



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News

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

January 2026



## From the Editor

This issue of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* went to press just before Christmas and just after the shortest day of the old year, during which we have had to say goodbye to several long-term residents. Tributes to two who have left us over the past winter months, Peter Miles and Malcolm MacDonald, are on page 6. Looking ahead, classes and clubs are resuming after the holiday; Ian Richardson is organising another community oil order (deadline 16 January – page 7); the refurbished hard court (MUGA) is reopening (page 15); and the Friends of Hildersham Church are hosting a seasonal evening of ghost stories, told by candlelight, on 24 January (page 8).

Not an item in this month's News but a significant event for anyone interested in what is planned for Grange Farm: there will be a public presentation and Q&A session about this proposed major development in the Institute at 7.00pm on Wednesday 14 January.

At the end of 2025, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed items to the News over the past year, both regularly and occasionally, and to invite anyone who would like to suggest ideas for future issues, or to become involved in the production of the News, to contact me at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk).

The appearance of the 'yellow magazine' every month is a team effort by many largely unseen volunteers. Three proofreaders (Kay Harman, Richard Smith and Fiona Snell) take turns to put my mistakes right and Pat Wallman is in charge of distribution, liaising between the printer and the large team of deliverers who put the News through our doors. Huge thanks are due to BioMed Realty, which continues to meet the printing costs, and of course to Olly Plumridge of E. E. Plumridge Ltd, who turns the magazine round in record time every month, often to a very tight deadline.

On behalf of the team, I wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Sally Simmons

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All items for the February 2026 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Thursday 15 January 2026 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk).

## From the Seven Churches

If, like me, you begin to get a bit fed up with sometimes hardly seeing the daylight, the feast of the Epiphany, marked on 6 January, is one of our great festivals of light – and a reminder that the days are starting to get longer again. It has long been associated in the West with the arrival of three ‘wise men’ – the magi – in Bethlehem. It’s a story that only the gospel writer Matthew tells.

Epiphany, though, originally commemorated Jesus’ baptism, the occasion on which he miraculously turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana and the presentation of Jesus at the temple. The visit of the magi was in fact a later addition to the celebration but it’s funny how things become tradition very quickly.

Over time, these events became separated out and, I might say, their meaning became a little diminished as a result. That’s a pity, as they are all bright, focused moments that proclaim to us: God is here – ‘Emmanuel’. However, the stories are still read in services during our Epiphany season, through to very early February. By that time my dog will hopefully be getting two walks in daylight per day.

The word epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning ‘manifestation’ – or an appearance, a coming, a revelation. These events are manifestations of God.

As we mark the feast of the Epiphany, we might reflect on a couple of things. First, that the magi ‘from the East’ were gentiles. They were not part of the Jewish tradition into which Jesus was born. So even here, at this very early stage in the story of Jesus, we are given to understand that God’s love reaches beyond traditional boundaries. It reaches to people who are not part of our own community. Second, if our understanding of Epiphany includes not only the conclusion of the wise men’s long trek to a stable in Bethlehem but also the baptism of Jesus and his first miracle at Cana, then perhaps we are reminded that Epiphany is not the end of a journey; it’s only the beginning.

Alastair France

## News from the Pews – Abington and Hildersham

As we step into a new year, we’re also introducing a small change to our parish newsletter. From January onwards, ‘News from the Pews – Abington and Hildersham’ will replace ‘From the Vicarage’. As always each month, a member of the ministry team will share a short reflection, update or thought from the life of our churches of our benefice, keeping us connected to one another and to the rhythms of benefice/parish life.

We hope you had a joyful and restful Christmas, filled with moments of light, warmth and celebration. As the decorations are packed away and the pace of life eases, January often feels like a quieter month — but that isn’t a bad thing. Quiet can be a gift. It gives us space to pause, to breathe and to look ahead with hope and intention.

The church year reminds us that God is at work not only in the busy and joyful moments, but also in the stillness. As we begin this new year together, we do so with gratitude for all that has been and with trust for what is yet to come.

We wish you a very happy and peaceful New Year from both of our churches and look forward to journeying together through the months ahead.

