

## BENEFICE DIARY - JULY 2015

1 July	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
2 July	(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, Abbots Ann - page 10
4 July	(Sat)	<b>2.00pm</b> All Saints', wedding of John Clarke and Laura Baker.
5 July	(Sun)	<u>(The Fifth Sunday after Trinity)</u> Full service details page 2
		<b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints'
		<b>10.00am to 4.00pm</b> Family Fun and Sporting Day at Abbots Ann Primary School.
		<b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
6 July	(Mon)	<b>12.30pm</b> Way Inn Lunch at St Peter's.
7 July	(Tues)	<b>3.30pm</b> St Mary's Fun Club – Strawberry Cream Tea – page 26
		<b>7.00pm</b> Goodworth Clatford Parish council meets in GCVC
8 July	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		<b>7.30pm</b> Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall
9 July	(Thurs)	<b>8.00pm</b> Abbots Ann Vision Countryside Group meeting – page 10
12 July	(Sun)	<u>(The Sixth Sunday after Trinity)</u> Full service details – page 2
		<b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints'
		<b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
14 July	(Tues)	<b>12.30pm</b> Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
<b>15 July</b>	<b>(Wed)</b>	<b><u>12.00noon Deadline for receipt of copy for the August 2015</u></b> <b><u>Abbots Ann Magazine. editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk</u></b>
		<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		<b>7.30pm</b> Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
16 July	(Thurs)	<b>6.30pm</b> Abbots Ann Vision Countryside Group Nature Walk – page 10
17 July	(Fri)	<b>10.00am</b> Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
19 July	(Sun)	<u>(The Seventh Sunday after Trinity)</u> Full service details – page 2
		<b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints'
		Spire to Spire, Hero Walk from Winchester to Salisbury - page 31
		<b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
21 July	(Tues)	<b>7.30pm</b> Goodworth Clatford WI meets in Goodworth Clatford Village Club – Members' Summer Supper
22 July	(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.
25 July	(Sat)	<b>12.00noon</b> St. Peter's, wedding of Daniel Goode and Hayley Williams.
26 July	(Sun)	<u>(The Eighth Sunday after Trinity)</u> Full service details – page 2
		<b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints'
		<b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
29 July	(Wed)	<b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
30 July	(Thurs)	<b>7.30pm</b> Abbots Ann WI meets in Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall.
1 Aug	(Sat)	<b>1.30pm</b> All Saints', wedding of Caroline Jakeman and Andrew Young.
		<b>3.00pm</b> St Mary's, wedding of Cameron Wright and Katrina Burrows

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

## St Mary's Church, Abbots Ann

**Rector**

**Churchwardens**

Gordon Howard, 710830  
Swaledale, 4 St Mary's Meadow, Little Ann

Sally Dashwood, 710640  
1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane

Details of church officers and activities can also be found on the village website at:  
<http://www.little-ann.co.uk/church>

**Choir Practice**

**THURSDAYS 7.45PM, ST PETER'S, GOODWORTH CLATFORD**

**Bell-Ringing Practice**

**THURSDAYS 7.30-9.00PM, ST MARY'S, ABBOTTS ANN**  
Tower Captain: Dudley Alaway

710646

### Parochial Church Council

**Secretary**

Mrs Jo Brookes, 07967  
3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road, 484581

**Treasurer (Temporary)**

Sally Dashwood, 1 The Bakery, 710640

### Parish Magazine - [www.abbottsannmagazine.co.uk](http://www.abbottsannmagazine.co.uk)

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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](mailto:plytle2@tiscali.co.uk) or write to Pam at The White House, Abbots Ann.

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JULY 2015

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

Date: St Mary's Duties:

<b>Sunday 28th June</b>	<b>Feast of St. Peter with Bishop David</b>	
10.00 Benefice Patronal Festival Eucharist	St Peter's	
<b>Sunday 5th July</b>	<b>14th Sunday of the year</b>	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Peter's	
10.00 Benefice Family Eucharist	All Saints'	
6.00 Evensong	St Mary's	Mrs S Dashwood
<b>Sunday 12th July</b>	<b>15th Sunday of the year</b>	
8.00 Holy Communion	All Saints'	
9.30 Benefice Eucharist	St Mary's	Mr/Mrs G Howard
11.15 Benefice Matins	St Peter's	
6.00 Evensong	St Mary's	Mrs S Dashwood
<b>Sunday 19th July</b>	<b>16th Sunday of the year</b>	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's	Mrs N Keene
10.00 Eucharist	St Peter's	
10.00 Parish Morning Service	Abbotts Ann VH	Mrs S George
6.00 Evensong	All Saints'	
<b>Sunday 26th July</b>	<b>17th Sunday of the year</b>	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's	Miss W Casson
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	All Saints'	
6.00 Evensong	St Peter's	
<b>Sunday 2nd August</b>	<b>Feast of the Transfiguration</b>	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Peter's	
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	All Saints'	
6.00 Evensong	St Mary's	Mrs S Dashwood
<b>Sunday 9th August</b>	<b>19th Sunday of the year</b>	
8.00 Holy Communion	All Saints'	
9.30 Eucharist	St Mary's	Mr/Mrs G Howard
11.15 Benefice Matins	St Peter's	
6.00 Evensong	St Mary's	Mrs S Dashwood

*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.*





Enquiries 01256-892019 or [www.andovercats.org.uk](http://www.andovercats.org.uk)  
Stories of rescued cats [adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk)  
Fund-raising/volunteers [adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk)  
Items for resale 01256-892773

We get a lot of calls, asking for advice, from people whose cats are toileting in inappropriate places. There is often a simple reason for this. If the cat refuses to go out it may be because there is an aggressive cat in the vicinity. If this is the case providing an indoor litter tray may well solve the problem. Litter trays should be placed somewhere quiet and private, well away from windows and outside doors. If you have more than one cat the rule is one tray per cat plus an extra one.

The 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July is the Worldwide Whitchurch Weekend when visitors from other Whitchurches are converging on our town. Cats Protection will be having a stall on at least one of the days.

The Felix token offer, where we can exchange the tokens on the boxes for money, ends on 31<sup>st</sup> August so if you have any be sure to send them to us well before that time. The address is 1, Test Rd Whitchurch RG28 7LP or alternatively leave them in our food collection box at Pets at Home in Andover.



Libby, last month's cat has found a lovely, family home in the New Forest.

Tippy gets her name from the little white patch at the end of her tail. She is a delightful, middle-aged cat; very relaxed and friendly. She was previously homed last December but was returned because she did not like a small child in the house. We need to be sure that her next home is permanent so a quiet, adult home would be preferable.

