

## BENEFICE DIARY - MARCH 2015

1 Mar	(Sun)	<u>The Second Sunday of Lent</u> – full service details – page 2 <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints' <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
2 Mar	(Mon)	<b>12.30pm</b> Way Inn Lunch in St. Peter's Room.
3 Mar	(Tues)	<b>7.00pm</b> Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC
4 Mar	(Wed)	<b>7.30pm</b> Night Prayer at All Saints'. <b>8.00 pm</b> Lent Group at The Rectory <b>7.00pm</b> The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
5 Mar	(Thurs)	<b>10.30am</b> Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning <b>6.30pm</b> Abbots Ann Parish Council meets in Abbots Ann VH
8 Mar	(Sun)	<u>The Third Sunday of Lent</u> – full service details – page 2 <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints' <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
10 Mar	(Tues)	<b>12.30pm</b> Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
11 Mar	(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. <b>7.30 pm</b> All Saints', Night Prayer <b>8.00pm</b> Lent Study Group at The Rectory
12 Mar	(Thurs)	<b>7.30pm</b> CADS production "Will You?" at GCVC
13 Mar	(Fri)	<b>10.30am</b> Children's Society Annual Box Opening, at 9 Catherine's Walk, Abbots Ann <b>7.30pm</b> CADS production "Will You?" at GCVC
14 Mar	(Sat)	<b>7.30pm</b> CADS production "Will You?" at GCVC
15 Mar	(Sun)	<u>The Fourth Sunday of Lent</u> – Mothering Sunday - service details - p 2
<b>15 Mar</b>	<b>(Sun)</b>	<b>12.00noon Deadline for receipt of copy for the April 2015 Abbots Ann Magazine. <a href="mailto:editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk">editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk</a></b> <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints' <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
17 Mar	(Tues)	<b>7.30pm</b> Goodworth Clatford WI meets in GCVC
18 Mar	(Wed)	<b>7.30pm</b> Abbots Ann Green Action meeting, in Abbots Ann VH <b>7.30pm</b> Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall <b>7.30pm</b> All Saints', Night Prayer <b>8.00pm</b> Lent Study Group at The Rectory
20 Mar	(Fri)	<b>10.00am</b> Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
22 Mar	(Sun)	<u>The Fifth Sunday of Lent</u> – Passiontide begins - full service details - p2 <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints' <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
25 Mar	(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.
26 Mar	(Thurs)	<b>7.30pm</b> Abbots Ann WI meets in Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall.
29 Mar	(Sun)	<u>Palm Sunday</u> – full service details – page 3 <b>9.30am</b> Live Wires at All Saints' <b>8.00pm</b> Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
30 Mar	(Mon)	All Saints' Winter Lecture – "The Shadow of the Silk Road" by Colin Thubron.

## St Mary's Church, Abbots Ann

<b>Rector</b>	The Revd. David Broad The Rectory, Upper Clatford <a href="mailto:dna.broad@virgin.net">dna.broad@virgin.net</a> <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  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>	710830  710640
<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 Alaway	710646

## Parochial Church Council

<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
<b>Treasurer (Temporary)</b>	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 MARCH 2015

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

Date: St Mary's Duties:

### **Wednesday 25th February**

7.30pm Night Prayer	All Saints'
8.00pm Lent group	The Rectory

### **Sunday 1st March**

8.00 Holy Communion	Second Sunday of Lent.
10.00 Benefice Family Eucharist	St Peter's
4.00 Evensong	St Mary's                      Mrs S Dashwood

### **Wednesday 4th March**

7.30pm Night Prayer	All Saints'
8.00pm Lent group	The Rectory

### **Sunday 8th March**

8.00 Holy Communion	Third Sunday of Lent
9.30 Benefice Eucharist	All Saints'
11.15 Benefice Matins	St Mary's                      Mr/Mrs G Howard
4.00 Evensong	St Peter's
	St Mary's [Lay led]      Mrs S Dashwood

### **Wednesday 11th March**

7.30pm Night Prayer	All Saints'
8.00pm Lent group	The Rectory

### **Sunday 15th March**

8.00 Holy Communion	Fourth Sunday of Lent
10.00 Family Service	St Mary's                      Mrs N Keene
for Mothering Sunday	St Mary's                      Mrs S George
10.00 Eucharist	St Peter's
for Mothering Sunday	
4.00 Evensong with the	All Saints'
dedication and blessing of a new	
altar frontal with Bishop David, the Bishop of Basingstoke'.	

