



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

April 2026



Photo: Louise Patten

Reverend Hannah Threlfall completes planting of a Covid-19 commemorative tree, with assistance from Richard Smith

From the Editor

In March 2020, we were all told we must stay at home as the Covid-19 pandemic spread throughout the UK. Six years later, almost to the day, Revd Hannah Threlfall planted two commemorative trees on either side of the Recreation Ground (see page 9 for our cover story). The planting was organised by representatives of the two Parish Councils, which have now held their final meetings before their amalgamation. Elections for the new Abington Parish Council will be held on 7 May – see page 18 for information about how you can apply to become a Parish Councillor. The campaign group opposing the proposed development at Grange Farm (SAVE) is gaining momentum and looking for more members (see page 20).

On page 7 there are tributes to two long-standing Abington residents, Professor Kevin Dalton and Jill Maynard, while Marion Rusted’s move to Saffron Walden after many years in Little Abington was marked by a farewell tea at Jeremiah’s Café (page 20).

April is full of events, as the extra pages in this month’s *A&H News* show. There is still time to donate to the Easter flowers that will brighten our churches after the weeks of Lent (page 5). Lamb Sunday takes place at Hildersham Hall on 12 April (page 8), there is Afternoon Tea at Jeremiah’s Café on the 21st (page 17), the annual Litterpick (page 16) and a collection of unused tools (page 9) on the 25th, and the Friends of Holy Trinity Hildersham’s latest event, a talk on the Royal Ballet, on 27 April (page 6).

Spring is definitely sprung and keeping us busy. Happy Easter to everyone.

Sally Simmons

Contents

From the Seven Churches, News from the Pews, Creative Church Dates for the Diary, Easter Flowers	4 5	Craft Group, Abington Acorns, Tuesday Club, Walking Group, TAG, Scrabble Club, Film Nights WI, Reading Group, Short Tennis, Bowls	14 15
Royal Ballet Talk Remembering Kevin Dalton, Jill Maynard	6 7	Naturewatch River Meeting, Village Litterpick Afternoon Tea at Jeremiah’s	16 17
Lamb Sunday, HVHT Murder Mystery, Jeremiah’s Café Covid Commemoration tree planting, Unused tools collection, Ukrainian Community in Abington	8 9	New Abington Parish Council election, Hildersham Parish Council report Love Abington Repair Café	18 19
Balsham Singers Spring Concert Councillors’ Report	10 11	Campaign opposing the Grange Farm development, Farewell to a village friend Abington Lunch, Addenbrooke’s Hospital – booking update	20 21
Diary for April Café, Bins, Yoga, Aerobics/Pilates, Evening Pilates, Physio Pilates, Line Dancing, Granta Vale Harmony	12 13	Church Services, Mobile Library	22

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

From the Seven Churches

Spring is a time when we can enjoy seeing new life appearing all around us. This Spring, however, has also seen conflict in the Middle East, amid scenes of destruction that have had a ripple effect around the globe, from political instability and fluctuating oil prices to the challenge of bringing home people stranded in places such as Dubai. As we witness these events, we are called to respond in our prayers for peace but perhaps also in committing ourselves anew to the vital work of being peacemakers where we can, in our families, neighbourhoods and places of work.

Spring is also a time when we prepare for and celebrate Easter. Our preparations include Palm Sunday, this year celebrated at a united service in Balsham in late March and featuring two local donkeys! At this service we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Some had expected the Messiah to lead military resistance against the Romans. Jesus, however, proclaims the peaceable kingdom. He enters Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of peace, and meets the violence of those who plot against him with his sacrifice on the cross.

