

27 Dec	(Sun)	(The First Sunday of Christmas) Full service details, page 2
30 Dec	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
<b><u>JANUARY 2016</u></b>		
3 Jan	(Sun)	(The Second Sunday of Christmas) Epiphany, full service details p 2 <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
5 Jan	(Tues)	<b>7.00pm</b> Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC
6 Jan	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
7 Jan	(Thurs)	<b>10.30am</b> Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning <b>7.00pm</b> Abbots Ann Parish Council meets in AA Memorial Hall. <b>7.00pm</b> Hand Bell Ringing Session at St. Mary's Church. <b>7.45pm</b> Benefice Choir Practice, St. Peter's
10 Jan	(Sun)	(The First Sunday of Epiphany) The Baptism of Christ – full service details page 2 <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
11 Jan	(Mon)	<b>7.00 for 8.00pm</b> , All Saints' Winter Lectures – General Sir Richard Shirreff. Upper Clatford Memorial Hall - Page 22
12 Jan	(Tues)	<b>12.30pm</b> Meadow Room Christmas Lunch at All Saints'.
13 Jan	(Wed)	<b>7.30pm</b> Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall <b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
14 Jan	(Thurs)	<b>7.30pm</b> Bellringing practice, St. Mary's <b>7.45pm</b> Benefice Choir Practice, St. Peter's
15 Jan	(Fri)	<b>10.00am</b> Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
16 Jan	(Sat)	<b>7.30pm</b> All Saints' Annual Quiz, UC Village Hall, page 16
17 Jan	(Sun)	(The Second Sunday of Epiphany) – full service details page 2 <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
19 Jan	(Tues)	<b>7.30pm</b> Goodworth Clatford WI, Members Annual Dinner in GCVC
20 Jan	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC <b>7.30pm</b> Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
21 Jan	(Thurs)	<b>7.30pm</b> Bellringing practice, St. Mary's <b>7.45pm</b> Benefice Choir Practice, St. Peter's
22 Jan	(Fri)	<b>7.30pm</b> Burns Night, AA Village Hall, page 17
24 Jan	(Sun)	(The Third Sunday of Epiphany) – full service details page 2 <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
27 Jan	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC <b>7.45pm</b> Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in UC Memorial Hall.
28 Jan	(Thurs)	<b>7.30pm</b> Bellringing practice, St Mary's <b>7.30pm</b> Abbots Ann WI New Year Dinner, magic with Michael King Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall. <b>7.45pm</b> Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
31 Jan	(Sun)	(The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany) Candlemas – full service details p2 <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann

For Abbots Ann Magazine and Diary, email: [editor@abbotsannmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@abbotsannmagazine.co.uk)

## **St Mary's Church, Abbots Ann**

<b>Rector</b>	Vacant	
<b>Ministry Team</b> <b>(During the Vacancy)</b>	Revd. Nicky Judd <a href="mailto:clive@judd47.plus.com">clive@judd47.plus.com</a> Tim Tayler <a href="mailto:tim.tayler@talk21.com">tim.tayler@talk21.com</a> Peter Eastwood <a href="mailto:peter@eastwood.me.uk">peter@eastwood.me.uk</a>	729075 710201 353320
<b>Churchwardens</b> <b>St Mary's</b>	Gordon Howard 4 St Mary's Meadow, Abbots Ann <a href="mailto:gw_eo_howard@btinternet.com">gw_eo_howard@btinternet.com</a> Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane, Abbots Ann	710830 710640
<b>St Peter's</b>	Jane Eastwood John Milne	353320 361206
<b>All Saints'</b>	Eleanor Jakeman Bill Mitford	362502 357675
Details of church officers and activities can also be found on the village website - <a href="http://www.abbotsann.com/amenitiesservices/church/">http://www.abbotsann.com/amenitiesservices/church/</a>		
<b>Choir Practice</b>	Thursdays 7.45pm, St Peter's, Goodworth Clatford	
<b>Bell Ringing practice</b>	Thursdays 7.30-9.00pm, St Mary's, Abbots Ann Handbells 7.00pm 1st Thursday each month Tower Captain: Dudley Alleway	710646
<b><u>Parochial Church Council</u></b>		
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
<b>Treasurer (Temporary)</b>	Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery	710640
<b><u>Abbots Ann Magazine</u></b>		
<b>Editor</b>	Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbots Ann <a href="mailto:editor@abbotsannmagazine.co.uk">editor@abbotsannmagazine.co.uk</a>	710630
<b>Advertising Manager</b>	Vacant	

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN DECEMBER 2015

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>St Mary's Duties:</u>
<b>Sunday 29th November</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
10.00 Sung Benefice Eucharist	St Peter's (NJ, TT, PE)
<b>Sunday 6th December</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Peter's (NJ)
10.00 Sung Eucharist	All Saints' (NJ)
10.00 Christingle Family Service	St Peter's (PE)
18.00 Evensong	St Mary's (TT)
<b>Sunday 13th December</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
08.00 Said Holy Communion	All Saints' (NJ)
09.30 Sung Eucharist	St Mary's (NJ)
11.15 Sung Matins	St Peter's (PE)
18.00 Christingle	St Mary's (NJ, David Read)
<b>Saturday 19th December</b>	
16.00 Carol Service	St Peter's (PE)
<b>Sunday 20th December</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Mary's (NJ)
16.00 Carol Service	All Saints' (NJ + CH)
18.00 Carol Service	St Mary's (St Mary's team + CH)
<b>Thursday 24th December</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
15.30 Crib Service	St Peter's (Bishop David)
16.00 Crib Service	St Mary's (TT)
17.00 Crib Service	All Saints' (Bishop David)
23.30 Midnight Communion	St Mary's (Bishop David)
23.30 Midnight Communion	St Peter's (NJ)
<b>Friday 25th December</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Peter's (NJ)
10.00 Christmas Family Service	St Mary's (TT)
10.00 Sung Eucharist	All Saints (NJ)
10.00 Christmas Morning Service	St Peter's (PE)
<b>Sunday 27th December</b>	<b>First Sunday of Christmas</b>
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Mary's (NJ)
10.00 Sung Family Eucharist	All Saints' (NJ)
16.00 Evensong	St Peter's (PE)

