



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

May 2026



Photo: David Simmons

Double trouble at Hildersham Hall's Lamb Sunday in April

From the Editor

Community affairs are the main theme of this month's *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*. Elections for the District Council are being held on 7 May and on 19 May (time to be confirmed) the new single Parish Council will be meeting for the first time. The formal notice about this is on page 14, where you can also read a valedictory account of the achievements of Great Abington Parish Council over the past 80 years. The Save Abington Village Environment (SAVE) group has been set up to pursue objections to the proposed major housing development at Grange Farm and needs further support. See page 8 for details of how you could help. Volunteers are also invited to join the team that looks after the churchyard in Little Abington – details on page 17. Fuel prices are continuing to rise because of events in the Middle East and while warmer weather means lower heating costs in our oil and electricity dependent villages, the community oil order managed by Ian Richardson is particularly welcome (page 8). Please note the deadline for placing your order – Thursday 14 May – and many thanks to Ian for organising this.

On a lighter note, The Hildersham Village Hall Trust is holding a Murder Mystery Evening on 15 May. You can play detective over fish and chips or a burger. See page 6 for details and how to order your meal. Balsham Singers' spring concert on 16 May features classical and popular music (page 7) and rehearsals for the GLAMS' Spring Sing continue throughout the month, with a performance on 22 May (page 16).

Our cover photo was taken at Hildersham Hall Farm's Lamb Sunday on 12 April, where both sheep and lambs were impressively laid back about the number of visitors. Many thanks to Nettie Long, Sarah Tunnicliffe and Andrew Rouse for taking the time to provide the article on page 15 during a very busy week.

Sally Simmons

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

From the Seven Churches

Churches Together in Cambridgeshire has a long-standing partnership with the Diocese of Vellore in the Church of South India and in January this year I was blessed to be invited along with eight other Christians of various denominations to join with the Diocese in celebrating their Golden Jubilee. I had visited India many times before and Vellore once as part of a previous group. Two of my children have also visited Vellore as part of youth visits.

However well prepared you are, though, however many times you might have been before, India always excites, surprises and finds some way to change you. Christians in general, and members of the Church of South India in particular, are a small minority in India although the Church is involved with schools and hospitals as well as social projects. Many of these started being set up by missionaries many years ago although we always do well to remember that Christianity came to India well before it came to our shores; the first Christian missionary was the Apostle Thomas (famously known as 'Doubting Thomas' although I believe his doubts helped many people to find faith). Saint Thomas was martyred in Chennai (formerly Madras).

The Diocese of Vellore was founded fifty years ago, – the region had previously been part of the Diocese of Madras – and that jubilee was the main reason for our visit, but many celebrations formed part of it. We were involved in dedication ceremonies for several new church buildings, mostly built by the local congregations themselves. The joy of such occasions just cannot be overstated, singing, dancing and praising the Lord in an explosion of colour and sound (and nearly always a celebratory meal afterwards – we were never hungry!).

We were blessed to witness, and to be involved with, a baptism of 50 adults at one Church, the Confirmation of many young people at another, and a very moving 'lamplighting' service where first-year nursing students at the School of Nursing in the Scudder Memorial Hospital were given their uniforms in preparation for working on the wards for the first time. It was a real privilege to share this time with those young people and their parents. The main celebration service at the Central Church in Vellore was incredible – but at four and a half hours long we were pleased that we were able to stretch our legs in the middle.

I returned tired, as you can imagine, but wonderfully spiritually refreshed and renewed and we are looking forward to a visit from Bishop Sharma to coincide with the installation of Bishop Sarah in Ely.

Alastair France

News from the Pews – Abington and Hildersham

Hoping you have all had a joyful Easter and that you are beginning to enjoy the lighter, warmer days of spring. There is something so uplifting about this time of year – the sense of new life, fresh beginnings and hope in the air.

