



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

October 2025



Photo: Miles Craven

**Volunteers in action at Little Abington churchyard
(see page 7)**

From the Editor

It's officially autumn and there are two significant events to note this month apart from local activities and entertainment. First, Ian Richardson is organising the community oil order, with a deadline of 9 October. See page 6 for full details. And second, our clocks go back one hour at 2.00am on 26 October – an extra hour in bed to see in the new season.

There is an autumnal note to many village events. The traditional Festival of Running takes place on Sunday 5 October. Details of the morning's road closures are on page 8. On Friday 17 October, the Harvest Supper will be held in the Village Institute (see page 7) and before the end of the month, the Poppy Collection will begin, leading up to Remembrance Sunday in November (page 8). Hildersham church events include a Bingo Evening on Friday 10 October (page 18) and the return of monthly Tea & Cake afternoons, starting on 20 October (page 5). Granta Vale Harmony is giving a concert on 9 October, featuring a wide range of popular music and local artists (page 16). Entry is free but donations are welcome and will go to charity.

The cover photograph shows the team of volunteers who have been taking care of the churchyard in Little Abington every fortnight for several months. Details of what they do to maintain the churchyard are on page 7.

Finally, many apologies for the error in the bin collection dates in the September issue of the *News* and thank you to the keen-eyed reader who immediately notified me about it. I hope most people saw the correction posted on the village Facebook page. Feedback, especially when it is so useful, is always welcome!

Sally Simmons

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

From the Seven Churches

As the last of our Harvest Festivals are celebrated and the final tables of bread, fruit and flowers are cleared away, October feels like something of a pause. It is the month when fields are gathered in, evenings draw closer and the colours of autumn deepen all around us. There is a gentle slowing to life, a moment to catch our breath and to notice the subtle beauty in the changing landscape. The golden light on the trees, the rustle of fallen leaves underfoot and the crisp, cool air all invite us to reflection and gratitude.

Harvest is always a reminder of how much we depend on one another and on God's provision. Thank you to everyone across our villages who helped make this season so special – from decorating our churches, to providing food for suppers, singing in our choirs, welcoming visitors and supporting local charities. These acts of generosity and community are as much a part of harvest as sheaves of corn and baskets of apples. In them, we see God's love made tangible, reaching into the lives of those around us.

October is also a month of change. Leaves fall, temperatures drop and routines settle after the busyness of summer. Change can be challenging, unsettling even, but it can also be a gift. The beauty of autumn reminds us that God is with us through every season – in the flourishing of summer, the fruitfulness of harvest and the quieter, reflective days of autumn. There is encouragement here to embrace the transitions in our own lives, trusting that God's presence brings meaning and peace, even when the rhythm shifts.

And, just over the horizon, Advent waits. In only a few weeks we will turn our eyes to hope and light, preparing for the coming of Christ. October offers us the gift of in-between time – a season to pause, give thanks and be ready for what lies ahead.

May this autumn season bring you peace, gratitude, and the quiet joy of knowing God's presence in the changing rhythms of life, in every leaf, every gathering and every moment of stillness. Blessings always.

Revd Hannah Threlfall

From the Vicarage

For centuries, the churches of St Mary's and St Mary the Virgin have stood at the heart of our villages – places of worship, history, community gathering and quiet reflection. Like many historic churches, we face the challenge of caring for these beautiful but ageing buildings, so they remain open, safe and well-loved for generations to come.

We are exploring the idea of forming a Friends of Abington Churches group – a community of people who value our churches, our community and want to help support them, whether through time, practical skills, fundraising or financial donations. You don't need to attend services to be a Friend – you just need a love for our churches and our village community and what they mean to our villages.

On 27 October we will be holding an open evening at The Abington Institute at 7.00pm. This will be a chance for you to learn more about the group, how you might be able to help and ask questions. Samuel Pedlar, the Church Community Advisor for Ely diocese, will be on hand too and light refreshments will be served.