We will celebrate Easter Day in each of our six churches, including lighting the Easter Fire at Weston Colville church at the beginning of the service there. Easter proclaims the power of God's saving love in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter also reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end, an event that completely changes the landscape in which we live. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit, which empowers us to forgive, to build communities of mutual trust and service, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

As we carry forward a vision of both suffering and hope, death and risen life, let us be encouraged to speak up for the peaceable Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. We can put into practice both love for our neighbour and also, however difficult, love for our enemies. This is not an optional extra if we are to live in a world where peace prevails in our lives. In doing so, we may also experience something of the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, and share the good news of new life in Christ. Revd Iain McColl

News from the Pews

As we walk in the joy and hope of Easter, we would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter season. This is a time when we celebrate new life, renewal and the light of Christ shining in the world. All are warmly invited to join us at any of our Easter services across the benefice, whether you come regularly, need to find a place of peace, stillness, reflection or structure or are simply curious to explore. There is a place for everyone, and it would be a joy to welcome you as we gather together in celebration and hope!

Hildersham Tea and Cake: it is always an utter joy to hold a Tea and Cake gathering on the third Monday of every month, 3.00–4.30pm, at Hildersham Village Hall. Please do join us from both villages. 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 20 April and 18 May.

Creative Church!



Sunday 26 April 2026 9.30am at Abington Institute

Second Chances. Come and find out how God gives us all a chance to be forgiven and to make positive changes in our lives. Revd Hannah and Rosemary Mead will explore the story of Jonah. Storytelling, crafts, a science activity and song. Everyone is very welcome. We will begin with breakfast at 9.30am, ready for a 10.00am start! For all ages – family, friends, community.

Dates for Your Diary – Three Wonderful Community Events

Big Life Talks – Wednesday 13 May, 6.30pm, Abington Institute

This is an exciting series of public talks and discussions, that will run hopefully throughout the year and are open for all. They will consist of a short talk that explores some big life issues led by prominent members of the scientific, medical, technological and theological communities. Followed by questions and answers and complimentary refreshments!

Our first speaker will be Prof. Bob White and the talk will be titled 'Are natural disasters inevitable? Insights from science and religion'.

Professor Robert (Bob) White is a Fellow of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, having been Professor of Geophysics in the Dept of Earth Sciences. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society and his work at sea has taken him to the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans: his research group is currently investigating the internal structure of volcanoes in Iceland. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, was awarded a Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in recognition of a lifetime's achievement in research. His scientific work is published in over 350 papers and articles.

For more information please contact either Tony Collett (tony.collett3112@gmail.com) or Revd Hannah Threlfall. The talks are being organised by Abington Churches as part of the Scientists in Congregations initiative and funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation.

Auction of Promises – Thursday 5 June, 7.00pm

Join us for a fun and relaxed evening at our Auction of Promises! Enjoy a light supper, bring your own drinks, and get ready to bid on a fantastic range of generous offers from local people and businesses. From dog walking, babysitting, cleaning and ironing to homemade cakes and other treats – there will be something for everyone!

If you are able to donate a promise or prize, big or small, please get in touch with Revd Hannah Threlfall – I will be delighted to hear from you. Every offer helps make the evening a success and supports the work of our church in the community.

Great Abington Open Gardens – Saturday 27 June

We are thrilled to welcome back Great Abington Open Gardens, a chance to wander and explore some of the village's most beautiful hidden gardens. Along the way, why not pause at St Mary the Virgin Church for tea and delicious homemade cake, either as a welcome break or to finish your afternoon in style? If you would be willing to open your garden or help in any way, please contact Revd Hannah Threlfall. More details coming soon — but for now, do save the dates and spread the word!

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) or leave it at 34 West Field or the Vicarage by Tuesday 31 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.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ROYAL BALLET IN 75 MINUTES

An illustrated lecture by ballet and opera specialist Sarah Lenton



Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham, CB21 6BZ

Monday 27th April at 7.30pm

Tickets £12, including refreshments, from
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-royal-ballet-in-75-minutes-tickets-1983388271712?aff=oddtcreator>
or at the door

Contact: huntcam2015@gmail.com



In support of the Friends of Holy Trinity, Hildersham

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, Hildersham: Registered Charity - 1153435

Kevin Dalton, 12 February 1947–20 January 2026



Kevin was born in Workington. He was the only son of John, a steelworker, and Mollie, who was a nurse.