**Tea and Cake afternoons** It has been an utter joy to reinstate this gathering on the third Monday of every month, 3.00pm–4.00pm at Hildersham Village Hall. Please join us from both the Abingtons and Hildersham. It is a wonderful time to meet familiar and new faces, share homemade cakes and enjoy some relaxed conversation. Families are especially welcome, with toys and crafts available. Upcoming dates are 19 January, 16 February, 16 March and 20 April.

# Creative Church!

**Sunday 25 January 2026 9.30am at Abington Institute.**



This month we will focus on A New Year and New Starts! Please do join Revd Hannah and Rosemary Mead as they lead you through the session – storytelling, song, crafts and friendship. Everyone is very welcome. We will begin with breakfast at 9.30am, ready for a 10.00am start!

## Hildersham Church News

### Christmas cheer is evident in our village

Yet again we would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who donated gifts for our Give a Gift appeal for refugees and children and young people in care (see photo). Social

services were, as usual, delighted with the huge response from our villages and Granta Park. We hope that there were many excited young people this Christmas who received a present they were not expecting and possibly their only one.



### Christmas craft market

Our inaugural craft market organised by The Friends of Hildersham Church set the bar high for what we hope will be the first of many. The church was a treat before you entered as the light from candles and fairy lights twinkled through the stained glass as you meandered up the path to the door.

The atmosphere was so warm and welcoming, as were the mulled wine and mince pies that everyone was able to enjoy as they wandered around the various craft stalls and purchased some original Christmas gifts.

Not only did the twinkling of lights greet the visitors on their arrival but the tinkling notes from our talented string trio drifted on the evening air.

Definitely a diary entry for next year.

## January services at the Abingtons

Sunday 4 – United Communion Service, 11.00am (Balsham)

Sunday 11 – Holy Communion, Great Abington – 11.00am

Sunday 18 – Holy Communion, Little Abington – 11.00am

Sunday 25 – Creative Church, Abington Institute – 9.30am; Evening Prayer, Little Abington – 4.00pm

## January services at Hildersham

Sunday 4 – United Communion Service –11.00am (Balsham)

Sunday 11 – Café Church – 11.00am

Sunday 18 – Taizé Service – 6.00pm

Sunday 25 – Holy Communion, BCP – 11.00am

## Peter Miles

My family and I have been overwhelmed by the many tokens of love and sympathy given and shown since Peter died at the end of November. Thank you everyone.

Peter loved this village where we have lived for 56 years and we shall continue to see his legacy of that involvement all around; from the Village Institute, to the school, the Out of School club buildings, play area and church.

In past years Peter was very involved in the creation of the Institute Society, the production of dramatic performances and taking a leading part in social events such as the week-long celebrations for the late Queen's Silver Jubilee and the reintroduction of the Abington Feast the following year.

Peter enjoyed life and lived it to the full, especially when taking part in his post-retirement adventure of joining the BT Global Challenge, billed as the world's toughest yacht race. During subsequent years he was always ready for the next new project or inventive scheme. Peter will be sorely missed but always remembered with a smile.

On Friday 2 January friends and family are invited to drop into the Village Institute between 11.00am and 3.00pm to celebrate, in Peter's name, a life well lived.

Mary Miles

## Malcolm MacDonald – a tribute of behalf of the Abington Bowls Club

Malcolm was a long-time member of the Abington Bowls Club, stretching back over nearly 30 years, He first turned out for us in the 1990s and his passing leaves a big hole in our sporting lives. But amidst our sadness at losing Malcolm, we can console ourselves with the thought that he was able to keep playing his much-loved bowls to the very end. And by that I do not mean that he played the occasional game. Very far from it – during our four-month 2025 summer season he played for the team 25 times – only one other ABC player (with 26 games) turned out for us more often. As well as a good friend, we have lost a major player in the team.

Whatever the sport, any village selector from time to time scrabbling to raise a team needs players on whom he can rely. For me and for ABC Malcolm was that person. I knew that I could count on him. And even when not selected, he would be ready to step into the breach at a moment's notice in an emergency. I shall miss him next year for the selfish reason that his absence will make my task the heavier.

