



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

September 2025



**George Woodley, 28 July 1929–21 June 2025
(see page 6)**

From the Editor

St Mary's Great Abington was full last month for the funeral of George Woodley, who died on 21 June. I am very grateful to George's family and Revd Hannah Threlfall for the eulogy the family wrote and Hannah delivered at the service (page 6) and for the excellent and characteristic photograph on this month's front cover. For many years, George was seen almost as often in his guise as Father Christmas at the village Christmas Fayre and I was delighted when he wrote a charming piece about his second career for the January 2024 issue of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*. You can read this again by going to the News archive on the village website – see page 14 for details of how to access the archive and the current edition online.

Elsewhere: the annual AALGA barbecue takes place on Sunday 7 September (page 17); Abington Annexe Community Childcare is holding a Jumble Sale on 20 September (page 7); and there will be a Harp Chamber Concert at Hildersham church on 29 September (page 18). There is good news about funding for refurbishment of the hard court area on the recreation ground (page 8) and important advance information about October's traditional Festival of Running on page 13).

Finally, September is back to school time. Good luck to all the children of the Abingtons and Hildersham who are starting or changing school this month, or moving up to other classes. Have fun!

Sally Simmons

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

From the Seven Churches

Many of us are facing difficult times at the moment, with the rising cost of living and our general concern for the wellbeing of family and those close to us within our community. We all know what it is like to face challenging times and we know how important it is to keep 'mind, body and spirit' together. When times are tough, we can find it helpful to exercise the body by getting out for a brisk walk, some fresh air, a jog perhaps. Well, maybe not a jog, but any amount of movement can certainly help us manage our daily stresses, concerns and worries. Looking after the body can also mean enjoying good healthy food – and the odd bit of chocolate. With mental health concerns on the rise, I'm the first to admit that I spend far too much time distracted by social media; better to feed the mind with good things.

Mindfulness has become a term to describe our awareness of the present moment while calmly accepting our feelings, thoughts and what may be going on around us. This is all very well, but in our secular world the workings of the mind have tended to take centre stage, as if all our troubles can be solved in the room upstairs.

Cultures that value and practise the healing ways of prayer and meditation understand that prayerfulness is the journey from the head to the heart. We may think with the head, but it is from the heart that we respond, without thinking, through actions of love and concern for others. Prayerfulness, I suggest, is more than asking or wishing for stuff; it can be our sitting still and being quietly thankful for what we have. Prayer can be in the work we do, the people we meet and the ways we respond from the heart. When we speak of keeping mind, body and spirit together, we start to see how the active body, the thinking mind and spirit long to thrive as one from within.

I'm beginning to wonder if the actions needed to rescue, to manage and sustain us all may have a lot to do with prayerful engagement, our living as one, in mind, body and spirit. Perhaps we are only just beginning to realise that our personal wellbeing is secured through the generous actions of the heart.

Steven Wheeler

From the Vicarage

September often feels like a month of gathering in. Farmers bring in the last of the harvest, gardens yield their final flowers and fruits and schools welcome children back for a new term. In the life of our villages, it's also a time when we gather the blessings of friendship, community and shared life.

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along, baked, poured tea, set out chairs, ran a stall or simply joined in the fun at the Vicarage Garden Party on 30 August. It was a joy to see so many people chatting, laughing and relaxing together. We were blessed with so many from our wonderful community coming, the happy buzz of conversation and the simple pleasure of being together. Your generosity – whether with time, energy, donations or good cheer – made it a wonderful afternoon.

It struck me, as I looked around the garden that day, that this is what a healthy harvest looks like in a community: not just crops in the fields but moments of connection, joy and shared purpose. Like any good harvest, these moments don't happen by accident. They grow from seeds planted over time: kindness shown, help given, invitations offered and the patient tending of relationships.

The Bible often uses harvest as an image for the way God works among us. Galatians reminds us: 'Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' Community life – like farming – requires faithfulness in the everyday tasks, a willingness to work together and the joy of celebrating what God has grown in and among us.

