



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



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

June 2026



*Photo: Helen Humphrys*

**So, whodunnit? The villain of Hildersham's Murder  
Mystery Evening is uncovered on page 15**

## From the Editor

Community activities figure large in this issue of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News*. The Hildersham Village Hall Trust's Murder Mystery evening in May, like all the best crime stories, makes our front cover this month. See page 15 for the full cast list and find out whodunnit. Friday 5 June will be a big evening – the community supper and an auction of promises at the Abington Institute. See page 7 for details on where to buy tickets and how to bid if you are unable to attend. Another long-anticipated event takes place on 27 June – the Abington Amble, when we can visit open gardens in the village, this year in Great Abington (page 6). A programme signposting the gardens and tea and cake will be available at the church. On one Thursday every month, the Institute is the venue for the Village Lunch, a home-cooked, three-course meal for only £5 a head. You may not know that the lunch is open to all residents of all ages in the Abingtons and Hildersham. The menu and full details of how to book are on page 14. Granta Fest returns on 25 June – see page 13 for a stop press announcement and a link to more information. Junior cricket training carries on throughout June – see page 17. And if your sports club has information and reports about training and fixtures over the summer, do please let me know.

There is plenty of music to look forward to as well. The popular concerts at Holy Trinity Hildersham continue on 28 June with a performance by the Lowe Ensemble (page 6), the Balsham Singers are inviting people to Singing for Fun on four dates (page 15), and Duxford School is hosting a musical instrument taster session on 20 June (page 18).

Finally, many, many thanks to Valerie Silvey, who returns as guest editor this month to steer the *News* safely to print in my absence. Sally Simmons

## Contents

<b>From the Seven Churches, News from the Pews</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Scrabble Club, Abington Acorns, Tuesday Club, Walking Group,</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Creative Church, Hildersham Church News</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Reading Group</b>	
		<b>Craft Group, Short Tennis, Bowls Club, Granta Fest is Back!</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Lowe Ensemble concert – Spanish Baroque, Holy Trinity Hildersham</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Village Lunch</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Community Supper and Auction of Promises</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Hildersham Murder Mystery Evening, Balsham Singers, Mobile Library</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Councillors' Reports</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Granta Vale Harmony concert</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Hildersham Parish Council report, SAVE update</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Junior Cricket Training</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Diary for June</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Church Services, Duxford Musical Instrument Taster Session</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Café, Bins, Yoga, Aerobics/Pilates, Evening Pilates, Physio Pilates, Line Dancing, Granta Vale Harmony</b>	<b>11</b>		

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

## **From the Seven Churches**

As we move into June, the great festivals of Ascension and Pentecost are still echoing in the life of the Church. Ascension reminds us of Jesus entrusting the future into the hands of ordinary people – the disciples standing looking upwards, perhaps unsure of what would come next. Then, at Pentecost, comes the gift of the Holy Spirit: courage where there was fear, hope where there was uncertainty and the sudden realisation that God was not absent at all but wonderfully present among them.

And perhaps that is something we still need reminding of today.

It can sometimes be tempting to think of faith as belonging only to extraordinary moments – great celebrations or significant occasions. But Pentecost reminds us that God so often works through ordinary people living ordinary lives with love, faithfulness and kindness.

As I look across our benefice communities, I see that constantly. I see it in those who quietly prepare churches week by week, arrange flowers, ring bells, bake cakes, stack chairs, deliver magazines, tend graveyards, organise events and care for neighbours. I see it in conversations shared over garden gates, on village paths and in cups of tea offered at just the right moment. The Spirit of God is not only found in mighty rushing winds and tongues of fire. Sometimes the Spirit is found in simple acts of generosity, encouragement, laughter, hospitality and service.

