with various health issues, including a double hip replacement, a heart attack and arthritis.

She lost her youngest son Tony to cancer a few years ago, which was heart-breaking for her and all of us. All of this has taken its toll but she had a wonderful day, celebrating with friends and family. She was made to feel like a queen.

Pat and Graham Kennedy



## **Great Abington Primary School: School Year 2022–23**

It has been an exciting year! It is our first year of full provision post-Covid and we have been delighted to offer the full range of events, clubs, activities and parent engagements. We have received a positive Ofsted review and established several major new educational initiatives, most notably the outdoor learning area. We are also pleased to report on a successful set of SATs results and have both welcomed and wished farewell to some staff members.

### **The garden**

The garden area is a wonderful resource that is the envy of many schools and allows the children to acquire a wide range of learning – about the structure, lifecycle and development of plants, the process of nurturing and tending life, and nutrition, health and sustainability. Many pupils have volunteered through the Gardening Club to give their spare time in all weathers. As a place of calm, the garden is also a tonic for the pace of modern life and we have seen it have a positive impact on the wellbeing and mental health for the pupils, staff and volunteers. Special thanks go to the team that has made the garden such a success, especially the teachers who have worked hard to integrate it into the regular curriculum and the dedicated team of volunteers who have worked with the children during the school day. In the coming year we expect to develop the garden area further, embedding it more widely in the curriculum and offering more opportunities for pupils and community members to get involved.

### **Why we value outdoor learning**

We are incredibly proud to be able to offer such a range of outdoor learning facilities, including the garden, outdoor learning area, forest school and Early Years Safari Walks. There is strong academic evidence that supports the benefits of outdoor learning in embedding key aspects of the curriculum including vocabulary and maths.

### **Sporting success**

This year has been a great year for our school sports. The strategic decision to employ a dedicated sports coach is really paying off for our pupils, as we compete in a wide range of events across the county. We enjoy specialist coaching from The Leys School in hockey, cricket and rugby and netball. This year we were runners up in the Y5/6 County Cricket Finals and our Y3/4 team won every match they played. We were placed very highly at our athletics event and our football team once again had a successful year. Our netball and rugby teams performed in South Cambs events and demonstrated our values of respect, cooperation and responsibility.

We are one of very few schools to host three significant running events across a calendar year. Our school 1 mile run, cluster 1 mile run and the Festival of Running at Granta Park provide a wide range of running opportunities for our children and the wider community. Competing in these events develops motivation, resilience and confidence in our pupils. Our running squad took part in two external events, at Milton Country Park and Priory Park in St Neots, placing well in both events.

### **Academic achievement**

We are delighted to report that our Year Six pupils performed exceptionally well in their summer SATS. This externally validated and marked results are a culmination of the pupils' years in the primary phase and reflect on the school provision as a whole.

The results of standardised testing and teacher assessments across all the year groups show that pupils are broadly progressing in all areas of the curriculum. The tests and teacher assessments enable us to plan additional interventions and our curriculum plans for the upcoming academic year.

### **Reflecting in the summer sun**

As governors, we would like to thank all the staff who have once again worked so hard to help Abington pupils to grow, learn and develop throughout the year. We would also like to thank the community for its continued support.

Rachel Clay and Mark Carter, Chairs of Governors, Great Abington Primary School

### **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.

## PTFA

Great Abington school reopened on 4 September and the following day our newest members started their journey by completing their first morning in reception. A big welcome to all the new children and parents! The PTFA were present for this first school drop off, providing small welcome packs and the opportunity to have photos taken. This is always an exciting time of year for new beginnings and a lovely opportunity for us to welcome our newest members to the school. Our PTFA is a very active and fun charity made up of friendly and welcoming parents. We are always keen to have new members and for volunteers to help out at events. If this is something you would be interested in please do come and speak to me at school drop off or pick up, or feel free to send a message to one of our co-chairs (Emma Webb and Katie Manion) at [ptfa@greatabington.school](mailto:ptfa@greatabington.school)

## AGM

Our first PTFA meeting of the new term is on Wednesday 11 October 2023. This is our Annual General Meeting and all are welcome. The meetings are held via Google Meet and if you would like to attend, please contact us on the PTFA email address above. We have lots of wonderful events to plan for the year ahead, including some new ones, so keep an eye out for our communications on these!

