

BENEFICE DIARY - DECEMBER 2014

1 Dec	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch in St. Peter's Room.
3 Dec	(Wed)	7.30pm Night Prayer at All Saints'
		8.00pm Advent Study Group at The Rectory
4 Dec	(Thurs)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC.
5 Dec	(Fri)	6.30pm Abbotts Ann Parish Council meets in Abbotts Ann Memorial Hall.
		Final date for receipt of hard copy (hand-written or typed) for the January 2015 Abbotts Ann Magazine. <u>EARLIER THIS MONTH</u>
		Final date for receipt of hard copy (hand-written or typed) for the January 2015 Clatfords Magazine. <u>EARLIER THIS MONTH</u>
6 Dec	(Sat)	7.30pm Cinderella, Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall - page 18
7 Dec	(Sun)	2.30pm & 7.30pm Cinderella, Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall - page 18
		<u>The Second Sunday of Advent</u> – full service details – page 2
		9.30am Live Wires at All Saints'
		4.00pm Cinderella, Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall - page 18
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
8 Dec	(Mon)	12.00noon Deadline for the receipt of copy by email for the January 2015 Abbotts Ann Magazine. editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk EARLIER THIS MONTH
		12.00 noon Deadline for the receipt of copy by email for the January 2015 Clatfords Magazine. <u>marydunn21@hotmail.com EARLIER THIS MONTH</u>
9 Dec	(Tues)	12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
10 Dec	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall.
		7.30pm Night Prayer at All Saints'
		8.00pm Advent Study Group at The Rectory
11 Dec	(Thurs)	7.30pm Abbotts Ann WI Christmas Meeting - page 22
12 Dec	(Fri)	7.00pm Race Night at the Eagle - page 8
14 Dec	(Sun)	<u>The Third Sunday of Advent</u> – full service details – page 2
		6.00pm Christingle Service
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
15 Dec	(Mon)	6.30pm at the Eagle, Carol Singing round Abbotts Ann - page 7
17 Dec	(Wed)	6.30pm at the Poplar Farm Inn, Carol Singing round Little Ann - page 7
		7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.30pm Night Prayer at All Saints'
		8.00pm Advent Study Group at The Rectory
19 Dec	(Fri)	Clatford and Abbotts Ann schools finish for Christmas break.
20 Dec	(Sat)	9.30am Decorating St Mary's Church
21 Dec	(Sun)	<u>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</u> – full service details – page 2
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
24 Dec	(Wed)	<u>Christmas Eve</u> - Full details of Crib Services and Midnight Service – p 2
25 Dec	(Thurs)	<u>Christmas Day</u> - Full details of services – page 2
28 Dec	(Sun)	<u>The First Sunday of Christmas</u> – Holy Innocents Day - full service details, page 2
		9.30am Live Wires at All Saints'

St Mary's Church, Abbotts Ann

Rector	The Revd. David Broad The Rectory, Upper Clatford dna.broad@virgin.net (HIS DAY OFF IS SATURDAY)	352906
Churchwardens	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: http://www.little-ann.co.uk/church	
Choir Practice	THURSDAYS 7.45PM, ST PETER'S, GOODWORTH CLATFORD	
Bell-Ringing Practice	THURSDAYS 7.30-9.00PM, ST MARY'S, ABBOTTS ANN Tower Captain: Dudley Alleway	710646
Parochial Church Council		
Secretary	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
Treasurer (Temporary)	Sally Dashwood, 1 The Bakery	710640
Parish Magazine - www.abbottsanmagazine.co.uk		
Editor - editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk	Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbotts Ann	710630
Advertising - ads@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk	Rollo Wilson Jubilee Oak Cottage	710899

For magazine deadlines please refer to the Benefice Diary.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have your magazine delivered free of charge (Abbots 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 or write to Pam at The White House, Abbotts Ann.



It's almost panto season! ... Oh no it isn't!

We are continuing to celebrate our **20th birthday** in 2014!! Our Christmas production is the classic tale of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Directed by Karen Lindley, this family favourite contains all the panto-musts for you to enjoy this festive season.

Dame Trott and her children, Jack and Simon, have fallen upon hard times... the rent is due to the delightfully camp King and Queen of the land of Merrydale. Jack is struggling to get the love of his life, Jill, to accept his marriage proposal, and Giant Blunderboor and his obsequious man-slave Fleshcreep threaten to compound the misery with a devious and dastardly plot.

Come and join the Burdock Valley Players this Christmas time to discover the Trott's fate... will the land of Merrydale manage to find their "happily ever after"!?

Matinee performances will be at 2pm on 28th & 29th November, 6th & 7th December and evening performances will be at 7.30pm on the 29th November, 5th & 6th December 2014 at the King Edward VII Memorial Hall in Upper Clatford.

Tickets on sale soon, watch this space!

For more info on the Burdock Valley Players, visit our website @
www.burdockvalleyplayers.com



Unexpectedly Singing

Whilst department stores are variously 'following fairies' (will my wishes come true?), showing the meeting of imaginary penguins (will I be alone at Christmas?), or arranging a surprise celebration for a Christmas shift worker (will Christmas make me feel good?) the Church community turns the lights down and enters a long period of quiet reflection called Advent or 'arrival'. It doesn't predict what Christmas will be but puzzles over a story already given to it. In the northern hemisphere Christmas arrives in the midst of winter darkness and quite naturally the shorter hours of daylight and the restriction of the night help - if you don't mind the dark - to become more contemplative. It sets you in a vast context. If you have seen the astonishing and beautiful new film by Christopher Nolan, 'Interstellar,' you will realise the context in which we celebrate Christmas, or simply wake up and go to sleep each day, is vaster and more mysterious than you can ever quite imagine. Watching this film in the darkness of a cinema might be a good place to begin wondering about Christmas. It is a profound meditation on love, intuition, science, the future of humanity and what 'being saved' means. The Fathers of the Church already hinted at this vast context by including providence, stars, animals and a geological formation - a hole in a rock - in which humans are both passing guests and infinitely precious, to set the story about the birth of Christ. It is a vast context and yet, as one of the Fathers also said about Advent: 'No great journey is shown to you: if you wish to meet God, go as far as your own heart.'

