



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

**March 2024**



*Photo by Betsy Gutteridge*

**Too wet to woo – an unexpected visitor to Great Abington Church escapes the rain (see page 9)**

## From the Editor

During the first eight weeks of 2024, seemingly relentless rain kept our villages almost continuously under water. But despite sodden gardens, treacherous footpaths and flooded pitches (see page 18), thoughts have been turning to spring and even summer activities. The theme of the Naturewatch Spring Meeting (page 13) is chalk streams – and our own has certainly been making its presence felt. In Hildersham, the Village Hall Trust is hosting a Spring Quiz (page 16), cricketers have a chance to get in some pre-season practice (page 9) and don't miss the opportunity to apply for an allotment and get planting (page 8).

In February Ukrainian guests and their hosts marked the second anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine. Support in South Cambridgeshire is some of the highest in the UK but new hosts and further support are still needed – see page 6 for more information.

Our cover shows the beautiful Barn Owl that briefly considered Great Abington Church as a nesting site (page 9). Thank you to Betsy Gutteridge for the photo and Richard Smith for the caption.

Finally, a reminder that **British Summer Time begins on Sunday 31 March, when clocks go forward one hour**. That day is also Easter Sunday and there are several special services in the preceding week (see pages 17, 18, 20), including an animated session of Creative Church (page 9) for Palm Sunday. The Easter bank holidays mean that the deadline for articles for the April issue of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* has been brought forward (see below). Happy Easter to all.

Sally Simmons

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All items for the April 2024 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Wednesday 13 March 2024 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk). NB: early deadline due to Easter bank holidays.

## From the Seven Churches

I can hardly believe it, Christmas seems to have come and gone, Lent is now upon us, and Easter is fast approaching. I was shocked to see Easter eggs/gifts in the supermarkets at the beginning of January. Commercialism at its finest; it persuades everyone that the only way to celebrate something is by spending vast amounts of money.

As Christians, what we celebrate at Easter is far beyond monetary value and our celebrations take on a variety of emotions as we travel through Lent towards the glorious day of Easter Sunday. However hard we try to understand the Easter story it will almost always be beyond our comprehension that Jesus, God the Son, should sacrifice himself to such a cruel death on the cross of Calvary so that we can be forgiven into the presence of God.

I am a great believer in hope. If you have heard me preach you know that I refer to the infamous yet wonderful actress Miriam Margolyes. She once wrote, "Hope is the chink in the curtain which lets the light shine through." As we journey through Lent and Holy Week, we know that by the end of the week the resurrection will come, and Jesus will rise from the dead. Jesus' disciples, however, didn't have that insight into the future; at the cross of crucifixion their world fell apart. Having something to hope for is so important if we are to keep going and stay positive, when everything around us is tough, demanding, painful, sad and unwelcome. Jesus said to his Father, "Not my will, but Yours be done". Surely it was the hope of resurrection, hope of reunion with His Father and appearing to his disciples again that gave Him strength and resolve to see through the costly and sacrificial plan for the salvation of the world.

The first Christians had a scary Easter, but it helped them become fearless about the future and to look to the future with hope. I pray that each and every one of us looks to the future with hope and that on Easter Day we have the hope to shout we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our Song!

I wish you all a hopeful Lent and a very Happy Easter. In Christ, Revd B. A. Brady

## News from the Pews

Once again in the past month we have been on flood alert for Great Abington Church. Thankfully we have once again been spared the devastation flooding has caused on previous occasions. However, sadly, once again we are experiencing dreadful disruption to the Church car park, this time not caused by visitors.

Easter is very early this year. We look forward to welcoming you to the special Easter services (see back page) and to the special Mothering Sunday service on 10 March when flowers will be available for all.

Our first **Chatter and Natter**, an opportunity to chat with friends old and new, takes place at 2pm on 20 March in Great Abington Church. All, including children and babies, are welcome for tea and cake from Patsy's Pantry. We are aware that Abington has grown rapidly within the last few years, which inevitably brings many new people into the community. This monthly event will be an ideal opportunity to meet and mix. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our second **Creative Church** takes place on Palm Sunday, 24 March, at 10am at Abington Institute. Hannah and Rosemary will be reenacting the story of the first Palm Sunday, hopefully with a real donkey, so please come with suitable outdoor clothing and expect to walk. There will also be storytelling, crafts, prayer and food.

