

6 July	(Sun)	<b>10.00am-4.00pm</b> Family Fun and Sporting Day, AA School, Page 27 <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
7 July	(Mon)	<b>12.30pm</b> Way Inn Lunch in St. Peter's Room.
8 July	(Tues)	<b>12.30pm</b> Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
9 July	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC <b>7.30pm</b> Abbotts Ann Vision Community Energy Project AAWMH – P 9
10 July	(Thurs)	<b>7.30pm</b> Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall.
11 July	(Fri)	<b>8.30pm</b> Songs and Sonnets of Shakespeare, the Quire, Winch. Cath. Final date for receipt of hard copy (hand-written or typed) for the August 2014 Abbotts Ann Magazine. Final date for receipt of hard copy (hand-written or typed) for the August 2014 Clatfords Magazine.
12 July	(Sat)	<b>6.15pm</b> AA Players, The Show Must Go On, AA School - Page 17
13 July	(Sun)	<b>5.45pm</b> AA Players, The Show Must Go On, AA School - Page 17 <u>The Fourth Sunday after Trinity</u> – full service details – Page 2 <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints'
<b>15 July</b>	<b>(Tues)</b>	<b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann <b>12.00 noon</b> <u>Deadline for the receipt of copy by email for the August 2014 Abbotts Ann Magazine.</u> <a href="mailto:editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk">editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</a> <b>12.00 noon</b> Deadline for the receipt of copy by email for the August 2014 Clatfords Magazine. <a href="mailto:marydunn21@hotmail.com">marydunn21@hotmail.com</a>
		<b>1.00pm</b> Lunchtime concert in Winchester Cathedral <b>3.30pm</b> Cord Cream Tea, 7 Manor Close, - Page 5 <b>7.30pm</b> Goodworth Clatford WI meets in Goodworth Clatford Village Club – Members' Summer Supper
16 July	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC <b>7.30pm</b> Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall
17 July	(Thurs)	to Sunday 20th July <b>10.00am</b> Southern Cathedrals Festival at Win. Cath.
18 July	(Fri)	<b>10.00am</b> Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
19 July	(Sat)	<b>7.30pm</b> Fauré Requiem, Harmonium Singers, St Mary's Church, Andover
20 July	(Sun)	<u>The Fifth Sunday after Trinity</u> – full service details – Page 2 <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints'
23 July	<b>(Wed)</b>	<b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann Clatford and Abbotts Ann schools finish for the summer break.
		<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC <b>7.45pm</b> Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in UC Memorial Hall
26 July	(Sat)	<b>10.00am-4.00pm</b> WWI Exhibition in AAWMH - Page 7
27 July	(Sun)	<u>The Sixth Sunday after Trinity</u> – full service details – Page 2 <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints'
28 July	<b>(Mon)</b>	<b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann <b>12.00noon</b> Goodworth Clatford WI Members' Lunch
		Clatford Valley Garden Club Summer Outing to Nymans
29 July	(Tues)	<b>6.15pm</b> "An Evening with Alan Titchmarsh" The Old Rectory, Abbotts Ann
30 July	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
31 July	(Thurs)	Abbotts Ann WI – Cookery Demonstration, Waitrose, Salisbury.

<b>Rector</b>	<b>St Mary's Church, Abbotts Ann</b>
	The Revd. David Broad The Rectory, Upper Clatford <a href="mailto:dna.broad@virgin.net">dna.broad@virgin.net</a> <b>(HIS DAY OFF IS SATURDAY)</b>
	352906
<b>Churchwardens</b>	
	Gordon Howard, Swaledale, 4 St Mary's Meadow, Little Ann 710830
	Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane 710640
	Details of church officers and activities can also be found on the village website at: <a href="http://www.little-ann.co.uk/church">http://www.little-ann.co.uk/church</a>
<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>THURSDAYS 7.45PM, ST PETER'S, GOODWORTH CLATFORD</b>
<b>Bell-Ringing Practice</b>	<b>THURSDAYS 7.30-9.00PM, ST MARY'S, ABBOTTS ANN</b> Tower Captain: Dudley Alleway
	710646
<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road 07967 484581
<b>Treasurer</b>	Andrew Shaw, Whitecroft, Duck Street 710197
<b>Parish Magazine - <a href="http://www.abbottsanmagazine.co.uk">www.abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</a></b>	
<b>Editor -</b> <a href="mailto:editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk">editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</a>	Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbotts Ann 710630
<b>Advertising -</b> <a href="mailto:ads@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk">ads@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</a>	Rollo Wilson Jubilee Oak Cottage 710899

For magazine deadlines please refer to the Benefice Diary.

#### MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have your magazine delivered free of charge (Abbotts Ann only). A yearly subscription is £6.00. For deliveries outside Abbotts Ann, we offer a postal subscription service if 12 SAE's are provided. If you would like to take out a subscription, please contact Pam Lytle on 01264 710468, email: [plytle2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:plytle2@tiscali.co.uk) or write to Pam at The White House, Abbotts Ann.

## **SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JULY 2014**

**Please note change of services and times at all churches.**

**Date:**

**Sunday 29th June**

8.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 Benefice Patronal Festival Eucharist  
6.00 Evensong

**Feast of St. Peter**

All Saints'  
St Peter's

**St Mary's Duties:**

**Sunday 6th July**

8.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 Benefice Family Eucharist  
6.00 Evensong

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year**

St Peter's  
All Saints'  
St Mary's

Mrs S Dashwood

**Sunday 13th July**

8.00 Holy Communion  
9.30 Eucharist  
11.15 Benefice Matins  
6.00 Evensong

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year**

All Saints'  
St Mary's  
St Peter's  
St Mary's

Mr/Mrs G Platford

**Sunday 20th July**

8.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 Eucharist  
10.00 Parish Morning Service  
6.00 Evensong

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year**

St Mary's  
St Peter's  
Abbotts Ann hall  
All Saints'

Mrs N Keene

Mrs S George

**Sunday 27th July**

8.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 Benefice Eucharist  
6.00 Evensong

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year**

St Mary's  
All Saints'  
St Peter's

Miss W Casson

**Sunday 3rd August**

8.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 Benefice Eucharist  
6.00 Evensong

**Feast of the Transfiguration**

St Peter's  
All Saints'  
St Mary's

Mr/Mrs G Platford

**Monday 4th August National Commemoration of World War 1**

11.00 Service of Commemoration St Mary's  
2.00 Service of Commemoration St Peter's  
3.30 Service of Commemoration All Saints'

*Anyone unable to carry out their duty and who cannot exchange with another sidesman please contact Kate Bennett or Wendy Casson on 712028. Please note that services are provisional as changes can sometimes be made at short notice. Please check the Sunday Link Sheet.*

## **HIBBERT CUP 2014**

This cup is awarded annually at the Abbotts Ann Fete which this year is on Saturday 30th August. It is awarded for outstanding, voluntary, unpaid contribution to the Abbotts Ann community in honour of Basil Hibbert, who himself made an outstanding contribution to our community. A bench in memory of Basil stands outside the village shop. This year's winner will be the 13<sup>th</sup> holder of the cup.

