

BENEFICE DIARY - JANUARY 2017

1 Jan	(Sun)	(<u>The Second Sunday of Christmas</u>) - full service details – page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
2 Jan	(Mon)	NO Way Inn Lunch – this is a Bank Holiday.
3 Jan	(Tues)	11.15am Said Service of Morning Prayer in St Peter's Church 7.00pm Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC
4 Jan	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
5 Jan	(Thurs)	10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning 7.00pm Abbotts Ann Parish Council meets in AA Memorial Hall 7.00pm Hand Bell Ringing at 9 Catherine's Walk. 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice St Peter's
8 Jan	(Sun)	(<u>The First Sunday of Epiphany</u>) The Baptism of Christ - page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
9 Jan	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch at St Peter's
10 Jan	(Tues)	11.15am Said Service of Morning Prayer in St Peter's Church 12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
11 Jan	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC 7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall
12 Jan	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Mary's. 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice St Peter's
15 Jan	(Sun)	(<u>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</u>) - full service details – page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann 12.00noon deadline for receipt of copy for the February 2017 Abbotts Ann Magazine editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk
16 Jan	(Mon)	7.00 for 8.00pm UC Memorial Hall. All Saints' Winter Lecture: page 11
17 Jan	(Tues)	10.00am to 11.30am in St Peter's Room – Goodworth Clatford Community Coffee Morning. 11.15am Said Service of Morning Prayer in St Peter's Church 7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI, Members' Annual Dinner in GCVC
18 Jan	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC 7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
19 Jan	(Thurs)	7.00pm Public Meeting at Abbotts Ann School regarding homes in AA 7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Mary's. 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
20 Jan	(Fri)	10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
22 Jan	(Sun)	(<u>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</u>) full service details – page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
24 Jan	(Tues)	11.15am Said Service of Morning Prayer in St Peter's Church
25 Jan	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC 7.45pm Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in UC Memorial Hall.
26 Jan	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Mary's. 7.30pm Abbotts Ann WI meets in Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall. 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
29 Jan	(Sun)	(<u>The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany</u>) The Presentation of Christ - page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
30 Jan	(Mon)	7.00 for 8.00pm UC Memorial Hall. All Saints' Winter Lecture - page 11
31 Jan	(Tues)	7.30pm Film Night at Goodworth Clatford Village Club.- Page 6

St Mary's Church, Abbotts Ann

<u>Priest-in-charge</u>	Revd. Katrina Dykes revdkatrina@gmail.com (Her day off is Friday)	07922 153765
<u>Ministry Team</u>	Revd. Nicky Judd clive@judd47.plus.com Tim Tayler tim.tayler@talk21.com Peter Eastwood peter@eastwood.me.uk	729075 710201 353320
<u>Churchwardens</u>	Gordon Howard 4 St Mary's Meadow, Abbotts Ann gw_eo Howard@btinternet.com	710830
<u>St Mary's</u>	Jane Eastwood John Milne	353320 361206
<u>St Peter's</u>	Eleanor Jakeman Bill Mitford	362502 357675
<u>All Saints'</u>	Details of church officers and activities can also be found on the village website - http://www.abbottsan.com/amenitiesservices/church/	
<u>Choir Practice</u>	Thursdays 7.45pm, St Peter's, Goodworth Clatford	
<u>Bell Ringing practice</u>	Thursdays 7.30-9.00pm, St Mary's, Abbotts Ann Handbells 7.00pm 1st Thursday each month Tower Captain: Dudley Alleway	710646
<u>Secretary</u>	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
<u>Treasurer</u>	Jenny Gorski	364196
<u>Editor</u>	<u>Abbotts Ann Magazine</u> Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbotts Ann editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk	710630
<u>Advertising Manager</u>	Mark Stevens ads@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk	710908

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JANUARY 2017

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

Date:

Saturday 24th December
16.00 Crib Service
16.00 Crib Service
16.00 Crib and Christingle Service
23.30 Midnight Communion
23.30 Midnight Communion
23.30 Midnight Communion

Sunday 25th December

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Christmas Family Service
10.00 Christmas Family Service
10.00 Sung Eucharist