Looking further ahead this year, on Saturday 22 June we will once again be holding the popular **Open Gardens** event, featuring Little Abington gardens and tea in Little Abington Church. We need a minimum of 10 gardens to make the event successful. If you are willing to open your garden to visitors during the afternoon on this day, please contact the Assistant Churchwardens, Marilyn Broadhurst or Mary Miles (details on the back of this magazine). We look forward to hearing from you. Even further ahead, in December we will be organising Advent Windows, an event that gives us all an opportunity to take part in community Christmas joy. We will of course need 24 families to take part, ideally 12 in each parish. It's not too early to book your place, so please email Anne on [anneandglynhall@gmail.com](mailto:anneandglynhall@gmail.com).

We were saddened to hear that we have lost one of our oldest Abington residents: Elsie Nunn died on Monday 19 February. Elsie would have been 100 on 28 February. Stories of Elsie's life in the Abingtons will follow in the April issue of the *News*.

Finally, a belated but huge thank you to Mak and Bea for the amazing Christmas tree they kindly gave to Great Abington Church. Mak and Bea are generous supporters of our Church, for which we are enormously grateful.

Anne Hall

## **Easter Lilies 2024**

We are upholding the tradition of placing lilies in remembrance of our loved ones in St Mary's churches this Easter. If you would like to have a lily dedicated to someone you loved but no longer see, please put a donation into an envelope with the name of the person written on it and give it to any churchwarden (see back page of magazine) or leave it at 34 West Field before Monday 25 March. The lilies will be arranged in Little Abington and Great Abington churches for Easter Sunday and will remain there for at least a week. Our churches are always open during daylight hours so please go and enjoy the beauty of the arrangements.

## **Silent Space – an introduction**

**Every Tuesday, 7.00–7.45pm, Hildersham Parish Church**

Julia, a group member, writes:

“So, here we are each week, turning up from different walks of life, the ordinary all around us – the washing-up done and the bins put out. We start with meditation or sitting in silence in this sacred space, leaving behind the concerns of the day. In this shared experience of silence I believe is the prayer of the heart where divine love dwells and compassion is born. We end with a simple service of night prayer or compline – reaching out for our world, our community and ourselves, not fully understanding except for the preciousness of everyday life where nothing is unimportant. This time helps us to balance the day with the inner and outer life we lead. And afterwards? We return to where God has placed us, to live out the preciousness of life once more.”

Join us from 7pm to pray, to reflect or just to unwind from the tangles of our busy lives. Stay on for night prayer at 7.30pm if you wish. For more information and an introduction to the group contact Claire on 07790 477 273.

## **PTFA**

Great Abington school PTFA have a few events running this month. If you would like to get involved or take part in any of our events please contact us on the email below, or talk to one of our members.

### **Class 3 Cake Sale**

On Monday 11 March, Class 3 will be holding their cake sale after school. Cakes will be available from 3.15pm in the school playground and are priced at 50p each/per slice. The children really enjoy taking part in this class event and there is often a little friendly competition between classes to see who can sell the most cakes.

### **PTFA Meeting**

The next PTFA meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 14 March. The aim of this meeting will be to discuss the remaining events for the school year, including the Summer Fayre. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact a member of the PTFA, or email a request for the meeting link to [ptfa@greatabington.school](mailto:ptfa@greatabington.school).

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

One of the most popular events in the PTFA calendar is the Easter Egg Hunt. This year the hunt is booked to take place on Saturday 23 March. Let's hope for dry weather! More details on how to book a space for this event will be issued by the school office in March. Joanna Chapman

### **The Abingtons and Hildersham News on the website**

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

## Ukrainian Community in Abington

There are nine Ukrainians living with hosts in Abington. Since the Homes for Ukraine scheme started, the District Council has welcomed over 870 Ukrainians, supported by 665 hosts. Additionally, the Council has assisted 174 families into private accommodation or social housing. This is the next stage for Ukrainians to become independent in the UK community. For general information about hosting, 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 647 752 and njcambs@gmail.com

Marilyn Broadhurst, 07855 182 726 and broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com

Jane Furlow, 07745 046 921 and jane.furlow@gmail.com

Specifically, there is a need for a host for a mother and two sons who are in danger in their current location in Ukraine; a young female veterinary student would like to find a host in the Abingtons; and a mother and son need independent accommodation in the Sawston/Abington area.

Local landlords with rental or empty property are being offered incentive payments of up to £2,820 to enable displaced Ukrainians to rent privately owned homes for an initial six-month tenancy.

When Ukrainians move on to independent housing there is a need for household items. Residents in the Abingtons have generously assisted in equipping new homes. Warm clothing can be donated at the Ukrainian Clothing Hub in Sawston Free Church on Fridays between 4.00pm and 6.00pm. Associated with moving on, there is a need for employment in order to pay the costs of running an independent household. If anyone knows of any job opportunities that would suit Ukrainians 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 or offer any kind of support please contact me.

