

ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL
CASUAL VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

Notice given under Rule 8(3) of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006

1. There is a vacancy on the Parish Council caused by the resignation of Councillor Rebecca Bone on 15th December 2014
2. As the vacancy has occurred within 6 months of the next ordinary day of election of parish councillors, a poll to fill this vacancy will not be held.
3. The Parish Council may fill the vacancy by co-option
4. Any person interested in being considered for co-option to the Parish Council should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Notice given 13th January 2015

Wherwell Singers Easter Concert – Save the Date!

The Wherwell Singers welcome the return of soprano Allegra Giagu in a performance of Mozart's Vespers. The programme will also include music by Tallis, Tomkins, Lauridsen, spirituals and much more. The concert will be held on Saturday 11th April at 7:30pm, St Peter & Holy Cross Church, Wherwell. Tickets are £8.

Save the date now to avoid disappointment! For more information, please visit the Wherwell Singers website at www.wherwellsingers.org, email the Wherwell Singers at info@wherwellsingers.org, or call 01264 720529.

HARMONIUM SINGERS

On behalf of the Harmonium Singers I would like to thank everyone who supported our 'Darkness to Light' Christmas concert at St Mary's Church, Andover on 13 December. A short address was given by Pauline Owen about the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and her efforts to develop support services specifically for the Andover area. We were able to make a donation of £720 to the Association raised from ticket and programme sales and donations on the night.

In addition, thanks also to those who supported our Carol Singing at Tesco River Way and Lilleywhite Crescent which enabled us to make a donation of £225 to the Andover Food Bank.

Thanks must also go to the Lights and Newbury Building Society for selling tickets and to all those publications and businesses that helped us with publicity. We hope you will be able to join us in 2015 on Saturday 20 June at St Mary's Andover when we will be performing music which will include Vivaldi's Gloria with the Linden Baroque Orchestra. Further details at www.harmoniumsingers.org.uk and on Facebook

Veronica Bacon - Harmonium Singers

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
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Churchwardens	Gordon Howard, Swaledale, 4 St Mary's Meadow, Little Ann	710830
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	Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane	710640
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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
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Bell-Ringing Practice	THURSDAYS 7.30-9.00PM, ST MARY'S, ABBOTTS ANN Tower Captain: Dudley Alleway	710646
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Parochial Church Council

Secretary	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
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Treasurer (Temporary)	Sally Dashwood, 1 The Bakery	710640
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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 Jubilee Oak Cottage	710899

For magazine deadlines please refer to the Benefice Diary.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have your magazine delivered free of charge (Abbots Ann only). A yearly subscription is £6.00. For deliveries outside 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 or write to Pam at The White House, Abbots Ann.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN FEBRUARY 2015

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

Date: **St Mary's Duties:**

Sunday 25th January	The Third Sunday of the year	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's	Miss W Casson
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	All Saints'	
4.00 Evensong	St Peter's	
Sunday 1st 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 8th February	5th Sunday of the year	
8.00 Holy Communion	All Saints'	
9.30 Benefice Eucharist	St Mary's	Miss W Casson Miss K Bennett
11.15 Benefice Matins	St Peter's	
6.00 Evensong	St Mary's	Mrs S Dashwood
Sunday 15th 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'	
Wednesday 18th February	Ash Wednesday	
8.00pm The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday	All Saints'	
Sunday 22nd February	1st Sunday of Lent	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's	Miss W Casson
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	All Saints'	
4.00 Evensong	St Peter's	
Wednesday 25th February		
7.30pm Night Prayer	All Saints'	
8.00pm Lent group	The Rectory	

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

On 29 April 1915, Whatley was admitted to 16 General Hospital at Le Treport with influenza, which was regarded as being sufficiently severe that he was immediately evacuated to England on the Hospital Ship St Patrick and placed on the strength of a holding and drafting unit, 3/3 Wessex Fd Amb, the next day. He remained in England until 22 October 1917. During this period he was absent without leave for 1 hour on 31 May 1916 for which he was awarded 2 days confined to barracks – but his character was noted as very good which probably reduced the sentence! In late 1916 he appeared in front of No 2 Medical Board as a result of complications arising from a TAB injection and was graded C1 and in early 1917 he appeared in front of an invaliding board which regraded him B1. He was awarded a TF bounty of £15 in April 1917 but was in hospital in early June, again suffering from dyspepsia, and being discharged to the RAMC Depot in Blackpool. He was transferred to the Royal Warwicks on 3 July but transferred back to the RAMC on 16 July. A further medical board graded him A (able to march, see to shoot, hear well and stand active service conditions) on 16 August. There is a note on his medical record that states “no sign of a gastric ulcer”.

On 22 October 1917, he embarked at Southampton for Le Havre with the 74 Reinforcements Party and on 26 October joined the Cyclist Base Depot. On 11 November he was posted to 6 Stationary Hospital at Frevent, north of Doullons, where he remained until 10 March 1919. He was an in-patient with influenza from 3 to 24 January 1919. After the Armistice, he was in UK on leave from 9 - 23 December 1918

In March 1919 he was posted to 59 Fd Amb in the field, which was running down to a cadre. On 19 April he had 7 days local leave in France and returned to Devonport on 28 June with the remaining members of the unit.

