



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

November 2023



Photo by Amaris Victory

**All a toddler could wish for at
the Abington Baby and Toddler Group**

From the Editor

The year is galloping towards the finish line. After a beautiful October, it feels odd to have to start rummaging around for long-forgotten jumpers and gloves. Autumn is a poignant season, especially lovely in country villages like ours, but also a time of solemn remembrance of those we have lost. There will be a special Service of Hope at Little Abington on 2 November (page 4) and a Remembrance Day service on 12 November, with a parade by Abington Jeremiahs Cubs and Scouts. The Cub Pack is the subject of an urgent appeal for helpers and leaders to ensure it can keep going – see page 17.

As thoughts turn increasingly towards Christmas, there is also an appeal for gifts for refugee and foster children in Cambridgeshire (page 15) and a reminder about the shoebox appeal for Operation Christmas Child (page 14). There is the Christmas Fayre to look forward to (page 5) and there's still time to join the Christmas Choir (page 9), which begins rehearsals for December's Carol Service this month.

After last month's report about our Primary School's successful year, our November cover story is the expanding Baby and Toddler Group (page 5), which meets on Monday mornings during term time. It's always good to hear about the younger members of our community. And on page 18 there is some encouraging news about a very different kind of village resident.

Sally Simmons

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

From the Seven Churches

In church, November always feels something of a 'transitional' month, waiting for the season of Advent, which in turn heralds Christmas. However, a significant fixture in November is Remembrance Day and so, also, Remembrance Sunday.

I always have problems with Remembrance Sunday and its place in our national life. For as a younger man, it seemed obvious (and easy) as a Christian to hold a pacifist position. The appalling, mutual brutality of war was a gross affront to what God wanted for the world.

Christians should take no part in it, nor collude with what could appear to be a celebration of military victory. In the end there were no victors, only deep and prolonged damage to both sides. And always seeds sown for further bitter enmity.

Yet the war in Ukraine, particularly, has pushed me further into a corner of doubt. Surely the stance of listening to the needs of both sides, compromise and appeasement, in the face of an authoritarian and duplicitous aggressor, isn't good enough. When we pray for Ukraine and the people of Russia we're not simply asking that they start being nice to each other. Yes, we pray for peace, but also for justice. And we support Ukraine in its desperate fight to preserve the freedoms of a liberal democracy as we fought, rightly, in two World Wars, to preserve *our* values and freedoms.

Our democratic nation state, with its institutions and balances against tyranny, isn't perfect. But its relative stability and fairness alone foster future peace and prosperity. Moreover, in a world facing the rising threats of global warming and the rapidly evolving technologies of artificial intelligence and biological sciences, surely the only chance for their containment, and use for the benefit of all, are the regulatory frameworks that only stable, honest and cooperating nation states can provide? Thus, remembering with gratitude the sacrifices of our forebears in facing down the evils of tyranny seems more important than ever.

So what, if anything, does the Christian gospel have to add to this? Perhaps we need to raise our sights above a too cosy and complacent proclamation of God's love for us, to embrace more faithfully our trust in the dreadful but life-giving paradox of the Cross: God sharing in the profound conflicts in our lives, to bring us all home safely ... together.

Alistair Collen

Service of Hope, St Mary's Little Abington, Thursday 2 November at 5pm

Remembering those whom we love but see no more. You are warmly invited to join us for a time of quiet reflection with music, prayers, poetry and the lighting of candles in memory of loved ones, particularly those who have died in recent years.

Please contact Rosemary on 01223 891718 or email leonardavmead@hotmail.com if you would like your loved one to be mentioned by name. Please do stay for light refreshments afterwards to share memories over a cup of tea.

News from the Pews

Thousands of England's most ancient historic church buildings are now standing empty and unused all or almost all of the time. By law they cannot be demolished; indeed most people do not want them demolished. Redundant churches are by far the nation's greatest conservation challenge. Our churches form the visual focus of almost every English village, town and high street and hold treasures that were installed hundreds of years ago. **They are infinitely precious.** To keep our two churches active we really need more help from members of our community. "But I don't go to church," I hear you say. Our churches belong to everyone in our community whether you choose to attend church or not. How can you help? Mainly by helping or organising fundraising events, helping to keep the churches clean and the churchyards tidy. Norma Sinaga Mashall is a wonderful example. Norma has taken it on herself to clear weeds all around the church walls in Great Abington and plant seeds and bulbs. "I just thought it would look really beautiful," she says. What a wonderful thought and gift to the church. Thank you, Norma. If you wish to help in any way please contact a churchwarden (see back page).

Churchyard Appeal: A big thank you to all who supported our stalls to raise funds for the maintenance of Little Abington churchyard and to all who volunteered to join our working party in

October clearing weeds from the French drains and ivy from gravestones. Your help is very much appreciated.