Anton King tel. 891 514

## Rotary Appeal and Collection

A collection for the people of Ukraine, organised by Saffron Walden Rotary, will be held on Saturday 2 March at Abington Primary School from 9.00am until 12.30pm. As the war continues, more and more families are losing their homes and possessions and are often without a breadwinner for the family. This creates a need for everyday food items, including pasta, rice and gluten-free products, toiletries and warm clothing, cleaning materials, cooking utensils, torches, batteries and crockery. In addition, cash donations will go towards the purchase of generators and to assist in transportation costs. These can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on 2 March.

“The aid that the Rotary Club has been collecting over the last year is delivered to the Felsted-based charity UK-Aid who in turn takes it to distribution centres in Moldova and Ukraine for the benefit of refugee and dispossessed families in those countries. Many hundreds of families have been helped, although many more are still in need,” says local organiser Tony Collett of Saffron Walden Rotary. “Thanks to the backing from Guy Underwood, headmaster of Abington School, collections we have had in the past have received tremendous support from local people and those from surrounding villages so it is hoped that we will get a good response again for those living in such hardship.” Rotary Saffron Walden is very appreciative of all the support it gets in its many different fundraising efforts.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Abington Villages Litter-picking, Saturday 20 April 2024, 10.00am–12noon**

Your opportunity to volunteer to help keep our villages tidy.

All residents invited, including supervised children.

Details in next month's *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*.

Supported by Great and Little Abington Parish Councils.

# District and County Councillors' Reports February 2024

*Editor's note: please see the online version of the News for complete live links to Council websites.*

## **Civil Parking Enforcement**

The local authorities in South Cambridgeshire have spent the last few years applying to the Secretary of State to take parking enforcement powers away from the Police and preparing to manage them locally. The new traffic wardens are now active, out on the street and issuing parking fines. There were certainly some unhappy people at Whittlesford Station in the first week of February. The County Council has a list of problem areas in each of our villages, but if anyone feels that there are specific areas where parking is really an issue, do let Henry know directly. On a related note, the Councils are also going through the formal process to take bus lane enforcement away from the Police and manage this in house as well.

## **Home Energy Support**

The District Council is in a partnership called Action on Energy with six other local authorities in Cambridgeshire. This partnership is aimed to help people create more energy-efficient homes, that are cheaper to run. There are various grants available which many people are unaware they may be entitled to. Go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/home-energy-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-residents/>

## **Housing Strategy Consultation**

The Housing Department at the District Council launched a public consultation in January asking for people's views on how the Council should approach the types of housing it asks for and the issues that people come up against – these comments will help shape the new strategy before its adoption. Go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/the-greater-cambridge-housing-strategy-2024-2029>

## **Air Quality Strategy**

The District Council is currently running a public consultation on their draft air quality strategy. To comment, go to <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/air-quality-strategy>

## **Cambridge 2040**

There is currently a proposal from the Minister for Levelling Up and Housing, Michael Gove, to build around 150,000 houses (down from 250,000) in Cambridge to support the growing tech and life science sector in the region. This has hit some stumbling blocks, namely the lack of water in Cambridgeshire, and the amount of 'Green Belt' land that can't be developed on, usually at the edge of the city. In spite of these issues, the plans remain on the table and the local authorities are fighting to maintain some influence on the proposals, if and when they come to fruition. Lots more to come on this.

## **Budgets**

February is always the time when local authorities set their budgets for the forthcoming municipal year. The County Council needs to find around £20m worth of savings while maintaining the services it provides, not an easy task. The District Council is in a much healthier financial position and won't need to make savings this coming year.

## **Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals**

The two planning applications for biodigesters in our area, Acorn in Haverhill and Streetly End Farm in West Wickham, are edging closer to a decision. If you'd still like to comment upon either, email the planning officers directly: Acorn, Haverhill – [andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk); Streetly Hall Farm, Streetly End, West Wickham – [helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

## **Weed Killing Policy**

Last year the County Council altered its weed killing policy to move away from using chemicals to kill weeds in every situation. This policy has been reviewed after a year of being in effect and is likely to be altered, although the Council will be asking for people's views on this via a public consultation on the change to policy. Keep an eye on our reports for the link to this in coming months.

