



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

November 2025



Photo: Luda Harkava

**Field poppy in Little Abington: 'We will remember them'
(see pages 4, 5, 9, 17)**

From the Editor

November is synonymous with remembering. It begins with All Souls' Day, marked this year on 3 November with Services of Hope in Little Abington and Balsham (pages 20, 18), closely followed by the traditional nudge to 'remember, remember... gunpowder, treason and plot' on Guy Fawkes' Day. Remembrance Sunday, when we remember those who died in past wars and continuing conflicts around the world, falls on 9 November (page 20), while the continuing Poppy Appeal ends on 11 November. The war in Ukraine will soon be entering its fourth year and it's perhaps appropriate that this month's cover photo, taken in late September, is by a Ukrainian guest who has lived in Abington for the past three years. Saffron Walden Rotary has organised a collection for Ukraine on Saturday 8 November (page 6). The annual appeal for children and young people in care encourages us to think of them at Christmas. Please see pages 9 and 17 for ideas for suitable gifts for all ages and how to present them.

The news that the Arthur Rank Hospice is scheduled to lose several beds as a result of cuts to its funding has caused considerable concern locally. MP Pippa Heylings has started a petition in support of the hospice. Her explanation of the issue, and how to sign the petition, are on page 18.

Hildersham Church Council and Friends of Hildersham are asking for administrative support. If you have some hours to spare, please see page 5 for details.

The Christmas Fayre will be held in the Village Institute on Saturday 29 November and a programme will be arriving with this month's *News*. On that day many of us will be remembering George Woodley, Abington's Father Christmas for so many years, who died earlier this year and is much missed.

Sally Simmons

Contents

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| From the Seven Churches, From the Vicarage, News from the Pews | 4 | Social Cycling, Granta Vale | 12 |
| Creative Church, Hildersham | 5 | Harmony, Baby & Toddler Group, | |
| Church News, Just a Minute!, | | Tuesday Club, Walking Group, | |
| Ukrainian Community in Abington | | Bowls Club, Gardening Club | 13 |
| | | WI, TAG, Craft Group, Film Nights, | |
| | | Merger of Parish Councils: update | |
| Rotary Collection for Ukraine | 6 | Great Abington Parish Council | 14 |
| Abington Annexe Community | 7 | Little Abington Parish Council | 15 |
| Care, Abington Lunch, Mobile Library | | | |
| Councillors' Report, Balsham | 8 | Granta Medical Practices Update, | 16 |
| Singers | | Christmas Fair, Hildersham | |
| Appeal for Children in Care, | 9 | Christmas Gift Appeal | 17 |
| Festive Meal | | | |
| Diary for November | 10 | Church Services, Arthur Rank | 18 |
| Café, Bins, Yoga, Aerobics/Pilates, | 11 | Hospice petition: message from | |
| Evening Pilates, Physio Pilates, | | Pippa Heylings MP | |
| Line Dancing, Scrabble Club | | | |

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

From the Seven Churches

The words 'Safeguarding Training' mostly elicit either blank incomprehension or a heavy sigh. Those whose work puts them in contact with children or vulnerable adults, will certainly know about these training sessions, which they must attend, often yearly. They need these safeguarding skills to help protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse and neglect; skills to recognise risks and to respond appropriately when abuse is suspected. But many, rarely coming across such abuse in their work, may sigh and wonder if this isn't simply another 'checkbox' exercise.

Nevertheless, as we learn daily from the news, the effect on victims of abuse can be profoundly damaging; and the fallout for those suspected of being abusers, and for their wider circle of family and friends, can be disastrous. These aren't risks we can take lightly.

As a member of the ministry team serving our local churches, I'm also obliged to attend regular Diocesan Safeguarding Training. And to be honest, in the past I've also sighed deeply. For each year they seem to make it more and more demanding. I guess though, given the shocking record of how churches have handled (or hidden) abuse in the past, that's understandable.

