



The Abingtons and Hildersham News



www.theabingtons.org.uk

July/August 2026



Photo: Izy Chapman

Baby kingfisher on the Granta in Hildersham

From the Editor

Despite the sweltering weather, the Abington Amble on Saturday 27 June saw seven gardens open to visitors in Great Abington and delicious and much needed refreshments served in the cool of St Mary's church. As so often when villagers run into each other at these community events, people recount stories – of their childhood growing up in the villages, village history, anecdotes, comical and otherwise – and I always say, "Write it down! Send it to me!" I have said it often in this letter but I'm happy to say it again. Don't be shy. Send it to news@theabingtons.org.uk or make a date to chat to me at Jeremiah's Café.

Our villages quieten down during the school summer holidays, with many regular classes and clubs taking a break. Do check the calendar on pages 10 and 11 for changes to term-time events. However, there is still plenty going on. The Hildersham Fête is on Saturday 11 July (page 6); Granta Vale Harmony is holding a concert on 16 July (page 15); and on 25 July there will be another collection for Ukraine at the Primary School. Please note the details about donated items on page 7. The Village Lunch continues over the holiday period (page 17) and 22 August is the date fixed for the Vicarage Garden Party – see page 5 for details.

Church services continue as usual but as the *News* goes to print the information about August services is not available. It will be posted on the Granta Vale Churches website (link on pages 18 and 20).

The Abingtons and Hildersham News will be back in September. Until then, I wish everyone a relaxing and fun summer break.

Sally Simmons

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

From the Seven Churches

What does that word 'Pilgrimage' conjure up in your mind, I wonder?

We are becoming used to seeing celebrities undertaking pilgrimages like this - stepping out of their comfort zones to embrace whatever challenge comes along. It involves adventure and sharing their own thoughts about their lives with the group. They may also share their faith, and the joy of profound moments when they realise something significant that had previously passed them by. They allow themselves to be vulnerable, accepting each other's differences, whatever their perspective.

The trip I made to Iona recently involved different modes of transport, just like pilgrims of old, including two ferry rides, two coach journeys, and two train rides. It was a way to wind down from the hectic daily life I had just left behind. There was time to take in the Scottish scenery, with lochs and mountains, some still topped with snow. These are not man-made views, but part of God's wonderful creation.

Is it all worth it, you might ask?

Well, on arrival, for those who have not visited Iona, there is such a sense of peace. The beautiful sandy beaches and turquoise sea are a feast for the eyes. Shoulders drop as we step off the boat and it becomes a time to relax. There is an awareness of the simplicity of the surroundings, giving us time to be still. All the responsibilities we carry are left behind for a while. There may be a realisation that our lives have become too complicated and need a little pruning, because sometimes less really is more.

As I write, we are moving into the summer season, with good weather we hope still to come! We do not necessarily need to go on a long journey to experience that sense of peace. Instead, we can feel renewed by simply noticing the beauty of life around us. We can stop and look at the birds we often take for granted because we are too busy. Taking the dog for a walk, pausing to use our senses - taste, smell, touch, and hearing. Smiling as we pass people, or simply saying "hello".

We are encouraged to be outward-looking, as St Francis encouraged us. Simplicity is so important, so wherever you go this summer, take time to enjoy the simple things and make the most of God's wonderful creation.

Happy wandering!

Revd Kathy Bishop

News from the Pews – Abington and Hildersham

As I write this month's newsletter, June has already been full of community spirit, friendship and plenty of activity across our villages.

A particular highlight was our Auction of Promises evening at the Institute. It was a wonderfully enjoyable night, filled with laughter, generosity and a healthy dose of competitive bidding thanks to George Silcock, auctioneer from Cheffins, for leading the bidding so well! My sincere thanks go to everyone who donated promises, helped organise the event and too all who came along! Together we raised over £4,000, a whopping start to the Great Abington Church Roof repair fund! Some fantastic promises found new owners – from meals and experiences to treats and treasures. Most importantly, though, it was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy one another's company!

At the time of writing, the Open Gardens event on 27 June has not yet taken place and we are still looking forward to it! But I know a tremendous amount of work has already gone into preparing gardens, organising refreshments and making the day possible. Whatever the weather brings, I am sure it will be a wonderful occasion and another opportunity to celebrate the beauty, hospitality and community spirit that make our villages so special.

As summer unfolds, our churches and villages continue to be busy places, with events, gatherings and opportunities to meet old friends and make new ones. Thank you to everyone who quietly gives their time, energy, skills and encouragement to make these things happen. So much of what we enjoy together is only possible because of the generosity of volunteers and the willingness of people to get involved.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful July.