Joanna Chapman

## Ukrainian Community in Abington

The 10 Ukrainians in Abington are now very comfortable living in England and need less support from the community. There is an urgent local need for accommodation for Ukrainians moving to independent living; however, there is a shortage of properties. Currently there is one guest who works at Addenbrooke's, a mother and son local to Abington, and another mother and son a few miles from the villages. Associated with moving to independent living, there is a need for jobs to provide income. If you know of any vacancies, please contact me or [HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk).

When accommodation is provided the property is often unfurnished so all household items are required; again donations are welcome. One family requires a car with an automatic gearbox (budget £2000) because their new independent location does not have sufficient public transport to enable them to access their workplace.

Anyone in the Abingtons and Hildersham who is interested in hosting or would like further information can contact the following local hosts for an informal conversation:

Nick and Julia Rumble, 07732-647752 and [njcambs@gmail.com](mailto:njcambs@gmail.com)

Marilyn Broadhurst, 07855-182726 and [broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com](mailto:broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com)

Jane Furlow, 07745-046921 and [jane.furlow@gmail.com](mailto:jane.furlow@gmail.com)

For general information about hosting, contact South Cambs Homes for Ukraine: text ROOM to 88802. Information is also available from [HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk), tel. 01954 713411 and South Cambs District Council ([scambs.gov.uk](http://scambs.gov.uk) – search Spare Rooms for People from Ukraine).  
Anton King tel. 891 514

## Mobile Library

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

Hildersham, High Street 9.40–10.20 <b>Next date: Tuesday 10 October</b>	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 <b>Next date: Tuesday 24 October</b>
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## Gail, Glenis & The GLAMS

Despite the rival attractions of England's rugby match against Argentina and the Last Night of the Proms, Great Abington church was very full for the evening's entertainment on 9 September.

Welcoming everyone, Graham Ross paid tribute to fellow churchwardens Anne Hall and Patsy Randall for their huge efforts in putting on the concert. Its purpose was to raise funds for the upkeep of the village's two churches, something that has always been needed across the centuries.

The evening began with a concert by the GLAMS choir, conducted by the brilliant Glenis Todd. They gave us a rich variety of classical and popular works, some *a capella*, some accompanied. The audience had their part to play, too. For the round song *Fish & Chips & Vinegar*, Glenis divided the church into three areas, each area singing its own part, assisted by GLAMS sent among us to help us keep time.

The main event, of course, was Gail Morecambe (pictured left with Graham Ross) talking about her father, Eric, who died nearly 40 years ago. Gail has been keeping the memory of her father bright through years of giving such talks as these; she is very accomplished. The evening concluded with Glenis & The Glams leading us all in a rousing rendition of the *Bring Me Sunshine*. It is not known if anyone danced in that curious disjointed Morecambe & Wise fashion.

Graham Ross

## Become a member of the Christmas Choir

If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir for the Christmas Carol Service at Great Abington Church on Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm, then please join us for practices on Friday evenings, 7.00–8.30pm, in Great Abington School hall beginning on 3 November. Any queries contact Glenis on 07710494834

Glenis Todd



## The Abington Lunch

Thursday 26 October 2023

Fruit juice

Normandy pork

Seasonal vegetables

Sticky toffee pudding

Tea or coffee



Please book your meal on 07554 433317. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on **Tuesday 24 October**. 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 23 November 2023.**

## Poppy Appeal

The Appeal this year runs from 26 October–12 November (Remembrance Sunday). During this time volunteers will be making house-to-house-collections. Poppy boxes will also be available in various venues in the village. Paper poppies are being introduced by the Royal British Legion this year, but all the remaining poppies will be used first to minimise waste.