He was disembodied from the Army on 3 July 1919 but continued to serve with the Territorial Force as a disembodied soldier until 31 March 1920 when he was discharged to 26 Abbotts Ann after 8.11 years service. On discharge he did not claim to be suffering from any disability resulting from army service, in spite of his medical record, although his discharge medical grade was B1. He achieved no specialist military qualification.

He was entitled to the 1914 Star, and the British War and Allied Victory Medals and was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal on 19 July 1923.

Thomas Edward Whatley died on 5 January 1973 aged 79 years and is buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Abbotts Ann. His service to his country is commemorated on the memorial panel inside the War Memorial Hall, Abbotts Ann.

Mike Cooper



486020 PRIVATE THOMAS EDWARD WHATLEY
ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Thomas Edward Whatley was born in Wonston near Sutton Scotney in 1894, the second son of William George Whatley, a shepherd, and his wife Alice Maude. It was a large family; Thomas had an elder brother, two younger brothers and three younger sisters. The 1911 Census return shows the family living on the Monxton Road in Abbots Ann and Thomas' employment is shown as a carter on a farm.

In 1912, Roland Parfitt (23 Duck Street) and Thomas Whatley were both iron moulders at Taskers in Anna Valley. Friends often joined the Territorial Force (TF) together as it was considered quite a social club and, on 22 March 1912, Thomas attested into the Territorial Force for 4 years at an apparent age of 18.11 years, having been declared fit for service the previous week. His address on attestation is shown as Farwell Farm, Abbots Ann. He followed Parfitt into 3 (Wessex) Field Ambulance (Fd Amb), B Section of which was based in the Drill Hall, East Street, Andover and where other Abbots Ann men were already serving. They probably all attended the unit's annual camp at Bulford from 6 to 13 Jul 12.

A field ambulance was a mobile front line medical unit. Three were allocated to each division and each had special responsibility for the care of casualties from one brigade in the division, usually taking the number of that brigade. B Section was responsible for providing orderlies, stretcher bearers and general duty men.

On the declaration of war on 4 August 1914, once the Army Reserve had been called out for permanent service, instructions were issued to embody the Territorial Force for full time service. For Whatley and those of his friends who had taken the Imperial Service obligation to serve overseas, this involved a change of unit name to 26 Fd Amb, which was under command of 8th Division, formed in England during October 1914. The Division embarked for France from Southampton in early November 1914, a badly-needed reinforcement to the BEF. Whatley arrived in Le Havre on 6 November, although not before he had been in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley from 13 to 20 October 1914 suffering from dyspepsia.

26 Fd Amb would have supported the Division's operations at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915.



Tale Bearer

We cannot but have been deeply disturbed by the events in Paris in January when seventeen people - journalists, police officers and civilians - were killed at the offices of a satirical magazine and a Jewish supermarket by three (perhaps four) terrorists. Uncountable numbers of people then came out onto the streets of Paris and other cities across France to demonstrate their grief, anger and defiance. It was partly sparked it appears, by the work of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* whose anti-establishment cartoons caused deep offence to many of its targets. One of the phrases in its defence that were doing the rounds was that of Voltaire (to whom it is attributed) who said, '*I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.*' Or, in *Charlie Hebdo's* case, draw it. In other words, for Voltaire it appears there is no limit to freedom of expression. Indeed, in many of the news reports, this freedom was described as a defining characteristic of Western European democracy. The slogan '*Je Suis Charlie*' became a slogan for the crowds: I can say what I like.

Well, we know what they mean but is it true? When is causing offence wrong? Curiously, as Tariz Ramadan (professor of contemporary Islamic Studies at Oxford University) pointed out in the Guardian, a cartoonist at *Charlie Hebdo* was sacked in 2008 for making a joke about a 'Jewish link to President Sarkozy's son.' So even this magazine recognised there were limits. But who makes them? Who regulates these limits? Who is the arbiter of taste?

The Jewish community in France, have lived in fear for many years. I recall once visiting a Jewish synagogue in France as the guest of the friendly Rabbi and remember how you had to pass through an unnerving security cordon of heavily armed police to enter the building. It was the occasion of a boy's bar mitzvah and his first reading of a text in public in Hebrew. I do not recall what this text was but lets perhaps imagine it was about slander. Jewish tradition forbids slander and gossip. 'You must not carry false rumours' [Exod. 22] it is recorded and 'You shall not go about as a tale bearer among your people' [Lev. 19.16] One of their great medieval teachers, Rabbi Moses Maimonides, who lived in times of persecution, marginalisation and stigmatisation of the Jewish community, said: 'Who is a tale bearer? Anyone who takes stories and goes around from one person to another saying things like, "So-and-so said this" or "Such-and-such a statement I have heard about so-and-so." Even if what he says or repeats be true, the tale-bearer destroys

the world! It is all the evil tongue whether it be in the victim's presence or in his absence; anyone who says anything which, if repeated, might damage another physically or financially, distress him or upset him, is guilty of evil speech.'