Hildersham Tea and Cake Monday 20 July 3.00–4.30pm

This 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 17 August, 14 September and 19 October.

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

Creative Church!

Sunday 26 July 2026 9.30am at Abington Institute.



We will continue our focus on how God is with us wherever we go – we will look at journeying and how, wherever life takes us, God goes with us, showing us we are not alone when taking the next step. New beginnings may be daunting but can be exciting and it is okay not to know exactly what comes next because we can trust in God! Please do join Revd Hannah and Rosemary 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 10am start!

Please note that we will NOT be holding a Creative Church session in August – as always, we have a break for the holiday! But we will return on 27 September at 9.30am at The Abington Institute!

Dates for Your Diary

The Vicarage Garden Party Saturday 22 August 2026, 2.00–4.00pm

It is with great excitement that I can confirm the date for the annual Vicarage Garden Party! Please do pop along for a truly British fête! Cream teas, Pimm's, games, cake, plant and produce stalls, raffle, tombola, music and much more!

If you can help in anyway – either by baking for the cake stall, donating raffle prizes, items for the tombola or helping on the day please let Revd Hannah Threlfall know!

Revthrelfall24@outlook.com

Harvest Supper at The Abington Institute – Friday 2 October.

Daphne Hannah

The family are sad to announce the death of Daphne on Sunday 7 June. She was a much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be sorely missed by family and friends.

Christine Talbot

Christian Aid 2026

Thank you everyone who supported the Christian Aid collection in June. We have sent £513.90 for the appeal to support communities with tools and training to grow their own produce, overcome poverty and generate an income.



HILDERSHAM VILLAGE

FETE



Saturday 11th July 1-4pm

HILDERSHAM RECREATION GROUND

CASH ONLY

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Raffle and tombola•
- Live music•
- Wacky races•
- Fun dog show•
- Tug-of-war•
- Duck racing•
- Vintage games•
- Vintage cars•
- Pimms and Beer tent•
- Hog roast/Hot dogs•
- Books, plants, cakes•
- Childrens stall•



SAVE Update



Another busy month, and things only seem to be getting busier as we approach the key stages of the site allocation process. We've had two intensive but cordial meetings, first with Pippa Heylings MP and then with the GCSP's Director of Planning, Stephen Kelly, who many of you will remember from the public presentations in January. A summary and ways to request minutes from both meetings can be found in our latest three-fold newsletter. This will also include links to our Facebook page and

recent YouTube video.

We continue to request evidence from GCSP explaining how Grange Farm became their preferred site, while maintaining links with neighbouring parish councils and developing an informative website. Please also take a look at our recent YouTube campaign video. We hope to follow this with another focusing on A1307 traffic, which emerged as the main concern in our recent QR-code survey. More than 300 residents responded during the week-long survey, with 94% opposing the Grange Farm proposals. The results prompted our first press release and, we hope, helped bring the proposal to wider public attention.

This month we welcomed another new member to the group, focusing on road networks, and secured valuable support on historical and archaeological matters. However, we still urgently need a Treasurer to support our work outside the SAVE meeting structure. If you wish to know more about this role, please get in touch by emailing villageconsultation14@gmail.com.
Geoff King, Chairperson

DON'T MISS the SAVE cake stall at the Village Institute on Saturday 4 July from 10.00am. There will be cakes (of course) but also the opportunity to find out more about the group and the proposed development at Grange Farm.

Keeping It in the Family

After I retired from the Post Office in 2024, you all very kindly gifted me with a John Lewis gift voucher, so I thought it would be nice to let you know what I have purchased with it.

As I'm sure most of you have realised by now, Eddie and I have decided to renovate the bungalow in Church Lane that my parents owned and lived in.

After leaving their first home in Duxford, my father and mother bought the plot of land that is now number 26 and moved into two rooms above the Post Office while their bungalow was being built. My father drew the plans for the building and Bliss Builders, who were in Bourn Bridge Road, had the task of constructing their forever home for them. The workforce consisted of all village tradesmen, so it would be a true Abington heritage building. In 1954

my mother and father moved into their new family home and soon after my brother and I were born there.

The house has been in the family all these years, full of wonderful memories, and will now stay that way when we move into it later this year.

So, as I love cooking, especially baking, I used the gift you all generously gave me towards my new range cooker.

