



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

December 2023



Photo by Rick Hamilton

**Abington Jeremiahs paraded at the Remembrance Day
service in November (see page 3)**

From the Editor

Our cover this month shows Abington Jeremiahs, who paraded through the Abingtons on Remembrance Sunday. The Cub Scouts are still looking for new leaders in the village following their appeal in November. Have you got time to help them and maintain a tradition that has lasted for nearly a century? You can find contact information on page 19.

Christmas is now thoroughly upon us. Several of our regular groups and clubs are taking a seasonal break – please check the Diary (page 10) for revised days and times. However, there are numerous festive events over the holiday period: the GLAMS choir will be singing outside the Village Institute (page 6); the Social Club has a full calendar of family events (page 13); Jeremiah's Café is holding the annual Big Breakfast (page 15); there is an afternoon Christmas concert by the Balsham Singers (page 9); and, of course, our churches have programmed special services and community events (pages 4 and 16).

On page 7, there are details of two rather different opportunities to make Christmas donations – the Christmas Gift Appeal coordinated by the churches and Love Abington, and the Festive Fun Run at Granta Park. I'm told that fancy dress is encouraged by the organisers of this event, which will raise funds for East Anglian Air Ambulance.

This month, our Ukrainian guests will once again be spending Christmas and New Year far from home. A traditional Ukrainian Christmas dinner is very different from the turkey and trimmings most of us are used to. On page 18 there is a description of the mouth-watering food enjoyed by Ukrainian families at this time.

Finally, I am very grateful to acknowledge the continued sponsorship of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* by BioMed, with particular thanks to Orestis Tzortzoglou. Please note the early deadline for the January issue (see below), necessitated by the end of year holidays.

May we all have a happy, healthy and above all peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Sally Simmons

Contents

From the Seven Churches, News from the Pews Crib Service, Ukrainian community in Abington	4 5	Gardening Club, Granta Vale Harmony, Baby & Toddler Group, Tuesday Club, Reading Group, Scrabble Club Craft Group, Film Nights Social Club, WI, Walking Group	12 13
PTFA, Pre-School, GLAMS, Poppy Appeal News from Granta Park, Christmas Gift Appeal, Mobile Library	6 7	Great Abington Parish Council Little Abington Parish Council, Big Breakfast Hildersham Parish Council, Hildersham News	14 15 16
Councillors' Reports History Day, Balsham Singers	8 9	Granta Medical update Church Services, A Ukrainian Christmas Dinner	17 18
Diary for December Café, Bins, Yoga, Aerobics/Pilates, Physio Pilates, Line Dancing, Social Cycling	10 11		

All items for the January 2024 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Wednesday 13 December 2023 at news@theabingtons.org.uk.

From the Seven Churches

It's that time of year! Advent and the approach to Christmas, when there is so much to look forward to in our parishes: Christmas fairs, Christmas concerts and services, carol singing and more besides, all of which I really enjoy! Yet while Christmas decorations may arrive in the shops in early November, it can still be good to keep a balance between the waiting and preparation associated with Advent and the festive atmosphere throughout December.

Savouring the waiting and preparation can seem like a counter-cultural pursuit. Sometimes we may be encouraged to cut to the chase and get what we want straight away, as though there is nothing worth waiting for. Advent dares to defy this. Even something as simple as an Advent calendar or candle may remind us that Advent traditionally is a time of reflection and preparation for the joyful celebration of the birth of Christ.

The more hectic life becomes, perhaps the more important it is to set aside time for stillness and reflection. This in turn may help us appreciate more deeply the good we can see in each other and the world around us, despite the trials and tribulations we may experience or hear about in the news. It may help us notice, name and celebrate gifts, generosity and expressions of love. Giving, joyful celebration and an instinct for seeing the good, also point to the deeper reality of the Christmas message and the story of Jesus' birth. Beautifully strange news that offers hope, joy and new life. A child, born in humble circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's Gospel says, as "Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is "Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'".