Yes, the Church is rather like any other social institution. And yes, as such, reputations matter. Moreover, if we can't prove that the 'staff' are up to date with their Safeguarding Training, and all the risk assessments have been completed then, God forbid, our insurers might not pay out if there is a disaster.

Yet, much more importantly, I must not forget that our 'welcome' into these buildings and congregations is God's welcome into the Church He founded and sustains. That God has welcomed us into the safety of His love and life means that 'safeguarding' this space is no tedious nor defensive obligation, but an essential witness to God's continuing presence among us. And this year, as our annual reminder that we must all take our part in ensuring our welcome is indeed into a 'safe space', Safeguarding Sunday will be held on 16 November.

Alistair Collen

From the Vicarage

I always see November as a month of remembering and preparing. We begin with the solemn beauty of Remembrance Sunday, as our community gathers to honour those who gave their lives in the cause of peace. We stand together in silence, remembering the past but also praying for peace in our own time. It is always deeply moving to see young and old standing side by side, united by gratitude and hope.

And then preparing! In the midst of shorter days and falling leaves, we begin our quiet preparations: the planning, the lists, perhaps even the first mince pies! As the month moves on, our thoughts begin to turn towards Advent and Christmas – a light in the darkness, candles and carols, and then to that timeless story of love that comes to dwell among and within us.

November, a month of reflection and anticipation - a month for memory and for hope. May it be, for each of us, a time to pause, to give thanks, and to prepare our hearts for the joy that is to come. With every blessing.

Revd Hannah

News from the Pews – Abington and Hildersham

Our annual Service of Hope will be held on Monday 3 November at Little Abington. Although our loved ones are remembered and held in our hearts every day, this service is an opportunity to be together for quiet reflection, remembering those whom we have loved and lost in our families and community; an opportunity to say thank you to God for the good times we shared with them throughout their lives. Within the service there will be readings, poems, music and prayers, along with lighting candles and placing flowers in memory of each person who has passed away. Light refreshments will be served after the service, so you can stay and share memories of your loved ones.

The Friends of Holy Trinity, Hildersham, are excited to be organising their first Christmas Fair, on Friday 5 December, 5.00–8.00pm. It will be a wonderful evening full of festive cheer! With local craft stalls, mince pies, mulled wine and live music, all held in the atmospheric glow of candlelight. Please do note the date in your diary and come along to find special gifts, enjoy the beauty and celebrate the start of the Christmas season with friends and neighbours.

November services at the Abingtons

Sunday 2 – United Communion Service, Balsham, 11.00am

Monday 3 – Service of Hope, Little Abington, 6.00pm

Sunday 9 – Remembrance Sunday Service, Great Abington, 10.45am

Sunday 16 – Holy Communion, Little Abington, 11.00am

Sunday 23 – Creative Church, Abington Institute, 9.30am; Evening Prayer, Little Abington, 4.00pm

Sunday 23 – Holy Communion, Great Abington, 11.00am

November services at Hildersham

Sunday 16 – Taizé, 6.00pm

Sunday 23 – BCP Communion, 11.00am

Creative Church!



Sunday 23 November, 10.00am at Abington Institute.

Please come and join Revd Hannah and Alistair France to explore the theme of 'Remembering'. We will be starting with breakfast at 9.30am, leading to storytelling, song, crafts and a science activity. There will be an opportunity to bring a brand new Christmas gift for children in care who will receive no presents at Christmas but yours. If you are new to the village, do come along. You are assured of a warm welcome.

Hildersham Church News

If you missed our Family Bingo evening in October, make sure you look out for the next one. It was a fabulous evening of fun and laughter and gave as much joy to the callers as they watched the attention on the players' faces as they got closer to a 'line' or a 'full house'.

There will be a Quiz Night in Hildersham Village Hall on Friday 21 November – fizz on arrival, pie at the halfway point, a raffle, tables of eight, bring your own snacks and drinks. £10 per person. Please contact Amanda Palmer amjpalmer@gmail.com for more information.