Some of you may have noticed that a section of plaster has recently fallen from the south aisle ceiling of St Mary the Virgin Church in Great Abington. Thankfully no one was hurt and we have cordoned off the area to ensure everyone's safety. We kindly ask that this is respected while we assess the situation.

We are now in the process of arranging inspections, gathering quotes and exploring the best way forward for repairs. As you can imagine, this is unlikely to be a quick or inexpensive task. With that in mind, we are especially grateful for your support of the fundraising events listed below – opportunities not only to contribute towards the repairs but also to come together as a community and enjoy time with one another.

Please know that all are warmly invited to join us at any of our 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.

Dates for your diary

Auction of Promises – Friday 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!

Creative Church!

Sunday 31 May 2026 9.30am at Abington Institute.



This month we will focus on building firm foundations – exploring how life can feel grounded and settled when we take time to build firm foundations. 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

Taizé

If you are needing peace and a time for contemplation and prayer then the Taizé service on the third Sunday of the month at 6pm is an opportunity to sit in candlelit quietness interspersed with beautiful chants. It concludes or begins your week in the most nourishing.

Don't Miss Out

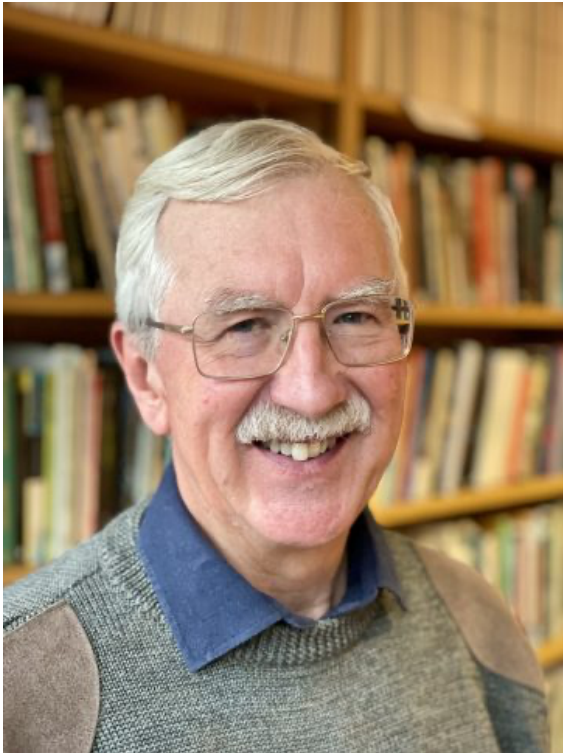
...on homemade cake and an opportunity to chat with local friends. The next Teatime will be Monday 20 May 2.30–4.00pm. Please join us! We have games and activities for little ones and those of us who are still young at heart! And it is lovely to catch up on all the local news and meet new faces.

Save the Date

Hildersham Village Fete will be on Saturday 11 July 1.00–4.00pm with all profits going to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, church and Village Hall. There will be all the usual stalls, games, food, drink and attractions. Any donations of raffle or tombola prizes, books, toys or plants can be dropped off at Pear Tree Cottage.

Big Life Talk

Are Natural Disasters Inevitable? Insights from Science and Religion – Professor Bob White



The first in this series of engaging public talks and discussions will be held on Wednesday 13 May at 6.30pm in Abington Institute.

Professor White (pictured) is a Fellow of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, having been Professor of Geophysics in the Department 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 and 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.

The Big Life Talks are organised by Abington Churches as part of the Scientists in Congregations initiative and funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation. Each event will feature a brief talk addressing important life topics, delivered by leading figures from the fields of science, medicine, technology and theology. Each session will be followed by a Q&A and complimentary refreshments. For more information, please contact either Revd Hannah Threlfall or Tony Collett (tony.collett3112@gmail.com).