This Advent, I would like to invite you to set out into the space of your imagination and to a series of three reflections by and about artists. They will each take place at 7.30pm in All Saints' Church, Upper Clatford. On Wednesday 3rd December, we will have Dom Anslem Shobbrook OSB, a Benediction icon painter and teacher; on Thursday 11th December, the internationally renowned textile artist, Alice Kettle, who has been working on a commission for All Saints' (you will know, for example, her work from the Discovery Centre, Winchester), and finally on Thursday 16th December, in conjunction with the current exhibition at the National Gallery, 'Rembrandt : The Late works', Gayna Pelham from the National Gallery, London. She will focus on one work in particular, Rembrandt's very last painting.

Sister Wendy Beckett once said that people are afraid of art as people are afraid of prayer. We are naturally afraid of the unknown and encountering a

work of art over which we have no control and daring to pray are both similar experiences of trust. It is, she says, the greatest mark of love when letting go of the strong moorings with ourselves on whom we first naturally trust and depend, we commit ourselves to another. ‘Silent prayer, the prayer of the heart,’ she says, ‘cannot be learned and cannot be evaluated except in its fruits. ‘By their fruits you shall know them,’ holds for artists as well as, but first we must taste the fruit. ... Looking at art and looking at God have much in common’.

In Advent the community of the Church sets out to leave the light we make and trust what it might see in the darkness where God waits. The photographic artist Garry Fabian Miller has this good phrase, the ‘pulse of creation’ to describe, what the artist - and I would add the one who prays - experiences. He said:

‘We experience moments of transformation at rare intervals in our lives. Fleeting and unexpected they are often accompanied by an expansion of perception, a heightened sense of what has been, what may follow and more particularly our relationship to a greater whole. Artists, writers, musicians, poets often speak of the attempt to relate the specific to the universal, the fusing of the spiritual with the physical, perhaps feeling more keenly than most the pulse of creation. For those with faith, art becomes a celebration of God’s radiance, a gift, received then shared. For those of us less confident, attested for a moment from the frenetic spaces we daily inhabit, a work of art may unexpectedly sing to us. Giving ourselves up to its emanation, wondering at its beauty, recognising its emotional nourishment we shun any association with God, though some of us might admit to a vague notion of the Spirit. Faced with this flow of energy from an inanimate object and often deeply moved, we are puzzled.’

I hope you will find the pulse, the gift and the puzzle on your way to Christmas.

© David Broad. Rector December 2014

ACTING WO2 (CSM) GEORGE WEBB, QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT (WEST SURREY)

George Webb was born in Abbotts Ann in 1894, the son of John Robert Webb, a blacksmith, and Isabella Webb. He was the eldest child in the family, with 2 younger brothers and 4 younger sisters. In 1911 the family had moved to West Silvertown, Victoria Docks, East London where George was working as a cooper’s labourer.

On 19 July 1911, he enlisted as a Special Reservist at Warley Barracks, Stratford into the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion Essex Regiment, aged 17 years and 10 months. 9755 Private George Webb was with 3rd Essex until 21 August 1914, when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion. He embarked for France the next day.

COUNTRYMAN'S CORNER

How the Village got its Name

When visitors arrive
In our village, we must strive
To make them feel at home as best we can.
So let's seek some expert theories
In reply to puzzled queries:
Why is this delightful place called Abbotts Ann?

Now geologists will talk
About underlying chalk
Which will offer splendid backing
To ambitious plans for fracking
But they haven't got a clue about our title.
Then geographers say “Oil?
Not my subject. But the soil
Of a nice alluvial plain
Plus a fair amount of rain,
For a farming-based community, are vital.”

Archaeologists are big
On their prehistoric dig
But the years A.D. are well outside their frame.

The historians will quote facts on
The doughty Anglo-Saxon,
Full of news about old friaries,
And mediaeval priories,

But their explanations all sound rather lame.
Etymologists, watch out!
For philologists no doubt
Will interminably spout

On the watery derivation of the name -
Maybe true, but dry and dusty all the same.

It's the poet, who's the one
Who will argue: “It's no fun
If your views are so pedantic.
Look for something more romantic!
Was some abbot driven frantic
By a mediaeval maiden, known as Ann,
In a willow-shaded nook
By the babbling Pillhill Brook,
And did Little Ann play Catch me if you can?”

If you hear of something better
Send an email or a letter.
But make sure it's not too shocking for your Gran.

revolutionaries, Danny le Rouge and Regis de Bray are names I remember amongst others. The television only came on for half an hour in the evening, to give the Prime Minister, Georges Pompidou – a chance to speak to the people which he did, night after night, a cigarette hanging from his lips, talking, soothing common sense, until eventually the revolution fizzled out. But it was a ‘close run thing’! And when de Gaulle came back to resume the Presidency, he sacked Georges Pompidou – ‘mis a la reserve de la Republique’. De Gaulle could stand no rival!

‘Les Evenements’ left their mark on Jill, she never got to like France. I think it would have been better if we had rented a flat in Paris so that the many delights of the city and the international community of Paris would have been open to her, rather than the stuffy bourgeois suburb of Le Vesinet, much as it suited the children! I on the other hand had contact with a multi national community within the organisation and had the stimulus of their discussions and debates about Africa and international affairs. I got to like the French too, the ‘Cartesian’ logic of their thinking. I like the clarity of and precision of the French language. And both of us got to love the countryside of France, its varied beauty and sparse population.

