

MARCH 2014

1 Mar	(Sat)	2.30pm Jane Austen Tour and Cream Tea at Winchester Cathedral
2 Mar	(Sun)	<u>The Sunday next before Lent</u> – full service details – page 2 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints' 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
3 Mar	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch in St. Peter's Room.
4 Mar	(Tues)	7.00pm Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC
5 Mar	(Wed)	<u>Ash Wednesday</u> 8.00pm St Peter's, The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday. 7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
6 Mar	(Thurs)	10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning – page ... 7.00pm Abbots Ann Parish Council meets in Abbots Ann VH
8 Mar	(Sat)	Goodworth Clatford Village Club – talk by Paul Beaver
9 Mar	(Sun)	<u>The First Sunday of Lent</u> 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints' 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
11 Mar	(Tues)	Final date for receipt of hard copy (hand-written or typed) for the April 2014 Abbots Ann Magazine. 12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
12 Mar	(Wed)	Final date for receipt of hard copy (hand-written or typed) for the April 2014 Clatfords Magazine. 7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC 7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall. 7.30pm All Saints', <u>Night Prayer</u> 8.00pm Lent Study Group at The Rectory
14 Mar	(Fri)	12.00noon Deadline for the receipt of copy by email for the April 2014 Clatfords Magazine. marydunn21@hotmail.com
15 Mar	(Sat)	<u>12.00noon Deadline for the receipt of copy by email for the April 2014 Abbots Ann Magazine. editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk</u>
16 Mar	(Sun)	<u>The Second Sunday of Lent</u> 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints' 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
18 Mar	(Tues)	7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI meets in GCVC
19 Mar	(Wed)	7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall ... 7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC 7.30pm All Saints', Night Prayer 8.00pm Lent Study Group at The Rectory
21 Mar	(Fri)	10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
23 Mar	(Sun)	<u>The Third Sunday of Lent</u> 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints' 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann

St Mary's Church, Abbots 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 Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane	710830 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	07967 484581
Treasurer	Andrew Shaw, Whitecroft, Duck Street	710197

Parish Magazine - www.abbottsannmagazine.co.uk

Editor - editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk	Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbots Ann	710630
Advertising - ads@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk	Rollo Wilson (tbc)	

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 Abbots 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: plytle@tiscali.co.uk or write to Pam at The White House, Abbots Ann.

Diary Co-ordinator: Mary Dunn, 21 Exbury Way, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3UH
Entries for the Diary in writing please, at least two days prior to magazine copy date.

Email: marydunn21@hotmail.com

Final dates for receipt of copy are given in the Diary above .

For Abbots Ann, email: editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN FEBRUARY 2014
Please note change of services and times at all churches.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>St Mary's Duties:</u>
Sunday 26th January	The Third Sunday of the year
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's Miss M W Casson
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	All Saints'
4.00 Evensong	St Peter's
Sunday 2nd February	Feast of the Presentation
8.00 Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 Benefice Family Eucharist	All Saints'
4.00 Evensong	St Mary's Mrs S Dashwood
Sunday 9th February	5th Sunday of the year
8.00 Holy Communion	All Saints'
9.30 Benefice Eucharist	St Mary's Mr/Mrs G Howard
11.15 Benefice Matins	St Peter's
4.00 Evensong	St Mary's [Lay led] Mrs S Dashwood
Sunday 16th February	6th Sunday of the year.
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's Mrs N Keene
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	St Peter's
10.00 Parish Morning Service	Abbotts Ann VH Mrs S George
4.00 Evensong	All Saints'
Sunday 23rd February	7th Sunday of the year
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's Miss M W Casson
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	All Saints'
4.00 Evensong	St Peter's
Sunday 2nd March	8th Sunday of the year.
8.00 Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 Benefice Family Eucharist	All Saints'
4.00 Evensong	St Mary's Mrs S Dashwood
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday
8.00pm The Liturgy of	St Peter's
Ash Wednesday	

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.



BENEFICE DIARY - FEBRUARY 2014



1 Feb	(Sat)	2.30pm Jane Austen Tour and Cream Tea at Winchester Cathedral ...
2 Feb	(Sun)	7.30pm "Hot Potato" in King Edward VII Memorial Hall, Upper Clatford Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple – full service details – page 2 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints'
3 Feb	(Mon)	8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
5 Feb	(Wed)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch in St. Peter's Room.
6 Feb	(Thurs)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC. 10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning 9.00-11.00am Mums and Toddlers morning at the Hawk Conservancy – see your January parish magazine for details. 7.00pm Abbots Ann Parish Council meets in Abbots Ann Memorial Hall. The Fourth Sunday before Lent – full service details - page 2 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints'
9 Feb	(Sun)	8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
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14 Feb	(Fri)	7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall. 12.00noon Deadline for the receipt of copy by email for the March 2014 Clatfords Magazine. marydunn21@hotmail.com Clatford and Abbots Ann schools finish for Half Term.
15 Feb	(Sat)	12.00noon Deadline for the receipt of copy by email for the March 2014 Abbots Ann Magazine. editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk
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22 Feb	(Sat)	10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
23 Feb	(Sun)	The Baker Boys at Goodworth Clatford Village Club The Second Sunday before Lent – full service details – page 2 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints'
24 Feb	(Mon)	8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann Clatford and Abbots Ann schools return after Half Term.
26 Feb	(Wed)	12.00noon Goodworth Clatford WI Members' Lunch
27 Feb	(Thurs)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC 7.30pm Abbots Ann WI meets in Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall.