In 2024, when the Open team won promotion to Division 1 of the BH Pairs League, Malcolm was chosen to accept the Division 2 trophy on our behalf of the Club at the League Awards ceremony because he had the best record of all ABC members who played in that competition.

For much of the past few seasons Malcolm played in the Dream Team – a nickname given to the triple made up of Graham Gentle, Jean Gwynne and Malcolm. They acquired this nickname during one remarkable season when their long run of success more or less carried the rest of the team to what

success we had. No sporting success endures, of course, so a time came when the Dream Team became as other mortals but for a while Malcolm was part of a legendary moment in our history. The photo is of Malcolm's last scorecard – a typically big win over Trumpington in our final promotion-winning match of the season.

We shall all miss him.

Graham Ross – Secretary ABC

## Sumatra Flood Disaster – appeal



The scale of the Sumatra flood disaster is overwhelming. The affected area in Aceh is even bigger than the 2004 tsunami. But this time, it wasn't only Aceh that has been affected. While the loss of life might be lower, the suffering left behind is immense. The needs of the survivors are staggering and far beyond what most can imagine.

Our teams on the ground are working relentlessly day and night. They are sourcing supplies, hiring trucks, packing by hand and driving it deep into devastated communities. What they are witnessing is heartbreak. Entire areas and villages have been destroyed and washed away. The level of devastation defies words.

We managed to get aid in and it brought relief to some families. But more than one million people are still in desperate need. Small trucks barely make a dent in the scale of help that is required. There is still no international assistance. What we see instead is extraordinary humanity. Local people with almost nothing left helping one another to survive. Tomorrow the trucks will be loaded again. And the day after that, and the day after that, we will keep going for as long as people continue to donate. Because the people of Sumatra cannot be left to face this alone.

Children Of-Sumatra, a UK registered charity, has operated in Indonesia for years. They were in the Tsunami disaster in 2004 and they are there now. Please help us to do our work. Every little helps and is greatly appreciated. You can either donate on our website (below) or contact Norma Sinaga Marshall (07896 628 493) for more details.

Thank you.

Children Of-Sumatra <https://childrenofsumatra.org/donate/>

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

A big thank you to all of you who donated to this year's Poppy Appeal. A wonderful £2,104.74 was raised by cash, contactless terminal and QR code donations in this district. Thank you also to the volunteers who gave their time to collect for the Poppy Appeal. Your donations mean the Royal British Legion can continue helping servicemen and women, veterans and their families. One area of support is help for mobility independence with equipment, home adaptions and family support.

Joan Nevin

## Community Oil Order

Ian Richardson will take orders for domestic heating oil up to the end of Thursday 15 January. The order will be placed on Friday 16 January, with expected delivery within two weeks. Please provide Ian with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, postcode and telephone number. Please email [abingtonoil@icloud.com](mailto:abingtonoil@icloud.com) or phone 07592 731 591.

## **Hildersham Jam Stall**

In 2025, we donated £506 to East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH). Victoria Goldsmith, Senior Community Fundraiser, sent a really lovely thank you email. She wrote, 'You're the jammiest bunch we know', thanked us for our 'sweet contribution, which helps spreading care and comfort' and our 'generosity, the perfect recipe for making a real difference'. She signed off with 'heartfelt thanks and a spoonful of appreciation'. I'm sure she had fun composing that!

EACH keeps in touch and regularly sends copies of its newsletters, which are displayed on the stall.

We welcome donations of homemade jam, marmalade and chutney and homegrown produce. If you're feeling adventurous and would like to make a batch of preserves for the stall, we'll supply jars and sugar. Thank you so much to all our supporters who make this charity donation possible.

Jill Heale, tel. 893 596, [edheale@btinternet.com](mailto:edheale@btinternet.com)

# **An Evening of GHOST STORIES By Candlelight at Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham on Saturday 24 January at 7.30pm**

Stephen King, M.R. James, Charles Dickens

Read by David Hart and Steve Murray from the Outspoken Theatre Company.  
Steve and David are familiar faces to Hildersham, having performed in the Shakespeare plays in  
The Old School Woods at Hildersham Church.