A Jew believes that words (and we might add images) are very powerful things, to be used with great care: they can destroy as much as create a world. Such a thing exists as 'evil speech'. The Rabbi's record a story about a slanderer. It is said that a man tried to slander Rabbi Yitzhak in every way possible. It was a terrible situation and the Rabbi asked the man to come and see him and meet him on his own. "Why," he asked, "do you gossip and lie, laying yourself open to being called a liar? Let me tell you everything bad about myself. Then when you leave here and proclaim that to the world, no argument against you will hold water." This is not perhaps the best way you might imagine that you could respond to slander - as free expression can become. If you are going to slander me, the Rabbi seems to be saying, get your facts right! The Rabbi was - marvellously - less concerned for his own reputation than what the behaviour of the man was doing to his own soul - sometimes called in the Jewish tradition, 'the evil urge'. He knew it would be hard for this man to stop and his addictive urge could only be dealt with patiently and deliberately. Being honest about lying however, was a good place to begin.

© David Broad. Rector. February 2015

From The Registers

Rest in Peace

Doreen Margaret Quarrier whose Funeral took place at Salisbury Crematorium on 23rd December.

Frederick John Thompson whose funeral took place at St Mary's on 12th January.

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

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:

30 Jan - 12 Feb

13 Feb - 26 Feb

27 Feb - 12 Mar

13 Mar - 26 Mar

27 Mar - 12 Apr

Flowers:

Lent

Lent

Lent

Easter

Dusting:

Sheila Robinson

Pat Balam

Margaret Brooks

Audrey Cresswell

Jill Tayler

his report and recommendations. This is not likely to be published until the middle of the year.

What does this mean for Abbotts Ann?

The Inspector may recommend no changes to the plan in relation to the gap. Alternatively he may decide that the identification of gaps is not consistent with the new national planning policy. A third possibility is that he may conclude that the identification of gaps is consistent with national policy but that some or all of the gaps could be smaller and still prevent the coalescence of settlements.

It would also be open to the Inspector to recommend that land at Little Park be designated for major housing development. It seems safe to assume that this would count as a major modification to the plan which would be referred to further public consultation.

We cannot predict what the Inspector's recommendations will be. We will keep you informed.

Note that copies of written representations prepared by Abbotts Ann Action on behalf of the Parish Council can be seen on the Abbotts Ann web-site (abbottsann.com)

For further information contact:

Ray Lucas 710037

John Moon 710123

John Patience 710001

Abbotts Ann Action

YOU ARE INVITED....

**Abbotts Ann Green Action
Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 7.30
War Memorial Hall**

A CHANCE TO...

**Hear the latest on our Community Energy Project
Watch a short and informative film about another vil-
lage's success with community energy
Elect officers and committee for the coming year
Share drinks, nibbles, and conversation**

**PLEASE BOOK THE DATE AND COME
AND JOIN US....**

THE TEST VALLEY BOROUGH REVISED LOCAL PLAN

Report by Abbotts Ann Action



Background

Most of you will be aware that Test Valley Borough Council has been reviewing its local plan for the borough. For Abbotts Ann, this sparked concerns for the future of the local gap between the village and Andover and the threat of major development within the gap, arising from pressure to allocate more land for housing development. The gap has been seen by Abbotts Ann Parish Council as vital to the setting of the village and essential to ensure that it does not become engulfed in an urban extension of Andover. We were pleased to find that the revised plan that was put out for consultation continued the policy of siting major development to the east of Andover and retained the Abbotts Ann local gap along with others around the town. We were, however, alarmed at the volume of housing planned for the Borough and the pressure that is bound to put on land around Andover. We noted that the land owner of most of Little Park with the support of Andover College (which as a result of its links with Sparsholt College stands to benefit financially if Little Park is developed) had again put forward a “master plan” for 2000 houses in Little Park.

Many of you made representations at our request in response to the public consultation at the beginning of 2014. Abbotts Ann Action also prepared representations on behalf of the Parish Council, both regarding the calculation of the housing numbers and in support of the gap.

The Local Plan Process

Following the public consultation, the revised local plan was submitted to central government for approval last July. Before the plan can be approved it is subject to rigorous examination by a Planning Inspector, who can make recommendations for change, before it is finally adopted.

This examination has been going on since the plan was submitted and a series of public hearings have taken place since just before Christmas. On 6th January, there was a hearing which considered the need for local gaps generally, the extent of those gaps and whether or not the creation of such gaps was consistent with the new national planning policy. At this hearing the Parish Council was represented by John Patience with support from John Moon and Ray Lucas (all of Abbotts Ann Action). They were able to make a number of points in support of gap policy and the Abbotts Ann - Andover gap in particular. Councillor Graham Stallard also attended the hearing to provide support. The Group had, on behalf of the Parish Council, also prepared written representations to the Inspector.