When he was 11 he won a scholarship to the Austin Friars Boys School in Carlisle. One of his school friends remembers he was the bridge champion and, although his grandfather had played football for Blackburn Rovers, he excelled at skiving from games. In recent years he renewed his links to school through Clare Priory because some members of the community had been there too. One of them was the celebrant at his requiem mass at St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

He trained in medicine at the Middlesex Hospital in London. He chose to specialise in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Jobs as a junior doctor included Cambridge, Oxford, where he gained a DPhil in foetal physiology, Queen Charlotte's Hospital in London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. In 1983 he was appointed as a consultant to work at the new Rosie Maternity Hospital and he moved to West Field. He met Genevieve at an EU medical research meeting at the Palacio Mateus in Portugal in 1989. When they married in 1990, their guests celebrated with Mateus Rosé wine. Kevin was a Fellow at St Catharine's College. He enjoyed academic life and he took great pride in his students' results. He carried on teaching, latterly using Zoom, until the end of 2024.

In the village many people will remember Kevin on his early morning dog walks. Over the years he had three Border collies – Misty, Sasha and Maisie. He was a regular member of the Partridge Group and he enjoyed continuing the philosophical debate over a pint in the Three Tuns. When he retired in 2007 he learnt to fly but he didn't get his licence because landing was a problem! He also began learning languages – Russian, Spanish and Italian. He took every opportunity he could to practise.

Kevin and Genevieve enjoyed travelling. They planned to explore more of South America when Genevieve retired and she started to learn Spanish, which generated some healthy competition! He was very interested in the history and culture of Russia and they visited several times, including the Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to China.

In 2025 Kevin became seriously ill. He died in the Arthur Rank Hospice. His ashes will be interred in Cumbria in the spring.

Jilly Maynard, 4 October 1940–23 February 2026

Jilly Maynard lived in Great Abington for nearly 20 years and spent some of her happiest times involved with the village and its community, where she made many close and treasured friendships.

During this time she served as a local magistrate and was an active member of the Women's Institute. Although born in London during the Blitz, Jilly far preferred country life. She was actively involved in teaching craft work, a lifelong passion, and had a natural affinity for animals and their welfare. Years ago she frequented her flat in southern Italy and was widely travelled with her late husband Capt. Ronnie Maynard. She will be remembered for her kindness to others and her wicked sense of humour!

Jilly leaves three children and 11 grandchildren and will be greatly missed with affection by her family, friends and Meadow Walk neighbours who knew her.



Lamb Sunday at Hildersham Hall

Hildersham Hall is opening up the lambing barn for you to come and see lambing in action on Sunday 12 April, 1.30–3.30pm.

Entry £4 per adult and £1 per child, to include tea and cake. All money raised will go to the UK Sepsis Trust and Holy Trinity Church Hildersham. Cash payments only, please. Entry opposite Hildersham Village Hall.

Please note that this event is not advisable for pregnant women. No dogs allowed. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Hildersham Village Hall Trust Murder Mystery Event

Save the date – Friday 15 May! Do you fancy yourself as a Poirot or a Marple? Now's your chance to try out your detective skills as a cast of intriguing characters enacts a tantalising mystery. Don your deerstalker and work out whodunnit while enjoying a fish and chip supper. Further details in the May magazine but in the meantime further information is available from Jackie Parker, jmparker207@gmail.com, Jill Heale, edheale@btinternet.com, or Jenny Logan, jenny.logan@btinternet.com.

Don't Forget!

Jeremiah's Community Café

at the Village Institute



Thursdays

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Light lunch: soup, omelettes, toasted sandwiches, tea, coffee & more!

Saturdays

10:00 am – 12:00

Bacon & egg, toasted sandwiches, toasted teacake, scones, cake & drinks!

◆ SPECIAL EVENT ◆

Village Lunch

17 Every 4th Thursday 🕒 Served at 1:00 pm 💷 Just £5

A delicious two-course meal, freshly prepared! Open to all Abington & Hildersham residents.
A wonderful way to meet people and enjoy great food in convivial surroundings.

