



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

March 2026



Photo: Andy Merryweather

A handsome March hare in Granta Park

From the Editor

As the *Abington and Hildersham News* goes to print at the end of February, March is coming in like a lion, with high winds, breaking branches, rising river levels and temperatures close to freezing. It's a pretty cheerless time, as Lent continues throughout the month, but there is nonetheless plenty to enjoy.

Love Abington's Spring Event is the Repair Café, which will take place throughout the morning on Saturday 7 March (see page 8). There will be some walk-in slots on the day but there is still time to book a session either online or by filling in a form at the Village Store.

Hildersham Village Hall Trust is organising a quiz evening, to include a raffle and chilli supper, on 13 March (page 7). Later in the month, on 26 March, Granta Vale Harmony, together with other voices and guests, is holding a concert in the Village Institute (page 6). Entry is free but there will be an opportunity to make donations to a chosen charity.

On page 18, bowls supremo Graham Ross writes about his grandfather and great-uncles, all gifted amateur artists whose lives took different directions. The talent for illustration has obviously continued through the generations, as he shows. I would love to receive more articles like Graham's so if you would like to contribute please don't hesitate to contact me at news@theabingtons.org.uk. Graham is also looking out for more bowls players as the new season approaches (page 7).

Thank you to Andy Merryweather for the striking cover photo of an Abington March hare. As March draws to a close, let's hope spring makes a more lamb-like appearance.

Sally Simmons

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All items for the April 2026 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Sunday 15 March 2026 at news@theabingtons.org.uk.

From the Seven Churches

The days are drawing out. The darkness is receding. We all feel better when we have more light. With this light comes new growth. We see snowdrops, aconites and bulbs beginning to sprout. It could be said that March is a season of profound spiritual renewal, marking the transition from winter's quietude to spring's vibrant life, often aligning with themes of repentance, fasting and rejuvenation during Lent. It invites believers to trust in God's timing, allowing His grace to blossom, while serving as a reminder that beginnings are sacred and hope is reborn. We begin with Ash Wednesday and then during the next six weeks we are reminded to think about our spiritual journey which encourages us to be aware of God's presence with more than a fleeting glance. It is more than just giving something up like chocolate or alcohol. We are encouraged to slow down our pace of life. In today's society there is much anxiety coupled with the speed with which we live our lives, with no time to pause a moment to see what riches we have been given.

Rather than being negative I like to think of this as a time to do something that helps our understanding of what God might be saying to us. A few moments letting go of the preoccupations that weigh us down. Maybe we need to say sorry about something we have said that was hurtful, or not supporting each other enough? On the other hand, it could be that we can reach out to someone in need. A phone call or offering help to a person who is struggling.

Having been made aware of ways to reach out to others, apart from making us feel good, it could be that at the end of the day it is possible to reflect and see where God has been working. To thank him for those insights that lifted our spirits and realise that we were not alone. Think about the day with gratitude, thanking God for the big things and the small ones. Were there moments of joy and peace or disruption? Choose a particular experience and have a chat with God about it: this might be a high point or a low one, it does not matter. Spend time with it, then look forward to tomorrow and ask for God's guidance. Before we know it we are celebrating Easter with great joy.

Rev Kathy Bishop

News from the Pews

March services

Palm Sunday, 29 March – Holy Communion for Palm Sunday – Balsham, 11.00am. Join us for a procession from the band stand at 10.45am with Ted and Tom, the miniature donkeys!

We want everyone to feel comfortable and included in our services – all ages and stages! If you have any additional needs, such as hearing, mobility, visual or neurodiverse needs, please speak to a member of the church team.

Regrettably, we had to cancel Creative Church in February. Thank you for being so understanding. I am looking forward to seeing and testing out your boats!

Creative Church:



Sunday 22 March 2026 9.30am at Abington Institute

Come and listen to the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana. What happens when our plans go wrong? Explore how Jesus shows us there is always a way forward, just not the way we thought.

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! For all ages – family, friends, community.

