

## BENEFICE DIARY - JUNE 2015

1 June	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch at St. Peter's.
2 June	(Tues)	7.00pm Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC
3 June	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
4 June	(Thurs)	7.00pm St Mary's Church Tercentenary Planning Meeting.
5 June	(Fri)	7.30pm Burdock Valley Players "Looking for JJ" Page 22
6 June	(Sat)	7.30pm Burdock Valley Players "Looking for JJ" Page 22 <u>(The First Sunday after Trinity)</u> Full service details – page 2
7 June	(Sun)	9.30am Live Wires at All Saints' 6.00pm Burdock Valley Players "Looking for JJ" Page 22 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
9 June	(Tues)	12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'
10 June	(Wed)	7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall
14 June	(Sun)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC <u>(The Second Sunday after Trinity)</u> Full service details – page 2 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints' 12.00-5.00pm Abbotts Ann Open Gardens Page 8 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
<b>15 June</b>	<b>(Mon)</b>	<b><u>Deadline for receipt of copy for the July 2015 Abbotts Ann Magazine.</u></b> <a href="mailto:editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk">editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</a>
17 June	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
19 June	(Fri)	10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
20 June	(Sat)	1.00pm All Saints, wedding of Frankie Beavis and Jessica Casson. 3.00pm St. Peter's, blessing of marriage of Giles Thompson and Nikki Chapman.
		7.30pm Murder Mystery Evening! AA War Memorial Hall – Page 12
21 June	(Sun)	<u>(The Third Sunday after Trinity)</u> Full service details – page 2
21 June	(Sun)	9.30am Live Wires at All Saints' 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
24 June	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC Until 28 June, <b>10.00am "Cascade" Flower Festival</b> , Winchester Cathedral.
		7.45pm Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in UC Memorial Hall.
25 June	(Thurs)	7.30pm Abbotts Ann WI meets in Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall.
27 June	(Sat)	Opera Highlights in the Garden – Upper Clatford, Page 6 Summer Picnic at Goodworth Clatford Village Club.
28 June	(Sun)	<u>(The Fourth Sunday after Trinity)</u> St. Peter's Patronal Festival. Full service details – page 2 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints' St. Peter's Patronal Festival – Open Gardens 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann

## St Mary's Church, Abbotts Ann

<b>Rector</b>	The Revd. David Broad The Rectory, Upper Clatford dna.broad@virgin.net <b>(HIS DAY OFF IS SATURDAY)</b>	352906
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Gordon Howard, Swaledale, 4 St Mary's Meadow, Little Ann Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane	710830 710640
	Details of church officers and activities can also be found on the village website at: <a href="http://www.little-ann.co.uk/church">http://www.little-ann.co.uk/church</a>	
<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>THURSDAYS 7.45PM, ST PETER'S, GOODWORTH CLATFORD</b>	
<b>Bell-Ringing Practice</b>	<b>THURSDAYS 7.30-9.00PM, ST MARY'S, ABBOTTS ANN</b> Tower Captain: Dudley Alleway	710646
	<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
<b>Treasurer (Temporary)</b>	Sally Dashwood, 1 The Bakery	710640
	<b>Parish Magazine - <a href="http://www.abbottsanmagazine.co.uk">www.abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</a></b>	
<b>Editor -</b> <a href="mailto:editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk">editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</a>	Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbotts Ann	710630
<b>Advertising -</b> <a href="mailto:ads@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk">ads@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</a>	Rollo Wilson Jubilee Oak Cottage	710899

For magazine deadlines please refer to the Benefice Diary.

## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have your magazine delivered free of charge (Abbotts Ann only). A yearly subscription is £6.00. For deliveries outside Abbotts 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, Abbotts Ann.

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JUNE 2015

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

### Date:

#### **Sunday 31st May**

8.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 Benefice Eucharist  
6.00 Evensong

#### **Sunday 7th June**

8.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 Benefice Family Eucharist  
6.00 Evensong

#### **Sunday 14th June**

8.00 Holy Communion  
9.30 Benefice Eucharist  
11.15 Benefice Matins  
6.00 Evensong

#### **Sunday 21st June**

8.00 Holy Communion  
10.00 Eucharist

#### **Sunday 28th June**

10.00 Benefice Patronal  
Festival Eucharist

### St Mary's Duties:

#### **Feast of the Most Holy Trinity**

St Peter's  
All Saints'  
St Mary's

Mrs S Dashwood

#### **Corpus Christi**

St Peter's  
All Saints'  
St Mary's

Mrs S Dashwood

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year**

All Saints'  
St Mary's  
St Peter's  
St Mary's

Mr/Mrs G Howard

Mrs S Dashwood

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year**

St Mary's  
All Saints'

#### **Feast of St. Peter with Bishop David**

St Peter's

*Anyone unable to carry out their duty and who cannot exchange with another sidesman please contact Kate Bennett or Wendy Casson on 712028. Please note that services are provisional as changes can sometimes be made at short notice. Please check the Sunday Link Sheet.*

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

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



# HERO WALK SPIRE TO SPIRE

## Winchester to Salisbury

Sunday 19 July 2015

For more information visit [www.helpforheroes.org.uk/spire2spire](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk/spire2spire)  
challenges@helpforheroes.org.uk 01725 514106





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

Now that summer is here most cats are keen to be out and about during the warm nights. Please try to keep them in if possible. I know it is being a spoilsport but the hours of darkness are the time when a cat is most likely to meet with a road accident. If you really can't keep the cat in make sure that it is microchipped then at least you can be contacted if it is taken to a vet.

We are very short of volunteers, both for fostering and fundraising. If you think you can help please email our Fundraising officer, Adrienne.



We shall be providing teas, as usual, for the open garden at Bere Mill, Whitchurch on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> June. The garden, situated on the River Test, is magnificent, well worth a visit and our homemade cake will not disappoint you..

We are happy to report that Betty has found a lovely, rural home, though last month's black and white boys are still in care. The June cat is **Libby**, a beautiful, young long-haired tabby. She is very friendly, loves attention and is quite vocal when she doesn't get it.