Abington Annexe Community Childcare

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to a generous village resident for her recent kind donation. Thanks to her support, we have been able to purchase a much-needed washing machine and cover the cost of having it professionally installed. Her contribution has made a real and lasting difference for which we are truly grateful. On behalf of all the staff, children and committee, many thanks. Emma Roper, Administrator, Abington Annexe Community Childcare

HVHT Murder Mystery Evening

Hildersham Village Hall Trust presents 'Blood on the Silver Screen', a Murder Mystery Evening at Hildersham Village Hall, on Friday 15 May, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Test your detective skills to work out whodunnit while enjoying a fish and chip supper, or chicken or veggie burger alternative.

Tickets are £15 per person, cash only, bring your own drinks. Bookings should be made no later than Thursday 7 May, together with your supper choices. All proceeds to go to Parkinson's UK and the Hildersham Village Hall Trust.

To book please contact Jackie Parker, jmparker207@gmail.com, Jenny Logan, jenny.logan@btinternet.com, Jill Heale, edheale@btinternet.com.



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

WI Plant and Cake Stall

Saturday 9 May 9.30-11.00am

outside Abington Village Institute

We will be selling locally grown plants
and homemade cakes and produce.

Come and buy delicious home bakes
and quality plants for your garden
at bargain prices.

SAVE is looking for volunteers



Save Abington Village Environment is the residents' group that was formed in January to oppose the Grange Farm development and protect the character, environment and long-term wellbeing of Abington and the surrounding villages. In our fight to counter the proposed new town we urgently need your support. We are looking to recruit a few people to join the group, either with specific skills to help our campaign or with the enthusiasm and commitment to

support and engage in the next phase.

We are particularly looking for:

- a treasurer to help manage funds and engage with our fundraising activities;
- website and digital support for our website development/video production.
- anyone with working experience in aspects of rural landscape and topography
- younger members who can bring fresh perspectives and help shape the long-term future of our local villages and our environment.

Whether you live in the Abingtons or Hildersham, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to get involved and learn more then please contact us on villageconsultation14@gmail.com. Alternatively, message me on geoff45king@gmail.com and I will get back to you with details.

Geoff King (Chair, SAVE)

Community Oil Order

Ian Richardson will take orders for domestic heating oil up to the end of Thursday 14 May. The order will be placed on Friday 15 May, 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 or phone 07592 731 591.

Barbecues on the Recreation Ground

The Recreation Management Committee asks all residents and visitors to refrain from using single use or portable barbecues on the Rec. While we appreciate the appeal of alfresco dining, the use of barbecues poses a significant risk to the wellbeing of our shared green space. Scorched grass, damage to picnic tables, potential fire hazards and lingering litter can spoil the area for everyone.

Please help to protect our valuable community resource. By leaving your barbecues at home, you help ensure the Rec remains a pleasant place for all to enjoy.

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 12 May	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 26 May
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District and County Councillors' Reports April 2026

Cambridge Growth Company

The government has identified Cambridge as a prime area for growth, due to the boom of the science and tech sector in the Greater Cambridge area. The number of additional houses the government thinks would be sufficient to support this economic growth remains unconfirmed but 100,000 has been mooted. To manage this growth and identify areas to build these new houses, the government has set up the Cambridge Growth Company, which will ultimately morph into the Development Corporation (DevCo). A lot of the detail about this is unclear but it would seem that DevCo would ultimately take planning powers away from local authorities for larger 'strategic sites'. The point has been made that disrupting 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. The public consultation on the above ended on 1 April. The results of this will or won't shape DevCo and how it proposes to operate.

Food Waste Collection.

We are expecting the new food waste caddies to reach us by September, as the rollout is across the Greater Cambridge area, with our area one of the last to receive them.

Electric Vehicle Cable Channel Trial

The County Council is embarking on a trial to help people who have electric vehicles but no driveway to park and charge them on. The trial will offer a certain number of people in our district the chance to apply for a channel to run from their charger within their property, across the pavement, and connect to their vehicle. Some costs will be involved, depending on homeowners' personal circumstances. Go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and follow the links to the EV cable channel trial for more information and to register your interest.