## **Contact details**

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

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

## Grow your own veg and soft fruit – now's the time to start

Who can resist the taste of a ripe strawberry or tomato, picked straight from the plant and warmed by the sun, and what's more grown by you? Likewise, no vegetables taste better than the ones that have come direct from the plot to the pot. And as for the taste of those first early potatoes – you'll find it hard to say "Enough". When you take on an allotment you and your family have the opportunity to try all this first hand, and right now AALGA, the Abington Allotment Association, has a few vacant plots available for rent by village residents on the Linton Road site.

Food prices have never been higher so there's no better time for you to get into growing your own. Tending an allotment can be a great family activity, connecting you with nature and the pace of the natural world. You'll get good exercise in the fresh air at a cost of less than a pound a week. You can make new friends, gain the wonderfully satisfying feeling of producing your own vegetables and soft fruit, maybe also acquiring some new skills and perhaps teaching your children those same life skills along the way. You'll also know that your produce isn't full of chemicals and discover just how good really fresh vegetables can taste.

Now is a good time to start, so that you can be ready to begin planting as the weather warms up, so immediate action is recommended. Contact Brian, who is the AALGA Membership Secretary right now, on [brianhaydensmith@hotmail.com](mailto:brianhaydensmith@hotmail.com) who can show you the available plots.

And don't let the thought that you've never had an allotment before put you off. If you'd welcome a bit of guidance and advice, we can arrange for one or two seasoned allotmenters to meet you at your plot to share some hard-won experience and give you some suggestions regarding any and all aspects of allotment gardening. We're a friendly bunch, come and join us.

Bernie Talbot, AALGA Chairman

## News from Granta Park

Thank you to everyone who came to our Public Consultation for the Franklin Building last month. During this consultation, we collated feedback and showcased the proposal to refurbish the existing Franklin Building. In occupation for almost 20 years to date, the building requires modernisation, and the proposal seeks to deliver a fit for purpose, sustainable building that will meet modern tenant needs and provide energy efficient solutions. If you would like to see the proposal, please visit the Granta Park website on [www.grantapark.co.uk/park-life/news](http://www.grantapark.co.uk/park-life/news).



**The Abington Lunch**  
**Thursday 28 March 2024**  
**Fruit juice**  
**Chicken, leek and mushroom pie**  
**Seasonal vegetables**  
**Pear and chocolate pudding**  
**Tea or coffee**



Please book your meal on 0794 101 6543. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on **Tuesday 26 March**. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Doors open at **12.45pm**. Note that the lunch is open to **ALL** Abington and Hildersham

residents. Guests only by special arrangement. **Only £5. Next lunch: Thursday 25 April 2024.**

## Abington Cricket Club Winter Nets



Indoor training sessions for Abington Cricket Club will be held on Monday 4 March at The Ley's School Sports Centre, from 8.00–10.00pm. Attending indoor net sessions is a great way to get back into cricket, meet current members and have a laugh. Attendance is free but spaces are limited. If you wish to attend, please email Abington Cricket Club Chairman David Pimblett ([david@pimblett.me.uk](mailto:david@pimblett.me.uk)) to reserve your space. All abilities welcome. Attendees must be 16 or above.

## Balsham Singers

Balsham Singers are busily rehearsing for our next concert on 18 May, this time in the evening at 7.30pm in Balsham Church. We hope to welcome a large audience as we did at Christmas. We produce an attractive programme for which we would welcome new advertisers. Our audience is drawn from a wide local radius and an advert for your business could reach new clients. If you would like more information please contact Jo Stinton for details. Email [jonotnits@gmail.com](mailto:jonotnits@gmail.com).

## A Barn Owl in St Mary's



A Barn Owl recently took up residence in Great Abington Church for a few days. How it got in is a mystery but a hole is suspected in the tower. Barn Owls nest quite early in spring and it is thought this owl may have been looking for a nest site. The church has had visits in previous years. The owl seemed quite happy flying up and down the church and disappearing into the dark corner by the organ. Following advice from the Barn Owl Trust, the church door was left open at dusk when owls would normally go out to hunt and the owl finally departed, having left some people with the closest view of a Barn Owl they are ever likely to have. The Trust suggested that there is obviously a Barn Owl locally and it would be a good idea to put a Barn Owl box as a nesting site in a nearby tree. *Photo by David Farrant*

David Farrant

## Creative Church!



## Abington Institute, 24 March, 10.00–10.45am

Come and join in telling the story of the first Palm Sunday with Hannah Threlfall and Rosemary Mead. Storytelling, crafts, songs and food. For families, friends and community members of all ages. *No charge.*