If anyone (over 18) would like to be involved as a Poppy Appeal collector for the Royal British Legion, please contact me on 07908 029 078 or 893524.

Joan Nevin



# **District and County Councillors' Reports September 2023**

## **New bin collection days**

Our bin collection day has changed from Monday to Wednesday each week. This change reflects the Council's new route optimisation work and its extension of its four-day working week trial to the waste collection service. New collection days can be checked at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/bin-collection-changes-from-september>

## **Greater Cambridge Partnership STZ update**

The proposal by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) that we had put to us last year offered vast improvements to our public transport network, with the caveat that it would eventually need to be self-funded. This was proposed to come in the form of road-charging in Cambridge City, coming into force some time after the bus improvements. There was a very lengthy public consultation last year and the results of this have formed an updated proposal, which was published at the end of August. The GCP Assembly and Board were due to decide whether to take these new proposals forward to the next stage of the process on 28 September. See <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/news/making-connections-revised-proposals-to-keep-cambridge-moving>.

## **A1307 works**

To complete the works on the new roundabout at the Bartlow Road, Linton junction the A1307 will be closed over the weekend of 30 September–1 October. Once this work has been completed then the roundabout will be able to open and there will be no further road closures. For more information, see <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/public-transport-schemes/cambridge-south-east-transport/cambridge-south-east-transport-phase-1-background/cambridge-south-east-transport-phase-1-current-schemes>

## **Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund**

The County Council has updated and rebranded the Communities Capital Fund, which is designed to support local communities in projects that enable them to upgrade community buildings and assets. There is up to £40,000 available in each bid. The Council is currently asking for an expression of interest from community groups/Parish Councils that are thinking of applying. Full information, plus an application, can be found on the website - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/cambridgeshire-priorities-capital-fund>

## **Community gritting scheme**

Each year the County Council offers communities the chance to volunteer to assist with gritting the roads in their area. The scheme allows people to identify specific roads/paths in their parishes that are currently not gritted but would benefit from gritting. Full details of the scheme can be found at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths/help-with-gritting-and-clearing-snow>

## **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)

## **REMINDER**

British Summer Time ends on **Sunday 29 October**.

Turn your clocks, watches, etc., **back** one hour.

## Diary for October 2023

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	2	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Physio Pilates</b>	2.20pm	11
		<b>Gardening Club</b>	7.30pm	12
Tue	3	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	19
		<b>Tuesday Club</b>	2.00pm	12
		<b>Table Tennis</b>	7.30pm	19
Wed	4	<b>Yoga – course and drop-in</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
		<b>GLAMS choir sing-song</b> – Pre-school building	7.30pm	
Thu	5	<b>Walking Group</b>	9.50am	13
		<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	12
Fri	6	<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	7	<b>Autumn Sale</b> – for Little Abington churchyard	9.30am	13
Sun	8	<b>Harvest Songs of Praise</b> – Great Abington Church	11.00	20
Mon	9	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Physio Pilates</b>	1.15pm	11
		<b>Abington and Hildersham WI</b>	7.30pm	13
Tue	10	<b>Mobile Library, Hildersham</b>	9.40am	7
		<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	19
		<b>Table Tennis</b>	7.30pm	19
		<b>Reading Group</b> – see page 12 for venue	7.30pm	12
Wed	11	<b>Yoga – course and drop-in</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
Thu	12	<b>Granta Vale Harmony Open Evening Concert</b>	8.00pm	18
Fri	13	<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	14	<b>Abington Walking Group</b>	9.50am	12
Mon	16	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		<b>Social Cycling</b> – meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00am	11
		<b>Physio Pilates</b>	1.15pm	11
Tue	17	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	19
		<b>Tuesday Club</b>	2.00pm	12
		<b>Table Tennis</b>	7.30pm	19
Wed	18	<b>Yoga course and drop-in</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
		<b>Abington Group</b>	7.30pm	19
Thu	19	<b>Abington Lunch (doors open)</b>	12.45pm	8
		<b>Craft Group</b>	1.30pm	13
		<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	12
Fri	20	<b>Low-impact Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Pilates</b>	10.30am	12
		<b>Film Nights</b> – doors open	7.00pm	13
Sat	21	<b>Walking Group</b>	9.50am	12