Hildersham Church News



Don't miss out... on homemade cake and an opportunity to chat with local friends. The next Tea & Cake Afternoon will be Monday 16 March, 3.00–4.00pm at Hildersham Village Hall. Please join us! We have games and activities for little ones and those of us who are still young at heart. And it is lovely to catch up on all the local news and meet new faces.

The **Concert Series** in support of the Friends of Hildersham Church is proving extremely popular and fills our church regularly so please ensure you book tickets early for future events. On Monday 27 April, at 7.30pm, there will be a talk on 'Everything you need to know about the Royal Ballet'.

Also in April is the eagerly anticipated Lamb Sunday. The planned date is 12 April. Please keep your eyes open for posters and check April's *A&H News* for more details.

If you need peace and a time for contemplation and prayer, the Taizé service at 6.00pm on the third Sunday of every month is an opportunity to sit in candlelit quietness interspersed with beautiful chants. It will conclude or begin your week in the most nourishing way.

Easter Flowers 2026

Easter Sunday falls on 5 April this year, and as usual at this time we will place flowers in remembrance of our loved ones in St Mary's churches. If you would like to remember someone you loved but no longer see, please put a donation into an envelope with the name of the person written on it and give it to any churchwarden (see back page of magazine) or leave it at 34 West Field or the Vicarage by Monday 30 March. The flowers will be placed in Little Abington and Great Abington churches for Easter Sunday and will remain there for at least a week. Our churches are always open during daylight hours so please go and enjoy the beauty of the arrangements and the tranquillity of our lovely ancient buildings.

Ukrainian Community in Abington

Four years after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, one Ukrainian is living in Abington with a host family and three are living independently. Nineteen Ukrainians who lived in Abington have now returned to Ukraine or are living independently in Cambridgeshire. Many in the UK would like to settle here if possible. 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.

Anton King

Unused tools wanted – April collection by Saffron Walden Rotary

As part of your spring cleaning, please donate unwanted tools of any kind to Saffron Walden Rotary, which is organising an April collection for Tools with a Mission (TWAM), a Christian charity that refurbishes tools into trade kits for people living in extreme poverty. The tools needed include agricultural and gardening, builders', carpenters', electrical, mechanical, plumbers', power, sewing and knitting and haberdashery. These tools, combined with training, help individuals start sustainable businesses and build long-term livelihoods. Full collection details will appear in the April *A&H News*. For more information, contact Tony Collett at tony.collett3112@gmail.com or tel. 01223 893 447.

Operation Christmas Child – final figures

Thank you to all who filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child in 2025. We now have the final figures for last year's collection. A massive 12,205,900 boxes were filled worldwide, an increase of a quarter of a million. The UK sent 232,844 boxes to Albania, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, Central Asia, the Middle East and a persecuted church country in Eastern Europe. Every child who received a box has been blessed by knowing there are people miles away who are thoughtful and generous and that God loves them.

Jane Furlow

Granta Vale Harmony Concert



*On Thursday 26 March at 7.45pm at the Abington Village
Institute CB21 6AE*

*Come along for an evening of music and song with Granta Vale
Harmony and special guests Huntington Rotary Voices, Equal
Measures Quartet and solo singer Angela.*

Free entry

*Donations on the evening in support of Saffron Walden Young
Carers*

Refreshments available

*For more information, please contact Peter
peterlester12@gmail.com .0788493221*

Balsham Singers



Rehearsals are well under way for our Spring Concert. Please make a date in your diary: Saturday 16 May 2026 at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from 1 April from Balsham Post Office and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingerssingingsingers or via a choir member.