The decision is made by the Trustees of the War Memorial Hall, which Basil chaired for many years. In making the decision, the Trustees also consult with the current holder of the Cup (2013/2014 Ray Lucas).

All nominations (including all past unsuccessful nominations) are considered with great care, and any village resident may make a nomination. Please send your nominations, with a description of the outstanding contribution made, to Graham Stallard, Secretary and Trustee, Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall, Rose Cottage, 86 Little Ann Road, SP11 7NW – or email to [grahams@graduateinternational.com](mailto:grahams@graduateinternational.com) The closing date for nominations is 16<sup>th</sup> August, two weeks before the fete. Please remember that your nomination must be yours alone – no groups please - so that it is absolutely confidential. Please keep your nomination secret as it would be most inappropriate in our Abbotts Ann family for the names of unsuccessful nominees to be known, and to be open for discussion.

*Graham Stallard*



## **BENEFICE DIARY - JULY 2014**



1 July	(Tues)	(Until Friday 1st August) <b>9.30am to 5.00pm</b> The River Itchen from Source to Sea, exhibition in Winchester Cathedral <b>1.00pm</b> Lunchtime concert in Winchester Cathedral <b>7.00pm</b> Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC <b>7.30pm</b> Abbotts Ann Village Shop Association AGM in AAWMH Page 9
2 July	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC <b>10.30am</b> Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning
3 July	(Thurs)	<b>7.00pm</b> Abbotts Ann Parish Council meets in Abbotts Ann Memorial Hall.
4 July	(Fri)	<b>7.30pm</b> Winchester Festival Opening Concert in Winchester Cathedral Hat Fair, Winchester Cathedral Outer Close (and Saturday 5th July)
5 July	(Sat)	<b>1.00pm</b> Clatford School Fete <b>3.00pm</b> Winchester & Portsmouth Guild of Bellringers service at St. Peter's, followed by Annual General Meeting in GCVC <b>3.45pm</b> <b>7.30pm</b> Annual Hog Roast at Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall - Page 29 <b>8.00pm</b> Winchester Festival, Carmina in the Prior's Hall <u>The Third Sunday after Trinity</u> – full service details – Page 2 <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints'
6 July	(Sun)	

**Abbotts Ann Evening Party**

**Saturday 30th August – 7.30pm – Bulbery Field**

★ Magic Show  
 ★ Live Music  
 ★ Bar  
 ★ Hot Food

**Tickets**  
*Available on the door or during August from the Eagle / Village Shop*

**Adults (16+) £5.00**  
**Children (4-15) £2.00**

**Interested in helping out?** we will need volunteers to help set up the party, serve food, sell tickets on the door, and tidy up the following morning! If you are able to assist then please contact Rob Stavely on 712911 or [robstavely@hotmail.com](mailto:robstavely@hotmail.com)

**Fete volunteers wanted !!**

**The fete needs your help. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help on the stalls and the games. If you think you would like to get involved on this fun filled day please call Trish Wallis on 710918.**

**Fete Stalls**

We have tables available at the fete for stall holders to hire at £15. Contact Anne Emerson to book your place on (01264) 710851



## *These are not Images*

I suppose that we try to make sense of huge catastrophic events like war through small personal connections. On Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> in the Benefice, along with other ceremonies nationwide, we will hold a simple service in each of our churches (11.00am St Mary's, 2.00pm St Peter's and 3.30pm All Saints') to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the first world war. To help people feel connected to these events each village is invited to prepare a wreath made up of flowers from their own gardens. If you would like to take part please get in touch with your village church.

At the National Portrait Gallery the exhibition, *The Great War in Portraits*, made these terrible events of war more personal by literally enabling you to look into people's faces. I had not for example, seen the face of Gavrilo Princip before, the young man who on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1914, along with three other conspirators, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, setting in motion a terrible series of events which brought the world to war. His black and white photograph, a round face with a squat nose, stares at you with wide open eyes. He is sickly looking, despairing, a suicide assassin, part of a nationalist plot orchestrated by Serbian intelligence, someone who might today be called a terrorist. A whole wall of smaller photographs of people involved in the war, some known others not, from all sides of the conflict, was especially haunting. There were spies, conscientious objectors, poets, soldiers from all continents, airmen, sailors and nurses. They all appeared, in other circumstances, just like the faces you might look into in the busy London street outside. But they were dressed for war. One face I recognised was Siegfried Sassoon the soldier and poet. A priest friend of mine later in Sassoon's life helped prepare him for reception into the Catholic Church. Sassoon famously spoke out against the war and documented its tragedy. The images in his poem *Attack* read today like a film:

At dawn the ridge emerges massed and dun  
 In the wild purple of the glow'ring sun,  
 Smouldering through spouts of drifting smoke that shroud  
 The menacing scarred slope; and, one by one,  
 Tanks creep and topple forward to the wire.  
 The barrage roars and lifts. Then, clumsily bowed  
 With bombs and guns and shovels and battle-gear,

Men jostle and climb to, meet the bristling fire.  
 Lines of grey, muttering faces, masked with fear,  
 They leave their trenches, going over the top,  
 While time ticks blank and busy on their wrists,  
 And hope, with furtive eyes and grappling fists,  
 Founders in mud. O Jesus, make it stop

What will all our commemorations mean in the face of our violent century, with war replacing war and the Middle East currently and savagely on fire? A contemporary Syrian poet, Golan Haji, in *Shooting Sportsmen*, remind us that the victims of the tragedy of war are never just pictures and the true picture may never be truly known.

They killed the window and the sister who looked from it,  
 Neither the neighbours' cows survived  
 Nor the streetlamp.  
 They spat in the spring and ripped off the lens-  
 The tearful sanguine eye of life,  
 The eye of hope.  
 With knives they tore off the used couch,  
 The suitcase and the rope-bound blanket.  
 They crucified the carpenter, strangled the gold finch and slaughtered  
 the singer.  
 They burnt the barley spikes, the books and bicycles  
 Then they lay down on playground grass and snoozed off.  
 These are not images.  
 They are the guardians of pictures.

© David Broad. Rector. July 2014.

#### **ST MARY'S CHURCH FLOWERS - AND HOLY DUSTING ROTA**

We are so grateful to you all for giving up your time to the Church. Here is the rota. If the dates are inconvenient and you are unable to change with someone else, please ring Sylvia Burson (710852) for flowers and Jill Tayler (710201) for dusting.