Oil Fund

The council has received £708,000 from the Government, ring-fenced to support households struggling with the cost of domestic heating oil. The money has been added to the council's Crisis & Resilience Fund, and applications are being administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. Applications to the fund opened on Monday 30 March.

This fund is intended for Cambridgeshire households on low incomes who are reliant on heating oil and who need to top up their tanks as a matter of urgency. To receive this support, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- live in Cambridgeshire
- be reliant on heating oil to heat their home and/or water.
- have 150 litres or less of oil remaining at the time of application.
- be in receipt of or eligible for one of the following means-tested benefits: Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Income based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

Life Skills

The County Council's Skills team is offering a number of life skills classes. These are designed to help people pick up a variety of new skills that could help with day-to-day life. Most of these classes could be fully funded, depending on an individual's circumstance. Full information can be found here at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk. Follow the link to adult learning.

Elections

There are District Council elections on 7 May. Electors in the Linton area are being asked to elect two people to represent them at the District Council until it becomes the new Unitary authority in 2028. We are both seeking re-election to remain as your District Councillors for another two years.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johnbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

Diary for May 2026

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Fri	1	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	11
Mon	4	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
Tue	5	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
Wed	6	Yoga	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
Thu	7	Local Elections	7.00am	
		Walking Group	9.55am	12
Fri	8	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	11
Sat	9	WI Plant and Cake Sale	9.30am	7
Mon	11	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
		Physio Pilates	9.30am	11
Tue	12	Mobile Library, Hildersham	9.40am	8
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	1.00pm	12
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
		Reading Group	7.30pm	12
Wed	13	Yoga	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
		Big Life Talk	6.30pm	6
Thu	14	Community Oil Order – deadline		8
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	15	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Murder Mystery Evening – Hildersham Village Hall	7.00pm	6
Sat	16	Balsham Singers Spring Concert – Holy Trinity church	7.30pm	7
Mon	18	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
		Physio Pilates	9.30am	11
Tue	19	Art Group	10.00am	19
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
		Abington Parish Council – first meeting	TBC	14
Wed	20	Yoga	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	11
		Tea & Cake Afternoon – Hildersham Village Hall	2.30pm	5
Thu	21	Craft Group	1.30pm	12
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	22	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	11
		GLAMS Spring Sing	7.30pm	16
Sat	23	Walking Group	9.55am	12
Mon	25	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
Tue	26	Mobile Library, The Abingtons	9.40am	8
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
		Evening Pilates	7.00pm	11
		Scrabble Club	7.00pm	11
Wed	27	Yoga	9.30am	11
		The Abington Group	TBC	12
Thu	28	Abington Lunch	12.45pm	13

		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	11
Fri	29	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	11
Sun	31	Creative Church	9.30am	5

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 May 2026

Thursday lunchtime 12.00 noon–2.00pm (7, 14, 21, 28 – **Abington Lunch**)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (2, 9, 16, 23, 30)

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

Wheelie bin dates for May 2026 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

Wed 6	Wed 13	Wed 20	Wed 27
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.

Scrabble Club

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Next meeting: 26 May 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.

Abington Acorns



Abington Acorns is a fun, friendly and inclusive stay-and-play group for little explorers aged 0–5 years, running every Monday during term time. Pop along and join the fun from 9.15–11.00am – no need to book, just come along and discover our exciting weekly theme!

We'll provide a yummy light snack for the children. Please bring a lidded cup for your own hot drink so you can sit back, relax and have a chat while the little ones play. We invite you to make a £2 voluntary donation if you're able – this helps us keep the fun going for everyone and is always very much appreciated.

You'll find us in the Abington Annexe building – just look out for our Acorn signs! If you'd like to know more, we'd love to hear from you: Tel. 01223 894246 or email abingtonannexeoffice@gmail.com for information.

The Tuesday Club

12 May – fish and chip lunch at 1.00pm. Please give your name to secure your lunch. We will follow lunch with a social game.