		<b>Film Nights Kids' Matinée – doors open</b>	2.00pm	
Mon	23	<b>Emmaus Collection – Hildersham Village Hall</b>	6.00pm	17
Tue	24	<b>Mobile Library, the Abingtons</b>	9.40am	7
		<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	19
		<b>Scrabble Club</b>	7.00pm	13
		<b>Table Tennis</b>	7.30pm	19
Wed	25	<b>Yoga – course and drop-in</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Line Dancing</b>	1.00pm	11
Thu	26	<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	12
Fri	27	<b>Low-impact Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
		<b>Pilates</b>	10.30am	11
		<b>Hallowe'en Costume Party and Disco – Social Club</b>	7.00pm	17
Sun	29	<b>British Summer Time ends – clocks go back one hour</b>		
Mon	30	<b>Physio Pilates – new course begins</b>	1.15pm	11
Tue	31	<b>Art Group</b>	10.00am	19
		<b>Tuesday Club – Hallowe'en Lunch</b>	1.00pm	12
		<b>Table Tennis</b>	7.30pm	19

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 September 2023**

Thursday lunchtime 11.30am–1.30pm (5, 12, 19, Lunch 26)  
Friday morning 8.45am–11.00am (6, 13, 20, 27)  
Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (7, 14, 21, 28)

**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 8 for the Abington Lunch menu for 26 October.

#### **Wheelie bin dates for October 2023 (Abingtons and Hildersham)**

<b>Wed 4</b>	<b>Wed 11</b>	<b>Wed 18</b>	<b>Wed 25</b>
Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue	Black

#### **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, 1.15–3.20pm**

Beginners 5-week course, 1.15–2.15 (max. 6 participants; £70 non-refundable).  
Intermediate 5-week course, 2.20–3.20 (max. 10 participants; £70 non-refundable). The next course will start on 30 October. [Christiana Heinz cambridgepilates@outlook.com](mailto:Christiana.Heinz@cambridgepilates.co.uk).

#### **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.



**Social Cycling** The September ride was cancelled due to a variety of reasons so all being well we will push off again on Monday 16th October at 10 o'clock from 1 Bourn Bridge Road. The route is usually decided by group discussion! New riders very welcome! Gaynor Farrant

### **Abington Gardening Club**

The first meeting of the new season will be on Monday 2 October at 7.30pm in the Institute when Gary Matthews will give a talk entitled 'The History of Easton Lodge – the Countess and her Garden'. Membership subs are due so please come early! All welcome. For more information, please contact Kay Harman, Secretary, tel. 891 730; email: [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto: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 Peter Lester, tel. 07884 932 215 or email [haverhi11@talktalk.net](mailto:haverhi11@talktalk.net). See page 18.

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

This Group is open **every Monday** 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. £2 per family, light snack and drinks provided. Please bring a water bottle for your child, a cup with a lid for parent beverages and a child between 0–4 years old. Tel. 894 246 (Abington Annexe Office) or email [abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com) for more information.

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

There will be three meetings this month. On 3 October, Gaynor Farrant will give a talk on the local Red Cross and on 17 October a local police officer has been invited to update us on how the police work in the local community. These two meetings will begin at 2pm as usual. The final meeting in October will be on 31, Hallowe'en. We will be offering our jacket potato lunch so please note that we will start at 1pm on that day. Our speaker that afternoon will be announced later in the month.