We are now looking forward to church events as Christmas draws near. Help will be needed at all of them!

St Mary's Churches Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 25 November at the Village Institute. This is our major annual fundraising event to help keep our churches open and in good order. Please see the free programme delivered with your magazine for further details and please come along to support us. We welcome donations for the stalls and any offers of help – just contact any of the churchwardens.

Carol Service: Our annual Carol Service will be held in St Mary's Church Great Abington on Sunday 17 December at 6.30 pm. Do join us for this uplifting and enjoyable service. Anne Hall

Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

Do you have children four years old or younger who are not at school yet? Or are you a soon-to-be parent and would like to meet up with other parents of young children for a cuppa and a chat? Our village Preschool hosts a Baby and Toddler Group every Monday during term time from 9.30–11.30 am. All welcome! Socialising babies/young children by providing small but new experiences has been shown to boost brain development – language skills, understanding social cues – increase versatility and build self-esteem. We have lots of age-appropriate toys for the children to play with and a messy play or creative sensory activity set up. At about 10.30 am we provide a healthy snack for the children and can accommodate any food preferences. You are of course welcome to bring your own snacks but please don't bring nuts or food containing nuts to keep everyone safe. We provide tea, coffee, squash or water for parents. Again, you can bring your own drinks in a bottle or mug with a lid but otherwise we can provide them for you and your child. At the end of the session, we clean and tidy up all the toys and sit down for a story and sing-along. We hope you can join us – no need to sign up, just come along.

Each session costs £2 per family. To access the Preschool annex, press the GAPS button on the intercom to enter the playground through the metal gate. Go through the wooden gates to the back door of the annex. If you have any questions about the group, please contact the Great Abington Preschool (tel. 894 246 or email preschoolabington@gmail.com). Amaris Victory

Ukrainian Community in Abington

The 10 Ukrainians in Abington are now very comfortable living in England and need less support from the community. They are living in six households and 13 other households are supporting both hosts and guests if required.

However, there is still a great need for hosts and anyone interested in hosting should contact South Cambs Homes for Ukraine: text ROOM to 88802. Information is also available from HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk, tel. 01954 713411 and South Cambs District Council (scambs.gov.uk – search Spare Rooms for People from Ukraine). 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

Marilyn Broadhurst, 07855-182726 and broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com

Jane Furlow, 07745-046921 and jane.furlow@gmail.com

I am currently trying to find two-bedroom independent accommodation for a local mother and son, so if anyone can help please contact me.

The population of Ukraine before the invasion was 48.5 million and is now 34.5 million; 13 million have fled their homes, 17 million have fled Ukraine and 8 million are displaced within the country. However, 3 million have returned to their homeland despite 1.2 million homes being damaged/destroyed. The UK Ukrainian community numbers 210,700 and of those there is a possibility 7,300 may become homeless before the end of 2023. The current situation with the Ukrainian community in South Cambridgeshire is: 86 have returned to Ukraine, 46 have moved to social housing, 104 have moved to private rental and 171 are waiting to move from their hosts into

their own homes. There are still 333 guests living with their hosts. South Cambs District Council has issued 808 visas and there have been 740 arrivals. I have requests from Ukraine for hosts/sponsors so if anyone is interested please contact me.

The Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies are providing support both in Ukraine and Europe. If anyone would like to donate to the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal please contact me.
Anton King (tel. 891 514)

PTFA

Festival of Running

This year's Festival of Running was a great success. Participants completed the 2K, 5K and 10K races over the course of the morning and the weather was kind. The 2023 race results can be found at www.abington10k.com. Thank you so much to everyone who took part and worked hard to make the day such a memorable event for all.



The Festival of Running is one of our largest events and takes preparation and organisation throughout the year. Although the PTFA has an active role in this event, there is a separate 10K committee that works throughout the year to bring this amazing event to our villages. If you would like to become involved in helping the committee and/or volunteer to help out at next year's event, please send a message to abington10k@gmail.com.

Elfridges 2023

As we approach the end of the year, we turn our attention towards one of our most popular events with the children at the school, Elfridges. This year Elfridges will be open at the school during school hours on 12 and 13 December for the children to purchase small gifts for their family, friends and caregivers. The children love having the opportunity to give back to others and enjoy the trip to the transformed values room where a couple of Santa's little helpers await to help them choose the

ideal gifts. Further details of this event will be communicated via the PTFA and the school nearer the time, but if parents have any questions, please contact one of the PTFA for further details.