26 May – Chris Budd will give a talk on 'Visual Magic in Musicals'. Meeting starts at 2.00pm.

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

Abington Walking Group



We are planning two local springtime walks on Thursday 7 May and Saturday 23 May. An open invitation is made to all villagers to join us on these local walks. As regular members know, our WhatsApp group provides information about the planned route a few days ahead but for these two special events we will post information on the Abington Village WhatsApp group and posters around the village providing details. Want to know more? Contact Jeff (j_dowling@btinternet.com) or Genevieve (gdalton365@gmail.com).

Abington Craft Group

Our next meeting is on Thursday 21 May, 1.30pm–4.30pm, in the terrace in Abington Institute. Bring your own project and ideas for an event nearer the end of the year, demonstrating our skills and crafts! Light refreshments available. £3 per session. For further information, please contact Glynis Brookman at glynis.brookman@btinternet.com or mobile 07970 614 194. or just pop along.

Film Nights

Film Nights at the Abington Institute will return in September. For more information, please visit <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> where you can subscribe to Film Nights updates

Reading Group

12 May	<i>The Safekeep</i> Yael van der Wouden	Mary Conochie
9 June	<i>The Dutch House</i> Ann Patchett	Diana Wingfield
14 July	<i>And the Mountains Echoed</i> Khaled Hosseini	Liz Obstfeld

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

The Abington Group (Ladies)

The May meeting of the Abington Group will be a garden visit on Wednesday 27 May, a week later than usual. If you are interested in going, please get in touch with Freda Orgee for further details. Telephone 01223 891 464 or email fredaorgee@gmail.com.

Freda Orgee, Coordinator

Abington Bowls Club

Up and running!

The recent sunny weather reminds us that one of the best places to be on a summery evening is down by Abington's bowling green, practising, playing or just watching.

Want to have a go? Turn up and join in! Every Friday evening (from 6.00 pm) you will find club members at the green ready to give instruction, help and advice to any who come by. No need to book and it's all FREE. All equipment will be provided for you. The only rule is that you do not play in heeled footwear. Studs and stilettos are barred.

If at any other time or day you see a formal match in progress, do come along and watch. We won't mind. Indeed, we would actively encourage such involvement.

The matches in our principal competition, the Cambridge & District Bowls League Div 2, start at 6.30pm and last about two hours. There are 12 players per team.

The secondary competition – the Business Houses Pairs League – has but four players per team and is quicker.

These are the dates of the home games in May:

Tuesday 19th v Gamlingay

Thursday 21st v Fulbourn

Tuesday 26th v Histon

Weds 27th v Milton

Graham Ross



Abington Lunch Thursday 28 May 2026

Fruit juice
Baked salmon
Seasonal vegetables
Lemon cheesecake
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 0794 101 6543 **before noon** on Tuesday 26 May. 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 25 June 2026.

Single Parish Council formally approved

Following a community governance review, South Cambridgeshire District Council has issued a formal order relating to the parishes of Great Abington and Little Abington to the effect that the two parishes will be grouped under a common Parish Council after the elections on 7 May. The full order has been posted on village notice boards. It states that:

- The name of the group will Abington Parish Council.
- The elections of all parish councillors will be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2026 (7 May) and thereafter every four years.
- The term of each parish councillor will be four years. The number of councillors to be elected for Abington Parish Council will be 9, consisting of 6 representing Great Abington Parish and 3 representing Little Abington Parish.

The new Council is scheduled to meet for the first time on 19 May 2026.

Great Abington Parish Council – the end of an era

Great Abington Parish Council (GAPC), along with Little Abington Parish Council (LAPC), ceased to exist on 1 April 2026, when the two councils were grouped together into the new Abington Parish Council.

Parish Councils in England have few responsibilities and their main role is to pass on local views to higher-level councils such as the District and County Councils. GAPC has repeatedly expressed views about the very poor state of roads and pavements in the village to the County Council in an attempt to get action.

