



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

June/July 2025



**The sun shone on Anne Hall's surprise party in May
(see page 6) *l. to r.* Naomi Froment, Revd Hannah Threlfall, Anne
Hall, Tasha Whittaker**

From the Editor

In this joint issue, we look back to some May celebrations (cover, pages 6, 7 and 17) and look forward to summer events leading up to the long school holiday.

Outdoor activities begin in earnest, with the school's Summer Fayre on 13 June (page 6) and Granta Fest on 21 June, hosted once more for all our villages by Granta Park (page 16). There will be two concerts, the first in Hildersham on 16 June, featuring Baroque music. This is the latest in the series of classical concerts organised by the Friends of Holy Trinity Church (page 17). Later in the month, on 26 June, Granta Vale Harmony and guests will deliver a programme of popular music at the Village Institute. Entry is free but donations to go to the Sick Children's Trust are welcome (page 9).

July events include a Yard Sale in Magna Close on 6 July (page 17) and on 27 July a special Communion service, followed by a party, to celebrate the repair and reinstallation of the Millennium Window in St Mary's Church, Little Abington (page 5).

The Abingtons & Hildersham Village News will be back in August. I would like to thank all regular contributors for sending the items for both June and July in such good time for this joint issue. And I would also like to repeat my invitation to anyone with a few spare hours, some editorial experience and a happy relationship with Word to join the team as assistant (i.e. very occasional) editor. Please contact me on the email address below if you would like to know more.

Finally, the details of **Church Services** for all the Seven Churches and Roman Catholic services in Sawston **have moved to pages 18 and 19** this month, for reasons of space. Things will be back to normal in the August issue, when I look forward to receiving reports of the activities and events mentioned here, not least some splendid results from our frustrated Bowls correspondent (page 13). Deadline below. Sally Simmons

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All items for the August 2025 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Tuesday 15 July 2025 at news@theabingtons.org.uk.

From the Seven Churches

“Whatever next?!” I seem to hear myself increasingly asking this question as I watch the news, read the newspaper or follow the multiple online sources of information that constantly bombard us. Certainly, so far this year we seem to have been subjected to a torrent of bad news, depressing forecasts, inhuman behaviour and horrific events that, were I to possess any, would make my hair stand on end! However, before concluding that the world is going to hell in a handcart and abandoning all hope, I have to encourage myself and, I hope, you to pause and take stock for just a moment. I sometimes remind myself that when I was a boy the news was a 10-minute bulletin on the wireless and salacious stories the province of a certain kind of newspaper – so is everything now much worse? Or, if we can shut out the noise and distraction for a moment, is there something else we need to hear?

In the life of the Church we go through something of a rollercoaster ride of events during the first part of the year, starting with God sending his only Son as a baby into this world to save us from ourselves, we then hear of his amazing life and ministry, plumb the depths of his suffering and death on the Cross and are then given the sure promise of eternal life in his Easter resurrection. But, just when we think it is safe, on Ascension Day Jesus disappears back into heaven perhaps leaving us wondering “Whatever next?” Jesus however never leaves us without hope and on the first Pentecost Sunday the promised comforter in the form of the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and set their hearts and lives on fire, transforming them from an anxious band of believers into an ever-growing, confident church ready to take the good news of Jesus to the farthest corners of the then known world. As we read in the Acts of the Apostles, the task was not easy or without significant cost but in the love of God and power of the Holy Spirit all things are possible and the results beyond our wildest dreams. Are we ready for that – whatever next?

Keith Day

From The Vicarage

Dear Friends, as we move into the long, light-filled days of summer, I find myself giving thanks for the beauty of this season and the many ways God’s presence is revealed through it. Fields are full, gardens are blooming, and communities gather – at fêtes, festivals and in friendship. These months give us space to reconnect, reflect and re-root ourselves in the grace of God.

In May we saw the magnificent reinstalment of the Millennium Window! Having been brutally vandalised last year, thanks to the wonderful support and generosity of you, the community, we have been able to ensure it be repaired and brought back to its former glory. On 27 July we shall be holding a celebration – open to all! Please do come and see the window and take time to share the joy with others.

I would just like to take a moment to give huge thanks to Miles Craven and the wonderful team of volunteers who have been working tirelessly to maintain the two graveyards. The satisfaction and wonder of discovering old graves in Little Abington and planning new areas to dedicate to wildlife in both graveyards has been a utter delight. It has not been an easy task and I am thrilled that so many have found and given time to this project.

Another thank you to all the volunteers who took time to deliver the Christian Aid Week envelopes and those who coordinate and collate. I am looking forward to seeing how much we have raised for this worthy charity, which works to eradicate poverty, support justice and promote sustainable development around the world.