Everyone Welcome! ♥

Booking info for Village Lunch in the Abington & Hildersham News Magazine

Covid Commemoration Trees Planted

To mark the National Covid-19 Day of Reflection on Sunday 8 March two commemorative trees were planted on Abington Recreation Ground – one near to the river and one near Great Abington Church, in locations where they will be seen by many visitors to the Rec. The trees are to honour the volunteers from Great and Little Abington who gave their time and care to support those in need, and to remember all who were affected and those who lost their lives. The trees – wild cherry – and commemorative plaques were provided by South Cambs District Council.

Before taking up a spade to complete the planting, Reverend Hannah Threlfall thanked Great Abington Parish Councillor Louise Patten and Little Abington Parish Councillor Richard Smith for organising the ceremony and gave a short blessing. She said: ‘Loving god, we gather together to plant these trees in memory of those whose lives were lost during the pandemic and in gratitude for all who gave their time, their courage and care to support others in days of fear and uncertainty. As these trees take root and grow may they stand as living signs of remembrance and of hope. May their branches remind us of all the lives cherished, their strength speak of resilience, and their new growth point us towards healing and renewal. Dear Lord bless this ground, these trees and our community; help us to continue caring for one another with the same generosity and compassion that carried us through those difficult days, and may we always remember with gratitude, with love and with hope.’

Unused Tools for a Good Cause



Unwanted tools of any kind are being collected on 25 April from 9.00am to 12.30pm at Abington School by Saffron Walden Rotary and then delivered to the Ipswich charity, Tools with a Mission (TWAM).

The tools are refurbished and made into trade kits for people living in extreme poverty, mainly in African countries. The tools, combined with training, help individuals start sustainable businesses and build long-term livelihoods for themselves and their families. The tools needed are agricultural, gardening, builders', carpenters', electrical, mechanical, plumbers', power, sewing, knitting and haberdashery.

Heavy bulk items can be collected by prior arrangement with Tony Collett on 25 April between 10.00am and 11.30am from Lewis Crescent, Mortlock Gardens, Magna Close, High Street, Linton Road, Larkfield and Lodge Close in Great Abington, and from Church Lane, Church Crescent, West Field and High Street in Little Abington. Contact Tony with any query: tony.collett3112@gmail.com or tel. 01223 893 447.

Tony writes: ‘In addition to helping individuals to completely transform their lives and communities, the charity prevents over 200 tonnes of tools going to landfills annually. I hope we receive a similar level of wonderful support as we do for our collections for Ukraine.’

Ukrainian Community in Abington

Four Ukrainians are now living in Abington. 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



BALSHAM SINGERS

present their

SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 16th May, 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church,
Balsham, Cambs, CB21 4DS

Music by Parry, Wood, The
Beatles and The Carpenters

Tickets £12 adults, £1 under 16s

available from Balsham or Abington Post
Offices, or online at

www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

District and County Councillors' Reports March 2026

Cambridge Growth Company

You may recall from previous reports that the government has identified Cambridge as an area prime for growth, due to the boom of the science and tech sector in the Greater Cambridge area. The numbers of additional houses that the government thinks would be sufficient to support this economic growth is still uncertain, with numbers around the 100,000 mark being mooted, although still unconfirmed.

To manage this growth, and to identify areas to build these new houses, the government has set up a development corporation (DevCo) called the Cambridge Growth Company. A lot of the detail of how this will be set up is still unclear but from correspondence with the relevant government minister, it would seem that this DevCo would ultimately take planning powers away from the local authorities for larger 'strategic sites'. The point has been made that to disrupt one of the highest achieving planning services in the country could be hugely damaging to the local landscape. This point may have fallen on deaf ears but we will see.

This does leave some uncertainty over where new developments could be located, as the additional housing would be on top of what the District Council is already planning, such as Grange Farm in Abington, for example.

Council budgets

Both the District and County Councils held their budget meetings in February where they set their budgets for the forthcoming financial year.