*Martin Bevan*

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### **Hampshire Records Office**

**Exhibition** 11 Jun to 30 Sep: *Magna Carta and Hampshire*: marking the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this famous document and showing its local links (produced in conjunction with The Odiham Society).

**Workshops** (One off sessions, £13 per person per session, advanced booking required)

**Family History for Beginners:** All you need to know to begin researching your family tree. 11 Jun, 3 Sep, 1 Oct, 5 Nov 2-4pm,

On behalf of the congregations of  
**St Mary's, St Peter's and All Saints'  
churches,**

our very best wishes are sent to  
**David, Gill, Ben and Sophie as they  
move to Lewes. Congratulations to  
Ben on graduating and best wishes to  
Sophie as she starts her medical  
training in September.**

We hope that David & Gill enjoy this new  
chapter in their lives.

Gordon Howard, Sally Dashwood, Jane  
Eastwood, Eleanor Jakeman &  
Bill Mitford, Churchwardens



### **REVEREND DAVID BROAD**

Reverend Broad has chosen not to contribute to this issue of the Abbots Ann magazine, his last as Rector of St Mary's. As Editor, I should like to thank him for all his contributions over the past years and wish him and his family every success and happiness in their new life in Lewes.

*Andrea Jackson - Editor*

**ST PETER'S CHURCH, JUNE 28TH AT 10.00AM**  
**WITH**  
**BISHOP DAVID WILLIAMS**

St Peter's Patronal Service will be taken by the Rt Rev David Williams, the Bishop of Basingstoke, who has specifically asked that people should come from all three parishes in the benefice; that is from St Peter's, All Saints and St Mary's.

Following the service there will be coffee and a chance to chat with Bishop David and his wife Helen.

**There will be no Service in St Mary's on 28th June 2015**

**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:**

**19 Jun - 2 Jul**  
**3 Jul - 16 Jul**  
**17 Jul - 30 Jul**  
**31 Jul - 13 Aug**  
**14 Aug - 27 Aug**  
**28 Aug - 10 Sep**  
**11 Sep - 24 Sep**  
**25 Sep - 8 Oct**  
**9 Oct - 22 Oct**

**Flowers:**

**Elizabeth Howard**  
**Anne Jones**  
**Charlotte Pearce**  
**Sue Hancock**  
**Pat Keene**  
**Gwen Pollard**  
**Pamela Graham**  
**Harvest Festival**  
**Anne Jones**

**Dusting:**

**Pauline Cooper**  
**Gill Page**  
**Charlotte Pearce**  
**Alex Pugh**  
**Pat Keene**  
**Ann Hopwood**  
**Audrey Cresswell**  
**Helen Stuart**  
**Biz Shaw**

***From The Registers***

**Holy Baptism**

Lauren Lily Butler and Gabriella Poppy Butler whose Baptisms took place at All Saints' on 31st May.

Brodie Paul Trenfield whose Baptism took place at St Mary's on 7th June.

**Rest in Peace**

Arthur Hayes whose funeral took place at Salisbury Crematorium on 11th June.

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



**ABBOTTS ANN NURSERY SCHOOL**  
**VOLUNTEER TREASURER NEEDED FOR**  
**OUR VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL**



Abbotts Ann Nursery School, based in the War Memorial Hall, is a registered charity which is managed by a committee of volunteers, who are elected every September at our AGM.

As this academic year is drawing to a close we are looking ahead to find a new volunteer treasurer to take over from September. Ideally this would be someone who would be able to hold the position for a number of years to provide continuity to both the preschool and the committee.

As treasurer you would be required to attend our evening committee meeting, held approximately every six weeks, to provide a summary of our accounts. Other responsibilities would include paying invoices and processing the monthly payroll for our preschool manager and key workers.

This position may suit a retired person who has an hour or so each week to spare. No previous accounting experience is necessary, just access to a computer and a competency at using Microsoft Excel software.

If you think you may be able to help, please contact me, Liz Stavely (AANS chair) by email: [lizstavely@hotmail.com](mailto:lizstavely@hotmail.com)

**100 CLUB**



**APRIL DRAW WINNERS**

**First Prize £30: James Wren**  
**Second Prize £20: Julie Livingstone**  
**Third Prize £10: David Pryde**

**MAY DRAW WINNERS**

**First Prize £30: Alan Jenkins**  
**Second Prize £20: Kate Bone**  
**Third Prize £10: Andrew Liddell**

**JUNE DRAW WINNERS**

**First Prize £30: Margaret Lennon**  
**Second Prize £20: Graham Platford**  
**Third Prize £10: Nick Laurence**

'Abbotts Ann War Memorial Village Hall Committee would like to thank all those people who have supported the 100 Club in the past and again this year. Any member of the 100 Club in 2015/16 who would like to know what number they have been allocated in the draw should contact Neil Witten on 710939 or by email to [neilwitten@btinternet.com](mailto:neilwitten@btinternet.com).'

## **HIBBERT CUP 2015**



This cup is awarded annually at the Abbots Ann Fete which this year is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

It is awarded for outstanding, voluntary, unpaid contribution to the Abbots Ann community in honour of Basil Hibbert, who himself made an outstanding contribution to our community. A bench in memory of Basil stands outside the village shop. This year's winner will be the 14<sup>th</sup> holder of the cup.

The decision is made by the Trustees of the War Memorial Hall, which Basil chaired for many years. In making the decision, the Trustees also consult with the current holder of the Cup (2014/2015 Pam Lytle).

All nominations (including all past unsuccessful nominations) are considered with great care, and any village resident may make a nomination. Please send your nominations, with a description of the outstanding contribution made, to Graham Stallard, Secretary and Trustee, Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall, Rose Cottage, 86 Little Ann Road, SP11 7NW – or email to [graham.p.stallard@gmail.com](mailto:graham.p.stallard@gmail.com)

Closing date for nominations is 21<sup>st</sup> August, two weeks before the fete. Please remember that your nomination must be yours alone – no groups please - so that it is absolutely confidential. Please keep your nomination secret as it would be most inappropriate in our Abbots Ann family for the names of unsuccessful nominees to be known, and to be open for discussion.

*Graham Stallard*

## **HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE**

Once again we shall take part in the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust sponsored "Ride and Stride". This year it will take place on Saturday 12th September.

You can cycle, walk or run choosing safe country lanes, visiting our lovely interesting churches.

Come and join us for a very enjoyable day out.

Half the money we raise will go to help maintain our own church St Mary's.

All details and sponsorship forms are available from Pat Balam, Cygnet Cottage, Tel: 710040.

*Pat Balam*

## **WILDFLOWER MEADOW UPDATE**

As we go to press the Ox-eye daisies and the Red Campion are looking great. There is also a sprinkling of Yellow Rattle, which will help to reduce the over-vigorous grass growth.