We have put together a questionnaire that is available in the shop and the churches. This is your opportunity to share how you use or view the churches, your thoughts on their future and your interest in the Friends scheme. Your views will help us plan so these buildings remain places of welcome, beauty and service for all.

It really would mean so much to hear thoughts, views and exciting ways forward and projects – please do take the time.

Thank you for helping us look to the future with hope.

Revd Hannah

News from the Pews – Abington and Hildersham

October has plenty of opportunities to gather, celebrate, and enjoy time together.

On Friday 17 October, Abington Churches will host the Harvest Supper at Abington Institute, always a highlight of fellowship and wonderful food and a quiz! The charity to be supported by the evening is Jimmy's Cambridge – a community-based charity that provides support, food and a safe space for those facing homelessness.

This month's Creative Church will be held on Sunday 26 October at Abington Institute. As always, it will be a wonderful morning of enjoying bacon rolls and croissants, sharing a Bible story and getting stuck into fun activities and crafts. October's theme is 'Our World of Wonders', focusing on all things bright and beautiful – stars, seas, forests and all creatures!! Please do join Revd Hannah and Rosemary Mead as they lead you through the session. We will begin with breakfast at 9.30am, ready for a 10.00am start!

27 October – Friends of Abington Group information evening. A chance to learn more, join and ask questions. Light refreshments served.

Family Fun Bingo on Friday 10 October, 6.00–8.00pm at Hildersham Church – a lively evening for all ages, with prizes, a raffle and lots of laughter. See page 18.

At Hildersham, we are bringing back a monthly Tea & Cake Afternoon on the third Monday of the month, starting 20 October, 3.00pm–4.30pm. This will be a chance to meet familiar and new faces, share homemade cakes and enjoy some relaxed conversation. Families are especially welcome, with toys and crafts available.

Also at Hildersham, there will be a Taizé Service on Sunday 19 October at 6.00pm – a time of calm, stillness and reflection through prayer and simple, meditative chants.

October services at the Abingtons

Sunday 5 – United Communion Service, Balsham, 11.00am

Sunday 12 – Communion, Great Abington, 11.00am

Sunday 19 – Morning Worship, Little Abington, 11.00am

Sunday 26 – Creative Church, Abington Institute, 9.30am breakfast for a 10.00am start

Sunday 26 – Evening Prayer, Little Abington, 4.00pm

October services at Hildersham

Sunday 5 – United Communion Service, Balsham, 11.00am

Sunday 12 – Café Church, 11.00am

Sunday 19 – Taizé, 6.00pm

Sunday 26 – BCP Communion, 11.15am

Creative Church!



Sunday 28 October, 10.00am at Abington Institute

Come and explore Our World of Wonders with the Revd Hannah and Rosemary Mead on Sunday 26 October at Abington Institute. We will be starting at the **new time of 9.30am** with breakfast, leading to storytelling, song, crafts and science activities for the curious minded from 10.00am. If you are new to the village, do come along. You are assured of a warm welcome.

Hildersham Church News

Remembering Gwendoline Cutter, 1935–2025

Mum would have been very humbled by the number of people who came to her funeral and her allotment Silver cross pram brought a smile to everyone's face as they chose a decoration for their Christmas tree. We all know how much Gwen loved Christmas. She would have been forever thankful for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support for her family.

Mum was born in Sheringham, the daughter of a fisherman and member of the lifeboat crew. She came to Hildersham when she was three and from that day onwards the beautiful little village became home – and what a wealth of stories she had to tell about all the changes this little village saw in those 80-plus years.

Dad came from Abington and they married in 1955. They didn't have an easy life but they were very happy and always made the best of what they had.

Mum was a real country girl and loved the outdoors, gardening and allotmenting well into her 80s. She provided the church with extremely beautiful flower arrangements when it was her turn on the rota. Now she is laid with the love of her life. Mum and Dad together for eternity.