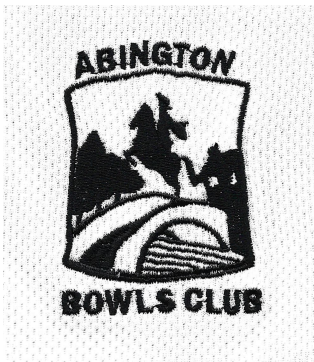
Please note that our last two concerts sold out fast! Any questions can be addressed to our MD John at john.clenaghan@sky.com.
Jo Stinton

Hildersham Village Hall Trust Spring Quiz

Come and join us for our quiz night, with a raffle, in Hildersham Village Hall on Friday 13 March. Ticket price is £10, to include a chilli supper. Please specify if vegetarian option is required. Doors open at 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. Please bring your own drinks and we can provide glasses. Everyone welcome – bring your team of up to 8 people or come along and join with others.

Tickets from Jill Heale, edheale@btinternet.com, Jackie Parker, jmparker207@gmail.com, Jenny Logan, jenny.logan@btinternet.com

Abington Bowls Club Wants You!



Hooray! The uniform greyness of the winter has begun to give way to occasional bright days, bringing a hint of summer-yet-to-come. And now is the time for you to think about joining the successful Abington Bowls Club for our 99th anniversary season. It is FREE for the first season, bowls will be supplied, so why not give it a try? Anyone can play, whatever the age, whatever the physique, whatever the experience. Do not think: *Oh! I cannot match those brilliant ABC bowlers; I'd be too embarrassed.* Like you, dear reader, we were all beginners once and the only way for any beginner is Up. It's for fun, not glory, that we play; and you don't have to play in a team if you don't

want to, just join in a friendly practise roll-up. And, truth to tell, we are not that brilliant.

What is bowling? Well, since you have all been watching the Winter Olympics recently, the best answer to give is that it is a bit like curling, only with grass. No ice, also no brooms, and players do not wear those strange shoes with one slippy sole per pair. But the aim is the same, to send your shot down a rink (yes, the same word is used) to get as close as possible to a target 45 metres away. True, you will roll a plastic composite bowl, rather than slide a lump of Scottish granite, but your teammates will be cheering you on and your skip (again, the same word) will tell you where he or she wants your shot to end up. Just like curling.

We will start playing in April so keep an eye out for the next edition of the *A&H News* for more details of how to take part. I am pleased to say that during the winter several Abington residents have whispered to me that they want to give bowling a try, so why not join them? Call or message me if you want to take part or to find out more about it. And you do not have to be an Abingtonian – we are happy to welcome you wherever you come from.

Graham Ross, ABC Secretary, tel.0785 252 8693

LOVE ABINGTON

SPRING EVENT

Repair Café



Matching experienced repairers with people who need stuff fixed

We will help with jewellery, clothes and fabric, electrical and electronic devices and other items.

ABINGTON VILLAGE INSTITUTE
High Street CB21 6AE

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2026

10.00am – 1.00pm

The cafe will be open for refreshments.

Booking is recommended to secure your timed slot.

For more details and to book an item for repair, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/AbingtonRepairCafe> or fill out one of the paper forms available in Abington Stores.



District and County Councillors' Reports January 2026

Grange Farm

At the end of 2025, the District Council released their draft Local Plan, which is the development plan for the next 20 years and indicates the parcels of land in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City that they feel can accommodate housing and commercial development to feed the population and economic growth during this time.

They have been consulting on this, plus all the other proposals in South Cambridgeshire, for the last few months and thank you to everyone that engaged with this. It's the most important time in the Local Plan process to have your say on what could be an enormous change in the landscape of our area. The District Council will now assess all of the feedback they have received and will come back with a final plan. More to follow.

Local Government Reorganisation

Following the submission to central government of preferred geographic splits that will determine what new unitary authorities would look like, we now wait until the government has digested the information. This raised the question whether there would be District Council elections this May, as scheduled, as the District Council would be subsumed into a new unitary authority in 2027. It's now been confirmed that the election for representatives to the District Council will still go ahead in May this year, as planned.

20mph scheme

Each year the County Council offers parishes the opportunity to bid for areas, or all, of their villages to have their speed reduced to 20mph. Some villages in our area have been successful in this process. The application window has now reopened and will be open until the end of March.

Full details can be seen at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/applying-for-20mph-funding>.