Once the Inspector has obtained all the information he needs, he will prepare

SUMMARY OF THE TALK GIVEN BY ANDY RHIND-TUTT OF THE AMESBURY MUSEUM TO ABBOTTS ANN WI, 27TH NOVEMBER 2014

Andy is the founder of the Amesbury Museum. He was Mayor of Amesbury for the year 2011-2012. This was a very busy year for Andy, the Church Hall in which Amesbury Museum is now housed, was purchased, the Olympics were being staged and the Queen’s Jubilee was being celebrated. Andy is passionate about history and was very excited when a dig was commenced at a spring (Blick Mead site) in the grounds of Amesbury Nursing Home, formerly Amesbury Abbey. To kick start interest among Members, Andy passed around a disc of bluestone, the same stone that Stonehenge is made from. Bluestone is not available to purchase and Andy said that its current value is £1 per gram thus giving the disc a value of £2,000. The stone is incredibly heavy and is also slightly magnetic. Could the ancient ones have believed that magnetised stone has health giving properties, just as modern man wears magnetic bangles?

Andy started the talk with the question “Why was Stonehenge built in the location that it is?” The research on the Blick Mead site was originated by David Jacques (nephew of Hattie Jacques). David was originally interested in Vespasian’s Camp which stands above Amesbury Abbey. He had a hunch that the river network in the immediate area had a relevance to the location of Stonehenge and he started excavating in 2008. Other members of the archaeological fraternity thought it was a waste of time as the land surrounding Amesbury Abbey had, over many years, been dug up and various gardens had been created thus destroying any interesting remains. However, David Jacques continued with his investigations and initially excavated down through 5 feet of topsoil to locate what he thought was a bedrock of chalk. Despite predictions that nothing would be found under the chalk he continued to dig and found a discarded crisp packet from the upgrading of the A303 in the 1960s. This proved that further, deeper excavation was required.

Up to 2011 finds of flint tools in the Stonehenge area amounted to 50. A trench was dug at Blick Mead in July 2011, now referred to as Trench 19, measuring approximately 4m x 2m. During one weekend in July 2011 excavators found 10,000 flint tools in this one small trench. It is difficult to date a stone object but the experts can approximately date them by the style of the tool. What they needed to find was bone, which can be carbon dated far more accurately. And lo and behold, a piece of aurochs bone was discovered. Andy produced the actual bone that was found and Members were able to examine it although it had to stay inside its plastic bag. An aurochs, now extinct, was a member of the cow family but could grow to the size of an elephant. The bone was sent for carbon dating, at a cost of £350, and was found to be 4,700BC, 2,000 years older than Stonehenge. Not only that, the bone had been boiled for at least 9 hours. A possible reason for this might have been to produce glue to adhere flint arrow heads to shafts. Then

arrowheads were discovered! So, there was now proof of human habitation many years before Stonehenge.

If the bone had been boiled, then there was the possibility of finding evidence of a fire. More excavating and pieces of fire damaged stone were discovered. Again, Andy was able to pass actual pieces of the fire damage stone around to Members.

The vast amount of finds was puzzling but if one thinks of water holes and springs in modern times, they are often the recipients of coins thrown in for luck. It seems that this principle goes back to the beginnings of the human race either for luck or to appease the “gods”. The initial trench is at the bottom of the spring basin and so this theory makes sense. More items were found including a tooth of an aurochs which was dated to 6,250BC – even older! The BBC became interested and by luck, whilst filming, two boar’s teeth were found and these were carbon dated to 7,596BC. The site was now confirmed as being inhabited by humans for 9,600 years, so becoming the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in Britain. The initial finds of 10,000 flint tools has now increased to 31,000, obtained from three trenches no bigger in total than the size of a football goal. Further excavation has unearthed bones from salmon, trout, yellow necked mouse, hare and frogs legs, more proof of human habitation and proof that the British were eating frogs legs before the French!

Lithics Expert (flint and stone tools expert) Barry Bishop has examined the finds and among them found a blade from what might have been a “carving knife” type of tool, originally with a handle and pronounced it to be from the Upper Palaeolithic or Late Stone Age period, thus making it 14,000 years old.

Andy passed around a couple of winter photos of the spring and asked Members if they noticed anything unusual about the photos bearing in mind that they were taken on a January day when the air temperature was -10°C. The photos were taken in the depths of winter when there was snow on the ground and initially the pictures looked as though they were black and white, not colour. But as Andy pointed out, blades of green grass were showing on the banks of the spring. The spring is thermal and the water has a constant temperature of between 10°C and 14°C and in October 2013 a temperature of 17°C was recorded.

Going back to the era of first habitation, 7,000BC, Britain was still joined to the Continent and the land was still being subjected to the effects of the last Ice Age. In view of this a thermal spring which would provide warm water would be a strong attraction to both humans and animals. This is a very plausible reason for the beginnings of the settlement. The spring contains stones which when removed from the water then turn pink. This “magical” phenomenon might have persuaded ancient peoples that the spring had magical qualities. In fact, it is the presence of algae that turns the stones pink.

(Perhaps I should have moved higher up the rock!)

A little known fact about Hong Kong is how much open country there is (or was). At week ends I could walk out at the back of our flat and follow paths which led up the side of the rock through shrubby country with sometimes marvellous views. In the hillsides there were little shrines with offerings to local deities. I could walk for hours without seeing anybody. There is a rare animal lives in this habitat - the barking deer – a very small member of the species. I always hoped to see one, but never did! On Sundays we would take friends or visiting family members, to Lantau Island and walk on a country road for an hour to get to a tiny village with a superb French restaurant, run by a Vietnamese. Boating was a popular sport of course, and some companies owned Junks and gave Sunday parties on board: most uncomfortable, sick inducing vessels!