*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.*

\*Revd Nicky Judd (NJ) Tim Tayler (TT) Peter Eastwood (PE) Choir (CH)

## BENEFICE DIARY - DECEMBER 2015

2 Dec	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
3 Dec	(Thurs)	10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning
		7.00pm Abbots Ann Parish Council meets in AA Memorial Hall.
		7.00pm Hand Bell Ringing Session at St Mary's Church.
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
4 Dec	(Fri)	7.30pm "Babes in the Wood" – Abbots Ann Memorial Hall.
		7.30pm Burdock Valley Players "The Snow Queen
		Goodworth Clatford Village Club Quiz Night and Supper.
5 Dec	(Sat)	2.30pm and 7.30pm "Babes in the Wood" at Abbots Ann Memorial Hall.
6 Dec	(Sun)	2.30pm and 7.30pm "The Snow Queen, Burdock Valley Players
		(The Second Sunday of Advent) Full service details, page 2
		10.00am Christingle at St Peter's
		2.30pm Burdock Valley Players "The Snow Queen"
		4.00pm "Babes in the Wood" at Abbots Ann Memorial Hall.
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
7 Dec	(Mon)	12.00noon deadline for receipt of copy for the January 2016 Abbots
		Ann Magazine. <a href="mailto:editor@abbotsannmagazine.co.uk">editor@abbotsannmagazine.co.uk</a>
		12.30pm Way Inn Christmas Lunch at St. Peter's
		7.30pm Harlequin, Christmas carols and refreshments, Upper Clatford
		Memorial Hall - Page 16
8 Dec	(Tues)	12.30pm Meadow Room Christmas Lunch at All Saints'.
9 Dec	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall
10 Dec	(Thurs)	7.30pm Abbots Ann WI meets in Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall.
		7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
13 Dec	(Sun)	(The Third Sunday of Advent) Full service details, page 2
		6.00pm Christingle Service at St. Mary's
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
14 Dec	(Mon)	6.30pm Poplar Farm Inn, carol singing in Little Ann - page 5
15 Dec	(Tues)	7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI meets in GCVC
16 Dec	(Wed)	6.30pm The Eagle, carol singing in Abbots Ann - page 5
		7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
		7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
17 Dec	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
18 Dec	(Fri)	10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
		2.00pm Decorating St Mary's Church - page 5
20 Dec	(Sun)	(The Fourth Sunday of Advent), Full service details, page 2
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
23 Dec	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
24 Dec	(Thurs)	(Christmas Eve) Full service details, page 2
25 Dec	(Fri)	(Christmas Day) Full service details, page 2

It has certainly been an historical month and maybe at times hysterical.

We were given a detailed explanation of the Battle of Waterloo by Dan and Peter Snow at the Autumn Meeting of the Hampshire Federation in Basingstoke. Both are passionate about history and certainly brought their subject to life. They have obviously enjoyed collaborating on this project during this bi-centenary anniversary year. Earlier in the day, we had been given the opportunity to have a wriggle to ABBA - you don't need me to tell which soundtrack was used.

Andy Rhind-Tutt made a return visit to Abbots Ann for this month's meeting and gave us an update on the archaeological finds in the grounds of Amesbury Abbey. There has been another dig since he came last year and he was able to reveal more information, not that it can be repeated here, as it has yet to be released to the press, but it is very exciting. Andy is so busy; he keeps us guessing until the last minute as to whether he will turn up on the night.

At least one of our members was verging on hysteria as she tried to come to grips with the technique of weaving at our Jewellery Workshop this month. However, thanks to Louise Simmonds' endless patience and kindness we all got there in the end. It is always amazing that with the same method the end results are so different. The most difficult decision is which beads to use; there are so many colours and sizes to choose from.

We actually managed a walk this month, around Wherwell, our Supper Club met at the Weyhill Fair and some of our members attended the Anton Danebury Group Meeting, where they heard about the ancient craft of basket making.

This month's meeting on the 10th December will inevitably have a Christmas theme with a selection of festive readings followed by a buffet supper. Come along and meet us at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

*Sharon King*

### **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: [plytle2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:plytle2@tiscali.co.uk)

## ***Dear Friends,***

As I write, it is with our Remembrance weekend fresh in my mind. It was very moving to welcome so many people to our churches, both to remember loved ones at the Services of Remembrance and Light on the Saturday and, on Remembrance Sunday itself, to join in with the National Act of Remembrance at 11.00am.

By the time you read this, the Church year will have come to an end with the Feast of Christ the King, and the new one will have begun on Advent Sunday. The colour of the season will have changed. You will have noticed that there are no longer green items on the altar, but instead they are purple. During Lent, purple indicates that we have moved into a penitential time. However, in Advent, it tells us we are in a time of preparation. We are looking forward, in both meanings of that expression, to Christmas. "Come, Lord Jesus!" is an ancient Advent call which reminds us of the expectation that Jesus will return 'at the end of the age', so this time of preparation has two aspects. One is the joyous annual welcoming of the Christ child as we celebrate His Nativity once again. The other is to do with us standing before the grown-up Jesus, reflecting with Him on our lives. What have we been doing with this precious gift of life? Have we made the most of our talents and opportunities? Have we loved God, and our neighbour as ourselves?