Tickets £10 available at the door or from  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ghost-stories-by-candlelight-tickets-1966127522346?aff=oddtdtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ghost-stories-by-candlelight-tickets-1966127522346?aff=oddtdtcreator)  
Price includes refreshments.  
In Support of The Friends of Hildersham Church

## **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 13 January**

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 27 January**

# District and County Councillors' Reports December 2025

## Local Plan

The District Council has recently released its draft Local Plan, which is the development plan for the next 20 years and indicates the parcels of land in South Cambridgeshire that it considers can accommodate housing and commercial development to feed the population and economic growth during this time.

As previously reported, the major development in our area is a site north of Abington called Grange Farm, which could accommodate up to 6,000 new houses. This would be a significant development in our area, as it would represent a new town, about three times the size of Linton.

The reason this is proposed here is that the location is deemed to be 'sustainable', as it's close to employment sites like Granta Park and Babraham Research Park and is also located on major roads – the A1307 and the A11.

The public consultation on this draft document went live on 1 December and will run until 30 January. Please do encourage anyone that has a view on the Grange Farm site, or any of the others proposed, to engage with this.

There is also a raft of in-person sessions where you can speak with a planning officer about anything specific. There is a list of all of the events, as well as the consultation form, on the Local Plan webpage – <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan>

## Contact details

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

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



## Abington Lunch Thursday 22 January 2026

Fruit juice  
Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding  
Seasonal vegetables  
Trifle  
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 0794 101 6543 **before noon** on Tuesday 20 January. 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 26 February 2026.**

## Diary for January 2026

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	5	<b>Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe</b> <b>Physio Pilates</b>	9.15am 9.30am	12 11
Tue	6	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Tuesday Club</b>	10.00am 2.00pm	19 12
Wed	7	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	11 11
Thu	8	<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	11
Fri	9	<b>Pilates/Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
Mon	12	<b>Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe</b> <b>Physio Pilates</b> <b>Abington and Hildersham WI</b>	9.15am 9.30am 7.30pm	12 11 13
Tue	13	<b>Mobile Library, Hildersham</b> <b>Art Group</b> <b>Evening Pilates</b> <b>Reading Group</b>	9.40am 10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	8 19 11 13
Wed	14	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Line Dancing</b> <b>Presentation and Q&amp;A on Grange Farm</b>	9.30am 1.00pm 7.00pm	11 11 3
Thu	15	<b>Community Oil Order – deadline</b> <b>Craft Group</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	1.30pm 7.30pm	7 12 11
Fri	16	<b>Pilates/Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
Mon	19	<b>Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe</b> <b>Social Cycling – 1 Bourn Bridge Road</b> <b>Physio Pilates</b> <b>Tea &amp; Cake Afternoon – Hildersham Village Hall</b> <b>Great Abington Parish Council</b>	9.15am 9.30am 9.30am 3.00pm 7.15pm	12 12 11 4 14
Tue	20	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Tuesday Club</b> <b>Evening Pilates</b>	10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm	19 12 11
Wed	21	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Line Dancing</b> <b>The Abington Group</b>	9.30am 1.00pm 7.00pm	11 11 12
Thu	22	<b>Abington Lunch</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	12.45pm 7.30pm	9 11
Fri	23	<b>Pilates/Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
Sat	24	<b>Walking Group</b> <b>Evening of Ghost Stories – Holy Trinity, Hildersham</b>	10.00am 7.30pm	12 8
Sun	25	<b>Creative Church</b>	9.30am	5
Mon	26	<b>Baby and Toddler Group – Abington Annexe</b> <b>Physio Pilates</b> <b>Little Abington Parish Council</b>	9.15am 9.30am 7.30pm	12 11 15
Tue	27	<b>Mobile Library, The Abingtons</b> <b>Art Group</b> <b>Evening Pilates</b> <b>Scrabble Club</b>	9.40am 10.00am 7.00pm 7.00pm	8 19 11 11
Wed	28	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	11 11

Thu	29	<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	7.30pm	11
Fri	30	<b>Pilates/Aerobics</b> <b>Film Nights</b> – doors open 7.00pm	9.30am 7.30pm	11 13

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

**Institute bookings** Contact by email: [institute@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:institute@theabingtons.org.uk).