We will also be having our second Tea and Cake Afternoon on Monday 17 November, 3.00–4.30pm in the Village Hall. This is an opportunity to get together with tea and home-made cakes and games for children. This month we are asking you to think about young people in care as we approach Christmas and to bring a gift in a bag for these young people who have no family to think about them. Last year Hildersham, Abington and Granta Park collected over 2,000 gifts, which were delivered to many young people (see pages 9 and 17).

Just a Minute!

Hildersham Church Council and the Friends of Hildersham need some assistance. Could you help us? We need someone, working as a self-employed contractor, to help us produce agendas and documents, take minutes of meetings and maintain membership records for the Friends along with other administrative tasks. Meetings (approx. one per month) are held in the evenings and last two hours. You will need to provide your own equipment and office space and, other than when attending meetings, organise how you provide the agreed contracted service. This will be a paid position based on an hourly rate.

For further information, please contact Keith Day at keithdday@btinternet.com or tel. 01223 891 527 for further details.

Ukrainian Community in Abington

Six Ukrainians are living in Abington with hosts or independently. Most Ukrainians who have sought sanctuary in the UK are now living independently and have integrated into the community.

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.

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

UKRAINE COLLECTION

**SAT 8TH NOV
9AM-1PM**

**AT ABINGTON SCHOOL,
HIGH STREET, CB21 6AE.**

GOODS NEEDED INCLUDE:

**EVERYDAY CANNED AND DRIED
FOOD, BABY FOOD
MEDICAL AID, TOILETRIES
COOKING UTENSILS, TORCHES &
BATTERIES
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IN
GOOD CONDITION
SHEETS, BLANKETS (NOT PILLOWS
AND DUVETS)**


**CLEANING MATERIALS
TOYS, GAMES & EDUCATIONAL
ITEMS
CASH DONATIONS
WELCOME**

SUPPORTING BY;



ORGANISED BY: WWW.ROTARY-SW.ORG

SUPPORTING: WWW.UK-AID.ORG

Rotary 
Saffron Walden

100
ANNIVERSARY
1925-2025

UK-AID
Folsted Aid for Deprived Children
Charity Registration No. 1099750



Abington Annexe Community Childcare

September and October were busy months for Abington Annexe Community Childcare.

Jumble sale – a massive thank you to everyone who supported our jumble sale on 20 September. Between us we raised £425. Also, thank you to the kind parent who took the remaining items to a car boot sale and raised a further £50.

Cake sale at Abington Festival of Running – a very successful morning and lots of cakes sold raising an impressive £350.

Donation – one village member made a money donation to us and we have bought a Lifevac anti-choking device, some foam bricks and other items for our outdoor preschool construction area. With the money raised at the cake and jumble sales, we bought a wooden teepee hut with a workshop for the outside Preschool area.

We also desperately need to buy a washing machine, a new shed and plates, bowls and cups for the children, so please keep a look out for our next fundraising event.

Times are really tough for small charities at the moment, and we are so lucky that we live in this wonderful community. Whether you have given a donation of money, time, jumble or cakes, or supported any of our events, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Emma Roper, Administrator, Abington Annexe Community Childcare



Abington Lunch Thursday 27 November 2025

Fruit juice
Cottage pie
Seasonal vegetables
Tiramisu
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 01223 891 464 **before noon** on Tuesday 25 November. 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 22 January 2026.

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 11 November | 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 25 November |
|--|--|

District and County Councillors' Reports October 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.

There was subsequently a late submission, spearheaded by the MPs in Peterborough, for a fourth option:

Option D:

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

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.

The current timeline on this is:

November 2025 – Councils need to submit their preference and the corresponding business case to government.

May 2026 – District Council elections take place, on the current local authority boundaries.

May 2027 – Elections for the new 'shadow' unitary authority take place.

May 2028 – The new unitary authorities come into power.