Sunday 1st January

11.00 Benefice Eucharist

Sunday 8th January

08.00 Said Holy Communion
09.30 Eucharist
11.15 Matins

Sunday 15th January

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Eucharist
10.00 Family Service (lay led)
16.00 Evensong

Sunday 22nd January

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Family Eucharist
Baptism Olivia Porter
16.00 Evensong

Sunday 29th January

10.00 Benefice Eucharist

Sunday 5th February

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Eucharist
10.00 Family Service
Baptism Charlie Shorter
18.00 Evensong

St Mary's Duties:

Christmas Eve
St Peter's (Rev Phil Dykes)
St Mary's (David Read)
All Saints' (KD)
St Mary's (KD) Mr/Mrs G Howard
All Saints' (Rev Phil Dykes)
St Peter's (NJ)

Christmas Day

St Peter's (KD)
St Mary's (TT) Ms K Bennett
St Peter's (KD/PE)
All Saints' (NJ)

Naming of Jesus

St Mary's (NJ/PE) Mr/Mrs G Howard

Epiphany

All Saints' (KD)
St Mary's (KD) Mr/Mrs G Howard
St Peter's (PE)

Second Sunday of Epiphany

St Mary's (KD) Mrs P Keene
St Peter's (NJ)
St Mary's (TT) (KD) Mrs S George
All Saints' (Rev Phil Dykes)

Third Sunday of Epiphany

St Mary's (NJ) Miss W Casson
All Saints' (KD)

St Peter's (PE)

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

St Peter's (KD/TT)

Fourth Sunday before Lent

St Peter's (KD)
All Saints' (NJ)
St Peter's (KD)

St Mary'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.

Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall Committee

Time to Renew your Subscription to the All New 100 Club!

Year April 2017 to March 2018



Time to Join the '**100 Club**' you could be one of our lucky monthly winners!

Help support the War Memorial Hall and remember - you have to be in it to win it!!

Please complete the form below and send it with your cheque or cash to the Promoter: Gayle Wilson, Formosa, Cattle Lane, Abbotts Ann, SP11 7DS as soon as possible or before end of April. If it's easier for you, you can also drop it in the Secretary's letter box - Graham Stallard, Rose Cottage, 86 Little Ann SP11 7NW.

Please accept my application for Membership of the Abbotts Ann Memorial Hall Hundred Club. I enclose my £15.00 by Cheque(s) /Cash per subscription

NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS:.....

SURNAME:..... TITLE INITIALS

ADDRESS.....

SIGNED..... DATE.....



Homing Enquiries 0345 2601501 or www.andovercats.org.uk
Fund-raising/volunteers 07733 242196 or coord@andovercats.org.uk
Items for resale 01256-892773

A Happy New Year to everyone from us all at Andover and District Cats Protection. At the time of writing we still have a number of kittens waiting for homes and next month, as the evenings get lighter, the 2017 kittens will begin to appear. We cannot stress enough how important it is to get cats neutered and micro-chipped and avoid sad stories like the one of Betsy below. If you need financial help with neutering please contact us on the 0345 number.



Thank you for all the donations of food that we receive via our bin at Pets at Home. Help like this is much appreciated. We are unable to do much fundraising as we have no-one to organize it. If you think you could help in this respect please contact us. It is a job that involves driving and hands-on involvement and mostly takes place on Saturdays.

Olivia and Jess, last month's cats, found a new home in time for Christmas. Betsy is a young stray who came into care heavily pregnant. Three of her six kittens sadly died and the others have been rehomed but Betsy is still waiting. She is very friendly but as we don't know her background she would be best placed as an only cat.

Martin Bevan

100 CLUB WINNERS CHRISTMAS 2016



CHRISTMAS 2016 DRAW WINNERS

- First Prize £100:** Mrs J Henton
- Second Prize £50:** Noel Wilders-Pratt
- Third Prize £50:** Susan Hancock
- Fourth Prize £25:** Mrs H Whitcomb
- Fifth Prize £25:** Mr K Hillier
- Sixth Prize £25:** Mr C Davis
- Seventh Prize £10:** Mr G Wilson
- Eighth Prize £10:** Mrs T Barkley
- Nineth Prize £10:** Mr J Benson
- Tenth Prize £10:** Mr T Tayler

Lisa Hillier

Dear Friends

Endings and beginnings of years seem to be a time for looking back and reviewing life as well as looking ahead and making resolutions.