A really big, big thank you to you all. Lots of love.
Patsy Randall



UKRAINE COLLECTION



SAT 25TH JULY
9am to 1pm

**AT ABINGTON SCHOOL,
HIGH STREET, CB216AE**

GOODS NEEDED INCLUDE:

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

**CLEANING MATERIALS
TOYS, GAMES & EDUCATIONAL
ITEMS**

**CASH DONATIONS
WELCOME**

SUPPORTED BY;



NO CLOTHING AT THIS TIME

ORGANISED BY: WWW.ROTARY-SW.ORG

SUPPORTING: WWW.UK-AID.ORG

Rotary
Saffron Walden



100
ANNIVERSARY
1925-2025

UK-AID
Folsted Aid for Deprived Children
Charity Registration No. 293553



District and County Councillors' Report June 2026

Kingsway Solar

The application for Kingsway Solar Farm was received by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 21 May 2026. The Planning Inspectorate had up to 28 days in which to accept the application. The application has since been withdrawn by Kingsway Solar Farm Limited.

Food Waste Collection

You may recall from previous reports that due to a change in the law by DEFRA (the government department for environment & food), all local authorities will have to collect food waste separately from other green waste, starting this year. This means we will all get a new separate food caddy in the coming months that all food waste must be disposed into. This will then be collected every week alongside the usual bin. For most of us this is on Wednesday.

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

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

The popular Zero Carbon Communities Grant from the District Council is now reopened and taking bids. Community groups and parish councils can apply for up to £19,000 for schemes that help reduce carbon emissions or more sustainable living. Full information can be found on the South Cambs website.

Local Government Reorganisation

We are waiting for the next step of the process in the government move to try and streamline local authorities by merging all District and County councils in the country into Unitary Authorities. All local authorities in Cambridgeshire submitted their preferences earlier this year and we expect to hear back from government what their preference will be. Once we have this information we will be able to comment on this and, ultimately, prepare for life with only one council in our area.

Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

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 dates: Tuesday 14 July, Tuesday 11 August	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 dates: Tuesday 28 July, Tuesday 25 August
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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.

Diary for July and August 2026

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
School summer holiday 21 July–31 August				
Wed	1	Yoga Line Dancing	9.30am 1.00pm	11 12
Thu	2	Walking Group Granta Vale Harmony	9.55am 7.30pm	13 12
Fri	3	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12
Sat	4	SAVE cake stall	10.00am	7
Mon	6	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates	9.15am 9.30am	12 12
Tue	7	Art Group The Tuesday Club Evening Pilates	10.00am 1.00pm 7.00pm	19 12 12
Wed	8	Yoga Line Dancing	9.30am 1.00pm	11 12
Thu	9	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	10	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12
Sat	11	Hildersham Village Fête	1.00pm	6
Mon	13	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates	9.15am 9.30am	12 12
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Hildersham Art Group Evening Pilates Reading Group	9.40am 10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	9 19 12 13
Wed	15	Yoga Line Dancing	9.30am 1.00pm	11 12
Thu	16	Craft Group Granta Vale Harmony Concert	1.30pm 7.45pm	13 15
Fri	17	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12
Sat	18	Walking Group	9.55am	13
Mon	20	Abington Acorns – Abington Annexe Physio Pilates Tea & Cake Afternoon – Hildersham Village Hall	9.15am 9.30am 3.00pm	12 12 5
Tue	21	Art Group The Tuesday Club Evening Pilates	10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm	19 12 12
Wed	22	Yoga	9.30am	11
Thu	23	Abington Lunch Granta Vale Harmony	12.45pm 7.30pm	17 12
Fri	24	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12
Sat	25	Collection for Ukraine – Primary School	9.00am	8
Sun	26	Creative Church	9.30am	5
Mon	27	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
Tue	28	Mobile Library, The Abingtons Art Group Evening Pilates Scrabble Club	9.40am 10.00am 7.00pm 7.00pm	9 19 12 13
Wed	29	Yoga	9.30am	11
Thur	30	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12

Fri	31	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12
August				
Mon	3	Physio Pilates	9.30am	12
Tue	4	Art Group Evening Pilates	10.00am 7.00pm	19 12
Thur	6	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	7	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12
Tue	11	Mobile Library, Hildersham	9.40am	9
Thur	13	Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	14	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12
Tue	18	Art Group Evening Pilates	10.00am 7.00pm	19 12
Thur	20	Craft Group Granta Vale Harmony	1.30pm 7.30pm	13 12
Fri	21	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12
Sat	22	Vicarage Garden Party	2.00pm	5
Tue	25	Mobile Library, The Abingtons Scrabble Group	9.40am 7.30pm	9 13
Thur	27	Abington Lunch Granta Vale Harmony	12.45pm 7.30pm	17 12
Fri	28	Pilates/Aerobics	9.30am	12

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 July and August 2026

July

Thursday lunchtime 12noon–2.00pm (9, 16, **Lunch 23 – menu page 14, 30**)

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

August

Thursday lunchtime 12noon–2.00pm (6, 13, 20, **Lunch 27 – menu page 14**)

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

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

Wheelie bin dates for July and August 2026 (Abingtons and Hildersham)

July	Wed 1	Wed 8	Wed 15	Wed 22	Wed 29
	Black	Blue/Green	Black	Blue/Green	Black
August	Wed 5	Wed 12	Wed 19	Wed 26	
	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

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 more 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 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 abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com for information.