June brings us into the season of Ordinary Time in the Church calendar – not ordinary in the sense of dull or uneventful, but rather rooted in the daily rhythm of discipleship. After the drama of Easter and Pentecost, we are invited to walk steadily with Christ, to grow in faith as the seasons of the Earth mirror the slow and sacred growth of the Spirit within us. This is also a time when many are marking transitions: exams and graduations, endings and beginnings. Let’s hold in prayer all who are facing change, and especially remember those preparing for ordination later this month – may they be upheld in joy and courage.

As we look ahead to July, I encourage us all to find moments of rest, renewal and recreation. Whether through time away, enjoying a cup of tea in the garden or sharing a conversation with someone we’ve missed, let us embrace the gift of sabbath and the call to be still and know that God is God. In all things – whether planting, partying, planning or pausing – may we be rooted in love, and grounded in grace. With thanks and blessings.

Revd Hannah

News from the Pews

We have several exciting events coming up for you all to join in and enjoy – so get your calendars at the ready!

Granta Fest Saturday 21 June – a day filled with fun for ALL – live music, carnival games, mini golf, food trucks and bars! Tickets are £5 (under 12s free) all proceeds are being donated to charity. Tickets available from Granta Park, www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1292602241099.

27 July – celebration party for the Millennium Window at St Mary's Church, Little Abington. At 11.00am a service of thanksgiving, including Holy Communion, will take place in the church, led by Revd Hannah Threlfall. All welcome. Following this service at 12.00 noon we will gather to celebrate the splendour of the window – its reinstalment and the joy of community spirit. Tea, coffee, cake and Pimm's!

Chatter and Natter – a chance to meet with others, to chat, share company and enjoy cake and refreshments! Wednesday 23 July, 2.00pm–4.00pm at St Mary's Church, Great Abington.

3 August – The Vicarage Garden Party. Save the date! Please do pop along for a truly British fête! Cream teas, Pimm's, games, cake, plant and produce stalls, raffle, tombola, music and much more!

June services

Sunday 1 United Communion Service, Balsham, 11.00am

Sunday 8 Communion, Great Abington, 11.00am

Sunday 15 Communion, Little Abington, 11.00am

Sunday 22 Creative Church, Abington Institute, 10.00am; Evening Prayer, Great Abington, 6pm

Sunday 29 Communion Great Abington, 11.00am

July services

Sunday 6 Untied Communion Service, Balsham, 11.00am

Sunday 13 Morning Worship at Great Abington, 11.00am

Sunday 20 Creative Church, Abington Institute, 10.00am

Sunday 27 Thanksgiving service, Communion and celebration, Little Abington, 11.00am

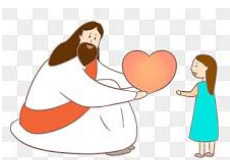
Hildersham Church News

Children's Church Council

We had lots of fun creating games for visitors to the churchyard and the old school wood so please wander in and spend some time with nature in God's beautiful garden. We hope to create a Children's Church Search for younger visitors to the inside of Holy Trinity Hildersham. The children will be creating an exploration of the church using photographs and drawings of things that they found particularly interesting and will transform this into a treasure hunt for visitors. We usually have a break in the summer but return for harvest activities after the holidays.

The next in our very popular concert series will be happening on Monday 16 June. Please see the poster on page 17 for full details.

Creative Church!



Sunday 22 June, 10.00am at Abington Institute

Discovering we are loved, even though we do silly things, feel different, or that we don't fit in. Jesus notices us, values us and gives us time, love and forgiveness.

Sunday 20 July, 10.00am at Abington Institute

The baby in the basket. Learning how God will care for us in every situation and how to be brave and follow our hearts for justice and kindness.

Storytelling, crafts, songs and food. No charge. For ALL – families, friends and community.



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.

From Anne Hall



Sincere thanks to Hannah, my daughters, Naomi and Natasha, and all my church friends for organising an amazing tea party in beautiful warm sunshine on the Vicarage lawn on Sunday 11 May. It was a complete surprise to me!

We were celebrating my retirement following 40 years of service to Great Abington Church, a service that I have to say I do not regret a moment of. I received a beautiful bouquet, a porcelain ornament of a church and last, but most certainly not least, Hannah is working on a kneeler for Great Abington Church depicting my name, which I am thrilled about.

Anne Hall

PTFA

Summer Fayre Friday 13 June 2025

Our annual summer fayre event is fast approaching. We are hopeful that this year the sun will be shining and we will be able to hold the event outdoors. We will have many of our usual stalls and a BBQ, with vegetarian options, will be available on the day. The bouncy castles will also be here this year and as usual it will be possible to purchase wrist bands for these in advance of the day.