And as we move into the summer months, our benefice calendars begin filling with community events, open gardens, suppers, fundraising evenings, fêtes and gatherings of all kinds. These occasions may seem simple on the surface but they are deeply important. They bring people together. They strengthen community spirit. They remind us that church buildings are not simply places we visit but places at the heart of village life. Of course, these events only happen because people support them by volunteering, baking, organising, attending, inviting friends, buying tickets and simply turning up. Every contribution matters and every person helps create the warmth and welcome that make our communities so special.

And now June arrives with all the beauty of early summer. Gardens begin to flourish, evenings stretch longer and there is something deeply hopeful about this season of growth and light. Perhaps that is the invitation of this month: not simply to look for God in the extraordinary but to notice God already at work in the everyday. In kindness shared. In laughter around tables. In communities gathering. In people quietly caring for one another. The disciples at Pentecost discovered that they were capable of far more than they had imagined, not because they suddenly became extraordinary people but because God was with them. And the same remains true for us.

Revd Hannah Threlfall

## **News from the Pews – Abington and Hildersham**

As we step into June, our villages seem to burst a little more fully into life. Gardens are flourishing, evenings are stretching longer, cricket has returned to the green and diaries begin to fill with summer gatherings and community events! It is a season that reminds us of the importance of connection.

We had the most engaging, interesting and informative evening with Professor Bob White last month for our first Big Life Talk. Thank you to all who joined and made the evening such a success! These evenings provide a wonderful way to come together and explore some of the big questions and issues of life through conversation, curiosity and thoughtful discussion. Our next Big Life Talk will be on Wednesday 14 October at 6.30pm with Dr Ruth Bancewicz. The theme for the discussion will be Wonders of the living world: Curiosity, awe and the meaning of life. Please do join us – these are free entry events and open to all.

## Hildersham Tea and Cake Monday 15 June 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 20 July, 17 August and 14 September.

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 21 June 2026 9.30am at Abington Institute.**



This month we will explore God's promise never to leave our side and the comfort and strength this can give us, especially in times of upset, worry, change or hurt. But **this Creative Church will be slightly different!** We will start at Little Abington Church at 9.30am and walk across the Rec and cricket field to the Institute. On our walk we will notice all the wonderful ways that God is with us. We will then have breakfast with our story and song, create our crafts and finish in prayer. Please do join Revd Hannah and Rosemary as they lead you through the session – storytelling, song, crafts and friendship. Everyone is very welcome.

## Hildersham Church News

A huge thank you to Sarah Lenton who certainly told us all we wanted to know about ballet in her talk in April. She was entertaining, informative and so knowledgeable in a way that kept us completely engaged and keen to hear more. Fingers crossed we can tempt her back.

On 28 June the Lowe Ensemble take us on an intriguing journey through Spanish music of the 17th and 18th centuries and its influence across Europe. A wide palette of vocal and instrumental works of different styles will be performed by a talented group of five siblings plus guest theorbo player (a theorbo is the largest of the lute family). See page 6.

### Young Friends of Hildersham

Hildersham Church has a Friends Group that has been very active over the last year organising events such as concerts, talks, a craft fair and Lamb Sunday. The Friends are keen to involve the young people of the village in these events and others that might be suggested by young members. Past events where young people have helped include:

- Making and serving refreshments at events
- Making and delivering cards and goodwill gifts to people in the community
- Christmas Gifts for refugees and children in care was a young people's initiative.
- Looking after the churchyard for nature and biodiversity.
- Reading at services.
- Participating and planning a short drama for the Christmas service.
- Creating treasure hunts and I-spy materials for visitors to the church.

We would be so pleased if you would like to join us bringing all your energy and ideas to help keep our village a lovely place to live. Please get in touch: [amjpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:amjpalmer@gmail.com)

### Save the Date

Hildersham Village Fête 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.

**Abington Amble: Great Abington Open Gardens – Saturday 27 June, 2.00–4.00pm**

We are thrilled to welcome back the Abington Amble, a chance to wander and explore some of the village's most beautiful hidden gardens. Along the way, you can rest at St Mary the Virgin Church, Great Abington for tea and delicious homemade cake, either as a welcome break or to finish your afternoon in style!