Angela Thomas, Gwendoline's daughter

Christmas Craft Fair

We are hoping to have a Christmas craft fair in Hildersham Church and would be pleased to hear from any local crafters who would be interested in being part of these pre-Christmas festivities.

Christian Aid Collection 2025

Thank you everyone for supporting the Christian Aid collection earlier this year. We raised nearly £700 for the appeal to support resilient farming methods in Guatemala.

Joan Greenham, 1930–2025

Many thanks to Karen Ellis for sending the celebrant's reading at Joan's recent funeral.

Joan was born on 13 February 1930 at The Old Post Office in West Wratting. She was the youngest of five girls in a family of seven children. At the age of around four, Joan and her family moved to a cottage next to the school house in Great Abington. The house had a big cellar and on wet days Joan loved to play down there with her brothers and sisters. They were often joined by other village children who were sent round to play while their mums got on with housework.



The family then moved into one of the newly built council houses in Church Lane, Little Abington, just before the start of the war. It was actually two houses joined into 1 to accommodate the large Thurbon family. A few years later, despite being a large family, the house also became home to two sets of evacuee children who joined them, first from Richmond and then the East End of London. Joan remained lifelong friends with one of the girls, Peggy, after her return to her family and they kept in touch by phone, letters and visits.

At the end of the war, Joan left school and went to work in a little factory in Abington at the Four Went Ways. Two years later, she met a young man while out for a walk with her little niece, Pat. He had a raging toothache and she stopped to chat with him and give him some advice for his tooth. Ted was an agricultural worker, working in the village to clear land after the war. A second meeting, a week later, revealed Ted hadn't followed Joan's instructions but that he'd taken pliers from his toolbox and pulled out the tooth himself! Joan must have been impressed by this as romance blossomed and in April 1949 the couple were married in Little Abington church and went to live in Royston. There they began their family, which over the years grew to five boys – Dicky, David, Ronald, Gerald and Peter – and finally their only girl, Karen.

Ted and Joan moved back to the family home in Abington when her father was ill and this was where they settled, Ted driving lorries up and down the country and Joan raising the children and keeping an eye on her elderly neighbours. In 1978 Joan wanted to return to work and found a part-time job in the laundry at the YMCA in Cambridge. It was a job she loved right up until she retired in 1995, after having lost Ted a few years earlier. The 1980s saw Joan and Ted enjoying holidays in their bright orange and white camper van. Each summer they would pack it full of essentials and head south for two weeks of touring. They loved meandering through the seaside towns and villages of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, stopping whenever they found a breath-taking view where they could enjoy fish and chips or a cream tea!

In 1996, Joan moved into her little bungalow and was very happy there until a diagnosis of vascular dementia progressed, so that she was no longer able to continue living alone. After two years of being cared for by her family, Joan moved into a care home in 2023, having spent almost 90 years being an Abington girl.

Community Oil Order

Ian Richardson will take orders for domestic heating oil up to the end of Thursday 9 October. The order will be placed on Friday 10 October, with expected delivery within two weeks. Please provide Ian with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, postcode and telephone number. Email abingtonoil@icloud.com or tel. 07592 731 591.

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

Ukraine has been defending its independence since 24 February 2022 and will be marking Ukraine Defenders Day on 1 October – a poignant day for all Ukrainians, whether they are displaced to a different country or still in their homeland.

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

Collection for Ukraine 8 November

Rotarian Tony Collett is arranging another collection at Abington Primary School on Saturday 8 November. Please look out for details in next month's *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*.

A fine morning's work!

Since Spring, you may have noticed changes afoot in the churchyard at St Mary's, Little Abington. Our happy band of volunteers has been hard at work cutting the grass, clearing neglected areas, creating wildlife habitats, weeding, uncovering long-lost graves and generally keeping the place loved and cared for, while also encouraging biodiversity. As a result, it has become a lovely place to wander and relax. Why not go along one day and see for yourself?