So, as we step into September, may we give thanks not only for the fruit of the land but for the fruit of friendship. May we keep planting seeds of kindness, welcoming one another and making space for joy to grow. And may we never forget that the richest harvest of all is not in barns or baskets but in the hearts and lives of those with whom we share the journey.

With love in Christ.

Revd Hannah

News from the Pews – Abington and Hildersham

We held an amazing Benefice pet service at Balsham on 31 August! It was a brilliant, busy, chaotic and lively service – but then so it should have been! Definitely all creatures great and small!!

We are looking forward to the Harvest Services – see below for details. Should you wish to donate to local food banks, the following items are being collected: tinned food, stock cubes and spices, rice, grains and noodles, oil and flour, long life dairy-free milk, snacks, biscuits, crackers, crisps, sweets and treats, jam, honey, peanut butter and Marmite, tea and instant coffee, new toiletries. Meanwhile, **SAVE THE DATE!** This year's Harvest Supper will be held on Friday 17 October at 7.00pm in the Village Institute – tickets available soon from Mary, Marilyn and Patsy (assistant churchwardens).

Chatter and Natter was a treat last month, as the piano was played and as always, delicious cakes and bakes were on offer! We will next meet on 17 September, 2.00–4.00pm at St Mary's Church, Great Abington. Do join us to meet others, chat and enjoy cake and tea!

The Friends of Hildersham has made a successful start and is continuing to flourish. July and August saw a most interesting Garden Lecture and a superb Bach Concert. In September there will be a harp and flute concert (see page 18) and in October – get your bingo dabbers ready! For more information about The Friends, please contact Keith Day keithdday@btinternet.com.

September services

Sunday 7 – United Communion Service, Balsham, 11.00am

Sunday 14 – Harvest Café Church, Hildersham, 11.00am; Communion, Great Abington, 11.15am

Sunday 21 – Harvest Festival and Communion, Little Abington, 11.00am; Taizé service, Hildersham, 6.00pm

Sunday 28 – Harvest Creative Church, Abington Institute, 10.00 am; Harvest Festival and Communion, Hildersham, 11.00am

Sunday 28 – Evening Prayer, Great Abington, 6.00pm

Creative Church!



Sunday 28 September, 10.00am at Abington Institute

We will be celebrating the new season with a **special Harvest Service** for everyone, beginning with refreshments. There will be story-telling and a session for crafts based on the Harvest theme. There will also be a science activity. If you are new to the village or just curious, do come along. You are assured of a warm welcome.

We will be collecting fresh produce and packets of food or tins for distribution by Love Abington volunteers. Rosemary Mead and the Creative Church team

Hildersham Church News

We have sadly had to say goodbye to a number of Hildersham Villagers this summer. All had reached a good age and had some wonderful tales to tell, so while we will miss them we have been able to share lots of stories with friends and family at their funerals.

May Anne Dry

May Dry passed away on 24 June 2025 aged 82 years. May moved to Hildersham in 1953, where she lived at Rose Cottage. After her marriage to Ben in 1964, she moved to Beech Row, where she lived until October 2020. May regularly attended church services at Hildersham from an early age and in later life, helped Keith in the church up until she left. May and Ben had two children, Margaret and Maurice. May moved to Ely but never forgot the community spirit of Hildersham and the wonderful friends that she had here. May will be remembered for her wonderful sausage rolls, but more importantly, her generosity, loyalty and bravery.

Children's Church Council

The children have been far too busy holidaying to meet up this summer but there are a number of things being planned by The Friends of Hildersham that will certainly require their involvement.

Some of the children are heading to sixth-form college, having worked very hard to achieve the results they need to move to the next stage and will therefore be busier than ever but we are hoping they will enjoy being part of some of the events ahead.

George Edward Woodley, 1929–2025

George was a man of creativity, quiet determination and deep love, who touched so many lives with kindness, humour and skill.

He was born on 28 July 1929 in Isleworth to George William (Bill) and Bessie Woodley. One of six children – brother to Bryan and Ken, and to his sisters Mary, Rose, and Betty – George was the second eldest in a close-knit, wartime family. During the war, he was evacuated to Yorkshire, a short but formative chapter in a long and full life.