The Tuesday Club

7 July – Joan will be taking us through our chair exercises to help keep us fit for the summer.
21 July – we will be entertained once again by The Chestnut Choir.

Both meetings will begin at 2pm.

These are our last meetings before our summer break. We will meet again on 4 September.

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

Scrabble Club

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Next meetings: 28 July and 25 August.

Sheena Fraser

Abington Walking Group



Our recent walks have been to Babraham and to Chrishall where some of us stayed on to enjoy a pub lunch. July dates are Thursday 2nd and Saturday 18th.

The group is open to all residents of Abington and Hildersham and their friends and relations. Well behaved dogs are welcome. We meet at the Abington Institute just before 10.00am ready to set off at 10.00, sharing transport when we can. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a pleasant ramble in our delightful countryside, make new acquaintances and catch up on a variety of village news and views.

Our WhatsApp Group provides information about the planned route a few days ahead. For more information contact Jeff, j_dowling@btinternet.com or Genevieve, gdalton365@gmail.com. If you include your mobile number we can add you to our WhatsApp messages. We would be delighted if members are able to share ideas and guide the group on favourite routes. We can also send you a list of 2026 planned walking dates.

Genevieve Dalton

Reading Group

14 July	<i>And the Mountains Echoed</i> Khaled Hosseini	Liz Obstfeld
11 August	<i>The Bat</i> Jo Nesbo	Valerie Hefford
8 September	<i>Latecomers</i> Anita Brookner	Rachel Haining

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

Short Tennis

We are a small group who play short tennis (indoors with a soft sponge ball) 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 Craft Group

Our next meetings are on Thursday 16 July and Thursday 18 August, 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, tel. 07970 614 194 or just pop along.

Abington Bowls Club – still bowling along

This month ABC, newly promoted to Div 2 of the C&D, took on the powerful Isleham side on their own ground and won 5–2. We deserve to be in Div 2. And subsequent defeats to Duxford and Castle Camps cannot blunt our optimism. For ours is not a winner-takes-all world. It is more accurate to say that the winner takes the most. It's like the Serengeti – the winner gets the lion's share, true, but there is often enough wildebeest carcass left for the hyenas to get a decent mouthful.

Seven league points are available per match, with 1 point per rink victory (there are four rinks) and 3 points for the team with the most aggregate shots. Against Castle Camps we won three rinks, so gained 3 points (to CC's 4). And hyenas can thrive on the odd haunch of zebra.

We are holding our own and, as at Isleham, we have had our own moments of getting the lion's share. We are currently fifth carnivore (out of 11) on the Predatoric Table. Not bad, although it's true that at present we have had one more meal than our competitors.

July home games

Wed 1 v University Press

Thurs 2 v Longstanton

Tues 7 v Coton

Tues 14 v Abbey

Fri 21 v Trumpington

All at 6.30 pm. Do come and watch us.

August home games

Mon 3 v Isleham

Thurs 6 v Mitchell Lodge

Tues 18 v Milton

Weds 19 v Haddenham

Graham Ross

Remembering ABC's Malcolm Macdonald



Malcolm's family has generously donated a bench to the Abington Bowls Club in his memory. It was dedicated on a chilly evening in May, just before our match against Gamlingay.

Pam is flanked by Roy and Colin, who installed the bench. On a slightly warmer evening, Pam was joined by Jess and, sitting in for an absent Andy, Malcolm's nephew, Steven.



Granta Vale Harmony



*Thursday 16 July, 7.45pm, at the Abington Village
Institute.*

*Come along for a FREE evening of great music and
song with Granta Vale Harmony and guests The Glams,
Abington's own ladies' choir, Equal Measures Quartet
and*

soloist Angela Rowland-Green

*Songs by the Beatles, Billy Joel, John Denver,
The Drifters and many more*

Free Entry

Donations on the Evening to Saffron Walden Young Carers

For more info contact Peter peterlester12@gmail.com

tel. 07884 932 215

Refreshments available

Great Abington Summer Fair 2026



On Friday 18 June the school hosted our annual summer fair. This event is very well supported by members of the community and for two warm hours the school site was buzzing with activity. The Fair only works because many people give up their time to plan, prepare and support it on the day. Our Governors supported the refreshments stall with scones, cream, strawberries and home-baked cakes washed down with Frankie's Wood St coffee. The Abington Festival of Running committee ran the gin stall with a personal best this year – apologies for the joke! A resilient rota of volunteers kept the crowds well fed from the BBQ, surely the hottest place at the fair. Leanne from Abington Sawmill again ran the popular pick'n'mix sweet stall and Mark brought the Abington Social Club to the playground. Abington Annexe supported a stall and of course the school classes ran their special stalls complete with posters and a pupil rota.