An awful lot of Hong Kong life in those days was “showing off” – enormous flats filled with luxurious carpets, valuable pictures or Japanese style gardens! Expensive motor cars in which you could only travel up and down the rock! Race horses – racing was a popular sport with the Chinese too. There was a great deal of rivalry and exhibitionism. Probably the top possession was “the Queen Mary” which lay in the harbour. It was fun to watch from the sidelines.

Jill and I went with our children on the first general tour allowed in China. There had of course, been many specialist groups visiting particular places studying particular subjects, but this was the first purely tourist group. We went by train to Canton (Guangzhou) and there had the most lavish Chinese feast. We went to the Zoo to see the Giant Pandas and standing back for a moment, looking around me I suddenly realised that none of the Chinese were looking at the Pandas –they were looking at our daughter! They had never seen a blonde girl before!

Jill was so enthralled with China that she wanted us to buy a house in what was then empty Shenzhen. I wish we had. It is now all skyscrapers!

My assignment was only to start the bank, get it going and hand it over to a suitable young Texan in due course. Sadly for me after eighteen months I had to hand over to a charming cultivated young man who took over and developed the bank most successfully. And then my employers asked me if I would be prepared to go and represent them in Japan. Of course I would!

AL/19/12

**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**

HONG KONG

It came as a bolt from the blue – the invitation to go and start a bank in Hong Kong! By that time I had pretty well resigned myself to living and working in the rather grimy London banking business in a bankrupt Britain run by a consultancy team from the International Monetary Fund (like any incompetent third world country!). It was the culmination of the ‘sick man of Europe’ period – a depressing prospect. But then this offer came and once again adventure beckoned! Jill was just as keen as I was. The children were old enough to look after themselves. We sold our house in Kensington and bought a house in Wandsworth as a base and a place for the children to live. We packed up our bags and off we went!

Starting banks was something I knew how to do. I had done it all over East and Central Africa nearly 20 years before. The technical aspects presented no difficulties; but it was the Far East, China, a new world to us. The Hong Kong Chinese are well educated, naturally quick minded, good humoured, superstitious, delightful people. Starting a bank in Hong Kong was like playing a fine piano as compared to banging jungle drums in Africa! Hong Kong business was an entrepot for goods going into and out of China and as a centre for ship owning and chartering. There was plenty of business to finance and deposits could be obtained from the money market, flush with international funds

The residential and business districts of Hong Kong in those days were on Victoria Island, a great rock standing in the centre of the harbour. The Colony comprised a slice of the mainland, a large island, Lantau, now the airport and highly developed, then empty, and many small islands of fishing villages. The smartest place to live was on ‘the Peak’ – the very top of the rock. It was there that the head of Jardine Mathieson and the head of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation lived, with degrading status as one descended the rock! We rented a small modern flat in ‘mid-levels’ suitable to our station! At the bottom of the rock were all the offices and markets.

Jill felt strangely at home in Hong Kong. Her ancestors had been traders in China and her Scottish ‘sixth sense’ told her that it was ‘home’. She learned patchwork quilting (the American style) and this led to her becoming later an original and well known quilter! Her talent for entertaining was also fulfilled, because Hong Kong had become a stopping-over point for businessmen and diplomats. One such visitor was a director of my bank, a Texas businessman and politician called George W Bush Senior. He was President Nixon’s delegate to China to open a dialogue with the Chinese leadership. Mr Bush came through Hong Kong several times and he commented: “Mrs Liddell certainly knows how to lay on a banquet”. He was a man of high intelligence and charm. He lent our bank a bit of status too.

Andy then touched on Amesbury’s association with Queen Eleanor of Provence. Queen Eleanor was French and the wife of Henry III. She was intensely disliked in London and collected taxes and fines from the citizens without giving anything back. The nursery rhyme “London Bridge is Falling Down” comes from the fact that monies submitted by the citizens for the upkeep of London Bridge were retained by Queen Eleanor. Following the death of her grandson whilst in her charge, Eleanor retreated to Amesbury Abbey where she became a nun. She was, however, loved by the people of Amesbury and was buried in the Abbey Church although her exact whereabouts is unknown. She is the only Queen of England whose burial place is unknown.

Because of the Royal connection – Queen Eleanor is our Queen’s 22 x great grandmother – Andy has kept the Queen updated with the investigation work being carried out at Blick Mead. During his period of office as Mayor of Amesbury, Andy was fortunate enough to be asked to host a display tent at Salisbury Cathedral on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth’s Jubilee visit. Andy was told that the Queen would visit 3 tents out of a possible 29 on the day and if he was lucky enough to be chosen he would be allowed 2 minutes to speak with the Queen. Andy had selected a number of flint tools displayed in a presentation case to give to the Queen. However, he was then told that it was against protocol for the Queen to accept any unsolicited gifts. On the day the Queen’s car stopped right beside the Amesbury tent. Not only did she visit the Amesbury tent but she spoke with Andy for 9 minutes, an extension of 7 minutes on what had been scheduled! The Queen asked about the Presentation Case of flints and when Andy informed her that it had been created as a gift for her, against protocol she accepted the gift. Her equerry then had to carry the case for the remainder of her visit.