After the spring of 1968, France got back to normal but the Gaullist illusion of ‘Gloire’ had gone. De Gaulle was succeeded as President by Georges Pompidou, who died in office – all those cigarettes!

Meanwhile Africa was giving trouble too! I cannot now remember in which order the troubles came. Our manager in Kampala had to flee Uganda to escape the crazily murderous regime of its President, Idi Amin (The Last King of Scotland!). A manager of our Nairobi bank was shot and killed in a street riot. Our largest bank, in the Congo (Zaire) was nationalised by its mad President, Mobutu, and our local manager thrown into prison for five years (he survived!). There was civil war in Southern Rhodesia, Africa was no longer a good place to do business. Our Consortium struggled on for a bit, but the concept was abandoned in the early 1970’s. And I came back to London with my tail between my legs!

AL 20/10/14

“BLISS AND ALL THAT BLEEDS FROM IT”

Richard King (son of George King) has recently published a book of poetry and it is available for sale. It comes in a number of different formats; DVD, CD, eBook, PDF, ZIP and hard copy. Richard is also offering a Xmas stocking filler special of the DVD and the CD which will also be available for sale at Abbotts Ann Village Shop. There is a website that people can visit www.livinpeace.com where any of the above formats can be purchased.

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment was in Chatham under command of 12th Brigade, 4th Division. Initially, the 4th Division was held back from deploying to France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) by a last minute decision to defend England against a possible German landing, and 2nd Essex were sent to the Cromer and Norwich area in a defensive role. However, the attrition of the BEF in France and the lack of any threat by the Germans to cross the Channel reversed this decision and 2nd Essex were recalled to Harrow and then embarked for France, landing at Le Havre on 28 August 1914. Private George Webb joined them and was promoted to Lance Corporal on 28 October 1914.

2nd Essex arrived in France in time to provide much needed infantry reinforcements for the BEF at the Battle of Le Cateau; the divisional artillery, engineers, field ambulances and mounted troops being still en-route to France. The 2nd Battalion was in action in the Mons retreat, at battles on the Marne and the Aisne rivers and at Messines and Armentieres in 1914. This period of service with the BEF qualifies Webb as an Old Contemptible as in the Kaiser’s description of the BEF as a ‘Contemptible Little Army’.

On 19 February 1915, Lance Corporal Webb, now in Flanders with the 2nd Battalion, was seriously wounded in action by a grenade thrown into the trench that he was manning; he was one of two killed and two wounded that day. He sustained wounds to the right shoulder, right arm, and right hip as well as fragments in his buttocks and thigh. After hospital treatment at the Anglo-American and 14th General Stationary Hospital in Boulogne, he returned to England for sick leave and was next posted to the Essex Regiment Depot in Harwich on 13 April 1915 as an instructor with 3rd Essex. He was promoted to Corporal on 1 February 1916.

On 16 December 1916 he was posted to the 16th (Home Service) Battalion Queens Royal Regiment (West Surrey) at Hounslow as L/11691 Corporal Webb. On 15 January 1917 he was medical boarded for enteric fever and was medically downgraded to C1 - Fit for Home Service only. However, he was then promoted acting Sergeant on 27 February 1917 and acting Company Sergeant Major vice WO2 Scarborough on 10 March 1918.

On 21 November 1918, he was attached to 51st (Training Reserve) Battalion in Guildford from where he was discharged as a Section B Army Reservist on 20 March 1919. His discharge address was The Cottage, Webbs Lane in Abbotts Ann. His character was noted as exemplary.

He married Maude Thorp from Parkestone, Harwich, in St Paul’s Church, Parkestone on 20 August 1916. They had two children; William George and Ellie May.

As an Old Contemptible, one of the few survivors of the crucible of 1914 fighting, George Webb was entitled to the 1914 Star and the British War and Allied Victory medals.

Mike Cooper

CLATFORD VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our AGM in October, during which we were reminded that 2015 subscriptions (£12.50) would be due at the start of the year, concluded with a lively discussion re members' suggestions for future meetings. We were advised that the monthly Plant Swap would be discontinued but, following some discussion, it was agreed that members would still be able to bring plants, cuttings etc. to sell at meetings and that the proceeds would go to one of the Club's favoured charities. Members were reminded that details of outings, key information and items of interest are available on the Club website. At the conclusion of business members were able to enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles.

The following outings have been arranged for 2015:

May 16th : Dene House, nr Alton
July 21st : Hidcote
September 8th : The Hyde, Old Arlesford

The Christmas dinner is on 26th November. As there is no meeting in December, the next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday 28th January. Meetings, to which all are welcome, are held in Upper Clatford Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Judith Hancke

CHURCH NOTICE

Thank you very much and well done to the few who helped with the churchyard clean up on 7th and 8th November.

Christmas is coming and we need a tree for the church. If you have a tree which is getting too big for your garden (up to 10 or 11ft tall), or would like to give a donation towards the purchase of one, please give Gordon a call on 710830.

Our Christingle Service will be at 6 o'clock on Sunday 14th December. During the Service presents for the needy would be gratefully received, for distribution before Christmas

For details of other Services over Christmas please see the forecast at the front of this magazine.

Have a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Gordon Howard and Sally Dashwood - Churchwardens
St Mary's Church, Abbott Ann*

daughter-in-law Queen Eleanor of Castile, who would have walked there and used it as their private retreat.