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**

10 October	<i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i> Anthony Doerr	Kate Auckland
14 November	<i>The Woman in the White Kimono</i> Ana Johns	Sheila Gilmour
12 December	<i>Christmas Party</i>	Diana Wingfield

We will meet at 7.30pm at Kate's on 10 October to discuss *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. Please confirm attendance to Kate and copy me in. Valerie Hefford

### **Abington Bowls Club – a successful season**

What constitutes success? For a recently promoted team, just staying up is enough. ABC won promotion last season to Division 3 of the Cambridge & District League, so our aim this year was to avoid being cast straight back down. We came 7<sup>th</sup> and stay up. Success! Perhaps it is winning more games than you lose. In the 20-match season we played 80 games, winning 41. One was tied. A 52% win record. Success! (If only just.) On an individual level, every club member won at least two games during the season, and most won many more than that. The most successful, Elmer Davies, had a 73% win record. Success! We entered two Business House Pairs Leagues. The Men's team came 2nd in the table, winning 18 of 22 games (81%). Success! The Open team came 3rd – 1 point below 2nd. Winning 8 and drawing 1 of 16 games (53%). Success! In the Ladies' Pairs Vicky Alda and Jane Fleet made it through to the semi-finals. Success! And exceeding his wildest expectations, the Hon. Sec. Graham Ross reached the semi-finals of the 2 Woods singles. Heavily beaten once he got there, mind, but still, for him – success! And sometimes the ultimate prize is the marker of success – step forward Roy Mallows and Graham Gentle, winners of the 2-4-2 Business House Pairs competition. Success! CHAMPIONS! A ringing end to the ABC season. But of course, the greatest success has been another season of friendly, companionable bowls at Cambridgeshire's most beautiful bowling green. SUCCESS! Graham Ross (tel. 891 564)

### **Abington Craft Group**

Our next meeting is on Thursday 19 October at 1.30pm. As last year, we will have a stall at the Christmas Fayre and this year we will be at the Open Meeting of Cambridge Flower Club – so as many hands as possible for help with sale items, please. All welcome, light refreshments, £2 per session. For information, contact Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com, tel. 07970 614 194

### **Scrabble Club**

The next meeting of the Scrabble group will be on Tuesday 24 October at 7pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Sheena Fraser

### **Film Nights**

FILM NIGHTS at the Abington Institute: 20 October, 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm) and Kids' Matinee 21 October, 2.30pm (doors open 2pm). For more information please visit <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> where you can subscribe to Film Night updates.

### **Abington Walking Group**



The August Saturday walk was to Chesterford and Strethall. The September Thursday walk was a gentle stroll in heat to Linton and Hadstock. Your October strolls are on Thursday 5 and Saturday 21.

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 robandkayharman@gmail.com, Genevieve Dalton gdalton365@gmail.com.

### **Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute**

In September Jackie Brearley, formerly an anaesthetist at Cambridge University Veterinary School, came to talk about coercion and animal abuse. Abuse is a pattern of behaviour used to gain or maintain power and control over an individual, whereas coercion is behaviour that compels an individual to act against their own will. Research shows that animal abusers are five times more likely to abuse people. In families with pets, an abuser may coerce a partner or child by threatening to harm or remove their pet. The RCVS has guidance to help vets recognise abuse in animals, e.g. non-accidental injury, Munchhausen's Syndrome. Who is the victim: the receiver or the perpetrator? Training techniques that use positive reinforcement rather than punishment lead to happier pets – and owners. After refreshments we discussed future meetings – the Committee is always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions from members. Next meeting: Monday 9 October at 7.30pm in Abington Institute with a presentation by Marion Foster on Heritage Craft and Kilting. New members and visitors are always welcome at our meetings.