Andy concluded the talk with the devastating news that the Government is about to announce the building of a tunnel to take the A303 underground for the distance it passes Stonehenge. The tunnel is destined to cut straight through the Blick Mead site of national importance. Needless to say, there will be many and vocal objections from the archaeological fraternity.

Aileen Catterson

CHILDREN’S SOCIETY ANNUAL BOX OPENING - 13TH MARCH 2015

Having succumbed to Helen Stuart’s very gentle arm twisting, the counting of boxes, chatting and imbibing of coffee will be held this year at 9, Catherine’s Walk, Abbotts Ann (thanks to Dee and Colin) from 10.30 onwards. (Mighty shoes to fill but I shall do my best – along with support from my lovely village friends.)

If you would like to have a home box or just know a little more please contact me katie.bennett@tiscali.co.uk

Kate Bennett- 712028

LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - DECEMBER 2014

Finally this month the colder weather arrives and the hedgerows shed their remaining leaves. The Tribe can now wave to walkers through the bare trees! On crisp, clear winter days the air feels clean - the Tribe love it, but they also continue to dream of a white Christmas. They remember the December of 2010 very well - the Littlest was just weeks old and we had proper snow at Christmas. This will obviously remain a highlight of their childhood forever, but it doesn't really get more magical than that for any of us! However, considering it was the coldest December in over 100 years, it will possibly remain a once in a lifetime occurrence for all of us. Our lead up to the school holidays this year turn our home into a bit of a sick bay as at least one, if not all, of the Tribe are unwell for part or all of the final school week. The Eldest even misses singing in the choir at Salisbury Cathedral so she really is feeling pretty rotten. At least they are all fixed for their time off.

Over the holidays there are a couple of days when the night skies are totally clear and the temperature drops rapidly causing a hoar frost that creates a stunningly beautiful landscape the following day. Hoar frost forms when tiny needle-like ice crystals form on any object that has been chilled below freezing point by radiation cooling. The object itself becomes colder than the surrounding air. The air has to be damp enough initially so that as it cools it reaches saturation and then any further cooling causes condensation to occur. Without sufficient moisture, hoar frost will not form. The first morning that we awake to this enchanting sight there is great excitement and I find the Tribe throwing coats on over their onesies, pulling wellies on and grabbing phones and cameras to make sure they don't forget how the garden and fields were turned into a marvellous mythical world. Spiders' webs have become 'iced' overnight and their intricate designs can now be studied in great detail - they are extraordinary. Tiny shoots of ice defy gravity as they point up to the heavens from every piece of vegetation. No colour exists; there is just white. The Littlest thinks that we've just landed in Arendelle - the location for Disney's blockbuster movie, Frozen. She's happy.

Whilst the temperatures are hovering around freezing, the Tribe decide to do a bit of an experiment by making an ice balloon. They put a couple of drops of food colouring into their balloon before filling it with water and then leave it outside to freeze. The following morning - it's frozen! They carefully cut the balloon away and we are left with a large red ice ball that they then watch melting over the next week. Next time the temperature is low, we will no doubt have a multi-coloured pile of ice balls!

One bizarre thing that we've noticed this year, is the number of flies that have appeared in the house - in December? I thought that they were house flies, but no, it seems that they are 'face flies' that have come inside to hibernate after a summer spent around cattle. The name apparently comes from the fact that they crawl over the faces of cattle and horses, feeding on their mucus and tears. Too much information perhaps.



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

At this month's meeting Trisha Lewis took us down memory lane with the aid of music, illustrations and memorabilia as she reminded us of Christmases past. She sang, encouraging us to join in with the familiar tunes, and showed us various objects she had collected along the years. We were transported back to our childhoods as we recognised items we had made courtesy of Blue Peter Annuals, Cindy doll outfits (some of us still have them!) that we saved up for so carefully and Cussons gift packs. We laughed as we heard a re-enactment of a favourite Joyce Grenfell sketch - a most delightful evening.

Inevitably we followed that with a seasonal buffet and enjoyed catching up with each other's plans for the festive season.

Our Supper Club had also enjoyed a festive get-together at the Boot in Houghton, delicious food, good wine and great company ensured a delightful evening.

Our coffee mornings throughout the year had collected a total of £70 which will go to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance - our chosen charity of 2014 - along with the collection taken in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other. We had also emptied the competition box (yes - there are fines for non-entry) and £25.50 will be sent to the Countess of Brecknock Hospice in Andover.

2015 will be a busy year for all Women's Institutes as it is a 100 years since the founding of the first WI in the UK. Amongst the many celebratory projects and events, is the continuing journey of the specially designed Centenary Baton, having begun its travels in January 2014 in Anglesey, the location of that first meeting in 1915. By the time it reaches the Royal Albert Hall for the NFWI Annual Meeting in June 2015 it will have travelled the length and breadth of the UK visiting all 69 Federations in England, Wales and the Islands, passing through our corner of Hampshire in January.