2016 like any other year has had its share of good and bad - celebrations, surprises, shocks and sadness. What will you remember 2016 for? The newspapers and TV will remind us of the big events, Brexit, Trump, The Euros and Olympics. Andy Murray won Wimbledon, and is now ranked number one in the world! Tim Peake successfully completed his ISS mission and came back from space. The Queen celebrated her 90th birthday in style! We commemorated those who gave their lives in the Battle of The Somme. David Bowie, Alan Rickman, Peter Vaughan, Leonard Cohen, Victoria Wood, Muhammad Ali, Terry Wogan and Caroline Aherne – probably unknown personally to any of us, but each in their different ways brought so much joy and colour to our lives and are missed.

Events out in the wider world and reported on in the media provide the back drop to our lives, but what about the goings on of your and my life? Unlikely to reach headline news, they are what made up 2016 for each of us.

There are different analogies to life being like a tapestry, a journey or even a box of chocolates. We plan and we prepare to the best of our ability and with the information we have, but we don't always get it right and life has a habit of throwing the occasional curve ball into the mix. For most of us, the experiences of our lives are a mix of positive and negative and the ways we respond, the choices we make and the people who share life with us, all contribute to the person we are and the life that is ours.

I don't understand why some of us seem to have a harder time than others, why some have such difficult burdens to bear or circumstances to endure, while others seem to get off comparatively lightly. However, my Christian faith does tell me that God loved us all so much that he came to be with us. Emmanuel is another name for the babe in the manger and it means 'God with us'. Again and again, we see that Emmanuel did not shy away from those in need, physical, emotional, mental or spiritual, but welcomed them and restored hope. As one of his followers, I try to imitate him in my own limited way. Whether you are church goer or not, I will do my best to help or support you in good times and bad. My contact details are in this magazine.

There is a poem often quoted at this time of the year – famously used by King George VI in his Christmas Day broadcast in 1939. It came at the end of the nine-minute broadcast and I offer them to you at the turn of another year.

*I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
 "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
 And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand
 into the hand of God.
 That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."
 May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all.*

I wish you all peace, health and happiness this New Year.

Katrina

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 Dec - 12 Jan
 13 Jan - 26 Jan
 27 Jan - 9 Feb
 10 Feb - 23 Feb

Flowers:
 Sylvia Burson
 Cathy Seabrook
 Margaret Hind
 Margaret Hind

Dusting:
 Margaret Brooks
 Liz Tout
 Sheila Robinson
 Audrey Cresswell

From The Registers

Holy Matrimony

Holy Matrimony: David Thomas Ward and Katy Winifred Newmarch were married at St Mary's on Saturday 26th November.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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



TOP NZ MOVIE AT ANDOVER FILM CLUB

Andover Film Club's first presentation of the New Year will be at the ODEON on Monday January 9th, when the movie will be "Hunt for the Wilderpeople" (cert 12A).

This New Zealand comedy-drama premiered in January 2016 at the Sundance Film Festival in the US, and has since received widespread critical acclaim. It was directed and written by the multitalented Kiwi filmmaker Taika Waititi, who based the screenplay on a book by his fellow countryman Barry Crump. The story centres around a boy and his foster father who become the targets of a manhunt after they flee into the New Zealand bush. A mix of sadness, comedy and drama result - not to be missed!

The show will start at 8.00pm, and prebooking is available at the Club's website, www.andoverfilmclub.org.

Graham Richardson

ABBOTTS ANN TELEPHONE KIOSK UPDATE

The telephone kiosk has had a winter clean thanks to Liz Dell and we have a group of helpful volunteers ready to give the box a much needed lick of paint.

After closer inspection the kiosk itself does need some repair. The perspex panels in the door have discoloured and need replacing and the door itself needs some tender loving care. The Parish Council are looking into this.

In the meantime, we have had some suggestions for future use of the telephone kiosk. We would now like you to vote, either in the village shop or online (on the website), as to what you would like the telephone kiosk to be used for. The most votes wins; one name one vote.