None of us needs to be reminded about preparation for the Christmas feast. There is already plenty of advertising, showing us all the goodies we could buy. Equally, gift marketing is in full swing, too. It is a very busy and pressured time for so many. Somewhere in all the countdown and the activity, try to find a little breathing space to take stock and to remember what really matters. Yes, we have come back to remembering, remembering people we loved, people we respected, people who gave their lives for us. It is people who matter, and the gift of time and attention to the people close to us is ultimately more valuable than any material thing.

Tim, Peter and I wish you all a not-too-stressful time of preparation for a Happy and Blessed Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you to some of this month's special services in our churches.

Yours in Christ,

***Nicky***

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

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



#### **Dates:**

**20 Nov - 3 Dec**

**4 Dec - 17 Dec**

**18 Dec - 31 Dec**

1 Jan - 14 Jan

15 Jan - 28 Jan

29 Jan - 11 Feb

12 Feb - 25 Feb

#### **Flowers:**

**Advent**

**Advent**

**Christmas**

Sylvia Burson

Lent

#### **Dusting:**

**Elizabeth Palmer**

**Polly Whyte**

**Jill Tayler**

Penny Scriven

Margaret Brooks

Sheila Robinson

Audrey Cresswell

### **OPEN DEANERY MEETING**

Bishop Tim has asked Area Deans to arrange an Open Deanery Meeting in every Deanery in the Diocese, literally for anyone in their Deanery who would like to attend. Details of our Andover Deanery meeting are as follows:

- Open Deanery Meeting, with the Bishop of Winchester
- Monday 30th November from 7.30pm - 9.30pm at St. Mary's Church, Andover
- Refreshments from 7pm, opening worship at 7.30pm
- Theme: 'How are we getting on?' - looking at the Bishop's charge and the things we have already achieved
- There will also be an opportunity for an open Question & Answer session addressing issues, challenges and concerns

*Peter Eastwood - Deanery Secretary*

### **BENEFICE CURRY LUNCH ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

It was good to see 72 people from all three Parishes at the lunch and a big thank you to everybody who helped to make the day such a big success raising £1086 to be shared equally between the Royal British Legion and Abbotts Ann St Mary's Church "Loo" fund. The puddings were superb and again many thanks to all those who made them. The very professional serving helped to create a very relaxed and happy atmosphere.

The raffle was fun and raised £263 and again thanks to all those who donated the generous prizes.

The Bar, efficiently run by Tom and Jane Wilson, was once again as good as ever.

*Judith Pritchard*



Abbotts Ann School Association

# ***Christmas Bazaar***

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**★ 1pm-4pm ★**

**Venue: Abbotts Ann Primary School**

**★ Duck Street, Abbotts Ann, SP11 7FE ★**

★ Gifts for children, home & kitchen ★ Crafts

★ Handmade Christmas gifts and decorations ★ Grand raffle ★

★ Santa's Grotto ★ Cake Stall ★ Bric-a-brac ★

★ Face painting ★ Children's games ★ Tombola ★

★ Refreshments ★ Fun for all the family! ★

***To exhibit goods & book a stall table (£10)***

***please call Liz Stavelly on 712911***

**Entry: Adults £1**

**★ Children FREE ★**



  
 Amateur Dramatic Society Presents...

# SNOW QUEEN

## A FAIRYTALE PANTOMIME

by Peta Duncombe

**Performances:**

Sat 28th Nov 2.30 & 7.30pm  
 Sun 29th Nov 2.30pm  
 Fri 4th Dec 7.30pm  
 Sat 5th Dec 2.30 & 7.30pm  
 Sun 6th Dec 2.30pm

**Tickets - £7**  
 Family Ticket of 4 - £25

Available to purchase at:  
[www.burdockvalleyplayers.com](http://www.burdockvalleyplayers.com)  
 Hexagon Stores

**FINAL CALL FOR  
TICKETS**

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*Prince and Princess  
Fancy Dress  
Welcome*

King Edward VII Memorial Hall, Upper Clatford, SP11 7QL

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[info@burdockvalleyplayers.com](mailto:info@burdockvalleyplayers.com)

### CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE

Everyone is welcome to sing carols around **Little Ann on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December** and **Abbotts Ann on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**. Song sheets will be provided but please bring lanterns or torches. We will meet at the Poplar Farm Inn on Monday and The Eagle on Wednesday starting at 6.30pm. Singing each evening 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).

### *From The Registers*

#### Rest in Peace

28th October, the funeral of Norman Keene took place at St Mary's.  
 6th November, the funeral of Frederick William (Fred) Porter took place at Basingstoke Crematorium.

#### Burial of Ashes

10 October – John Marriott whose ashes were interred at All Saints'  
 19 October – Georgina Wilhelmina Jacques ('Ineke') whose ashes were interred in the Garden of Remembrance All Saints'

*If you do not wish to have the information from the registers published, would you please contact Rev. Nicky Judd on 01264 729075.*

### CELEBRATE COMPLINE DURING ADVENT

As part of our preparation for Christmas Compline will be celebrated during Advent. Compline, also known as Night Prayer, is a very old form of worship that provides an opportunity to reflect quietly on the past day and to focus our minds on the coming of Christ. It provides fifteen minutes of peaceful respite from television adverts and office parties. All are welcome.

The service will be held at April Cottage at 7pm on Wed 2 Dec, Wed 9 Dec, Tue 15 Dec and Wed 23 Dec.

Tim Tayler

### ST MARY'S CHURCH - DECORATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Decoration of St Mary's Church for the Christmas Services will take place on **Friday 18th December at 2pm**.

Please come along for a jolly afternoon and a mince pie; perhaps we may have some carols to listen to while you work. Donations for the flowers would be most welcome.