Our meeting this month is on 11 December when we will have "A Sprinkle of White Christmas" with Trisha Lewis, followed, no doubt by a buffet supper. As usual, 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Sharon King

FRANCE

In January 1968 I was transferred from Nairobi to the Paris Head Office of the Consortium Bank for which I worked. The structure of the Consortium was rather like the European Union, a committee of the Chief Executives of each of the partner banks formed the supreme authority, but they delegated their powers to a 'Directoire' made up of an executive from each bank, a Frenchman, a Belgian, a German and an American (representing both the American and Italian partners). The Directoire was responsible for policy decisions and co-ordination of practice, with day to day management exercised by local domestic management in the countries where our banks were domiciled. I was a member of the secretariat responsible for liaison with the four English speaking banks in Kampala, Nairobi, Mombasa and Salisbury (Southern Rhodesia). I suppose I was selected because I was the only Englishman they had – and I spoke and wrote good French. I had an opposite number, a Frenchman, responsible for the many more French speaking banks.

It was an extremely interesting experience of working for an international organisation. We had offices in the Place Vendome, one of the architectural splendours of Paris, and I was ready to embrace the delights of the most civilized capital city in the world. Jill and I rented a large old bourgeois house in the leafy suburb of Le Vesinet, strongly recommended to us by friends. It was pleasant, with a garden backing on to a canal – on which we built a raft – great fun for the children. February 1968 was a gloriously warm month and I remember thinking if this is how spring comes to Paris, then it is very blessed. I was full of hope and optimism.

In May 1968 revolution broke out! Nowadays I suppose, 'Les Evenements' as it was called is but a footnote of history, but at the time it felt as if the government would be overthrown and chaos would prevail. It started with a strike of university students, they 'occupied' first the universities, then the Government offices, the Radio and Television Station, the 'workers' joined in, the streets of Paris were blockaded, public services and public transport stopped, deliveries of food to the shops and fuel to the petrol stations became sporadic. The President – de Gaulle – fled the country and society was paralysed. I used to go into my office by Army lorry, but there was little point - there was no post! Jill was isolated in Le Vesinet (we dare not use the car because we needed to keep it full of fuel so that in the last resort we could make it to the Port to get out!) Paris was run from the Sorbonne by the

ABBOTTS ANN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
OCTOBER 2014

Yes, sorry it is a much longer report this month as there have been several events in our diaries.

Several members attended the Anton Danebury Group meeting where the guest speaker was Thomas Plant - of Flog It & Antiques Road Trip fame - he said he wanted to talk about his favourite subject, himself! He was an amusing, entertaining speaker and gave an insight into the life of an auctioneer away from our TV screens and confided he makes a living from death, divorce and down-sizing. To every cloud this is a silver-lining, for someone at least.

Ten of us were lucky to get seats in The Anvil in Basingstoke for the Autumn Meeting of Hampshire Federation - it was over-subscribed - to hear Michael Portillo, who was a brilliant speaker. (Yes we did travel by train). Speaking without notes but with self-deprecating humour, he touched on his life in politics, his family roots - the effect the Spanish Civil War had on his father's family, as well as his new career in the media. He answered questions put to him by the audience, most of which focused on his railway journeys, including one about his colourful jackets!

It was then time to create some family heirlooms of our own, well that might be exaggerating just a little. Louise Simmonds was so patient with us at last year's Craft Day, that we asked her to return, this time to give us tuition in wire work jewellery. It is truly amazing to see what a wide variety of necklaces, bracelets and earrings can be created from the range of colourful beads that Louise brings with her. Yes, we have asked her to come back next year, this time to get knotted (or weaving), the choice is ours.

Our own member, Sue Farr, had also kindly offered to show us how to give a second life to all those lovely greeting cards we are fortunate to receive and loathe to throw away. Sue may have regretted this rash offer, as we were an unruly class, but some of us did manage to create some lovely boxes, in which we can now place gifts for our friends and families. Recycling is something the WI is always keen to encourage.

If this wasn't enough, at this month's meeting, Sally Miller from Hampshire Gardens Trust spoke about their work in making sure that all the historic gardens in the County are researched and publically recorded. We are very fortunate in Hampshire to have some important sites, for instance there are several examples of Capability Brown's landscaping, some open to the public and some in private ownership. Sally also showed us photographs of sites where the Trust had been involved, either in restoration or re-creation, such as the medieval garden just outside the Great Hall in Winchester, designed by Dr Sylvia Landsberg, and named after Queen Eleanor of Provence and her

CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE

Everyone is welcome to sing carols around **Abbotts Ann on Monday 15th December** and **Little Ann on Wednesday 17th**. Song sheets will be provided but please bring lanterns or torches. We will meet at **The Eagle on Monday** and **The Poplar Farm Inn on Wednesday**. **We begin at 6.30pm** each evening. Singing will last for about two hours and there are refreshments afterwards. If you don't feel up to singing we need people to help with the collection in aid of church funds. For any more details contact Tim Tayler, Lane Cottage (tel: 710201).

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:
21 Nov - 4 Dec
5 Dec - 18 Dec
19 Dec - 1 Jan
2 Jan - 15 Jan
16 Jan - 29 Jan
30 Jan - 12 Feb

Flowers:
Advent
Advent
Christmas
Sylvia Burson
Pat Keene

Dusting:
Helen Stuart
Dee Howarth
Jill Tayler
Elizabeth Palmer
Polly Whyte
Sheila Robinson



From The Registers

Holy Baptism

Albert Bear William Riley whose Baptism took place at St Peter's on 12th October.

Henry John Phillips whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on 26th October.

Rest in Peace

Reginald Alfred Austin whose Funeral took place at St Mary's on 17th October.

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

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.

ABBOTTS ANN FETE 2015

It was agreed at the recent AGM that next year's fete would be held on Saturday 5th September 2015. Put the date in your diary and we hope to see you there next year!