**Dates:**

**20 Jun - 3 Jul**  
**4 Jul - 17 Jul**  
**18 Jul - 31 Jul**  
**1 Aug - 14 Aug**  
**15 Aug - 28 Aug**  
**29 Aug - 11 Sep**  
**12 Sep - 25 Sep**

**Flowers:**

**Elizabeth Howard**  
**Judith Newman**  
**Charlotte Pearce**  
**Pat Keene**  
**Gwen Pollard**  
**Lillian Pierce**  
**Sue Hancock**

**Dusting:**

**Pauline Cooper**  
**Liz Tout**  
**Charlotte Pearce**  
**Gill Page**  
**Alex Pugh**  
**Jill Tayler**  
**Ann Hopwood**



being urged to make their own wishes known to their families.

As the Village Hall is due to undergo some refurbishment later this month, our meeting on the 31st July will be at Waitrose in Salisbury for a Seasonal Cookery Demonstration.

Sharon King

#### **May Plant Sale**

Many thanks to everyone who helped at and/or donated towards the plant sale in May. Despite the weather, which forced us to sell the plants indoors, we had our second best year ever, raising nearly £630. This money is used to fund the Produce Show at the fete (prizes, stationery etc), and any left over money then goes in to the pot for redistribution to village associations.

#### **Village Fete Flower, Produce & Craft Show: Saturday August 30th**

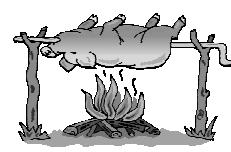
The schedule for this year is available, and can be found in the village shop & the Eagle, as well as directly from myself via email, or from Anne Emerson & Polly Whyte. It will contain details of classes, how to enter, judging times etc.

For more information contact Alison Barham on  
 07826 061932 or 01566 777561 Email [alijb@me.com](mailto:alijb@me.com)

#### **Annual Hog Roast** **Saturday 5th July at 7.30pm**



**With live music from  
 Thames Valley Jazz Band**



**To be held in the grounds of Abbotts Ann  
 War Memorial Hall**

**Tickets £16 from the Village Shop**

**ABBOTTS ANN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE****MAY 2014**

The month of May seemed to go very quickly, despite there being five Thursdays in the month, and here I am again attempting to reduce our activities to a few paragraphs (you should be so lucky!).

We have done all the usual things, mostly in Longparish, as this was the chosen location for our walk, followed by lunch at the Cricketers and the Supper Club met at the Plough. The Lunch Club, however, ventured further afield and met at the Fox & Hounds in Crawley.

We have also participated in Federation events; firstly the Darts Tournament. Four of us travelled to the Dolphin at Hursley where we met Otterbourne WI. This match was played in true WI camaraderie, but unfortunately we lost narrowly. Next we tested our brains in the Anton Danebury Group round of the annual quiz and tied for a credible third place.

We have also had a tour of the notorious megashed, now occupied and run by the Co-operative Group. Our guide for the day, Bruce Welsh, gave us an introduction to the company and site and there were plenty of statistics to absorb (or not!). Our members were particularly interested to hear the building paid homage to the previous use of the site, as it was built to resemble an aviation hangar and each team is named after a fighter plane. There is every effort to minimise vehicle movements, all waste that can be recycled is brought back to Andover for processing and grey water is used to flush toilets. Although the Co-op does not own the nearby solar panels, they do have access to them and the National Grid purchases electricity at certain times of the day. Thankfully, it was then time to move and see the operation for ourselves. We began in the ambient section where "pickers" were selecting stock for distribution to their many stores, in a temperature of 3° centigrade (very cold) and then on to the chiller where it was 1° centigrade, but we were acclimatised by now and were quite blasé about it all. No time for the freezer (thank goodness) and then it was time to leave.

It was our Annual Meeting this month and thanks were given to outgoing President Sue George and Secretary Cecilia Cotton, who were presented with bouquets as a small gesture of appreciation for all their hard work. Both gave reports of the last 12 months and Sue thanked all members for their support during her term of office. Subsequently, Kate Bennett was voted in as President and she will be ably supported by Lynne Lucas as Secretary.

We also had to discuss the NFWI's annual resolution, which this year referred to the difficult subject of organ donation. On this occasion our members are

St Mary's Church, Abbotts Ann in support of...

**new life after conflict**

*A front line Christian charity helping the victims of war worldwide, from Vietnam in the 1960's to Cambodia, Burundi, Chad and South Sudan today.*

**Wendy & Dudley Alleyway**

invite you to enjoy a

**Cream Tea**

At 7 Manor Close, Abbotts Ann  
on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>; 3.30-5.00p.m.  
tel. 710646

As usual, the Fun Club will help us host the event  
and will tell us about their activities this year

**Everyone Welcome****From The Registers****Holy Baptism**

Jack Hugo Pullen whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on 25th May.  
Jemima Evie Shorter whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on 1st June.  
Eliana May and Leon Francis Gerard Munday whose Baptisms took place at All Saints' on 8th June.

**Holy Matrimony**

Edward Hillman and Emma Spencer whose Wedding took place at All Saints' on 31st May.

*If you do not wish to have information from The Registers published,  
please contact Gill Palmer on 710446*

## **DEANERY CONFIRMATION SERVICE**

This year All Saints played host to the whole of the Andover Deanery when we welcomed Bishop John Dennis to our Confirmation service on 11th May. It was a particular pleasure this year for us given that four of those confirmed came from our own Benefice, three of whom were youngsters from Clatford Primary School

In his address Bishop John spoke about how things change remarking that he himself was always known as the Bishop and father of.....however nowadays he is always referred to as the Bishop and also father of Hugh Dennis [the entertainer for those of us who might not know] a point which was not lost on our congregation given his highly amusing, if somewhat different, kind of address as he walked around the church giving David and the churchwardens organisational nightmares. However the impact of his homily was not lost either. He offered all those taking part real insights into life - a life lived to the full

At the end of the service we were able to share with all those who had come from across the Deanery the kind of welcome we always have on offer at All Saints - one of warmth and Christian fellowship.

### **BENEFICE EASTER RETREAT DAY- HILFIELD MAY 31ST 2014**

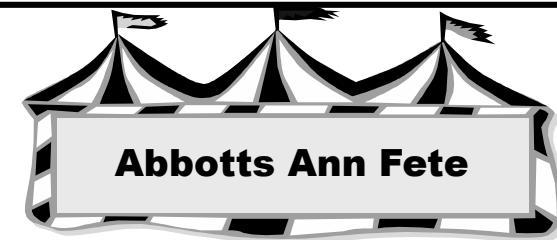
It may not have been the largest group from across the Benefice but what we lacked in numbers we more than made up for in the quality of the day. Taking as our theme the reading from St John's gospel chapter 20

".....the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear.....and Jesus came and stood among them and said Peace be with you"

Such simple words we had all heard a million times before but had never really grasped the full enormity of what these words held.. We were then ably led by Lyndon, one of the community at Hilfield, into the ideas of living behind locked doors. Why do we live behind locked doors? Who is responsible? Have we done this to protect ourselves from our own vulnerabilities OR conversely have we allowed ourselves to be locked away from and by others? What do we mean by peace? Is it our own peace which is personal to us or do we mean a deeper peace which affects the whole of humanity. Questions we could all find different answers to. But what is the right answer? Does anyone have or know any eternal truths?