We have seven wonderful gardens to visits – with a treasure hunt, too! Entry by programme of £3.00 per family – to be bought from the Church on the day. If you would be willing to help in any way, especially by making cakes, scones or biscuits, please contact Revd Hannah Threlfall.

# **Echoes of the Spanish Baroque**

## **The Lowe Ensemble**

**Five siblings with Spanish and British heritage,  
play 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century European instrumental and  
vocal music with a Spanish influence.**



**at Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham, CB21 6BZ  
on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**

**Tickets - £15 - including refreshments  
from Eventbrite - <https://tinyurl.com/3nyxrsca>  
or at the door  
Contact: Athene Hunt - [huntcam2015@gmail.com](mailto:huntcam2015@gmail.com)**



**In support of the Friends of Hildersham Church**

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

# Community Supper and Auction of Promises evening!

**Friday 5 June at 7.00pm**  
**Abington Institute**



**Would you like a meal voucher at the Three Tuns? An Acorn Garage MOT Voucher? Afternoon Tea and fizz at The Vicarage? An evening adventure on a combine? A customised painting of your home? An hour's fly-fishing lesson? Hypnotherapy sessions?**

**Plus more!!**

**All this is possible!!**

**Tickets £12.50 – includes two-course light supper and a glass of fizz on arrival!**

**(Bring your own booze for the evening)**

**Tickets available at the village shop, Jeremiah's Café or The Vicarage 35 Church Lane or our Churchwardens – Mary, Marilyn and Patsy.**

**Can't make the evening? No problem — place a bid anyway through Rev Hannah or Tony Collett!**

**For more information contact Rev Hannah Threlfall – [revthrelfall24@outlook.com](mailto:revthrelfall24@outlook.com) or Tony Collett [tony.collett3112@gmail.com](mailto:tony.collett3112@gmail.com)**

# District and County Councillors' Annual Report 2026

## County Council

**Kingsway Solar Farm** If this is granted planning permission it would be one of the largest solar farms in the country and larger than Heathrow Airport, Newmarket or the built-up parts of Cambridge. The developers will now submit a formal application to a government planning inspector for a final decision. A local action group, Kingsway Solar Community Action has done some very good work on putting together detailed comments on the scheme. If you are against the proposal, please do consider engaging with them. Full plans can be seen on the Kingsway Solar website.

**Local government reorganisation** The preferred option in our area is a joint council that covers Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, because a lot of services, such as waste collection, planning and legal, are shared already. This option was submitted to government in 2025.

The elections to these new councils will be in May 2027. The Council will then come into power in May 2028, and the District and County councils will cease to be at this point too. A change of this magnitude represents a significant upheaval, in local government terms, so a big decision.

## District Council

**Cambridge Growth Company** Successive governments have announced that they see Cambridge as a major area for growth in the country. To facilitate this, they are in the process of setting up a Development Corporation (DevCo) to manage growth in the area from an economic and strategic perspective. The Cambridge Growth Company will ultimately become the new DevCo and is going through the process of identifying areas for development that could be defined as 'strategic'. There will be more to come on this, so keep reading the local press.

**Local plan** The District Council still needs to go through the process of submitting its latest version of its Local Plan for developments over the next 30 years to government.

One of these areas is Grange Farm, a significant new settlement of up to 6000 houses plus other facilities to the north of Abington. A scheme of this size will be controversial, as it would mean significant disruption and a change in our local landscape. The District Council will republish a final version of the plan with a view to submitting it to government in December this year. There will be more opportunities to put your views forward later in the summer.

**Speculative developments** This year we've seen several speculative housing proposals in our area, the largest ones being Little Linton, Horseheath Road and Back Road in Linton. There was also a proposal for a scheme on Pampisford Road in Abington. It's impossible to say for certainty but our view is that it's very likely that all of these will be refused. The developers are likely anticipating this and will almost certainly appeal on the grounds that they don't believe the District Council has a 'five-year land supply', which is the number of houses, with granted planning permission, to cover the predicted growth in the area over the next five years. The District Council believes any appeals will also fail.