At present we are collecting donations towards the summer raffle. A big thank you to all our regular donors and anyone else who has already donated a prize. We are very grateful for your generosity. If you are a local business owner and have an item or a service you would be willing to donate as a prize for our raffle, please do get in touch with our Chair, Claire Gill, via the PTFA email address (ptfa@greatabington.school). Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase before the day. Children at the school will be sent home with a book of tickets to purchase should you wish to –no obligation to buy. Should you prefer not to, we kindly ask that the raffle tickets be returned to school for resale, to save on printing costs.

We hope to see many of you in attendance.

Abington Annexe Community Childcare



Summer Holiday Club

28th July – 22nd August

3 – 12 year olds welcome

8:45am – 5pm

(half days available)

 If your child attends a different preschool or nursery that isn't Abington we ask they attend with a sibling 

We will have a selection of cooking activities, craft activities, magic show, wonderdome planetarium, swimming each morning and much much more.

Contact Kirsty

01223 894246

abingtonannexesports@gmail.com

Ukrainian Community in Abington

There are six Ukrainians living in Abington in four households. Many Ukrainians are now living independently and have integrated into local communities.

However, there is still a great need for hosts to support new requests from Ukraine and anyone interested in hosting should contact South Cambs Homes for Ukraine: text ROOM to 88802. Information is also available from HFULiaison@cambs.gov.uk, tel. 01954 713411 and South Cambs District Council (scams.gov.uk – search Spare Rooms for People from Ukraine). If a private landlord wishes to rent property, support and advice about the Landlord Incentive Scheme can be found on www.scams.gov.uk/landlordincentive-scheme. They can receive a ‘thank you’ payment of £1000 and a month’s rent in advance.

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

Speaking with a Ukrainian friend who visited Ukraine over Easter I expressed the hope that after VE80 there would soon be a VU day. The reply: “I don’t think so, knowing from the inside but I hope.” (Easter in Ukraine is a major event associated with family and the Hope of Spring.)

A surprise for Easter was a month-long visit from a Ukrainian friend who came to Abington at the start of the war and returned to Ukraine in 2023. Abington is indeed a “special place” for so many people.

Some of my Ukrainian friends are experiencing a dilemma. After years of exile the urge to return “home” is strong but so also is the desire to be in a safe place for their children. Even though displaced Ukrainians appear to have settled independently into UK life they still need the assurance of our support as we act as surrogate family.

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

Balsham Singers



Our Spring concert was a great success and we’re very grateful for the great supporting audience. We hope we might have piqued the interest of people to come along and SING FOR FUN with us. The sessions began in May but continue on 5, 19 and 26 June in at 7.30pm the Sports Pavilion in Balsham. No need to book, no commitment and pay as you go (£5 a session).

VE Day Tea



On 8 May the Village Institute, decked out with patriotic bunting, was the venue for a VE Day commemoration tea attended by over 40 Abington residents. Some of those present were indeed able to recall the day itself. Refreshments were served at two long tables, recreating the street party atmosphere of the original 1945 celebrations. Organised by Gaynor Farrant and Gill Smith, and with the assistance of a team of helpers, a full afternoon tea was served. This included a range of sandwiches, scones and cream, and a selection of scrummy homemade cakes [see picture], which ensured that no one went hungry. And as a reminder of the gastronomic pleasures of wartime fare, there was also an opportunity to sample a Spam or a crab paste sandwich.

Thanks are due to the Abington History Group for a fascinating display of wartime documents and for decorating the hall with copies of wartime posters. Len Mead also put on show an intriguing array of papers and objects originally gathered together by his father during his wartime service. All this combined to create an afternoon of warm camaraderie in the best Abington tradition, and was a fitting reminder of the sacrifices made by so many in those years of war.

District and County Councillors' Annual Report 2025

County Council

Kingsway Solar Farm

This year our area has been approached by a solar developer with plans for a very large solar farm in the fields between Balsham, West Wrattling and Weston Colville. If the plans are granted planning permission it would be the largest solar farm in the country – some 1,500 hectares – and would be larger than Heathrow Airport, Newmarket or the built-up parts of Cambridge. The applicant engaged in an 'informal consultation' at the back end of 2024 and is due to launch a 'formal consultation' in the summer of 2025. We would encourage everyone to engage with this, regardless of proximity to the site, as it will be one of the largest developments in our area and will affect us all in some way. Due to the scale of the proposal, the final decision will be made by a government planning inspector rather than by any of the local councils. Full plans can be seen on the Kingsway Solar website – <https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/>.