The following options for use have been suggested;

1. Information point; including village history and local walks.
2. Leave it as it is.
4. To house the defibrillator. (It must be noted that there is already a defibrillator located in The Eagle car park and this would mean relocating and re-installing this in the kiosk at a cost)
5. Library for DVD's and books - on an exchange basis, you take one, you replace it with another.
6. Information point with local groups or societies hosting the kiosk. For example, the WI would 'host' the kiosk for its centenary year next year.

You are able to vote throughout January, in the shop and online with the closing date being the 31st January 2017. The winning suggestion will be announced on the website in February 2017.

Should you have any queries or concerns about the above, please do contact me on 01264 710174 or by email cllr.llhaigh@gmail.com

THE BENEFICE OF ABBOTTS ANN, UPPER CLATFORD AND GOODWORTH CLATFORD

is looking for A CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR/ VICAR'S PA

for 10 hours a week, working from home.

This is a new position and needs someone able to develop the role and set up systems. The person will support the vicar with the administrative aspects of the day-to-day operation of the three churches.

The person will have the following skills:

- 1. Excellent interpersonal skills, empathy with people and able to exercise great discretion.***
- 2. A self starter, but able to work in a team.***
- 3. A high level of IT skills.***
- 4. A good organiser.***

This is an exciting new post and the right person will find great job satisfaction together with the enjoyment of being part of a lively Benefice team.

For more details please contact Revd Katrina Dykes, at revdkatrina@gmail.com or 07922153765

Closing date for applications to be received is 15th January 2017

Note from the Editor

I wish to apologise if this magazine arrives after the beginning of January.

Bulpitts who print the magazine close their offices between Christmas and 2nd January which is why we had an earlier deadline this month. Unfortunately, the deadline came and went while I was totally out of internet connection. Normal service returned today (14th December) and only lasted an hour but at least it was long enough to download 201 emails and I can now begin to put the magazine together. I do not know yet when I will be able to finish the magazine and get it to the printers and whether or not they will now be able to print before their Christmas break is beyond my control.

My apologies also to all those who distribute the magazine as they will be unable to plan the distribution around the village.

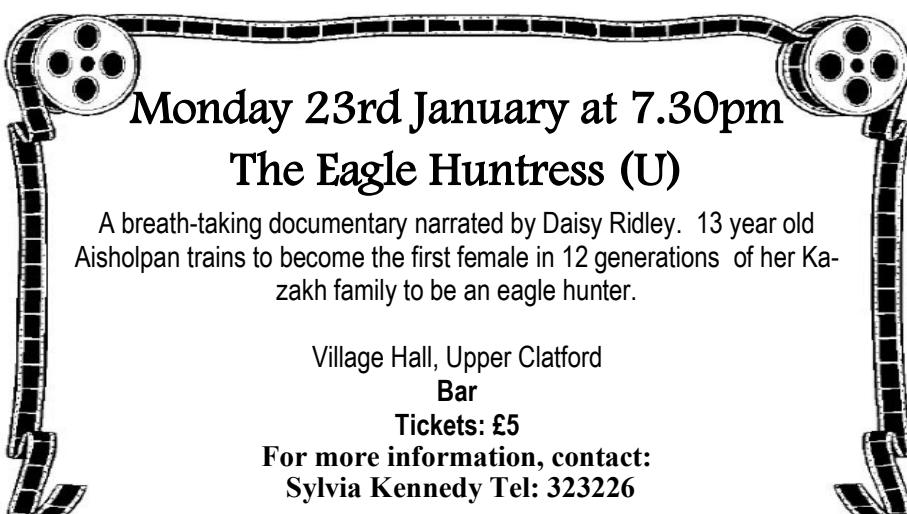
Many thanks to all those in the village who regularly support the magazine.

Andrea Jackson

MORNING PRAYER

There is a said service of Morning Prayer at 11.15am every Tuesday in St Francis Chapel, which is the chapel on the right hand side in St Peter's Church. The service lasts about half an hour. All are very welcome to attend.

Peter Eastwood



Monday 23rd January at 7.30pm
The Eagle Huntress (U)

A breath-taking documentary narrated by Daisy Ridley. 13 year old Aisholpan trains to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to be an eagle hunter.