**Food waste collection** It is planned to introduce a separate food waste collection this year. This is Government policy and it will no longer be possible to add food waste to the green bin. This is a major operation for the District Council, requiring an additional 22 vehicles and around 75 new staff. Much of the initial costs are met by government grants, but not all. There will be an extra cost that will need to be met out of the Council's resources. The roll out of this scheme has started in South Cambridgeshire and our part of the district will be one of the last to receive the new food bins, around September.

**Local elections** The District Council held its last ever election in May this year, before it is subsumed by local government reorganisation. Both of us were re-elected to represent the

villages within the Linton ward, with majorities in all those villages. We thank everyone for their continued support and, whether you voted for us or not, we will continue to do our best for the area.

### Contact details

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com

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

## Hildersham Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM

At the meeting on 12 May, four previous parish councillors, Rob Clay, Mark Logan, Darren Long and David Mercer, successfully reapplied to be councillors and have been joined by our new councillor, Sarah Tunnicliffe.

At the Parish meeting, annual reports are received from the previous chairman of the Parish Council, chair of Hildersham Village Hall Trust, chair of the Hildersham Allotment and Land Trust as well as from our District and County councillors, John and Henry Batchelor, who were recently re-elected to represent the community.

Mark Logan agreed to continue as the chairman of the Parish Council and Darren Long also agreed to be the vice-chairman.

Councillors Batchelor explained that SCDC was still reviewing the submission from the Local Plan consultation which was of local interest because of the proposed creation of a new town, Grange Farm, alongside the A1307 by Little Abington. The Local Plan is likely to be revised after this review, and a further consultation will take place in August and September.

The proposed Kingsway Solar Farm was likely to submit a planning application to the Government next, which would be followed by several rounds of consultation and public enquires.

The next meeting of Hildersham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14 July in Hildersham Village Hall. Information is on the Parish Council's website: <https://hildershamparishcouncil.org.uk>

## SAVE Update



This month, the SAVE group has been actively raising community concerns with key profiles. Meetings were scheduled with our local MP, Pippa Heylings, and Stephen Kelly and his team of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning. We will update residents on these discussions in next month's *A&H News*.

We have also met with four District Councillors and are arranging an advisory session with a water and chalk stream specialist. In addition, we have begun reviewing the newly emerged proposal to extend the CSET transport link. This proposal would extend the guided busway from the Babraham Park & Ride hub across the A11 and A1307 to the proposed Grange Farm new town.

Our monthly leaflet drop continues to be well received and has helped recruit three new members, each bringing valuable skills and experience. As a result, we have expanded our research team into specialist sub-groups focusing on key campaign areas such as planning, sewerage and hydrology.

The Grange Farm proposals raise a wide range of complex issues that require detailed investigation and evidence-based responses. We are still seeking support from anyone with expertise in archaeology or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). We are also urgently looking for a Treasurer to oversee record-keeping, reporting and fundraising updates. If you would like to get involved, please contact: [villageconsultation14@gmail.com](mailto:villageconsultation14@gmail.com).

We are also in the early stages of launching a website, Facebook group and YouTube channel to keep the community informed as the proposals develop. More updates soon.