### **Jeremiah's Café: Opening times in January 2026**

Thursday lunchtime 12.00 noon–2.00pm (8, 15, **22 – Lunch**, 29)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (10, 17, 24, 31)

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

### **Wheelie bin dates for January 2026 (Abingtons and Hildersham)**

Wed 7	Wed 14	Wed 21	Wed 28
Blue/Green	Black	Blue	Black

### **Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am**

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

### **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](http://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**

I am excited to announce my six-week Bone Health Pilates class commencing on Monday 5 January 2026 to 9 February, 11.45am to 12.45pm at the Abington Village Institute. It is specifically designed to support those with osteoporosis or osteopenia or low bone density, and anyone looking to improve their strength, balance and posture. Christiana Heinz, [cambridgepilates@outlook.com](mailto:cambridgepilates@outlook.com).

### **Line Dancing – Wednesdays 1.00pm–2.30pm (term time)**

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

### **Scrabble Club**

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Next meeting: 27 January 2026. Sheena Fraser

### **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](mailto:haverhi11@talktalk.net).

## **Social Cycling**

Our next ride will be Monday 19 January starting at 9.30am from 1 Bourn Bridge Road.  
Gaynor Farrant

## **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 [abingtonannexeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonannexeoffice@gmail.com) for more information.

## **The Tuesday Club**

The events for Tuesday Club in January 2026 are as follows:

6 January: Christmas bingo with cheese and biscuits.

20 January: A presentation from Sandra Hall on the Ironman Event (TBC).

Membership renewal of £5 will be due from January.

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

## **Abington Walking Group**



At this time of year even the best laid walking plans can be disrupted by weather. We beat the rain for our Saturday walk in November and enjoyed a rural route just over 5 miles from Bartlow. The weather did beat us for the Thursday walk but instead of the planned route an intrepid quartet and their dogs completed a route near Sawston and Whittlesford. By the time you read this item we will have enjoyed an Abington Big Breakfast after our walk.

Walking dates for 2026 are now available. Contact Jeff, [j\\_dowling@btinternet.com](mailto:j_dowling@btinternet.com) or Genevieve, email [gdalton365@gmail.com](mailto:gdalton365@gmail.com) for a copy; supplying your mobile number so that we can add you to the Walking Group WhatsApp messages. The first walk in 2026 will be on Saturday 24 January setting off in shared cars from the Abington Institute at 10.00am. Do join us.

## **Abington Craft Group**

A huge, warm thank you to all our makers, members and supporters of the Abington Craft Group in 2025, and to all the donations of materials and equipment. Here's to successful projects in 2026. Everyone is welcome, as are constructive ideas and/or knowledge and skills that lie within our community and that people would like to share. Meetings are held in the terrace in Abington Institute, on the third Thursday of the month, 1.30pm–4.30pm. Light refreshments available. £3 per session. For further information, please contact Glynis Brookman at [glynis.brookman@btinternet.com](mailto:glynis.brookman@btinternet.com) or mobile 07970 614 194. or just pop along.

## **The Abington Group (Ladies)**

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 21 January when Nick Brown and Nadia Marcari-Brown will tell us about their experiences at Wimbledon and how Nick became a member of the prestigious Club. Visitors pay £3, including refreshments. For more information about our programme, please email [fredaorgee@gmail.com](mailto:fredaorgee@gmail.com). Freda Orgee, Coordinator

## **Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute**



To get us into the festive spirit our December meeting began with mulled wine before we tackled the challenge of turning an ordinary face flannel into Cracker, the Christmas dog. With some frustration and amid great hilarity we managed with Philippa's guidance to produce a pack of characterful mutts which after the Christmas festivities will come in useful as face cloths. We tucked into some seasonal refreshments followed by our Christmas raffle, when 3 members in succession managed to draw out their own tickets! There is a dog theme to our January meeting, too, when we will meet Dory, a hearing dog for deaf people. Our WI year ends not in December, but in March with our Annual General Meeting, when we will be looking for new members for the Committee so that Abington & Hildersham WI can

continue to thrive. If you are interested in joining the WI and fancy being part our friendly team, please get in touch or come along to our next meeting on **Monday 12 January 2026 at 7.30pm in Abington Institute** when we will learn all about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf with Angela Saunders. Marilyn Broadhurst

## **Film Nights**

Film Nights at the Abington Institute. Friday 30 January, 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm).