PTFA Meeting

Our next PTFA meeting is tentatively booked for 30 November 2023. We have recently held our AGM and have elected a new co-chair (Kirsty Badcock), a new treasurer (Sara Haylock) and new secretary (Grace McDonald). Thank you to you all for volunteering for these roles. The whole team is excited to start working together on the next year's events! A big thank you to our former co-chair (Emma Webb) for all the amazing work she has achieved over the last year and to our former treasurer (Bert Flipo) and secretary (Laura Norton) who have provided amazing support to the team. We also said goodbye and thank you to Trustee Tasha Whittaker for her support and hard work over the last six years and welcomed new Trustee Rachel Elsom.

We have some great events planned for the year ahead and are always grateful to our additional volunteers who help out when and where they can. We are in the process of reviewing the tasks required for up-and-coming events and will be sending them out nearer the time of each event. If you would like to help support your PTFA but feel unable to commit to a regular voluntary role, please keep an eye out for our task lists as we really do appreciate even the smallest of inputs to help make our events possible and provide the children with amazing opportunities and resources.

Joanna Chapman

Walk for Jason



The Walk for Jason along Hadrian's Wall was something that I (Hildersham resident) my sister Donna Mahoney, Jenny Logan (Hildersham resident) Kate Huntsman (Hildersham resident) and Suzanne Webster did to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. My brother Jason died of MS in 2018 and we walked this year in his memory, as it is almost five years since he died.

Thank you for your support and sponsorship of the walk, which we completed in five days, finishing on 5 September. The tree in the photo is the sycamore at Sycamore Gap. We walked past this on our walk. The photo was taken on 3 September so we were lucky to see it before it was felled three weeks later.

We are delighted to say that we raised £5,596.66 for the MS Society which will go to fund research into this condition. The coffee morning we held in Hildersham also raised £204.10. Thank you to all who came along. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Thank you for your generosity and kind wishes.

Nettie Long

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 893 524.

Joan Nevin

The Abingtons and Hildersham News on the website

To see the News before a printed copy is available, and to see the photographs in colour, go to www.theabingtons.org.uk/news and follow the link to the pdf for the month you want.

District and County Councillors' Reports October 2023

Greater Cambridge Partnership STZ update

A very lengthy public consultation on road-charging in Cambridge City was undertaken at the end of last year and the results were an updated proposal, published at the end of August. The Executive Board, which ultimately makes the decision on whether to take the scheme forward or not, met in the last week of September. The proposal was rejected and the revised scheme won't be taken forward. We're uncertain what the next steps will be – the GCP will either have to come up with another revised version of the scheme, start the whole process again or simply scrap the entire project. On a related note, the scheme for a new travel hub (Park & Ride) near Babraham, along with the off-road bus route joining this to the new train station at Addenbrooke's, has also been paused while the GCP tries to find more money to fund this, as the project costs have increased exponentially.

A1307 works

The A1307 was closed for two weekends to facilitate the completion of the new roundabout at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton. The final elements of the upgrades will be the remodelling of the Dean Road junction and then the completion of the Greenway around Abington and joining up with the crossing over the A11. The work for this will start in November on Newmarket Road, Abington. For more up to date information go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership website: <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>

Mobile food hub

A mobile food hub visits Linton Village Hall on Coles Lane every Tuesday 1–2pm. No registration is required; just turn up on the day. More information can be found on the Hope CIC (the charity running the scheme) website, <https://hopeagainst.org/hope-cic-mobile-food-hub>, or on 07474725477.

Statement of Community Engagement

The District Council is currently consulting on its Statement of Community Involvement. This details how the planning service engages with various elements of the community during the planning process. Planning is one of the authority's most public-facing services and affects everyone. More information on the current statement can be found at <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/statement-of-community-involvement/>

Free electric blankets

SCDC is offering a free electric blanket to those most in need. To qualify, residents need to be claiming Council Tax Support and one of the following:

- Attendance allowance
- Personal independence Payment
- Disability Living Allowance

Full details can be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/free-electric-blankets-will-help-residents-most-in-need-this-winter/>

Carbon Literacy Certificate

The District Council has been given a Bronze Award and recognised as a Carbon Literate Organisation by the Carbon Literacy Trust. This follows work done to tackle climate issues in our area and the Council's undertaking to reduce its carbon emissions by 45% by 2025 and 75% by 2030. See <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/carbon-literate-certification-for-council/>

RAAC

This has been in the news in recent months as some schools in the UK have been found to have used RAAC, which has been found to be dangerous, in their construction.

The good news locally is that no schools in Cambridgeshire have Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) material in their buildings, so there is no need for any major work.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

News from Granta Park

It's been a super-busy few weeks at Granta Park! Colleagues from BioMed Realty, SDC Builders Ltd, AECOM and Bidwells spent an afternoon picking litter on Newmarket Road. Thirty bags of waste and recycling were collected in just under two hours – warm thanks to all involved.