Acorn Biodigester

Those who have been following the progress of this planning application for an anaerobic digestion plant just outside Haverhill may recall that Suffolk County Council refused the application in June this year. The applicants, Acorn, have now indicated that they are going to appeal this decision and have instructed their planning agents to do so. We can expect this issue to resurface in the coming months. Watch this space.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Balsham Singers



Rehearsals are well under way for our 30th anniversary Christmas concert at 4.00pm on Saturday 13 December in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham.

Tickets, to include seasonal refreshments, are £12 (under 16s £1) and are available NOW at Balsham and Abington Post Offices and online <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers>.

Appeal for Christmas Gifts for Children and Young People in Care plus Women's Aid in Cambridgeshire

November is a month for remembering as autumn fades and winter beckons. It is also a time for looking ahead to Christmas celebrations with family and friends. But many children and young people will be facing a very different reality where remembering is painful, filled with loss and a lack of love and security. Please will you spare a thought for all women, children and young people who have experienced suffering and trauma this year through no fault of their own. Cambridgeshire social services are looking after an increasing number of unaccompanied children escaping conflict zones in the world. We have been running this appeal for a number of years and your generosity has exceeded all expectation. Last year, we collected over 2,000 gifts for children and each gift brightened a child's or young person's life.

The young people of Hildersham Children's Church Council, in conjunction with Love Abington and the churches in Abington and Hildersham are leading this appeal. We are delighted that Biomed Realty, on Granta Park, has generously offered to join the appeal again, through their Give a Gift scheme, and we hope to collect even more donations this year so that we can offer a larger number of gifts of clothing for women and young children, toiletries and toys to Women's Aid.

Last year, you gave some thought to young people aged between 18 and 25 who are leaving care and often get forgotten at Christmas. They were immensely grateful for your thoughtfulness. If you would like to donate to this age range again, here are last year's suggestions for gifts given to us by Personal Advisors for the care leavers: chocolate, gloves, hat, scarf, football, gift card towards a sports shop purchase, art kit, blanket, backpack, toiletries, book token, notebook/journal and pen, gift card for the cinema, slippers, dressing gown. We are aware that the gift must fit people's budgets. However, if people would like to club together with friends, family or work colleagues, Social Services mentioned that young people also need second hand bicycles and repurposed tech, e.g. laptops, phones, tablets.

Please imagine what a woman who has fled her home or a child or young person of a certain age would need. Once you have bought a gift, **do not wrap it**. Please put it in a gift bag with a label on the outside saying whether it is for a boy or girl. If it is a gender-neutral present, such as colouring pencils and a sketchbook, please state 'girl or boy'.

Social Services and Biomed Realty would like to receive all the gifts by the last week in November so that they can be personally distributed in time for Christmas Day.

Please bring your gift to **Creative Church in the Abington Village Institute from 9.30am on Sunday 23 November**. Alternatively, please bring your gift to **St Mary's Church Little Abington on Sunday 23 November between 2.00pm and 4.00pm** or to **Hildersham Village Hall on Monday 17 November between 3.00pm and 4.30pm** and join us in all venues for tea and cake.

If you are unable to deliver your present on the day, please email Rosemary Mead (leonardavmead@hotmail.com) or Amanda Palmer (amjpalmer@gmail.com) to make other arrangements.

Thank you for your wonderful generosity. The children in care and those looked after by Women's Aid will be so delighted that someone is thinking about them and has remembered them.

Rosemary Mead and Amanda Palmer

Festive Meal 2025 at Granta Park – Tuesday 16 December, 6.00pm

BioMed Realty is once again working with Love Abington to provide a special Festive Meal for local people in the Apiary Restaurant at Granta Park. All residents of the Abingtons and Hildersham are invited to apply for a free ticket via a ballot. If you would like to apply, please complete a form (available from the Abington Stores) and post it in the ballot box. Alternatively, you can email your name(s) – maximum two – address, telephone number, and any special dietary, mobility or transport needs to broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com with the subject heading Festive Meal 2025. There are 70 tickets available. The ballot box will be opened on Sunday 30 November and the lucky ticket winners will be notified at the beginning of December.