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

## **Reading Group**

13 January	<i>The Dictionary of Lost Words</i> Pip Williams	Kate Auckland
10 February	<i>The High House</i> Jessie Greengrass	Lisa Pechey
10 March	<i>Theo of Golden</i> Allen Levi	Sue Batty

We meet at 7.30pm. Please confirm attendance to the host and copy me in. Valerie Hefford

# Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

## Happy New Year to all our residents

The Parish Council thanks all those residents who, quietly and often unseen, give their time to support the many clubs and organisations that make our villages such great places to live.

## Love Abington

For the past four years, Love Abington has provided some support at Christmas time for residents of Great and Little Abington in the form of food hampers for families in great need and a small present for people living on their own who may experience loneliness and a sense of being forgotten over the Christmas holiday. The Council was pleased to donate towards the cost of this scheme.

## Faulty streetlights?

If you spot any malfunctioning streetlamps, please report them using the link below. You will need to quote the lamp reference number on the lamp post.

<http://www.lightingcambridgeshire.com/contact-us/report-fault.htm>

## 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

25/04535/HFUL – The Old Pump House, 44A North Road, first floor extension.

25/04515/HFUL – 13 Pampisford Road, single storey front, side and rear extensions and alterations, including re-roofing with slates, new fenestration and external wall finishes.

25/04456/FUL – 34 South Road, change of use of existing domestic garage to a gym (business use).

23/00129/CONDA – 33 South Road, submission of details required by condition 3 (materials), 4 (scheme of ecology enhancement), 5 (Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Plan), 8 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) and 9 (surface water and foul water) of planning permission

23/00129/FUL

25/04513/FUL – Land to the north of 14 Chalky Road, change of land to residential use and erect two-storey self/custom build dwelling.

## District Council decisions

25/03655/FUL – Illumina Granta Park, installation of extract ventilation through existing roof.

25/03762/FUL – Illumina Centre, Granta Park, installation of a storage container with surrounding timber fence and timber louvred roof to match adjacent service compound.

## Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

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

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

**Next Parish Council meetings:** Monday 19 January 2026, 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](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com) (892 000).

# Little Abington Parish Council

## Grange Farm development

The public consultation on the draft Local Plan, which includes the Grange Farm development, is live and will run until Friday 30 January: [greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan](http://greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan). Please make your views known.

## Trespassing on Perse fields

The Perse School wishes to point out that the two sports fields at the end of Bourn Bridge Road are private property and any trespassers have no insurance cover. If you see anything suspicious (someone obviously not involved with the school) please report it to Sheila Bolden.

## Meeting on Monday 24 November

Martin Meehan updated us on the Linton Greenway – drawings are more or less complete from the Granta Park roundabout to the top of the High Street, but objections from a landowner prevent him from completing the drawings down to the traffic lights at the Hildersham junction. Despite this, work is expected to start next summer on the first section.

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next Meeting: Monday 26 January 2026

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:cllr.sbolden@littleabington-pc.gov.uk)

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

Website: [www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk)

## New Games Area Open



The re-surfaced and re-fenced multi-use games area (MUGA) on the Recreation Ground is now open for use. All Abington residents are invited to enjoy it and use it responsibly and at their own risk until the work is fully finished and signage is in place.

The renewal project has yet to be completed by application of coloured line marking for various sports but this has had to be deferred to next year and a period of warmer, drier weather.

The MUGA project was financed by the National Lottery Community Fund and by Great Abington Parish Council in the form of so-called section 106 funding.

Thanks are due to Louise Patten and Jill Carter for managing the project on behalf of the Recreation Ground Management Committee and to Abington School Head Guy Underwood for tolerating disruption of school activities so as to allow the contractors access to the MUGA site through the school grounds.

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

Richard Smith, Chair, Abington Recreation Ground Management Committee

# News from Love Abington



A huge thank you to the wonderful people of Abington, Hildersham and Granta Park.