*Martin Bevan*

### HIBBERT CUP 2015

This cup is awarded annually at the Abbotts Ann Fete which this year is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. It is awarded for outstanding, voluntary, unpaid contribution to the Abbotts Ann community in honour of Basil Hibbert. 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. 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, Abbotts 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.

*Graham Stallard*



### REVEREND DAVID BROAD'S RESIGNATION

On 5<sup>th</sup> May the Diocese announced that "The Reverend David Broad currently Rector of Abbotts Ann and Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford (Benefice), Andover Deanery is to be Licensed as Parish Priest of St Michael's, Lewes in the Chichester Diocese on 20 July 2015."

His last service in this Benefice will be on June 21<sup>st</sup> in All Saints at 10.00am, so there will be no Family Service in The War Memorial Hall on that day.

We all wish David and his family success and happiness as they start a new chapter in their lives. There will be a collection for anyone wishing to contribute to a leaving present. Donations may be given to Sally Dashwood, or to the sidesmen at any service in the next few weeks.

The Benefice Churchwardens have met Bishop David (the Bishop of Basingstoke) and he has assured us that the intention is for us to stay as a united Benefice. He also asked that the Benefice churchwardens work closely together as we start a new era together. There will, however, have to be an interregnum whilst a new incumbent is found

As St Mary's churchwardens we would appreciate all the help we can get to run your Parish over the next few months. We need more holy dusters, flower arrangers, sidesmen, lesson readers and Fun Club helpers for a start and a volunteer to be our School Foundation Governor would be much appreciated. Please do get in touch with either of us if you feel you can help.

*Sally Dashwood and Gordon Howard - Churchwardens*

### 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**

## From The Registers

### **Holy Baptism**

Jaxon Anthony Henry Gilbert whose Baptism took place at St Peter's on 26th April.

Jack Christopher Charlie Smith whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on 10th May.

Evalyn Seren Margaret Cannon whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on 10th May.

### **Holy Matrimony**

Adam Faye and Lucinda Thompson whose Wedding took place at St Peter's on 15th May.

### **Rest in Peace**

Vera Mary Jerome whose Funeral took place at Salisbury Crematorium on 20th April.

Derek Hallett whose Funeral took place at All Saints' on 21st April.

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

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

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



### **Dates:**

**22 May - 4 Jun**  
**5 Jun - 18 Jun**  
**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:**

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

### **Dusting:**

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

## THE GLORY OF BAROQUE



Lovers of baroque music are in for a treat this summer as the period orchestra Linden Baroque joins forces with local chamber choir The Harmonium Singers at St Mary's Church, Andover on 20 June. The main item on the programme is the ever-popular Vivaldi 'Gloria' which will occupy the second half. The first half consists of a delightful selection of shorter choral items, all baroque masterpieces in their own right. JS Bach, Handel, Telemann and Zelenka will all be represented, and the orchestra will also play a couple of items on their own.

St Mary's, Andover is a fitting venue for the concert with its soaring gothic arches and spacious acoustics. This iconic building is at the very heart of Andover and is the subject of a major appeal to enable important repair, restoration and remodelling work. The orchestra is funded in part by a Test Valley Borough Councillors' Community Grant, supported by Winton ward councillors Chris Lynn and Jan Budzynski.

Musical director Bruce Randall explains: "We're delighted that we can invite Linden Baroque to Andover again, after a six-year gap. This is a London-based, semi-professional orchestra which specialises in playing baroque music on period instruments in a historically-informed way. Its members have included many specialists with prominent careers in the early music field.

"The instruments used are either 18th century originals or modern copies, played at 'baroque pitch' of 415Hz. The instruments are at a lower tension than modern concert pitch and their design and set-up means they sound much softer and more subtle than today's steel-strung and multiple-keyed successors, allowing the music to be heard closer to the way it was when it was composed."

The Harmonium Singers have earned a strong local reputation for polished performances of smaller-scale choral music, often singing unaccompanied but enjoying occasional concerts with instrumental groups or small orchestras. Most concerts raise money for local charities – this one being no exception with much of the ticket money going to the St Mary's Appeal.

Strong demand is expected for tickets, which are available in advance at £10 from the Lights, Newbury Building Society and from choir members, or £12 at the door. Under-14s will be admitted free. The concert begins at 7.30pm on Saturday 20 June.

Tickets are available from Ray Lucas Tel: 710037 :  
email [raylucas1984@gmail.com](mailto:raylucas1984@gmail.com)

**10km**



**5km**



**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.abbottsnann.hants.sch.uk/pta](http://www.abbottsnann.hants.sch.uk/pta)

**Arena entertainment**

**BBQ breakfast and lunch**

**Sporting demonstrations**

**Refreshments and bar**

**Side stalls & activities**

**1km**

**Obstacle**

**Run**



**Sponsored**



To enter online visit  
[www.runnersworld.co.uk/  
abbottsnann10km](http://www.runnersworld.co.uk/abbottsnann10km)

### **St MARY'S TERCENTENARY**

**Please do not forget the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June in the church  
as advertised in the May magazine.**

*Sally Dashwood, Churchwarden.*

### **TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015**

75.5% of the electorate in Anna ward voted on May 7th.

Maureen Flood and Graham Stallard thank all those who voted for them in the May 7th Elections and look forward to representing all in the Anna ward community.

### **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 Abbotts 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 Abbotts 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 Abbotts Ann Vision Transport Project*

### **THANK YOU**

We would like to thank all the members of the outgoing Parish Council for the hard work, dedication and support that they have given to the village over many years. It has been greatly appreciated. Congratulations and best wishes to the new committee.

*Graham and Jill Else.'*

### **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.**

## ABBOTTS ANN VISION COUNTRYSIDE GROUP Forthcoming events



Following the highly popular visit to the local **cress beds** last year, two further visits will take place this summer, by kind permission of Vitacress. There is still time to book for the first of these, covering cress growing and stream ecology, on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June** at 6:30pm.

The second visit, to hear about otters and water voles and to see our local bats and what has been caught in the moth traps, is scheduled for **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July** at 8pm.