Civil Parking Enforcement

Civil Parking Enforcement (traffic wardens) was introduced in South Cambridgeshire over a year ago. Despite a number of tickets being issued in that time, the problem of bad/illegal parking persists. The scheme is funded until 2029, after which it needs to be self-funding or it could cease. There is a link on the County Council's website where regular poor parking can be reported.

Anaerobic Digesters

Over the past few years, we have had planning applications submitted for two separate anaerobic biodigester plants in our area, one in Streetly End and the other just over the Suffolk border outside Haverhill. Mid-way through 2024 planning permission was granted for the plant in Streetly End, so construction of this can now commence, if the applicant still wants to proceed with it. A decision will be made about the plant in Suffolk in June 2025. As there are official objections from the Highways Department and the Environment Agency, we will be surprised if it is granted planning approval.

Local Government Reform

This year, the government announced that it has plans to reduce the number of local councils in the country and merge them into unitary authorities – this will mean one local council that delivers all the services that the District and County Councils currently undertake. The government has asked local councils to put forward proposals for what they see as sustainable geographic areas in which these new unitary councils would operate. In South Cambridgeshire the starting point is a joint council that covers Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, as a lot of the services, such as waste collection, planning and legal, are currently shared already. There could be a case for extending the area to include either Huntingdonshire or East Cambridgeshire but the starting point for negotiations will be the Cambridge City/South Cambridgeshire combination. We appreciate that the majority of people won't care what form their local council takes, as long as the services provided continue in as an efficient manner as possible. However, a change of this magnitude represents a significant upheaval, in local government terms, so watch this space.

Local Elections

On 1 May this year there were local elections for the County Council and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (the Mayor). Henry was absolutely delighted to have been re-elected to represent the Linton division on the County Council – thank you to everyone from all 13 villages in the Division for putting your trust in him again. Regardless of whom you voted for, he will continue to do his best for our part of the world. The Liberal Democrats now have control of the County Council as they won just over half the seats. The overall composition of the County Council, by number of seats, is now:

- Liberal Democrat 31
- Conservative 10
- Reform 10
- Labour 5
- Green 3
- Independent 2

The Conservative candidate, Paul Bristow, won the Mayoral election.

District Council

Cambridge 2050

The current government is continuing to support massive development in and around Cambridge City and South Cambs. The prospect of something like 150,000 new houses in the area over time will mean significant changes. But before any of this becomes reality there are many hurdles to overcome, not least the issues with water and electricity shortages as well as transport infrastructure issues. These are problems the new Unitary Authority will have to tackle when it comes into being.

Four-day Week

After more than two years of trials, extensive analysis of performance and delaying issues with the previous government we are, at last, about to decide on whether or not to make the four-day week permanent. The decision will be made at the July Full Council meeting considering the results of all the independently assessed performance data, including financial implications and the results of the public consultation. All indications are that the trial has been a success.

Food Waste Collection

It is planned to introduce a separate food waste collection next year. This is government policy and we are obliged to introduce the new scheme. It will mean having a caddy for food only – it will no longer be possible to add food waste to the green bin. This is a major operation for the District Council, requiring an additional 22 vehicles and around 75 new staff. Much, but not all, of the initial cost is to be met by government grants. Extra costs will have to be met by the Council.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Granta Vale Harmony



Open Evening Concert

Thursday 26 June, 7.45pm, at Abington Village Institute
Come along for an evening of great music and song with
Granta Vale Harmony, local ladies' choir The Glams
and singer Angela Rowland-Green
Songs by the Beatles, Billy Joel, John Denver,
The Drifters and many more

Free Entry

Donations on the evening to
The Sick Children's Trust, Acorn House

Diary for June and July 2025

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	2	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
Tue	3	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	12
Wed	4	Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
		Talking Art	7.30pm	14
Thu	5	Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	6	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12
Mon	9	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
		Abington & Hildersham WI		14
Tue	10	Mobile Library, Hildersham	9.40am	16
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	13
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	12
		Reading Group – see page 15 for venue	7.30pm	13
Wed	11	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	12	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	13	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12
		Summer Fayre – Great Abington Primary School	TBC	6
Mon	16	Social Cycling – 1 Bourn Bridge Road	9.30am	12
		Concert, Hildersham Church	7.30pm	17
Tue	17	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	12
Wed	18	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	19	Craft Group	12.45pm	5
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	20	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12
Sat	21	Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Granta Fest – Granta Park		16
Sun	22	Creative Church	10.00am	5
Mon	23	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
Tue	24	Mobile Library, The Abingtons	9.40am	16
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	13
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	12
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	12
Wed	25	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	26	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	16
		Granta Vale Harmony Open Evening Concert	7.45pm	9
Fri	27	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12
Mon	30	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
July				
Tue	1	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	12
Wed	2	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	3	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	4	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	12
		Pilates	10.30am	12