Diary for November 2025

| Date | | Venue: Abington Institute unless stated | Time | Page |
|------|----|---|---------|------|
| Mon | 3 | Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates GAPC | 9.15am | 12 |
| | | | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 7.30pm | 14 |
| Tue | 4 | Art Group | 10.00am | 19 |
| Wed | 5 | Yoga Line Dancing | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 1.00pm | 11 |
| Thu | 6 | Walking Group Granta Vale Harmony | 9.50am | 12 |
| | | | 7.30pm | 12 |
| Fri | 7 | Low-impact Aerobics Pilates | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 10.30am | 11 |
| Sat | 8 | Ukraine Collection – Primary School | 9.00am | 6 |
| Mon | 10 | Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Abington and Hildersham WI | 9.15am | 12 |
| | | | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 7.30pm | 13 |
| Tue | 11 | Mobile Library, Hildersham Art Group Tuesday Club Evening Pilates | 9.40am | 7 |
| | | | 10.00am | 19 |
| | | | 2.00pm | 12 |
| | | | 7.00pm | 11 |
| Wed | 12 | Line Dancing | 1.00pm | 11 |
| Thu | 13 | Granta Vale Harmony | 7.30pm | 12 |
| Fri | 14 | Low-impact Aerobics Pilates | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 10.30am | 11 |
| Mon | 17 | Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Social Cycling – 1 Bourn Bridge Road Tea & Cake Afternoon – Hildersham Village Hall GAPC | 9.15am | 12 |
| | | | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 9.30am | 12 |
| | | | 3.00pm | 5 |
| | | | 7.15pm | 14 |
| Tue | 18 | Art Group Evening Pilates | 10.00am | 19 |
| | | | 7.00pm | 11 |
| Wed | 19 | Yoga Line Dancing The Abington Group | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 1.00pm | 11 |
| | | | 7.30pm | 13 |
| Thu | 20 | Craft Group Granta Vale Harmony | 1.30pm | 13 |
| | | | 7.30pm | 12 |
| Fri | 21 | Low-impact Aerobics Pilates Quiz Night – Hildersham Village Hall Film Nights – doors open 7.00pm | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 10.30am | 11 |
| | | | TBC | 5 |
| | | | 7.30pm | 13 |
| Sat | 22 | Walking Group | 9.50am | 12 |
| Sun | 23 | Creative Church | 10.00am | 5 |
| Mon | 24 | Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates LAPC | 9.15am | 12 |
| | | | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 7.30pm | 14 |
| Tue | 25 | Mobile Library, The Abingtons Art Group Tuesday Club – Lunch at The George, Babraham Evening Pilates Scrabble Club | 9.40am | 7 |
| | | | 10.00am | 19 |
| | | | TBC | 12 |
| | | | 7.00pm | 11 |
| | | | 7.00pm | 11 |
| Wed | 26 | Yoga Line Dancing | 9.30am | 11 |
| | | | 1.00pm | 11 |
| Thu | 27 | Abington Lunch Granta Vale Harmony | 12.45pm | 7 |
| | | | 7.30pm | 12 |

| | | | | |
|-----|----|--|-------------------|----------|
| Fri | 28 | Low-impact Aerobics Pilates | 9.30am 10.30am | 11 11 |
| Sat | 29 | Christmas Fayre | 1.00pm | |

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 November 2025

Thursday lunchtime 12.00 noon–2.00pm (6, 13, 20, **27 – Abington Lunch**)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

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

Friday morning café to close at the end of October... unless...



Jeremiah's Community Friday café has been run by Mary Miles and Sylvia Gilmour for so many years it is an institution – a very valuable one that has served several parts of our community well. The morning runners, the mid-morning Pilates class and the mums and dads dropping off children at school have all been there. But sadly no longer. After the last Friday in October this session of the café is to close as Mary and Sylvia hang up their aprons. We wish them well and thank them so much for their tireless weekly community service.