## Diary for March 2024

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Fri	1	<b>Low impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b>	9.30am	11
			10.30am	11
Sat	2	<b>Rotary Collection for Ukraine</b> – Primary School	9.00am	6
Mon	4	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building <b>Physio Pilates</b> <b>Gardening Club</b> <b>Winter Cricket Nets</b> – Leys School Sports Centre	9.30am	12
			1.15pm	11
			7.30pm	12
			8.00pm	9
Tue	5	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Tuesday Club</b> <b>Silent Space</b> – Hildersham Church	10.00am	19
			2.00pm	12
			7.00pm	5
Wed	6	<b>Yoga – course and drop-in</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am	11
			1.00pm	11
Thu	7	<b>Abington Walking Group</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	9.50am	13
			7.30pm	12
Fri	8	<b>Low impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b>	9.30am	11
			10.30am	11
Sun	10	<b>Mothering Sunday service</b> – Hildersham	11.00am	16
Mon	11	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building <b>Physio Pilates</b> <b>Emmaus Collection</b> – Hildersham Village Hall <b>Abington and Hildersham WI</b> – Chestnut Tree, West Wrattling	9.30am	12
			1.15pm	11
			6.00pm	16
			12.15pm	13
Tue	12	<b>Mobile Library, Hildersham</b> <b>Art Group</b> <b>Reading Group</b> – see page 12 for venue	9.40am	13
			10.00am	19
			7.30pm	12
Wed	13	<b>Yoga course and drop-in</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am	11
			1.00pm	11
Thu	14	<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	12
Fri	15	<b>Low impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b> <b>Abington Naturewatch</b>	9.30am	11
			10.30am	11
			7.30pm	13
Mon	18	<b>Physio Pilates</b> <b>Great Abington Parish Council</b>	1.15pm	11
			7.15pm	14
Tue	19	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Tuesday Club</b>	10.00am	19
			2.00pm	12
Wed	20	<b>Yoga – course and drop-in</b> <b>Line Dancing</b> <b>Chatter and Natter</b> – Great Abington Church <b>Abington Group</b>	9.30am	11
			1.00pm	11
			2.00pm	4
			7.30pm	12

Thu	21	<b>Craft Group and Quilting Workshop</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	10.00am 7.30pm	12 12
Fri	22	<b>Low impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b> <b>Film Nights</b> – doors open <b>HVHT</b> – Hildersham Village Hall	9.30am 10.30am 7.00pm 7.00pm	11 11 12 16
Sat	23	<b>Walking Group</b>	9.50am	13
Sun	24	<b>Creative Church</b>	10.00am	9
Mon	25	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> – Pre-school building <b>Social Cycling</b> – meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road <b>Physio Pilates</b> <b>Little Abington Parish Council</b>	9.30am 10.30am 1.15pm 7.30pm	12 11 11 15
Tue	26	<b>Mobile Library, the Abingtons</b> <b>Art Group</b> <b>Scrabble Group</b>	9.40am 10.00am 7.30pm	13 19 11
Wed	27	<b>Yoga – course and drop-in</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	11 11
Thu	28	<b>Abington Lunch</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	12.45pm 7.30pm	8 12
Sun	31	<b>British Summer Time begins – clocks go forward one hour</b>		

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 by email: [institute@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:institute@theabingtons.org.uk).

#### **Jeremiah's Café: Opening times in March 2024**

Thursday lunchtime 11.30am–1.30pm (7, 14, 21, **Lunch 28 – see page 8 for menu**)  
Friday morning 8.45am–11.00am (1, 8, 15, 22)  
Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (2, 9, 16, 23, 30)

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

#### **Wheelie bin dates for March 2024 (Abingtons and Hildersham)**

<b>Wed 6</b>	<b>Wed 13</b>	<b>Wed 20</b>	<b>Wed 27</b>
Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue	Black

#### **Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am**

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

#### **Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates – Fridays, 9.30am and 10.30am**

Aerobics, toning and stretching, exercises to raise your heart rate and tone your body, fun and friendly. Pilates will help to alleviate back pain, improve core strength, posture and flexibility. Please book for five weeks for Low Impact Aerobics and Pilates. Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or [www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk](http://www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.co.uk)

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

Beginners 5-week course, 1.15–2.15 (max. 6 participants; £70 non-refundable).  
Intermediate 5-week course, 2.20–3.20 (max. 10 participants; £70 non-refundable).  
Christiana Heinz [cambridgepilates@outlook.com](mailto:cambridgepilates@outlook.com).

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

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

### Scrabble Club

The next meeting of the Scrabble group will be on Tuesday 26 March at 7pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Sheena Fraser

### Social Cycling

We were lucky on 19 February that the rain cleared to enable us to have a great ride and enjoy the signs of spring. The first group set off half an hour before the rest and rode 17.3 miles, three of us cycled to Sawston and we all met up at a pit stop and rode back together, the latter group doing 9.6 miles. As this worked well we propose to do the same again on Monday 25 March with one group setting off at 10.30am and the second group at 11.00. Meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road.