At this time of year, then, we are reminded that, however busy or testing our lives may become, the most important, life-changing good news we could ever hear is being proclaimed in the stillness and joy of our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Good news worth responding to, celebrating and sharing, and which can shape the way we live not only during Advent and Christmas but in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl

News from the Pews

Sunday 3 December is the first Sunday in Advent. In the church calendar this is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor to our churches (as many people are throughout the week) you will possibly notice that there are no flowers except for a beautiful Advent Ring, which is a representation of Advent. The candles on the ring represent hope, peace, joy and love and the white candle is lit at the Christmas Day morning service. The Christmas choir and the GLAMS choir are busy rehearsing under the direction of Glenis Todd for the annual Carol Service, which will be held on Sunday 17 December in Great Abington Church. This is one of our most popular services. Make sure you come in warm clothing as churches (although heated) are notoriously cold.

Events throughout the Christmas period

We hope you will be able to join us for some of these events.

Saturday 9 December	Gift collection, 2.00–4.30pm, Little Abington Church
Christmas Sunday 17 December	Carol Service, 6.30pm, Great Abington Church
Sunday 24 December	Crib Service for children, parents and grandparents, 10.30am, Little Abington Church Midnight Communion, 11.30 pm, Little Abington Church
Monday 25 December	Morning Worship Service, 11am, Great Abington Church

Great and Little Abington Churches Food Banks

If you can, please support the food banks over the Christmas period. If at all possible, please add some festive food to your donation.

Sincere thanks...

... to everyone who has supported our churches throughout 2023 in so many different ways. Our churches would close without you. We wish you peace and happiness this Christmas and always. On behalf of Love Abington, Marilyn Broadhurst, Lesley Crisp, Anne Hall, Mary Miles, Tony Orgee, Patsy Randall and Graham Ross,

Funeral

It was with great sadness we learnt of the passing of Steve Willis who died suddenly on 25 September. Steve lived in Mortlock Gardens and worked at TWI for 47 years. He was a kind, friendly and very funny person. His popularity was evident by the many friends and work colleagues who attended the funeral at Cam Valley on 30 October. One of Steve's greatest enjoyments was walking with his beloved dog, Poppy. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gill, Bethany, Michael, Simon and Sophie.

Sadly, we have lost three other members of our community – Joe Borley, Ray Hood and Peter Turner. At the time of writing funeral details were not confirmed. Anne Hall

Calling all angels, shepherds, kings, sheep, camels, Mary and Joseph

**You are warmly invited to the
CRIB SERVICE**



ST MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE ABINGTON

10.30 am

ON CHRISTMAS EVE

You may like to dress up as one of the Nativity characters

Mulled wine & mince pies

Chocolate money treasure hunt

Ukrainian Community in Abington

The 10 Ukrainians staying with hosts in Abington are now very comfortable living in England and none anticipates moving to independent accommodation. They need less support from the community but there are nine supporting households that can help 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

Locally, but not in Abington, there is an urgent need for accommodation for Ukrainians having to move to independent living in both the private and social housing sectors but there is a shortage of available properties. Currently there are a mother and son local to Abington seeking accommodation. Associated with moving to independent living there is a need for jobs to create income. If you know of any properties or are of any vacancies please contact me.

Anton King (tel. 891 514)

PTFA

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 30 November at 7.30pm. If you would like to find out more about what the PTFA does, or volunteer to help out at one of our events, please do come along and join us. All meetings are still held online. A link to access the meeting can easily be provided upon request. Please contact one of the PTFA members to request access or email either Katie or Kirsty at ptfa@greatabington.school.

Elfridges 2023

An email has been issued recently providing further details on the running of Elfridges, which will be held during the school day on 12 and 13 December. Tickets for the event are available to purchase via parent pay until 3pm on Friday 24 November. Children will be sent home with labels for their gifts on Monday 27 November and all labels will need to be returned to the school no later than Friday 1 December. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask a member of the PTFA for assistance.