Theirs is a hard act to follow. Fridays are often quiet but the scones and drinks are great value and Mary and Sylvia have always been prepared to chat, so we need an exceptional duo to replace them. **If anyone is interested in providing a weekly Friday morning community service, please do contact me, Helen Howe, to discuss this.** Email helenstchowe@btinternet.com.

Wheelie bin dates for November 2025 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

| Wed 5 | Wed 12 | Wed 19 | Wed 26 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 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 25 November at 7.00pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Next meeting: 27 January 2026.

Sheena Fraser

Social Cycling

Unfortunately, the weather has been conspiring against us and Monday 20 October was wet and horrible so third time lucky when we meet on Monday 17 November at 9.30 am at 1 Bourn Bridge Road. We will probably cycle to the Riverside Café at Little Chesterford for an All-day Breakfast!
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 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

Our November meetings are as follows:

On 11 November at 2.00pm there will be a game based on Room 101.

On 25 November members will attend The George at Babraham for Christmas lunch. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

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

Abington Walking Group



This month's walks will be on Thursday 6 and Saturday 22 November. If you would like to know in advance where we will 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



Our season is over and to round it off nicely Graham Gentle and Roy Mallows received their trophy for winning the Business Houses 2-4-2 Pairs competition at the Business Houses AGM on Friday 17 October.

Graham Ross, Hon. Sec.

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 & Hildersham Women's Institute

In October we were pleased to welcome several visitors for our talk by Alan Osborne about Rosalind Franklin, the Dark Lady of DNA. We knew that Francis Crick and James Watson were awarded a Nobel Prize for their discovery of the structure of DNA but learned that much of the research carried out by Rosalind was crucial. Born in London in 1920 to a Jewish family, she excelled at school, going up to Cambridge in 1938 to study chemistry, but Cambridge women were not awarded degrees at that time. In 1948 she joined British Coal – the only woman researching coal molecules and carbon crystals. Throughout her life, research teams were dominated by men. She did not make friends easily and science was her passion. In 1947 she moved to Paris working as an X-ray crystallographer. She loved France but in 1951 went to work on DNA research at King's College, London with Randall and Wilkins. In 1952 Crick and Watson created a DNA model at Cavendish laboratory but this was ridiculed by other scientists. Rosalind wrote a report and produced the famous Photo 51 showing the double helix but did not publish it. Unknown to her, Wilkins showed her notes and the photo to Crick and Watson and four days later they created the DNA model. Rosalind continued her research into virus molecules in plants but became ill with cancer and died at the age of 37. The original blue plaque outside the Eagle pub credited only Crick and Watson with the discovery of DNA structure. In 2023 a new plaque finally acknowledged the great contribution made by Rosalind Franklin.

Next meeting Monday 10 November at 7.30pm – members' evening with Graham Wylde and The Maggie Letters.
Marilyn Broadhurst

The Abington Group (Ladies)

The Abington Group will meet on Wednesday 19 November at 7.30pm in the Main Hall of the Village Institute. Gurdeep Minhas, a research scientist, will give a whistle stop tour of his research at the MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit, Cambridge, entitled 'Powering Life'. Visitors welcome. Annual subscription (£15) is due. Visitors are always welcome and pay £3, including refreshments. For more information, please email fredaorgee@gmail.com.

Freda Orgee, Coordinator

Abington Craft Group

November's Craft group will be on Thursday 20 November at 1.30pm. We will be concentrating on stall gifts. All welcome. Please come and see us at the Abington Churches Christmas Fair or at the evening event at Hildersham on Friday 5 December. 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 21 November, 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm).

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

Parish Councils Merger Update

The District Council's Civic Affairs Committee will consider the responses to the initial consultation at its meeting on 23 October 2025. The Committee is recommended to agree to the following:

- Electoral arrangements: the number of councillors could be reduced to nine, six to represent Great Abington and three to represent Little Abington;
- Parish Council name: to gauge whether Abington Parish Council should be the name adopted by a new grouped parish council;
- Impact on existing assets and arrangements: to ask for views;
- Impact on community identity and cohesion: to ask for views.