John Moon will scythe down the Campions when they are over to give light to other things. This will also stop them seeding across the patch and thus allow for some variety. By the time you read this, the path in the meadow will have been mown, so do take a wander in and see what you can spot and perhaps even name. Thanks to John Moon for the information for this update.

The annual worship service to celebrate the meadow will take place on July 19th. There will be other activities as well as the service, so do watch out for information around the village and on the village website.

*David Read - Chair, Abbots Ann Green Action*

## **ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AS PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY ON 14TH MAY 2015**

I would like to start by thanking all the parishioners of Abbots Ann who took the trouble to turn out on 7<sup>th</sup> May to vote in the three elections. The new parish councillors can only be grateful for the strong show of support and we will all do our duty to work for the good of the parish, to maintain – and improve where necessary – the quality of life for those who live in it.

Thank you also to all who spent so much time publicising the parish council election, and all those who had the courage to put their names forward for nomination. In the recent past, although councillors are re-elected every four years, there have not been sufficient candidates to necessitate a public vote – if only seven people offer themselves for seven places, there is no need for a poll. It is certainly not true that there has been "no election" for 20 years, but the criticism emphasises that the council must in future go to greater lengths to advertise elections, beyond what is required by law.

Never have so many new councillors been elected at one time to this council. There will be a learning curve for all of us, and much professional training required. A parish council, however humble and few its powers, has to follow the laws of the land with regard to procedures. It is not a glorified committee, but a layer of local government.

It is my earnest hope that, now a clear, democratic decision has been taken, your council will be able to move forward as a united body – no doubt with different ideas and aims, but certainly with the underlying intention of supporting and enabling the wishes and aspirations of all the residents of this parish. I welcome the support, energy and expertise that the new councillors will surely bring to their new role.



The past year has had its administrative difficulties on the council. We were sorry to lose Adrian Stokes as clerk. He had served the parish loyally and diligently for nine years, besides having served a previous term in the post. We were very pleased to welcome Arthur Peters in his place, and the work he undertook was enormous. The hours and effort that he expended on behalf of the parish were much appreciated by the council and villagers alike. His efficiency and attention to detail were exemplary. We were sorry to have to accept his resignation at the end of April.

Since then, the council has been looked after by our locum clerk, Mrs Amy Taylor, who is a qualified parish clerk and has long experience in the law and procedure of parish councils. We have been delighted with the manner in which she has dealt with the statutory requirements of the council at what is the busiest time of year, and at very short notice. We will be advertising for a permanent clerk once the pay and conditions have been agreed.

I would like to express my personal thanks to the councillors who did not stand at this election, and who have given this village many years of solid, and devoted, service. They have given their free time, as will the new councillors, to deliberating on decisions that in some cases affect only individuals, in other cases affect the whole parish. I thank them for their unfailing support, despite differences of opinion over the years, and their loyalty: Penny Wilkins, Graham Whyte (former vice-chairman), David Paffett, Stan Oram, and Rebecca Bone. Thank you, too, to Brian Sims, for standing and continuing to serve on the new council.

I would also like to thank all of you for all the support, encouragement, and useful criticism you have offered in the past year, and for your interest in the affairs of the parish and the parish council.

So, what else has been happening in the parish this year?

A lease was signed by the parish council and Hampshire County Council, giving the parish council management over the former **Manor Close Playing Field** for 99 years. The negotiations had begun following a meeting with Graham Whyte, Adrian Stokes, and the then leader of HCC. It was subsequently evident that there was potential for village open spaces to be protected under a legal "Village Green" status. Dale Wells led a very successful campaign to push for the field to be designated as such, but HCC did not wish to give up their ownership of the land. They therefore agreed a 99 year lease with the parish council, under certain conditions (eg. no buildings, no commercial use, and no allotments) at the exorbitant rent of £1 per annum.

The parish council has sought ideas from villagers for the use of the field, remembering that the purpose of acquiring it was to ensure the preservation of an open space for the use of all villagers. The new parish council will be working with the village to fulfil these ideas.

## **ABBOTTS ANN NEW GENERATION ARTISTS' POP CONCERT**

Abbotts Ann New Generation Artists, youngsters mostly from the village or nearby, gave a concert in aid of St Mary's Church on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The quality of the music and the singing was exciting! Abbotts Ann has talent – of professional ability. An audience of about 60 responded with enthusiasm and the evening turned into a 'Pop' party. Congratulations to Matthew Carter who organised the boys and to Malin Russell, who produced the girls and thanks to all those who performed, Daisy Wigg, Neha Panchmets, Matthew Carter, Hugh Riley-Smith and Patrick Smith.

The concert raised £560 - for the Church.

*Andrew Liddell*

## **CLATFORD VALLEY GARDENING CLUB**

John Negus, who has visited us many times before, gave a lively talk on "Shrubs of Distinction" at the May meeting of the club. Members of the audience were first asked to describe a shrub of their own of which they were particularly fond, and then he continued by recommending different shrub varieties and their care. He illustrated his talk with some lovely slides and amusing comments. Some of the ones he recommended were *Abutilon* Tennants White, *Corylopsis sinensis* and *Azara serrata*, although the latter one is not fully hardy and needs a sheltered spot in the garden. Throughout the talk one of the points he emphasised was the need to feed shrubs after they have been pruned with something organic such as blood, fish and bone. At the end there was a light-hearted quiz, the prizes won were various garden products and packets of seeds. There was then enough time left for questions.

Earlier in the evening, the chairman gave a brief report on the evening visit to Dean House at Kilmeston, which everyone who went, agreed that it was a lovely garden and would be well worth another visit later in the year (it is in the Yellow Book). Members were also reminded about two club events coming up, the Barbecue on 12<sup>th</sup> July, and the visit to Hidcote on 21st July.

**The July Meeting is the 22<sup>nd</sup> when Eric Watson will talk on "Wild Flowers on your Doorstep"**

Meetings are held in Upper Clatford Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month and begin at 7.45 pm. New members are always welcome.

*Jenny Llewellyn*

## **ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **WANTED -- TREE WARDEN AND FOOTPATHS OFFICER**

Two honorary official posts, of TREE WARDEN and FOOTPATHS OFFICER for the Parish Council, are currently vacant. For further details please contact the Chairman.