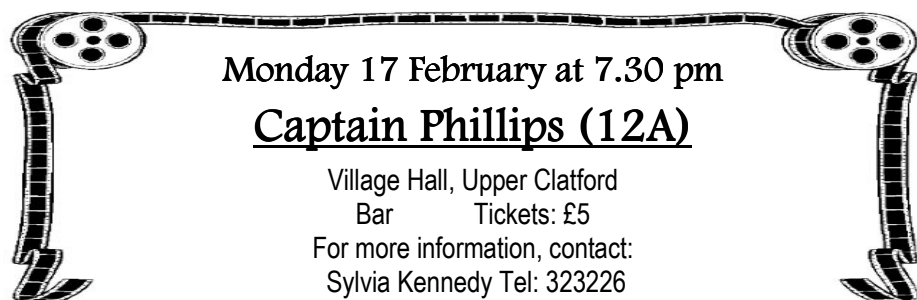
DEFIBRILLATOR FUNDING

At the time of writing collectors are still collecting pledges for the Great Shave Off which looks to have raised something in excess of £900 (once all the pledges are collected). Hopefully it will be much more, to enable us to purchase the defibrillator and to donate excess funds to the Hampshire Air Ambulance.

If you were a collector please make every effort to complete your collections and return your sheets and funds to Rosemary (Griffiths). We need the sheets as well as the funds to keep an audit trail for the sake of propriety if for no other reason. This includes blank sheets (which probably doesn't affect many of you!).

If you are a 'pledgee' (is there such a word?) please contact your collector, if possible, to arrange for him/her to collect your donation at a mutually convenient time. If you cannot contact your collector you could deposit your donation with me or with Rosemary with a note to say which collector you made your pledge with (this will allow us to allocate money to collectors/record sheets so that you don't get a nugatory visit from your collector – 'nugatory' is a very good word – like 'Redacted.' I learned it from the Civil Service – who are probably the only organisation to have need of such words!)

Stan Oram 710331



WINCHESTER CHURCHES NIGHTSHELTER

Our first event of 2014 is just around the corner. Join us for our annual Poverty and Homelessness Action Week evening at Winchester Discovery Centre from 7pm on **January 29th**. With the theme of 'Trust Matters; Working to Rebuild Shattered Lives', we'll be welcoming Vic Laws MBE, restaurant Ambassador to 'The Clink Restaurant' at HMP High Down, who will talk about the extraordinary success of training prisoners in the hospitality industry. This is a free event; book in advance by emailing admin@wcns.org.uk or just turn up on the night. Or for further information visit www.wcns.org.uk.



Taking Shelter

Once I slept outside a nuclear fall-out shelter. My friend's house was rather full and the only spare bed was in the basement beside the door to the shelter. Around me pieces of a bicycle were spread out along with other debris from an enthusiastic family mechanic. It was seen by my friend's family as both a refuge and something frightening - what it truly represented was clearly hard to imagine - and spoken about with both seriousness and irony. The bed was comfortable but I never got to look inside the shelter.

I was reminded of those strange nights reading an article about the thousands of nuclear bunkers that have been built in, or rather under, Switzerland. Their construction gained impetus from 1963 although the practice had begun in the nineteenth century. Every citizen of Switzerland can expect a place in a fallout shelter. Some are built under homes, like my friend's family, others designed to house up to twenty thousand people. The law that protects the people in this way was about to be abandoned by the Federal Parliament in 2011 when the Fukushima nuclear plant went into melt-down following the Tohoku earthquake and the bunker programme was retained. Switzerland has apparently more bunkers and tunnels than any other country in the world. These subterranean rooms, behind their cold concrete exteriors, look from photographs something like functional IKEA show-rooms, complete with uneaten food although of course, built to withstand more than a nuclear family.