Here in Abbots Ann our institute will not celebrate its own centenary until 2017 - only the second Institute to be formed in Hampshire. So if you would like to be part of the continuing development of this fabulous organisation, which encourages the links of friendship and community then please do pluck up the courage to attend one of our meetings. More information, including our Programme, can be found on www.abbottsann.com - look under the tab Clubs & Societies for Abbots Ann W.I.

We will continue with the theme of Memories for our meeting on 26th February

Sharon King



A Floral Coffee Morning
10.30am
 Thursday 19th February
 Catherine's Walk, Abbotts Ann.



Cakes & Biscuits for Sale. Raffle and more!!
 To raise funds towards the wonderful
 floral displays in St. Mary's Church during
 Abbotts Ann Open Gardens - 14th June, 2015.

Boxing Day sees us return for our annual beach walk, although not quite as warm as in the last few years. In fact, due to the weather, our walk this year is somewhat curtailed. We head to Mudeford and cross the harbour using the passenger ferry - it is blowing a gale and bitterly cold, but everyone is in high spirits. The Beach House is warm and welcoming. Somehow, we end up staying longer than we thought and as we leave, the skies are almost black. We head back to the jetty to catch the last ferry back, but we soon discover that due to the poor weather, the ferryman has pulled down the flag and has headed home. We return to the closed cafe where the manager makes a few phone calls and the ferryman agrees to return from Christchurch to pick us up. The Christmas spirit is plentiful and he doesn't even charge us! Standing almost at the end of the sand spit of Hengistbury Head, being buffeted by the wild weather, it is hard to imagine the balmy 'summer's day' that we'd spent here less than two months ago. I hang onto the Littlest's hand, although it isn't long before she climbs into my arms and bury's her face in my neck.

New Year's Eve is soon on us and is spent with friends, with us all looking forward to a happy, healthy and peaceful 2015.

Mother of the Tribe - www.lifewiththetribes.com

CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE

The severe weather curtailed our caroling this Christmas so we were extremely pleased to have raised £265.33 for St Mary's church. The PCC is grateful to everyone who turned out to sing or seek donations, to Alex Paffett for her delicious hospitality and to Nigel and Liz Tout who would have fed us on the second night had we not been defeated by rain. Thank you all, very much.

Tim Tayler (tel: 710201)

100 CLUB

JANUARY DRAW WINNERS

First Prize £50 : Mr D Downey
Second Prize £30 : Mrs R Lawrence-Bristol
Third Prize £20 : AA Women's Institute



Lucy Urquhart

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

Andover Food Bank has asked me to pass on thanks to all the villagers who have contributed to the substantial amount of food donated in the village shop since this collection began. This has enabled the food bank to provide emergency food supplies to the increasing number of local families in need.

For those who are not already aware of it, the collection point is just inside the shop door, together with a list of suggested items to donate. Non-perishable food is required and also toiletries and cleaning materials.

Buying an item in the village shop from time to time to donate to the food bank also helps support the shop.

Julie Moon, shop volunteer



ABBOTTS ANN BUSES

Most villagers will be aware by now of the new, and much reduced, bus timetables introduced in January. It was inevitable that our highly subsidised, and little-used, services would be reduced in view of the County Council's need to save money, following swingeing cuts in funding from central government. However, this has been done in such a way as to preclude both early-morning journeys to school/work and also most return journeys: there is now only one possible return journey to Andover on weekdays, leaving at 10:26 and returning at 12:00, which leaves little time for shopping etc. The 77 service to Stockbridge and Winchester has been discontinued; one-way journeys to these destinations are possible via Andover, but it is impossible to return the same day!

Representations are being made in an attempt to rationalise the timetable. In the meantime, other options for those without cars include the Andover Neighbourcare service (phone 336020 or 339899) and the form on the wall by the door in the village shop, where one can request (and also offer) lifts from the village.

Copies of the new one-page Abbots Ann bus timetable are available to take away in the Abbots Ann Vision Transport folder on the windowsill in the village shop. Full bus and train timetables and information on Salisbury park-and-ride, Neighbourcare services and minibus hire are also available in the folder for reference (but please don't remove them from the shop).

Julie Moon, Abbots Ann Vision Transport Project

ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

Car Insurance

*You'll get **free Breakdown cover** for the first 12 months.*

Key benefits:

- **24-hour claims line:** fast, friendly, expert service when you need it
- **Immediate cover:** get a quote and be insured within minutes
- **Free Breakdown cover for under 50's:** for 12 months

Post Office® Car Insurance is arranged and administered by BISL Limited

With a Post Office® car insurance policy you can receive all of these great benefits

- **Courtesy car** to keep you on the road (subject to availability)
- **Cover against vandalism** and malicious damage, as long as you notify the police within 48 hours
- **Windscreen repairs** when you call our Glass Helpline
- **Overseas cover** for European trips for up to 60 days for any trip you take within the European Union

You get free Breakdown cover for your first year when you sign up to our car insurance, but you can also upgrade and add **RAC At Home**. Use RAC Roadside Assistance within a quarter of a mile from home or where you normally keep your car. and **Onward Travel**. If we can't fix your car locally, you'll be offered replacement car hire, alternative transport costs or hotel accommodation. to your policy.