The summer fair was sponsored by Bruce Wagstaff and the Home and Garden Project team. The financial support made sure the event could go ahead and as you can imagine the inflatables that Bruce secured were very well used by the children!

The PTFA can be very proud of the event and the trustees and volunteers worked tirelessly to make it a success. On behalf of the staff team, pupils and parents, thank you for the support. The funding raised will go part way to supporting our outdoor learning programme for our children. This includes Abington Woods and our incredible growing area and is so important for pupils' development. We have other projects that are not started due to a lack of funds so please do speak with the school if you would be able to support us in the short, medium or long term. Guy Underwood, Headteacher



Village Lunch

Our monthly Village Lunch is a bargain that's hard to beat. A two-course meal for £5, freshly cooked by a welcoming team of volunteers. Residents of the Abingtons and Hildersham of any age are invited to attend. Come and enjoy delicious, wholesome food in convivial company. Where else could you be so well fed for so little?

Thanks to generous grants from Great and Little Abington Parish Councils the Village Institute is able to hold the price through 2026. The menus for Thursday 23 July and 27 August and details for booking are below.



Thursday 23 July

Fruit juice
Chicken chasseur
Seasonal vegetables
Fruit crumble
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 0794 101 6543 **before noon on Tuesday 21 July**. Leave your name and telephone number with your message.



Thursday 27 August

Fruit juice
Quiche and salads
Pear and chocolate sauce
Tea or coffee

Please book your meal on 01223 891464 **before noon on Tuesday 25 August**. Leave your name and telephone number with your message.

Don't forget to tell us if you have any special dietary requirements. Doors open at **12.45pm**. Note that the lunch is open to **ALL** Abington and Hildersham residents. **Cost £5**. *Guests by special arrangement and if there is space.* **Next lunch: Thursday 24 September 2026.**

Naturewatch visit to Granta Park



On Friday 19 June, David Farrant led a small group of Naturewatch members and friends round Granta Park, via Sluice Wood and the lake. On a hot evening, there was plenty to admire and a lot to learn, including the history of the sluices themselves.

Photo: Ludmila Harkava

July and August Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	Services pm
July 5	United Communion <i>Balsham</i>		
July 12	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wratting</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	6.00pm Taizé Service <i>Weston Colville</i>
July 19	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wratting</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
July 26	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

August services (2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August). As *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* went to press, August services and readings were not available. Please check the Granta Vale Churches website calendar where services will be posted as soon as they are available: www.grantavale.org.uk.




Regular midweek service: Morning Prayer, 8.45am, every Friday, Weston Colville

Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ, www.ololsawston.org.uk

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

Church Services for July and August 2026

DATE	Gt Abington 	Lt Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
July 5	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Matthew 11.16–19, 25–end
July 12	11.00am Communion		11.00am Café Church	Matthew 13.1–9, 18–23
July 19		11.00am Communion	6.00pm Taizé Service	Matthew 13.24–30, 36–43
July 26	9.30am Creative Church, Abington Institute 6.00pm Evening Prayer		11.00am Communion (BCP)	Matthew 13.31–33, 44–52

August services (2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August). As *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* went to press, August services and readings were not available. Please check the Granta Vale Churches website calendar where services will be posted as soon as they are available: www.grantavale.org.uk

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

Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
July 5	Pat Kennedy	Mrs Smith	Mrs Hall
July 12	Pat Kennedy	Mrs Smith	Mrs Huntsman
July 19	Anne Hall	Mrs Orgee	Mrs Huntsman
July 26	Anne Hall and Helen Pimblett	Mrs Orgee	Mrs Humphrys
August 2	Helen Pimblett	Mrs Harmon and Mrs Waring	Mrs Humphrys
August 9	Lizzie Menzies	Mrs Harmon and Mrs Waring	Ms Melloy
August 16	Lizzie Menzies	Mrs Kilcommons	Ms Melloy
August 23	Patsy Randall	Mrs Kilcommons	Mrs Logan
August 30	Patsy Randall	Mrs Broadhurst	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