Anne Emerson - Fete Secretary

ST MARY'S CHURCH - DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Decoration of the Church will be on **Saturday 20th December** from 9.30am. Please come along and help and enjoy a coffee and mince pie. Donations for the flowers would be appreciated.

I would like to wish all the Flower & Holy Dusters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sylvia Burson 710852

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

My wife lost her wedding ring (55 years) last month, almost certainly in the Coach Road and connecting footpaths area. We retraced the route several times, making a visual search, but it's that spatial problem about the 'needle in a haystack'. A notice in our community shop and a visit to the Andover Police Station were supplemented by many locals who frequent the area and kept their eyes peeled. We have taken the bungalow apart!

Plus the hands-on help of two villagers with their metal detectors. Shaun and Tracy Russell gave six hours of their time in a meticulous search of the route. They were perseverance personified and were as disappointed as we were to have drawn a blank. If you're seeking an exemplar of thoroughly good eggs and community spirit, then look no further.

Geoff Dinkelle

RACE NIGHT

Friday 12th December 2014

The Eagle, Abbotts Ann

Come and enjoy a night at the races



**Betting Starts 7:00pm
First Race 7:30 pm**

Proceeds in aid of sports pavilion

*Pogles Wood
excellent live
ceilidh band*



Burns Night



**Friday
23rd January 2015**

7:30pm

In the War Memorial Hall

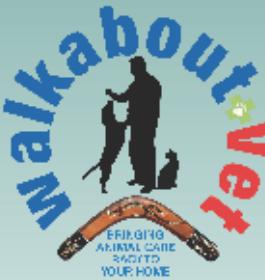


*cock-a-leekie & crowdie
bar
address to the haggis
whisky tots
highland dancing
bagpipes*

£20

Tickets on sale **now in Abbotts Ann village shop**

WALKABOUT VET



Walkabout Vet is owned by Phil Taragel who has over 22 years experience. Walkabout Vet is very excited to be able to offer a veterinary home call service to the villages of the Test Valley within a radius of 10 miles of The Wallops.

Phil Taragel BVS_c MRCVS
07957 349985
phil@walkaboutvet.co.uk
www.walkaboutvet.co.uk

Benefits of using Walkabout Vet:

- **Convenience**, a consulting room to your door that will help overcome busy lives and transport difficulties
- **Continuity of Experienced and Compassionate Care**, one experienced and caring vet for you and your pet to get to know
- **Stress free**, no stressful car trips or waiting room experiences
- **Dignified in-home palliative care and euthanasia**

Darkness to light



A contrasting programme of seasonal words and music as Christmas approaches
presented by
The Harmonium Singers
With familiar favourites and carols for all to sing

St Mary's Church, Andover
Saturday, 13 December 2014 at 7.30pm
In aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association
Tickets (incl. refreshments) £10 at door, or £8 from
Newbury Building Society, The Lights and choir members
www.harmoniumsingers.org.uk



Enquiries 01256-892019 or www.andovercats.org.uk
Stories of rescued cats adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk
Fund-raising/volunteers adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk
Items for resale 01256-892773

Christmas is almost here again and this can be a sad time for pets if their families go away from home. If you are going away please make sure your cat is well provided for, either in a cattery or shut in your house with a visiting cat carer.

We all eat too much at Christmas and that can apply to our cats too. There are far too many obese cats around. The odd piece of turkey is fine and healthy. Cream and chocolate is not and can be positively damaging to a cat's health. While your cat is enjoying Christmas, give a thought to those less fortunate. If you visit our eBay site you can buy a dinner for one of our cats in care. Just go to our website (see above) and follow "Buy on eBay"

Roger, last month's cat, didn't take long to find a new home. He now lives in Ludgershall with an adult family.



Aska is a lovely, middle aged female tabby. Five years ago she was a stray and a kind man took her in but unfortunately he has now moved abroad. She has had a thorough health check at the vet. Some dental work was necessary but that is now done and she is looking for a new home.

Martin Bevan

Christmas Bazaar

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2014 *1pm – 4pm *
At Abbotts Ann Primary School,
Duck Street, Abbotts Ann, SP11 7FE

*Gifts for children, home & kitchen *Beautiful jewellery *
*Handmade Christmas gifts and decorations *Grand raffle *
*Santa's Grotto *Crafts *Produce *Bric-a-brac *Face painting *
*Children's games *Tombola *Refreshments and cake stall *
*Fun for all the family! *

Entry: Adults £1.00 Children FREE

POPPY APPEAL 2014

Thank you to both collectors and donators for making such a wonderful contribution this year. Although I do not have the district figure at time of printing, our area of Abbotts Ann (including Farleigh School and the Garden Centre) have a total £2963.60. A tremendous achievement in this the Centenary Year of World War 1.

If you would like to assist in any way next year please contact Duncan Powell, Chairman, British Legion, Andover, Mobile. 07974918339. He is particularly keen to find people who can assist in the Monxton /Amport area.

Thank you.

Jackie Stanton - Local Organiser

APPLE DAY - WHAT'S THE POINT?

The point of Apple Day is of course obvious – a lovely village event when we get together, marvel at the wonder of our village apple press, and take away juice to enjoy at our leisure. Perhaps next year, cider could be made....

But there is another point: we are fortunate to live in a place where many of us have the privilege of gardens and being able to grow food for our table – surplus to the village shop is a good new innovation. Apple Day began when AAGA realised that there are many apple trees in the village. Our 'Apple Map' now shows there are over thirty places where apples are grown, from single trees to a small orchard.

We also realised that many of the owners of these apple trees did not have either the time or the ability to pick the apples nor the capacity to store and eat them all. So why not share the apples round the village? From sharing we have moved on to juicing.