On behalf of Love Abington, the Children's Church Council, the churches in Abington and Hildersham and Becca Keefe from Biomed Realty, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for making such a difference to so many children's and young peoples' lives in Cambridgeshire this Christmas. Our appeal for Christmas gifts for refugee, vulnerable young people and children in emergency foster care in Cambridgeshire produced a wonderful response. We are very grateful to Biomed Realty for their help with the collection and distribution of gifts. But our foremost gratitude goes to the caring, generous communities of the Abingtons and Hildersham who once more rose to the challenge. These young people and children will never meet you but they will now know that there was someone out there who really cared and wanted them to feel loved at Christmas. Your gifts will always be treasured and they may have given them a glimmer of hope in the dark experiences of their lives. Social Services and Women's Aid extend their grateful thanks to you. A special thank you to Revd Hannah, Amanda Palmer and to everyone who helped with the collection of presents and organising tea parties, including supplying cakes in Hildersham and Little Abington church.

## Festive Meal

Seventy residents of the Abingtons and Hildersham enjoyed a delicious Festive Meal and a jolly occasion at the Apiary Granta Park on 16 December. We were overwhelmed by the response to the kind invitation from Biomed Realty and sadly some people were disappointed that they were on a waiting list. We hope there will be another Festive Meal next year and those who were on this year's reserve list will have priority. Thank you very much to Becca Keefe for the invitation from Granta Park and for organising such a wonderful occasion.

## Repair Café, Saturday 7 March, 10.00am–1.00pm, Village Institute

As you clear away the Christmas decorations, please look out for anything in a cupboard or loft that you would love to repair rather than throw away. Maybe it is something that holds special memories. There will be an online booking form for repairs available from mid-January and paper copies will be on display for collection in the Institute and Village Shop. Please also see a separate advert for local repairers and volunteers to join the team. The email address is [LoveAbington1@gmail.com](mailto:LoveAbington1@gmail.com).

Rosemary Mead

***Happy New Year to Everyone***

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

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



Calling all repairers and volunteers to help support the Abington Repair Café 2026.

By popular demand, the Repair Café is returning to Abington, hosted by Love Abington and supported by Cambridge Carbon Footprint. Do you have practical skills that you love to use repairing household items? We would like to invite our local repairers to join us. You may be able to help with electrical items, computers, simple sewing repairs, changing batteries in watches or toys, sharpening garden tools or bike repairs. Perhaps you would like to volunteer to set up the Repair Café or offer refreshments to our repairers? A willingness to lend a hand on the day would be hugely appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer as a repairer or a helper please contact [loveabington1@gmail.com](mailto:loveabington1@gmail.com)

**Saturday 7 March 2026**  
**10.00 am – 1.00 pm**  
**Abington Institute**



## January Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	Services pm
January 4		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
January 11	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wrating</i>	Plough Sunday Service <i>Balsham</i>	6.00pm Taizé Service <i>Weston Colville</i>
January 18	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wrating</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
January 25	Morning Worship <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](http://www.ololsawston.org.uk)

Monday, Wednesday–Saturday	9.30am Holy Mass
Tuesday	7.00pm Holy Mass
Sunday	8.45am and 11.15am Holy Mass

# Church Services for January 2026

DATE	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham	Readings
January 4				Isaiah 60.1–6 Matthew 2.1–12
January 11	11.00am Communion			Isaiah 42.1.9 Matthew 3.13–end
January 18		11.00am Communion	6.00pm Taizé Service	Isaiah 49.1–7 John 1.29–42
January 25		4.00pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Communion (BPC)	Isaiah 9.1–4 Matthew 4.12–23

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

**Creative Church:** 9.30am, Sunday 25 January, Abington Institute

## Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
January 4	Patsy Randall	Mrs Broadhurst	Ms Melloy
January 11	Patsy Randall	Mrs Broadhurst	Ms Melloy
January 18	Patsy Randall	Mrs Apcar and Mrs Smith	Mrs Gray
January 25	Patsy Randall	Mrs Apcar and Mrs Smith	Mrs Gray

## 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