Gaynor Farrant

### Abington Gardening Club

The next meeting is on Monday 4 March in the Institute at 7.30pm when Jane Sills will give a talk about Ramsey Walled Garden. The summer visits programme will be available at the meeting. All welcome, please call me for more information or if you would like a copy of the programme.

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 (Abington Annexe Office) or email abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com for more information.

### The Tuesday Club

Lovely to be in March with spring weather and flowers to enjoy. The Tuesday Club invites you to join us for the March programme. Our meeting on 5 March will be a social activity with a fun game of Beetle. On 19 March we have invited singer Kirsty Wright to entertain us. If you would like to join us, you will be made very welcome. A first introductory visit is free. Membership is then £5 per year and £2 a session. We look forward to meeting you. Please contact me for further details.

Jenny Milns (tel. 89252)

### Reading Group

12 March	<i>Divisadero</i> Michael Ondaatje	Mary Conochie
9 April	<i>Demon Copperhead</i> Barbara Kingsolver	Liz Veysey
14 May	<i>House of Doors</i> Tan Twan Eng	Anna Heron

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

Valerie Hefford

### The Abington Group

Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.30pm, the Terrace, Abington Institute. Miles Nicholas, owner of Morgan's Butchery, will come to talk to us about starting his new business.

### Abington Craft Group

Thursday 21 March is the next date for Craft Group. Those booked will attend the Quilting Workshop from 10.00am run by Crafty-uk. If any members wish to attend in the afternoon to do their own project they will be welcome. The workshop finishes at 16.30. Some places are still available. Please

book with Glynis Brookman (07970 614 194), leave a message or email: [glynis.brookman@btinternet.com](mailto:glynis.brookman@btinternet.com).

## Film Nights

FILM NIGHTS at the Abington Institute, 22 March, 7.30pm (doors 7pm). For more information please visit <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> where you can subscribe to Film Night updates.

## Abington Walking Group



Our last walks were to Steeple Bumpstead and Great Chesterford. Your March walks will be on Thursday 7 and Saturday 23 March. If you would like to know in advance where we shall be walking, please join our WhatsApp group. The walks leave from the Institute at 10.00am by shared transport to the walk venue. We do try and walk all year. A list of all the walk dates for 2024 is now available. Look forward to seeing you. For further information please contact: Robin Harman [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com), Genevieve Dalton [gdalton365@gmail.com](mailto:gdalton365@gmail.com).

## Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

In February our usual layout for meetings was changed to allow a large space to accommodate Sue Baker, our guest for the evening. Beaded belts, silk veils, finger cymbals and a *tabla* (drum) were distributed among us. Sue appeared in typical oriental costume – a two-piece decorated with sequins and embroidery, ready to demonstrate her belly dances from Egypt, the Levant, the Arabian Gulf and Nubia. (A *Thobe* dress provides greater cover in Islamic regions.) We learnt how to make *Dum Tac* rhythms with our cymbals and *tabla* and tried to identify other instruments in the unfamiliar music styles (pipes, violins, accordion, trumpet), while Sue danced and swayed gracefully to the sound. Finally, we joined in with the *Dabke*, a folkloric dance that originated in stomping down mud and straw for houses – we were quite good at the stomping and thankful that no belly was involved! Last month the majority of members voted for the Resolution “Say no to gambling advertising”. We will soon find out whether other WIs felt the same.

Next month our AGM will take place on Monday 11 March with lunch at the Chestnut Tree in West Wrating, 12.15 for 12.30pm. Please remember to pay Gill asap. Marilyn Broadhurst

## Naturewatch Spring Meeting 2024



On Friday 15 March at 7.30 pm in the Institute we have our Spring Naturewatch Meeting. Ruth Hawksley, Water for Wildlife Officer from the Wildlife Trust, is coming to talk about the importance of chalk streams, of which our River Granta is one. There are only about 200 chalk streams in the world and 90% of these are in England, many of them around Cambridge and in the south-east. Most are struggling with over-abstraction of water and biodiversity. A project is being planned to improve our section of the river and Ruth will explain the ideas behind it. We will also give a quick preview of the Naturewatch trips planned for this summer. Check out the Naturewatch blog at <http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com>. Everyone is welcome at what will be a very interesting meeting.