George first married Jeanne, with whom he had four children: Lorraine, Gary and twins Mark and Michael. Sadly, in 1967 Jeanne passed away.

George could build, stitch, paint and knit – whatever he turned his hand to, he did with remarkable care and creativity. He built canoes, flew homemade gliders with the children and crafted intricate models of everything from ships to planes.

Even dressmaking was among his many talents. Lorraine fondly remembers a beautifully made two-piece suit that George lovingly created for her confirmation. And as for dear Jeanne – she would often say, with a smile, that she never quite experienced the thrill of buying a new dress, because George insisted on making all her clothes himself!

But love found its way again and in 1971, George married Marjorie, becoming father to Beverley, Alun and Sue – a blended family, bonded by love and built on gentleness and grace.

George's work life was as impressive as it was inspiring. He served with the RAF during his national service as an aircraft technician. Later, as a draughtsman for Flightform at London Airport, he helped design the interior of the Queen's Flight BAE146, an honour that took him all the way to Buckingham Palace to present his work.

He also contributed to the redevelopment of the automatic pilot system in aircraft, nicknamed 'George' by pilots, perhaps as a nod to its steady reliability... something those who knew George might say of him, too.

In 1972, George and Marjorie moved to Abington. He worked for Ciba Geigy as a designer and it was here that his creativity flourished in countless ways.

His artistic flair adorned this very church: many of the kneelers you see here today were lovingly stitched by George and Marjorie. He was a knitter, too – tank tops and jumpers made with warmth in every sense.

George was also a man of movement. A member of walking groups, bowls clubs and U3A, he loved being active and part of the community. Even into his last week, George walked a mile each day, only recently slowing down from his earlier average of three.

On top of all of this George also found time to dog sit for many friends and family – an act of kindness to which he relished and enjoyed.

To many in Abington, George wasn't just a neighbour – he was a much-loved local figure. His joyful spirit came especially to life each Christmas, when he donned the red suit and became Father Christmas himself, a role he played with delight and dedication.

George was an avid supporter of the Creative Church in Abington – a fun, relaxed worship service for all ages. George was for sure our most mature member. He loved showing and telling families all that he had done and he was good at getting stuck into the crafts – he especially loved it when we planted seeds and proudly came back with a photo on his phone to show us all his successful plant.

George was, and will always be, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend and Abingtonian. His legacy lives on in the family he loved so dearly, in the art, models and each stitch he left behind, and in the stories we will tell about his life, his laughter and his wonderful, generous spirit. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Especially those feet of his that have walked and walked!



In aid of Abington Annexe
Community Childcare

Saturday 20th September
12-2

Held on the playground of Great Abington Primary School
(will be held in the Annexe building if bad weather)

Anything you can donate to us please drop off on the morning of the sale between 9-10
or anytime between 9-5 the week before.

We are looking for toys, children's clothes, men and women's clothes, shoes, bric and brac

NO ELECTRICAL ITEMS!!

Any enquiries please contact

01223 894246 or email abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com



Ukrainian Community in Abington

There are six Ukrainians living in Abington in four households.

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. Anyone in Abington and Hildersham interested in hosting can have an informal chat with Marilyn Broadhurst, 07855 182 726, email broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com.

I am receiving requests from Ukraine for opportunities for mothers and children to live safely in England as attacks on Kyiv and eastern Ukraine increase.

Ukrainians now living in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme can apply to have their visa extended by 18 months but this opportunity will end in late 2026/early 2027. The Home Office policy after the extended expiry date is "confused", which is causing concern for Ukrainians who cannot plan their future. Some would like to settle in the UK because they no longer have a home or family in Ukraine.

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

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, Flourish Farm Shop 9.40–10.20	West Field, Little Abington 9.40–10.20
Next date: Tuesday 9 September	The Shop, Great Abington 10.30–11.00
	Magna Close, Great Abington 11.05–11.40
	Next date: Tuesday 23 September



Abington Lunch Thursday 25 September 2025

Fruit juice
Meatballs in tomato sauce
Pasta
Seasonal vegetables
Plum clafouti
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 01223 892163 **before noon** on Tuesday 23 September. 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 25 October 2025.