Geoff King, Chairperson

## Diary for June 2026

Date		Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page
Mon	1	<b>Abington Acorns</b> – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
Tue	2	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Evening Pilates</b>	10.00am 7.00pm	19 11
Wed	3	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	11 11
Thu	4	<b>Walking Group</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b> <b>Singing for Fun</b> – Balsham Sports Pavilion	9.55am 7.30pm 7.30pm	12 11 15
Fri	5	<b>Pilates/Aerobics</b> <b>Community Supper/Auction of Promises</b>	9.30am 7.00pm	11 7
Mon	8	<b>Abington Acorns</b> – Abington Annexe <b>Physio Pilates</b>	9.15am 9.30am	12 11
Tue	9	<b>Mobile Library, Hildersham</b> <b>Art Group</b> <b>Tuesday Club</b> <b>Evening Pilates</b> <b>Reading Group</b>	9.40am 10.00am 1.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	15 19 12 11 12
Wed	10	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	11 11
Thu	11	<b>Granta Vale Harmony</b> <b>Singing for Fun</b> – Balsham Sports Pavilion	7.30pm 7.30pm	11 15
Fri	12	<b>Pilates/Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
Mon	15	<b>Abington Acorns</b> – Abington Annexe <b>Physio Pilates</b> <b>Tea &amp; Cake Afternoon</b> – Hildersham Village Hall	9.15am 9.30am 2.30pm	12 11 5
Tue	16	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Evening Pilates</b>	10.00am 7.00pm	19 11
Wed	17	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	11 11
Thu	18	<b>Craft Group</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	1.30pm 7.30pm	12 11
Fri	19	<b>Pilates/Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11
Sat	20	<b>Walking Group</b> <b>Musical Instrument Taster morning</b> – Duxford	9.55am 11.00	12 18
Sun	21	<b>Creative Church</b> – St Mary's Great Abington	9.30am	5
Mon	22	<b>Abington Acorns</b> – Abington Annexe	9.15am	12
Tue	23	<b>Mobile Library, The Abingtons</b> <b>Art Group</b> <b>Tuesday Club</b> <b>Evening Pilates</b> <b>Scrabble Club</b>	9.40am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	15 19 12 11 12
Wed	24	<b>Yoga</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	11 11
Thu	25	<b>Abington Lunch</b> <b>Granta Fest</b> – Granta Park <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b> <b>Singing for Fun</b> – Balsham Sports Pavilion	12.45pm 4.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	13 13 11 15
Fri	26	<b>Pilates/Aerobics</b>	9.30am	11

Sat	27	<b>Abington Amble Open Gardens</b> – Great Abington	2.00pm	6
Sun	28	<b>Lowe Ensemble</b> – Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham	7.30pm	6
Mon	29	<b>Abington Acorns</b> – Abington Annexe	9.15am	11
Tue	30	<b>Art Group</b> <b>Evening Pilates</b>	10.00am 7.00pm	19 11

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

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

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

Thursday lunchtime 12.00 noon–2.00pm (4, 11, 18, **25 – Abington Lunch**)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (6, 13, 20, 27)

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

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

<b>Wed 3</b>	<b>Wed 10</b>	<b>Wed 17</b>	<b>Wed 24</b>
Black	Blue/Green	Black	Blue/Green

#### **Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am**

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

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

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

Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or [www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.com](http://www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.com).

#### **Evening Pilates**

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

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

Eight-week Pilates course, 13 April–15 June (no classes on bank holiday Monday 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 more information please contact Christiana Heinz MCSP, [www.cambridgephysiopilates.co.uk](http://www.cambridgephysiopilates.co.uk), [cambridgepilates@outlook.com](mailto:cambridgepilates@outlook.com)

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

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

#### **Granta Vale Harmony**

Granta Vale Harmony is a mixed *a capella* singing group. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Abington Institute, and anyone is welcome to join in. Contact Peter Lester, tel. 07884 932 215 or email [haverhi11@talktalk.net](mailto:haverhi11@talktalk.net).

## Scrabble Club

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, and new members are very welcome. Next meeting: 23 June 2026. Sheena Fraser

## 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](mailto:abingtonannexeooffice@gmail.com) for information.

## The Tuesday Club

Our events for June are as follows;

On 9 June we will enjoy our delicious strawberry tea following a talk on Kick Start coffee from Uganda.

On 23 June we will chill again with Mindful Art to Music. Remember to bring your crayons.

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

## Abington Walking Group



In April we walked from Weston Green and from Balsham. Both walks in May were close to home. June dates are Thursday 4th, with the possibility of a pub lunch, and Saturday 20th.