Great Abington Parish Council has responded to public consultations, most recently on the District and City Councils' draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan, expressing its opposition to the inclusion of Grange Farm in the draft plan, and setting out its reasons for opposition.

The Parish Council was proactive in helping to set up a local village warden scheme. In addition to financially supporting the village warden scheme, GAPC has given grants to the Abington Allotments and Leisure Gardeners' Association, the Abington History Group and to Love Abington.

When the Council announced funding was available to set up 20 mph speed zones, GAPC carried out a rapid consultation, received over 70 responses with about 95% support and made a successful bid.

Meetings of GAPC included a Public Participation or Open Forum section where members of the public were allowed time to speak to the council about any concerns or issues of local relevance, one recent suggestion being a request for a defibrillator in the Magna Close area.

Over the last four years GAPC has considered about 100 planning applications, each application being publicly advertised in the relevant Parish Council meeting agenda on the Parish Council noticeboard. Applications have ranged from house extensions to large-scale applications on Granta Park proposing hundreds of new jobs. Parish councils do not have the power to approve or reject planning applications but can only pass on their recommendations to the District Council which makes the decision.

Planning applications of more than ten dwellings are subject to legally binding Section 106 agreements to help provide indoor community facilities, children's play space, and open space and recreational facilities. Over the last 12 years more than £150,000 Section 106 money has been received by Great Abington Parish Council to support facilities at the Abington Institute and work on the building, the construction of the Pump Track and, most recently, on the refurbishment of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the Recreation Ground. GAPC also received a commuted sum specifically for maintaining the recreation facilities and community orchard at Larkfield.

Great Abington Parish Council has been responsible for the maintenance of Great Abington churchyard as the churchyard is not open for public burials.

I would like to thank all members of the 2022–6 Parish Council for their contributions: Jill Carter as Vice Chair, Jane Bowen, Louise Patten, David Pollock, Mak Mukesh and Risa Nagasaki. Finally, my thanks to our Parish Clerk, Paula Harper, who has served the Parish Council for over 20 years.

Tony Orgee, Chair GAPC 2021–6

Lamb Sunday at Hildersham Hall Farm



Thank you to all who attended our Lamb Sunday on 12 April. We are delighted to announce that with your support and generosity we raised £1,385.64. This will be split equally between The UK Sepsis Trust and Holy Trinity Church Hildersham. We hope that you enjoyed the afternoon.

We are often asked questions by the public during the afternoon as people are interested to learn more about lambing and how this important activity enables us to produce such high-quality meat.

The ewes at Hildersham Hall are mainly a Texel cross breed. This means that they are a Texel ram crossed with a Charolais, Texel or North Country Mule ewe. As well as a flock of approximately 200 ewes we also have a small flock of rams (tups), some of which we have bred and others

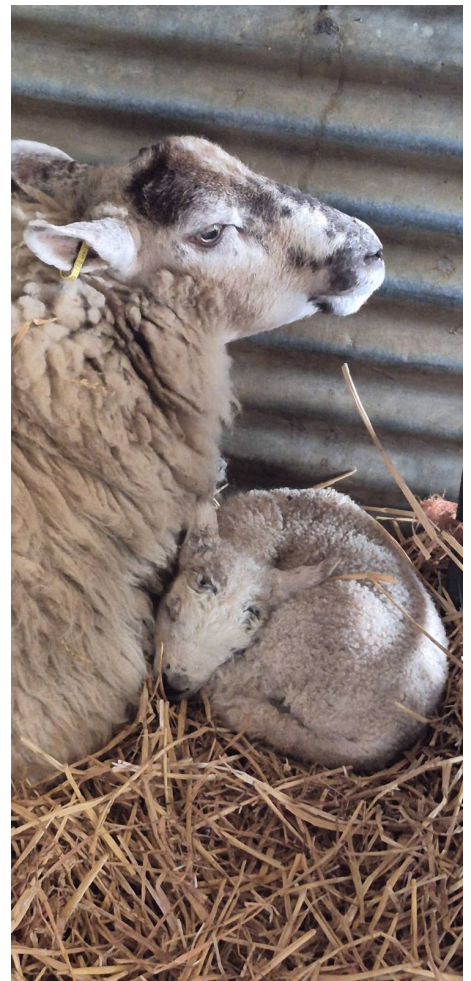
that we have purchased from annual ram sales. At tugging time in October, we place two rams to a flock of approximately 100 ewes. The rams will stay with the ewes for about eight weeks.