The early Christians knew nothing about the threat of nuclear bombs or nuclear fall-out but they too sometimes withdrew to live in caves, just as Jesus himself had been born in a cave amongst the animals. The desert Fathers and Mothers, as they became known chose to live in this way in order to both liberate themselves and their society from the powerful, compulsive and manipulative forces of their world. It was both a wilderness and a paradise: you faced yourself but you also met more deeply the Holy One Himself. These desert monks were truly remarkable and incredibly courageous. The local population came out from the cities to find them and ask their advice and over time they became known for their sayings. It didn't always turn out in the way you might have expected. Once for example, the Bishop of Alexandria came to visit one of the Fathers called Pambo. The brothers who had gathered, urged Pambo to say something to their important guest but Abba Pambo replied: 'If

he is not inspired by my silence, he will not be inspired by my words either.' The quality of silence or perhaps better presence, forged through prayer, Pambo seemed to suggest, was the source out of which everything is heard, seen, spoken and lived. Perhaps it is that we do not realise the 'fall-out,' nuclear or otherwise, that permeates the world in which we live and fills our being.

The meditation group that meets in our Benefice is a kind of 'cave' for us too in our lives. Christian meditation is the simplest, oldest and most practical form of prayer that has been bequeathed to us in our tradition. I often have the impression that when the word 'meditation' is used it is popularly thought of as some kind of escape. Meditation if you practise each day is completely the opposite of an escape. If you don't want to enter the reality of yourself and the world, don't meditate! Through meditation very slowly you learn to become physically still; physical stillness in turn, leads to stillness of our over-active minds with all their preoccupations, distractions and anxieties and this attention through the repetition of a single repeated word leads to the discovery of a simplification of our ever complex-feeling, complex-thinking and complex-acting selves. 'Unless you become like a little child,' Jesus is recorded to have said, 'you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.' This way of entering into prayer is encapsulated in the famous saying of the Desert Fathers: 'Go and sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything.'

This kind of 'shelter' is a cell we can enter regularly - daily. I don't have to sleep beside it or live with it buried somewhere in fear of an emergency. Rather the 'cell of meditation' practised both on our own or with others, is the challenging transformation of these kinds of 'world-urgencies' that can permeate without permission our whole way of life.

© David Broad, Rector, February 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:

31 Jan - 13 Feb
14 Feb - 27 Feb
28 Feb - 13 Mar
 14 Mar - 27 Mar
 28 Mar - 11 Apr
 12 Apr - 24 Apr

Flowers:

Sue Hancock
Pam Graham
Lent
 Lent
 Lent
 Easter

Dusting:

Polly Whyte
Pat Balam
Janet White
 Margaret Brooks
 Jan Munnion
 Jill Tayler

No. 44. CHORUS - HAILLELUJAH 171

Come & Sing

Handel's Messiah

Conductor: Tim Lowden
Organist: Richard McVeigh
Soloists: To Be Announced

St Peter's Church, Stockbridge
Saturday 1st March 2014

Rehearsal at 2.00pm
Performance at 7.00pm

£10.00 to sing or listen

All proceeds to St Peter's Church

Tickets/Information on Pre-Registration:
 Geoff Cox, Medlar Cottage, Houghton Road, Stockbridge
 Email: medlar47@sky.com Tel: 01264 810 054

parish.

Reaction from villagers was not totally positive. Although Ted was a likeable fellow, his success and financial status did not guarantee the role of village shop saviour. For many locals the very existence of the shop was of passing interest and only useful in times of emergency. How much profit does a community village shop need to make was a recurring question during the scattered debates around the parish. In short, Ted's proposal was not on everybody's agenda.

Meanwhile, Mr Montague-Dim had convened a meeting of the Shop Committee which consisted mostly of his social circle and co-opted disciples. The outcome of the meeting held at his house was reached remarkably quickly and a copy of the Committee's statement was posted in the shop, on various noticeboards around the village and in the Parish Magazine.

The statement thanked Mr Carter for his generous offer and declared that after a full discussion of all the pros and cons, the Committee had decided not to accept the offer and its attendant conditions. It was felt that the shop would lose its treasured community ethos and be in danger of becoming known as 'Carter's'.

Less than a year later the shop was beginning to experience cashflow problems and a circular was delivered to all parishioners, explaining the dwindling profits and requesting donations to cover the difficult period. Ted took a sealed envelope into the shop, handed it to the manager and, after brief pleasantries, departed. Later Vera opened the envelope to find a freshly-minted crisp £5 note.

Montana Longstock - local author

Any resemblance to places or people (living or deceased) is entirely coincidental.

COME AND SING - MESSIAH - SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2014

St Peter's Church, Stockbridge

Tickets and registration forms are now available. It really is essential that if you are planning to come, either to sing or to listen, that you register NOW. This will ensure that you have a ticket but will also greatly assist Tim Lowden who needs to know before the day the likely make-up of the choir. I have both registration forms and tickets.

*Geoff Cox – 01264/810054
E-mail: Medlar47@sky.com*

CHURCH NEWSLETTER - ANDOVER FOODBANK GIFT BOXES

Over 750 Christmas gift boxes were distributed to local children in need this Christmas by the Andover Foodbank through a network of local agencies and charities.