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](mailto:j_dowling@btinternet.com) or Genevieve, [gdalton365@gmail.com](mailto: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

9 June	<i>The Dutch House</i> Ann Patchett	Diana Wingfield
14 July	<i>And the Mountains Echoed</i> Khaled Hosseini	Liz Obstfeld
11 August	<i>The Bat</i> Jo Nesbo	Valerie Hefford

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

## Abington Craft Group

Our next meeting is on Thursday 18 June, 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](mailto:glynis.brookman@btinternet.com) or mobile 07970 614 194. or just pop along.

## 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 – COCOCO

Yes, our season has started with a birdcall. This reflects Coton, Cottenham and cold.

Lawn bowls is a summer sport, of course, but that doesn't guarantee warmth, especially early on. Our first two games at Coton and at Cottenham were played in unpleasantly cold conditions, with muscles and ligaments shrinking towards immobility. It's hard to deliver a bowl with an easy grace when limbs and joints are protesting. And a stodgy green – as at Coton – doesn't help the smooth running of the bowl, either. This is not an excuse for defeat, by the way, since all players, friends and foe alike, shared the problems. The difference between Coton and Cottenham is that we won one. The Coton loss was mitigated by our victory over Cottenham by 6–1 league points (72–62 shots). It was ABC's first win at Division 2 level since pre-Millennium days. I am assured that ABC has played in such rarified heights in the past but my trawl through the Club minutes has yet to turn up any evidence. Cottenham were relegated from Div 1 last year while we were getting promoted from Div 3, so the match was a rising power meeting a decaying one. Young bucks butting heads with old bulls and winning out.

<b>STOP PRESS</b>	Haddenham 6(72)	ABC 1(47)
	ABC5 ½ (56)	Gamlingay1 ½ (49)

There are the dates of the home games for June. Start times: 18.30

Thur 4	v	Fulbourn
Tues 9	v	Duxford
Weds 10	v	Castle Camps
Friday 12	v	Barton
Friday 19	v	Alexandra Beehive
Tues 23	v	Melbourn
Friday 26	v	Abbey



## Granta Fest is back!

Join us on Thursday 25 June from 4.30–8pm for an afternoon packed with great food, live music, a gaming bus, crazy golf, a full bar and much more. Tickets are £5 per person – children under 12 go free. Get your tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1984035325066?aff=oddtcreator>

## 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 can hold the price through 2026. The menu for Thursday 25 June and details for booking are set out below. Please book your meal on 01223 892163 before noon on Tuesday 23 June. Leave your name and telephone number with your message and don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Doors open at 12.45pm. Next lunch Thursday 23 July 2026.



# Village Lunch

**Thursday 25 June  
2026, 12.45pm  
at Abington Village  
Institute**

*Why not give it a try?*

Residents of Abington and Hildersham of any age welcome. Enjoy a freshly cooked meal and convivial company.

## Menu

*Fruit juice*

*Baked gammon and seasonal vegetables*

*Strawberry meringue nests*

*Tea or Coffee*

**Only £5 per person**

You must book in advance on 01223 892163 before noon on Tuesday 23 June.

## Murder Mystery Evening in Hildersham



Detective skills were needed on Friday 15 May to discover who murdered that nasty Alfred Hitchcock who was found dead in his swimming pool after the launch party of his latest film. Was it Blondie Bombshell, Al Shookup or any of the others? No, it was that old hasbeen Gerry Swansong (*left*). All good fun of course and in the best possible taste, and we managed to raise over £300 for Parkinsons UK. Thanks to all the cast and in particular Tippi Heron (aka Jackie Parker) who organised the event.