The gestation period of a ewe is 150 days, so we normally start lambing at the end of March and will continue for usually about eight weeks. This year, it has all gone rather quickly, with 96 ewes lambing in one week! The lambs will stay with their mothers until the end of July and then they are weaned.

We rear all our lambs in the best possible conditions and will start selling them from August to January.

Sarah Tunnicliffe and Andrew Rouse

Lamb Sunday at Hildersham Hall farm: (above) Shepherd Andrew Rouse and Revd Hannah Turner (with photogenic lamb); (right) Ewe and lamb



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.

GLAMS' SPRING SING 26

COME AND JOIN US!

ALL WELCOME

WE ARE A FRIENDLY
FEMALE VOICE CHOIR

NO AUDITIONS OR
EXPERIENCE
NEEDED

LEARN AND
PERFORM
A MILLION DREAMS
FROM
THE GREATEST
SHOWMAN IN 4
WEEKS!

REHEARSALS

29 APRIL
6, 13 & 20 MAY
7:30 > 9:00PM
ABINGTON ANNEXE

PERFORMANCE

22 MAY - ABINGTON INSTITUTE

FOR MORE INFO

DROP INTO A REHEARSAL OR EMAIL
GLAMSCOIR23@GMAIL.COM

May Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	Services pm
May 3		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
May 10	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wratting</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	6.00pm Taizé Service <i>Weston Colville</i>
May 17	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wratting</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
May 24	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
May 31	Creative Church, Village Institute, Abington	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	8.45am and 11.15am Holy Mass

Churchyard Volunteers



Last month saw our happy group of volunteers once again hard at work in the churchyard in Little Abington; cutting grass, tidying graves, clearing overgrown areas, creating 'mini gardens' and much more. Why not come along to take part? Meet new people, make friends, enjoy the fresh air and keep active. Alternate Wednesdays, 9.00am–noon.

For more information contact Miles Craven (milescraven@yahoo.com.)

Celebrating Spring



A poem for April

Entitlement

Goodbye to April, a subversive month
Stirring up earth, thoughts and feelings
And dropping some sourness into the mix – snap frosts,
Snow on daffodils (it's been known) –
And outrageous cuckoos.
Here they come, muscling into others' nests,
Trumping smaller birds
Then squatting fatly through the summer months,
Making fools of us all.



Photos from the Naturewatch Group: above, moorhen chicks by the Granta (Andy Merryweather), below orange tip butterfly in an Abington garden (Derek Turnidge)

Church Services for May 2026

DATE	Gt Abington 	Lt Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
May 3	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Acts 7.55–end
May 10	11.00am Communion		11.00am Café Church	Acts 17.22–31
May 17		11.00am Communion	6.00pm Taizé Service	Acts 1.6–14
May 24	6.00pm Evening Prayer		11.00am Communion (BPC)	Acts 2.1–21
May 31	Creative Church, Abington Institute			Isaiah 40.12–17, 27–end

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

Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
May 3	Patsy Randall	Mrs Miles	Mrs E Moore
May 10	Maureen Thomson and Betsy Gutteridge	Mrs Miles	Mrs E Moore
May 17	Maureen Thomson and Betsy Gutteridge	Mrs Franklin and Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Griggs
May 24	Patsy Randall	Mrs Franklin and Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Griggs
May 31	Patsy Randall	Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Palmer

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