Both authorities opted to increase the council tax by the maximum allowed – 4.99% per year at the County Council and 2.99% per year at the District Council. In real terms, this equates to the following increases per week on a band D property:

- County Council – £1.63 per week
- District Council – 10p per week

There are other bodies that demand council tax too, such as the Combined Authority, Police and Crime Commissioner, etc., and these will also have increased and should be seen on our itemised council tax bills.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Diary for April 2026

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
		<i>Schools' Easter holiday until 10 April</i>		
Wed	1	Yoga	9.30am	13
Thu	2	Walking Group	10.00am	12
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	3	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	13
Sat	4			
Mon	6	Physio Pilates	9.30am	13
Tue	7	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall	3.00pm	13
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	13
		Reading Group – Sue Batty	7.30pm	3
Wed	8	Yoga	9.30am	13
Thu	9	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Fri	10	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	13
Sun	12	Lamb Sunday – Hildersham Hall	1.30pm	13
Mon	13	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe	9.15am	14
		Physio Pilates	9.30am	13
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Hildersham	9.40am	22
		Art Group	10.00am	23
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	14
		Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall	3.00pm	15
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	13
Wed	15	Yoga	9.30am	13
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	13
		The Abington Group	7.30pm	14
Thu	16	Craft Group	1.30pm	14
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	13
Fri	17	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	13
		Naturewatch Meeting	7.30pm	16
Sat	18	Walking Group	10.15am	14
Sun	19	Creative Church	9.30am	4
Mon	20	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe	9.15am	14
		Physio Pilates	9.30am	13
		Tea & Cake Afternoon – Hildersham Village Hall	3.00pm	4
Tue	21	Art Group	10.00am	23
		Afternoon Tea at Jeremiah's Café	2.30pm	17
		Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall	3.00pm	15
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	13
Wed	22	Yoga	9.30am	13
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	13
Thu	23	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	21
Fri	24	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	13
		Film Nights – doors open 7.00pm	7.30pm	14
Sat	25	Unused Tools Collection – Primary School	9.00am	9
		Village Litterpick	10.00am	16
		Film Nights children's matinée	2.00pm	14
Sun	26	Creative Church	9.30am	4
Mon	27	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe	9.15am	14

		Physio Pilates Royal Ballet Talk – Holy Trinity Hildersham	9.30am 7.30pm	13 6
Tue	28	Mobile Library, The Abingtons Art Group Tuesday Club Short Tennis – Linton Sports Hall Scrabble Club	9.40am 10.00am 2.00pm 3.00pm 7.00pm	22 23 14 15 14

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 April 2026

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

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

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

Wheelie bin dates for April 2026 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Wed 1	Wed 8	Wed 15	Wed 22	Wed 29
Blue/Green	Black	Blue/Green	Black	Blue/Green

Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am

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

Aerobics and Pilates – Fridays (Aerobics 9.30am; Pilates 10.30am & 11.45am).

Aerobics, toning and stretching, exercises to raise your heart rate and tone your body, fun and friendly. Pilates will help to alleviate back pain, improve core strength, posture and flexibility. Aerobics is pay as you go; Pilates please book for five weeks.

Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.com.

Evening Pilates

There are two classes on Tuesdays at 7.00pm and 8.15pm in the Village Institute. All equipment provided. Contact Liz Kirk on 07903 079853 to book your place (£9 per session).

Physio-led Face to Face Pilates – Mondays 9.30am–12.40pm

Eight-week Pilates course, 13 April–15 June (no classes on bank holiday Mondays 4/25 May); 9.30–10.30am intermediate/ advanced Pilates class; 10.40–11.40am mixed ability Pilates class; 11.50am–12.50pm 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

April's Craft Group is on Thursday 16 April. Bring your own project. New and old members 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/April 2026 are as follows:

31 March – Birthday Tea. Please bring a favourite poem with you to share.

14 April – AGM followed by Mindful Art.

28 April – Jason Middleton will make a return visit with another talk on jewellery.

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



Our recent walks included a stop for a pub lunch in Burrough Green and a local walk near Linton. This month's dates are Thursday 2 and Saturday 18 April. Check the WhatsApp Group for information closer to the time. We're looking forward to some spring weather!

The group sets off from the Abington Institute at 10.00am (NB: 10.15am on 18 April) in shared cars. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. £1 per person.