*Sylvia Burson 710852.*

## ST MARY'S ABBOTTS ANN - UPDATE

Although the church is shrouded in scaffolding all our regular Sunday Services will take place as usual, as advertised elsewhere in this magazine, on the village website and as on the notice boards on the church path.

In addition, in the past there has been unease expressed when our annual midnight service has not always taken place. Bishop David (the Bishop of Basingstoke) has ensured that it has been re-instated and is showing us his support by giving up his Christmas Eve with his family and coming from Alresford especially to take our service. Please come and give him your support.

### Restoration Project

The church is being scaffolded as I write. By the time you read this the temporary roof should be on, enabling work on the roof, stonework, brickwork and rain water systems to start. The intention is for the work to be finished by next Easter. So we just have to hope that we do not have a very cold Winter, which would slow things down.

The scaffolding completely surrounds the church. This means that the priest's door will be closed for the duration of the project and that we have a temporary path to the West door. There is red and white tape barring access to the East end of the church. Please access the church via the West door only when the rope across the access path is tied back and there is a green square showing on the site notice board.

### Church Boiler

The church heating now works very well, to the extent that worshipers are to be seen taking off their coat because they are too warm! A big thank you to all the generous donors who helped to pay for the new boiler.

### WC

We have agreed the design for a stand alone WC facility on the South side of the church opposite the tower door. Fund raising for it has started and our architect has put in a request to TVBC for planning permission. As soon as this has been received we will be approaching grant funding bodies for help with the funding (when looking for possible sources they all seem to ask 'Have you got planning permission?'). A big thank you to Judith Pritchard and her team for organising the Curry lunch on Remembrance Sunday in aid of the Earl Haig fund and our WC. They raised £543 for us.

There is a full range of Services in the church over the Christmas period. Please join us.

*Gordon Howard & Sally Dashwood*



Homing Enquiries 01256-892019 or  
[www.andovercats.org.uk](http://www.andovercats.org.uk)  
Fund-raising/volunteers 07969 708992 or  
[julie72.julie72@gmail.com](mailto:julie72.julie72@gmail.com)  
Items for resale 01256-892773

Andover and District Cats Protection would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas season. Meanwhile, here is something to bear in mind.



The kittens born last summer will soon be producing their own kittens. If you are on a low income we will neuter your cat for a £10 voluntary donation. Neutered cats are happy cats.

Both Gypsy and Keith have now found their forever homes.



*Martin Bevan*

Charlie was in a happy household with a young, quiet professional couple but sadly couldn't get on with the clamour of a new baby. He is an eight year old, affectionate cat.

## 100 CLUB



### NOVEMBER DRAW WINNERS

**First Prize £30: Mr S Godman**  
**Second Prize £20: Mr B Wilkins**  
**Third Prize £10: Mrs I Lunan**

*Neil Witten*



## ALL SAINTS' WINTER LECTURES 2016

### General Sir Richard Shirreff - Monday 11th January 2016

Europe's security paradigm has been shattered by Russia's invasion of Crimea and Ukraine; Russia is now effectively a strategic adversary. What does this mean for Britain and NATO?

In his 37-year career, General Sir Richard Shirreff commanded soldiers on operations at every level. This has included combat in the Gulf War of 1991 and again in Iraq, together with operations in Northern Ireland, Kosovo and Bosnia. He commanded NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and his final post before withdrawing from the Army, he was NATO's 4 Star Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

### Rt. Hon Lord Mark Malloch-Brown KCMG -

#### Monday 22nd February 2016

**Big Problems, Small World: how to manage global issues as conflicts multiply.**

Lord Mark Malloch-Brown is a former number two in the United Nations as well as having served in the British Cabinet and Foreign Office. He now sits in the House of Lords and is active both in business and in the non-profit world. He also remains deeply involved in international affairs.

Tickets are £12.00 each and can be bought at Clatford Village Store & Post Office, The Abbots Ann Village Store and The Crook and Shears.

You can also buy tickets Nicki Crosthwaite Eyre (01264 35 25 30 or e-mail: [Nicki.eyre@talktalk.net](mailto:Nicki.eyre@talktalk.net)). Send her a stamped addressed envelope to The Old Malthouse, Upper Clatford, Andover, SP11 7QL, stating the number of tickets for each talk. Please book early to avoid disappointment and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Doors open at 7.00pm and the lectures start at 8pm at the King Edward VII Memorial Hall, Upper Clatford SP11 7QL. Parking is available behind the Hall.

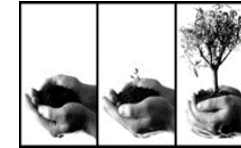
## CAROLS OLD AND NEW FROM THE HARMONIUM SINGERS

Local chamber choir The Harmonium Singers is presenting an attractive programme of Christmas music old, new and familiar at St Mary's Church, Andover on Saturday 19th December at 7.30pm

Proceeds for the evening this year will go to the Andover Crisis and Support Centre and a member of the Centre will speak at the concert about their work.

Tickets at £8 include refreshments and will be available from Newbury Building Society, the Lights and choir members or at the door on the night for £10. Under 14s will be admitted free. Further details are on the choir website at [www.harmoniumsingers.org.uk](http://www.harmoniumsingers.org.uk)

## St Mary's Fun Club Christmas Toy Appeal



In St Mary's Fun Club we are supporting Test Valley Christmas Toy Appeal this term. You will see our posters up at school and around the Village.

The Toy Appeal is to collect new toys for less fortunate children than ourselves in the Andover area who do not usually get toys at Christmas.

We are collecting the toys at school and at Abbots Ann Village Shop where you will find boxes to put **UNWRAPPED** toys in.