Numbers are limited and **booking is essential** for both visits. Please contact John or Julie Moon (01264 710123 or [julie.moon@care4free.net](mailto:julie.moon@care4free.net)) if you would like to attend one or both events.

A **farm visit** will take place on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**, by kind invitation of Matthew Read of Saxley Farm (between Redrice and Danebury), starting at 6:30pm and lasting about 2 hours. There will be a chance to see several different types of arable crop, find out about cultivation methods and requirements, see a field-sized solar array installation and a biomass boiler, see typical farm equipment, ask questions about farming practice and agri-environment schemes etc. It should be a fascinating evening. Please contact John or Julie Moon (contact details as above) to register an interest and receive directions to the farm.

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 6:30pm.

*Julie Moon Abbotts Ann Vision Countryside Group*

## OPERA HIGHLIGHTS IN THE GARDEN - 27th JUNE, 2015

Following the tremendous success and popularity of our evening of Opera Highlights, performed by the wonderful Candlelight Opera Company in the beautiful garden of Malt Barn, Upper Clatford, we are holding another one in aid of funding for Gene Therapy for Cystic Fibrosis.

The garden will be open at 6.00 pm for picnics prior to the performance at 7.30 pm.

Clinical trials have started and we are on our way to a cure for this terrible disease which still kills three young people every week. However, funding to complete the trials is desperately needed.

**TICKETS are still only £25 from Lynda Gent, Malt Barn, Upper Clatford, 01264 359583.**  
**Cheques payable to Imperial College (cf Gene Therapy)**

## CLATFORD VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Carnations were the topic of our April Meeting given by Ray Broughton, who has visited us several times before. He started by giving us a few examples of some funny situations that he had encountered when travelling around giving talks. He then went on to give advice on the propagation of carnations and pinks.

Firstly he emphasised the importance of carbon dioxide in the greenhouse. As there is only 0.03% of carbon dioxide in the air, in a closed greenhouse it can easily get used up during the night. This can lead to leggy, weak plants. To counteract this, commercially propane gas is used, but there is a 'cunning plan' that can be used by amateurs. Wearing gloves place fresh, lumpy manure (less than a month old) in a box, cover with cling film and tie in place and then make six small holes in the cling film, and of course place in the greenhouse. The decomposition of the manure produces carbon dioxide throughout the winter and there is no smell.

Carnations can be propagated from October to February and March but there must be a minimum temperature of 8 degrees C. in the greenhouse. Young shoots only should be used and any brown leaves removed and destroyed (not placed on the compost heap) as they contain rust fungus. However don't take too many leaves off the cuttings. He does not use hormone rooting powder as he says that it does not promote rooting and is toxic, in fact it is banned in some countries. The cuttings are placed in a hole in compost to which has been added river bed sand (the hole not the compost) which is available from good garden centres. Slow releases fertilises can be used, but it is important not to over fertilise or over water. Then wait for the results. If at the end of the growing season flowers do not open, cut them and place in lukewarm water – the flower will open. Another tip he gave was, in order to prevent the flowers nodding, prick the stem close to the flower's head six times with a sewing needle. This also works for tulips.

Throughout the talk he gave many useful tips applicable to gardening in general, too many to mention, so there was lots to learn even if carnations are not your thing. However one must be included. To clean secateurs place them in tomato ketchup for several hours, this both cleans and sterilises them.

Finally we were given a vision of future developments into compost made from cardboard coffee cups to avoid the use of peat, and cereal pots to replace peat pots. These can be impregnated with fertilisers and water retaining gel. Look out for these. If you missed this talk you missed some really useful tips.

Also at the meeting, bookings were taken for our evening visit to Dean House at Kilmeston, the Summer visit to Hidcote, and the Annual BBQ in July. Betty Armstrong won the raffle. The June Meeting is 'Heavenly Hosta's by John Baker. **Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at Upper Clatford Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.**

*Jenny Llewellyn*

## THE WILDFLOWER MEADOW AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CHURCHYARD - LATEST UPDATE ON ACTIVITY

St Mary's Fun Club are growing some wild flower seeds to go in the meadow. The seedlings are in Mrs Godman's greenhouse, having put them in soil on 28<sup>th</sup> April. They have made a mini insect house to put in the meadow which will be in place by the time you read this. They will be in the wildflower meadow on 16<sup>th</sup> June to see what is growing etc., and will hopefully plant the new wild flowers once they have grown. The wildflower meadow service will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July; everyone is invited to join us for the service.

### More on the wildflower meadow

In April the Cowslips were superb and many people have commented on the current magnificent display of Red Campion. Watch out for the next plants due to flower in the meadow, which are Oxeye Daises and Buttercups. Recent management has consisted of re-mowing the path through the meadow and scything back some rampant nettles, so do feel free to wander in and enjoy!

*David Read - Chair AAGA*



## ABBOTTS ANN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE APRIL 2015

I believe it is a given that most women give a lot of thought to their wardrobe; what to buy, what to wear, how it looks, does it fit, does the colour suit .... etc. - but do we think about whether our choices actually reflect our role in society?? I very much doubt it.

Well Dinah Warnock at this month's meeting opened our eyes. Dinah worked in the fashion industry as a shoe designer for Edward Rayne - now there's a dream career - but on this occasion she was here to give us a very professional slideshow depicting what women have been wearing since the late 1880's - this was a time when women grew up either "belonging" to their father or later, on marriage, to their husband. Not something we would tolerate now.

What we women now wear has had to be adapted as we take a full and active role in society. Obviously, the biggest change came during the two world wars of the 20th Century, when women stepped up and took on the jobs vacated by the men who went off to fight. We now needed to be able to move freely, no more constricting skirts or corsets, so hemlines went up and trousers emerged - the latter being very controversial. The blinkers (also known as bonnets) were shaken off. Most women have to earn a living at some point in their life and we dress accordingly. We have choices - something earlier generations of women could not have begun to envisage.

However, back to WI matters; our programme sub-committee is working hard behind the scenes coming up with plans for future meetings, events celebrating the 100 years of the WI continue at national and county level - some of which will be attended by members of Abbotts Ann WI. We continue to enjoy other regular events including, the reading and walking groups, lunch and supper clubs and last, but not least, coffee mornings.