Christmas is an expensive and busy time for us all but making a gift box is a great preparation and this year a number of people commented on how much they had enjoyed making up a box and really thinking about who was going to receive it. On Christmas Day you can imagine the happiness that your gift box will bring to a local child.

Without the support of the local community we would not have succeeded in giving a box to every child in need this year.

Thank you for your support and generous donations.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY IN ABBOTTS ANN - CHRISTINGLES 2013

You will see from the thank-you poster in the church porch that £256.23 was raised this year. My thanks to all who contributed so generously and to David Read for taking the service and Marion from the Children's Society for telling us about the charity's work. The toy collection goes from strength to strength. Richard and Penny Scrivens took over 170 presents to be distributed to local disadvantaged children. What a special occasion - thank you all so much.

ANNUAL BOX OPENING - February 12th 2014.

We will be counting our home boxes at a coffee morning at Virginia Lodge on the 12th February from 10.30 am, so do come along for a chat and a cup of coffee. Regretfully I am giving up my roll as co-ordinator in Abbots Ann and would like to thank all my loyal supporters. I agreed to take on the job in 1990 when the Connolly family moved away. Little did I think I would still be doing it in 2014! According to my records the parish has raised £22,600 in that time. I do hope someone will volunteer to continue to represent the Children's Society in Abbots Ann and I will give every assistance and encouragement to whoever takes over. Maybe we could split the fund raising. We have an enthusiastic young mum ready to manage the Christingles - is there anyone out there willing to take on the home boxes??

There is a support team in place:-

National - Tel 0300 303 7000. Email - supportcare@childrenssociety.org.uk.

Local - Sally - 01296 712426. Should you wish to follow this up directly please quote Ref No 758316.

"SOMEONE PLEASE SAY YES"

Helen Stuart -710713

THANK YOU TO ROSIE DAVIS

The governors, staff, parents and children of Abbotts Ann School wish to express their thanks to Rosie Davis for all that she has contributed since she became a governor more than five years ago. As a governor Rosie took on a variety of responsibilities eventually becoming the chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee.

Whenever extra help was needed Rosie was there. She attended countless training sessions and we could always rely on her to keep us up to date. Rosie managed to combine the role of governor with one of her other passions – environmental issues. It was Rosie who took the children apple picking for ‘Apple Day’ and was planting trees with them in Diamond Wood for Andover Trees United. When the school Fun Club needed a new leader it was Rosie who came to the rescue and helped to organise all sorts of memorable activities from picnics in the woods to planting seeds for the wildflower meadow and barbeques around the campfire. Rosie brought commitment and enthusiasm to everything she did for the school and we are all so grateful to her.

Penny Scriven

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

Molly Ann Grace Warburton whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on 8th December.

Rest in Peace

Eve Rosemary Barnett whose Funeral took place at St Mary's on 31st December.

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

ABBOTTS ANN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL **GOVERNOR VACANCIES**

The Governing Body of Abbotts Ann C of E Primary School has the following vacancies: a Community Governor and a Foundation Governor representing the interests of the Church authority. The Governing Body's main tasks are to support the school, ensure that pupils receive high quality education and plan for future development and improvement. Further information can be found at www.hantsweb.gov.uk/governors. If you would like to be considered for either the Community or the Foundation Governor vacancy please contact the school on 01264 710244 and Mrs Brown will arrange for an application form to be sent to you. If you would like to talk to one of the school governors please contact the school office.

VILLAGE SHOP 2 - TED CARTER'S OFFER

Ted Carter had lived in the village for several years since his retirement. Previously he owned and managed an ironmonger's shop in the nearby market town, Lexbridge, where everybody knew 'Carters'. The name was synonymous with everything pleasing about a family-owned and old fashioned ironmongery.

The shop had that satisfying aroma of linseed oil, white spirits and galvanised goods. Ted and his staff knew their stuff and customers never came away disappointed. But, an offer from a national chain was too good to turn down and somewhat reluctantly, Ted sold his business, lock, stock and barrel.

Enjoying a comfortable retirement, a new life and a move to the village, Ted was at one with the world. And then he got an unexpected surprise coming like a bolt out of the blue. He had won £100,000 from his modest Premium Bond portfolio and he soon decided to do something useful with his windfall. Since retiring Ted had often recalled his days in retailing and it took no time to draw up his master plan.

Ted decided to donate the whole sum to the village shop, on conditions that the changes and developments he proposed were acceptable. He would be chairman of a Shop Committee consisting of five people. Elections for this steering group would take place every three years when the whole community would receive ballot papers.

Further conditions included a compulsory training course for all staff (carried out by a nationally-known retail expert), extensions to the shop's opening hours and a robust advertising policy, spreading news to everybody in the community.