The Guaranteed Replacement Car service is ideal if your car is stolen or can't be driven. We will provide you with a replacement vehicle for 14 or 28 days.

Breakdown cover is provided by RAC Motoring Services.

February Special Stamps

Royal Mail will honour prominent key British inventions with the *Inventive Britain* issue in February. Included in the set is a stamp to mark the invention of the World Wide Web by Tim Berners-Lee.

Maureen Flood



ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

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

How nice that the days are lengthening and the gloom of winter is passing. The snowdrops in the churchyard are looking wonderful and the primroses starting to appear - Spring must be on the horizon.

With Spring comes Valentines Day, 14th February. So come on chaps, and ladies too, pop into the Shop and view our selection of cards and chocolates.

Pancake Race

Don't forget Pancake Day. This year it falls on Tuesday 17th February. Come along to the Shop at about 10.30 am and join in the fun. Bring a pan for the short race to The Eagle and back (pancakes supplied). Then buy your own ingredients/ ready mix, including a fresh lemon. Let's try and make this a Village fun event.

Spring Cleaning

When Spring is in the air the thoughts (of some) start turning to spring cleaning. Remember, we are agents for Ben's Cleaners; both laundry and cleaning – collections twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays.

Vegetable Shelf and New Cupboard

Nick Young has made a lovely shelf for vegetables. It is to be found outside the front of the Shop (weather permitting). He has also made a very smart cupboard for our range of tobacco products (by law they must not be on view). So, Yes we do sell cigarettes and tobacco, but you need to ask for them.

Thank you Nick for your handy work.

HELP

Our Sunday volunteer schedule is looking rather empty. Can you help out? Please pop into the Shop and see what dates need volunteers.

**See you on Pancake Day
and look out for a notice about a Wine Tasting.**

Elizabeth Howard - Shop Volunteer & Committee Member

ABBOTTS ANN BUSES

To Andover	From Andover	To Salisbury	From Salisbury
87	87	87	87
Mon – Fri			
	1000		0933
1026	1200	1018	1127
1226		1218	1327
1446			
Saturday			
	1000		0933
1026	1200	1018	1127
1226		1218	1327
1426			1535
1626	1645	1659	

Service 77 has been discontinued. It is no longer possible to make a return journey to Stockbridge or Winchester.

For more information, see the Transport folder on the windowsill in the village shop, visit the Wheelers website www.wheelerstravel.co.uk, phone Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or use smartphone app NextBuses.mobi

Julie Moon, Abbots Ann Vision Transport Project

ABBOTTS ANN FETE 2015

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

Anne Emerson - Fete Secretary



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



Now that the evenings are beginning to get lighter the female cats will be coming into season and in a couple of months' time we shall have yet another kitten explosion. The idea that a cat should be allowed at least one litter of kittens is a fallacy. Please show this to anyone that you know who has an entire cat. We will help with the costs of neutering where necessary.

Don't forget to visit the Charity shop in Whitchurch which we will be occupying for three weeks in February.

Fern,

Last month's cat has found a new home. This month we are featuring Barnaby. He is a gorgeous large, sandy, tabby cat, about three years old, who was found straying. This is a picture of him relaxing in the sun. He does a lot of relaxing and is looking forward to finding a new forever home.



Martin Bevan

Harlequins Concert

St Mary's Church Abbott Ann
 looks forward to hosting you
 at
 an evening of Light hearted music (with Supper)
 by
The Harlequins
 on
 Saturday 28th March at 7.30 pm.
 In Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall

COUNTRYMAN'S CORNER

JANUARY 2015

Apologies! This issue's "Corner" section
 Will only need a cursory inspection.
 Due not to editorial rejection,
 But to a virus, bulging with infection,
 That's brought the author down into subjection.

The symptoms? You'll remember this selection:
 The mirror showing greenish-grey complexion;
 Joints that creak and groan at every flexion;
 Headaches that respond to no correction;
 Sneezes and coughs defying all deflection;
 Zombies imitated to perfection:
 Sweaty nights, and days of deep dejection
 When thoughts dwell more on death than resurrection.

All this can hardly foster introspection
 Or any form of literary reflection,
 Especially any humorous confection.
 So brain, and pen, to mark their disaffection,
 Have gone on strike and lodged a strong objection
 To adding any screeds to their collection
 Until assured of total disinfection.
 Your scribe is faced with open insurrection;
 He can't avoid a temporary defection.

And yes, he did expect the interjection
 "Didn't you heed the NHS direction?"
 Last Autumn, though against his predilection,
 He dutifully had his flu injection.
 The jab, however, failed to give protection.
 Let's hope it's just a short-term disconnection.

Hadrianus Rusticus



Monday 16 February at 7.30pm

The Hundred-Foot Journey

Village Hall, Upper Clatford

Bar - Tickets: £5

For more information, contact: Sylvia Kennedy Tel: 323226