Potholes

As I'm sure everyone is aware, pothole season is upon us. In most cases, potholes appear when the weather is wet and cold, as water gets into the road, freezes and expands, opening up the road surface. This happens all over the country every year and is extremely annoying, especially for those whose vehicles suffer damage as a result of hitting them. In most cases the County Council is responsible for maintaining the road surface, which includes repairing any potholes that are deemed to be of at least a certain width and depth – this is called the 'intervention level'. Anything under these criteria is unlikely to be repaired straight away, as it's not deemed an immediate danger.

The message from the County Council is to keep reporting all potholes you come across via the Highways Department's website.

If the hole is so large you think it's an immediate danger, then you can raise it as a Highways emergency on 0345 045 5212 during office hours. The Police non-emergency number 101 can be used outside of these times.

It might not seem it to some, but the County Council is tackling potholes as best they can. It has allocated over £73 million for highways maintenance in 2025/26 and is planning an additional £20 million investment in 2026/27. It has also increased the number of crews repairing these holes from eight to 30.

Go to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czej21gg817o> for a good local news article about this.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Diary for March 2026

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	2	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates	9.15am	12
			9.30am	11
Tue	3	Art Group Tuesday Club Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall Evening Pilates	10.00am	18
			2.00pm	12
			3.00pm	13
			7.00pm	11
Wed	4	Yoga Line Dancing	9.30am	11
			1.00pm	11
Thu	5	Walking Group Granta Vale Harmony	10.00am	12
			7.30pm	12
Fri	6	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	11
Sat	7	Repair Café	10.00am	8
Mon	9	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Abington and Hildersham WI – AGM, The George, Babraham	9.15am	12
			9.30am	11
			12.00pm	13
Tue	10	Mobile Library, Hildersham Art Group Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall Evening Pilates Hildersham Parish Council – Hildersham Village Hall Reading Group – Sue Batty	9.40am	16
			10.00am	18
			3.00pm	13
			7.00pm	11
			7.00pm	
			7.30pm	13
Wed	11	Yoga Line Dancing	9.30am	11
			1.00pm	11
Thu	12	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	13	Pilates/Aerobics HVHT Spring Quiz – Hildersham Village Hall	9.30am	11
			7.00pm	7
Mon	16	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Tea & Cake Afternoon – Hildersham Village Hall Great Abington Parish Council meeting	9.15am	12
			9.30am	11
			3.00pm	5
			7.15pm	14
Tue	17	Art Group Tuesday Club Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall Evening Pilates	10.00am	18
			2.00pm	12
			3.00pm	13
			7.00pm	11
Wed	18	Yoga Line Dancing The Abington Group	9.30am	11
			1.00pm	11
			7.30pm	12
Thu	19	Craft Group Granta Vale Harmony	1.30pm	12
			7.30pm	12
Fri	20	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	11
Sat	21	Walking Group	10.00am	12
Sun	22	Creative Church	9.30am	4
Mon	23	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Little Abington Parish Council meeting	9.15am	12
			9.30am	11
			7.30pm	15
Tue	24	Mobile Library, The Abingtons	9.40am	16

		Art Group	10.00am	18
		Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall	3.00pm	13
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	13
Wed	25	Yoga	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	26	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	16
		Granta Vale Harmony Free Concert	7.45pm	6
Fri	27	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Film Nights – doors open 7.00pm	7.30pm	13
Mon	30	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
		Physio Pilates	9.30am	11
Tue	31	Art Group	10.00am	18
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall	3.00pm	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.

Jeremiah’s Café: Opening times in March 2026

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

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

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

Wheelie bin dates for March 2026 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Wed 4	Wed 11	Wed 18	Wed 25
Blue/Green	Black	Blue/Green	Black

Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am

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

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

Six-week Pilates courses 23 February–30 March: 9.30 am intermediate/advanced Pilates class; 10.40 am mixed ability Pilates class; 11.50am Bone Health Pilates class. This class is specifically designed to support those with osteoporosis or osteopenia or low bone density, and anyone looking to improve their strength, balance and posture. For information please contact Christiana Heinz MCSP, www.cambridgephysiopilates.co.uk, 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 or tel. 07958 788 292.