Waddesdon Manor (National Trust) is the chosen venue for our summer outing on Thursday 13th August - there is availability on the coach if you wish to come along. Please contact us for further information.

This month we are having an "away day" - we are off to a Lavender Farm near Alton during the afternoon of 25th June - we will NOT be in the Village Hall that evening.

*Sharon King*

## **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, Abbotts 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.



The bell ringing team are now keen to add hand bell ringing to their repertoire. As Thursday evenings are dedicated to church bellringing practise it is planned to introduce another evening for the practise of the hand bells. Once a month on the second Tuesday of the month the team, being complete novices, will meet in the church rather than the ringing chamber in an attempt to hone their skills at hand bell ringing. Who knows what level of enjoyment will be achieved.

*Dudley Alleway: Tower Captain*

### **HAND BELL RINGING SESSIONS**

If you enjoy the sound of bells and are curious or interested to learn more about what it takes to learn to ring the hand bells why not come along to the church at 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month (excluding August) to find out what is involved. You will be made very welcome. There is no age limit, young or old (like the current team) only a curiosity and interest in the art. We would like to form a hand bell team from volunteers other than the bellringing team.

*Dudley Alleway: Tower Captain*

### **A VERY BIG THANK YOU!**

Abbotts Ann School Association would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated jumble and attended our Spring Jumble Sale, as well as to all the jumble collectors, sorters and sellers on the day. The Jumble Sale raised an amazing £1,416.25 which will be spent by the Primary School on a new all through school Mathematical scheme.

Your continued support is very much appreciated by parents, teachers but most of all the children who benefit from your generosity. Thank you.

*Aly Godman on behalf of AASA*

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SUNDAY 5TH JULY**

If you can spare an hour or more on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July Abbotts 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.

## THE HAND BELLS OF ST MARYS

In the early 80's when your writer was persuaded to take up bellringing by the late Dennis Oram, who was tower captain at the time, the subject of the existence of an eight bell set of hand bells occasionally came up in conversation. The story was that the hand bells had been removed from the bell tower at the beginning of WWII in 1939 and stored purportedly in the pub for safe keeping. At the end of the war, apparently, no known approaches were made to recover the bells so they were never returned to the bell tower. By the 1980's Dennis was the only member of the team left from that era and when he passed away in 1995 all thoughts of ever finding out what happened to them were forgotten.

In 2004 Lyn Dewey, the previous landlady of the 'Eagle' who was also the grand-daughter of the landlord of the 'Eagle' before and during the war, was clearing out the loft of her late father's house when she came across an old cardboard box containing the bells all wrapped carefully in tissue paper. The missing bells had at last been found after a period of 65 years. The bells were handed over to a church warden who passed them to the present team of bell ringers again for safe keeping. The bells were once more stored securely away in the bell tower.

Prior to the hand bells being returned to the church there was no evidence as to how they were displayed if in fact they had ever been displayed. The team were unanimous in their thoughts; the bells should be displayed in a custom made cabinet with a toughened glass front so that the bells could be seen. There followed a number of unsuccessful attempts to obtain quotes for the manufacture of such a cabinet as at that time in 2012 none of the team were aware of the fact that villager Donald Sorterup's hobby is furniture and cabinet making. On being approached, Donald readily agreed to make a suitable cabinet. Following discussions on cost, funds were raised and with absolute dedication and precision Donald designed and made a magnificent glass fronted wall mounted oak cabinet generously donating the significant amount of time expended in making it. A portion of the ringing chamber wall capable of taking the weight of the cabinet and bells was identified and Donald installed the cabinet.

In view of the importance of this event some 73 years after they were taken out of the tower a service of dedication was planned. The bell ringing team now had a set of hand bells to add to their repertoire but were complete novices at hand bell ringing. Four of the team namely Roni & Malcolm Dye and Dee & Colin Howarth frantically practised a simple sequence of ringing in preparation for the service which took place in November 2012 at which the Bishop of Basingstoke presided.



**James Wells is now at your service.**  
Abbotts 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](mailto:james.wells@mercedes.co.uk)  
[www.sandown-group.co.uk](http://www.sandown-group.co.uk)



## ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

**Shop Manager:** Tim Abram  
**Deputy Shop Manager:** Carol Murphy  
**Sub Post Mistress:** Maureen Flood  
**June 2015 News**

### **Shop News**

The Shop Association are pleased to announce the appointment of a new manager. Tim Abram, a resident of Abbotts Ann, is already in post. So please make yourself known to him and make him feel welcome.

For the past three months the shop has been run by Carol Murphy. Carol has done a wonderful job and the committee are extremely grateful to her for her dedication and devotion to the role. Our thanks go also to Shirley, the volunteer managers and all the volunteers. Well done all. Let's keep up the good work.

### **Blackboards**

Thanks to Nick Young we have new signage in the shop. The mini blackboards are really clear and, hopefully, will help our customers find the goods they require more easily.

**£1**

Remember to check the special offers of goods at only £1.

### **Garden Produce**

Thank you to the villagers who have been bringing their excess produce to the shop already; rhubarb, asparagus, plants and so on. Please keep it coming. Fresh produce and plants all grown in the village are much appreciated

### **Austwicks**

Hand made Pork pies are a new addition to the Austwick range, whilst their Scotch eggs are very popular; all suitable for the coming 'lazy, hazy' days of Summer. The ready meal range is also back. Check the freezer. Although we try to keep up with demand these popular products all disappear quickly

### **Hampshire Wines**

Don't forget that we now stock local wines. Give them a try, you will not regret it!

*Elizabeth Howard - Shop Volunteer & Committee Member*

## **ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE**

### **HomePhone & Broadband Premium**

Get 6 MONTHS FREE BROADBAND - No usage limits so you can surf, stream and download as much as you like.