Before publishing details of his proposal he felt it would be proper to inform the current chair of the Shop Committee. The incumbent was Mr David Montague-Dim who had struggled with references to his surname since schooldays. Being of limited intellect he felt the need to adopt an air of omniscience in all his dealings. He would argue black is white to avoid owning up to being in the wrong. Most of his contacts were able to take his manner with a pinch of salt but the more percipient of the village chatterati had him down as a clueless know-it-all, known as Dave Dim. His wife Dorothy was known with some affection as Dot Dim.

Dave Dim listened carefully to Ted's proposal and assured him that many of his suggestions had been latent in his mind. He assured Ted that he would hold an extraordinary meeting of the Shop Committee and report its decision as soon as possible. Meanwhile Ted prepared his manifesto, published it in the Parish magazine and delivered explanatory leaflets to every household in the

Despite all the storms that have lashed the UK in recent weeks (and are continuing as I write this in January 2014) we managed a walk this month; the first one since September. Thanks to Helen Stuart, who invariably comes up with ideas, we rambled around the picturesque Whitchurch. For those who merely pass through, this is a gem to walk around with streams, countryside, lovely gardens and most important of all a pub - The Kings Arms - in which to lunch afterwards.

Returning to the Black Swan in Monxton, for their festive menu, members of the Supper Club had a delicious meal. Only one of us could manage all three courses (no name) and most either had a starter or dessert to accompany their main course. Coffee followed with the most delicious macaroons. Following a minor complaint that one wasn't enough, the chef kindly send out more. A lovely evening, but disappointingly we were the only party in the dining room, which was a shame as it affected the general atmosphere.

No time for lunch club or coffee morning this month, but I believe the Book Club followed their last meeting of 2013 by going to out to lunch.

This month's meeting took place on the second Thursday of the month, to avoid clashing with the festive period, and we were delighted to welcome Chapter & Verse for a return visit to Abbots Ann; this is a group of amateur actors based in and around Winchester, who tour local clubs and societies with programmes of readings ranging from the light-hearted to the serious and thought provoking.

They entertained us with a selection of such festive offerings - the Christmas cake recipe which involved a lot of sampling of alcohol was a hoot and brilliantly portrayed. The thought provoking included The Christmas Truce by Carol Ann Duffy. This was followed by an "American" supper courtesy of our members, which as always meant tables groaning with a variety of delicious food.

Our programme tells me that this month we have invited along Maggie Forbes known as The Craft Crazy Recycler which sounds intriguing - so please do put 27th February in your diary and come to the Village Hall in time for a 7.30 pm start.

Sharon King



LOCAL POLICE
101

ABBOTTS ANN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It is not unusual for the Police to report that commercial premises have been broken into and so areas in our village such as Eastover Farm business units can be targeted for break-ins and thefts of tools, etc. But on Thursday 19th December at about 9.40pm the window of a car (a silver Audi) was smashed in Manor Close and a handbag stolen. This does go to show that however secluded a place you leave your car anything that looks valuable and is on display will tempt a thief. So do check before you leave your car anywhere.

How many of us do sometimes hear a house alarm going off and think that it is not worth reporting? However a recent check with the Police on this issue gave this response:-

"both house alarms and personal alarms and activations are always responded to by police when reported (usually as a grade one response). In general key holders are contacted and we arrange to meet key holders at the address where appropriate. If an alarm is heard please call it in to us and a unit will be dispatched and the key holder contacted."

On another subject, theft of heating oil has been attempted in the rural area around Andover. If you are concerned the Police advice is:-

- Check your oil levels regularly.
- Consider a 'sudden drop alarm'
- Prickly planting around your tank can help deter thieves
- Fit a PIR activated light/alarm
- Fit an alarmed padlock

CCTV can help identify and prosecute offenders

And as ever, report any suspicious activity on 101.

Chris Davis - Village NHW Coordinator cwrj.davis@btinternet.com

NEW HON SECRETARY OF THE PCC

At its meeting on 13th November the PCC agreed that Andrew Liddell should hand over his duties as Hon Secretary to Jo Brookes with effect from the next meeting (February) of the Council.

The new Hon Secretary is: Mrs Jo Brookes Telephone: 07967 484581.

(Editor's Note: Andrew assures me the hand-over was completely amicable – at 87 he only took on the job as a stop gap and the gap is now admirably stopped!)

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Would you like to see an improved bus service for Abbots Ann, so that the village is less dependent on car travel? In order to achieve this, or even to maintain the present (highly subsidised) service, we need to USE our buses more. You'll find a condensed version of the local bus timetable in this magazine for easy reference.

If you have views on how we might improve our bus service, please contact Sally Coffey on 710534/710477.

Julie Moon, Abbots Ann Vision Transport Project

(Editor's note: do you realise how easy it is to get from Abbots Ann to Bournemouth on the bus?)