End of 2023

This last year has been a busy one with so many events being held, from school discos, class cake sales, the Summer Fayre and the Festival of Running to name but a few. These events not only raise money to help support our children with additional resources and opportunities, but also bring members of our community together. The PTFA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout 2023. Your donations, your time and your support are vital in helping us achieve the best we can for the schoolchildren and we couldn't do it without you. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Joanna Chapman

Abington Preschool & After School Club

A Christmas Craft Morning in aid of Abington Preschool & After School Club will be held on Saturday 9 December, 10.00am–12 noon, at Abington Annexe (bottom of school playground). Please join us for a fun-filled morning with lots of activities. All money raised goes to the Club. Contact us on tel. 894 246 to add your name to our list or pop in during the week! We look forward to seeing you!

GLAMS

The Glams choir will be carol singing outside the Institute at 7pm, Wednesday 13 December. Please come and join us for carols, mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies, all are welcome.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who gave to this year's Poppy Appeal. A magnificent £2062.09 has been raised. Thank you also to the volunteers who selflessly give their time to collect and also to those who count the donations. Your donations will be used to help serving men and women, veterans and their families to get the care and support they need. Thank you. 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.

News from Granta Park

Granta Park is a hive of activity looking ahead to winter, as we prepare for the festive season including our Festive Fun Run in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. The Fun Run is taking place on 12 December and is open to all tenants of Granta Park, plus Granta Park Nuffield Health members. Find further details on our website.

We're also very proud to be partnering with the local Abington parishes and Cambridgeshire Social Services to support children and young adults this Christmas. Running until 18 December, we're inviting all our tenants to donate a brand-new, unwrapped gift to a local child or young adult to ensure as many as possible have something to open on Christmas morning.

Granta Park and BioMed Realty are pleased to report on progress in our Travel Management Plan 2023–28. Single car users decreased by 32.4% between 2017 and 2023. At the same time, the commuter bus service has seen a 63% uptake by users. And those cycling to and from the campus have increased by 124%. Additionally, we've held two Ecology Workshops to consult on the future of the natural capital surrounding Granta Park, along with multiple autumn walks led by Iain from the brilliant Wildlife Trust. Look out for future events in the *News*, on our social media (search and follow Granta Park on LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook), and via the village Facebook group.

Kat Selby

Christmas Gift Appeal

We are collecting presents for refugee children and children in emergency social care this Christmas. Please bring your gift, unwrapped, in a gift bag with a label stating the age of the child.

St Mary's Church, Little Abington
where there will be an Advent tea 2–4.30pm
or

Holy Trinity Church Hildersham
during the Advent tea party 2.30–4.30pm
on

Saturday 9 December

If you would like further details or you are unable to deliver your present on that day, please ring Rosemary Mead (01223 891718) or Amanda Palmer (01223 894316) to make other arrangements.

A huge thank you from the Children's Church Council, the Churches and Love Abington

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 12 December	The Shop, Great Abington 2.00–2.30 Magna Close, Great Abington 2.40–3.10 West Field, Little Abington 3.20–4.10 Next date: Friday 22 December
---	--

NB: Change of date and times for the Abingtons for December.

District and County Councillors' Reports November 2023

Possible solar farm application

We were alerted to a proposal from a solar energy company of a possible planning application in our area for a new, very large, solar farm. There is very little detail at the moment but we do know that the potential area amounts to several hundred hectares. The current search area for land is from the east of Balsham down to the north of Linton then over to the east of Fulbourn. If this area were to be turned into a solar farm, which is unlikely in our view, it would be the largest solar farm in Europe, by some way. Watch this space!

A1307 works

After the work to the roundabout at Linton is complete, the final elements of the upgrades to the road will be the remodelling of the Dean Road junction, which is currently under way, and the completion of the Greenway around Abington and joining up with the crossing over the A11. The work for this was due to start on Newmarket Road, Abington, in November.