With guidance from the Wildlife Trust's Churchyard Conservation Scheme, the aim for the coming year is to continue to improve natural habitats for a range of wildlife, while also making a Quiet Garden and other spaces where visitors can unwind and reflect. Similar plans are underway for the churchyard in Great Abington.

Come and join us! It's a great chance to get outdoors, keep active, have fun, meet new people and make friends. Contact Miles Craven at milescraven@yahoo.com.

Abington Churches Harvest Supper

Friday 17 October at 6.30pm

in Abington Village Institute

2 course meal + tea/coffee

Tickets £10 per person

available from Churchwardens Patsy,
Mary or Marilyn

Raffle in aid of Jimmy's Night Shelter

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 Next date: Tuesday 14 October	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 date: Tuesday 28 October
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Abington Lunch **Thursday 23 October 2025**

Fruit juice
Roast pork with apple sauce
Yorkshire pudding
Seasonal vegetables
Poached pears and chocolate sauce
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 0794 101 6543 **before noon** on Tuesday 21 October. 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 27 November 2025.

Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal 2025

As our glorious summer moves to autumnal tones, so the plans for the Poppy Appeal are moving forward.

The appeal starts on **25 October and finishes on 11 November**. House to house collections will take place during this period.

Poppy boxes will also be in various venues around the villages.

More Poppy Appeal collectors are needed. If you would like to help the appeal or would like to know more about collecting for the Poppy Appeal please contact me, tel. 07908 029 078 or email westfield11@aol.com.
Joan Nevin

Abington Festival of Running – Sunday 5 October

Just a reminder that there will be road closures on Sunday 5 October along the route of this year's run. 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. We will endeavour to keep any inconvenience to you to a minimum.

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

The Abingtons and Hildersham News on the website

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

District and County Councillors' Reports September 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

The process to merge District and County Councils into Unitary Authorities is proceeding. All local authorities in Cambridgeshire will have to submit their suggestions for how best they see a new local government structure working in the county. There are currently three proposals on the table:

Option A:

- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & East Cambridgeshire.
- Fenland, Huntingdonshire & Peterborough.

Option B:

- South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City.
- East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland & Peterborough.

Option C:

- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & Huntingdonshire.
- Fenland, Peterborough & East Cambridgeshire.

The District Council's preference is Option B, which would leave us in an administrative partnership with Cambridge City only. This is largely what currently happens, with many services already shared between the two authorities.

Ultimately, central government will make the final decision so the business cases being drawn up will be highly important to influencing this decision.

Kingsway Solar Farm

The application for a new solar farm in the vicinities of West Wratting, Weston Coville and Carlton is moving forward. The next step will be that the applicants, Kingsway Solar, will release some actual detail (not just lines drawn around fields on a map) into the public domain. This detail will then be publicly consulted via a formal consultation. This is a very important stage of the process as the responses to this will form a part of the planning application that is submitted to a planning inspector. We would strongly advise everyone to engage with this consultation, once it's open, as this potential development will affect us all in some way, regardless of proximity to the solar sites.

The formal consultation began on 17 September and will run until 29 October

Wastewater Treatment Works

You may have read in the local press that the proposed relocation of the wastewater treatment works has been cancelled by government due to the rising costs. A result of this is that the District Council now needs to find another site that can deliver circa 5000-6000 houses to ensure that the Local Plan (the housing development plan for the next 30-ish years) remains sound. The likely site that is the front-runner to replace this is Grange Farm to the north of the A1307 in Abington and adjacent to the A11. This is TBC, and dependent on lots of other factors, but is currently the local authorities' preferred site.

Greenway

The next phase of the Linton to Babraham greenway (the new-ish foot/cycle/horse path adjacent to the A1307) is to connect the path from Linton Village College to the recreation ground. This will be routed down Joiners Road to link up with the new footpath there. The engineering assessment work is currently being undertaken here with a view to commissioning the work in the coming months.