If when you are at the shops you would buy just one extra little toy for a child of any age from baby through to teenager that will help us make other children have a happy Christmas. Once you have the toy please take it unwrapped and put it in our box in the Village Shop or the School office **by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

Or bring unwrapped toys to the **Christingle Service at St Mary's Church Abbots Ann on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm.**

A big thank you for your support.

*St Mary's Fun Club*

(Christian club for children in Owls Class, Yr 5 & 6, at Abbots Ann



## PARISH COUNCIL – NOVEMBER

At the November meeting the Chairman, Cllr Bernard Griffiths, welcomed Mrs Clare Cotterell as the new permanent Clerk. She takes over the Clerk's e-mail address, which is [abbotsannparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:abbotsannparishcouncil@gmail.com) and is the "Proper Officer" to contact for council matters from now on. We all wish her a long and happy stay in her new job.

The Chairman also explained to the new members that his wife (me) produces a regular report on Abbots Ann Parish Council meetings for the Andover Advertiser, as the "Village Correspondent". This has been so for the last two years. Although the Correspondent is not an employee of the paper, a small retainer does fund a visit to the local fish and chip shop once in a while! I would add that the Council doesn't employ me either, nor am I answerable to it or any of its members!

Several members of the public at the meeting noted that the published Agenda, prepared by a councillor to assist the Clerk who had only just commenced duties, included an item for the Council to withdraw into private session under the Local Government Act 1972 and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. The wording caused some concern - as it has when used in the past, with people fearing decisions are being made behind their back: surely a public body, elected by the people, should conduct its business openly?

It may be useful to explain what it means.

A Council can only make decisions at a properly constituted meeting. Parish Council meetings are "meetings held in public" (different from the term "public meeting"! You can see the problem if there is business to decide which might, for instance, relate to an individual and therefore needs to remain private from the general public.

For example, employment issues must be confidential. The Council is an employer, but can only make decisions in a proper meeting. If Councillors need to agree an employment matter, an official Parish Council meeting must still be called. The procedure then is, to preserve the privacy of the employee, that the Council must exclude the public and press under the two Acts mentioned above. Very cumbersome and puzzling to members of the public, but necessary.

There are several very informative guide books produced for Councillors and Clerks, which set out clearly the proper procedure and legislation for Parish Council business. Those published for the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks are particularly helpful. The "bible", however, is a yellow tome called "Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration", which runs to over 1000 pages and contains the full wording of all the relevant Acts. It's not the easiest volume to use, but all the information, references and law are there – somewhere! At around £80, it's an

Amateur Pantomime Production by the Abbots Ann Players

# Babes In the Wood

TICKETS FROM  
Abbots Ann  
Village Shop  
& 01264 710231

Written by Adrian Barradell  
Directed by Trish Wallis  
Produced by Lisa Hillier

Family £16  
Adult £6  
Child £4

DECEMBER 2015

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm & 7.30pm
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm

Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall



## **ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE**

### ***Latest Royal Mail Recommended Posting Dates***

#### **Inland Services**

Saturday 19th December - 2nd Class & Royal Mail Signed For  
Monday 21 December - 1st Class & Royal Mail Signed For  
Wednesday 23 December - Royal Mail Special delivery Guaranteed

#### **International Standard (formerly Airmail) & all International Tracking and Signature Services (formerly Airsure & International Signed for)**

Friday 4 December: Africa, Middle East  
Monday 7 December: Asia, Cyprus, Far East, Eastern Europe (ex. Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia)  
Tuesday 8 December: Caribbean, Central & South America  
Thursday 10 December: Greece, Australia, New Zealand  
Monday 14 December: Czech Republic, Germany, Italy  
Tuesday 15 December: Canada, Finland, Sweden, USA  
Wednesday 16 December: Austria, Iceland, Ireland, Portugal, Spain  
Thursday 17 December: France  
Friday 18 December: Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland

Don't forget that Parcelforce Worldwide also have a wide range of services to get your gifts delivered on time for the big day! Ask in branch.

#### **Did you know?**

Austria was the first country to produce stamps specifically for Christmas in 1937  
A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens) was first published in 1843 - the same year as the first known Christmas card was sent.  
In 1966, Blue Peter viewers designed the first ever UK Christmas stamps.

#### **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. Gift cards are available for purchase at the Post Office in full pound denominations of £10 to £400 and be used in over 22,000 outlets and with many online retailers

**Happy Christmas to all our customers**

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

ideal Christmas present for any "member of the public" at Parish Council meetings!

The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 1(1) states:

*"Subject to subsection (2) below, any meeting of a body exercising public functions, being a body to which this Act applies, shall be open to the public."*  
Section 1(2) goes on: *"A body may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies."*

The Local Government Act 1972, Section 100A (4) states:

*"A principal council may by resolution exclude the public from a meeting during an item of business whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that time there would be disclosure to them of exempt information..."*

"Exempt information" is defined in Schedule 12A, Part 1 of the same Act:

*Information relating to any individual.*

*Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.*

*Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).*

*Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.*

*Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.*

*Information which reveals that the authority proposes – a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.*

*Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of crime.*

So, now you know the circumstances under which the Parish Council can ask the public to leave a meeting. Aren't you glad you asked!

The Agenda should give sufficient reason for the public to understand their exclusion, without actually disclosing confidential information; but if it is not carefully drafted, it could be deemed misleading. For example, "exempt business" may indeed be about an individual, yet not about an employee of the council - and the Agenda should make this apparent. The item "Public

Participation” gives members of the public an opportunity to air views or ask questions on any item on the Agenda if it is not clear.

Perhaps this explanation might give a glimpse of the legal minefield councillors have to negotiate – meetings are far from a cosy tea-party: sit down with Arnold-Baker and, as they used to say at school – “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest”! With some Alka-Seltzer.