For more 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>

Anaerobic digestion plant proposals

In our area we have not one, but two live planning applications for bio energy digestion plants, which break down agricultural materials and turn them into energy.

The first application is located just over the Suffolk border outside Haverhill and off the A1307. The site runs up the Cambridgeshire border and ends at the edge of West Wickham/Weston Colville. Suffolk County Council will make the decision on this and the time for public comments has closed, but you can still look at the plans and write to the case office dealing with the application, andy.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk.

<http://suffolk.planning->

register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0045%2F23SE&fbclid=IwAR0aj4d4JMd9Yr3cP-Etp9rxDR4kKDwvzX0wMyHkfOomG45fCq0khXRbyrE

The second application is in the parish of Streetly End, West Wickham. This site is smaller than the first and will be decided by Cambridgeshire County Council. The Council is taking public comments now via the website:

[https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-](https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S0BB1JDYKNQ00)

[applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S0BB1JDYKNQ00](https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S0BB1JDYKNQ00)

Local Highway Improvement bids

This year's round of LHI bids is now open for parish councils to submit a proposal for funding for a small highway improvement project in our area. Our parishes have been successful in the past and funding has enabled some small, albeit much needed, improvements that wouldn't usually form part of the Highway budget. Full details and application forms can be seen at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding>

19 bus service continues

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have agreed to continue to fund the number 19 bus service, which runs through some of our smaller villages, such as The Camps and Bartlow, for at least for another year. Any encouragement for people to use it will go a long way to show it's a vital service that should be permanently retained.

Mobile food hub

A mobile food hub visits Linton Village Hall on Coles Lane every Tuesday 1.00–2.00pm. No registration is required; just turn up on the day. More information on the scheme can be found on 07474 725 477 on the Hope CIC (the charity running the scheme) website: <https://hopeagainst.org/hope-cic-mobile-food-hub>.

Free electric blankets

SCDC is offering a free electric blanket to those most in need. Full details can be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/free-electric-blankets-will-help-residents-most-in-need-this-winter/> To qualify, residents need to be claiming Council Tax Support and one of the following:

- Attendance Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Disability Living Allowance

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

History Day



The Abington History Group held its History Day on Saturday 18 November and welcomed a steady stream of people throughout the day-long event. Many people from the village said they found it very interesting and informative – we hope everyone enjoyed it and discovered something new (as well as old) about our villages. Sales of our new book, **Abington Through the Ages** were good. If you

were unable to attend the History Day or did not buy a copy while you were there, the book is now available from members of the History Group (see page 19 for contact details).

Barry Brooks

BALSHAM SINGERS
present

**A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON
OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

DIRECTED by JOHN CLENAGHAN
& ACCOMPANIED by RALPH WOODWARD

Holy Trinity Church Balsham
Saturday 16th December
at 4pm

Come and get festive!

Tickets £12, Under 16s **FREE**, to include refreshments.
Available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers
Also available from Balsham and Abington Post Offices

Diary for December 2023

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	4	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Physio Pilates	2.20pm	11
		Gardening Club	7.30pm	12
Tue	5	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
Wed	6	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	7	Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	8	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		Football Club	?????	19
Sat	9	Christmas Gift Appeal – Lt Abington church	2.00pm	7
		Casino and Curry Night – Social Club	8.00pm	13
Mon	11	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Physio Pilates	1.15pm	11
		Abington and Hildersham WI Christmas Party	7.30pm	13
Tue	12	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Festive Fun Run – Granta Park		7
		Reading Group – see page 12 for venue	7.30pm	12
Wed	13	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
		GLAMS Carol Singing	7.00pm	6
		Cricket Club	????	19
Thu	14	Granta Vale Harmony	8.00pm	12
Fri	15	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Hildersham Christmas Lunch – Village Hall	12.30pm	16
		GLAMS Choir – Social Club	6.00pm	13
		Film Nights – doors open	7.00pm	13
Sat	16	The Big Breakfast – Jeremiah's Café	9.30am	15
		Abington Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Film Nights children's matinée – doors open	2.00pm	13
		Balsham Singers – Holy Trinity Church	4.00pm	9
Sun	17	Carol Concert – Great Abington Church	6.30pm	5
Mon	18	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Social Cycling – meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00am	11
Tue	19	Art Group	10.00am	19
Thu	21	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	22	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	23	Christmas Party – Social Club	7.00pm	13
Sun	24	Crib Service – Little Abington Church	10.30am	6
		Santa in Hildersham	4.30pm	16
		Midnight Communion – Little Abington Church	11.30pm	4
Mon	25	Morning Service – Great Abington Church	11.00am	4
Wed	27	Bingo & Games Competition – Social Club	7.00pm	13
Fri	29	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11