At the other end of the Greenway, the route via Abington to reach the A11 road crossing on Newmarket Road is currently re-looking at the route options for this. The original idea to route this through the village was dismissed following a public consultation. The route around Pampisford Road also has its issues, mainly due to land ownership and cost. Other options are currently being looked at by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP).

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Diary for October 2025

Wed	1	Yoga Line Dancing	9.30am 12.45pm	11 11
Thu	2	Walking Group Granta Vale Harmony	9.50am 7.30pm	12 11
Sun	5	Festival of Running	10.00am	8
Mon	6	Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates	9.15am 9.30am	12 11
Tue	7	Art Group Evening Pilates	10.00am 7.00pm	7 19
Wed	8	Yoga Line Dancing	9.30am 1.00pm	11 11
Thu	9	Deadline for Community Oil Order Granta Vale Harmony Free Concert	7.45pm	6 11
Fri	10	Low-impact Aerobics Pilates Bingo Evening – Hildersham Church	9.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	11 11 18
Mon	13	Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Abington and Hildersham WI	9.15am 9.30am 7.30pm	12 11 13
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Hildersham Art Group Tuesday Club Evening Pilates	9.40am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm	7 19 12 11
Wed	15	Yoga Line Dancing The Abington Group	1.00pm 7.30pm	11 11 13
Thu	16	Craft Group Granta Vale Harmony	1.30pm 7.30pm	13 11
Fri	17	Low-impact Aerobics Pilates Harvest Supper	9.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	11 11 7
Sat	18	Walking Group Abington History Group	9.50am 2.00pm	12 13
Mon	20	Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Social Cycling – 1 Bourn Bridge Road Tea & Cake Afternoon – Hildersham church	9.15am 9.30am 9.30am 3.00pm	12 11 11 5
Tue	21	Art Group Evening Pilates	10.00am 7.00pm	19 11
Wed	22	Yoga Line Dancing	1.00pm	11 11
Thu	23	Abington Lunch Granta Vale Harmony	12.45pm 7.30pm	8 11
Fri	24	Low-impact Aerobics Pilates Film Nights – doors open 7.00pm	9.30am 10.30am 7.30pm	11 11 13
Sat	25	Film Nights Children's Matinée –doors open 2.00pm	2.00pm	13
Sun	26	Creative Church British Summer Time ends – clocks go back one hour	10.00am 2.00am	5
Mon	27	Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Friends of Abington Churches	9.15am 9.30am 7.00pm	12 11 4
Tue	28	Mobile Library, The Abingtons	9.40am	7

		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
Wed	29	Yoga	9.30am	11
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	11
Thu	30	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	31	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11

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 October 2025

Thursday lunchtime 12.00 noon–2.00pm (2, 9, 16, 23 – **Abington Lunch**, 30)

Friday morning 8.45am–11.00am (3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (4, 11, 18, 25)

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

Wheelie bin dates for October 2025 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Wed 1	Wed 8	Wed 15	Wed 22	Wed 29
Blue/Green	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 28 October 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

Our September ride was cancelled due to the high winds. We would have been all right going in one direction! The next ride will be on Monday 20 October from 1 Bourn Bridge Road meeting at 9.30am.

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

At the AGM in September the decision was taken to pause the autumn talk programme but to continue the summer garden visits. We hope to resume the talks at some point.

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

Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group

This welcoming group runs every Monday during term time 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.

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. May get messy but aprons are available. Tel. 01223 894.246 or email abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com for more information.

The Tuesday Club

On 14 October at 2.00pm there will be a talk by Judith Large from the Hedgehog Sanctuary (TBC). On 28 October we will have a baked potato lunch and Sandra Hall will give a talk on the Iron Man Event. Please note a 1.00pm start for this meeting.