Sun	6	Yard/Table Top Sale – Magna Close	10.00am	17
Mon	7	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
Tue	8	Mobile Library, Hildersham Art Group Tuesday Club Reading Group – see page 13 for venue	9.40am 10.00am 2.00pm	16 19 13 13
Wed	9	Yoga – course and drop-in Line Dancing	9.30am 1.00pm	12 12
Thu	10	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Mon	14	Physio Pilates Abington and Hildersham WI Summer Outing	9.30am TBC	12 14
Tue	15	Art Group	10.00am	19
Wed	16	Yoga – course and drop-in Line Dancing	9.30am 1.00pm	12 12
Thu	17	Craft Group Granta Vale Harmony	1.30pm 7.30pm	13 12
Fri	18	Low-impact Aerobics Pilates	9.30am 10.30am	12 12
Sat	19	Walking Group	9.50am	13
Sun	20	Creative Church	10.00am	5
Mon	21	Physio Pilates Social Cycling – 1 Bourn Bridge Road Great Abington Parish Council meeting Little Abington Parish Council meeting	9.30am 9.30am 7.00pm 7.00pm	12 12 15 14
Tue	22	Mobile Library, The Abingtons Art Group Tuesday Club Scrabble Club	9.40am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm	16 19 13 12
Wed	23	Yoga – course and drop-in Chatter and Natter – Great Abington Church	9.30am 2.00pm	12 5
Thu	24	Abington Lunch Granta Vale Harmony	12.45pm 7.30pm	16 12
Fri	25	Low-impact Aerobics Pilates	9.30am 10.30am	12 12
Sun	27	Celebration Service and Party – Little Abington Church	11.00am	5
Mon	28	Summer Holiday Club opens Physio Pilates	9.30am	6 12
Tue	29	Art Group	10.00am	19
Wed	30	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	12
Thu	31	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12

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

Institute bookings Contact by email: institute@theabingtons.org.uk.

Jeremiah's Café: Opening times in June and July 2025

June

Thursday lunchtime 12.00 noon–2.00pm (5, 12, 19, **26 – Abington Lunch**)

Friday morning 8.45am–11.00am (6, 13, 20, 27)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (7, 14, 21, 28)

July

Thursday lunchtime 12.00 noon–2.00pm (3, 10, 17, **24 – Abington Lunch**, 31)

Friday morning 8.45am–11.00am (4, 11, 18, 25)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (5, 12, 19, 26)

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

Wheelie bin dates for June and July 2025 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

June	Wed 4	Wed 11	Wed 18	Wed 25	
	Black	Blue/Green	Black	Blue/Green	
July	Wed 2	Wed 9	Wed 16	Wed 23	Wed 30
	Black	Blue/Green	Black	Blue/Green	Black

Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am

Contact Joan 890 629 or email joangraham72@gmail.com if you would like to drop in.

Evening Pilates

There are two classes on Tuesdays at 7.00pm and 8.15pm in the Village Institute. All equipment provided. Contact Liz Kirk on 07903 079853 to book your place (£9 per session).

Aerobics and Pilates – Fridays (Aerobics 9.30am; Pilates 10.30am & 11.45am).

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. Aerobics is pay as you go; Pilates please book for five weeks. Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.com.

Physio-led Face to Face Pilates – Mondays 9.30am–12.40pm

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.

Scrabble Club

The next meetings of the Scrabble group will be on Tuesday 24 June and Tuesday 22 July at 7.00pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome.

Sheena Fraser

Social Cycling

On Monday 19 May five of us enjoyed a 31 km/19.5 mile route through Hinxton, over the ford (or through it for one of us – he won't do that again!), Duxford, Sawston, Stapleford and along the DNA Way. Coffee and cake (or lunch if you fancied it!) at the AR Hospice, then over the Gogs, through Babraham and back. Good ride in pleasant weather. The next rides will be on Monday 16 June and Monday 21 July from 1 Bourn Bridge Road, starting at 9.30 m. Please note the earlier time.

Andy Merryweather

Abington Gardening Club

A reminder there are no meetings until September but the summer visit programme is now available. 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. £3 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 abingtonannexoffice@gmail.com for more information.

The Tuesday Club

On 10 June, Tricia Cullimore will regale us with tales of yesteryear of the Forget-Me-not/Tuesday Club's history. This will be followed by our Summer Tea. A date not to be missed! On 24 June, Nina Burgess, a local art teacher, will give a talk on an aspect of art.