A monthly line rental of £15 applies and after 6 months free, the broadband

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

April sees varied weather with chilly days mixed with utterly glorious days of warm summer sunshine and azure blue skies. It is one of our favourite months when everything accelerates in nature; birds start nesting, migrant birds begin arriving, the dawn chorus is in full swing, baby rabbits (pups) appear in the fields (or as a dead offering from one of the cats, outside our front door) and wild flowers begin to bring colour beneath the hedgerows and in the fields. With the clocks having sprung forward there is suddenly more light at the end of the day and the Tribe are outside for longer. I find that I frequently forget the time and everything ends up being later than it should be, but playing outside until late is usually worth it.

With the warmth we find that there are bumblebees emerging from their winter hibernation - they are quite large and must be queens who will be eagerly searching for food to give them energy. It is because of her larger size that she is able to come out before the other smaller bees as she won't lose heat so quickly. She is still much slower at this time of year until her energy reserves are built up and she begins to look for a place to nest. To get into her 'breeding condition' she will have to visit more than 5,000 flowers every day. No wonder we use the phrase 'busy bees'!

The Tribe comment how the blackthorn in bloom in the hedgerows along Cattle Lane look like great swathes of snowdrifts piled up at the side of the road. The blossom is absolutely stunning and it truly feels like summer is on its way. Gradually the bright green shoots on trees and shrubs are opening into young leaves and the greening up of the countryside is beginning in earnest. Within a month homes behind hedges will disappear from view. We still find it strange on the very warm days this month, when faces are sunkissed with a golden hue from days spent in the sunshine, that many of the trees are still quite naked. The cherries are in their full glory this month with their delicate blossom that rains down like confetti in the gentlest of breezes. It seems that this year is a bumper year for cherry blossom - one to rival the famous Cherry Blossom Festival in Japan. The reason for this is that the days are warm while the nights are still cold resulting in longer blossoming.

An update on our ducks - although the pair continue to visit at the beginning of the month, by the end of April they have stopped coming completely. The Tribe are terribly disappointed, but I assume that they have found a safe nesting site (away from children and cats) and I hope that they have produced a healthy brood although so far we have not noticed any ducklings swimming about Pillhill Brook. Passing through the DLO one morning I almost slam on my brakes as I see a mother duck waddling, just behind the security fence, followed by 9 fluffy brown ducklings. It is a beautiful and innocent sight and I am delighted that the simplicity of what I have seen leaves me with a big smile on my face.

*Mother of the Tribe*



# 'Looking for JJ'

By Anne Cassidy

Adapted for the stage by Marcus Romer.

*Three girls walked into the woods together, but only two came back ...."*

**Fri June 5th and Sat June 6th at 7.30pm**

**Sun June 7th 6.00pm**

**King Edward VII Hall, Upper Clatford**

Tickets available from the Hexagon Stores and from  
[www.burdockvalleyplayers.com](http://www.burdockvalleyplayers.com)

## ABBOTTS ANN PLAYERS - NEW MEMBERS REQUIRED!

Abbotts Ann Players are looking for new talent

The Players have been in existence for 40 years and during that time have staged dramas, comedies, revues and pantomimes which have been well supported by the villagers and friends.

We are currently rehearsing for a Murder Mystery evening to be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June in the War Memorial Hall.

We will soon be casting for our pantomime which will be taking place in early December. If you would like to be a part of the fun by dressing up and making a spectacle of yourself or if you would like to help backstage with costumes, make-up, lighting, sound, set design/construction etc. please get in touch by contacting

Trish Wallis 01264 710918 [trishwallis2007@gmail.com](mailto:trishwallis2007@gmail.com)  
or Lucy Coombes 01980 629420 [lucy.coombes@btinternet.com](mailto:lucy.coombes@btinternet.com)

**We would welcome people of any age to join our group.**

*Trish Wallis*

price is £8 a month and an 18 month contract applies.

### **Key Benefits**

*6 months free broadband* - browse the web, send emails, listen to music, watch films and more (Fair Usage Policy applies)

*Inclusive weekend calls* to UK landlines and 0845 and 0870 numbers.

*Wireless router*: connect additional laptops, computers and devices to the internet at home

Also included with this package

Nominate 10 people as your *Loved Ones*

Up to five email addresses for you and your family so you can send and receive emails

PC security with anti-spam, anti-virus and parental controls

Need more calls? Get *anytime* calls to UK landlines, *0845 and 0870 numbers* plus weekend calls to UK mobiles and landlines in 40 countries for just £5.75 a month.

### **Special Stamps**

#### **Magna Carta: 2nd June**

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, the foundation stone of the Rule of Law whose influence has extended around the world. To commemorate this milestone Royal Mail has worked closely with the Magna Carta 800th Committee to produce six Special Stamps depicting the Magna Carta itself as well as major international bills and declarations inspired by it that have been issued to protect civil liberties and rights.

#### **The Battle of Waterloo: 18th June**

200 years since one of the most famous battles in British history, that was the culmination of two decades of conflict, and which essentially saw the birth of modern Europe. The Battle was a contest between Napoleon's army and an Allied army composed of British and German forces under Wellington and Prussian forces under Blucher.

*Maureen Flood*

## **THE ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP ASSOCIATION** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Will be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
in Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall  
at 7.30pm.

Anyone wishing to stand for the committee please apply in writing, proposed and seconded, by 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, to hon Sec AAVA, Long Thatch, Duck Street, Abbotts Ann.

# MURDER IS SERVED

Agatha Christie meets Fawlty Towers at cantankerous Clarissa's surprise party. Someone is about to die, but who will it be? Come and join in the excitement, intrigue and foul play, trickery is most definitely afoot!



## Murder Mystery Evening

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
7.30pm

Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall



£14



Tickets on sale in Abbotts Ann Village Shop

Hosted by The War Memorial Hall Committee and proudly presented by The Abbotts Ann Players. Enquiries call Lisa 710231

The British used poison gas for the first time on 25th September, as they launched yet another attack against the German 6th Army in Artois. Chlorine gas released from over 5,000 cylinders, creating a poisonous cloud that drifted toward the Germans, opening a gap in their front line. The British advanced and quickly seized their objective, the town of Loos, but then failed to capitalize on the four-mile-wide breach in the German lines because the reserves were held too far to the rear. The Germans regrouped and, when the attack was resumed the next day, well-placed German machine-gunners caused fearful attrition on the attackers. In all, the British suffered 50,000 casualties during the Loos offensive.