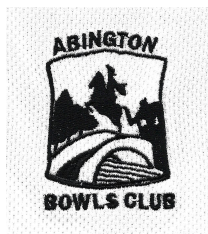
All are welcome at our meetings and the first attendance is free. For more information please contact Jenny Milns (tel. 890252).

Abington Walking Group



Our most recent walk took us around Swards End. The October walks will be on Thursday 2 and Saturday 18 October. 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 – Bowling Along Nicely, Thank You



We left you last month with our season in the balance, on the cusp of success or failure, with four competitions unresolved. So you, dear reader, have had a month of worrying and wondering how it went. Well, I can now tell you that all four of Schrödinger's bowls are alive and kicking, for the end of the season has brought us much success.

In Division 3 of the Cambridge & District League a strong finish to the season (winning 6–1 in both of our final two matches) gave us hopes of finishing second in the table behind the University Press. We had to wait for all our rivals' results to come in but 24 hours after our last bowl came to a halt it was confirmed that we had secured second place by a single slender league point. And with it, promotion to Division 2 for next year. In 2019 we were in Division 5 – and two years were lost to Covid – so our rise has been steady.

We also achieved a silver medal second place in the Business Houses Men's Pairs League, where our fine record of nine victories from 11 games was not enough to take the championship but is nevertheless a tribute to how well the team played during the season.

Success comes in many forms. Winning Division 2 of the Business Houses Open Pairs League last year was definitely a success, but so too was our performance this year in Division 1. Promotion to the higher division had brought much harder games, so our success in retaining our

place among the elite and avoiding immediate relegation (if only by one point) is to be applauded. Next season we can aim to climb the table.

Fourthly and finally, the twin cherries on the cake our successful season, the partnership of Roy Mallows and Graham Gentle, won the Business Houses 2-4-2 Pairs competition. Well done to the two of them.

And well done, also, to all the bowlers of the Abington Bowls Club for giving us a terrific season and for upholding the honour of the village down on the green. Graham Ross, Hon. Sec.

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

In September we welcomed Margaret James, author of *No Way Home: A Novelised Memoir*, a semi-autobiographical novel based on her experiences of living in Saudi Arabia in the 1980s. Her husband was appointed architect to build a settlement for the Saudi National Guard, so Maggie took a teaching post in a dysfunctional private school for Muslim expatriates. There were few teaching materials, so she relied on her ingenuity to educate her pupils. Daily life in Saudi proved to be a steep learning curve. There was no public entertainment and large gatherings were discouraged. Sometimes there were Hash Harrier events or camel races attended by the king. At weekends the family would go to the food, carpet or gold souks. (Saudi women wore their wealth in gold under their robes.) Sometimes they went with friends to the desert sandhills – great for tobogganing and kite flying but dangerous and terrifying in a storm when you can see nothing through the swirling sand and you become separated from your daughter, as happened to Maggie. Eventually the little girl was found, but a hard lesson was learnt.

A challenging quiz tested our knowledge of deserts around the world – not our best subject but I think we are all now a little wiser!

Members were reminded that it is their turn to organise the November meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 13 October at 7.30pm in the Village Institute – Rosalind Franklin, the dark lady of DNA, with Alan Osborne. Visitors and new members always welcome.

Marilyn Broadhurst

The Abington Group (Ladies)

The Abington Group will start their new season on Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 7.30 pm on the Terrace of the Village Institute. Anne Applin will entertain us with her musical talk entitled 'Pianists at Sea – anecdotes and music from cruising with piano duets'.

The annual subscription for the season from October to May (not December) is £15 and will be due at this first meeting. Visitors are always welcome and pay £3, including refreshments. For more information, please email fredaorgee@gmail.com.

Freda Orgee, Coordinator

Abington Craft Group

The next meeting is on Thursday 16 October at 1.30pm. Please bring your own projects. We will also be continuing 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. Friday 24 October, 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm). Children's Matinée Saturday 25 October, 2.00pm.