We were also thrilled to see the return of the Abington Festival of Running, with Granta Park at the heart of the action. Several of our tenants joined in and raised funds for Great Abington Primary School. Congratulations to all runners – we hope you enjoyed the day.

On Monday 27 November we will be hosting our next Ecology Workshop at 3pm in the McClintock Building to consult on the future of the natural capital surrounding Granta Park. We hope to continue discussions around the river Granta, Langden's Grove, Sluice Wood and the tree belt across Pampisford Road and we welcome the local community to join us. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to The Estate Team on 01223 895 030 or email admin@grantapark.co.uk before Wednesday 22 November.

Look out for future events at Granta Park, which we share on our social media and via the local Facebook group.

There's still time to join the Christmas Choir

If you would like to join the choir for the Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 17 December, please join us for practices on Friday evenings, 7.00–8.30pm, in Great Abington School hall beginning on 3 November. Any queries contact me on 07710 494 834.

Glenis Todd



The Abington Lunch

Thursday 23 November 2023

Fruit juice

Turkey casserole

Seasonal vegetables

Pear dessert

Tea or coffee



Please book your meal on 07554 433317. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on **Tuesday 21 November**. 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**. **Cost £5**. Guests only by special arrangement. **Next lunch: Thursday 26 January 2024.**

We're recruiting!

Our wonderful Old Station Nursery in Granta Park is looking for passionate Nursery Practitioners to join our team. Get in touch to visit the nursery and meet our lovely team!

Email: recruitment@tosn.co.uk

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 Next date: Tuesday 14 November | 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 Next date: Tuesday 28 November |
|---|--|

Diary for November 2023

| Date | | Venue: Abington Institute unless stated | Time | Page |
|------|----|--|---------|------|
| Wed | 1 | Yoga – course and drop-in | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | Line Dancing | 1.00pm | 12 |
| Thu | 2 | Walking Group | 9.50am | 13 |
| | | Granta Vale Harmony | 7.30pm | 12 |
| Fri | 3 | Low-impact Aerobics | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | Pilates | 10.30am | 11 |
| Sat | 4 | Family Bingo – Social Club | 7.00pm | 13 |
| Mon | 6 | Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building | 9.30am | 12 |
| | | Physio Pilates | 1.15pm | 12 |
| | | Gardening Club | 7.30pm | 12 |
| Tue | 7 | Art Group | 10.00am | 19 |
| | | Table Tennis | 7.30pm | 19 |
| Wed | 8 | Yoga – course and drop-in | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | Line Dancing | 1.00pm | 12 |
| Thu | 9 | Granta Vale Harmony | 7.30pm | 12 |
| Fri | 10 | Low-impact Aerobics | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | Pilates | 10.30am | 11 |
| | | Motown Singer – Social Club | 8.00pm | 13 |
| Sun | 12 | Remembrance Day Service – Little Abington | 10.45am | |
| Mon | 13 | Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building | 9.30am | 12 |
| | | Physio Pilates | 1.15pm | 12 |
| | | Abington and Hildersham WI | 7.30pm | 13 |
| Tue | 14 | Mobile Library, Hildersham | 9.40am | 9 |
| | | Art Group | 10.00am | 19 |
| | | Tuesday Club | 2.00pm | 12 |
| | | Table Tennis | 7.30pm | 19 |
| | | Reading Group – see page 12 for venue | 7.30pm | 12 |
| Wed | 15 | Yoga – course and drop-in | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | Line Dancing | 1.00pm | 12 |
| Thu | 16 | Craft Group | 1.30pm | 13 |
| | | Granta Vale Harmony | 7.30pm | 12 |
| Fri | 17 | Low-impact Aerobics | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | Pilates | 10.30am | 11 |
| | | Film Nights – doors open 7.00pm | 7.30pm | 13 |
| Sat | 18 | Walking Group | 9.50am | 13 |
| | | History Day | 10.30am | 16 |
| Mon | 20 | Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building | 9.30am | 12 |
| | | Social Cycling – meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road | 10.00am | 12 |
| | | Physio Pilates | 1.15pm | 12 |
| | | Great Abington Parish Council | 7.15pm | 14 |
| Tue | 21 | Art Group | 10.00am | 19 |
| | | Table Tennis | 7.30pm | 19 |
| Wed | 22 | Yoga course and drop-in | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | Line Dancing | 1.00pm | 12 |
| | | Abington Group | 7.30pm | 19 |
| Thu | 23 | Abington Lunch (doors open) | 12.45pm | 9 |
| | | Granta Vale Harmony | 7.30pm | 12 |

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|-----|----|---|---|---------------------------|
| Fri | 24 | Low-impact Aerobics Pilates Karaoke evening – Social Club | 9.30am 10.30am 8.00pm | 11 11 13 |
| Sat | 25 | Christmas Fayre | | 5 |
| Mon | 27 | Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building Physio Pilates Ecology Workshop – McClintock Building, Granta Park Little Abington Parish Council | 9.30am 1.15pm 3.00pm 7.30pm | 12 12 9 15 |
| Tue | 28 | Mobile Library, the Abingtons Art Group Tuesday Club Scrabble Club Table Tennis | 9.40am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm | 9 19 12 12 19 |
| Wed | 29 | Yoga – course and drop-in Line Dancing | 9.30am 1.00pm | 11 12 |
| Thu | 30 | Granta Vale Harmony | 7.30pm | 12 |

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 or phone 07591 064 310.