National Lottery Supports Recreation Ground Development

In mid-July the Recreation Ground Committee received the excellent news that its application to the National Lottery for funding towards rebuilding of the Recreation Ground multi-use games area (MUGA) was successful. We had applied for the maximum of £20,000 available from the Lottery Community Fund and this has been granted in full. With funding also from Great Abington Parish Council in the form of so-called section 106 funding (the money paid by housing developers to support village infrastructure) and the regular Recreation Ground funding by both Great and Little Abington PCs we are now able to proceed with the MUGA project.

Residents will recall that earlier in the year we carried out a survey of views on the MUGA and the Rec. We were greatly encouraged by the wholly supportive feedback we received; this was cited in our Lottery application and clearly had a powerful effect, so thanks are due to all who responded.

The project will involve a complete rebuild of the existing facility – that is, a new playing surface and line markings, a new welded mesh rebound fence and new goals and basketball hoops. A contractor has been selected and work is planned to start in the autumn. While the work is going on the MUGA will of course be out of use for a time. After the initial build the surface must be left to cure for a short period before line marking is carried out.

The end result will be an outstanding new facility from which we hope many Abington residents will gain benefit and enjoyment.

Richard Smith, Chair, Abington Recreation Ground Management Committee

District and County Councillors' Reports August 2025

Four-day week

The District Council recently made the decision to make its four-day working week trial permanent. This decision followed lengthy trial period where KPI performance was studied closely. It also followed a consultation with the staff and the public.

Having said all of this, we are looking at local government reorganisation in a few years, and it's difficult to predict what format the staff contracts will form within a new local authority.

Local developments

There are a few sites in our area that have been promoted recently by landowners/potential developers for housing development.

Little Linton This site is in the fields to the west of Linton Village College. The promoters of this site, Bloor Homes, are presenting plans for 250 houses and the possibility of a new health centre. However, this parcel of land is outside the 'village framework', which is the boundary within which development can take place. This site has been put forward multiple times over the years but has never been taken forward, as it's deemed to be an unsustainable location for a variety of reasons. This is still the case, so any planning application that is submitted today would very likely be refused on this basis alone.

Pampisford Road, Abington A similar story to the above. This site is, again, outside the village framework, so is currently very unlikely to achieve planning permission, should a formal planning application be submitted.

Grange Farm, Abington The Grange Farm site, which is north of Cambridge Road, Abington, has been put forward several times over the years for housing development but is now being looked at more seriously by the District Council. This site is deemed to be a more sustainable location than others given its proximity to large employment sites (Granta Park, Babraham Institute, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, etc.) and its positioning adjacent to major A roads. It could take around 5,000 houses and SCDC is considering including it in its forthcoming Local Plan. However, a lot of external factors will influence this going ahead.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Balsham Singers



The new season commences on Thursday 11 September. Rehearsals are held in The Sports Pavilion, Church Lane, Balsham and start promptly at 7.30pm until 9.30pm

Our concert will be held at 4.00pm on Saturday 13 December in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. **Please save the date.**

If you have any questions, please contact our MD John Clenaghan, john.clenaghan@sky.com.

Poppy Appeal 2025

Although we are still in summertime, the Royal British Legion is well under way with this year's Poppy Appeal, which will run from 25 October to 11 November. The Abingtons and Hildersham are very generous in their support of the Appeal, helped by a fantastic team of house-to-house collectors. However, more collectors are needed.

Could you help? You can choose your date and length of time for collection during the Appeal. Support and information are given.

If you would like to help and support the Poppy Appeal and are 18 or older, please contact Joan Nevin tel. 07908 029 078 or email westfield11@aol.com.