**AUTUMN SALE**  
Saturday 7 October  
9.30-11.30am  
outside the Institute  
**PLANTS & CAKES**  
**+ RAFFLE**  
In aid of Little Abington churchyard

# Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

## Planning

Please attend a planning meeting if you would like to make a comment that we can consider in our debate before agreeing on the Parish Council's recommendation to SCDC. If you have views on a planning application, you should also make your comment on the South Cambs website as this will ensure that the planners take your views into consideration in their decision-making. For more information, go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

## Planning

23/03087/FUL - Land on the east side of Horsehill House 49A North Road - Erection of a dwelling on former piggery site.

23/03175/LBC & 23/03174/HFUL- 86 High Street - Enlargement of previously permitted photovoltaic array on barn roof.

23/02875/S73 - 99 High Street - Section 73 - Remove/Vary Condition, S73 to vary conditions 2 (windows) and 7 (drawings) of ref: S/1231/11 (Internal refurbishment and upgrade of existing barn with new rooflights and alterations to existing openings) to allow alterations to the internal arrangement and two new openings to side elevation (one retrospective).

23/03247/FUL- 29 South Road - Demolition of the existing outbuilding and former piggery and the erection of a new single storey dwelling, outbuilding together with vehicular and pedestrian access to South Road and associated works.

## District Council decisions

23/02758/HFUL - 35 South Road - Ground and first floor extension to Eastern boundary, new dormer windows to the Southern elevation, first floor rear dormer and extension over existing flat roof. Approved

23/002245/OUT- land adjacent to 55 North Road – outline permission for a new dwelling, with new vehicle and pedestrian access to 55 North Road. Approved

23/00129/FUL- 33 South Road – demolish existing haystore, convert annex to stables & erect a single detached dwelling with associated external works. Approved

23/01336/FUL – 19 South Road- erection of a two storey dwelling. Approved

**Application for a Street Trading Consent** – Unal Teksin, Kebab Wrap to trade between Tuesday to Saturday 16.00 to 23.00 every week at Abington Social Club – agreed on appeal.

## 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.

**Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 20 November 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 and on the Parish Council's website. <http://greatabingtonparishcouncil.org> or available from the Parish Clerk. Paula Harper (Clerk): [harper802@btinternet.com](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com) (892 000)



# Little Abington Parish Council

## Appeal for foster carers

Cambridgeshire County Council is looking for more families interested in fostering. There are many different ways you can foster, from long-term fostering to as little as a couple of weekends a month. If you're interested, the full information can be viewed here: [cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering)

## Litter picking

If anyone in the village – a community group or just a few friends – would like to do some litter picking we can lend you the equipment you'll need: pickers, gloves, bags and hi-vis jackets. Just get in touch with Sheila Bolden (details below). The bin bags will be collected so you don't have to add them to your own black bin.

## Newmarket Road changes

Work is going to take place over the coming months to extend the footpath from the Perse Fields, where it currently finishes, to the Granta Park roundabout.

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next Meeting: Monday 27 November

If you would like to participate in a meeting please contact the clerk. The meeting agendas and papers are on the noticeboard on Church Lane and published on the website: [www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/](http://www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/).

Sheila (Chair)	Bolden	07754659929/Cllr.sbolden@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Jessica (Clerk)	Ashbridge	Clerk@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

## History Day 18 November 2023

Come and explore Abington History  
at the Institute

10.30 am–4.00 pm

Launch of our new publication

*Abington Through the Ages*



Roman > Saxon > Norman > Late Medieval to 18th Century

The Abington timeline

People and places

Abington Village life and Community

On display – a collection of historical Abington material,  
maps and records

...and an opportunity to buy our new

*Abington Past and Present 2024 Calendar*

## Love Abington News

Love Abington, a Church initiative, is an organisation committed to bringing practical and emotional support as well as friendship to everyone in our villages. This month we would like to start by sending a huge thank you to so many people in our community and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who organised and contributed to the Autumn Hub held on 19 September. We are particularly grateful to Ian, Justine, Hannah and Sarah who gave talks about their work for the Social Navigators, Reach, Community Ministry and the Citizens Advice Bureau. Thank you to everyone who supplied a wonderful tea and for those who organised crafts and games for the children.