# St Mary's Fun Club

## invite you to their annual Strawberry Cream Tea Fund Raiser on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 3:30pm to 5pm At Spring Cottage, 32 Duck Street, Abbots Ann

All money raised will be going to CORD, *an international Christian organisation working to build lasting peace in partnership with people suffering the effects of violent conflict.*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SUNDAY 5TH JULY

If you can spare an hour or more on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July Abbots Ann School Association are holding their second Family Fun Sports Day 10:00am to 4:00pm (see advert in this magazine). You could help marshalling the 10km and 5km events which start at 11:00am or on the barbecue or selling raffle tickets or face painting ..... This event will raise money for phase 4 of our on going outdoor play equipment project. If you would like to be part of this fun event please contact Aly Godman, 710633 or [alyson@godman-recruit.co.uk](mailto:alyson@godman-recruit.co.uk) Many thanks.

### ABBOTTS ANN BUSES



As most regular bus users will be aware, the 87 bus timetable has changed yet again. Due to these frequent changes, the Abbots Ann bus timetable is no longer produced, as it is liable to be out of date before this magazine is distributed. Copies of the latest Wheelers 87 bus timetable are available to take away in the Abbots Ann Vision Transport folder on the windowsill in the village shop, or can be downloaded from the Wheelers website: [http://wheelerstravel.co.uk/web\\_media/File/87.pdf](http://wheelerstravel.co.uk/web_media/File/87.pdf)

Representations are being made to Wheelers concerning the timing of the buses. In the meantime, don't forget the list just inside the door of the village shop where you can offer or request lifts by car.

*Julie Moon Abbots Ann Vision Transport Project*

The **War Memorial Hall playpark** passed its RoSPA safety inspection, with praise for the work of the constructor, Adam Rose. We must thank the then clerk, Arthur Peters, for his unstinting efforts and determination in ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for children, and Rebecca Bone for her efforts in establishing the play area in the first place.

On **highways matters**, the council has continued to press for speed restrictions in the village. Cllr Andrew Gibson of HCC advised that the county council's budget was very limited, but that after their initial trials, it might be possible for Abbots Ann to be included in a speed check survey. St John's Cross is a perpetual problem; it is not good enough for the authorities to say it is not a high priority danger area because there have not been enough serious accidents. We have been informed that Burghclere Down's 20 mph limit appears not to be working, and there are still issues of bad parking there. Following information from walkers along Dunkirt Lane, we have been able to arrange a **dog bin** from TVBC, and are arranging for more elsewhere.

I was pleased to see that prospective councillors were keen to promote links with **Burghclere Down** and to try to make the residents feel more included in the parish activities. Mrs Lynda Stockings was a stalwart representative at Parish Council meetings. She kept the council informed of residents' views and aspirations and we tried to respond positively. We are very sorry that she is unable to continue in this role, and have been looking for another representative to attend council meetings and to develop stronger links. Anyone is welcome to attend parish council meetings, and we would particularly encourage residents of Burghclere Down to come. If anyone wishes a subject to be discussed at a meeting, please contact the locum clerk, Mrs Amy Taylor, on [abbotsannparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:abbotsannparishcouncil@gmail.com), and she will arrange to add it to the Agenda.

There are many **other organisations** and groups in this community, with different specialised interests and expertise, without which Abbots Ann would be very much the poorer. All the volunteers, like the volunteers of the parish council, give their time and energy for the good of everyone who is fortunate enough to live here.

I would like to thank **Abbots Ann Vision** and Mr Ray Lucas for all their work promoting and following up the Village Consultation, channelling the points raised to working groups with defined aims.

**Abbots Ann Action** has ensured incisive comment at Planning hearings in TVBC, in defence of our interests.

The **Countryside Group** has organised successful and extremely interesting meetings and visits over the past year. It is a delight to be able to be instructed by experts in such a sociable and entertaining way.

The **Sportsfield Association** is working tirelessly towards raising money for a badly-needed new pavilion that will serve the community for many years to come.

source of information for the village.

There are many other people, both individuals and organisations, who need our thanks for all the work they do, often unsung, and without whom the parish would run far less smoothly. If I have not mentioned you by name, do not think your efforts have gone unnoticed or unappreciated. We notice; we appreciate.

It is my fervent wish that we can all now move forward and work together, not for dissension or personal agenda, but for the general good of all the people living here. There will of course be differences of opinion among individuals, but we are going to face extraordinary pressures from outside in the not too distant future, some not yet foreseen. It is only by presenting a united front that Abbots Ann will be able to preserve its unique, friendly, and traditional English quality.

*Bernard Griffiths (Chairman, Abbots Ann Parish Council)*

(A full version of this report, presented to the Annual Parish Assembly on 14<sup>th</sup> May, is on the village website, along with reports from parish organisations.)

### **ABBOTTS ANN VISION COUNTRYSIDE GROUP** **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**



On the evening of **Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup>** from **8pm until late** there is another opportunity to visit **Abbots Ann cress beds**, by kind permission of Vitacress. We shall hear about the ecology of the Pillhill Brook, the local otters and water voles, and see our local bats and what has been caught in the moth traps. Ron Bainbridge will be our guide once again. **Advance booking is essential**, and **numbers are strictly limited** for safety reasons, as it will get dark later on; a torch would be useful. Please book your place with John or Julie Moon (710123 or [julie.moon@care4free.net](mailto:julie.moon@care4free.net)).

The second **nature walk** of the year, to look at summer flowers and other wildlife, will take place on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July**, starting from the village shop at **6:30 pm** and lasting about 1½ to 2 hours. Please contact Penny Scriven (phone 710502 or email [penny.richard@btinternet.com](mailto:penny.richard@btinternet.com)) if you need further information.

*Julie Moon Abbots Ann Vision Countryside Group*

### **DEFIBRILLATOR**

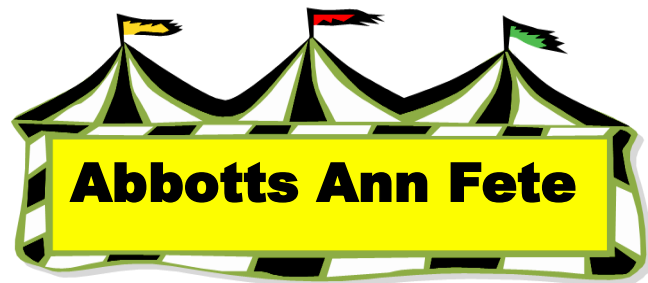
The Village Defibrillator is in a white, illuminated cabinet marked "Defibrillator" outside the rear entrance of the Eagle Inn, on the wall of the covered decking area by the car park. It is immediately accessible at all times.



### **Fete Stalls - 5<sup>th</sup> September**

We have tables available at the fete for stall holders to hire at £15. Contact Rob Stavely to book your place on (01264) 712911





Abbotts Ann Fete will be held on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**. We will be collecting around the village throughout the summer for the stalls listed below. To contribute your much appreciated donation please call the relevant number below for collection to be arranged.