Answers on a post card.....

Special thanks to David for organising this for us. Why not join us next time?



Abbotts Ann Fete will be held on Saturday 30th August. We will be collecting around the village throughout the summer for the stalls listed below. Please look out for further notices through your door indicating collection dates and times. For your convenience we list the contact names of those making collections:

#### **Bottle tombola**

Aly Godman  
710633

#### **Books**

Hannah Church  
710584

#### **Cake stall**

Trish Wallis 710918

#### **Bric-a-brac**

Lisa Hillier 710231  
Anne Emerson  
710851

#### **Smash Crockery**

Sarah Kirby  
710044

Thank you for your support.

## **Family Fun and Sporting Day**

**at Abbotts Ann Primary School**

**Sunday 6th July 2014 - 10am - 4pm**

10km on-and off-road run  
5km walk/run  
Fully supervised 1km obstacle run/walk  
Sponsored trim trail walk/run  
For more details:  
[www.abbottsann.hants.sch.uk/pta](http://www.abbottsann.hants.sch.uk/pta)

Arena entertainment

BBQ breakfast and lunch

Sporting demonstrations

Refreshments and bar

Side stalls & activities

Entry forms in the Village Shop, School & The Eagle or to enter online visit [www.runnersworld.co.uk/abbottsann10km](http://www.runnersworld.co.uk/abbottsann10km)

There's another important appointment to mention. Every Parish Council has to have a Treasurer, officially entitled RFO (Responsible Financial Officer), who is very often the same person as the Clerk. But the Council has kindly let this Clerk pass the financial hat (which never fitted him very comfortably) to Rosemary Griffiths. As a qualified Chartered Secretary she's not in the least daunted by the task of moving the Parish accounts, and their accompanying electronic communications, out of the pen and paper era. For which relief, as Shakespeare said, much thanks. I'm sure that Rosemary also knows the difference between a hedge fund and a hedge bund. Which brings me back to the sting in the tail of this little discourse.

At ground level, the responsibility for maintenance of pavements and footpaths lies with the County Council. Though we have often taken direct action, the Parish Council is not actually in charge of the surface. And neither the County nor the Parish Council is responsible for hedges alongside pavements and footpaths. Their maintenance is the responsibility of the owners of the hedge; and a fence can become an offence unless they ensure that their hedge doesn't encroach on a pavement or obstruct those using a public path. So please don't think it's anyone else's job to look after the outside of your hedge. At this time of maximum growth shrubs can sprout at a rate of half a yard a week. Robert Tannahill would have been very late for his date with his ain dear Somebody if his flow'ry hedge had been allowed to go as wild as some I could name. OK, I won't, yet.

*Adrian Stokes, Clerk*

#### PLANNING SUMMARY

##### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<u>AA No</u>	<u>TV No</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
P14/10	14/00949/ FULLN	<b>79, Little Ann Road</b> Extension etc	

##### PLANNING DECISIONS

<u>AA No</u>	<u>TV No</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Decision</u>
P14/07	14/00584/ FULLN	<b>Robins, Salisbury Road</b> Rear Extension	Permission
P14/09	14/00789/ FULLN	<b>Marbury, Cattle Lane</b> Extensions etc	Permission
P14/09a	14/00596/ FULLN	<b>Minaki</b> Move oil tank	Permission
P14/11	14/01074/ FONN	<b>Great Wood</b> New tracks (notification)	Application required

#### BENEFICE ALL AGE CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 2014

Once again All Saints played host to the annual children's workshop day on Good Friday where this year twenty one young people and their families joined together to make Easter decorations, the now traditional Easter Garden which seems to get better each year, the Easter biscuits (always a firm favourite amongst our younger children) and of course the annual chance given to the adults to get 'messy' and DO.

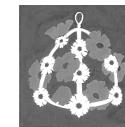
This year we welcomed five children and families from St Peter's seven from St Mary's and the rest from All Saints making it a truly Benefice event. Who could forget the sight of one little chap from Abbotts Ann covered in flour as he 'made' his biscuit for the umpteenth time nor the lad from Goodworth Clatford who said, "Can I come again next year?"

Special thanks must go to Barbara Watts and Mary Dunn for all their sterling work in the kitchen with the biscuit making. To David and Gill Broad for the creative and artistic input and to those countless grown ups who got messy and DID

The BENEFICE FAMILY EUCHARIST is alive and well and is happening every FIRST SUNDAY of the month at ALL SAINTS. where a warm welcome always waits for YOU. So if you can play an instrument, sing or just want to listen to those who can why not come along? What's stopping you?

*Susan Oram*

#### **Abbotts Ann in World War 1 – an exhibition**



Abbotts Ann Parish Council supported by Hampshire County Council invite you to come and see how the village was affected by the Great War (and vice versa)  
**Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall**  
**Saturday 26th July 10am – 4pm**  
**Admission free**

The exhibition will also be on display at the Museum of Army Flying, Saturday 2nd - Sunday 3rd August and at Abbotts Ann Village Fete Saturday 30th August

## ENTOMOLOGY COMES TO ABBOTTS ANN

The second weekend of June saw the appearance of some strange structures in the fields opposite The Poplar Farm Inn. For those of you who were curious, these are fly traps, used by entomologists for monitoring (or even reducing) fly populations. These traps were first developed in Africa to catch tsetse flies. But here, our target was another aggressive biter, the horsefly (*Tabanus*, *Hybomitra*, *Haematopota*). The trap appearance, supplemented by an odour, attracts the flies. The bright blue cloth wings are seen by flies, which fly towards the trap, and are then attracted to the black cloth at the centre. Entering the trap they then move upwards, through a cone, towards the beckoning daylight at the top. This leads them into a small cage, made of a polythene bag. There, they remain to be counted.

Those of you who persevered this far, may remember that odour was mentioned. Biting flies are attracted to acetone, the main smell you would associate with nail-varnish remover, but which is present in cow breath. And... since the flies are basically looking for blood-filled hosts to feed on... cow's urine works really well too. So next to the traps were a small bottle of acetone and a slightly larger one of cow's urine. And how did we get the cow's urine – that is another story... Maybe when you see us in The Eagle? Ask for Alex and the two Bobs. Or, for a more in-depth view, simply visit [influentialpoints.com](http://influentialpoints.com).

The Bobs will be back in late August, complete with traps, and hoping that Bernard Griffiths will again kindly permit us to place them in his fields, we'll have more to tell.