Jeremiah's Café: Opening times in November 2023

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Thursday lunchtime | 11.30am–1.30pm (2, 9, 16, Lunch 23) |
| Friday morning | 8.45am–11.00am (3, 10, 17, 24) |
| Saturday mornings | 10.00am–12 noon (4, 11, 18, 25) |

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

Note: see page 9 for the Abington Lunch menu for 23 November. The annual **Big Breakfast** offered by the Jeremiah's team in the Institute will be held on **16 December**. Please add to your diaries and watch this space for more details next month!

Wheelie bin dates for October 2023 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

| Wed 1 | Wed 8 | Wed 15 | Wed 22 | Wed 29 |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Green/Blue | Black | Green/Blue | Black | Green/Blue |

Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am

Contact Joan 890 629 or email 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

Physio-led Face to Face Pilates – Mondays, 1.15–3.20pm

Beginners 1.15–2.15pm; Intermediate 2.20–3.20pm. For more information, please contact ChristianaHeinz@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 or tel. 07958 788 292.

Social Cycling Seven of us enjoyed a beautiful if somewhat chilly morning on a 15-mile ride that included the Magog hill! However, a welcome stop at the Docky Barn café revived us. The next ride will be on Monday 20 November at 10.00 am leaving from 1 Bourn Bridge Road. We would love a few more people to join us so maybe this will tempt you. The ride on Monday 18 December will include an All-Day Breakfast. Gaynor Farrant

Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting will be on Monday 6 November at 7.30pm in the Institute when Ian Bedford will give a talk entitled 'Companion Planting for a Balanced Garden'. All welcome. Please contact me for more information. Kay Harman, Secretary, tel. 891 730; email: 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.

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 or email abingtonannexoffice@gmail.com for more information. See page 5.

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

On 14 November, we welcome Helen Howe who will give a presentation on the work of the Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust. On 28 November, Carl Prack will inform us about the work of the Blood Donation operation. Both meetings begin at 2pm. Following our speakers, we will as usual enjoy a chat over afternoon tea. We warmly welcome new members as well as old friends. The first introductory visit will be free. Membership is then £5 per year and £2 a session. We look forward to meeting you.

Jenny Milns (tel. 890 252)

Reading Group

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 14 November | <i>The Woman in the White Kimono</i> Ana Johns | Sylvia Gilmour |
| 12 December | <i>Christmas Party</i> | Diana Wingfield |

We will meet at 7.30pm at Sylvia's on 14 November to discuss *The Woman in the White Kimono*. Please confirm attendance to Sylvia and copy me in.

Valerie Hefford

Scrabble Club

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

Sheena Fraser


Abington Craft Group

Our 16 November meeting will be the last meeting of 2023. We need all hands on deck, or as much help as possible, please, ahead of our fundraising craft stalls at the Christmas Fayre. A huge thank you to all those who have given time to our group during 2023 and all who donated equipment, fabric and accessories. It's been a pleasure. Looking forward to patchwork and art workshops in 2024. For more information, please contact Glynis.brookman@btinternet.com, tel. 07970 614 194

Film Nights

Film Nights at the Abington Institute continue on Friday 17 November, 7.30 pm (doors open 7.00 pm). For more information, please visit <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> where you can subscribe to Film Night updates. Alternatively email johnrivers@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Social Club events

| Date | Event | Start time |  |
|---------------------|---|------------|---|
| Saturday 4 November | Family bingo – children play too! | 7.00 pm | |
| Friday 10 November | Motown singer Cecil Farayi (pictured right) | 8.00 pm | |
| Friday 24 November | Karaoke evening | 8.00 pm | |

Abington Walking Group



The October walks were to Thriplow and Duxford. Your November walks are on Thursday 2 and Saturday 18. If you would like to know in advance where we shall be walking, please join our WhatsApp group. 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

October brought us a new kind of meeting, thanks to the technological wizardry of Bob Coates, who linked us via Zoom to Marion Foster, a bespoke kilt tailor and founder of the College of Master Kilt Tailors, which won a UNESCO award for Heritage Craft and Kilt Making. After Bob's short film of Marion's home in the beautiful Perthshire countryside, Marion introduced herself and spoke with passion about kilts and tartan. The original form of Highland dress was practical – a rough swathe of woollen material worn with a belt that doubled as a blanket for protection during the harsh Highland weather. After the Jacobean uprising and subsequent defeat in 1746 at Culloden, the wearing of kilts was forbidden. The law was later repealed and Sir Walter Scott was largely responsible for the modern tradition of kilts and tartan that has become synonymous with Scottish history and culture.