Bottle Tombola  
Chris Brown  
07789 002 597



Cake Stall  
Trish Wallis 710918



Books  
Annette Church 710584



Smash Crockery  
Tim Kirby 710044



WI Cakes  
Sharon King 335630

Bric-a-brac  
Lisa Hillier 710231  
Anne Emerson 710851

Thank you for your support



## ABBOTTS ANN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MAY 2015

This month was our Annual Meeting and I don't think I can do any better than share with you part of our President, Kate Bennett's report of the past 12 months.

*"Well, I have completed my first year as President and must say I have found it interesting, educational, and challenging at times but overall very enjoyable. We have had 11 meetings; gained 5 new members, have 3 dual members and a total of 33 full members.*

*Together we have learnt how to be 'Nude not Rude', lost at Darts, won at Scrabble and come a significant 3<sup>rd</sup> in the quiz. Organ donation was discussed and a cookery demonstration enjoyed, some chilled in a mega shed and we now know what to do with arnica and aloe vera, Michael Portillo won a lot of hearts, Thomas Plant enthralled the Anton Danebury Group with talk of antiques and Janet Street-Porter had us laughing along with her life.*

*We have been creative making jewellery and boxes, baking cakes, made vats of tea and coffee, and with much courage and fortitude ate and drank our way through 11 Supper Clubs, 10 Lunch Clubs, 1 post-Christmas Dinner and the brave few walked many miles as a group before venturing into various hostleries. (After all it is important to support local businesses!)*

*Numerous lists were signed and journeys taken, some saw the baton whiz past (don't blink you'll miss it). Hampton Court was a royal success, we watched Alice dancing through Wonderland, and ventured out for a Second visit to the Exotic Marigold Hotel.*

*Andy Rhind-Tutt entranced us with his passionate talk about Stonehenge and Blickmead Abbey, Trisha Lewis sprinkled us with Christmas, Lynne Lucas brought colour into our lives, we learnt to 'Make do and mend' followed by a song or two, our green fingers were tickled by the Hampshire Gardens Trust whilst mourning jewellery preceded 'fashion through the ages' where we learnt how the bobbed hairstyle was all a result of the Guillotine.*

*As a group we donated to the Foodbank, swapped magazines, read books and discussed them, knitted for Zimbabwe and supported numerous causes and committees within Abbotts Ann and further afield.*

*Plans for next year are coming together as we go to Waddesdon Manor in August, hear about Outer Mongolia and wait for the safe return of two members, 1 to take tea at Buckingham Palace with the Duchess of Cornwall and 1 to represent us at the Centenary Meeting, with the Queen and Princess Royal, at the Royal Albert Hall.*

## **APPLE DAY 2015 IS COMING!**

**Abbotts Ann Green Action** has worked hard over the year to encourage more environmentally-friendly thinking in the community, including the offer of a thermal imaging survey of houses to discover sources of heat loss.

The **War Memorial Hall** has hosted numerous events for the benefit and enjoyment of the village, and now has the advantage of an entirely refurbished new kitchen area, with improved storage arrangements.

The **PCC** has been very active in promoting restoration and repairs to St Mary's Church, which is a very unusual and special building. One of the aspects should be the erection of a public lavatory, outside the building. This facility is a pre-requisite for large grants towards the building works. The PCC is working with the parish council on a long-term maintenance plan for the churchyard.

The **Tidy Village** group and the loyal troupe of litter-pickers have been indefatigable in maintaining a pleasant environment for us to live in. If the anonymous writer of a recent letter to the Andover Advertiser, who complained about the lack of commitment to clearing litter, cares to contact Mr Paul Kelly, he will be much welcomed on the litter-picking group.

Last year saw a magnificent series of displays about the effects of the First World War on the village and villagers. A phenomenal amount of information was gathered by a dedicated and enthusiastic group, led by the **Village Archivist**, Tim Tayer, shedding light on not just the horrors of the fighting itself, but on the day to day lives of the real people who lived and worked in this village at the time, many of them in houses we live in to-day. It brought them back to life in a special way. One photograph was particularly poignant – through computer art, it superimposed a ghostly figure from the past on a modern view of one of the village houses. It reminded me very much that those who have gone before are not that far away, and maybe we should pay heed to what they might be thinking of how we develop and change the village that was their physical home once upon a time.

The **WI** has always been a backbone of village life, and we thank all those involved in the work of the movement; in providing informative and interesting meetings that we read about in the parish magazine, and in always being ready to support village events with refreshments and good humour.

The **Fete Committee** worked hard, as every year, to give us another excellent village function last autumn. The village fete is an institution that perhaps we tend to take for granted, but to provide all the stalls, games, food, entertainment and general traditional village fun takes much time and effort, with long hours meeting to decide what is needed; the contacting of numerous outside organisations; and the physical task of actually setting up all the marquees, tables, show rings and so on.

We are very grateful to Chris Davis and **Neighbourhood Watch** for keeping

If you've enjoyed Apple Days in the past, you'll want to know that this year's will be on **Saturday October 3rd**. If you haven't enjoyed one yet, do put this date in the diary and come and join in this annual village event.

There is nothing like the juice of freshly pressed apples. And the huge apple press in the War Memorial Hall grounds will again be pressing apples. This will mean juice to drink on the day, juice to take away, and Abbotts Ann Apple Juice for sale in the village shop. Some may well reappear as cider!

'Where will all these apples come from?' you ask. There are lots of apples in the village, from gardens with one or two trees to small private orchards. We look forward to a better crop than last year. We hope it will be possible to collect windfalls in the week before Apple Day, and perhaps offer a picking service if enough people are willing to join in. Let's not see a single apple go to waste!

We're planning lots of other activities as well:

- Games for the children
- Conversation with the owners of one of Abbotts Ann's small orchards.

And, of course, tea with apple related goodies, provided (of course) by the excellent cooks of Abbotts Ann. We'll be very grateful for all contributions. And again there'll be a competition (this year two categories: under 12s and over 12s) for the tastiest apple recipe, so why not bring along a sample of your cooking for our judge to try? Then we can all gobble them up!

By now we hope your taste-buds are tickling and you're planning to come along and join in the fun. Meanwhile, do get in touch with us if

- You have apples you could bring along or would like to be collected
- You can help with picking apples and/or helping to juice them
- You have ideas of what you'd like to see happen on the day
- You would like to help on the day and/or share in the planning
- You would like to take away apple pulp at the end of the day for your compost heap

Email me ([david.read@mybroadbandmail.com](mailto:david.read@mybroadbandmail.com)) or phone (710090) or Jo Dixon ([jo\\_david@talktalk.net](mailto:jo_david@talktalk.net)) or phone (710458) if you have any questions, would like to contribute, or would like to know the date of the next planning meeting. You'll be welcome.