David Farrant

## Mobile Library

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

Hildersham, High Street 9.40–10.20 <b>Next date: Tuesday 12 March</b>	West Field, Little Abington 9.40–10.20 The Shop, Great Abington 10.30–11.00 Magna Close, Great Abington 11.05–11.30 Granta Park, Great Abington 12.00–1.15 <b>Next date: Tuesday 26 March</b>
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## Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

### New Civil Parking Enforcement powers

Many villagers maybe unaware that new Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers have been introduced in South Cambridgeshire. This means that Council Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) will be able to issue penalty charge notices for on-street offences such as parking on double or single yellow lines. Residents are advised always to check the lines and signs or other notices in the area where they are planning to park. Check The Highway Code if you are not sure what a sign or line means.

### Larkfield play area

Is there a Larkfield resident who would be willing to do a weekly visual check of the play area to make sure that the equipment is safe and in good order? If so, please contact Paula Harper, Parish Clerk, for further details (contact details below).

### Village clean-up day

The annual litter pick will take place on Saturday 20 April from 10.00am to 12 noon. The event is run by both Parish Councils who take it in turn to organise it. Are you interested in taking part? Just come along to the Institute where you can collect equipment and choose/be allocated an area to clean. Refreshments are available afterwards. A big thanks to all the litter pickers who go out regularly throughout the year – including those who don't always make themselves known to us.

### 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.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>.

### Planning Applications

#### District Council decisions

22/05549/OUT TWI, Granta Park – Development of TWI campus – approved

23/04392/HFUL - Hall Farm, The Granary, High Street – replace existing garage with new garage – approved

### Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

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

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

**Next Parish Council meeting:** Monday 18 March 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

## **Little Abington Parish Council**

### **Spring litter pick**

A reminder that the first of two village litter picks is on Saturday 20 April between 10.00am and 12 noon, starting out as usual from the Village Institute. Please take the opportunity to volunteer if you can. We provide the equipment and the hi-vis jacket, plus refreshments.

### **Parking on Bourn Bridge Road**

Pedestrians, cyclists, riders and drivers were all greatly inconvenienced on Wednesday 7 February by inconsiderate and potentially dangerous parking on the protected verges of Bourn Bridge Road. The vehicles belonged to people attending an event on the Perse playing fields. Our chair Sheila Bolden made contact with the school and demanded immediate action. The Perse responded by contacting drivers at the event and asking them to move their vehicles on to the Perse field where there was ample space. Most, but unfortunately not all, complied. Sheila is in contact with the Perse to agree measures to avoid a repetition of this incident.

### **A1307 works**

The Bartlow junction roundabout is now complete and the Newmarket Road section of the Linton Greenway will be starting soon.

### **New trees**

Two more trees have been planted on the recreation ground thanks to the SCDC free trees scheme. This is part of a gradual effort to improve tree cover in Cambridgeshire.

### **20mph limit**

Our application for 20mph zones for the High Street, Church Lane, West Field, Bourn Bridge Road, Ivan Clark's Corner and Church Close will close in mid-March. Plenty of residents have already given their support but if you still wish to give your view on the application please email Sheila Bolden (details below).

### **Meeting on Monday 22 January**

Granta School, the special needs school based in Linton, gave a presentation on its satellite site The Hive, adjacent to Abington Woods since 2022. The 21 students, aged 16 to 19, focus on maths and English qualifications, as well as employability, and on leaving many do vocational courses (horticulture, building, maintenance, etc.) or move to social care provisions. The staff are keen to integrate the students into the community, and asked if there were any volunteering opportunities. We advised that there are working parties on the Recreation Ground in particular with which the students could get involved.

<b>Little Abington Parish Council Meetings</b>
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Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm
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Next Meeting: Monday 25 March, Monday 20 May 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/](http://www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/).

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

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

## **Hildersham Church News**

### **Emmaus collection, Hildersham Village Hall, Monday 11 March, 6.00–7.30pm**

Is there anything left in your loft or your garage? It may not be of use to you any longer but it may well be what someone else is looking for. Emmaus will refurbish and sell many items of homeware. Please bring to Hildersham Village Hall between 6.00pm and 7.30pm. Emmaus accepts electrical items, furniture (soft furniture, including office chairs, must have a fire retardant label permanently attached), clothing, books and kitchenware but please note no duvets.

Emmaus offers people who have experienced homelessness a place to call home for as long as they need it and meaningful work in their social enterprise. Living in a stable environment and with the opportunity to gain new skills helps the companions to regain any lost self-esteem and confidence so they can get back on their feet.