		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sun	31	New Year's Disco (with Bondy) – Social Club	8.00pm	13

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 December 2023

Thursday lunchtime	11.30am–1.30pm (7, 14)
Friday morning	8.45am–11.00am (1, 8, 15)
Saturday mornings	10.00am–12 noon (2, 9, 16)

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

Note: The annual **Big Breakfast** offered by the Jeremiah's team in the Institute will be held on **Saturday 16 December**. See page 14.

Wheelie bin dates for December 2023 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

NB The next green bin collection after 13 December will be on 10 January and will be once-monthly until March 2024.

Wed 6	Wed 13	Wed 20	Thurs 28	Wed 3 Jan '24
Black	Green/Blue	Black	Blue	Black

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 Christiana Heinz (cambridgepilates@outlook.com).

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

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

Social Cycling

On a beautiful November morning four of us enjoyed a 13.5-mile ride to Linton, Hadstock, Bartlow and then to the Olde Butcher's Shop at Balsham for well-earned refreshments. On Monday 18 December we have arranged All Day Breakfast at the Riverside Café, Ickleton. We will set off from 1 Bourn Bridge Road at 10.00 am and take a scenic route there.

Gaynor Farrant

Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting will be on Monday 6 December at 7.30pm in the Institute, when Peter Jackson will give a talk on Propagation Methods. All welcome. Please call 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 6.

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

We meet only once this month, on 12 December, when we come together to celebrate Christmas with the local primary schoolchildren and listen to their choir sing carols. This meeting will include our usual Christmas tea and sherry. We will meet up again in the New Year on 9 January. We welcome new members as well as old friends. The first introductory visit is free; membership is then £5 per year and £2 a session. We look forward to meeting you.

Jenny Milns (tel. 890 252)

Reading Group

12 December	Christmas Party	Diana Wingfield
9 January	<i>Small Pleasures</i> Clare Chambers	Rachel Haining

Valerie Hefford

Scrabble Club

There is no meeting of the Scrabble Club in December. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 7.00pm in the Institute. We wish everyone a happy Christmas and enjoyable New Year.

Sheena Fraser

Abington Craft Group

Just a reminder that there will be no Craft Group in December. Our next meeting will be Thursday 18 January 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 15 December, 7.30 pm (doors open 7.00 pm); children's *matinée* Saturday 16 December, 2.30 pm (doors open 2.00 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.

Abington Social Club

A big thank you to all who attended the Hallowe'en charity event. You collectively raised over £500 for Arthur Rank Hospice, so a great achievement. Massive thanks to all who donated and helped set up, and a special mention to Anya Sparks for lending and putting up the decorations.