**See you on 3rd October!**

*David Read – Chair, Abbotts Ann Green Action –  
for the Apple Day planning group*

## OPEN GARDENS 2015

We would like to thank everybody who took part in Open Gardens this year including of course the wonderful weeders, marvelous mowers, brilliant bakers, fantastic fish savers, imaginative imbibers, super supporters, inquisitive visitors, fabulous floral display experts, quilting queens and of course everybody else.

The team raised a grand total of £1270.30p

### Quilts and Flowers at St Mary's during Open Gardens 2015

Some of the lovely comments written by visitors to the exhibition:

- Amazing display of colour skill and scents- a joyful memory burned into my senses.
- WOW!! Such a lot of beautiful work.
- Very lovely – both quilts and flowers.
- I think this was awesome and cool because of quilts. (a visiting granddaughter)
- A wonderful exhibition. Very talented people.
- Very impressive - I wouldn't have the patience.
- Beautiful colours and designs, the flowers and quilts compliment each other.
- This riot of colour, shapes and smells distributed and draped around the church overturns convention and brings a feeling of joy – just like Jesus.

Donations in the church topped £110 and will go to The Crisis Centre in Andover.

*Kate and Wendy*



**Next Production - November 28th, 29th; December 4th, 5th, 6th – ‘The Snow Queen’**, our Christmas Pantomime. To be involved, join us at the Upper Clatford Village Hall on a Tuesday evening,

the village abreast of crime in the locality. We are very lucky to live in a relatively safe environment, and the warnings that Chris relays to us from the local police, via Neighbourhood Watch, keep us all on our toes. It is good that someone is keeping an eye on our security and we are very appreciative.

The **Nursery School** is another central focus for the village. Children are our future and we must give them happy memories to look back on, as well as a strong and ethical background to face the vicissitudes that will surely come in their lives. We cannot thank enough those who help so much in their development and growth. If these children can learn to appreciate the good and important things in life, and to value and respect their community – both the environment and the people who live in it – we will have left a wonderful legacy to Abbots Ann.

Members of the parish council were delighted to be invited by the **Primary School** council to visit the school earlier this year. The pupils prepared a most business-like agenda and showed the councillors round. They asked very perceptive questions, and I look forward one day to seeing some of them serving the village on the parish council. The work of Mrs Jane Hall and her staff is vital to the welfare of the next generations, and the council hopes very much to continue and develop the links between the council and the school over the coming months, so that the pupils can learn more about how the village runs.

I must thank Dr John Moon for his expertise, wisdom and patience in his role as **Tree Warden** for the parish. We very much appreciate the time and knowledge that he brings to the task of commenting on the tree works that may or may not be needed in the village.

Another central point in the village is the **Shop**. It not only provides the essential, and surprise, items that we suddenly find we have run out of, but is also a focus for social contact for many villagers. Having the post office, and a place to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee and chat, is an absolutely vital contribution to the unity, continuity, and happiness of village life. We wish the shop and its very willing and hard-working volunteers and the dedicated committee every success as they proceed under their new management, and we thank Georgina very much for all she did to bring the shop to the success it is to-day.

The **Village Website** has taken great strides this year, under the guidance and management of Keith Saunders, for whose expertise and hard work we are extremely grateful. He has been ably assisted by Lorna Haigh, and we all hope that the site will become an increasingly well-used forum for the sharing of information about what is going on in the village. It has become much easier for individuals to post their information directly.

I would also like to thank Andrea Jackson for continuing to edit our excellent **parish magazine**, which is such an important, and well-loved, traditional

*I am very grateful to those who have hosted monthly Coffee Mornings.*

*I would like to thank all the committee, for listening to my ideas and putting me straight at times. For guiding me through the WI ways and protocol and generally trying to keep me on the straight and narrow- I shall keep pushing those boundaries little by little (if I am re-elected)....."*

Of course, Kate was re-elected as President - overwhelmingly so. Thanks were given to Pat Balam who is stepping down from the committee after many years and Gill Page who, whilst remaining on the committee, has decided after six years as Treasurer to hand the keeping of our accounts on to someone else. Cecilia Cotton is returning to the post of Secretary, as Lynne Lucas has completed the 12 months she promised to do for Kate.

As I understand it, there is no speaker planned for this month's meeting, I believe it will be a social evening and that we may be in for some "fun and games with the WI in July." I hope that has got you intrigued enough to join us on Thursday 30th July at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

*Sharon King*

## ***May Plant Sale***

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the plant sale in May, either by donating plants, helping on the day or coming along to support us. The weather was lovely and we raised just over £800. This money is used to fund the Produce Show (stationery, prizes etc) and Threadgill Cup, and any money left over then goes into the pot for redistribution to village associations.

## ***Village Fete Flower, Produce & Craft Show: Saturday September 5th***

The schedule for this year's show is available, and can be found in the village shop and the Eagle, as well as directly from myself. It will contain details of classes, how to enter, judging times etc.

***For more information contact Anne Emerson on 710851***

## **Hanging Baskets/Containers**

Winner

Norfolk House – John and Julie Moon

Judges comment "Display and Cultivation of conservatory containers"

Merit

Spring Cottage – Bill Easterbrook

Judges comment "Longevity of plant life"

\*\*\*\*Special Mention to The Old Bakery – Lillian Pierce – for "Village road frontage planting"\*\*\*\*

Thank you for all those who entered and to our Judge Mr Brian Davis. Please visit the Marquee on Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup>, where you will find this year's updated display board of photos of all of the gardens entered in this year's competition.

*Stephanie Wheeler*

## **The Artroom**

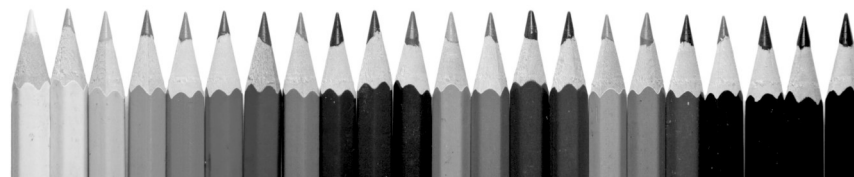


- Have you ever wanted to be more creative and to learn how to produce pleasing works of art?
- Have you wanted to explore different ways of making art and to see what you can achieve with different media?
- Is it years since you last produced anything that you might call art?
- Are you worried that you don't have the necessary skills and would feel embarrassed with your results?
- Do you want to improve your art skills and move onto a new level?
- Are you preparing for Art Scholarship or GCSE?