Our WhatsApp Group provides information about the planned route a few days ahead. We would be delighted if members are able to share ideas and guide the group on their 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 our WhatsApp 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 15 April at 7.30pm on the Terrace at the Village Institute. Freda Orgee will do a mini-flower demonstration, both contemporary and traditional, using seasonal flowers. 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: 22 April 2026. Sheena Fraser

Film Nights

Film Nights at the Abington Institute, Friday 24 April, 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm); Children's Matinée Saturday 25 April, 2.00pm. For more information, please visit <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> where you can subscribe to Film Nights updates.

Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Our AGM, held in The George at Babraham on Monday 9 March 2026 was a momentous and sad day for our WI members. Sue Smales, President of the Cambridge Federation of WIs, came to oversee the secret ballot to place Abington and Hildersham Women's Institute in suspension. Without a new committee we could not continue beyond the end of March and members all agreed that this would be the end of nearly 127 years as a WI. In line with the AGM agenda, the annual reports of our activities and finance were given and we resolved that we would hold our Cakes and Plants stall as usual in May and our Garden Party in July. After these business items, we relaxed to enjoy a lovely lunch with much chatter and laughter and reminiscing over old photographs. Members were asked to root out any WI photos from past meetings and events so that we can make an album of our memories. We will all miss our friendly monthly Monday meeting but we have received the offer of a warm welcome at monthly Balsham and Linton WIs on Mondays and Tuesdays respectively. The facility to regenerate a WI in our villages will remain open for three years, so if a new group of ladies would like to do this in the future, please do get in touch with me.

Marilyn Broadhurst

Reading Group

14 April	<i>Guilty by Definition</i> Susie Dent	Sylvia Gilmour
12 May	<i>The Safekeep</i> Yael van der Wouden	Mary Conochie
9 June	<i>The Dutch House</i> Ann Patchett	Diana Wingfield

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, 3.00–4.00pm 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

Abington Bowls Club – come and play!

This month you will see signs of life down on the bowling green, as we shake off the dust of winter and get ready for the new season. Practice makes perfect, we are told, so you will see us getting into match trim, rolling them bowls.

We start with an away match against Cambridge University Press on 29 April. Our first home match (v. Gamlingay) will on 19 May.

As ever we are keen to have people join the club, whether as beginners or as players. All are welcome. So why not give it a try? You may be a sleeping star.

ABC will provide you with:

- Free club membership for the first year
- Free use of bowls – no need to buy
- Access to the green for practice at any time. No need to book.
- Free assistance/tuition/coaching every Friday evening. From 5 – 8 pm.

The bowling green is on the High Street in Little Abington, about 200 metres from the bridge. If you wish to join or have any queries, contact me by phoning or messaging on 0785 252 869.

Graham Ross

Naturewatch River Meeting



On Friday 17 April at 7.30pm in the Institute we have our Spring Naturewatch Meeting, which will be looking at the early results from the River Sampling that started in December. Emma Dominic, who has been co-ordinating and analysing the samples at Anglia Ruskin University, is coming to give some early feedback on the data, which is showing some unexpected and interesting results.

We will also present the recent Garden Birdwatch results, a request for more pond data, some changes to the monthly report and outline the Naturewatch trips planned for this summer.

Check out the Naturewatch blog at <http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com>. Everyone is welcome at what will be a very interesting meeting. David Farrant

Abington Villages Litterpick

Saturday 25 April 2026, 10.00am–12noon



Please volunteer to help keep our villages tidy

Pickers, rubbish sacks, gloves and high vis provided.
Check in at the Village Institute to be allocated a beat and collect your kit.

Free hot drink/soft drink and homemade cake when you return from picking.

All residents invited, including supervised children.
Do join in and share the feelgood factor from doing your bit.

Supported by Great and Little Abington Parish Councils.

Come and join us for
Afternoon Tea
at Jeremiah's Café



When: 21 April
Time: 2.30pm–4.30pm
Cost: £5

*Choice of scones and delicious cake plus
tea or coffee or soft drink*

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.