December events

Date	Event	Start time
Saturday 9 December	Casino and Curry Night – eat all you want for a fiver!	8.00–10.00pm
Friday 15 December	GLAMS choir event – starting Christmas celebrations. All welcome.	6.00pm
Saturday 23 December	Christmas Party with singer and buffet	7.00–10.00pm
Weds 27 December	Seasonal Bingo & Games Competition	7.00pm
Sunday 31 December	Britain's Got Talent singer Bondy returns. Disco until the bells! London live on the big screen from 23.45 pm	8.00pm–midnight

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Our booked speaker for November failed to arrive, but this was a blessing in disguise as one of our visitors, Major Amaris Victory, said, "I've been to Iraq, I could tell you something about it". Amaris was born in Texas. In America the Army was a great equaliser and offered wide opportunities to all. Amaris joined the Texas Army National Guard aged 18 and went to university to be assigned as an officer. Aged 21 she became a Commander, working in administration. Her military career meant moving around every three years. In 2007 she was chasing hurricanes (after Katrina) and in 2009 flew to Iraq, working in logistics, closing down bases as part of the American withdrawal. Amaris had "a lotta fun" in Iraq, despite the rockets flying overhead, exposure to toxins, desert temperatures of over 50 degrees C and living in converted shipping containers! In Western Iraq she worked with the Air Force and flew to the biblical area of Mesopotamia, visiting Ur, where she walked around the site of Abraham's house. After Iraq, Amaris moved to England and worked from home for the Army in Germany, travelling there once a month for two years. Training and co-ordinating exercises across the world take place via video-conferencing and AI is increasingly used to augment human activity. We wish Amaris every success in her ambition to become Lt-Colonel in the future and thank her for entertaining our WI as an Inspiring Woman.

Our Christmas Party with music, fun, games and festive nibbles is on Monday 11 December at 7.30pm in Abington Institute.

Marilyn Broadhurst

Abington Walking Group



The November walks were to Hauxton & Harston and Grantchester & Barton.

Your December walks are on Thursday 7 and Saturday 16 – a short walk from the village followed by the Institute's Big Breakfast – and the last walk of the year will be on Boxing Day.

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 10.00am 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.

Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

20mph speed limit

After a positive response to the online survey regarding a 20mph speed limit in the village, the Council submitted a successful application to Cambridgeshire County Council to cover the High Street and Linton Road. Plans are being considered before the scheme comes into operation early next year.

Village Institute decking project

Many of you will have seen the refurbished decking area at the rear of the Village Institute. The Council was pleased to be able to support the project with Section 106 funding.

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 given below at: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Planning applications

23/04009/LBC -109 High Street – Internal and external works to main house, including works to the south gable, old garage and rainwater gutters, the associated re-roofing, insulating, lead work, joinery, re-plastering, re-rendering, electrical upgrade (if necessary), air bricks and making good.

23/03977/HFUL- The Granary, Hall Farm, High Street – single-storey front extension, new rear gable, replacement windows and doors, demolition of chimney and new side window.

23/1248/TTCA - 70 High Street – T1 Robina dismantle T1 and remove stump. T2 Sycamore heavily reduce by 5–6 meters.

23/1282/TTCA - 4 Linton Road – silver birch, crown thinning and reduction.

S/1433/16/CONDH - Land at 3 Pampisford Road – submission of details required by condition 18 (Contamination) of planning permission S/1433/16/OL.

23/03875/FUL-The Portway, Granta Park – installation of the introduction of an air handling unit to the rear of Block B.

23/01336/CONB – Land adj. to 19 South Road – submission of details required by conditions 10, 17, 18 and 19.

District Council decisions

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

22/05549/OUT TWI Granta Park – Creation of a 4-meter opening to the curtilage listed wall to enable the creation of an east-west shared access that forms part of the outline application 22/05549/OUT. 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 15 January 2024 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)

Little Abington Parish Council

Season's greetings

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Parish Council. We hope you'll take advantage of the festive activities planned in the village and promoted here in the Village News.

Salting icy roads

When roads are icy, parish councillors spread salt/grit from the salt bins on potentially dangerous corners and pavements such as Church Lane. Please feel free to spread some salt when necessary yourselves (but not on your driveways).

Linton Greenway

Work on the Linton Greenway to link the junction of the path from Babraham with Newmarket Road and the Granta Park roundabout is due to start. Be prepared for the disruptions and diversions this will entail.