*Rosemary Groves*

### **LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - OCTOBER 2015**

The weather this month is relatively mild, but it seems to be pretty wet. In between sporting commitments we try to get out and enjoy the autumnal weather. The misty, damp days see ever growing leaf piles made up of every hue of red, yellow and orange; as we walk across the soft, damp earth, a certain scent is released that can only ever be associated with this time of year. To me it conjures up seasonal family walks around the footpaths of Abbots Ann and neighbouring villages followed by steaming mugs of hot chocolate in front of a welcoming log fire. I am still entranced by the colour of the countryside at this time of year and one busy morning, Father of the Tribe and I spend a few minutes just marvelling at the glorious tones in the garden and for once, rather than being horrified by the mounds of leaves, that at some point need to be collected, we merely take in the resplendent shades and just enjoy. Meanwhile, the Littlest is making the most of the simple pleasure of jumping into the soft heaps. The white poplar is one of the last trees to come into leaf in late spring, but very much the first to lose all of its soft greenish grey-white leaves. The birch hang on to their leaves for much longer although with the stronger gusts of wind a wonderful shower of leaves are blown down. We play a game seeing who can catch the leaves, but it seems that with age I have become rather useless at this; or perhaps it could have something to do with the fact that I always seem to have my arms full of 'stuff' that belongs to the Tribe. Following the Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago, the silver birch was one of the first trees to begin growing; hence it is known as a pioneer species. One tree can produce up to a million seeds a year.

Garden birds return in great numbers to the bird feeders and birdsong picks up especially at the beginning and end of the day. The glorious male pheasants are a welcome visitor and their plumage complements the foliage perfectly. They visit in great numbers, perhaps knowing that they are safe in our garden; shooting season has begun.

Over half term, I find myself spending several days with the Littlest as the older three are sailing at the Spinnaker Sailing Club near the New Forest. It's too far to return home so we find ourselves spending days exploring. Rather excitingly I discover that there have been sightings of an osprey and an otter at

Pick up an order form from the shop now.

It is so convenient to place your fruit and veg order at the village shop and hassle free for you. Again, please order by 19<sup>th</sup> December.

All orders can be picked up from 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

Do not forget your milk, cream and that special loaf of bread.

Why bake your Mince pies when they too can be ordered for pick up in the shop.

### **Raffle**

Once again we will be holding a Christmas raffle – to be drawn on 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 3.30 pm.

### **Opening Hours over the Festive Period**

Christmas Eve	24 <sup>th</sup>	0800 to 1400
Christmas Day	25 <sup>th</sup>	Closed
Boxing Day (Saturday)	26 <sup>th</sup>	Closed
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	0900 to 1200
Monday	28 <sup>th</sup>	0900 to 1200
Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup>	0830 to 1730
Wednesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	0830 to 1730
Thursday	31 <sup>st</sup>	0830 to 1730
New Year's Day	1 <sup>st</sup>	Closed
Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	0830 to 1230
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	0900 to 1200.

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
to all our customers  
and a big thank you to all staff and volunteers**

*Elizabeth Howard*

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

All articles printed in the Abbots 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 VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE**

**Shop Manager:** Tim Abram  
**Deputy Shop Manager:** Carol Murphy  
**Sub Post Mistress:** Maureen Flood

### **Pizza Night**

Friday night is Pizza Night. Tim is trying a new venture and will be cooking specially for us on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Each pizza will be cooked specially for you. There will be 3 varieties to choose from, pepperoni, Abbots Ann sausage or vegetarian, at a cost of £12.99 each. If you are able to order in advance it will be more convenient for you. You will be allocated a collection time for your freshly cooked piping hot supper. I tried the samples and they were delicious

## **CHRISTMAS**

### **Father Christmas**

Father Christmas has advised us that he will be calling at Abbots Ann Village Shop on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 am. Bring your children along to meet him. Mince Pies and Mulled Wine will be available.

### **Christmas Puddings**

Our ever popular 'Ultimate Plum Pudding', the one with a picture of the shop on the top, will be on sale in the shop this year. Gluten free or alcohol free ones will also be available. Whilst for those of you averse to plum pudding we have varieties of steam pudding, including Sticky Toffee and Ginger.

### **Biscuits, Chocolates and so on**

Look on the 'specials' shelf for the Christmas stock. You will find Stollen, Tins of biscuits, Amaretti, Lebkuchen, etc. Do not forget the ever popular "Abbots Ann" chocolates and the locally produced Mint Selection chocolates.

### **Village Christmas Cards**

We are grateful to Kate Bennett who has once again designed our village Christmas card – a bright and cheerful picture of our village shop. The cards are priced at £2.99 for 6.

### **Hampers/Gift Baskets**

You can order a meat hamper, with meat supplied by Turners.

Small gift baskets are on sale. You can buy one already made up or have one filled with goods of your choice (useful to give to Grandma or the Auntie who has everything).

### **Orders – Turkey, Fruit & Veg**

Your Turkey order needs to be in by 19<sup>th</sup> December. Choose from White/bronze, barn reared, organic or free range. Crowns/Butterfly are available too.

Ibsley Water not far from where the Tribe are sailing on Blashford Lake. The Littlest and I set off through forest; the sky is heavy, threatening rain. As we near the water, the trees give way to open ground and we find a hide to shelter in from the drizzle. The hide is empty, dry and pretty warm. Together we sit on one of the benches and see what different birds and insects we can spot. Although we aren't fortunate enough to see an osprey or otter we do see several cormorants amongst other more common birds, particularly one little robin who is incredibly close when we have a viewing window open. I am thrilled that the Littlest is as enthusiastic as I am.