In April, in Mesopotamia, now Iraq, British troops had repelled a large attack by the Turks against Basra. A successful counter-attack was launched to protect the Basra position, which then exploited up the Tigris Valley toward Baghdad. This led, in late September, to a British victory at the Battle of Kut al-Amara. This spurred an ambitious move by the British to venture onwards to capture Baghdad. However, that attempt failed and the troops withdrew to Kut and dug in. On 5th December, hoping to overcome their earlier defeat at Kut, Turkish troops laid siege to the town, cutting the garrison off completely.

In December, as a consequence of strategic and operational planning and command failures, the Commander of the British Expeditionary Force, Sir John French, was removed on the grounds of military incompetence, and replaced by Douglas Haig.

By April 1915 the BEF had grown to 900,000 men in 28 divisions and, at the end of 1915, its strength was about 1.5 million men, many of them recruited by Lord Kitchener's "Your Country Needs You" poster. By early 1916, the BEF consisted of 3 field armies; 1<sup>st</sup> Army commanded by General Henry Horne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Army commanded by General Herbert Plumer and 3<sup>rd</sup> Army commanded by General Edmund Allenby.

*Mike Cooper*

### Author's notes.

1. It is impossible to do any more than scratch the surface on the story of any year of the Great War in a medium such as this. For those who wish to read more on 1915, the following are recommended: Gallipoli 1915 by P H Haythornthwaite, a Campaign series book by Osprey, and 1915 - The Death of Innocence by [Lyn MacDonald](#), which is available in paperback from Amazon.

2. Casualty figures include those killed, died of wounds, wounded, sick and missing. In the context of static warfare, missing usually meant killed; the possibility of being an evader was very unlikely. The ratio of killed to other casualty categories was generally reckoned to be 1 to 3. For example, at Loos, the number killed was about 12,500.

The plan was for the French and British to attack the Turks, who were allied to Germany, through the Dardanelles and capture the Gallipoli peninsula. This would control entry into the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara. After a failed attempt by British and French warships to force a way through the narrow Straits, initial landings were carried out on 25th April. 70,000 troops, including 15,000 Australians and New Zealanders, eventually landed at Helles beach and ANZAC Cove on the western end of the peninsula in an attempt to unlock the deadlocked military situation. The peninsula was heavily defended by Turkish troops, supplied and trained by the Germans, and they proved a cunning and skilful enemy. Within two weeks, a stalemate developed as the Allies failed to gain any of their objectives and the Turks began a series of costly attacks in an attempt to eject the Allies. Other Regular, Territorial Force and New Army divisions were thrown into the campaign; all incurred high casualties and achieved limited success.

Hoping to break the stalemate on Gallipoli, the British renewed the offensive with another major landing at Sulva Bay on 6th August. An additional 20,000 troops landed without opposition but exploitation off the beaches was hampered by indecisive generalship, poor planning, ineffective communications and logistical problems. The Turks responded by rushing in two divisions and the British attempt to sweep across the peninsula ended in further failure.

By the end of August, the Allies had lost over 40,000 men killed for no gain. Force commander General Ian Hamilton asked for 95,000 more men but, although supported by Winston Churchill, War Minister Lord Kitchener was unwilling to commit more troops. On 14th October, Hamilton was replaced by General Munro and, after touring all three fronts, Munro recommended withdrawal. Kitchener, who arrived in theatre two weeks later, agreed that the force should be evacuated. After months of stalemate, in which Turkish troops contained all breakthrough attempts while inflicting 205,000 casualties, the Allies began an orderly evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula beginning at Sulva Bay on 7th December and with the last of the force leaving Helles on 9th January 1916. During this evacuation the Royal Navy successfully evacuated 83,000 soldiers by sea, unopposed by the Turks. The operation had been one of valid strategic concept ruined by poor generalship, catastrophic military incompetence but with heroism displayed at every turn by the troops.

In September the Germans announced an end to their first U-Boat campaign, begun in February, which had targeted ships around the British Isles. This came in response to increasing protests from the United States following American civilian deaths at sea. The U-Boats were then sent by the Germans to wreak havoc in the Mediterranean Sea, away from American shipping lanes in the Atlantic.

Abbotts Ann Conservatives invite you to



**COME AND HAVE SOME MORE FUN AT OUR SECOND  
BEETLE DRIVE!**

**ON FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 2015**

**DRINKS IN THE GARDEN AT 7.00pm  
FOLLOWED BY BEETLE DRIVE at 7.30pm  
AT ABBOTTS ANN WAR MEMORIAL HALL**

**Tickets £10.00 (to include 2 course supper)**

**Available in advance from Michael Pugh (Tel: 711158)  
([pughabbottsann@gmail.com](mailto:pughabbottsann@gmail.com)), Biz Shaw (Tel 710197)  
([bizmorris@sky.com](mailto:bizmorris@sky.com))**

**or Committee Members (Cheques payable to NWHCA)**

**LORNA'S CYCLE FROM LONDON TO PARIS**

**It is likely that when you read this, I will already be on my way to Paris.**

Just four months ago, my family were fortunate enough to enjoy a trip of a lifetime and visited Nepal. We were overwhelmed by the country's beauty, its buildings but most of all the people.

Much of the architectural heritage has been decimated and whole communities lost. Our guide and porter both lost their homes. Langtang, a mountain community was destroyed when the earthquake caused a huge landslide of mud and suffocated all that lived there. We walked in nearby mountains and shared tea with some of the people and they will need our help.

I am therefore raising money to help Nepal and all are welcome to sponsor me via my Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/Lorna-Haigh2> or contact me directly on 01264 710174.

If you do not want to gift to Nepal and would like to contribute to a more local cause I will also be raising money for **Abbotts Ann Sportsfield**. Details of both sponsorship opportunities will be held in Abbotts Ann Village Shop. Thank you so much.