Yellow line success

The double yellow lines on Newmarket Road have been largely successful in deterring overnight lorry parking, justifying our persistence in pressing for and part funding this measure.

ATM at Fourwentways

For those who don't know, the closest ATM (cashpoint) is at Burger King, next to the Shell garage.

Planning application

23/04019/HFUL: 33 Church Lane – single-storey extension to front, single-storey extension to side, single-storey infill extension to rear, repairs to house and associated outbuildings including infill extension.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next meeting: Monday 22 January 2024

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.sbolden@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

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

If you
paper
www
Sheil
Jess

The Big Breakfast

Saturday 16 December

Jeremiah's Café at the Village Institute

- Egg and bacon
- Sausages and hash browns
 - Tomatoes
 - Mushrooms
- Plus a mug of tea or coffee
- It's a bargain at £6!

9.30–10.00; 10.00–10.30; 10.30–11.00; 11.00–11.30 am

Please book your preferred time by calling Gaynor Farrant 07817517871 or gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Hildersham Parish Council

Meeting held on 14 November 2023

At our September meeting the council welcomed Tom Barton-Owen as a new councillor. Tom filled the vacancy left after Billie Chapman stepped down after several years working to support the community, particularly during Covid.

The Parish Council was very disappointed that its bid for the Local Highways Initiative Funds (from SCDC) to improve safety at the High Street/Back Road/Balsham Road crossroads was unsuccessful, but the council will prepare a bid for the next round of funding.

The Council nominated The Pear Tree Inn (trading as the Pear and Olive) to be classified as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). On 30 October Officers were satisfied that the principal use of the asset furthers the social well-being, or cultural recreation, of the local community and could be accepted as an ACV in accordance with Section 88(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

As the Pear Tree is for sale, under the conditions of the ACV, community groups have until 6 December 2023 to write to SCDC to be treated as a potential bidder in relation to the asset, and the group has a six-month period, beginning with the date on which the local authority receives notification to raise funds. Further information about ACVs, including a Guidance and Procedure document, can be found on the SCDC website.

The Recreation Ground Trust and Field Garden Trust meetings are held after each Parish Council meeting. The land previously administered by the Parish Council, including the allotments, the Recreation Ground, North and South Holding will be managed by the Trusts.

If you notice a fault with the highways, such as potholes, you can report them using the following link: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>.

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on 9 January 2024 in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: <https://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk>.

Hildersham News

Christmas Lunch

You are invited to the Hildersham Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall on Friday 15 December. The menu is the usual wonderful festive fare – turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding and/or a surprise something, washed down with wine, soft drinks or coffee. It's £5 per person and there will be a raffle. Doors open at 12.30pm, with lunch served at 1pm.

This is a very popular event and the hall can only take a limited number of people. If you would like to come, please contact one of the organisers:

Jill Heale, 893596, edheale@btinternet.com

Helen Humphrys, 891309, helenhumphrys@gmail.com

Jenny Logan. 891897, jenny.logan@btinternet.com

News from the North Pole

We have received notification from the North Pole that Santa will be passing through Hildersham on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm. Santa will be on the way to deliver presents to children and families and asks that you come and wave him through the village.

There will be seasonal refreshments at the village Christmas Tree (opposite the Village Hall) and Santa's elves will be collecting for the East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH). All monies raised will be taken to EACH to support the valuable work that they do. Please come and say hello and support Santa and all the children at EACH.

Granta Medical Practices Update

Surgery opening hours and repeat prescription schedule over the holidays

The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order. **Please remember to order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time** so that you do not run out of your medication over the holidays.