Another huge thank you to the Abington Allotmenters who have continued to supply a harvest of produce every Saturday. We have been able to distribute all the fruit and vegetables to families and individuals in the village.

**Christmas presents for children:** Love Abington will be joining with the Children's Church Council and the Churches in Abington and Hildersham to collect brand-new presents for refugee children and children in care aged 1–16 in Cambridgeshire. This year, we are delighted that Granta Park will be working with us to produce our largest collection of presents ever and help with the logistics of distribution. More details in next month's magazine.

**Winter Hub:** A Winter Hub for everyone will be held in the Village Institute on a Saturday in January (date to be announced next month).  
Rosemary Mead

## Hildersham News

**Emmaus Collection, Hildersham Village Hall, Monday 23 October, 6.00–7.30 pm**

Emmaus Cambridge is a charity that offers a home, work and personal support to a community of formerly homeless people. We will be having our usual autumn collection for Emmaus so if you are tidying your garage or loft please remember that many items can be recycled by Emmaus, including electrical items. Please ensure that any items of soft furniture have a fire retardant label. Bring them to the Village Hall, where they will be collected by Emmaus.

### Children's Church Council

The Council will meet again in October to plan the Creative Church Day and future café church services. We have had an extended break so I am sure we will be bursting with ideas for the meetings ahead.

## Hallowe'en at the Social Club



Those who go to the Social Club regularly will know that at every event held there, donations are collected in the charity tins on the bar. So far this year the Club has raised more than ever before, thanks to the generous people of Abington and their guests.

On 27 October at 7.00pm, the Club will hold a Hallowe'en Costume Party and Disco for village families to raise funds for the Arthur Rank Hospice. A representative from Arthur Rank will be there to talk to people about the work the hospice does. We are looking for donations of prizes for the raffle we will hold on the night, so if you would like to help please contact Mark Donovan on mob. 07956 358 379, email markwd@icloud.com.

## Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Appeal

It is that time of the year again. Thank you for all the support over the last few years, especially with the difficulties due to Covid. Last year nearly 11 million boxes were sent around the world. Two-thirds of the boxes packed in the UK went to Ukraine and the surrounding countries that are supporting those who have fled the war.

This message is to encourage you to get involved again (or as a first-timer) and fill a shoebox. It is a way of showing God's love. Each box may be the only gift a child will receive at Christmas. Often items are treasured for years after and even into adulthood. Adding a photo or short message to the box means so much (but do not give a postal or email address or phone number).

There are three age groups: 2–4 yrs, 5–8 yrs and 9–14 yrs. Boxes can be made up for boys or girls.

There are various ways to get involved:

- You can fill a shoebox –cover a shoebox yourself or pick up a pre-printed flat pack box from me along with an information leaflet. Suggested items include: stationery, toiletries (not toothpaste or liquids), toys, jewellery, hats, gloves, scarves, paper, balls and socks. See the website for more suggestions and guidelines for things to avoid: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>
- You can donate one or more items; or
- make a donation that can be used to buy items or go towards transport and training costs or
- fill an online box for £20 – you can choose the gifts at: <https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk>; or
- make a cake for the cake sale at the Shoebox Filling Party on 18 November, 10.00am–noon, at Great Shelford Free Church.