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

Abington History Group



The group's 25th anniversary free event and launch of the latest publication *Aspects of Abington History 5* and the 2026 Village Calendar will be held in the Institute on Saturday 18 October, 2.00–5.00pm. The afternoon will feature a rolling slide show of old Abington photos and various displays relating to the history of the villages. Refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

MUGA Renewal Project



In last month's issue we reported that funding is in place to allow renewal of the Multi-Use Games Area on Abington Rec. Now the selected contractors, Caloo, have given an estimated start date of 20 October. The MUGA will of course have to be out of use once Caloo start work. The school is kindly allowing the contractors to have a secure area within their site thus minimising disruption on the recreation ground. Please be aware of, and respect, any signs relating to the work during the construction period when using the recreation ground. It is likely that the final top surface and court markings will not be completed until the warmer weather in the spring. The project has been funded by Great Abington Parish Council and The National Lottery Community Fund. Keep an eye on social media for updates.

Trees and hedges

Now is a good time to trim back your trees and hedges to provide a clear way for pedestrians and to avoid obscuring streetlights as the nights draw in. Thank you.

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

Planning Applications

25/03455/HFUL 33 South Road – Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a part single storey part two storey side extension. First floor front extension.

25/02163/CONDA Submission of details required by conditions 3 (external materials), 4 (ecology enhancement), 5 (biodiversity net gain plan), 8 (construction environmental management plan), 9 (surface water and foul water) and 10 (contamination) of planning permission 25/02163/S73.

25/03315/OUT Land west of Moorefield Close off Pampisford Road – Outline planning application for residential development of up to 40 dwellings and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except for access.

24/04542/CONDB 55 North Road – Submission of details required by conditions 3 (external materials) and 4 (cycle parking) of planning permission 24/04542/S73.

District Council decisions

25/01552/CLUED The Old Pump House 44A North Road – Certificate of lawfulness under S191 for an existing basement contained within the footprint of the dwelling.

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 17 November 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).

Little Abington Parish Council

Meeting 22 September

The September Parish Council meeting was held as the October issue of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* went to press. A full report will appear in the November issue.

The agenda for the September meeting included:

- Planning applications
- 20 mph speed limit
- Resurfacing Millennium Bridge and path
- Update on Perse School property
- Update on combining the Parish Councils
- Update on Linton Greenway
- Village environment
- Committee reports
- Village maintenance

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next Meeting: Monday 24 November

If you would like to participate in a meeting please contact the clerk. The meeting agendas and papers are on the noticeboard on Church Lane.

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

Hildersham Parish Council

Report on the meeting held on 15 September 2025

The Council employed a new grass contractor to cut the grass in August as the previous year's contractor was unable to take on the verge maintenance. It took longer than expected to find a new contractor as most were too busy to cut the grass the verges in Hildersham.

The Council is awaiting the outcome of a bid submitted for funding to improve the approach to the hazardous Back Road crossroads, which has been the location of collisions in the last few months.

The Environment Agency Coordinator for the Great Ouse, Rob Clapman, has advised the council that 'dredging the river would offer limited flood-risk benefit to the Hildersham community and could be environmentally damaging... Excess silt accumulates because the river lacks the energy to transport it downstream. Removing silt artificially creates a temporary "sink" that quickly refills and can cause destabilisation of existing bed/banks, leading to unsustainable cycle of maintenance.'

County and District Councillor Henry Batchelor recommended that local residents participate in the formal consultation for the Kingsway Solar Farm, which runs until 29 October. Your comments could influence amendments to the final plans and would be seen by the planning inspector making the decision. The solar farm would take three years to build. Cllr Batchelor advised the council to consider the likely impact on Hildersham village, as there may be mitigation.

Cllr Batchelor suggested that the building of the Grange Farm development with 5000+ houses near Little Abington was looking more likely and it would be in the new Local Plan. However, it was possibly dependent on the Babraham travel hub being built. The issue with the travel hub is that although the government will be providing funding for this project, it has now been decided that this would be in the form of a loan to the Local Council.