ANNE TRIPP - ABBOTTS ANN BELL RINGER 2003-2013

Anne Tripp was born in September 1931, and being a very private person very little was known about her especially by her fellow members in the band.

She trained as a nurse and worked for many years abroad in Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong. She returned to the UK in the nineties.



At that time she was living in Enfield, Middlesex, where she started bell ringing, maybe a Millenium Ringer (for 2000).

She moved to Andover in 2002 and joined the Abbots Ann band in 2003. She regularly attended practices on Thursday evenings, and rang for weddings and other special occasions.

She was a very genuine, committed person, who was very dedicated at the time when the tower was struggling through lack of ringers.

Anne died very suddenly on 12th December aged 82. We will all miss her very much, not only in Abbots Ann but also at the Clatfords where she helped out when they were short.

Alex Pugh

**MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AT THE END OF JANUARY.
THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION REMAINS UNCHANGED AT £6 FOR
TWELVE ISSUES. PLEASE HELP YOUR COLLECTOR BY HAVING THE
CORRECT MONEY AVAILABLE WHEN THEY CALL**

the house makes it most definitely worthwhile. This year we also have our true scents of Christmas - frankincense and myrrh - brought back from the East where the story began. With life still somewhat chaotic, our upside down Dubai Christmas tree still has its place - I don't think that anyone's seen anything like it, but it makes us smile. The eldest of the Tribe also manages to find some mistletoe in the village and brings it home to hang in the porch. These small traditions have become much more important to the Tribe since living overseas. The mistletoe is laden with sticky, perfectly spherical, small, pearly berries with plenty of healthy, green oval leaves. Mistletoe is a parasite growing out of the bark on the branches of trees. From a distance, big clumps of it can easily be seen high up in the bare branches of trees at this time of year.

Returning to St Mary's on Christmas Eve for the annual Carols Round the Crib service we enjoy seeing both old friends and meeting new and despite the littlest insisting that she holds the lit candle, both the church and everyone in it, remain unscathed. A quick visit to The Eagle for the obligatory Christmas drink, before returning home to hang stockings. The only visitor this Christmas Eve is Father Christmas rather than our previously unwanted intruders. Our home is packed with family over the holidays and it is lovely to all be together again at this festive time, although Father of the Tribe and I do manage an early morning Boxing Day escape, to tramp across the fields in the low lying mist.

As the year draws to a close, we are surrounded by old friends in our home where log fires are burning as the rain beats down outside. We could not be further away from our lives a year ago; life moves on. Happy New Year!

Mother of the Tribe

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LIFE WITH THE HAMPSHIRE TRIBE - DECEMBER 2013

What a whirlwind December has been - our first Christmas at home since 2010 when we were celebrating the birth of our littlest and commiserating over our first (and hopefully only) burglary on Christmas Eve. This is also our first month, for some time, living together again as a family. Father of the Tribe works through a long list of things to do; from hanging huge Arabic lights to finding Christmas decorations in our chaotic store room. It's good to share the frustrations of family life again!

Whilst outside, our Gerald Durrell opens one of the smaller sheds only to discover a dozen hibernating peacock butterflies in a dark corner. With their wings tightly closed, they are well camouflaged as the undersides of their wings are a dark grey, blending in with the gloom of the shed's interior. We close the door and leave them undisturbed. If threatened, the peacock butterfly will open its wings to reveal large blue 'eyes', making it appear to be a much larger animal. This will then give the butterfly enough time to escape from any predators. The showing of the 'eyes' can also be accompanied by a hissing sound that can be audible to humans; this sound is made by the butterfly rubbing its wings together. I do wonder if they will survive our mild but very, very wet winter. Damp can lead to fatal fungal infections. We will see. We continue to clear the piles of leaves outside. A job that is still slightly less of a burden due to its novelty and with the mild weather we are outside well after the sun has disappeared. The littlest continues to dive into autumnal piles and our son pushes the wheelbarrow piled high with leaves into the darkness to add more to the growing compost heap.

We finally find our various bird feeders and hang them on the large silver birch outside the kitchen window, together with a couple of big, fat pinecones covered in suet. We are soon rewarded with a return of blue, coal and great tits, chaffinches, wood pigeons, collared doves, green and great spotted woodpeckers and tree creepers. With the onset of the wet weather, our three cats sit on the ledge in the kitchen watching. The birds ignore them completely.

As the end of term nears, we find ourselves enjoying Christmas readings and carol concerts in Amport and Stockbridge. Although the latter one finds us battling a fierce storm resulting in trees down either side of us along Cattle Lane; fortunately Mill Lane is clear, albeit flooded. For us, all this rain is still terribly exciting. Apparently the UK has received 154% of its average rainfall by the end of the month. It is also lovely to enjoy local Christmas church services again.