Election for the new Abington Parish Council

This is an exciting opportunity for those interested in taking an active part in the community and becoming part of the new Abington Parish Council. An election will be held on 7 May 2026 for Councillors to form the new Abington Parish Council. Prospective candidates will need to complete a nomination form.

Nomination forms and guidance can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

The nomination period opens on 30 March and closes on 9 April at 4.00pm. All nomination papers must be delivered by hand to the Elections department at South Cambridgeshire District Council during office hours (9.00am–5.30pm). Nominations cannot be accepted by post.

To stand as a candidate at a local government election you must:

- be at least 18 years old on the day of your nomination
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights

and meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

- you are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the local authority area in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination and onwards
- you have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election
- your main or only place of work during the last 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the local authority area
- you have lived in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election

Until May, anyone who would like more information about becoming a Parish Councillor can contact the Chairmen or Parish Clerks of Great and Little Abington Parish Councils:

Tony Orgee (Chairman, GAPC) tonyorgee@gmail.com

Paula Harper (Clerk, GAPC): harper802@btinternet.com (892 000)

Jessica Ashridge (Clerk, LAPC): clerk@littleabington-pc.gov.uk

Hildersham Parish Council

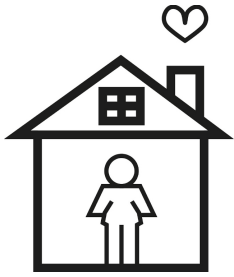
Meeting held on 10 March 2026

Tom Barton-Owen resigned from the council, as he is moving away from the village. He was thanked for his significant contribution to the work of the Parish Council. As the elections for Parish Councillors are to be held on 7 May, the vacancy he leaves will not be filled. Please see the information above about applying to become a Parish Councillor.

The new commemorative blossom tree and plaque to honour the community volunteers and remember those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic have been planted in the play area.

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12 May at Hildersham Village Hall. Please go to the Parish Council's website for more information: hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk

Love Abington Spring Event



A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Repair Café held at the Institute on Saturday 7 March. It was a busy morning filled with chatter and the sound of tools mending a variety of household items, from coffee machines, lamps and jewellery to a beloved old teddy bear. Sixty people watched their assorted household items restored to working order and, in some cases, felt they had learned a new repairing skill. This result ensured that fewer goods went to landfill. We are most grateful to our 12 repairers, some of whom belong to our village, who were happy to explain and demonstrate their skills. A special thank you to the wonderful Love Abington volunteers, particularly David Simmons and Marilyn Broadhurst who spent many hours organising this successful event.

Love Abington has launched a new scheme to help the most disadvantaged families in our community cope during these tough economic times. Families of children qualifying for free school meals will receive extra support to help them buy food and make ends meet during the holidays. If you would like to find out more, or wish to help, contact loveabington1@gmail.com.



Photo: Katie Robson



Photo: David Simmons

Campaign Opposing the Grange Farm Development (SAVE Group)

A group of residents has come together to raise awareness of, and respond to, the proposed Grange Farm development. Our working name is SAVE – Save Abington Village Environment.

Many of you will have seen the activity earlier in January encouraging residents across the Abingtons and neighbouring villages to submit comments to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP). Thanks to the community's efforts, many of us submitted our online letters regarding Grange Farm, adding to the 4,500 overall comments about the entire GCLP.

As the Local Plan moves into its next stage, we are now focusing on building a long-term, well-organised campaign. Conversations with councillors and planning officers have made it clear that a strong, active community voice will be essential if local concerns are to be properly considered.

The group currently has around nine active members, but there is much more to do, and we would welcome additional support. A wide range of skills are helpful — from research and writing to events, marketing and communications, representation at local village meetings, or simply enthusiasm for protecting the character of our villages. We are also reaching out to individuals who may be able to contribute specialist expertise in planning, development or related backgrounds.

If you would like to get involved, or simply want to stay informed, please contact us at: villageconsultation14@gmail.com.