Village Hall, Upper Clatford Bar
Tickets: £5
For more information, contact:
Sylvia Kennedy Tel: 323226

ABBOTTS ANN WAR MEMORIAL HALL

HIRE CHARGES

Rail travel will be more expensive this year, and just like the rail network, maintenance is never ending at the War Memorial Hall. Unlike rail travel, however, our prices have not increased since 2010 – a six and a half year freeze! The Management Committee, having benchmarked rates at other local halls, has decided on the following increases:-

Main Hall; Village Residents from £8.70 per hour to £9.00; Other Hirers from £14.50 per hour to £15.00

Jubilee Room; Village Residents from £4.35 per hour to £4.50; Other Hirers from £7.20 per hour to £7.50

Regular Hirers will be notified of their new rates separately.

These rates will apply for all new bookings from 1st January 2017; bookings already committed for 2017 will be honoured at the original rate.

The Committee hopes that this “3%” – or less than 0.5% per year over the six years - will not be too onerous for our many users, and that residents will continue to support the Hall with parties and other community events and meetings.

A Happy New Year to all from the Hall Committee!

Graham Stallard - Secretary and Trustee
Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall

THERMAL IMAGING

**Do you have high heating bills
Are you wasting energy?**

AAGA will arrange a thermal imaging survey of your house at the cost of £10 to help you find where you are losing heat without realising it, and where you could save energy.

**Contact: Ann Hopwood tel: 710090
Email: jann.hopwood@gmail.com**

LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - NOVEMBER 2016

The clear autumnal skies continue into November and the landscapes' beauty intensifies as the trees have a last final push of glorious rich colours before succumbing to the deep sleep of winter. One morning as we arrive at school in Ampthill after a sharp frost, the trees lining Furzedown Lane are shedding their leaves like falling snow. As children get out of cars and others walk past the leaf flurries, there is an air of excitement as if it really is snowing! It is a splendid showstopping performance these leaves have provided in their final death dance and is appreciated by adults and children alike; everyone is laughing and smiling as we all try to catch armfuls of leaves. A magnificent final hurrah.

While outside is glorious, inside our home, we have found some uninvited guests. Our bedroom has been invaded by harlequin ladybirds. Originally from eastern Asia, between Japan and Kazakhstan, the harlequin was originally brought into the US in the 1980s and then into Europe having been found to be very successful at eating aphids and other small crop pests. Like many things however, the consequences weren't quite thought through and they arrived in the UK, uninvited, in 2004 and according to scientists, they are the world's 'most invasive ladybird'. As well as having an appetite for crop pests they also have quite a taste for the eggs of butterflies and moths and our own native ladybirds. Each female harlequin can produce between 1000 and 2000 eggs in their lifetime, laying in clutches of 10 to 30 a day. That will lead to a lot of ladybirds. The harlequin is responsible for the decline of at least 7 native ladybirds including the 2-spot ladybird which in 2012, had declined by 44%. I realised that the ladybirds I found in our room were harlequins because of their colouring; a myriad of orange, red, yellow and black with a varying number of black spots, rather than the true pillar box red of our native 7 spot ladybird with its 3 spots on each of their hard outer wings (elytra) and the seventh spot where the elytra, which protects the soft flying wings beneath, meets. As I find these tiny intruders, rather than kill them, I throw them out of the window allowing nature to take its course in whatever way. Having done a quick search online, I found some fantastical tabloid headlines, "alien' bugs carrying STDs", "Invasion of the cannibal ladybird" - so it does seem that we're not alone and this year harlequins have been seen in greater numbers than in previous years. As it can be difficult to distinguish harlequins from native, Helen Roy, an ecologist who runs the UK Ladybird Survey, recommends putting any unwanted ladybirds outside - harlequins tend to hibernate inside while native species tend to hibernate outside in leaf litter.

On the last day of the month we wake to a hard frost and clear skies and as I drive to the station with the Tribe, the temperature is -7!! But without a breath of wind, it is glorious and doesn't feel as cold as when the wind is blowing. We all hope that it will continue for Christmas - much better and certainly prettier, than the wet of 2015. And with the madness of elections across the pond at least we can rely on the beauty of nature, whatever the weather.