Following the Civic Affairs Committee's decision, there will be a further round of consultation from 23 October until 18 December.

Tony Orgee

Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

Parking on the High Street

The Parish Council has received growing concerns about parking on the High Street. Vehicles parked on pavements are obstructing access for pushchairs and mobility scooters, making it difficult and unsafe for residents. At other times, cars parked along the road have prevented buses from passing through, causing delays and inconvenience. This is especially problematic during peak hours and school runs. The Council politely reminds all drivers to be careful when parking on the High Street. Please avoid blocking pavements and ensure there is enough space for larger vehicles to pass safely.

Planning

Please attend a planning meeting if you would like to make a comment that we can consider in our debate before agreeing on the Parish Council's recommendation to SCDC. If you have views on a planning application, you should also make your comment on the South Cambs website (link below) as this will ensure that the planners take your views into consideration in their decision-making. For more information on the applications, use the reference given below at:- <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Planning Applications

25/03655/FUL Illumina Centre Granta Park – Installation of a storage container with surrounding timber fence and timber louvered roof to match adjacent service compound.

25/03655/FUL Illumina Centre Granta Park – Installation of an extract ventilation through existing roof.

25/03637/FUL Abington Lodge 63 High Street – Installation of photovoltaic panels, an inverter and associated infrastructure.

25/03325/CLUED Land At 16 Chalky Road – Certificate of lawfulness under S191 for retrospective permission for the installation of an agricultural septic tank and soakaway.

District Council decisions

25/00360/CONDA 55 North Road – condition 7 (sustainability) of planning permission
25/00360/S73 – agreed.

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 meetings: Monday 3 and 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

Opposition to Kingsway Solar Farm

The Parish Council has joined the Kingsway Solar Community Action, a group of parish councils and other organisations and individuals opposing the installation of a solar farm and overhead line connections to the national grid on over 1,200 hectares (3,000 acres) of farmland near Balsham, West Wratting, Weston Colville and other villages, plus a corridor to Burwell. For full details go to kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk.

Litter picking

If anyone in the village – a community group or a few friends – would like to do some litter picking we can lend you the equipment: pickers, gloves, bags and hi-vis jackets. Get in touch with Sheila Bolden (details below). The bin bags will be collected so you don't have to add them to your own black bin.

Overhanging branches

Please cut back any shrubs and trees that overhang pavements and footpaths or obscure street lighting.

Urgent need for foster carers

Nexus Fostering is urgently seeking additional foster carers. Full training is provided, along with ongoing support and financial allowances. The Cambridge office hosts free fostering information events each month, providing a perfect opportunity to meet the team and chat over a cup of tea about fostering. Call 01223 903 503 or visit the website: www.nexusfostering.co.uk/cambridge.

Meeting on 22 September

County Councillor Henry Batchelor raised concerns about the proposed housing development at Grange Farm regarding services for waste water and clean water supply. We discussed the Kingsway Solar Farm and the clerk was asked to enquire about the involvement of Cambridge Water. It was noted that proposed Block A, located north of the village on the far side of the Roman Road, would affect Little Abington directly due to transport movements.

Planning applications

25/01828/HFUL 4 Bourn Bridge Road. Two-storey front and side extension, single-storey rear extension, alterations to fenestration including addition of Juliet balcony to the rear first floor and east elevation first floor new window. Approved by SCDC.

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

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

Website: www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk

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.

Granta Medical Practices Update November 2025

Make sure you're protected this winter

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they've had them this winter. Each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria:

- RSV vaccine – for anyone who is pregnant, aged 75–79, or anyone who turned 80 years old from 1 September 2024.
- Pneumococcal vaccine – for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).
- Flu vaccine – for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled person or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.
- COVID-19 vaccine – for anyone aged 75+; those aged between six months and 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment; and people who live in a care home for older adults.

The shingles vaccine is only available to people who:

- turned 65 on or after 1 September 2023
- are aged 70 to 79
- have a severely weakened immune system.