Today the Royal Mile in Edinburgh is full of shops selling kilts imported from Pakistan and China, but Marion described how her bespoke kilts are created from 10 metres of quality tartan fabric to fit perfectly and adapt to a lifetime of wearing. WI member, Phillippa Coates, wore a lovely kilt that she had made under Marion's tuition and displayed another showing the detailed construction of the pleating, which requires many hours of precise crafting and hand stitching. Several other members brought items showing the varied colours and patterns of tartan. A very interesting evening. Next meeting: Monday 13 November at 7.30pm in Abington Institute – 'My tutu went AWOL' with Iestyn Edwards on his experiences as an entertainer in Iraq and Afghanistan. New members and visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

Marilyn Broadhurst

Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

Community Warden Scheme

The Parish Council is actively exploring the Community Warden Scheme, which operates successfully in Linton and some surrounding villages, for our community. If you would like to register your interest in the scheme (without commitment) please email janebowen533@gmail.com. For information about how the scheme operates in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, go to: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/our-services/community-wardenservice-9fac1191-2b4a-ed11-97b2-00155d588368/>

Parking on yellow lines

At peak times the centre of the village is very busy with children and their families entering and leaving the school site. This is not helped by motorists parking on yellow lines, especially on the corner of Linton Road and outside the Village Institute. Please be responsible and ensure that you park safely and protect members of our community.

Planning

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

Planning Applications

23/03658/S73 (remove/vary condition) The Portway Granta Park – S73 to vary condition 12 of ref: 20/03409/FUL Date of decision: 09/11/2020 Condition Number(s): Condition 12 (Internal and external refurbishment together with associated works) for an alternative landscaping arrangement to be produced on-site.

District Council decisions

23/0966/TTCA 99, High Street. 1 silver birch, reduce crown by 2m. 3 hornbeams, reduce height by 2m. Approved.

23/03162/HFUL 44 North Road. Part single storey, part two-storey extension. Approved.

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

Tony Orgee (Chairman) tonyorgee@gmail.com

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

Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 20 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 (892 000)

Reminder: Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

A gentle reminder that any filled shoeboxes need to be dropped off at my house (20 West Field) by 18 November. Please ring me on 07745 046 921 beforehand to make sure someone is in. If you have items for the boxes or donations it would be very useful to have them before 18 November, please, along with any cakes or preserves for the sale on that day. If anyone can knit hats, gloves or scarves (ages 2–14) or make pencil cases that would be wonderful. I have empty boxes to give out if needed and there are boxes in both church porches. Many thanks.

Jane Furlow

Little Abington Parish Council

Biodiversity workshop

MKA Ecology met with nature groups, parish councillors and residents on Granta Park last month to discuss its survey on how biodiversity can be increased in the village's woodlands and riversides by as much as 20% (Abington Woods, Sluice Wood, etc). A second workshop (in a series) is scheduled for Monday 27 November at 3pm, also at Granta Park. See page 9.

Former Cambridge International School site

At last some action on this site. The Perse School has tidied up the site, cutting back hedging and trees, mainly to reduce the problem of theft and damage to the buildings and outdoor amenities.

Speedwatch

The Speedwatch Group has been inactive for some months, partly due to the lack of a coordinator but also because we have been waiting for mobile vehicle activated signs (MVAS) to be installed in the village. They will appear soon in a number of locations in both Great and Little Abington where speeding has been an issue.

Meeting held on Monday 25 September

Councillor Henry Batchelor reported that plans for a travel hub at Babraham (to include a park and ride) are to be put on hold due to lack of funding.

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/.

Sheila Bolden (Chair) 07754659929/Cllr.sbalden@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk) Clerk@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Appeal for Christmas Gifts for Refugee and Foster Children

Many of us have started making plans for Christmas where we will be able to celebrate with friends and family. But many children will be facing a very different reality. Please will you spare a thought for all the children who are looked after by Cambridgeshire Social Services who have experienced suffering and loss this year and who will not be with their families. Cambridgeshire is appealing for more foster carers because there is a growing number of children needing temporary or more permanent foster care. It is also impossible to remain unmoved by the plight of those fleeing conflict and poverty in different parts of the world. The number of unaccompanied children arriving on our shores has increased and many are now looked after in Cambridgeshire. Social Services were overjoyed that each child received a present through your generosity last year but the need is even greater this year.