But it makes you think (well, we thought it might!). How much of our village produce goes to waste? It is said that half of the food in this country is thrown away before it is eaten – much of it before it even leaves the supermarket shelves. Could that also be true of our gardens? We applaud the village shop's initiative of inviting villagers to bring their excess produce for sale in the shop.

In a world where there is enough food for all, but so many go hungry, Apple Day is a sign that we can take very good care of the food we have access to in garden, village shop, and supermarket. And perhaps that we can share it with others too.

*David Read
Chair, Abbotts Ann Green Action*



Bright and early on the 26th October the Ghana Gallopers team plus volunteer drivers Julie Livingstone and Paul Stanton and event organiser-extraordinaire Jackie Stanton all headed off to the 2014 Great South Run in Southsea.

This year we managed to assemble a total of 20 runners, all participating in the GSR to raise money for EDP Trust. Unlike last year, the weather was slightly overcast and reasonably mild; perfect running conditions some may say! Final results were impressive, with the top three runners managing to

complete the race in under an hour and a quarter: Luke Rose got the best time of 1:09:04, followed by Steve Carroll in second place with a time of 1:12:06 and James Stritch who came a very close third place with a time of 1:13:28.

A few other runners managed some personal bests and a number of them who had never run this distance before actually confessed to enjoying themselves!

All in all the race itself was a great success and the after party at Constantia Cottage where David and Inez Lunan laid on a wonderful spread was enjoyed by all.

From the EDP team and all the pupils of Awutu Winton Senior High School, a very BIG THANK YOU to all runners, drivers, caterers, supporters and donors.

We have currently raised a total of just under £8,500 which will go towards buying a much needed new school vehicle. If you missed the opportunity to sponsor our Ghana Gallopers team you can still do so by visiting our Virgin Money Giving sponsorship page at: www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/theghanagallopers

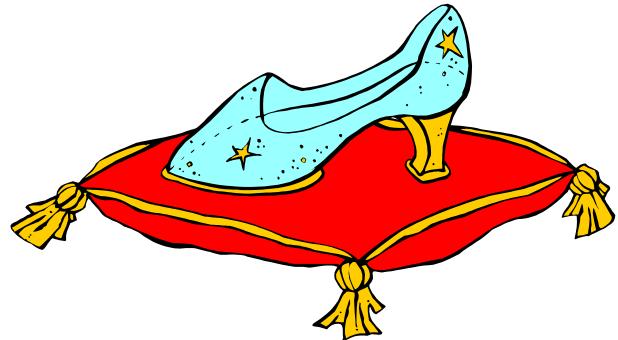
Thanks again for all your support.

*Lily Lunan - Charity Coordinator
EDP (Educational Development Projects) Trust
m: +44 (0)7979 892 978 e: lily@edp-trust.org w: www.edp-trust.org*

Abbotts Ann Players
present

Cinderella And The Pantomime Thief

by Peter Nuttall



Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall
December 5th at 7:30pm
December 6th at 2:30pm & 7:30pm
December 7th at 4:00pm

Adults: £6.00 Children & Concessions: £4.00 Families: £15.00

Tickets available from the village shop



ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

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

Shop for Christmas Here – You know it makes sense
If you want a shop in the Village then we need your support

December has arrived, so Christmas will soon be upon us. You will find all your Christmas Fayre in your own Village Shop. Orders can now be taken for Turkeys, Geese and other meats, plus your vegetables, bread, milk and cream. It saves all that queuing elsewhere. So support your local store.

PICK UP YOUR ORDER FORM(S) IN THE SHOP NOW

Meat Orders – Must be in by **Friday 12 December**.

Vegetable and Dairy Orders – Must be in by **Thursday 18 December**.

Shop opening hours over the Festive period are:

Normal Hours up to and including 23rd December.

Wednesday 24th December – 0800 to 1300.

Christmas Day – Closed.

Boxing Day – Closed.

Saturday 27th December – 0830 to 1230.

Sunday 28th December – 0900 to 1200.

Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th December – 0830 to 1730.

New Year's Eve – 0830 to 1600.

New Year's Day – Closed.

Friday 2nd January 2015 – 0830 to 1900.

then back to normal opening hours.

Friday – Late Opening

As requested by many, the Shop has been open until 7pm on Fridays. The response so far has been very poor. So come on, please support those volunteers who are giving of their time for your benefit and make it worth their while.

Puddings Galore

Yes, they are back. The traditional Abbotts Ann Labelled “Ultimate Plum Pudding” is available once again, (both 2lb. and 1lb.). In addition, we have a selection of other steam puddings – Sticky Toffee, Triple Ginger, Chocolate and Lemon – all wonderful on these chilly Winter days. These delicious puddings can be ready in 3 minutes in the microwave or they can be steamed in the usual way.

Gifts

Pop into the Shop and peruse our selection of gifts, ranging from Stocking

Fillers (such as Tubes of Jelly Beans) to a variety of tins of biscuits, bags of jam and relish. Don't forget our own Apple Juice and have a look at the wines (a few changes here too!). The local peppermint range, local to Hampshire that is, is still available. In fact, we have extended the selection. Another must is the selection of beautiful hand knitted jumpers, at £5 only.

Christmas Cards

Kate Bennett has designed the card this year, exclusive to us for you to send to impress all your friends and family.

Abbotts Ann Village Shop Association

Sadly for us, Pam Lytle who has been the Association Secretary for ten years is putting her pencil to rest at the end of the year. The Association would be delighted to hear from anyone who is willing to take on this role. If you are interested please contact Chris Davis on 710289.