### **Wednesday 18th March**

7.30pm Night Prayer	All Saints'
8.00pm Lent group	The Rectory

### **Sunday 22nd March**

8.00 Holy Communion	Fifth Sunday of Lent
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	St Mary's                      Miss W Casson
4.00 Evensong	All Saints'
	St Peter's

plants and flowers that are brought in for the different seasons and is beginning to learn what they are. Recently however, as we were walking past the glorious swathes of snowdrops in St Mary's churchyard, she forgot the name for them and was convinced that they were in fact, 'raindrops' - not quite, but at least she realised that there was a weather connection! Another reason for our lunch 'dates' is the delightful robin that appears to have taken up residence near the cafe of the garden centre. As we eat lunch, the robin will suddenly appear, perched high above us, puff out his scarlet chest and begin singing his beautiful song. It is full of life and vitality and on a cold, dark winter's day, full of hope for the warmth of the spring to come. The robin is one of the few birds to sing throughout the year in order to hold its territory - all year. Our garden centre robin continues to appear on our weekly visits and as he trills out his sweet song, his wings almost hover at the side of his body and his head pushes as high as possible. A most welcome addition.

The month had a blip of extremely mild weather, but from mid-January, the temperatures plummeted and there were several days of sub zero temperatures. Our record along Cattle Lane so far this year, was -6! According to the record books this was the sunniest January since 2003 - so the sunniest for all but one of the Tribe! In the last 100 years, only 3 Januarys have been sunnier. Let's hope that this trend continues for the rest of the year.

Back at home our bird feeder birch tree is a busy place with all manner of garden birds visiting. All of them have the appearance of being rather plumper, but this is far from the truth. They are in fact plumping up their feathers to help keep them warm using the layer of air that is trapped between their bodies and feathers. On a couple of days I have found 3 cats sitting on the kitchen windowsill looking directly out onto the shrubs that are alive with a flock of long tailed tits who are doing acrobatics through the bare branches and the evergreen leaves - I assume they are finding insects. The tits are safe as the cats sit motionless bar the frustrated swishing of their tails. Very entertaining and I do wonder if the birds are able to see the cats and are doing the equivalent of 'snubbing their noses' at them! The most unusual visitor this month to the bird feeder has been a jay that has appeared on several occasions resulting in much excitement from the Tribe, with shouts of "Look! Look! What's that bird?" Jays are generally found in wooded areas rather than gardens and they do look fabulously exotic. They are from the crow family and as such are large with a strong black beak, but this is where the similarity ends. Jays are predominantly pink with a bright blue, white and black streak on each wing and a jaunty black moustache. Appearing on one of the feeders, our jay is rather ungainly, hanging precariously as it tries to get its big beak to the fat balls. Jays, like squirrels, hoard nuts in order to survive during the winter, and like squirrels, they too forget where they have hidden them, but this then helps in the germination of new trees. Although the jay looks stunningly flamboyant, particularly at this time of year, its 'song' can hardly be called that - more of a raucous scream. But as Simon Barnes says "It would hardly be fair if it were to sing like a nightingale."

*Mother of the Tribe*



Abbotts Ann Primary School's Council

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

New Year's Day dawns overcast and grey. But it is generally dry - somewhat different to the torrential rain that welcomed in 2014. This year we do walk to our friends at Abbotts Ann Down for their annual game lunch. All the Tribe are dressed in wet weather gear, as we are, and we dust of the off-road buggy for the Littlest - she is unlikely to manage to walk back in the dark of early evening. It is good to be outside, although we do miss the crisp, sparkling landscape of a frosty day, when the ground is hard underfoot and your feet make a satisfying crunch as the tiny ice crystals break underfoot - exactly what we had woken to on New Year's Eve just 24 hours ago. On this day, our feet squidge in the soft earth and occasional muddy patch. The trees lining the path are bare and skeletal, but there is one deciduous tree that is quite striking in the winter. The hazel with its long, yellow catkins, jauntily swinging in the wind, are a welcome addition to the seasonal changes and it makes one think that perhaps spring is not so far away after all.

With the new term starting, the Littlest and I fall back into our weekly ritual of visiting the garden centre for a 'just the two of us' lunch. She enjoys looking at the different



## ***Neural Addictions and Lent***

In an article published in the Guardian recently, Daniel Levitin, a neuroscientist, explored the myth of our ability to 'multi-task'. In reality it is impossible for our brains to do more than one thing at time. When we try we are, as it were, simply switching a light switch on and off rapidly - and we all know what happens to a bulb when we do that. For the brain it leads, through the release of 'cortisol' to anxiety and if we think we are being more efficient or effective we are in fact fooling ourselves. In an era of 'info-mania' as it is coined, we are, he argues, damaging ourselves by the way in which we try to keep up and live up to the implicit cultural expectation today of always being available, always being contactable and always being able to answer there and then. Indeed, attempting to or continuously playing games or answering texts and e-mails, is a form, he says, of 'neural addiction,' which in some cases can even lead to death. Today Levitin observes, compared to thirty years ago, 'We are doing the jobs of 10 different people while still trying to keep up with our lives, our children, our friends, our careers, our hobbies, and our favourite TV shows.'