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 Craft Group

The next Craft Group meets on Thursday 19 March. Bring your own project. Everyone welcome. 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. Glynis Brookman glynis.brookman@btinternet.com, tel. 07970 614 194.

Abington Acorns



This welcoming group runs every Monday, 9.15am–11.00am, 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. £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 894246 or email abingtonannexoffice@gmail.com for information.

The Tuesday Club

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

3 March: Sandra Hall will give a talk on her Ironman experiences.

17 March: Gordon Commings will present an overview of The Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden.

All are welcome at our meetings and the first attendance is free. For more information please contact Jenny Milns (tel. 07753 837 884).

Abington Walking Group



Mud, mud, glorious mud. We're looking forward to some dry weather and better walking conditions. On 5 February a small group with one dog walked on the Land Settlement, leaving a ready prepared route for a better day. Our next walks will be on Thursday 5 and Saturday 21 March. There is a possibility of a pub lunch on 5 March... and some sunshine? Our WhatsApp Group provides information about the planned route a few days ahead. We would be delighted if members are able to share and guide the group on favourite routes. For more information contact Jeff, j_dowling@btinternet.com or Genevieve, gdalton365@gmail.com. Include your mobile number so that we can add you to Walking Group messages. We can also send you a list of 2026 planned walking dates.

The Abington Group (Ladies)

The Abington Group (TAG) will meet on Wednesday 18 March 2026 in the Abington Village Institute at 7.30pm when Steven Wheeler, commercial model maker, will come to talk to us about his journey from pastry chef to maker of replica food and botanical models for use in advertising. Visitors are welcome and pay £3 to include refreshments. For more information email fredaorgee@gmail.com or call 01223 891464.

Freda Orgee, Coordinator

Scrabble Club

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Next meeting: 24 March 2026. Sheena Fraser

Film Nights

Film Nights at the Abington Institute, Friday 27 March, 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm. For more information, please visit <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> where you can subscribe to Film Nights updates.

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

For our February meeting we invited Joan Graham to lead us in a session of Chair Yoga. Joan hated sports lessons at school but when she tried yoga, she was hooked! B. K. S. Iyengar founded his style of yoga in the 1970s and Joan went to Pune in India to study with him. Iyengar yoga is a form of exercise characterised by great attention to detail and precise focus on body alignment in the performance of yoga postures, often using props. Our "prop" was a chair, not just for sitting in various positions but also as an aid to balance and stretching when standing. Joan encouraged us to feel the weight of the different parts of the body we exercised and to close our eyes and focus on breathing technique. Our session demonstrated that yoga offers physical and mental health benefits for people of all ages.

Members were given formal notice that Sue Smales, CFWI Chair and WI advisor, would attend at our AGM in March for the resolution that Abington & Hildersham WI should be suspended. Suspension allows for another group to be formed in the next three years with the backing of CFWI, if local women wish to set one up. We are sad that this situation has come about but we have many happy memories of past meetings and members and are full of gratitude and admiration for the generations of ladies from our villages who have kept the Institute going for 106 years.

Next meeting: 9 March at 12 noon: AGM at The George, Babraham. Marilyn Broadhurst

Reading Group

10 March	<i>Theo of Golden</i> Allen Levi	Sue Batty
14 April	<i>Guilty by Definition</i> Susie Dent	Sylvia Gilmour
12 May	<i>The Safekeep</i> Yael van der Wouden	Mary Conochie

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

Short Tennis

We are a small group (from Abington and Linton) who play short tennis (indoors with a soft sponge ball but otherwise like tennis) on Tuesday afternoons, 3.00pm–4.00pm at Linton Sports hall. If this clicks with you and you think that you might give it a go, please get in touch. We are a friendly bunch having some exercise but also lots of laughs along the way. We play continuously throughout the year and have a WhatsApp group to check who is free each week. We cancel if there are not enough players – hence we are looking for new people to join. The cost is £9 per court divided by the number playing – paid on the day. All you need are soft shoes/trainers and jogging bottoms/leggings with t shirt/fleece – and a racket. Please contact Jane Furlow for more information, tel. 07745046921

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.

Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

Hedges and footpaths

As the days get longer, and before the nesting season begins, now would be a good time to make sure your hedges aren't overhanging footpaths and to give them a trim.

Please do not park on verges or block footpaths when you are parking.

Potholes

Yes, there are a lot of them. Anyone can report a pothole through the Cambridgeshire County Council highways reporting tool; a search in your browser will find this. Please don't assume that someone else has reported a pothole – the more times it is reported the higher up the list it will go.

Streetlights not working?

These should be reported to South Cambridgeshire District Council through its website.

Update on one Parish Council

At the January meeting of the Civic Affairs Committee, South Cambridgeshire District Council unanimously agree to group the parishes of Great and Little Abington. This will result in a new name of Abington Parish Council and the new parish council will be made up of nine parish councillors (six to represent Great Abington and three to represent Little Abington).

Planning

Grange Farm

Great Abington Parish Council submitted its opposition to the proposed development at Grange Farm and shared the letter on the village Facebook page.

Parish Council recommendations since the last full meeting

(i) 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. Parish Council recommended the application be refused on 15 December 2025.

(ii) 25/04456/FUL – 34 South Road. Change of use of existing domestic garage to a gym (Business use). Parish Council agreed to make no recommendation on 15 December 2025.

(iii) 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. Parish Council agreed to make no recommendation on 15 December 2025.

(iv) 25/04535/- - The Old Pump House, 44A North Road. First floor extension. Parish Council recommended the application be refused on 15 December 2025.

SCDC decisions

25/03637/FUL – Abington Lodge, 63 High Street. Installation of photovoltaic panels and an inverter and associated infrastructure. Parish Council did not support this application and requested further information 3 October 2025. SCDC permission granted 22 December 2025.

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 16 March 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 (892 000).

Little Abington Parish Council

Approval for Abington Parish Council

Following the recent Community Governance Review, the two parish councils (Great and Little Abington) will merge to form Abington Parish Council from May of this year. We await instructions from South Cambs District Council on the next steps but we anticipate our last LAPC meeting will be on Monday 23 March.

Village litter pick

We are organising the annual litter pick to be held on Saturday 25 April between 10.00am and 12 noon, starting out from the Village Institute. Equipment and hi-vis jackets are provided plus refreshments. Please take the opportunity to volunteer if you can.

Reporting potholes

If you wish to report a pothole use the Cambridgeshire County Council online Highways Reporting Tool on the CCC website. Details of how to make a claim for damage to a vehicle or personal injury caused by defects on the highway are also set out there.

Meeting on Monday 26 January

We welcomed several members of the public, all there to discuss the Grange Farm development and our submission to oppose it. County Councillor Henry Batchelor reported on a few matters: the Kingsway Solar Farm has slightly altered its site plans to allow a wider buffer between houses and solar panels; the new food waste caddies will only be delivered to Abington in August or September.

Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next Meeting: Monday 23 March 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 address:

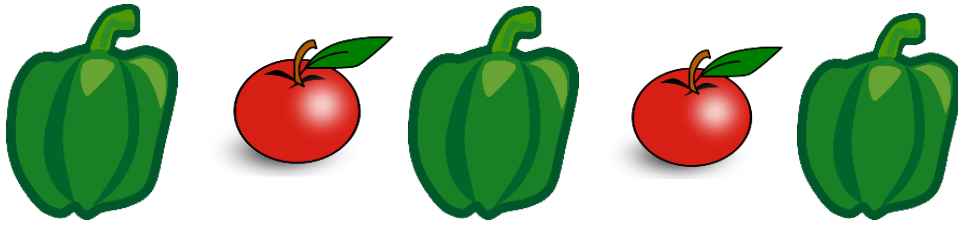
Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk): clerk@littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Electrical waste recycling bin