HOMES IN ABBOTTS ANN FOR ABBOTTS ANN PEOPLE

In April this year a Housing Needs Survey was delivered to every home in the village. More than one in three of us completed it and returned it – a good result for this kind of survey. Many thanks to those who completed it.

When Action Hampshire analysed the returns, they found that eight out of ten of those who responded said they would like to see a small housing development in Abbotts Ann. Some are in favour of building affordable homes for people who belong to the village but can't afford open market prices. Others support a mixed scheme of affordable homes and small dwellings for people who want to down-size because they are living in homes which have become too large for them.

Now the Abbotts Ann Housing Project Team would like to bring you our ideas for how such a development should be progressed for the benefit both of those needing housing and of the village as a whole

Our Parish Council supports it. Now it's time to tell you all about it and hear your views at a

Public Meeting

at

Abbotts Ann School

on

**Thursday 19th January from 7.00 pm
Presentation at 7.30 pm followed by
question and answer session**

More information from:

Beth Deacon 711041

Ray Lucas 710037

John Patience 710001

David Read 710090

ABBOTTS ANN WI - NOVEMBER 2016

For some of us at this month's meeting it was as if our life was flashing before our very eyes. Our speaker this month was Jill Hannington, who shared her memories of Andover during her childhood in the 1940s and 50s.

Our journey back in time started at Hundred Acre Corner at the top of Weyhill Road travelling into town past Gallagher's butcher's shop, Gill's Café, Burbidge's Bakery and the Linga Longa Café. We crossed over the railway bridge, where we could glimpse the grain silos which were at one time served by their own railway track, subsequently joining the main line in Andover. We saw images of a newly built St Michael and All Angels Church replacing the little Mission Hall, just beyond that was the huge printing works of Kelly's Directories (aka Chapel River Press), one of the largest employers in Andover, in its heyday employing 900 people. The Kelly's Sports and Social Club at times hosted some well-known 'names' and raised substantial amounts of money for charity. One member can recall paying 6d for Ann Sidney's autograph - Miss World in 1964.

We went on to hear how so many lovely old buildings in and around the town were demolished to make way for road widening schemes, dual carriageways, shops and offices. Jill had many photographs of the town centre, explaining all the buildings and reviving many, many memories for those of our Members who have resided in the area for decades - not necessarily back to the 1940s though!

There were photographs of Andover Junction (now the Railway Station), a very important and busy junction serving trains travelling from London to the West Country and Southampton. Jill recalls the circus animals being transported by rail to Andover for the annual Circus held on The Walled Meadow, with the elephants being walked through the town. The original Ticket Office of Andover Station (then in Bridge Street) is now stored at the Railway Museum in York awaiting a suitable place to re-assemble it.

Memories were awakened when Jill mentioned Daisy Dell – not only as a picnic spot, but also a favourite venue for courting couples and the talk finished with a picture of Andover's most famous pop group, The Troggs!

Our first meeting of 2017 is on 26th January when we will have our post-Christmas Dinner. Please note this is an earlier start of 7 pm and is a ticketed event.

Sharon King

displayed. Now that the Parish Council has taken over responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard as well as the burial ground, the boundary is of less practical importance, except to show which is the 'closed' part.

The recent controversy over removing the wildflower meadow from the consecrated burial ground highlights the fact that eventually space must run out in that area altogether. Hence, the importance of maintaining rules to prioritise who will have a right to be buried there. The regulations continue to provide guidelines which normally have to be followed, but the full council can exercise its discretion if there are exceptional circumstances.

Apart from occupancy of the burial ground, and the cost, the group touched on the sensitive matters of decoration and headstone material. Whilst the regulations stipulate only wood and stone can be used for memorials, there is precedent for the use of metal, particularly in the churchyard. There are also supposed to be no ornaments, statues, lights, or plastic on graves!

Certainly, it is desirable to retain the sanctified atmosphere of a traditional English country churchyard, where loved ones can be remembered in quiet contemplation, but surely it is good also for people to enjoy visiting, and to feel close to their departed friends and family in their own way. If this includes leaving a soft toy, or a small religious symbol, or something else meaningful perhaps only to those involved, it seems harsh for those in authority to deny mourners that comfort, provided it is not out of keeping with the spiritual nature of the site and does not impinge on others' right appreciation of it. Perhaps the council will take a pragmatic view and continue to exercise discretion here, too.