On 8 July Joan Nevin will take us through our exercises for health again. On 22 July Marion Macintyre will entertain us with a musical quiz.

This will end our summer programme. There will be no meetings in August as usual but **we will meet again on 3 September** with cheese and biscuits and a quiz. All meetings begin at 2pm. We welcome any newcomers and the first attendance is free. For more information please contact Jenny Milns (tel. 890 252).

Reading Group

13 June	<i>Ex-Wife</i> Ursula Parrott	Anna Heron
8 July	<i>44 Scotland Street</i> Alexander McCall Smith	Valerie Hefford

We will meet at 7.30pm at Anna's to discuss *Ex-Wife*. Please confirm attendance to Anna and copy me in.
Valerie Hefford

Abington Walking Group



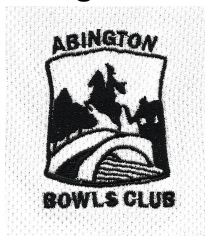
Our most recent walk was to the heights of Linton for bluebells and fantastic views. The June walks will be on Thursday 5 and Saturday 21 June, which will be the Summer Solstice picnic to the Roman Road starting at 6.00pm from Little Abington Church. The July walk dates are Thursday 3 and Saturday 19 July.

If you would like to know in advance where we shall be walking please join our WhatsApp group. Our leisurely walks are about five miles and start from the Institute at 10.00am by shared transport to the walk venue. All of the walk dates are now available. Well behaved dogs are very welcome. Look forward to seeing you. For further information please contact Robin Harman, robandkayharman@gmail.com, or Genevieve Dalton, gdalton365@gmail.com.

Craft Group

We will meet on Thursday 19 June and Thursday 17 July, 1.30pm on the Terrace at the Village Institute. Would anyone be interested in a PHD (Projects Half-Done) day over August or September? Contact Glynis (tel. 07970 614 194 or email glynis.brookman@btinternet.com) to register interest.

Abington Bowls Club



Modern life creates an expectation of instant news.

So, a monthly magazine that becomes an every-two-months publication in the middle of the bowls season is ill-suited for keeping its readers up to date with the everchanging world of the C&D bowls league. I can tell you how we are doing now (16 May) – brilliantly, as it happens. Top of the League. Unbeaten across three competitions – and then leave you in worried ignorance until the next edition comes out in August.

Alternatively, I can advise you to follow the ABC posts on the Village Community Group Facebook site. Results will be posted regularly, so you can slake your thirst for news. You can also have a look at the Results Board that is displayed outside the green in Little Abington.

May I remind you that we are always eager to meet new players of the game? Absolute beginners will be welcomed into the ABC family. We have all been beginners, after all. It's free. All you need are flattish shoes (no stilettos) and enthusiasm. Bowls will be provided for you. It's easy to do. Talk to a bowler – or call me (0785 252 8693) – to arrange a roll-up. (Not a cigarette but an informal practice.) See you in August.
Graham Ross

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Our May Plant and Cake sale outside the Abington Institute was blessed with fine sunny weather and was a great success. Thank you, all members, villagers and visitors who supported our fundraising. Our annual local group meeting with Linton and Balsham WIs took place at Linton Village Hall, where we were entertained with a talk about the history of English silver spoons and a table quiz, followed by delicious refreshments.

On 4 June the National Federation of Women's Institutes AGM will take place – sadly, not at the traditional Royal Albert Hall but via Zoom. If anyone would like to join me sitting in front of my computer screen for a few hours, you are very welcome!

Next meeting: Monday 9 June 7.30pm in the Village Institute. Fran Saltmarsh will give a talk about The Roaring 20s. Visitors and new members always welcome. On 14 July we will have our Annual Summer Outing – a trip down the River Cam, weather permitting! Marilyn Broadhurst

Talking Art



Artemisia Gentileschi (1597–1651), 'The Renaissance Woman'. Mary Conochie's fourth talk will be on Wednesday 4 June at 7.30 (£10 cash). In her final talk of the series, she will be discussing Gentileschi as one of the first early female artists to

achieve fame and notoriety for her often challenging paintings. Mary is planning to run a 10-week evening course in September further details of which will be given nearer the time.

Little Abington Parish Council

Rubble

We are concerned about the quantity of rubble dumped in the field alongside the Perse playing field, which is unsightly and potentially detrimental to the environment. We have raised the issue with the County Council, and County Planning, Minerals and Waste is investigating.

Overhanging branches

A reminder that you need to cut back any shrubs and trees that overhang pavements and footpaths or obscure streetlights. The Highways team can charge households for their removal if they are considered dangerous to road safety.