The young people of Hildersham Children's Church Council, in conjunction with Love Abington and the Churches in Abington and Hildersham are leading this appeal. This year, we are delighted that Granta Park has generously offered to join the appeal, through their Give a Gift scheme and we hope to exceed the outstanding number of donations that you gave last year.

If you would like to choose a gift for children in care and unaccompanied refugee children, please remember that many of the refugee children are over 11 years old. There is also a need for gifts for very young children and for young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 who are leaving care and are often forgotten. Joe Gilbert from Social Services says that gifts that are really appreciated by young adults include **chocolate, gloves, scarves, toiletries, homemade jams, art and drawing materials, games and puzzles, magic tricks, craft kits, mugs and rucksacks.**

Please imagine what a child or young adult of a certain age would like. Once you have bought a gift, **do not wrap it.** Please put it in a gift bag with a label on the outside saying whether it is for a boy or girl and approximately what age. If it is a gender-neutral present such as colouring pencils and a sketchbook, please label it girl or boy.

Please bring your gift to St Mary's Little Abington (2–4.30pm) or Holy Trinity Hildersham between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Saturday 9 December and join us in both venues for an Advent tea. If you are unable to deliver your present on that day, please ring Rosemary Mead (891 718) or Amanda Palmer (894 316) to make other arrangements.

Many of you are already supporting the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal organised by Jane Furlow, so we would like to thank you for your continued generosity and kindness. The foster and refugee children will be delighted that someone is thinking about them.

Rosemary Mead and Amanda Palmer

Hildersham News

Emmaus collection

Thank you to everyone who emptied their lofts and garages. The Emmaus team were delighted to leave the village hall with a full van yet again. Their team of residents will recycle and repurpose all the items to sell in their shop at Waterbeach.

Harvest Festival giving

Yet another thank you to all who donated to the Harvest Appeal for slow cookers or hand blenders for REACH in Haverhill. We were very pleased to take six slow cookers and three hand blenders (with favourite soup recipes and ingredients added to the bag) to the food bank where they were happily received knowing how helpful they will be to their clients.

Children's Church Council

Having had an extended summer break we are now forging ahead with our autumn and winter plans. We scouted around the churchyard to plan where our beautiful new signs will go. These were hand painted by the children and indicate the different meadows and the animal habitats in the churchyard. We then had to put our heads together to design our village Christmas cards, which we will make at our Creative Church Day in November. We will also be making some beautiful Christmas decorations that will be for sale at the Advent Tea Party. Our other major discussions centred around the Advent Carol Service and what story we would like to tell.

Advent Tea Party We hope you will join us in the church on Saturday 9 December, 2.30–4.30 pm, for festive tea and cake. There will also be an opportunity to browse two or three craft stalls.

The children continue to think of the refugee children in our area from Ukraine and elsewhere as well as those in care locally. Christmas gifts for refugee children and those in care can be brought to the church to place under the Christmas tree any time during the tea party.



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

Urgent Appeal on Behalf of Abington Jeremiahs Cub Scouts

On 12 November Abington Jeremiahs will parade down our High Street and join the Remembrance Sunday Service at Little Abington Parish Church, as they have done since Reverend Woods donated Abington Meadows (now Abington Woods) to the Scouts in 1927. Unfortunately, 2023 may be the last time the Abington Jeremiah's badge and distinctive lime green and lemon neckerchiefs will be seen in our village.

Abington Jeremiahs has been hobbling on without a Trustee Board for the last year and since Beaver Scouts closed in January of this year, Rick Hamilton and Ed Pimblett have been trying to keep the Cub Pack going, hoping that someone would join to help when one or other of us can't make it.

Many people don't realise (I didn't myself initially) that Cubs, Scouts and Beavers are wholly volunteer-run ventures, with no one paid to plan and run sessions, organise trips, collect subs, make sure the bills are paid and keep up with training and safeguarding. We do it to give youngsters an opportunity to learn new skills and have experiences they may not have had otherwise but it's a lot of work, especially when you do not have support.

This is why we are making this appeal to potential young leaders in the village looking to enhance their CV and those who find themselves time-rich who might like to share their knowledge and experience to help keep the Abington Jeremiahs going. We need a chair, a secretary and a treasurer as a minimum, as well as someone willing to don the uniform and become a leader. If you can help, please contact me, Rick Hamilton, email cubs@abingtonjeremiahs.org.uk, or come and find us at the Scout Hut in Abington Woods on Tuesdays between 6.00 and 7.30 pm.



Granta Medical Practices Update

Flu vaccines If you are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccine but have not yet had it please call us today on 0300 234 5555 to book your appointment –it's not too late! If you are eligible for shingles and pneumo vaccines you can get these at the same time.