The Burial Ground Sub-committee's report was not presented at the December meeting of the full council, owing to some members' heavy commitments (wasn't there a Pantomime or something? 'Oh yes there was!')

Also not discussed at the Parish Council meeting in December was the parliamentary constituency review by the Boundary Commission. This is separate from the Borough and County Council electoral reviews. Many people seem to have been unaware: other parishes have alerted residents to the issues involved, even if it is not strictly a matter of Parish Council concern. One of the reasons behind the rearrangement is to try to ensure that each MP or councillor has a roughly similar number of constituents. Abbotts Ann will no longer be allied with Andover in a constituency called North West Hampshire, but will come under the aegis of Romsey. The closing date for comments was 5th December.

And finally – 'oh yes there was' – the Pantomime: another happy tradition marking the passing village year. *Snow White* was a treat! It is unfair to name individual contributors or cast members, but it was particularly encouraging to see so many children taking part, with such enthusiasm and skill. This bodes well for the future of the Players and the future enjoyment of villagers!

Happy New Year!

Rosemary Groves

VIEW FROM THE REAR STALLS

The period between press deadline and publication, especially when spread over a holiday, can sometimes lead to news becoming out of date.

At the end of November, a cloud of arboreal dismay drifted over the dryads in the village, as a boisterously healthy sycamore was humiliatingly compared to a weed, and apparently condemned to the axe; the Parish Council raising 'no objection'. Imagine the chirpiness in its branches when not only was it suddenly and unexpectedly reprieved by TVBC, but also protected for the future by their arboricultural officers imposing a tree preservation order! The tulips may feel a little over-shadowed, but the birds can still practise their spring song!

However, a renewed application for felling the tree was considered by the Parish Council at their meeting in December. The Clerk advised that there were only four responses the council could make to the borough in this instance: 'support', 'no comment', 'no objection', or 'objection'. In order to remain consistent with their previous response, it was resolved to reiterate 'no objection'. So, despite the TPO, it may yet come to pass that you are reading this by the sunlight flooding through yet another gap in the skyline.

The Burial Ground Sub-committee of the Parish Council, set up last year despite doubts in some quarters about its usefulness, had met in mid-November. Previously, the Burial Committee, comprising the Rector, church wardens, the Parish Council Chairman, Parish Clerk and members of the laity, had met only if necessary. The new formal body, comprising presently three councillors and two residents, will meet regularly. This time, they discussed amendments to the existing burial ground regulations. For example, fees were obviously out of kilter with other parishes. The auditor had suggested this could encourage applications for burial here purely for financial reasons. As there is limited space, those who have genuine parish connections could suffer if the graveyard were filled with 'bargain-hunters'!

One of the issues to reinforce was who is entitled to a plot in the burial ground. Ultimately, the full Parish Council has discretion, but priority would, as always, be given to residents who have lived in the parish for a set term of years. Those who have subsequently moved away would still retain entitlement for a period, as now. Familial connections are also a factor. The term 'parishioner' should, it was felt, apply to the whole civil parish, not just the village of Abbotts Ann.

The churchyard proper is now closed by Order of the Privy Council and there can be no new interments. The burial ground, by contrast, is a piece of land fortuitously adjoining the churchyard, which was passed to the Parish Council thanks to the generosity of the late Thomas Pitt de Paravicini. The boundary between the two historically separate areas is not clearly evident, but is still indicated by the stub of a railing at right angles to the Church Path railing, near the churchyard notice board where the burial ground regulations are



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*One Poll Research from the Care Choice Gap Report 2014

ST MARY'S CHURCH ABBOTTS ANN THANK YOU FROM YOUR CHURCHWARDEN

Thank you to everyone in the Parish who helped us to have a successful interregnum before we welcomed Katrina, our new priest-in-charge, in September – from 'Chris the clock' to 'Chris the bins' and all in between

Ray Lucas and Gillian Barrett provided the expertise which ensured a successful refurbishment of the exterior of the church. Jill Tayler then led her team of 'holy dusters' in cleaning the church after the building works and Sylvia Burson and her flower arrangers ensured the church was always welcoming, whilst a hard working committee, Sally Dashwood, Tim Tayler, Lynne Lucas, Penny Scriven and Elizabeth Howard, oversaw a series of events celebrating the Tercentenary of the church.