Abington community e-bikes

With better weather hopefully here to stay, a reminder that we have two e-bikes available for hire, in the big box outside the Institute. If you have hired one, we would like to hear how much you paid, if the process is easy and what you thought of the e-bikes.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next Meeting: Monday 21 July

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.

Our email addresses:

Sheila Bolden (Chair): 07754 659929/cllr.sbolden@littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk): clerk@littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

Annual Parish Meeting

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 19 May reports were received from the Chairman, County and District Councillors and representatives of the Recreation Ground and Institute Management committees. Reports are available on the GAPC website: greatabingtonparishcouncil.org

Community Governance Review of Great and Little Abington

A Community Governance Review (CGR) looks at the governance arrangements of parishes in the area under review and seeks to ensure that these are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area. The planned CGR could group Great Abington Parish Council and Little Abington Parish Council under a single governing body, while allowing each parish to retain its individual identity. If the decision is to group the current Parish Councils into one larger Parish Council, the election for seats will take place in 2026, and will replace the scheduled elections for the separate Parish Councils. Further details and how to respond to the CGR can be found here <https://engage.scambs.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/abington-community-governance-review>. The review runs until midnight on 28 July. Don't forget to have your say.

Shared e-bikes based at the Village Institute

A reminder that there are two bizbike e-bikes available. Download the free bizbike app, register and follow the instructions. Once you register you will be emailed detailed instructions and an unlock code for the bike lockers. Use the app to scan the QR code at the back of the bike to unlock it, making sure the lock arm is not rubbing against a wheel spoke. At the end of your ride please return your bike to the locker. Use the bizbike helpline for any assistance required: 07973 499 224 or email info@bizbike.club.

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 (www.scambs.gov.uk) as this will ensure that the planners take your views into consideration in their decision-making.

Planning Applications

25/01095/HFUL – 17 Lewis Crescent – Demolition of single storey rear elements. Single storey rear extension with flue and windows/door to side elevations.

25/01238/PRIOR – Apiary, Granta Park – Installation of roof-mounted solar photovoltaic panels

District Council decisions

34A South Road – dwelling erected without planning permission – Appeal dismissed.

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 21 July 2025, 7.00pm. 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).



Abington Lunches June and July 2025

Thursday 26 June

Fruit juice

Salmon and watercress sauce

Seasonal vegetables

Lemon cheesecake and poached berries

Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 07941 016 543 **before noon** on Tuesday 24 June. Leave your name and telephone number with your message.

Thursday 24 July

Fruit juice

Gammon

Seasonal vegetables

Strawberry meringue nests and strawberry ice cream

Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 01223 891464 **before noon** on Tuesday 22 July. Leave your name and telephone number with your message.

Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Doors open at **12.45pm**.

Please note that the lunch is open to **all Abington and Hildersham residents. Cost £5.**

Guests only by special arrangement and if there is space.

Next lunch: Thursday 28 August 2025.

Granta Fest is back!

We are excited to announce that Granta Fest will be making a comeback by popular demand at Granta Park on 21 June. The day will be filled with brilliant family fun, including a live music stage, classic carnival games, mini golf, face painting, Jack's Gelato, full bar and delicious food trucks. Tickets this year are £5 per person (12 years and under free of charge) and all proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to charity.

We would love to welcome those from Great and Little Abington, as well as those in surrounding villages, to the day. You can purchase your tickets via the Granta Park website or by following this link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1292602241099.

We look forward to welcoming you to the event!

Mobile Library

Hildersham, Flourish Farm Shop 9.40–10.20 Next dates: Tuesday 10 June, Tuesday 8 July	West Field, Little Abington 9.40–10.20 The Shop, Great Abington 10.30–11.00 Magna Close, Great Abington 11.05–11.40 Next dates: Tuesday 24 June, Tuesday 22 July
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Love Abington



A Huge Thank You

There was such a wonderful atmosphere in the Village Institute on the last Saturday of April when members of the Parish Councils, the Gardening Club, Cambridge Flower Club, NatureWatch, the Abington Allotment Society, Abington Primary school and the Abington churchyards restoration group ran the Love Abington Spring Event 'Go Wild'. Thank you to everyone who came and shared in the fun and also to the café for remaining open until 1.00pm.

There was an opportunity for everyone in our community to contribute their ideas on how we can revitalise our churchyards and encourage biodiversity in the communal spaces in the village.

The school produced a wonderful display of all the gardening activities and cross-curricular experiences that they have developed. Thank you to Karen Johnson and her team for providing guided tours of the school garden. Plants, seeds and practical advice abounded for all those interested in gardening.

Freda Orgee organised a wonderful spring flower arrangement workshop and showed photographs from the many demonstrations and workshops provided by the Cambridge Flower Club.