**Christmas Greetings
to all Staff, Volunteers and, of course, our Customers
Thank you all.**

Elizabeth Howard - Shop Volunteer & Committee Member

ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

Last Recommended Christmas Posting Dates 2014

International Standard (formerly Airmail)

Wed 3 Dec ---- Asia, Far East (including Japan), New Zealand

Thu 4 Dec ---- Australia

Fri 5 Dec ---- Africa, Caribbean, Central & South America, Middle East

Mon 8 Dec ---- Cyprus, Eastern Europe & Greece

Tue 9 Dec ---- Canada, Poland

Fri 12 Dec ---- USA, International Standard to static HM Forces Mail

Sat 13 Dec ---- Western Europe (excluding Greece & Poland)

United Kingdom

Thu 18 Dec ---- 2nd Class & Royal Mail Signed For 2nd Class

Sat 20 Dec ---- 1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For 1st Class

Mon 22 Dec ---- Parcelforce Worldwide express 48

Tue 23 Dec ---- Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed,
Parcelforce Worldwide express 24

One4all Gift Card

One Gift: thousands of choices. A One4all Gift Card is a quick and easy way to mark an occasion e.g. Christmas, say 'thank you' or just give that last-minute gift.

Happy Christmas to all our customers

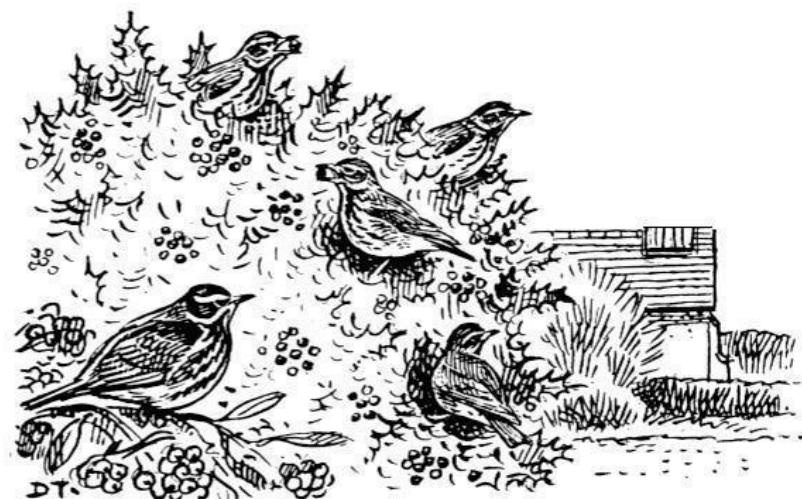
The Post Office team: Gail, Hazel, John and Maureen

WATER MEADOW WILDLIFE REPORT

Are we about to be invaded by thousands of immigrants from Eastern Europe attracted by favourable living conditions and free benefits? Well almost – these particular immigrants come from north-east Europe because they find both the weather and the food supply better here in winter and a few tens of thousands of Scandinavian thrushes are thought to come to Hampshire each year. The thrush family includes Song and Mistle Thrushes, Blackbirds, Fieldfares and Redwings with the last three species thought to make up the bulk of the migrants.

Seen close up, Fieldfares are really quite colourful with a grey and chestnut back, but they tend to be rather shy and mostly keep to trees away from houses. Redwings, on the other hand, do not hesitate to come into our garden to devour whatever berries they can find. When the berries run out, both species will forage on fields for worms and insects. Redwings look like chubby song thrushes but with a stripe above their eye and red patches under their wings. Unfortunately the resemblance to song thrushes does not extend to their vocal characteristics and flocks of both species make a rather unmelodious cackle as they fly from tree to tree.

So the question is – are these benefit-seeking immigrants likely to be banned if a currently-popular party gets into power? No one knows, but it should be remembered that even more British-bred birds leave here for the other side of the Channel each winter because they prefer the benefits there.



John Moon, Abbotts Ann Vision Countryside Project

frequently fed. In fact they are obviously getting too well fed as we have stopped a few times when neither fish or ducks have any interest in our bread offerings! We have also been lucky enough to see a water vole swimming from one bank to another. Water voles live along slow flowing rivers, streams and ditches. They are similar in size to a rat, but have chestnut fur, small round ears close to their head and a furry tail. Most people will know 'Ratty' in Wind in the Willows - Ratty is in fact a water vole not a rat. Since 2008 they have become a protected species by DEFRA although they are sadly still the fastest declining mammal in the UK due to loss of habitat, pollution and predation by American mink. So, our beautiful Pilhill Brook is obviously doing pretty well on the ecological front. We have also seen a couple of white egrets in the water meadows. They are a very welcome addition to our local wildlife population and are extremely easy to spot even from a distance as they are all white apart from black stick-like legs and a black pointed bill. The little egret has been one of the most successful colonisers of the UK in recent years and today there are 4,500 birds that overwinter in the UK; so we are very fortunate in having them in our water meadows. One day, when I am with all the Tribe, as I am busy collecting sticks with the Littlest, the three other children cry out in delight as they see the flash of turquoise fly out from under the bridge. They have seen a kingfisher and I am absolutely gutted to have missed it, but am thrilled with their enthusiasm for having seen it.

Further along on Church Path we find a few young, bright green, spiky, round shells that will contain a conker. The Littlest delights in finding as many as she can and then attempts to stamp on them to reveal the glossy contents. She doesn't manage to open many and hands them to me to put my heavier shoe down on them. Thrilled, she picks them up and prises the shell open. Sometimes there's only a tiny little conker other times the conker is still completely white. It is great fun and everyone should do it! During WW1, the British government enlisted the help of school children, sending them out to collect conkers. The conker was an important ingredient in making cordite for the explosives in shells that were then sent out to use on the Western Front. My father talks about playing conkers in the school yard with his friends and how he would put them in the oven to harden them up as much as possible. The Conker Championships take place in October when the conkers are much larger than they currently are - it's serious stuff, but at least it gets everyone outside, walking and searching for the best conker - surely this is a great thing in this age of technology overload. Perhaps we should reinvent the conker competitions of old here in the village - shouldn't we make sure that our children are able to play a game of conkers as much as they can have a snowball fight and build a snowman when it snows? And we have a lot more conkers about than guaranteed snow every year!