Whilst in the New Forest, I notice signs regarding pigs. It is the time of year when pannage is carried out in the forest. Pannage is the practice of releasing domestic pigs into a forest to eat the fallen nuts including chestnuts, acorns and beechnuts, from the forest floor. The pigs eat the green acorns that are poisonous to ponies and cattle. It is also known as 'common of mast', one of the common rights attached to properties in the New Forest allowing commoners to graze their pigs in the Forest. This practice is no longer carried out in many places but it still happens in the New Forest. Traditionally this allowed commoners to fatten their pigs for slaughter and salting in the winter. In the 19th Century there were as many as 6,000 pigs released; today there are between 200 and 600. Pannage is announced as soon as the acorns start falling - this year it began on 14th September - and it continues for at least 60 days. 2015 has seen the season extended to 20th December due to the large number of acorns. We didn't see any pigs whilst we were out and about but I have seen them before and it is a real delight to suddenly come across a herd of pigs in the Forest, especially if there are piglets in the herd. We did however see plenty of the iconic New Forest ponies. There are over 5,000 ponies and they are known as the 'architects of the Forest' due to their grazing that creates the neat 'lawned' areas between the woodland. Each pony is owned by a commoner. It is during the autumn that the annual health check of the ponies takes place.

The last day of the month sees the final of the Rugby World Cup and we watch it on a screen outside with an Antipodean barbie. It's a cracking match and the Tribe are obviously delighted with the outcome (as is Father of the Tribe!). More of the Tribe's friends arrive at home and after a quick change we take Dracula, the Grim Reaper, an elf, a very sweet black cat and 3 characters from the mystery-thriller series, Pretty Little Liars (there are 3 teenage girls with us and I guess that dressing up as pumpkins and witches just doesn't cut it any more!), around the village trick or treating. The homes that the Tribe and friends visit are incredibly generous and they return home with a ridiculous amount of sweet bounty. A sweet, if slightly sticky, end to a very outdoorsy month.

*Mother of the Tribe - [www.lifewiththetribe.com](http://www.lifewiththetribe.com)*



## COUNTRYMAN'S CORNER

November 2015

A long succession of quiet days with leaden skies makes one feel some sympathy with the poet Thomas Hood (ask Google for his story), who, around two hundred years ago, wrote:

No sun – no moon – no morn – no moon –  
No dawn – no dusk – no proper time of day.  
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member –  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,  
November.

But come off it! No fruit? There are still lots of Autumn raspberries, and there are berries all over the place. No flowers? Should have been to Specsavers – the last rose of summer is weeks away and the Rose of Sharon hasn't stopped blooming since June. No leaves? What about yellow willows, red-gold beeches, flaming maples, scarlet sumacs? No birds? The pigeons and rooks are, thank goodness, quieter, but robins will greet you with a friendly chirrup at the drop of a hat. No warmth or cheerfulness? Hey, it's the month of bonfires and the build-up for Christmas. I think his porridge must have been cold.

John Keats, who was only three years older than Hood, was obviously feeling more chirpy when he wrote:

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom friend of the maturing sun,  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel.

Not sure about the vines; hands up anyone who has successfully grown one up the wall of a thatched cottage. He actually composed the poem on a long walk through the water meadows between Winchester and St. Cross - not many cottage gardens in sight; was he thinking of his beloved Italy? And I don't think gourds have ever been a feature of Hampshire horticulture; maybe he was thinking of pumpkins. Never mind, he was no gardener, but a qualified surgeon; and he was right about the cottage trees which have been bent, this year, to the point of collapse. Roadside boxes of Coxes and baskets of Bramleys have been appearing, and disappearing, while the air is perfumed by quinces and the heady scent of apple crumbles. And the ground has been thick with plump hazelnuts. Fortunately these are tidied away with great efficiency by the squirrels. With luck and the help of the worms and the Wild West

Pogles Wood  
excellent live  
celidh band



# Burns Night

## Friday 22nd January 2016

7:30pm  
In the War Memorial Hall



cock-a-leekie & crowdie  
bar  
address to the haggis  
whisky tots



Selkirk Grace  
bagpipes  
highland dancing

£20

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

You are invited to:

**Christmas Cheer with Harlequin:  
Christmas carols and seasonal refreshments.**

**Monday 7 December at 7.30pm**

**Village Hall, Upper Clatford**

**Tickets: £7.50 from All Saints' Fundraising Committee  
Jane Kennedy, Betty Armstrong, Emily Fabricius, Sylvia  
Kennedy, Margaret Prior.**

**All proceeds in aid of All Saints' Church, Upper Clatford**

**DEFIBRILLATOR**

**The Village Defibrillator is in a white, illuminated cabinet marked "Defibrillator" outside the rear entrance of the Eagle Inn, on the wall of the covered decking area by the car park. It is immediately accessible at all times.**

You are invited to:

**ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL QUIZ**

**SATURDAY 16th JANUARY at 7.30pm**

**VILLAGE HALL, UPPER CLATFORD**

**Tickets £12.50 (including hot supper) from:  
Jane Kennedy (Tel:323804) , Sylvia Kennedy (323226) Betty  
Armstrong, Emily Fabricius, and Margaret Prior.**

**All proceeds in aid of All Saints' Church Funds.**

Wind (no, that was Shelley), our lawns may even be clear of leaves by the end of the month.

So, unless you're firmly stuck in curmudgeon mode, there's a lot to be said for November.

*Hadrianus Rusticus*

**NORMAN KEENE**

Pat and family would like to thank those who came to Norman's funeral and also for the lovely cards and tributes sent. There was a feeling of much love and support which meant so much to us. Thank you all very much.

Pat Keene.