I fail to send any Christmas cards this year and we just about manage to get a real Christmas tree before the big day, but the smell of pine as you come into

Abbotts Ann Buses

To Andover	From Andover	To Salisbury	From Salisbury	To Stockbridge	From Stockbridge
77 & 87	77 & 87	87	87	77	77
Mon – Fri					
0722	0652	1018	0932	0708~	0748
0814	0805**	1203	1125	0801***	0848~
0914	1000		1310	1103~	1058~
1024	1045			1303~	1258~
1124	1145			1503~	1528~
1224	1245			1633~	1728~
1324	1345				1828~
1409	1445				
1549*	1615				
1754	1815				
1854					
Saturday					
0825	0717	1033	0932	0733~	0928~
0955	0845	1403	1255	0903~	1058~
1025	1015	1653	1510	1103~	1258~
1125	1045			1303~	1458~
1325	1245			1543~	1818~
1355	1345			1803	
1525	1525				
1610	1635				
1845	1745				

- * 5 minutes later on non-schooldays
- ** 20 minutes earlier on non-schooldays
- *** runs on non-schooldays only
- ~ bus continues to/starts from Winchester

For more information, ask to see the folder kept in the office in the village shop, visit the Stagecoach website stagecoachbus.com, phone Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or use smartphone app NextBuses.mobi



Enquiries 01256-892019 or www.andovercats.org.uk
Stories of rescued cats cats.first@virgin.net
Fund-raising/volunteers cats.first@virgin.net
Items for resale 01256 892773
Facebook: Andover and District Cats Protection 56-892773

Fabulous February Felines

In our January update for Andover & District Cats Protection, we featured Dash, a lovely cat who had been with us for a little while. I'm glad to report that unusually for the start of January, Dash was one of three cats who have been found permanent homes.

As soon as one cat leaves our care however, another one or two arrive to take their place. This is in the home of one of our volunteer fosterers, or in one of our over-subscribed cat pens. This is why quite frequently you may see a new page or two of cats going up on our website, or new cats posted in our Facebook group.

If you are in a position to help, there are several ways you can get involved:

Consider becoming a fosterer for the charity. We cover all vets fees, and supply food and litter.

Come and support us directly at any of the events found at www.andovercats.org.uk/EventsPage.htm

Purchase one of our 'meals for cats' on our Ebay site:

<http://myworld.ebay.co.uk/andovercatsprotection/>

This month, we are looking for a home for Matt, which might be with, or without his sister Betty. MATT is a very large, five year old, friendly tabby. He comes from a multi-cat household so would be happy to be homed with his sister Betty or to move in with another friendly cat. If you can offer Matt a home, please do get in touch on Facebook, or by telephone: 01256 892019.

Stuart Hayes



THANKS TO - AND FROM - THE FUN CLUB

An enthusiastic group of Fun Club members came out of 'retirement' in December to keep alive some of the traditions that it has built up over the years. They worked hard helping to organise the Christingle service, but particularly the toy collection project associated with it. The response to the collection was astonishing! Thanks to the great generosity of parents and friends of the School I was able to take 170 quality toys and 3 boxes of 'stocking fillers' – many more than previous years - to Test Valley Community Services to be distributed to struggling families around Andover. Many children, who would otherwise have received nothing, will enjoy a present at Christmas because of the Fun Club's efforts, and your support. Thank you all so much for such a magnificent response.

The Director of TVCS invited the project leader, Polly Wedgebury, and two of her friends to take part in a "wrapping day" when the gifts were prepared for



distribution to the neediest families. They learnt about the problems of real poverty close to home – but also that they can make a difference by thoughtful action.

The other 'tradition' upheld was the visit to Willow Court to sing carols to the residents, for half of whom the children are the only visitors they ever get! In preparation the Fun Club made table decorations for the residents' lounges, and Malin Russell rehearsed them well in a programme of carols, familiar and humorous. A dozen children from the school sang to the elderly people for more than an hour. One listener said that he had been dreading this time of the year, but the children had brought joy and made Christmas come alive for him. Little things can make a big difference!

So thank you again to our children, and to Mrs Hall and her staff at the School for encouraging and supporting these activities.

Richard Scriven

ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

Thinking of saving or investing, but don't know where to start?

Before you choose a savings account:

How often will you need to make withdrawals? Do you want instant access to your savings or would you be prepared to lock your money away for a fixed period of time? This could be anywhere between 30 days and three years. Usually the longer you have to wait before you can access your cash, the better the rate of interest you'll receive.

How do you want to manage your savings? The Post Office offer savings accounts that can be managed online and accounts that can be managed by phone, post or **in Post Office branches**.

How much do you want to save? The Post Office has savings accounts that you can open with as little as £1 or as much as £500. Some Post Office accounts allow you to save flexibly and regularly, others only allow you to deposit a lump sum upon account opening.