Covid vaccines We are vaccinating our housebound patients and care home residents. For anyone else eligible, vaccines are available at various walk-in centres and vaccination sites. For further information please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/>

Accurx Patient Triage Our online consultation tool is now live. Accurx replaces our email service, is easy to use and is a secure way of liaising with us. Accurx is PC-based – you do not need to download an app and you don't need to create an account. Accurx can also be used for administrative queries, such as insurance forms, etc. Simply go to our website and click on the link to start. If you don't use online services you can still ring or pop in to see us.

Repeat prescriptions Now is the time to start thinking about your repeat medication stocks over the Christmas period. When is your repeat due? Does it work around your Christmas plans? Avoid the last minute rush and plan ahead now!

Sandra East, Granta Patient Services
www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

Friends of the Rosie

The Friends joined the Rosie at various events in October to celebrate the Rosie's 40th anniversary and 50 years since the formation of the Friends of the Rosie charity.

. The Virtual Shop Local – East Anglia Online Christmas Market opened on 1 October and runs until Christmas Eve (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/778630486315024/?ref=share>). We are stall number 12, where you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts for special friends and family.

So far in 2023 we have raised £2,700 to help babies and parents at The Rosie. Our next in-person stall will be at the community market in Bar Hill on 25 November 10.30–5.00 pm. Thank you for your continued support.

Avril Williams tel. 01954 782 431,
email avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk; Jo Hall tel. 01954 780 304

November Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

| DATE | 9.30 am | 11.00 am | 6.00 pm |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| 2 November | | | All Souls' Service <i>Balsham</i> |
| 5 November | | United Communion <i>Balsham</i> | |
| 12 November | Communion <i>West Wickham</i> | Remembrance Services <i>Balsham</i> <i>Weston Colville</i> | |
| 19 November | Communion <i>West Wrating</i> <i>West Wickham</i> | Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i> | |
| 26 November | Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wrating</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> | Communion <i>Balsham</i> | Choral Evensong <i>Weston Colville</i> |

Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| Monday–Friday | 9.30 am Holy Mass | |
| Saturday | 9.30 am Holy Mass | 7.00 pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday | 8.45 am Holy Mass 11.15 am Holy Mass | |

Snakes alive!

There was great excitement in West Field in late September when a snake was spotted under a departing visitor's car. The photo is deceptive – the West Field snake was a baby grass snake and only about the length and width of a shoelace but it turned out to be very photogenic. Naturewatch






Amphibians and Reptiles officer **Gaynor Farrant** kindly wrote the following for the *News*.

Phrases like 'Snake in the grass', 'If it was a snake it would bite you', 'Go snake', all suggest treachery, untrustworthiness, violence, double-crossing, etc. However, nothing could be less true of the grass snake. Our largest reptile is shy by nature and wary of humans. If disturbed it will slither away or play dead. Grass snakes are happy on land and in the water and can be found basking on banks, in hedgerows and woodland margins and frequently swimming along waterways. Their main source of food is other amphibians.

They are easily identified by their olive green, brown or greyish upper markings with rows of black spots on the back and sides. The belly is chequered black and white scales. The collar is usually white or yellow. Grass snakes hibernate over winter and one favourite spot is a compost heap! We have very little data on snakes in general and I expect the grass snake to have declined like so many of our species due to loss of suitable habitat and the diminishing number of other amphibians as its food source.

Photo by David Simmons

Church Services for November 2023

| <i>DATE</i> | <i>Gt. Abington</i>  | <i>Lt. Abington</i>  | <i>Hildersham</i>  | <i>Readings</i> |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| 2 November All Souls | 5.00pm Service of Hope | | | |
| 5 November All Saints | 11.00am United Service at Balsham | | | Revelation 7.9-end Matthew 5.1-12 |
| 12 November Remembrance Sunday | | 10.45am Remembrance Service | | |
| 19 November | 11.00am Communion | | 11.00am Communion | 1Thessalonians 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30 |
| 26 November | | 4pm Evensong | 11.00am Café Church | Ephesians 1.15- end Matthew 25.31- end |

Church Flower Rota

| | <i>Gt. Abington</i> | <i>Lt. Abington</i> | <i>Hildersham</i> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 November | Anne Hall | Freda Orgee | Anne-Marrie Melloy |
| 12 November | Carole McCrae | Sylvia Gilmour and Mary Miles | Muriel Crampin |
| 19 November | Patsy Randall | Sylvia Gilmour and Mary Miles | Muriel Crampin |
| 26 th November | Carole McCrae | Amanda Marns | Kirsten Newble |

Churchwardens

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Great and Little Abington</i> | Graham Ross | 41 Church Lane, Little Abington | 891564 |
| <i>Hildersham</i> | Keith Day | Fourwinds, Linton Road, Hildersham | 891527 |

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 |