**SUMMARY OF THE TALK GIVEN BY ANDY RHIND-TUTT TO  
ABBOTTS ANN WI ON 29TH OCTOBER 2015**

At the last minute (almost literally!) Andy confirmed that he would be able to visit us again and arrived at the Village Hall straight from a meeting involving UNESCO and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites). He and David Jacques, Project Director for the Blick Mead dig and from the University of Buckingham, were presenting their case against the Government proposed A303 tunnel to go under Stonehenge. They stated that the tunnel would destroy one of the most significant landscapes in Europe and the tunnel would not in itself cure the traffic problem around the Stonehenge site. As a result of this Andy was not able to give us his intended Power Point presentation as there was no time for him to collect his equipment from home; however, his talk with notes and pictures and some stone and flint samples proved more than adequate.

Andy gave a quick overview of his last talk for the benefit of those Members who missed it last year and as a memory jogger for the rest! The Project Director is David Jacques and is responsible for the amazing finds at the Blick Mead site and surrounding area over the past ten years. He is also Hattie Jacques great nephew and as such the project has been referred to as "Carry on Digging"!

The Blick Mead site is in the grounds of Amesbury Abbey and once the top levels of "disturbed" soil has been removed, the undersoil is giving up its many and ancient secrets. The top levels were disturbed by back fill from the making of the A303 and from a garden makeover in the grounds of the Abbey by Inigo Jones in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

On the first dig at the site the objective was to find 50 pieces of worked flint to prove human association. In two days, in a site the size of a football goal,

10,000 pieces of flint were found! Also discovered were pieces of animal bone, some of which belonged to the auroch, an animal similar to today's cow but the size of an elephant. Carbon dating of the animal bones resulted in dates of 4700BC, 5200BC, 6250BC and 7596BC so indicating that the area had been in continual human use for at least 9,500 years.

Amongst other finds, Andy passed around a piece of "pink stone". Blick Mead spring is one of the very rare places where stones submerged in the water turn pink when retrieved and dried. The "pink" is an algae called *Hildenbrandia rivularis*. Andy mentioned that it is possible that the algae, when scraped off the stone and mixed with animal fat, could have been used as rouge and it is also very possible that the inhabitants of the area may have viewed the stones as having magical properties.

In the October 2014 dig a diamond shaped stone was discovered. At first it was thought just to be another stone embedded in crumbled chalk, tumbled on its side by the melting ice. But by digging further down it became obvious that it had been specifically placed in its position. It lay pointing north/south. When the sun came out a marker on the stone indicated that it might just be the World's First Sundial! In order to prove this another similar item or items need to be located.

The Stonehenge Hidden Landscape Project, run by the University of Birmingham, uses Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to locate hidden items under the soil without disturbing the ground. Using GPR a horse shoe shape was located at the Blick Mead site about 2 metres under the ground surface. As a result, Trench 24 was dug, a trench about 5 metres square just above the horse shoe. The dig began on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The dig revealed a fairly large circular building. It appears to have been precipitated by the fall of a large tree. The then vertical root system would have provided one wall which was then lined with flints and the resulting pit was then lined with cobbles. They also appear to have used a large number of stones which may have been used as heating, the stones being heated in a fire and then used to heat the enclosed space – a type of storage heating resulting in the naming of the dwelling an "Eco House". The fall of the trunk of the tree seems to have fallen across the stream so providing a fishing bridge for the residents. The find of obvious habitation rather than just visits is a huge step forward. It has also been suggested that this dwelling might be on the outskirts of a village, the bulk of which lies under the A303. Trench 24 has now been refilled to preserve the site from falling leaves, pollution from the A303 etc.

One Member asked why the digs do not take place in the summer months as the sites would be drier for one thing and much more pleasant for the archaeologists to work on. The answer is that the site is owned by a South African who allows the digs only when he is not wishing to enjoy his land ie when he returns to South Africa for the British winter months.

Andy said that the next steps, apart from examining and recording all the

existing finds, will be to find and prove the existence of a settlement which, as mentioned above, may lie under the A303. Each dig to date has cost in the region of £50,000 which has so far been funded by the University of Buckingham but the University does not have a bottomless pit of money so at some point in time the project will have to become self-funded in order to survive.

*Aileen Catterson*

### **ABBOTTS ANN WAR MEMORIAL HALL** **FIRE SAFETY**

At some time during October the Hall Fire Blanket went missing from its container, possibly appropriated during a hire without any report to the Caretaker or a Committee Member. The Committee has been unable to identify which hirer or user was responsible. If any subsequent hirer or user had been the victim of a fire, no blanket would have been available. The blanket was replaced as soon as the Committee became aware of its absence. The Hall maintains a fully updated Risk Assessment Pack, but it is difficult to anticipate behaviour of this kind. Please make a report to the Caretaker if anything of this kind happens when you hire or use the Hall. Thank You!

*Graham Stallard*

*Secretary and Trustee, Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall*

### **ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL**

Two honorary official posts, of **TREE WARDEN** and **FOOTPATHS OFFICER** for the Parish Council, are currently vacant.

The Tree Warden helps to advise the Parish Council on applications for tree works in the village – for tree pruning, felling, lopping, topping, etc. It is an important role in this rural setting, and ideally, the Warden should have some experience and knowledge of forestry or of trees generally.

The Footpaths Officer reports to the Parish Council on the condition of the parish's footpaths, rights of way, tracks, etc. He or she will be someone who enjoys walking the extensive paths on a regular basis, and can be proactive in reporting problems, or in dealing with minor clearance personally. Ideally, he or she should have some knowledge of rights of way law and related matters.

If you are interested in either of these posts, would you please contact the chairman, Bernard Griffiths, at [ellrbgriffiths@gmail.com](mailto:ellrbgriffiths@gmail.com)

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY MAGAZINE IS 7TH DECEMBER**