*Alexandra Shaw plus visiting entomologists  
Robert Dransfield and Robert Brightwell*



planted on top of an embankment of earth, and if you want to see these, edge your way past Stonehenge and head for Devon, where you will find an incredible 30,000 miles of them according to someone who claims to know. The fact that many of the typical narrow Devon lanes have one on each side makes that county a boom market for wet'ndry sandpaper and T-cut, for erasing the inevitable scratches on car doors. Still, they do ensure that coaches full of "Grockles" (Devon-speak for tourists) can't get to some of the best beaches in the South-west.

I suspect that if you laid all the domestic hedges round the gardens of England end to end they would add up to many times the mileage of the longest hedge in history. This ran right across the sub-continent of India. It was an impenetrable 2,300-mile long thicket planted by the British and guarded by 12,000 troops to enforce the collection of the iniquitous salt tax. This had a lot to do with the unravelling of the British Empire, but nothing to do with the attitude that "An Englishman's home is his castle". A major product of that attitude is the garden hedge. We may love our neighbour dearly, but we want him to know where we draw the line; from early Victorian times privet and privacy marched steadily outwards from town centres towards the green horizon and suburbia was born.

Before the 20<sup>th</sup> century rural villages had plenty of walls, fences and hedges, but their purpose was to keep livestock in rather than neighbours out. Now we have garden hedges all over the rural scene, but how different they are from the monotonous uniformity of suburbia! Thank goodness there's not much privet, which somehow doesn't do much for a village, though it was vital in the days of urban smoke and smog, because, like the London Plane-tree, which can shed its soot-encrusted bark as well as its leaves, it doesn't mind how polluted the air is. In a village like ours, where most of the dwellings stand back from the roadside, an amazing variety of hedges enjoy the fresh air along the streets and footpaths. There must be a couple of dozen species of hedge within our curiously-named Village Envelope. Some, especially yews, are pretty old; some of the most attractive are brand new. Though not classed as statutorily Important, these hedges provide an essential enhancement of our surroundings.

The Parish Council has always had a voluntary Footpaths Officer, and we owe a great vote of thanks to Paul Kelly, who has just retired from the post, after spending a huge lot of time and energy taking direct action and chasing up those who ought to be doing so. We are very thankful that Phil Wood has volunteered to carry on the good work. We have also for many years been fortunate to have the services of Trevor Hook, who has just retired. He worked steadily at the essential grass-cutting and at those little jobs around the place that you only notice when they haven't been done. These are hard acts to follow.

## Hedges and Edges

*When gloamin' treads the heels o' day,  
And birds sit courin' on the spray,  
Alang the flow'ry hedge I stray  
To meet mine ain dear somebody.*

So sang Robert Tannahill, who had the misfortune of living at the same time as Robert Burns, so his poetic and musical talent was cast into the shade; he depended for his living on his day job as a weaver. Well, had you ever heard of him? You will have heard from him however, because the tune of *Waltzing Matilda* is based on one of his songs.

Tannahill's hedge was probably a relatively new one. It was not long since the time of the great enclosures all over the United Kingdom, which, come to think of it, wasn't all that old itself – there are some cottages here that were built when Scotland was independent and not particularly friendly to the English Sassenachs, aka Saxons. During the long process of enclosing the old open fields of mediaeval times, thousands of miles of hedges were planted to mark the boundaries of new fields and old tracks. Robert must have been straying about this time of year, enjoying the flowering of Blackthorn (Sloe) or Hawthorn (May) just as we have recently. These two trees or shrubs have formed the basis of hedges since time immemorial because of their extreme prickliness and their ability to live for ever if properly managed. Sadly the art of hedging with billhook and sledgehammer has given way to the tractor and flail, though it's amazing how well they can survive this brutal treatment. By the way, you know we're advised not to cast a clout till May is out; but who knows whether this means waiting to leave your winter woollies in the cupboard until the end of the month, or when the hawthorns become all flow'ry?

The invention of barbed wire and mechanical reapers caused the wholesale ripping up of hedges, and there were no controls until, as recently as 1997, CPRE ran a successful campaign to force the Government to introduce the Hedgerow Regulations. These define a hedgerow as Important if it is over 20 metres long and at least 30 years old: woe betide anyone who messes with an Important Hedgerow without prior permission from the Powers that Be.

Although the grubber-uppers did enough to cause a drastic reduction in the habitats of all sorts of wildlife, especially smallish birds, they didn't have time to destroy all the hedgerows in the countryside. So there are quite a lot left, including some that may be as old as 600 years. Most ancient hedges were

# Abbotts Ann Vision Community Energy Project

**Andy Molloy  
community energy expert**

will speak and answer questions on what we can do in Abbotts Ann –

**how to reduce your fuel bills  
generating energy for the community  
collective energy purchasing**

**War Memorial Hall  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30**

**Promoted by Abbotts Ann Green Action for  
Abbotts Ann Vision**

## ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP ASSOCIATION - NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Hall, Abbotts Ann. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

Any member wishing to stand for election to the Management Committee should write to the Secretary (Pam Lytle: email: [plytle2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:plytle2@tiscali.co.uk)) two weeks prior to the AGM.



## ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

**Shop Manager:** Georgina Garner  
**Deputy Shop Manager:** Carol Murphy  
**Sub Post Mistress:** Maureen Flood

### **Summertime**

It is the time of year when the BBQs get dragged out of the shed and fired up. Your village shop can supply you with meats, sausages, burgers and all the salads to accompany your meal. If you are going to the beach or for a walk on the Downs then for your picnic we have a new butchery supplier with roast ham. We have quiches available, in family or individual sizes, together with the coleslaw and potato salads to go with them.

We have a new line of Olives, in various flavours, in a handy pouch at only £1.19.

For you chocoholics, look at the new selection of Lindt chocolates.

### **Volunteers**

We are still on the lookout for more volunteers for the Shop, and not just bakers and till operators. There are all sorts of jobs around needing willing hands to carry them out. Please think whether you can spare a few hours during the week and especially on Sundays. For instance - we would like to open later on Friday evenings, but can do so only when we are able to draw up a list of volunteers willing to help serve behind the counter for the extra hours. Speak to Georgina or Carol either in the Shop or on 710230.

### **Annual General Meeting of the Abbotts Ann Village Shop Association**

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting of the Abbotts Ann Village Shop Association on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7.30 pm in the War Memorial Hall.

Enjoy the Summer by shopping in  
**YOUR VILLAGE SHOP**

### **ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE**

### **Summer Travel**

Holiday Planning; Travel Money (Euros, US Dollars, Turkish Lira in stock in branch, other currencies; next day delivery).