Collection week is 13–20 November. You can drop off filled boxes or items at XX West Field or find other drop-off places on the website. I am a year-round volunteer for OCC. Please get in touch if you need help or further information. Jane Furlow, tel. 893 232, mob. 07745 046 921/842181, email [jane.furlow@gmail.com](mailto:jane.furlow@gmail.com)

## Jackdaw Squatters

Like teenage boys, jackdaws do not make tidy nests. They fly in large twigs and heap them up in a rough fashion. And what better place for this than a wide windowsill (or four of them) high up in a church tower, accessible through a louvred opening (after tearing aside a feeble barrier of chicken wire with your fierce, strong beak), to lay your eggs and protect your young? Each year you pile more twigs on top until it becomes a thick layer of *almost archaeologically important* material. Nest building and raising young brings a steady shower of twigs, feathers and spiders pattering down through the beams of the bell tower onto the chamber floor beneath. But the chamber is not much visited, so it doesn't really matter (unlike the bats, who spread their offerings inside the church).

Eventually, after a decade or so, it all becomes too much for an irritated churchwarden and a cleansing op is launched. The nesting layers (by now 25 cm thick) are pushed down from the sills (a hard and dusty task) into a mighty messy heap, to be taken, in many slow and careful trips, down the narrow spiral stairs.

Note to self – renew wire netting.

Graham Ross

## October Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
1 October		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
8 October	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Hildersham</i> <i>Balsham</i> Harvest Songs of Praise <i>Great Abington</i>	Evening Prayer <i>West Wrating</i>
15 October	Communion <i>West Wrating</i> Morning Prayer <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i> Communion <i>Little Abington</i>	Evening Prayer <i>Hildersham</i>
22 October	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i> Café Church <i>Hildersham</i>	Evening Prayer <i>Little Abington</i>
29 October	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> <i>West Wrating</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i> Café Church <i>Great Abington</i>	Choral Evensong <i>Weston Colville</i>

**NOTE: There will be a service for All Souls' Day on Thursday 2 November at 6.00pm in Balsham**

## *Granta Vale Harmony*



### *Open Evening Concert*

*Thursday 12 October, 8pm at the Village Institute. Come along for an evening of great music and song with Granta Vale Harmony, Cambridge Harmony Chorus and Guests.*

*Free Entry Donations on the evening to Dementia Forward*

*Refreshments available*

*For more information, contact Peter, [peterlester12@gmail.com](mailto:peterlester12@gmail.com), tel. 07884 932 215*

## Village Organisations

### Church Services for October 2023

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
1 October	<b>11.00am United Service at Balsham</b>			Philippians 2.1-13 Matthew 5.43-6.4
8 October	11.00am Harvest Songs of Praise		11.00am Communion	Philippians 3.4b-14 Matthew 21.33-end
15 October		11.00am Communion	6.00pm Taize Evening Prayer	Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14
22 October		6.00pm Evensong	11.00am Café Church	Psalms 99 Matthew 22.15-22
29 October	11.00am Café Church			1 Thessalonians 2.1-8 Matthew 22.34-end

**NOTE: There will be a service for All Souls' Day on Thursday 2 November at 5.00pm in Little Abington Church**  
**Church Flower Rota**

	Gt. Abington	Lt. Abington	Hildersham
1 October	Jill Talbot	Claire Hinga and Gill Smith	Jenny Logan
8 October	Jill Talbot	Claire Hinga and Gill Smith	Jenny Logan
15 October	Patsy Randall and Annette Thomson	Marilyn Broadhurst and Kate Franklin	Jeanette Long
22 October	Anne Hall and Annette Thomson	Marilyn Broadhurst and Kate Franklin	Jeanette Long
29 October	Patsy Randall	Freda Orgee	Anne-Marie Melloy

#### Churchwardens

Great and Little Abington	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564
Hildersham	Keith Day	Fourwinds, Linton Road, Hildersham	891527

#### Assistant Churchwardens

Great Abington	Anne Hall	12 Magna Close, Great Abington	892275
	Patsy Randall	77 High Street, Great Abington	07765 345 714
Little Abington	Mary Miles	36 Church Lane, Little Abington	891083
	Marilyn Broadhurst	34 West Field, Little Abington	893214