Full information on the shingles vaccine, and who can get it, is available at www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/shingles-vaccine.

To find out more about these vaccines, and how to book them, or find a walk-in clinic, please visit The Vaccinators website <https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators>. Communications Team cpicb.comms@nhs.net, tel. 03300 571 021, www.cpics.org.uk



CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL



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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE ABINGTON

on

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23rd

where there will be afternoon tea 2.00pm – 4.00pm

or

HILDERSHAM VILLAGE HALL

on

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17th

where there will be afternoon tea 3.00pm – 4.30pm

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

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

November Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

| DATE | 9.30am | 11.00am | 6.00pm |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| November 2 | | United Communion <i>Balsham</i> | |
| November 3 | | | All Souls <i>Balsham</i> <i>Little Abington</i> |
| November 9 | Communion <i>West Wickham</i> | Remembrance Sunday <i>Balsham</i> <i>Weston Colville</i> | |
| November 16 | Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wratting</i> | Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i> | |
| November 23 | Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> | Communion <i>Balsham</i> | |
| November 30 | Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wratting</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, Wednesday–Saturday | 9.30am Holy Mass |
| Tuesday | 7.00pm Holy Mass |
| Sunday | 8.45am and 11.15am Holy Mass |

Arthur Rank Hospice

A message from Pippa Heylings MP




Over parliamentary recess I took the opportunity to meet and hear from residents and organisations in South Cambridgeshire. One issue has dominated – the serious funding cut facing the Arthur Rank Hospice. This wonderful organisation, which provides vital end of life care for the terminally ill, is being forced to plan for the closure of nine of its 23 beds – a reduction of 40% of its inpatient capacity. At the time of writing, the hospice is facing a funding deficit of £829,000.

Together with fellow MPs Charlotte Cane and Ian Sollom, I have set up a petition to call on the government to save these vital palliative care beds. Over 14,000 people have signed our petition calling for a rethink, with 4,500 signatures in just the first 24 hours! I have been so heartened by the extraordinary response of residents as news of this became public. This is a resounding call to action that has been well reported in the media.

Given the level of response and the concern shown, our petition is now addressed directly to the Prime Minister as well as to the Secretary of State for Health. If we can get more signatures, we plan to hand in the petition to Number 10 Downing Street – so please do sign it here www.pippaheylingso.org.uk/campaigns/save-arh-beds and share as widely as you can to save these precious Arthur Rank Hospice beds and the skilled staff who provide the care for them.

If you would like to help the hospice further, you can find details to donate to their Protect our Care campaign at www.arhc.org.uk/donate.

Church Services for November 2025

| DATE | Gt Abington  | Lt Abington  | Hildersham  | Readings |
|-------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| November 2 | 11.00am United Service at Balsham | | | Ephesians 1.11–end Luke 6.20–31 |
| November 3 | | 6.00pm All Souls | | |
| November 9 | 11.00am Remembrance Sunday Service | | 11.00am Café Church | Micah 4.1–5 Matthew 5.1–12 |
| November 16 | | 11.00am Communion | 6.00pm Taizé Service | Psalms 98 Luke 21.5–19 |
| November 23 | | 4.00pm Evening Prayer | 11.00am Communion (BCP) | Colossians 1.11–20 Luke 23.33–43 |
| November 30 | 11.00am Communion | | | Psalms 122 Matthew 24.36–44 |

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

Creative Church: 10.00am, Sunday 23 November, Abington Institute

Church Flower Rota

| | Gt Abington | Lt Abington | Hildersham |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| November 2 | Carole McCrae | Mrs Franklin and Mrs Broadhurst | Ms Melloy |
| November 9 | Carole McCrae | Mrs Franklin and Mrs Broadhurst | Mrs Crampin |
| November 16 | Patsy Randall | Mrs Kilcommons | Mrs Crampin |
| November 23 | Patsy Randall | Mrs Kilcommons | Ms Melloy |
| November 30 | Advent – no flowers | | |

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 |