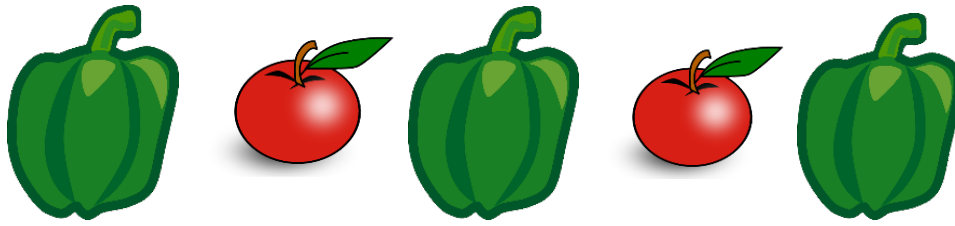
Farewell to a Village Friend



We said goodbye to Marian Rusted at Jeremiah's Café on Saturday 22 March as she prepared to move to a new home in Saffron Walden. Marian has been in the village for 34 years, losing her husband 10 years ago. Her latest little dog was a favourite called Yossie.

Marian took part in several village activities over the years. She is sad to go and will miss the village a lot but circumstances mean she needs a different environment. Marian would love to receive visitors. Her new address is Bailey Lodge, Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HY and her phone number is 01799 420 080.

Jane Furlow



Abington Lunch Thursday 23 April 2026

Fruit juice
Chicken dish
Seasonal vegetables
Rhubarb pudding
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 01223 891464 **before noon** on Tuesday 21 April. 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 28 May 2026.

Addenbrooke's Hospital – changes to booking into outpatient clinics

The majority of outpatient clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital no longer have receptionists or individual clinic telephone numbers. On entering the main Outpatients Entrance (level 2) on the left hand side there is a row of booking windows where a clerk will book you in. You may then proceed to the clinic.

It is also possible to book in using My Chart: <https://www.cuh.nhs.uk/visiting-our-hospitals/your-appointment/mychart/>. The 'I'm here' button in My Chart will appear 20 minutes before the scheduled appointment time, allowing a check-in online,

Contacting a clinic by telephone is now via a central hub: 01223 805 000 and 01223 806 000.

The following clinics still have receptionists and individual telephone numbers:

Eye Unit, clinics 14, 21, 32, 43, R3, Oncology and PUVA (light therapy).

Further details are available at [cuh.nhs.uk/our-services/outpatients/](https://www.cuh.nhs.uk/our-services/outpatients/).

Anton King

April Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
5 April	Easter Day Holy Communion <i>West Wratting</i> <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i>	Easter Day Holy Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
12 April	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Holy Communion <i>West Wratting</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Taizé Service <i>Weston Colville</i>
19 April	Holy Communion <i>West Wickham</i> <i>West Wratting</i>	Holy Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
26 April	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Holy Communion <i>Weston Colville</i>	Holy 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–Saturday	9.30am Holy Mass
Sunday (including Easter Sunday, 5 April)	8.45am, 11.15am Holy Mass
2 April Maundy Thursday	9.00 pm The Lord's Supper
3 April Good Friday	3.00 pm The Lord's Passion 6.30 pm Stations of the Cross
4 April Holy Saturday	9.00 pm Easter Vigil

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 14 April	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 28 April
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Church Services for April 2026

DATE	Gt Abington 	Lt Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
5 April		11.00am Easter Day Communion	11.00am Easter Day Communion	Acts 10.34–43 John 20.1–18
12 April	11.00am Communion		11.00am Café Church	Acts 2.14a, 22–32 John 20.19–end
19 April		11.00am Communion		Acts 2.14a, 36–41 Luke 24.13–35
26 April	6.00pm Evening Prayer		11.15am Communion (BPC)	Acts 2.42–end John 10.1–10

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

Creative Church: 9.30am, Sunday 26 April, Abington Institute

Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
5 April	Easter – all help please	Easter – all help please	Easter – all help please
12 April	Sarah Barron	Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Melloy
19 April	Sarah Barron	Mrs Snell and Mrs Hayden-Smith	Mrs Logan
26 April	Patsy Randall	Mrs Snell and Mrs Hayden-Smith	Mrs Logan

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