The Post Office also offers Travel Insurance and Travel Money Card Plus

### **Post Office Telecoms**

Post Office HomePhone and Broadband prices are competitive, transparent and easy for customers to understand. Many other telecoms providers offer half price rental for the first six months and then revert back to their full price,

## CLATFORD VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

At our May meeting RHS Wisley-trained photo journalist John Negus's talk on summer bedding was informative, entertaining and, at times, challenging as he tested his audience's knowledge and plant identification skills! Focusing mainly on basket and container planting, John encouraged us to be creative and try something different this year.

Whatever compost is chosen, water-retaining granules and a slow-release fertiliser such as Osmocote should be added. John recommended plug plants as an alternative to growing from seed as it eliminates the pricking out process and reduces the risk of plant damage in the early stages. Begonias should be 'sprouted' in shallow trays of compost in a warm place in late Winter/early Spring; the sprouts are then taken as cuttings and grown on for planting out in May. Where large numbers of plants and containers are being displayed, a micro irrigation system can ease the daily watering load. Flowering plants should be dead-headed at least once a week to sustain flowering and given a high potash (tomato) feed weekly to encourage healthy growth and disease resistance. Containers should complement the planting while thoughtful stacking and arrangement can create a tiered, cascade effect.

Supported by well-chosen slides, John identified a range of well-known and less familiar plants and demonstrated some interesting planting combinations in his quest to encourage us to make bold choices. Among the less-obvious were scented leaved geraniums, nasturtiums, straw (everlasting) flowers and Ajuga (bugle) with purple foliage and tall blue or pink flower spikes. Foliage combinations can be spectacular with such wide variations in height, shape, texture and foliage colour available; variegated leaves can be particularly effective. Recommendations included the red false castor oil plant 'Carmencita' (purple underside to leaves), Centaurina 'Candidissima' (silver trailing foliage and yellow flowers) - which looks stunning in a pedestal container, Sedum 'Sieboldii' (silver-grey and yellow trailing foliage) and dead nettle (red and white forms with variegated and serrated leaves). Many vegetables can be both productive and decorative including French and runner beans which can have red, white and multi-coloured flowers followed by green, purple, white or blotched seed pods.

Finally, those of us who were quick-witted and knowledgeable enough to answer John's questions were rewarded with horticultural gifts including two delightful books.

Next month's meeting is on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.45pm in Upper Clatford Village Hall. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

## Trust Fund Raising following Village Hall Meeting

- Since the Public meeting in April we have raised some £11,000 in new funds (including Gift Aid) towards the cost of saving Saint Mary's by re-roofing the chancel and nave. This together with all of the Trust's reserves will be some £2,500 short of the total matching funding of £18,000 which is required as a contribution to the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant being applied for by the Trust and the PCC. (Gillian Barrett, the Trust Treasurer is playing a key role in this application for an emergency repair grant of £250,000 from HLF). If the application is successful, the balance of the Trust's contribution will be required by September. It would be prudent for the Trust to target raising a total of £5,000 funds over the next 3 months to meet the shortfall and re-establish a small reserve.
- The Trust will seek to establish as soon as feasible, a joint grant application programme with the PCC for the additional projects listed in the Forshaw report. The estimated cost of these projects is £60,000. We will need to raise additional matching funds to support successful applications for grants.
- We plan to hold a follow up fund raising meeting in the summer. If you would like to talk to the Trust members about anything in this article, or make a donation, please get in touch with any of the following:

• Malcolm Hutchinson : Phone 01264710461  
• Susie Thornely : Phone 01264711077  
• Graham Platford : Phone 01264711164  
• Tim Seabrook : Phone 01264710353  
• Gillian Barrett : Phone 01264710355

*Malcolm Hutchinson*

### **Fauré Requiem**

St Mary's Church, Andover

Saturday 19th July 2014 at 7.30pm

Tickets £12 on the door or £10 from Newbury BS, The Lights or choir members



### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

All articles printed in the Abbotts Ann Magazine are printed in good faith and are not necessarily the views of the Editor. All contributions must be accompanied by a full name and email address which may be withheld at the Editor's discretion. The Editor reserves the right to amend all contributions. Please support our advertisers; they support the magazine.

which can be confusing for customers. At Post Office it is simple and a great value service is offered all year round.

**Broadband Essential** is £7 per month. with line rental at £13 per month that is just £20 for Broadband Essential with *HomePhone*.

**Broadband Premium** is £10 per month so with line rental at £13 that is £23 for both.

### **Changes to Premium Bond Limits**

National Savings and Investments (NS&I) changed Premium Bonds Investment limits as from 1st June. The maximum investment has increased from £30,000 to £40,000.

### **Royal Mail Special Stamps**

Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

On Thursday 17 July, six days before the Opening Ceremony of the Glasgow 2014 XX Commonwealth Games, Royal Mail will issue six new Special Stamps to celebrate the largest sporting and cultural festival that Glasgow and Scotland has ever hosted. Six of the sports to be competed in Glasgow are celebrated, from a judo throw to a squash rally, to runners battling it out in a marathon.

*Elizabeth Howard - Shop Volunteer*

### **TEST VALLEY MINIBUS HIRE**



Would your village organisation be interested in hiring a minibus for a day out?

A little-publicised fact is that Test Valley Community Services have minibuses available for hire by community groups. They currently have seven vehicles, seating 14-17 people. These can be hired for £17 per half day (morning, afternoon or evening) or £34 per full day, plus 70p per mile for the first 100 miles and 35p per mile for additional miles (fuel included).

Drivers must hold a MiDAS certificate (the nationally recognised qualification for minibus drivers). If you don't have your own driver, TVCS may be able to supply one, for an extra charge.

For further information see the village website, the folder in the village shop, visit [www.tvcs.org.uk/ct\\_minibus\\_hire.html](http://www.tvcs.org.uk/ct_minibus_hire.html), email [transport@tvcs.org.uk](mailto:transport@tvcs.org.uk) or phone 01264 356808.

*Julie Moon, Abbotts Ann Vision Transport Project*

## PROGRESS ON THE PILL HILL BROOK

The Rivers Test and Itchen have been regarded for at least a couple of centuries as the cradle of fly fishing and their renown is quite literally worldwide.

I remember years ago holidaying in Austria outside Innsbruck, visiting a fabulous fishing tackle shop in that beautiful city beside the waltzing River Inn. The manager, delighting as enthusiastic anglers do in talking of their fishing experiences, asked whence I came. "Hampshire", I replied. "Aahhh", he responded, glazing over and becoming misty-eyed. "Anywhere near the River Test?" Replying to my "yes" – "you lucky, lucky man, have you fished it?" At that time, I had not, for an angling duffer such as I had no right nor place upon its hallowed banks.

I am indeed a lucky, lucky man, and curiously I agree with something Prince Charles is supposed to have said, that to be born an Englishman is to win first prize in the lottery of life. I would add, to be born in Romsey, and then years later to live in Abbotts Ann in the heart of the Test Valley, is, to an angler, the bonus prize of bonus prizes. What a privilege.