There were other ingenious hands-on activities, from making seed bombs, constructing bird boxes, finding out about birds in our locality to investigating the secrets of pond and river water.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated work of a large team who all share a passion for the outdoors, creativity and nature. A huge thank you to Bernie Talbot, Richard Smith, David and Gaynor Farrant, Miles and Jessica Craven, James Snell, Tony and Freda Orgee, Kay Harman, June Waring, Karen Johnson and all the Love Abington committee who worked tirelessly to make this event so joyous and successful.

Summer produce from the allotments

We are delighted to announce that once again this year Abington Allotmenters will kindly be donating excess produce to Love Abington. Fruit and vegetables will be collected and distributed on Sundays, starting in July.

Rosemary Mead

IN THE NAME OF BACH

JS Bach and his Sons

Ashley Solomon - Baroque Flute

Steven Devine - Harpsichord



A Baroque Concert in

Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham CB21 6BZ

Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm

Ashley is Head of Historical Performance at London's Royal College of Music and director of Florilegium.

Steven regularly directs the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

Tickets at £20 available from

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1322767305619?aff=oddtcreator>
or at the door

Contact Athene Hunt: huntcam2015@gmail.com

In Support of the Friends of Holy Trinity Hildersham



MAGNA CLOSE ARE HOSTING THIS YEAR'S YARD/ TABLE TOP SALE

On Sunday 6th of July
10am-1pm

Money raised from stall fees is
going to Abington preschool.

£5 a pitch to be paid by 14/06/25. Email:
abingtonannexoffice@gmail.com or TEXT
07967192429 to book a yard (Magna residents)
or a space on the green (everyone else).

(fee is non-refundable unless event is cancelled due to bad weather)



Church Services for June and July 2025 (The Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	Gt Abington 	Lt Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
1 June	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Acts 16.16-34 John 17.20-end
8 June	11.00am Communion		11.00am Café Church	Acts 2.1-21 John 14.8-27
15 June		11.00am Communion	6.00pm Taizé Service	Romans 5.1-5 John 16.12-15
22 June	6.00pm Evening Prayer		11.00am Communion (BCP)	Galatians 3.23-end Luke 8.26-39
29 June	11.00am Communion			Acts 12.1-11 Matthew 16.13-19
6 July	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Galatians 6.1-16 Luke 10.1-20
13 July	Morning Worship		11.00am Communion (BCP)	Colossians 1.1-14 Luke 10.25-37
20 July			6.00pm Taizé Service	Colossians 1.15-28 Luke 10.38-end
27 July		11.00am Communion	11.00am Café Church	Colossians 2.6-15 Luke 11.1-13

22 June and 20 July, Creative Church, Abington Institute, 10.00am

Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
1 June	Maureen Thomson and Betsy Gutteridge	Mrs Harman and Mrs Waring	Mrs Cutter
8 June	Maureen Thomson and Betsy Gutteridge	Mrs Harman and Mrs Waring	Mrs Palmer
15 June	Penny Zimmern and Sheena Fraser	Mrs Crisp and Mrs Mead	Mrs Palmer
22 June	Penny Zimmern and Sheena Fraser	Mrs Crisp and Mrs Mead	Mrs Gray
29 June	Jill Treanor	Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Gray
6 July	Jill Treanor	Mrs Smith	Mrs Huntsman
13 July	Pat Kennedy	Mrs Smith	Mrs Huntsman
20 July	Pat Kennedy	Mrs Orgee	Mrs Humphrys
27 July	Anne Hall	Mrs Orgee	Mrs Humphrys

Churchwardens

Great and Little Abington	Graham Ross	36 Brinkman Road, Linton	07852 528 693
Hildersham	Keith Day	Fourwinds, Linton Road, Hildersham	891 527

Assistant Churchwardens

Great Abington	Patsy Randall	77 High Street, Great Abington	07765 345 714
Little Abington	Mary Miles	36 Church Lane, Little Abington	891 083
	Marilyn Broadhurst	34 West Field, Little Abington	893 214

Church Services (other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
1 June		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
8 June	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wratting</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Taizé service <i>Weston Colville</i>
15 June	Communion <i>West Wratting</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	
22 June	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
29 June	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wratting</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	Evensong <i>Weston Colville</i>
6 July		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
13 July	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wratting</i>	Morning Worship and Baptism <i>Balsham</i>	Taizé service <i>Weston Colville</i>
20 July	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	
27 July	Communion <i>West Wratting</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ, www.ololsawston.org.uk

Monday–Friday	9.30am Holy Mass
Saturday	9.30am Holy Mass
Sunday	8.45am Holy Mass 11.15am Holy Mass