Diary for September 2025

Mon	1	Physio Pilates	9.30am	11
Tue	2	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
Wed	3	Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	4	Walking Group	9.50am	12
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	5	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sun	7	AALGA BBQ – allotments, Linton Road	12.00pm	17
Mon	8	Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
		Physio Pilates	9.30am	11
		Abington and Hildersham WI	7.30pm	12
Tue	9	Mobile Library, Hildersham	9.40am	7
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
Wed	10	Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	11	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	12	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	15	Physio Pilates	9.30am	11
		Social Cycling – 1 Bourn Bridge Road	9.30am	11
		Great Abington Parish Council	7.15pm	14
		Gardening Club AGM	7.30pm	12
Tue	16	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
Wed	17	Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
		Chatter and Natter – St Mary's Great Abington	2.00pm	5
		Talking Art	7.30pm	13
Thu	18	Craft Group	1.30pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	19	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	20	Walking Group	9.50am	12
		Jumble Sale – Primary School playground	12.00pm	7
Mon	22	Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
		Physio Pilates	9.30am	11
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.30pm	15
Tue	23	Mobile Library, The Abingtons	9.40am	7
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	11
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
Wed	24	Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
		Talking Art	7.30pm	13
Thu	25	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	8
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	26	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		Film Nights – doors open 7.00pm	7.30pm	13
Sun	28	Creative Church	10.00am	5
Mon	29	Harp Chamber Music, Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham	7.30pm	18
Tue	30	Art Group	10.00am	19

		Tuesday Club Evening Pilates	2.00pm 7.00pm	12 11
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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 September 2025

Thursday lunchtime 12.00 noon–2.00pm (4, 11, 18, 25 – **Abington Lunch**)

Friday morning 8.45am–11.00am (5, 12, 19, 26)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (6, 13, 20, 27)

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

Wheelie bin dates for September 2025 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Wed 3	Wed 10	Wed 17	Wed 24
Black	Blue/Green	Black	Blue/Green

Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am

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

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.

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).

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 meeting of the Scrabble group will be on Tuesday 23 September 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

The next ride will be on Monday 15 September at 9.30am, meeting at 1 Bourn Bridge Road.

Gaynor Farrant

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 Gardening Club

A reminder that the AGM will be on Monday 15 September at 7.30pm in the Institute when we are hoping volunteers will come forward to run the club in the future. Assistance will be available so please consider putting yourself forward otherwise it looks likely that the club will close. The present committee have been in place for many years and new blood and ideas are now needed.

Kay Harman, Secretary, tel. 891 730, email: robandkayharman@gmail.com

Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

This welcoming group runs every other Monday during term time starting on 8 September, for children aged 0–5 years. We are located in the Abington Annexe building, accessible via the garden gate of the preschool, to the right of the Primary School playground.

Please note the new earlier time of 9.15am–11.00am. £3 per family, first visit free. No need to book. Light snack and drinks provided. Please bring a lidded cup for adult beverages.

Tel. 01223 894.246 or email abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com for more information.

The Tuesday Club

There are three meetings this month. On 2 September members will be welcomed back after the summer break with sherry, cheese and biscuits and there will be a quiz.

On 16 September Kia McDonald will give a talk on the The Hundred Parishes Society and on 30 September the Reverend Michael Wilcockson, a former teacher at Eton College, will give a talk about the history of the school.

All meetings begin at 2pm. All are welcome at our meetings and the first attendance is free. For more information please contact Jenny Milns (tel. 890252).

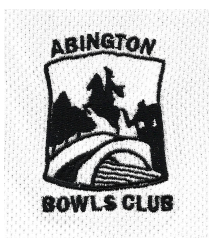
Abington Walking Group



Sadly no walks were made in August due to weather conditions and lack of numbers. The September walks will be on Thursday 4 and Saturday 20 September. 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. 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.

Abington Bowls Club – Still in with a Shout



Like a bowl that has not been given quite enough impetus, our great effort to achieve promotion this season seemed to have pulled up just short in Division 3 of the C&D league. But results went our way recently and we carry on till our last game of the season, so all to play for.

Good news in the Business Houses Men's Pairs League, where for the second year in a row we have finished second. And after promotion last year, the Open Pairs team may have managed to hang on to a spot in Division 1, with a last-ditch victory. Again, we await final results before we can say how it all panned out.

The honour of the club will be in the hands of Roy Mallows and Graham Gentle when they play in the final of the 2-4-2 pairs knock out at Girton BC in September.