All parishioners are now invited to support Katrina in leading and growing our church in 2017. It is your church so please use it and please also let any member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) know should you become aware of any parishioner in need of pastoral care.

Should you be prepared to give some of your 'time and talents' to the church please consider volunteering to serve as churchwarden or PCC Secretary.

Thank you again and my best wishes to you for a happy and successful 2017.

Gordon Howard - Churchwarden



ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

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

January 2017

I wish you all a Happy New Year – volunteers, staff, customers, committee and suppliers. Let us all make a resolution to support our local amenity. Remember that as a community shop it belongs to you and without your support it will not survive.

Welcome Back

A big welcome back to you Carol. We really missed you, so keep well.

Orders

Many thanks for all the orders which have been placed for Christmas. Remember that you can place an order at any time, not just at Christmas.

Reminder

We stock most lines of general groceries. Newspapers, milk, bread, fruit and vegetables are delivered daily; with newspapers on sale or orders for their collection can be placed. Come in to meet your friends and enjoy a coffee from our fantastic machine (much cheaper than Costa!)

Pizza Night

Tim will not be cooking pizzas for us in January. The next Pizza night will be on Friday 10th February 2017.

*Elizabeth Howard
Shop Volunteer & Committee Member*

ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

Bank on us

With 3,000 bank branch closures over the last decade (600 in the last year), Post Office branches can help customers continue their banking transactions on their own high streets.

Welcome to Metrobank customers

We're delighted to say Metro Bank business and commercial customers can now access day-to-day banking services at their local Post Office branch.

Barclays

Until now Barclays' personal and business customers have only been able to use a deposit slip to pay in cash in a Post Office branch. All Barclays' customers with a debit card will be able to use it to make deposits. A debit card deposit is real time, whereas a deposit slip takes a number of days to reach the customer. Customers will still be able to use the paying in slip if they choose.

The Post Office enjoys a very successful relationship with the UK banks to enable their customers to complete a range of transaction services in branches – 99 per cent of UK personal current account holders can access their services in branches. Last year the Post Office carried out more than 100 million banking transactions on behalf of its partner banks.

The Postal Museum coming in 2017

The Postal Museum (formerly The British Postal Museum & Archive) is a postal museum run by the Postal Heritage Trust. It began in 2004 as The British Postal Museum & Archive and is planned to open in Central London (Clerkenwell), as The Postal Museum in 2017.

The Postal Museum is expected to open up to the public a 1 kilometre (0.62 mi) stretch of track in London's Mail Rail, which was the world's first driverless electric railway. Complete with a new home, new exhibitions and the underground Mail Rail opening to the public as a ride for the first time, the museum expects to welcome 60 times more people through its doors than it currently sees.

Maureen Flood - Sub Post Mistress



EXCELLENT NEWS. CAROL'S BACK!



Many customers and Shop Volunteers were delighted to see the return of Deputy Manager, Carol Murphy, in early November. After a lengthy period away, suffering with a painful illness, she's back in action on reduced hours. What a tonic her reappearance has already proved to be; exuberant as ever, overflowing with local knowledge plus all the news and chat and always ready to promote our Village Shop. As the longest-serving paid member of staff, her contribution has been enormous for over fourteen years, with the epithet 'irreplaceable' springing to mind. Great to see you back, Carol, although it would have been hard to keep you away!

Geoff Dinkele retired Shop Volunteer (2002-2015)

THE 2017 ALL SAINTS' WINTER LECTURES, UPPER CLATFORD

Monday 16th January 2017 7.00pm for 8.00pm

James Landale, BBC Diplomatic Correspondent

Brexit: what happens now? A diplomatic correspondent's view

Monday 30th January 2017 7.00pm for 8.00pm

Matthew Dryden MD FRCPath, FRCPS, FRGS

Antibiotic Armageddon and Plagues—The end of medicine as we know it?

Venue: Upper Clatford Memorial Hall

Details: 01264 352530 or nicki.eyre@talktalk.net