If the answer to any of the above is "YES" then THE ARTROOM is just for you!

To see what we offer and to book a place have a look at our website or give us a ring:

**www.the-artroom.com 07572 655 255**





## **2015 Threadgill Cup - May 30, 2015**

### ***Threadgill Cup – Overall Winner Penny Path Cottage – Annabel Stowe***

#### **Large Garden Section**

Winner

Virginia Lodge – Brian Stuart  
Judges comment “Overall design”

Merit

Lane Cottage – Jill Tayler  
Judges comment “Good usage of shrubbery”

#### **Small Garden Section**

Winner

Penny Path Cottage – Annabel Stowe  
Judges comment “Peace & tranquillity”

Merit

The Old Exchange – Liz Dell  
Judges comment “Development of the modern style”

#### **Eco Sensitive Section**

Winner

Norfolk House – John and Julie Moon  
Judges comment “Widening the boundaries of ecological gardening”

Merit

Virginia Lodge – Brian Stuart  
Judges comment “Intelligent use of annual and bi-annual plants”

#### **Vegetable Section**

Winner

Spring Cottage – Bill Easterbrook  
Judges comment “Quality of Traditional Cultivation”

Merit

Virginia Lodge – Brian Stuart  
Judges comment “Incorporating vegetable garden into overall design”

## **WATER MEADOW WILDLIFE REPORT - SLOW-WORMS**

Despite their name, Slow-worms are, of course, not worms but legless lizards; but like worms they are not poisonous in any way and they certainly move more slowly than lizards. They can occasionally be seen in the drier areas of the water meadows and also in some local gardens\*, but unfortunately not ours. Their superficial resemblance to snakes means that many are unnecessarily killed which is a pity since they are really useful in the garden. Their inability to move very quickly means that their prey also has to be slowish, so slugs and snails are their snack of choice and they tend to come out at night, or after rain, when the slugs and snails are most active.

Slow-worms belong to the class of animals that are relatively slow breeders but live a long time; they don't start breeding until they are several years old



but are believed to live up to 30 years in the wild and one lived 54 years in captivity. If you are lucky enough to have them in your garden then you can encourage their breeding by leaving some piles of rotting vegetation or having a compost heap, and lengthen their life by refraining from using slug pellets containing Metaldehyde or Methiocarb which not only poisons slugs but also anything that then eats them. Slug pellets containing Aluminium Sulphate, which affect the slime-producing glands of slugs, do not have this knock-on effect and beer traps are an even more eco-friendly option. But with a bit of luck your friendly slow-worms will keep the slugs in check by themselves.

*John Moon, Abbots Ann Vision Countryside Project*

*Editor's note: Slow-worms have been seen in two neighbouring gardens in Timothy's Field - possibly the reason we seldom see any slugs!*

## **HAND BELL RINGING SESSIONS UP-DATE**

Changing circumstances amongst the existing bell ringers has meant that the team have had to re-think the planned hand bell ringing sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. The first Thursday of each month at 7pm (excluding August) will now be allocated for this purpose. So if you are still thinking about coming along to the church for one of these sessions please do not forget to up-date your diary

*Dudley Alleway –Tower Captain*



## **ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE**

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

### **July 2015 News**

If you have not met our new Shop manager, Tim Abram, please make yourself known to him and make him feel welcome. He is keen to get to know as many of his customers as possible and to hear our views, in order to be able to provide the service our village needs.

### **Duck Eggs**

On a sad note – for all those Duck egg enthusiasts, I am sorry to report that there will not be any on sale in the Shop for a while. Mr Fox paid a visit. So we sympathise with Terry and family for their loss.

### **Austwicks**

Our range of Austwick pies keeps expanding, with new fillings appearing regularly. Tim informs me that the Chicken, bacon and chestnut pie is delicious. The traditional pork pie and scotch eggs continue to prove popular. If you cannot find what you want in the chiller then please look in the freezer.

### **Red Cat Brewery**

We now stock a new beer from Red Cat Brewery in Winchester. It is a rich amber ale called MACAVITY – Why not try it!

### **Greenfield**

We are now stocking a wider range of pork products from Greenfield, including joints and hocks, all always available for you to order should what you want not be in stock.


### **BBQ**


Recent additions to our range of meat for your BBQ include Buffalo Burgers and Steak, plus Lamb Chops and Joints; all locally produced. All can be washed down with a glass (or two) of wine (there is white wine available in the chiller), a new variety of cider or even Bacardi at only £14.99.

**And finally** – We now stock a 'Homemade Lemon Cordial', suitable to dilute with lemonade or water. It is made by Anna White (formerly of Perks).

**Just to remind you,  
 Abbots Ann Village Shop  
 is open until 7pm. Every Friday**


*Elizabeth Howard - Shop Volunteer & Committee Member*





**James Wells is now at your service.**

**Abbots Ann's very own Mercedes-Benz specialist.**



**Mercedes-Benz**

**Mercedes-Benz of Salisbury**  
 Southampton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2JS  
 01722 395160 james.wells@mercedes.co.uk  
[www.sandown-group.co.uk](http://www.sandown-group.co.uk)



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**10am - 4pm**

## **Family Fun and Sporting Day**

**at Abbotts Ann Primary School**

We are fundraising for outdoor learning and play equipment,  
please come along with all of your family and enjoy  
our fun and sporting events

**10km on- and off-road run** (Adults and Children aged 12+)

**5km walk/run** (Adults and Children aged 7+ accompanied by an adult)

**Fully supervised 1km obstacle run/walk** (Children aged 5-11)

**Sponsored trim trail walk/run** (Children under 11yrs but primarily aimed at pre-school and under 5 yrs)

For more race & registration details go to [www.abbottsann.hants.sch.uk/pta](http://www.abbottsann.hants.sch.uk/pta)

**Arena entertainment**

**BBQ breakfast and lunch**

**Sporting demonstrations**

**Refreshments and bar**

**Side stalls & activities**



To enter online visit  
[www.runnersworld.co.uk/abbottsann10km](http://www.runnersworld.co.uk/abbottsann10km)



## **ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE**

### **Banking:**

*Santander* Bank current account and business customers can now bank at the Post Office's 11,000 outlets.

Services available: cash withdrawals, balance enquiries, cash deposits (with card), cheques deposits with personalised paying in slip and deposit envelope available from Santander.

**The Post Office** presents new research from the Post Office Holiday Costs Barometer, showing that value for money is the biggest deciding factor when customers are choosing a holiday destination, yet despite this, most customers will overspend on their budget by 44%.

Customers surveyed budget an average of £552 in spending money but only one-third stick to this. The research showed that those who admitted overspending bust their budget by £242 – almost 44 per cent more than they intended, incurring more international charges on their accounts.