But you don't have to be an angler to appreciate the beauty and diversity of this great river and its system, and the spectacular beauty and fragility of the English countryside through which it meanders and flows. But being an angler does remind you that great rivers such as these need great care and great management, for to survive with apparently such easy charm, they have to be run as a finely balanced business for future generations to enjoy them as we are privileged to-day.

Thus, in order to be a business, management of the main river in its many aspects will have to include stocking with reared fish, many of which are rainbow trout, besides some which resemble the native brown trout. Migratory salmon also exist in these main rivers, though their numbers over recent decades are in decline and despite much research and monitoring no one seems to know just yet exactly why.

However, whilst many know of the great river itself, not so many people are aware of the Test's tributaries, such as the Dever, the Bourne rivulet, Wallop Brook, River Dun, the Blackwater, and our own Pill Hill Brook.

The Pill Hill Brook flows into the River Anton by the A303 by-pass bridge over Barlows Lane, where it is joined by Watery Lane, Upper Clatford. The Anton then joins the Test at Fullerton, just below the Seven Stars pub – now known as the Mayfly.

Having referred to the Test and Itchen being the cradle of fly-fishing, and this may well be so, what doesn't seem to be so widely appreciated – and

## **St Mary's Abbotts Ann Fabric Trust Update Programme Since Last Magazine Article**



### **Summary of the people's view on the church from the survey the Trust carried out after the January 2014 Magazine article.**

- 54 Completed forms were returned. Nobody returned with any No's against the importance of the church as a building within the village. All enjoyed the bells and a few don't hear the clock. 18 had no comments
- 10 believe it is an important building and it is important to have a village church that is open to all
- 2 highlight the history and church through a written history and through the tourist boards
- 9 wanted the church opened more to encourage the whole community the opportunity to use it.
  - ♦(3 in this said could be a good idea to move the pews)
  - ♦1 "don't move" the pews and add a loo so concerts can be held.
- 45 people said that they were interested in hearing more about what the Trust was doing.
- 60 people attended the open day at the village hall. All the Trust members, less our Treasurer who was abroad, were there to answer questions. Members of the PCC attended, 2 local councillors, manager and assistant from the shop.

evening to view for those unable to attend. Not all speakers used it but it gives an insight.

Jackie Stanton

(Editor's Note: This was a really splendid evening and the organisers are to be congratulated!)



Enquiries 01256-892019 or [www.andovercats.org.uk](http://www.andovercats.org.uk)  
Stories of rescued cats [adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk)  
Fund-raising/volunteers [adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk)  
Items for resale 01256-892773

Now that the holiday season is here we need to make sure that our cats are well looked after while we are away. If they are being cared for at home by a friend or neighbour it is best that they are confined to the house with litter trays (one for each cat plus one extra). We often get reports of cats which have gone missing while their owner is on holiday. They get lonely and wander off in search of human company.

Panda has not yet found a home but she has moved in with a house fosterer which is much nicer than being in a pen.

Fudge is a delightful but strange little cat. Ginger female cats are quite rare. She is about 10 years old and came into care when her owner moved abroad.



She doesn't seem to like warm, comfy beds but sleeps in the coordinator's conservatory in a cardboard box. She is reputed not to like other cats but completely ignores the presence of her three current companions who are totally non-aggressive. She loves to wander around the garden in the sun and particularly likes to sit on this bench. She would make an excellent companion for a retired person.

Martin Bevan

### HISTORIC CHURCHES - RIDE AND STRIDE

The sponsored "Ride and Stride" in aid of the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust will take place on Saturday 13th September this year. You can cycle, walk or run, choosing safe country lanes. It is not a race but an opportunity to visit some of our lovely interesting local churches. Come and join us for an enjoyable day out. Half the money we raise will go to help maintain our own church, St Mary's.

Details and sponsorship forms are available from Pat Balam, Cygnet Cottage (Tel: 710040) Our team of young people from the village will be riding again this year and will have a sponsorship form in the Village Shop. They are very keen. Please support them.

Pat Balam

perversely not by the old National Rivers Authority, now the Environment Agency, and seemingly other bodies – is that the tributaries of these great rivers are incredibly important as the cradle of the wild fish (as opposed to stocked fish) which inhabit these wonderful, transparently-clear chalk-streams of ours.

Happily, the non-native rainbow trout and its hybrids, stocked in the commercial fisheries, tend not to reproduce easily in the wild. This is the domain of the native brown trout. In the autumn and early winter, during the close season for fishing, these adult fish move as far upstream as they can to spawn in the tributaries and their headwaters. So you can see how vitally important these brooks and rivulets are to the well-being and even the very existence of their famous neighbours.

It follows that the management of these tributaries, including the Pill Hill Brook, needs to be as gentle and unobtrusive as it can be, so that the native brown trout, such a beautiful and delicately-marked creature, can flourish as a truly wild fish. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of a genuinely wild stretch of stream such as the Pill Hill Brook on the Test or any other large river system. Indeed, it is something of a rarity.

Management follows a yearly cycle, and this report is half-way through. The adult trout over the turn of the year will have mated and spawned, and the fry hatched will now be fingerling and upwards in size. Much else to tell another time...

At the time of writing, the first of the three weed-cut periods on the entire Test system has begun. These periods are in June, July and August, of an average of ten days for each of the five sectors spread downstream from the Test's source at Ashe, north-east of Laverstoke, to the boom at Greatbridge, just south of Timsbury on the Stockbridge to Romsey road where the road swings right over the Test and then left past the Duke's Head pub. Here weed is dragged out by the Environment Agency's mechanical digger. The sixth sector downstream goes to the sea in Southampton Water.

The dates are annually agreed by the Test and Itchen Association – i.e. the riparian owners, water-keepers, anglers – and the Environment Agency, so that all water-keepers cut their river weed and clear-off sluices, weirs and hatches between these dates, allowing the cut weed to flow downstream. Thus, spoiling of angling is minimised and confined to within these dates. If weed has to be cut at other times, due to prolific growth, special consent has to be obtained, and no weed may be allowed to pass downstream to disturb the fisheries. There are penalties if these rules are not observed.

Pulling the river weed out of the stream is extremely heavy work, thus it is eminently desirable to cut during the specified periods, moving upstream and

merely allowing the cut weed to flow downstream and beyond to Greatbridge, where the extraction is done mechanically.

The weed-cut dates apply only to river weed, not bankside vegetation. Bankside growth, sub-aquatic, semi-aquatic and above-water reeds and so on, provide cover for fish from predators – for example, herons, otters, and man – as well as providing habitat for all manner of bugs and other invertebrates that form the fishes' larder. When banksides within these waterside habitat and cover margins are cut, on no account may cuttings be allowed to fall into the river system. Decaying vegetation, in the form of cut grass, can leech extremely toxic by-products into the river.