Graham Ross

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Our August meeting was held at Pantiles, Great Abington, by kind invitation of committee member Vicky. On a hot day her lovely, shady garden was perfect for our afternoon tea party with traditional refreshments, a mini parcel hunt and time to relax and enjoy each other's company. The NFWI annual raffle closes in mid-September – you could win £10,000 or a cruise holiday – so remember to buy your (hopefully) lucky ticket!

Our next meeting is on Monday 8 September: Surviving Saudi Arabia with Margaret James. New members and visitors are always welcome at our friendly meetings.

Talking Art – The Metropolis



The first of session of Mary Conochie's 10-week course on The Metropolis will be on Wednesday 17 September in the Village Institute, 7.30–9.00pm. The initial talk will be on 'First Sightings' – how the city develops from being a backdrop to religious art and portraiture to being a subject in its own right. From Renaissance Florence to 20th-century New York, the course will explore how artists painted the city and their differing interpretations of the subject. All major art movements will be covered during the course. The fee is £120 for the 10 weeks. If you

are interested please contact Mary at marypeachey@hotmail.com.

Abington Craft Group

The next meeting is on Thursday 18 September at 1.30pm. Bring your own projects and we will also be starting projects for the pre-Christmas sale For further information contact Glynis Brookman at glynis.brookman@btinternet.com or mobile 07970 614 194.

Film Nights

Film Nights at the Abington Institute return! The first film of the new season will be shown on Friday, 26 September, 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm).

For more information, please visit <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> where you can subscribe to Film Nights updates.

Abington Festival of Running – Sunday 5 October

This year's run will take place on Sunday 5 October from 10.30am to 12.30pm. We expect to attract over 600 runners, including many returning competitors. The closing date for entries is 28 September and the fee for the 10K is only £22.00.

We will be using the same course again and so I would like to notify you of some road closures. Pampisford Road (from Granta Park to the High Street) and Cutting Road will be closed to traffic from 10.00am until the last runner passes by. This is normally before 12.15pm. Marshals will be present at the closure positions to assist and direct traffic and runners. Road closure signs and diversions will be in place.

Our event is licensed through UK Athletics and as such we must abide by their Health and Safety directives. We will endeavour to keep any inconvenience to you to a minimum. Please contact me if you have any queries or would like to volunteer to help us on the day. See our website theentrypoint.co.uk/website/abington-10k for further details and updates.

I would like to thank you for the understanding and support you show for this valuable village event, which is organised on behalf of Great Abington Primary School PTFA.

Bradley Morris, Race Director

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child (shoeboxes) will be going ahead again this year.

This is just a little nudge if you want to take part this year and might like to start collecting gifts that could go into a shoe box – including stationery, soap, small toys, knitted items, balls, games, small clothing items, knitted toys – or to get knitting or sewing pencil cases or tote bags. Please note that no sweets or toothpaste are accepted.

Last year nearly 12 million boxes were filled and sent to many countries. More details next month's *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*. Jane Furlow 07745 046 921

Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

Community Governance Review of Great and Little Abington

The initial public consultation element of the Community Governance Review (CGR) of Great and Little Abington, which is looking at the governance arrangements of the parishes, is now closed. The responses from the Phase One Consultation are being analysed together with a review of demographic, financial and governance data. This phase ends on 22 October 2025. Following the analysis of the consultation data, a report will be drafted and presented to the Council's Civic Affairs Committee on 23 October 2025, outlining the findings and recommendations. A further public consultation will then be carried out on this report to gather additional feedback. Further details can be found at <https://engage.scambs.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/abington-community-governance-review>

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. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Planning Applications

No new applications received.

District Council decisions

25/01703/FUL – Paddock Cottage 42A North Road. Approved

25/01931/LBC – 74 High Street. Replacement of oil-fired boiler with an air source heat pump – approved.

24/04542/CONDA – 55 South Road. Reserved matters – split decision. Only condition 2 was approved (hard and soft landscaping). All other reserved matters have to be resubmitted: conditions 3, 4, 5 (concerning proposed elevations and street scenes, proposed floor plans and sections).

Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

Tony Orgee (Chairman) tonyorgee@gmail.com

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

Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 15 September 2025, 7.15pm. There will be opportunities at the start and close of the meeting for members of the public to speak to the council about matters of concern.

Notices, agendas and minutes are posted on the Parish Council notice board located at the entrance to Magna Close and on the Parish Council's website <http://greatabingtonparishcouncil.org> or available from the Parish Clerk. Paula Harper (Clerk): harper802@btinternet.com (892 000).

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.

Little Abington Parish Council

Allotment funding

Grants are available from South Cambs District Council for new allotment-related projects, such as water access/rainwater harvesting, pest control, waterless toilets and social benefits (wellbeing, community involvement). Applications are open in September and October. For full details visit www.scams.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-action/allotment-improvement-grant.

Parish Council meeting on Monday 21 July

Ruth Hawksley of the Wildlife Trust advised on the proposed works on the river between the road and the Millennium Bridge. She discussed erosion and flooding but hoped that the works would reduce both by protecting the bank and encouraging wildflowers.

District councillor John Batchelor reported that the development at Grange Farm (in effect a new town of 5,000 houses) is back on the table but is dependent on the travel hub at Babraham going ahead, as well as other developments in South Cambs.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next Meeting: Monday 22 September

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.sbolder@littleabington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:07754_659929@cllr.sbolder@littleabington-pc.gov.uk)

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

Website: www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Love Abington



Love Abington, a Church initiative, is an organisation committed to bringing practical and emotional support as well as friendship to everyone in our villages. This month we would like to start by sending a huge thank you to many people in our community. It has been a glorious summer and the sun shone brightly back in June when many in our community enjoyed the Granta Fest, organised by Biomed Realty. Thank you to Becca Keefe for your kind invitation.



The Abington Allotment Association

A huge thank you to all the Abington allotmenters who have donated produce from their allotments every weekend over the summer. It has not been an easy growing season because of the lack of rainfall, which has limited the quantity of produce, so we are grateful to everyone who has contributed. Every Sunday, members of Love Abington have distributed bags of fruit and vegetables to several families and individuals in the village who are most thankful. We hope this project will continue until the end of September and maybe into October.

Welcome Packs

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new people who have moved into the village over the summer. Anton King and Carol Thexton have kindly been delivering Welcome Packs. If you are new to the village or would like to give a pack

to a neighbour, please contact Anton King (Little Abington) on 01223 891 514 or Carol Thexton (Great Abington) on 01223 891 731 or email carol.thexton@gmail.com.

Rosemary Mead

Granta Medical Practices Update September 2025

Vaccines Update

As we approach the colder months, there are a number of vaccines that can help protect you against serious illness, including:

'Flu This vaccine helps protect against 'flu, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness. It's offered on the NHS every year in autumn or early winter to people at higher risk of getting seriously ill from 'flu.

Covid-19 The Covid-19 vaccine is usually offered on the NHS in early winter to people who need extra protection from Covid-19.

RSV The RSV vaccine helps protect against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), which can make babies and older adults seriously ill. This is offered all year round.

Shingles This vaccine helps protect against shingles and is offered all year round. Shingles is a common condition that causes a painful rash. It can sometimes lead to serious problems. You're more likely to get shingles, and it is more likely to cause serious problems, as you get older or if you have a severely weakened immune system.

Pneumococcal (pneumonia) This vaccine is offered all year round. It helps protect against serious illnesses like pneumonia and meningitis.

Book your 'flu vaccine with us and when you come in we can check what other vaccines you are eligible for. Please call 0300 234 5555 and choose the Granta site of your choice or wait to receive your SMS link via your mobile phone to book your appointment.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services, cpicb.grantapatientervices@nhs.net

September Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
7 September		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
14 September	Harvest Communion <i>West Wratting</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Taizé service <i>Weston Colville</i>
21 September	Morning Worship <i>West Wratting</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	
28 September	Harvest Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> Morning Worship	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

Regular midweek services: Morning Prayer, 8.45am, every Friday Weston Colville

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

AALGA Summer BBQ – Sunday 7 September

The Allotment Association's annual summer barbecue will be held on Sunday 7 September 2025 from 12 noon–1.30pm, near the Linton Road entrance. Burgers and hotdogs (with veggie alternative) and drinks will be available for sale on the day. Payment is cash only.