*Lorna Haigh*

## **NEWS FROM THE ABBOTTS ANN SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new chair of the Abbotts Ann Sports Field Management Committee, and to share with you, the Abbotts Ann community, our recent news and events.

My Name is Kelly Everett of 23A Duck Street. I became a member of the Sports Field Committee in 2012. Being new to the village, it seemed the best way to get to know more people in the community and secondly, to contribute positively in some way to village life. I have really enjoyed being part of such a proactive team of volunteers and it has been a privilege to help out and take part in many village events.

I am taking over the position from Mr Kevin Emerson, who led the committee for just over 3 years. Mr Emerson did a splendid job as Chairman. The strong leadership, effort and commitment that he gave the role, was second to none! The committee are all thankful that Kevin will remain on the committee as a valued member. His knowledge and understanding of the sports field will be invaluable as we approach future plans on funding for improving and maintaining our grounds and facilities

### **The committee**

The AASFMC is made up of a small team of volunteers who give their time and energy towards hosting a range of sporting activities, maintenance and fundraising events, as well as helping to put on big village events such as the fete and bonfire night.

Recently, the committee met on 29th March to carry out a sparkle day of the grounds. The weather was against us, but through the howling wind and rain we managed to fill up an entire skip with debris and rubbish, pulled from the perimeters of the field and the skate-park and pitch. A big thank you to all of our committee members for volunteering their time and elbow grease, whilst getting drenched, still with smiles on their faces!

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our longest standing committee member, Brian Sims. This will be his 41st year of dedicating his time to tending and maintaining the sports field. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank him hugely for all his commitment for so many years, come rain or shine!

### **A Short history**

The grounds of the sports field were kindly donated to the residents of Abbotts Ann back in the 1950's, just after Bulbery was built. Today, the Parish Council provides £1,500 per annum to the committee, who voluntarily manage the field on behalf of the Parish Council. This sum covers the costs of field maintenance, machinery and pavilion upkeep. Without; the committee would have to fundraise this amount each year, just to keep the

Germans failed to capitalise due to a lack of reserve troops and cautious frontline troops being hesitant to venture too close to the gas cloud. British and Canadian troops then plugged the gap but were unable to regain any ground taken by the Germans. Ypres remained in Allied hands but was surrounded on three sides. Allied casualties in the 2nd Battle of Ypres totalled 58,000.

The area of main British effort in France and Flanders for 1915 was in the Artois. On 10th March, British and Indian troops, including some of the new Kitchener divisions, attacked the Germans around the village of Neuve Chapelle, achieving complete surprise but failing to capitalize on the narrow breach created in the German lines because of a lack of reserve troops. After three days of fighting, with over 11,000 casualties, the offensive was suspended. Still in the Neuve-Chappelle area, the British attacked very strong German positions, unsuccessfully, near Aubers Ridge on 9th May. The failed attack was attributed to the lack of high explosive shells, many of which had been sent to Gallipoli, although, after protest, replacement shells had been sent from the UK within days. Regrettably, details of the 'shells scandal' reached the Times newspaper by the hand of a military correspondent, which raised further questions in both the War Office and Parliament over the competence of the BEF's field command. A week later, British and Indian troops launched another attack, this time at Festubert, north of Neuve Chapelle. The attack was preceded by a 60-hour artillery bombardment but the troops advanced just 1,000 yards while suffering 16,000 casualties. A lesson that should have been learned here, as it was so obvious, was that it was very difficult to prevail in an attack against well defended enemy positions without overwhelming firepower and troop numbers, including ready reserves. Somewhere, there had to be a key that would unlock this operational door.

Once the fighting on the Western Front in France and Flanders had morphed into static warfare typified by trenches, dugouts and barbed wire, where the combat power of artillery was king, all of which defied attempts by both sides to break through a strong defence, some British politicians became entranced by the idea of attacking Germany by the back door through the Dardanelle Straits near Constantinople, now Istanbul. This would reopen access to Russia through the Black Sea. Despite pre-war naval planning that suggested a passage through the Straits was impossible, the lure of an easier route to the defeat of Germany was irresistible. On New Year's Day 1915, Second Sea Lord (the political head of the Royal Navy) Winston Churchill sent a memo to Prime Minister Asquith asking "Are there not other alternatives to sending our men to chew barbed wire in Flanders?" Those in the War Office who supported a solution in France and Flanders, the 'pro-Westerners', were rapidly overruled and eventually acquiesced.

## THE GREAT WAR. 1915 – YEAR OF FAILURE

After the 1914 retreat from Mons and defensive battles on the Rivers Aisne and Marne, a British and French counter attack, which commenced on 6th September, pushed the Germans back towards the north and east. With one side desperate to outflank the other, the ‘race to the sea’ started and established a trench line from the Channel to Switzerland - mobile warfare had changed to the deadlock of static warfare. The defining action of British arms was the holding and defeat of an attacking German Reserve Corps by 2/ Worcester at the 1st Battle of Ypres in Belgium on 31st October. By Christmas, the wave of enthusiasm that had sent men flocking to enlist a few months earlier began to tail off and, although the original British Expeditionary Force (BEF) had suffered 90% casualties, most people, even the soldiers themselves, still believed that 1915 would see a break in the deadlock.

As 1915 dawned, the Germans realised that their political objective to dominate Europe had misfired. Their attack on France through neutral Belgium (the Schlieffen Plan) had been stopped by the Allies and their strategic plan, to defeat Britain and France and then turn on Russia, thus avoiding a war on two fronts, had failed. As a consequence, they now started to examine innovative warfighting methods to break the Allies, the majority of which were contrary to the Hague Conventions that governed the rules of war. These methods were the use of poison gas, unrestricted submarine (U-boat) warfare and aerial bombardment.