Riverside grass-mowings heaps are particularly dangerous. We are talking of toxicity levels of half a part per million – and that's to fish. When you consider sub-aquatic invertebrates are far more sensitive and the Pill Hill Brook, in an average year, flows at something like eight million gallons a day, you can understand how fragile a habitat it is. Bankside owners – please be careful how you dispose of your lawn-mowings, and of where you locate compost heaps. These may be very beneficial to your gardening, but could easily poison the river!

So, in ideal conditions, the keeper of a river such as the Pill Hill Brook, takes a scythe on a long pole, dons chest-waders and inflatable braces or lifejacket, Polaroid glasses to see better through the surface of the stream, slips a whetstone into his wader pocket, and climbs down into the lower end of the section to be cut. He works upstream and the weed flows easily away behind him.

This year, the conditions have not been that ideal. Passage of cut weed through Little Ann to Little Ann Bridge would have been blocked after the storm and winds of 14<sup>th</sup> February, by one hawthorn, six willows, sixteen poplars, three alders, seven more willows, and an unkempt tangle of rooted-in willows and an ash-tree beyond to Little Ann Bridge. These had in the main been blown into the river. This discounts something in the order of one hundred and fifty to two hundred poplars in the former plantation which, roots weakened by the floods, lost their footing and blew down in a matter of an hour or so within the plantation, like children's Pick-a-sticks.

The aerial photographs of "before", by Busty Taylor some fifteen years ago, and "after" by Robbie Morgan this spring show the damage to the plantation and to the river.

In the "after", you will see how flooded the water meadows in Little Ann were in March/April, and deceptively marshy and dangerous on foot. The current in the river is even now very powerful. Access for wheeled vehicles has only just been possible in places. It has been a race against time to clear the river

## SUMMARY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE MEETING ON 21ST MAY

Thank you to those who attended the Countryside Presentation evening on 21<sup>st</sup> May. We hope you found it both interesting and educational. 42 people attended, 22 have signed up for information on future activities, 6 have indicated they would like to be more involved with the group.

- **Footpaths – Phil Wood**

Phil is offering a summer evening walk, possibly along the lesser-known footpaths of the area.

- **Farming – Matthew Reed**

Matthew is happy to organise a farm visit. From crop to grain, visit a dairy farm or something similar. TBC

- **Flora and Fauna – John and Julie Moon**

Meadow/ woodland walks taking in the natural habitat and flowers.

- **Vitacress Farm Visit – Ron Bainbridge**

Ron is staging a night for the TARCA group on Saturday 21st June, and he could possibly shoehorn a few people in the same evening, this will be on a first come first served basis.

He will be offering the Countryside group an alternate date. TBC.

*Please note the above only include basic details, some may differ when planned but we will keep you up to date once confirmed.*

If you are interested in any of the activities please send the **title of the activity** eg **Farming, along with your email address and telephone number to [pjmc.stanton@btinternet.com](mailto:pjmc.stanton@btinternet.com)** so we may start planning future events.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

### Wildlife walk Saturday 5th July.

The walk will concentrate on identifying summer wild flowers, we will also attempt to identify any trees, birds and butterflies that we come across. Starting point is outside the village shop at 10.00am and everyone is welcome.

The walk will be about 4 miles, via the Dunkirk Lane barn, and will be followed by an optional lunch at the Eagle.

For more info contact John or Julie Moon 710123

### An Evening Countryside Walk Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Explore some of the countryside close to Abbotts Ann taking about 2 hours  
Some stiles – possibly muddy if weather has been wet!

Meet 6-30pm outside Village Shop

For more info contact **Phil Wood 710844**

*We hope to put the Power Point Presentation on the village website of the*

# Abbotts Ann Village Fete

Saturday  
30<sup>th</sup> August

at Bulbery  
Playing Field

1pm

Entrance: adults £1, children FREE!

and from 8pm:

- Festival of Motoring
- Falconry displays
- Mini Olympics
- Ferret & Terrier racing
- BBQ, teas, cakes and beer tent
- Produce and craft show
- Games and children's rides
- Bouncy castle & Circus skills
- Stalls AND MORE!

Live music from local  
cover band  
**"Nokando"**  
and local magician

Mag. Fred Wilson  
David Major

Tickets to be purchased separately

Hot food and a  
well-stocked bar!

sufficiently for weed to pass. All the trees in the river have been cut up in situ or cut and dragged out by Land Rover. There are several, very large, poplars still across the river, but now without branches. As the water level drops, so the land beside will become firmer and will allow a tractor nearer, in the next few weeks. I hope.

Without this clearance, river weed from all the way upstream would have resulted in a massive dam and consequential flooding. As it is, the river-banks are still piled with extracted trunks, logs, branches and foliage, all needing to be moved off to piles in the meadow. The brushwood has to be burnt before it roots and grows in, creating future problems. The trunks and logs are available for firewood...

I am enormously grateful to those who have helped so far in this major task – David, Tony, Paul, Steve, Richard, Arthur, Jono-not-Bono, James, Rosemary, Christopher, Rick, Isaac, Dave and Julian, and Ron's patience in deferring the Cress Farm's cut a couple of days to allow us to complete the principal clearance.

It is heavy work, but it is worth the punctured waders and physical exertion, with the good company and laughter, being in the open air, looking after our special piece of English countryside, that we all share: the sights of the darting young fish – trout and grayling, sunken logs brought up covered in wriggling gammarus (freshwater shrimps) and caddis-fly larvae – all signs of a healthy stream being reinvigorated, sedgeflies, mayfly and all manner of other fly life; the sounds of buzzards, great spotted and green woodpeckers; the evidence of water-voles; and the sight of the kingfishers streaking their iridescent blue upstream – you can't paint them, you can't photograph their brilliance, you have to see them.

That's the privilege we all have as custodians of this fragile yet amazingly rewarding and beautiful part of our England.

I look forward to telling you and shewing you more about the Pill Hill Brook and anyone who would like to come and see it for yourself and help restore this most important natural part of our village heritage will be very welcome!

Bernard Griffiths

**"An evening with Alan Titchmarsh"**  
On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – 1815 for 1900

at The Old Rectory Abbotts Ann is

**SOLD OUT**

Thank you to all those supporting your church



“BEFORE” AND “AFTER”



*Abbotts Ann Players Presents*

**THE SHOW  
MUST GO ON**

*A new play by the village's own Helena Jane Kirby.*

Amateur productions rarely go smoothly, and this one is no exception. Throw in a wardrobe, the WI and trophy and what's left is one big tangle.

**FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

6.15PM FOR A 7.00PM START

**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

5.45PM FOR A 6.30PM START

**The Open Air Amphitheatre at  
Abbotts Ann Primary School**

**ADULTS £6, CONCESSIONS £5**

Tickets Available From Village Shop June 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Blankets, Picnics and Wine Welcome**