Pack a bit extra into your holiday - the more Travel Money you buy, the better the rate. Get ready for your holiday with Post Office Money.

Euros and US Dollars in stock in branch now

Order before 1pm on a working day to get free next day delivery to your branch.

**Apple** has announced that its consumers will soon be able to make contactless payments via their iPhone 6 or Apple Watch The Post Office will be one of the first retailers to offer this payment method to customers.

iPhone 6 and Apple Watch users will be able to pay for products and services by tapping their device on chip-and-PIN readers, just like with a contactless payment card.

**A Special Stamp** issue on July 16th continues a military theme and marks 75 years since The Battle of Britain.

*Maureen Flood*

### **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.



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

Despite having more rain this month than in previous Mays and the weather being a little unpredictable, the natural world around us has delivered plenty of interest and even a little excitement!

Early in the month we notice that the field is absolutely covered in dandelion clocks. We have somehow missed them as bright yellow flowers, or perhaps it's just that a field with dozens of white, fluffy, pompom heads sitting amongst the grasses is more unusual. Maybe it's the relatively mild weather that we've had together with plenty of watering from the heavens, that has encouraged the high numbers this year - and we have not topped the field so the flowers have been able to seed. This however, I discover, is a good thing. The flower is made of as many as 100 florets all filled with pollen, perfect for bugs, bees and butterflies. Small birds such as sparrows and finches will eat the seed. And of course small children tell the time by blowing the seeds, although with the Littlest we have made it up to 'thirty o'clock', so it's perhaps not the most accurate way of telling the time! The sight of so many dandelion clocks initially filled me with horror, but having discovered how beneficial they are to nature, I am happy that the tractor has stayed away and will see their return in a more positive light.

Later in May the Tribe are discussing the fact that the field has 'turned purple'. I am wondering what on earth they're talking about, but when I go to look from an upstairs window, they are indeed right. The field looks purple! Gerald Durrell picks one of the grasses and finds that it is meadow foxtail, a common, early flowering grass. Its head is a soft cylindrical spike that turns purple as it flowers. Soon bright yellow buttercups and sunny ox-eye daisies begin to appear amidst the sea of purple. The hedgerows become increasingly white as the hawthorn joins the blackthorn in bloom and swathes of wild garlic appear with their bright green leaves and delicate white flowers.

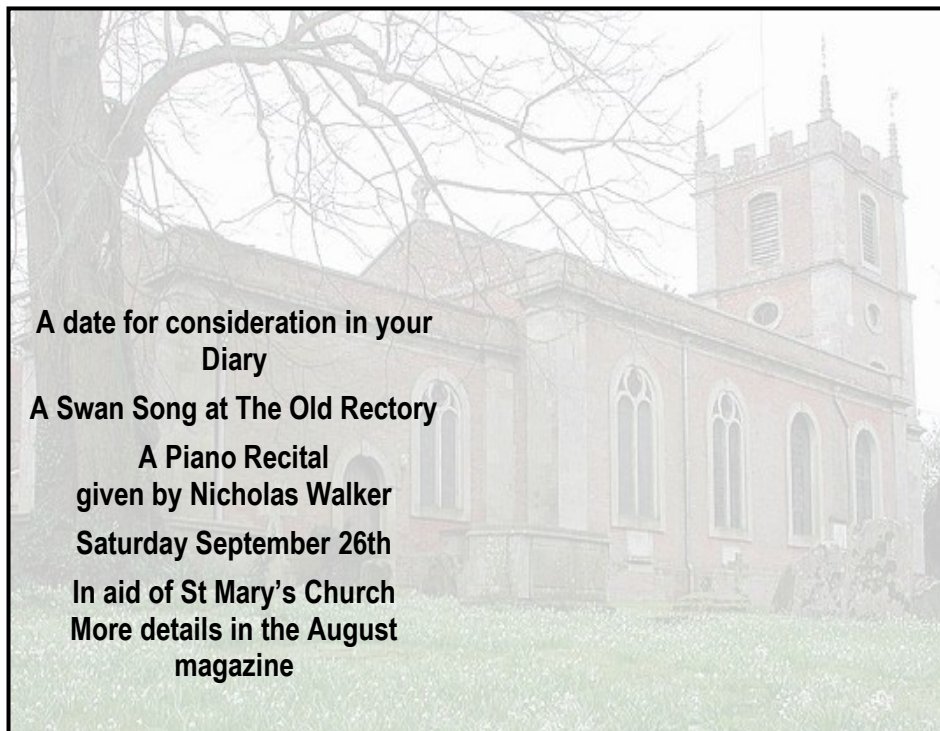
In our garden a new bird appears - a pied wagtail. It is small and doesn't stop moving; it reminds me of members of my Tribe. It is easily recognisable as it lives up to its name 'wagtail' - it does just that, moving its tail up and down all the time. Its black and white feathers are also easy to spot. Apparently in Italy they are called ballerinas which is quite fitting and rather romantic. A happy little bird that I hope will stay.

Back in September last year, the Boy found a slightly scary looking elephant hawk moth caterpillar that Gerald Durrell subsequently kept in a small box. Since then the box has lived primarily on top of the recycling bins in the conservatory (although it was brought into the laundry when the temperatures dropped over the winter). I was pretty convinced that nothing would happen and we would be cleaning out another dead occupant (I failed to raise a couple of African land snails). But no! Noticing a pile of earth on top of the bins, I moved the box to clean it and there it was, in all its striking, fuchsia splendour - a brand new elephant hawk moth!

Fortunately I am not alone in my immense excitement at the moth's arrival - all the Tribe have been thrilled and amazed at its survival! The Littlest has taken the box into Nursery to show her teachers and friends and she now probably knows more about elephant hawk moths than other four year olds! We keep the moth in the box for a few days with fresh grasses and flowers, until there is a dry evening for us to release it outside. Our feline friends however, have other ideas. Coming down into the kitchen one night, I find three completely over excited cats running around with an upturned box on the floor. I can only surmise that the moth started fluttering in the darkness and the cats jumped on the box in an attempt to 'play' with the moth. We never find any sign of the moth again - hopefully it flew away somewhere. Unfortunately I have a horrible feeling that it ended up as a late night snack for one of the cats. I hope that we have more success with our butterflies.

*Mother of the Tribe*

*There are photographs of our short lived moth on [www.lifewiththetribes.com](http://www.lifewiththetribes.com)*



**A date for consideration in your  
Diary**

**A Swan Song at The Old Rectory**

**A Piano Recital  
given by Nicholas Walker**

**Saturday September 26th**

**In aid of St Mary's Church**

**More details in the August  
magazine**