### **Mothering Sunday 10 March**

As usual, the Children's Church Council will be picking hundreds of daffodils and will then create beautiful posies for all the ladies in church on Mothering Sunday. There will also be a basket outside the church for anyone who would like to take a posy for someone special.

### **Children's Church Council**

The children have had their first meeting of the year and of course were full of wonderful ideas for the months ahead. We are considering a bat project, as we know there are bats in the church and we would like to find out more about them. Active church is being explored as a new way of approaching services in church. We have budding bakers who are keen to share their goodies with the village community. We would also like to ask for you to raffle through your wardrobe and if you have any old ties lurking there to pop them in a bag and leave them in the church porch. The reason will be made clear in June!!!

We are hoping to welcome you to Lamb Sunday in April so please look out for posters and notices.

## **Hildersham Village Hall Trust Spring Quiz**

Come and join us for our quiz night, with a raffle, in Hildersham Village Hall on Friday 22 March. Ticket price is £8, to include a chilli supper; please specify if a vegetarian option is required. Doors open at 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. Please bring your own drinks and we can provide glasses. Everyone welcome – bring your team of up to eight people or come along and join with others. Tickets from Jill Heale, [edheale@btinternet.com](mailto:edheale@btinternet.com) (tel. 893596), Helen Humphrys, [helen.humphrys@gmail.com](mailto:helen.humphrys@gmail.com) (tel. 891309) and Jenny Logan, [jenny.logan@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.logan@btinternet.com) (tel. 891897).

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you very much for supporting Operation Christmas Child in 2023. You have made such a difference to so many children's lives. I have been waiting until I knew the number of boxes that were packed and where they were sent.

The grand total of boxes packed and sent from all the participating countries was 11,330,126 – just under 11.5 million, an increase from 2022. The UK sent 237,735 boxes, including 27,141 ordered online. The boxes from the east of England went to the Balkans, Central Asia, West Africa, Moldova, Romania, Belarus, Serbia and Ukraine. Apart from the boxes, donations of items and money were very gratefully received. The cake sale raised £199, which paid for transportation and training costs.

Thank you again and I hope Operation Christmas Child will be on your to do list for 2024. May God bless you.

Jane Furlow, Local Connect volunteer for OCC/

07745046921

## March Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham, including services for the week before Easter)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
3 March		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
10 March	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Evening Prayer <i>West Wrating</i>
17 March	Communion <i>West Wrating</i> <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	Evening Prayer <i>Hildersham</i>
24 March	Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i> Communion <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	4.00pm Songs of Praise <i>West Wrating</i>
<b>26 March</b>			7.30pm Evening Prayer <i>West Wickham</i>
<b>27 March</b>			7.30pm Evening Prayer <i>West Wrating</i>
<b>28 March</b>			7.30pm Evening Prayer <i>Weston Colville</i>
<b>29 March</b> <b>Good Friday</b>		11.30am Stations of the Cross <i>Balsham</i> 2.00pm	

		<b>Last Hour</b> <i>West Wratting</i>	
31 March	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> <i>West Wratting</i> <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

## **Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church**

135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ, [www.ololsawston.org.uk](http://www.ololsawston.org.uk)




<b>Monday–Friday</b>	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Holy Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Holy Mass followed by Benediction and Confession
<b>Sunday</b>	8.45am Holy Mass 11.15am Holy Mass
<b>Maundy Thursday, 28 March</b>	9.00 pm The Lord's Supper
<b>Good Friday, 29 March</b>	3.00 pm The Lord's Passion 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross
<b>Holy Saturday, 30 March</b>	9.00 pm Easter Vigil
<b>Easter Sunday, 31 March</b>	8.45 am Easter Mass 11.15am Easter Mass



**Harley going for a swim on the football pitch towards the end of a very wet February**  
*Photo by Tony Collett*

## ***Church Services for March 2024***

*(including services for the week before Easter)*

DATE	Gt. Abington 	Lt. Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
3 March	<b>11.00am United Service at Balsham</b>			Psalm 19 John 2.13-22
10 March	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Communion	Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.33-35
17 March		11.00am Communion	6.00pm Evening Prayer	Jeremiah 31.31-34 John 12.20-33
24 March		4.00pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Café Church	Psalm 118 John 12.12-16

<b>28 March</b>	7.30pm Holy Communion			
<b>29 March Good Friday</b>		2.00pm Last Hour	9.30am Devotional Service	
31 March	11.00am Communion		11.00am Communion	Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18

### ***Church Flower Rota***

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
3 March	No flowers (Lent)		
10 March	No flowers (Lent)		
17 March	No flowers (Lent)		
24 March	No flowers (Lent)		
31 March	Easter ALL HELP PLEASE		

### ***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