In January, Germany began an aerial bombing campaign against Britain using Zeppelins. Also, the first German U-Boat campaign of the war began on 18th February with unrestricted attacks against merchant and passenger ships in the waters around the British Isles. Within six months, Allied shipping losses at sea surpassed the number of new ships being built. However, the unrestricted attacks also aroused the anger of the neutral United States as American citizens became casualties. As a consequence, the Royal Navy imposed a total sea blockade on Germany in March, prohibiting all imports including food. On 1st May, a German U-Boat sank an American tanker in the Mediterranean. This was followed on 7th May by the torpedoing of the British passenger liner Lusitania off the Irish coast. 1,201 people, including 128 Americans, were drowned. President Woodrow Wilson subsequently sent four diplomatic protests to Germany, which was the first step towards eventual US involvement. Poison gas was used for the first time on 22nd April as the German 4th Army attacked French positions around Ypres. The attack was supported by the release of chlorine gas that drifted toward two French African divisions. Lacking any protection, the French panicked and fled. Although this created a five-mile-wide gap in the Allied lines, the

field open, safe and usable.

Before the sports field belonged to the parish, sporting villagers would seek to use various farmers’ fields that were dotted around the village for their games; the football team had to play at Monxton and the cricket team played in Red Rice. After the parish took ownership of the grounds, football and cricket facilities were introduced and the field soon became home to a highly successful cricket team, which went on to win the Border League cup in 1967. In the 1980’s the football team, made up of only village residents, reached the semi-finals of the Hampshire Cup.

It is amazing to think that a modest little village like Abbotts Ann could be home to such sporting ability and achievement. On the other hand, it is also sad to think that we have somehow lost our connection with community sports in the village. Maybe this is because our present facilities do not attract teams. Wouldn’t it be marvellous if we could recapture that sporting ambition on the sports field?

### **What we have achieved over the last year**

The committee met in March to carry out a sparkle day of the grounds. It is thanks to all of our committee members for volunteering their time and elbow grease that an entire skip was filled with debris and rubbish, pulled from the perimeters of the field, skate-park and pitch. The play area was scrubbed and the skate park deep cleaned. We are aware there are still many minor improvements needed to be carried out on the field and hope to work through these as the year goes on. Our priority is to maintain a safe, clean and usable environment for the public.

Over the last year the committee has focused heavily on fundraising in order to provide better facilities. We understand that village residents are deterred from using the current pavilion because of its current condition and we are keen to resolve this, as we want to encourage residents back onto the sports field, enjoying all sorts of sports and leisure activities in our village once again.

It is thanks to Mr Emerson’s drive to provide better facilities and the committee volunteers’ efforts that the funding pot is growing. Kevin organised many fundraising events over the last year, including race nights, fun runs, bonfire night, the village fete, quiz evenings and a casino night. It is through the committee’s work that we have managed to raise £15,000 to date. This is a fantastic amount that we are proud to have raised and we’re not quite there yet!

### **Plans for the future - Village Consultation**

Two years ago the committee worked with an architect to draw up some initial plans for a new pavilion to give us an idea of cost. These original plans (on public display at the village fete in 2013) laid out all the standard facilities including a function room to seat 100, changing rooms, toilets,

showers, kitchen, referees' room and lockable storage, all with disability access. The architect's input was useful because he highlighted a number of necessary facilities that would need to be incorporated in order to access funding. After the committee's initial investigations our next plan is to determine what the community wants from its new pavilion and sports field. Who will want to use it? And what will it be used for, now and in years to come?

### **Abbotts Ann Sports Field Survey**

The committee has produced a short survey to be delivered to every household in Abbotts Ann. This is to find out what you and your family want to see happening on the sports field. Your opinions and aspirations on this matter are all highly valued and will help us enormously. Your collective feedback will directly influence the next design and funding application stage. So if you want to see new sports on the field or you simply want improvements to the current facilities, please do take the time to fill out our questionnaire and return it to the Village Shop by August 1st. And just to entice you to give your input, all named surveys returned will be entered into a prize draw for £100 worth of Village Shop vouchers!

In order for the committee to improve the sports field, it is vital that we understand what our village community want from it. After all, the sports pavilion and field belong to the residents of Abbotts Ann, not the committee. We are simply volunteers helping to oversee the running and maintenance of it. It is only right that the sports field serves the residents, young and old, in the best and most enjoyable way possible.

### **Grand Auction Dinner**

Our next big fundraising event is a Grand Auction Dinner, to be held on Saturday 27th June in the War Memorial Hall. This highly anticipated, black tie event includes; a champagne reception, a four course meal and live musical entertainment. We are proud to have received lots of support from local businesses and individuals, who have kindly donated either their time or products to our fantastic pool of auction lots. We hope the evening will be a great fundraising success. Tickets are £20 each and are available to purchase at the Village Shop or by email to [grandauctiondinner@gmail.com](mailto:grandauctiondinner@gmail.com) For further details about the evening including auction lots, sealed bids and menu options, please visit [www.abbottsann.com](http://www.abbottsann.com) and search for Abbotts Ann sports field.

**For the foreseeable future**, the committee will continue to fundraise as much as it can, in order to provide better facilities. This is quite a challenge with a small team of 12 volunteers, so if you would like to get involved by joining the committee please get in touch with me at [kelly.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kelly.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk)

*Kelly Everett*  
*Chair of the Sports Field Management Committee*



The image is a black and white flyer for a 'Grand Auction Dinner'. At the top is a large black bow tie. Below it, the text 'Grand Auction Dinner' is written in a stylized, serif font, flanked by decorative scrollwork. Underneath this, the date '6.30pm. Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015' is displayed. The location 'The War Memorial Hall, Abbotts Ann.' is listed below. The next section, 'RAISING FUNDS FOR THE SPORTS FIELD', is centered. Below this is the price 'Tickets £20.00'. A list of included items follows: 'Champagne reception with canapés', 'Four course meal', and 'Live music and auction catalogue'. A 'Dress Code' section indicates 'Black tie for the gentlemen. Evening wear for the ladies'. The bottom section is titled 'Bookings & Enquiries' with the text 'Tickets available to purchase at the Village Shop' and 'Or by email: [grandauctiondinner@gmail.com](mailto:grandauctiondinner@gmail.com)'. At the very bottom, it says 'Please visit [www.abbottsann.com](http://www.abbottsann.com) to view auction lots and menu options and to place sealed bids.'