More information available in Branch

Donate your unwanted currency

Look out for collection boxes in Post Office branches where you'll be able to donate your unwanted foreign coins and notes in support of the BBC Children In Need charity raising funds to help disadvantaged children and young people throughout the UK.

Special Stamps: February 4th 2014

The second Royal Mail stamp issue of 2014 shows Working Horses. This set salutes the contribution horses still make to working life in the UK, from the ceremonial horses of the Kings Troop to Police Horses and horses used in environmentally-sensitive locations for forestry.

Elizabeth Howard - Shop Volunteer

SAFARI SUPPER

Thank you so much for everyone that took part.

It was certainly a very jolly evening, and I hope people went to places they hadn't been before. As we all finished at Shilling Cottage for coffee, port and cheese, this was a fitting ending.

We raised £748.00 which was wonderful.

This money is going towards new display shelving as the committee feel that the shop needs updating.

Lynne and Alex



**ABBOTTS ANN NEW GENERATION
ARTISTS
POP CONCERT FEATURING:**

ULTRA VIOLET - AN ALTERNATIVE ROCK BAND THE FRISCOS - A POP PUNK BAND PLUS MORE ACTS!

**A POP CONCERT IN AID OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH ABBOTTS ANN
AT**

**ABBOTTS ANN'S NEW VILLAGE SCHOOL ON
FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY**

7.30 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6.45PM)

FREE DRINK ON ENTRY SUPPLIED BY THE EAGLE PUB

INTERVAL LICENSED BEER AND SNACKS

TICKETS £5.00 FROM:

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OR ON THE DOOR.





ABBOTTS ANN GREEN ACTION NEWS

- AGM

Wednesday 19th February - 7.30pm War Memorial Hall

We've got the press... should we plant a village orchard and produce our own apple juice and cider?

Should we help protect bees and plant wildflower meadows and verges?

Can we reduce our collective carbon footprint and produce energy locally?

Other village communities are doing these things – could we?

Please join us for a glass of wine, the chairman's report, an update on the Abbots Ann Vision Energy Project and the chance to share your own ideas.

We would really value your support.

- FREE Thermal Images of your Home

We have 3 households who would like to do this but we need a few more.

If you've been thinking about it but haven't yet picked up the phone, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Winter is the time of year to find out where those heat leaks are and with the offer of a FREE and informal survey of your home (we can borrow the Transition Town Basingstoke thermal camera) you could improve your insulation, save money and reduce your CO2 emissions. No obligation to do anything or buy anything – it's just a chance to find out how your home is performing.

Tel. Jo on 710458 or Wendy on 710893

ANDOVER ADVERTISER VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT

The Andover Advertiser has appointed a Village Correspondent for Abbots Ann, and whilst the duties are predominantly to report on the Parish Council meetings, any village activity that may be considered of general interest in the area can be recorded for publication.

So far, they have printed items on the Apple Day and the Pantomime. The pieces on the village shop's Christmas bazaar and the school's nativity play were not used. It rather depends whether the articles fit with the scheduled layout of each edition.

If there is any function that you would like written up, please let me know and I will try to come along and take photos, etc. It all helps to raise the profile of the village!

Rosemary Groves - e-mail: rosemarygroves@btinternet.com



ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

Shop Manager: Georgina Garner

Deputy Shop Manager: Carol Murphy

Sub Post Mistress: Maureen Flood

I hope you all enjoyed picking up a bargain at our Winter Sale. At the time of going to press there are still a few offers left. So pop along to the shop – there could still be some left at even lower prices!

We apologise for the recent emptiness of the shelves, but it is the time of year when Ron Lockhart our treasurer needed to get his books in order, so the stocks were run down before a full stock take. Hopefully, by the time you read this all will be well again and there could well be goods from a few new suppliers on the shelves. Thank you to all those who gave their time to help with all the counting.

Cakes

How often have we heard “I can't eat a whole cake” or “That cake is too large. Don't you do smaller ones?” Well we now have the answer. We sell pieces of sponge cakes, a half, a third or even just a slice. Come on – treat yourself. Even our slices are generous; enough for two pieces, at only £1 a slice.

Coffee

We have a wonderful new coffee machine. Just ask and you can have a delicious cup of fresh coffee for only £1.50. Talking of coffee, have you tried our new selection? It is all locally roasted for Peaberry by Gerald Fitzgerald of Andover – just follow the aroma – Beans and Ground - £5, Decaffeinated Filter Blend - £5.99.

Made by Mel – Abbots Ann Handicrafts

We now have available in the shop a small selection of handicrafts. Perhaps you would like to have something made specially for you – just ask in the shop.

LOCAL PRODUCE INITIATIVE

We would like to be selling more locally grown produce at our village shop and are initially looking for keen gardeners who can supply us with seasonal fruit, vegetables and flowers.

If you feel you can help, please contact the shop manager, Georgina Garner for further details:

georginagarner279@btinternet.co