Cast (*l. to r. on cover*)

Al Shookup:	Mark Logan
James Teen:	Keith Parker
Ruby Slippers:	Sally Ricketts
Hugh Grit:	Will Ricketts
Blondie Bombshell:	Jenny Logan
Gerry Swansong:	Raymond Humphrys
Ricky Mouse:	Steve Baldwin
Tippi Heron:	Jackie Parker
Detective Columbo:	Sarah Baldwin

Helen Humphreys

## Balsham Singers



Balsham Singers are holding four sessions of Singing for Fun during June. We'll meet in Balsham Sports Pavilion on Thursday evenings 7.30–9.00pm on 4, 11, 25 June and 2 July.

The idea is you come and experience the feeling of singing in a group. No commitment, no experience required just a bit of enthusiasm. Each session £5, pay as you go. Attend all four sessions and you'll get the fifth one free! We'll be singing tunes from Les Misérables, Grease, the Bond movies, Abba and Queen.

## 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: <b>Tuesday 9 June</b>	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: <b>Tuesday 23 June</b>
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# *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*

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

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



# JUNIOR CRICKET TRAINING

AT  
ABINGTON CRICKET CLUB



Monday 11th May –  
Monday 13th July 2026  
*(excluding bank holidays)*



6pm - 7pm



£20 per child

BASED ON AGE, ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE  
THERE WILL BE TWO GROUPS FOR TRAINING:



**HARD BALL TRAINING**  
for children aged 14+



**SOFT BALL TRAINING**  
for children aged 8+



Please ensure your child brings  
**sun cream, water and a hat.**



Parents must stay during training  
for all children under 12 years of age.



If you'd like to sign up please email  
[abbocricket@gmail.com](mailto:abbocricket@gmail.com)

LEARN • PLAY • IMPROVE • ENJOY

## June Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	Services pm
June 7		United Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
June 14	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>West Wratting</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	6.00pm Taizé Service <i>Weston Colville</i>
June 21	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>West Wratting</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
June 28	Morning Worship <i>West Wickham</i> Communion <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

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

## Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ, [www.ololsawston.org.uk](http://www.ololsawston.org.uk)

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

## Musical Instrument Taster Morning at Duxford School

Would you (or your child) like to play a musical instrument but you aren't sure which one? Would you like to try out one or more instruments before making up your mind? If so, Duxford Saturday Workshop Taster Morning is for you!

Experienced tutors and players will help you to have hands-on, practical experience of one or more instruments. They will be available to answer your questions and to help you to decide which instrument is the one for you.

The Taster Morning is completely free. There is no need to book in advance, and you do not have to be a current member of the Music Workshop to come along – so just arrive and have a go! Instruments include violin, viola, cello, flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, cornet, trombone, guitar and ukulele.

**When? Saturday morning 20 June 11.00am–12.15pm.**


**Where? Duxford Primary School, St John's Street, Duxford CB22 4RA.**

For further information, visit [www.duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk](http://www.duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk)

or email [director@duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk](mailto:director@duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk)

Peter Howarth, Duxford Workshop Management Team, [phowarth@businessdevgroup.com](mailto:phowarth@businessdevgroup.com)

## Church Services for June 2026

DATE	Gt Abington 	Lt Abington 	Hildersham 	Readings
June 7	11.00am United Service at Balsham			Matthew 9.9–13, 18–26
June 14	11.00am Communion		11.00am Café Church	Matthew 9.35–10.8
June 21	Creative Church, Abington Institute	11.15am Communion	6.00pm Taizé Service	Matthew 10.24–39
June 28	6.00pm Evening Prayer		11.00am Communion	Matthew 10.40–end

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

### Church Flower Rota

	Gt Abington	Lt Abington	Hildersham
June 7	Penny Zimmern and Sheena Fraser	Mrs Harmon and Mrs Waring	Mrs Palmer
June 14	Penny Zimmern and Sheena Fraser	Mrs Harmon and Mrs Waring	Mrs Gray
June 21	Jill Treanor	Mrs Crisp and Mrs Mead	Mrs Gray
June 28	Jill Treanor	Mrs Crisp and Mrs Mead	Mrs Hall

### 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