Allotment holders, village residents and friends are all welcome to attend. Come and enjoy some tasty food hot off the coals and take the opportunity to walk around the site, to see what is being grown and how AALGA members are using this valued community resource.

Bernie Talbot, Chair AALGA

Abington History Group



Save the date! The Abington History Group's 25th anniversary event and launch of the latest publication and 2026 calendar will be held in the Village Institute on Saturday 18 October, 2.00–5.00pm.

Granta Vale Harmony



Come and sing – free!

We are looking for men and women age 18+ to come and learn two popular songs with Granta Vale Harmony over four weeks and perform them at our concert on 9 October for The Sick Children's Trust.

We start on 11 September, 7.30pm–9.15pm. Let us help you find your voice, make friends, have fun and support a fantastic charity. To book, please contact Peter Lester on 077849322215 or email peterlester194@gmail.com.

Abington Cricket Club



We are selling prints of a painting by local artist Neil Gardner beautifully capturing a game at the bowl – and it's all for a great cause!

All proceeds will go directly towards much-needed repairs to the club's cricket net, helping us keep the game alive and thriving for everyone in the community. Whether you're a cricket fan, a supporter of local art or just love Abington, this is a great way to show your support.

The print measures 11 x 24 inches (see photo). To purchase a print (price £85), please email the cricket club: abbocricket@gmail.com.

For those who would like a closer look, a print will be on display in the Village Institute during home games and in Rainbows Café.

Julie Barnes

HARP CHAMBER MUSIC

with

TRIO OURANIO

Holy Trinity Church
Hildersham CB21 6BZ
Monday 29th September
at 7.30pm

Haydn – Bach – Faure
Debussy - Rachmaninov

Lisa Nelsen – Flute

*Artist for Yamaha Music International,
Professor of Flute, Junior Guildhall
School of Music and Drama*

Sue Blair – Harp

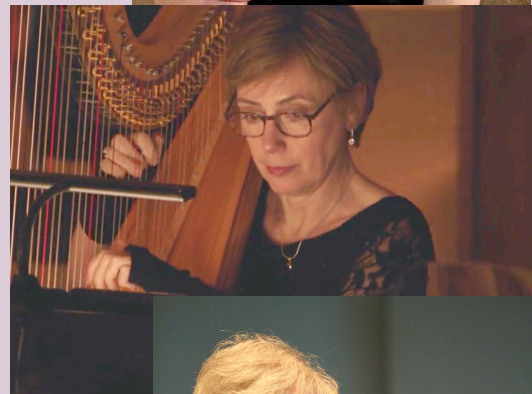
Julian Metzger – Cello

Tickets £15 available from




<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1542169844519?aff=oddttdtcreator>

or at the door

Email huntcam2015@gmail.com



Church Services for September 2025

DATE	Gt Abington 	Lt Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
7 September	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Philemon 1–21 Luke 14.25–33
14 September	11.15am Communion		11.00am Harvest Café Church	Psalms 14 Luke 15.1–10
21 September		11.00am Harvest Communion	6.00pm Taizé Service	Jeremiah 8.18– 9.1 Luke 16.1–13
28 September	6.00pm Evening Prayer		Harvest Communion	Jeremiah 32.1– 3a, 6–15 Luke 16.19–end

Regular midweek services: Silent Space followed by Compline, 7.00pm, every Tuesday at Hildersham

Creative Church: 10.00am, Sunday 28 September, Abington Institute

Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
7 September	Lizzie Menzies	Mrs Miles and Mrs Gilmour	Mrs Newble
14 September	Lizzie Menzies	Mrs Miles and Mrs Gilmour	Mrs Huntsman
21 September	Sally Smith	Mrs Crisp and Mrs Mead	Mrs Huntsman
28 September	Sally Smith	Mrs Crisp and Mrs Mead	Mrs Palmer

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