Date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Fri 22 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Fri 29 December
Sat 23 December	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	Place order today, pick up Tues 2 January 2024
Sun 24 December (Christmas Eve)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tues 2 January
Mon 25 December (Christmas Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tues 2 January
Tues 26 December (Boxing Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tues 2 January
Wed 27 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Tues 2 January
Thurs 28 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Wed 3 January
Fri 29 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Thurs 4 January
Sat 30 December	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	Place order today, pick up Fri 5 Jquary
Sun 31 December (New Year's Eve)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Fri 5 Jquary
Mon 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Fri 05.01.2024
Tues 2 January	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Fri 5 Jquary

There are **Prescription Collection Points at Sawston, Linton and Shelford**. Sign up today via cpicb.grantadispensing@nhs.net to pick up your medication at your convenience over the holidays.

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol/ibuprofen), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn/indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker but will also help save the NHS much-needed resources.

Local pharmacists can also offer advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. They are available on every high street and in supermarkets, with many open in the evening and at weekends.

While we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999. For further information on available healthcare services, please go to www.nhs.uk or our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk. We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.
Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

November Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30 am	11.00 am	pm
3 December		Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
10 December	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship and Christingle <i>Balsham</i>	Christingle 4.00pm <i>West Wratting</i>
17 December	Communion <i>West Wickham</i>	Carol Service <i>West Wratting</i>	Carol Service 4.00pm <i>Balsham</i> 6.00 pm <i>Weston Colville</i>
24 December Christmas Eve			Crib Service 4.00pm <i>West Wratting</i> Christingle Service 4.00 <i>Weston Colville</i> Carol Service 6.00pm <i>West Wickham</i> Midnight Communion 11.30pm <i>Balsham</i>
25 December Christmas Day	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> <i>West Wratting</i>	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Christmas Worship <i>Balsham</i>	
1 January 2024		Communion <i>Balsham</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	
Sunday	8.45 am Holy Mass 11.15 am Holy Mass	
Sunday 24 December	8.45 am Holy Mass 11.15 am Holy Mass	6.00 pm Children's Mass for Christmas Day 9.00 pm Vigil Mass for Christmas Day
Monday 25 December	10.00 am Holy Mass 11.30 am Holy Mass	

A Ukrainian Christmas Dinner

Many of us have vivid memories of the marvellous Ukrainian Christmas dinner prepared by guests and hosts last January, and served in the Village Institute, when we ate all the dishes described here by Anton King.

The whole family gathers together for dinner. When the children see the first star in the evening sky, the meal can begin. Traditionally there are 12 dishes, which do not contain meat, milk or eggs because the period of fasting does not end until Christmas Day. The first main dish is *Kutia*, “God’s food”, a sweet grain pudding made with boiled wheat, poppy seeds and honey. Then comes *Borshch* (beet soup) with *Vushka* (boiled dumplings filled with chopped mushrooms and onions). This is followed by a variety of fish – baked, broiled, fried, cold in aspic, fish balls, marinated herring and so on. Next is *Varenyky*, boiled dumplings filled with cabbage, potatoes, buckwheat or prunes. There are also *Holubtsi* (stuffed cabbages) and the supper ends with *Uzvar*, “God’s drink”, a traditional drink made from up to 12 different stewed fruits.

Anton King

Village Organisations

Church Services for December 2023

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings
3 December	11.00pm United Communion at Balsham			1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-end
10 December	11.00am Communion		11.00am Communion	Isaiah 40.1-11 Mark 1.1-8
17 December	6.30pm Carol Service		3.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols	See Service sheets
24 December Christmas Eve		10.30am Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion	9.30am Communion	Romans 16.25-end Luke 1.26-38 Isaiah 52.7-10 John 1.1-14
25 December Christmas Day	11.00am Christmas Worship		9.30am Communion	Isaiah 9. 2-7 Luke 2.1-20
31 st December	11.00 United Communion at Balsham			Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21

Church Flower Rota

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
3 December	No flowers	Amanda Marns (clean)	No flowers
10 December	No flowers	Helen Rogers (clean)	No flowers
17 December	No flowers	Helen Rogers (clean)	No flowers
24 December	All help please	All help please	All help please

Churchwardens

<i>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