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11 November in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk.

Granta Vale Harmony



Open Evening Concert

*Thursday 9 October at 7.45pm at the Abington Village Institute
CB21 6AE*

*Come along for a FREE evening of great music and song with
Granta Vale Harmony,*

*The Fantastic Americana/Folk Duo Kelly&Wooley
and the Ladies of
Cambridge Harmony Chorus*

*Songs by the Beatles, Billy Joel, John Denver, Sting
The Drifters and many more*

Free Entry

*Donations on the Evening to
SICK Children's Trust Acorn House*

For more info contact Peter peterlester12@gmail.com .0788493221



Reminder

British Summer Time ends at 2.00am on
Sunday 26 October. Turn your clocks,
watches, etc., **back** one hour.



Granta Medical Practices Update October 2025

Are you booked in for your 'flu jab yet?

If you are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination, it's not too late to book into one of our 'flu clinics running throughout October. While you are here we can also check if there are any other vaccines you may be eligible for. Ring now on 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.

And finally, it's time for me to say goodbye. After 17 years, I am hanging up my NHS hat! It has truly been both a privilege and a pleasure to work in primary care. While we are all aware of the many challenges facing GP practices and the wider NHS, I feel very proud to have played my small part in it all. I will greatly miss my colleagues and, of course, all of you.

With kindest regards.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child collection week this year is 10–17 November. Boxes or items can be dropped off at my house Saturday 15 November when there will be a shoebox filling party and cake sale at Great Shelford Free Church. Donations of cakes will be gratefully received but do come along to help pack the boxes – it is great fun. Boxes and leaflets will be available from me and in the porches of the village churches. Please contact me if you would like to know more. Jane Furlow 07745 046 921

Abington Churches Christmas Fayre, Saturday 29 November

Do you own or work for a local business? Would you like to advertise in our Christmas Fayre Programme?

The Programme will be delivered free of charge to every household in Abington and Hildersham and to the seven churches in Granta Vale Benefice at the end of October.

Please contact Marilyn Broadhurst, email: broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com.

October Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
5 October		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
12 October	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wratting</i>	Holy Communion <i>Balsham</i> Harvest Songs of Praise <i>Weston Colville</i>	
19 October	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wratting</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	
26 October	Pet Service <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>Weston Colville</i>	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



**Friday 10 October
6.00–8.00pm
Hildersham Church**

£10 per bingo book – 6 games per round, 6 rounds in total
Bring your dabbers or buy them for £1!

★ Plus an extra cash prize round! ★
Lots of prizes to be won!

 Raffle with top prizes! 

Fun for all ages

Bring your own snacks & refreshments (glasses too!)



Everyone welcome
come along for an evening of laughter, community and fun!

For more details contact Revd Hannah Threlfall, tel. 01223 481 090
revthrelfall24@outlook.com

Church Services for October 2025

DATE	Gt Abington 	Lt Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
5 October	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Lamentations 1.1–6 Luke 17.11–19
12 October	11.00am Communion		11.00am Café Church	Jeremiah 29.1,4–7 Luke 17.11–19
19 October		11.00am Morning Worship	6.00pm Taizé Service	Jeremiah 31.27–34 Luke 18.1–8
26 October	4.00pm Evening Prayer		11.00am Communion (BCP)	Psalms 119.129–136 Luke 4.16–24

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

Creative Church: 10.00am, Sunday 26 October, Abington Institute

Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
5 October	Jill Talbot	Mrs Orgee	Mrs Palmer
12 October	Jill Talbot	Mrs Orgee	Mrs Long
19 October	Nadia Brown	Mrs Snell and Mrs Hayden-Smith	Mrs Long
26 October	Nadia Brown	Mrs Snell and Mrs Hayden-Smith	Ms Melloy

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