This will be delivered to the Institute for the Repair Cafe on Saturday 7th March. It is for small electrical items (not fridges, washing machines etc) which are beyond repair. Most small items with a plug, battery or cable will be accepted, including toys, appliances, phones, power tools etc; but we can't take smoke alarms, batteries (except where they can't be removed from appliances), light bulbs, ammonia fridges or pressurised cylinders. The items will be used for parts where possible, and otherwise dismantled to be recycled. Please use this bin – not your black bin – or better still, bring your item to the Repair Cafe where we can try to fix it first!



Abington Lunch Thursday 26 March 2026

Fruit juice
Pork dish
Seasonal vegetables
Brioche bread and butter pudding
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 0794 101 6543 **before noon** on Tuesday 24 March. 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 23 April 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 Village Hall 9.40–10.20am Next date: Tuesday 10 March	West Field, Little Abington 9.40–10.20am The Shop, Great Abington 10.30–11.00am Magna Close 11.05–11.40am Next date: Tuesday 24 March
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March Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
1 March		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
8 March	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wrating</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Taizé Service <i>Weston Colville</i>
15 March	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wrating</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
18 March (Ash Wednesday)	Communion <i>Balsham</i>		
22 March	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
29 March		Communion for Palm Sunday <i>Balsham</i>	4.00pm Easter Songs of Praise <i>West Wrating</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 (Confession) Holy Mass 9.30am and 6.30pm
All Fridays in Lent except Good Friday	3.00pm Stations of the Cross
Tuesday (except 31 March)	7.00pm Holy Mass (Confession)
Sunday (including Palm Sunday, 29 March)	Holy Mass 8.45am, 10.00am (extra Mass) and 11.15am (Confession)

Of Bowls and Brothers – a generation of artists

My grandfather, David Richardson, grew up in the seaside town of North Berwick, 25 miles to the east of Edinburgh. He and his brothers were all taught to be artists – they had weekly drawing and painting sessions at home – and all achieved a high level of proficiency. The youngest, Arthur, was training to become an architect when he became a victim of the Great War. The first volume of his war diary survived the tragedy and was sent home to his mother. It contains many watercolours of life in the trenches. Copies of these were displayed some years ago at one of the Abington History Society's war anniversary presentations, as some of you may recall.

David's other brother, James, was also an architect, as well as an occasional book illustrator. He designed the North Berwick war memorial on which his brother's name was carved. He became Inspector of Public Monuments in Scotland and wrote guidebooks for Scottish castles and abbeys (many of which had been destroyed by the English!). It was fun to get hand-painted cards from him.

David was a doctor in the RAMC and rose to the rank of General but always carried on with his painting. He created picture books that included us; these are much treasured.

One of his books contained a series of pictorial jokes about knots. The *slip knot*, for instance, showed a cat with a tin can tied to its tail (possibly based on a remembered event from his Victorian childhood) managing to extricate itself. A *bowline* is another type of knot, of course, and the sight of elderly gentlemen rolling on the green no doubt suggested the drawing on the left.

I will never be as good as my grandfather (all those later generations of Bachs and Strausses no doubt felt the same) but I have been inspired to doodle a bit. Below is my take on the wonderful sport of bowls. *Graham Ross*



Church Services for March 2026

DATE	Gt Abington 	Lt Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
1 March	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Romans 4.1–5,13–17 John 3.1–17
8 March	11.00am Communion		11.00am Café Church	Romans 5.1–11 John 4.5–42
15 March		11.00am Morning Worship	6.00pm Taizé Service	Colossians 3.12–17 Luke 2.33–35
18 March (Ash Wednesday)			7.30pm Communion	
22 March		4.00pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Communion (BPC)	Psalms 130 John 11.1–45
29 March				Psalms 118.19–24 Matthew 21.1–11

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

Creative Church: 9.30am, Sunday 22 March, Abington Institute

Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
During March	LENT – 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