Mother of the Tribe - www.lifewiththetribe.com

APPLE DAY

Apple Day was rather a contrast to last year's event: the weather was kinder; the harvest somewhat depleted!

Few apple trees in the village yielded much this autumn, but nevertheless, the good residents of Abbotts Ann girded their loins and scrabbled in their gardens, not to mention their neighbours' gardens, for any spare fallers. The quality was not important, as long as they weren't actually mouldy, as juice can be extracted from bruised fruit as well as good.

The village press was converted from its alter ego as a baby swing in the children's playground, and Peter Gibson, Mike Cooper and Steve Randall busily chopped and scraffed to feed its insatiable maw. Fortunately, supplies seemed to keep coming, by barrow-load and basket-full, and the press gushed amber juice of mixed variety to fill the waiting casks. Villagers were welcome to take home samples.

Bernard Griffiths brought his small apple press so that those who wanted juice from just their own apples could keep it separate. This was energetically operated by a team of young apprentice pressers, and an efficient conveyor belt evolved, of chopping, scraffing, pressing, pouring – and tasting!

Among traditional competitions taking place were apple bobbing, cutting the longest piece of peel, and apple "tea-bakes". Experts from Sparsholt College came to display unusual varieties of apple, and to identify any specimens that might be brought for their assessment.

Smaller children enjoyed themselves vociferously on the climbing frames in the playground, which now has wooden benches for adults to rest while the youngsters let off steam. Welcome refreshments for all were supplied in the form of tea, a selection of delicious home-made apple cakes, and toffee apples.

We were very pleased to see Sir George Young, who called unexpectedly to see the press in operation again. He opened the children's playground at Apple Day last year and inaugurated the unique swing/press, while sheltering under an umbrella. Fortunately, not only were we spared heavy showers this year, but the predicted rain held off until the last apple had been juiced.

Apple Day was organised by Abbotts Ann Green Action, led by Wendy Davies, David Read, David Downey and Jo Dixon, with many helpers. They would like to thank everyone who contributed to making it such a successful occasion.

It was a day designed partly to encourage people to make full use of the resources available to them – in particular, not to let free garden produce just rot. Even the residual pulp was not wasted – some was taken away for "green" composting, and the rest to supplement the diet of a small local herd of pigs.



Those who took home bottles of juice could freeze it for future use - or they might like to consider that the cider produced from last year's pressing ran out rapidly at the fete in August!

The apple press will be in place for another week or so, and if you have more apples you would like juiced, please contact Bernard.

Everyone who came to Apple Day thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon: another happy example of Abbotts Ann at play.

Rosemary Groves - Village Correspondent

Abbotts Ann Conservatives
Invite you to a

New Year's Drinks Party

Sunday 11th January 2015

from 12.00 noon

at

War Memorial Hall

£5.00 to include all drinks and nibbles

Children free

Tickets at the door

Guests: Sir George and Lady Young
Kit Malthouse

LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - SEPTEMBER 2014

It has been a beautifully balmy month and the driest since 1959 and despite the summer officially ending on 31st August, I think that this month has shown more similarities to summer as it should be - dry and warm. There was of course a loud blip towards the end of the month when we had some spectacularly loud thunderstorms - definitely made me jump, although all but one of the Tribe slept like babies through the impressively loud warring of the weather gods. With the beginning of September comes the beginning of the school year and how things have changed. We now have four children in four different locations - how the heck did that happen? Mornings start early and are run like a military operation ensuring that trains are caught, books are remembered, times are kept. So far I have ensured that the right child is dropped at the right place with the right bags at the right time. It is still early days though and already I can't wait for the holidays!

At this time of year the light is quite unique with the sun slightly lower in the sky there really is a golden glow over the countryside when the skies are clear. The fields behind us have been ploughed leaving great stacks of hay bales like some fabulous outside art installation. The lengthening shadows across the fields are striking as we walk through the fields in the early evening. With mounting homework and the general busyness of family life, I'm not sure how frequently we'll be taking walks on a school night. Back inside, this month has brought a house seemingly full of Daddy-long-legs. They are everywhere, flying haphazardly about, seemingly bumping into everything - they seem particularly fond of our bathrooms. I have decided that they are rather ethereal creatures with their gauzy wings and long legs - I tell the Littlest that fairies ride on their backs while we're sleeping and that ensures a lot more interest in them rather than the hysteria that can come when one starts flying around her! Daddy-long-legs are in fact, crane flies. The Independent wrote an article recently about the fact that Autumn 2014 was a 'bumper year' for the crane fly due to the warmer than usual weather. They are nocturnal and, like moths, are attracted to light. They only live for two weeks, rarely eat if at all in that short time and mate just once. Their legs are only weakly attached to their bodies and often break off - I will stop feeling quite so guilty as a leg becomes detached next time I usher one out of the window. Although Daddy-long-legs are totally harmless, the same cannot be said for the larvae it produces. This larvae is known as leatherjackets and they are a nightmare for gardeners as they eat plant roots and can seriously damage crops for farmers.

With the Littlest at nursery in the village every morning now, we have been walking along the route that we once took to the old village school. I had forgotten how long it can take walking with a little person - there is just too much to stop and look at. There are fish to spot in Pilhill Brook at the bridge along Mill Lane, the donkeys to say hello to and then of course the conkers to stop and pick up along Church Path. There are several small trout in the waters of the Brook and they do well with the local resident ducks who are