The article was both shocking and consoling. It might be that we do not recognise our 'addictions' or 'dependencies' on technology nor how we behave with it or express ourselves on it and consider the pressure to 'keep up' with our day to day lives or, pressure others to do so, as just normal, the, 'way it has to be'. By the time you read this however, the Church will have entered a period it calls 'Lent' : the forty days of preparation (excluding Sundays) before Easter. It really is a very strange period to observe in a secular culture

### **Wednesday 25th March**

7.30pm Night Prayer

8.00pm Lent group

All Saints'

The Rectory

### **Sunday 29th March**

8.00 Holy Communion

9.30 Benefice Eucharist

6.00 Evensong

### **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

St Peter's

St Mary's

All Saints'

Mr/Mrs G Howard

*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.*

dependent as it is on consumption as its currency of living. By tradition and in contrast, the Church practises fasting (reflecting on our appetites), praying and meditating (reflecting on the way we make up our own version of ourselves and our world in contrast to receiving our identity in the presence of God) and almsgiving and service (expressing with our lives through acts of charity the reality that everything is a gift to us). ‘Monks’, a Benedictine Abbot said recently, using the language of Alcoholics Anonymous, are ‘men in recovery’. Our daily practice in Lent acknowledges this humbling insight, living as we are in our powerfully addictive culture.

One of the losses of our ‘technology surfing’ -sitting-on-the-top-of-things lives- Daniel Levitin suggests is ‘deep concentration’. And the Christian tradition is all about such depths. In the Russian Orthodox tradition for example, comes the story of the search for ‘continual prayer’, as the bible describes it, in a person’s life. Early last century [1925] it was described like this:

‘A Russian peasant who was literate but handicapped with a crippled left arm was seized with an ardent desire for continual prayer. Failing to learn the secret from sermons he finally met the director he needed, a staretz. [*Staretz is Russian for ‘old man’ and describes a holy person, often a monk, who acts as a guide for those seeking God*] The staretz taught him to say the Jesus Prayer [*‘Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy’*] 3000 times a day to begin with, then 6000 times, then 12,000 times, then as often as he wished. In the end it was no longer the pilgrim saying a prayer but the prayer saying itself in the pilgrim’s mind and heart, whatever his occupation and even while he sleeps. The effects were marvellous: ‘In my soul I felt the bliss of loving God, interior peace, ecstasy, purity of thoughts, and a blessed awareness of God. In my body a warm sensation in the heart, lightness, freshness, quick pulse and overall well-being. life became a joy. I was immune to illness and sadness. There were revelations, intellectual insights, interpretations of the scriptures. I felt close to nature, free from worldly tumult; I tasted the sweetness of the interior life and sensed the nearness of God and of his love for us.’ ‘

The story of this Russian pilgrim has become famous across the world and a mysterious and utterly simple example of deep attention. This is the sort of life that Lent invites us to enter; one through which we begin to learn to relieve ourselves of the burden our addictive and compulsive behaviours.

© David Broad. Rector. March 2015.

#### **EDITOR’S NOTE:**

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

## **YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL?!**

Maybe the parish council elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 will be a bit early for these aspiring candidates, but it won’t be long before they are eligible to make their own contribution to the village!

Abbots Ann Parish Council was delighted to be invited to the primary school last month to talk to the School Council about the responsibilities and functions of a parish council.

Cllr Bernard Griffiths (Chairman), Cllr Graham Whyte (Vice-chairman), Cllr Penny Wilkins, and Cllr Stan Oram were welcomed by school councillors Ruby, Angus, Holly, Freya, Jack, Clemmie and Georgia, who had prepared an exemplary Agenda for the afternoon’s visit under the guidance of former parish councillor Rebecca Bone.

Cllr Griffiths related the historical development of parish councils, which started in 1894 - the same year that Tower Bridge and Blackpool Tower opened. He explained they were composed entirely of volunteers who have a keen interest in the welfare of their community. Councillors may not be experts in every field of knowledge that might be required – for example, planning law, health and safety, highways, etc. – but their job is to know where to find that expertise and to be an intermediary to act on the villagers’ behalf.

He emphasised that parish councils have very little actual power. Much of their work is “behind the scenes”, relying on good personal relationships built up over the years with those who do have the power. It is often a question of persuading others to authorise action, rather than being able to demand it. A council meeting is only the tip of the iceberg.

The school councillors very much impressed the parish councillors with their keen interest and searching questions. They showed a good understanding of village life and issues. For example, they were actively pressing for a 20 mph speed limit, particularly around the school area. Cllr Griffiths explained that this was something the Parish Council, too, would endorse, but that it was one of those areas where a parish council had no direct power. Speed limits were covered by the “Highways” department of Hampshire County Council. The Parish Council had been asking HCC for a long time for such improvements to the traffic system in the village, along with several other improvements within the parish; they would, on behalf of the School Council, contact Cllr Andrew Gibson of HCC again to see if any progress could yet be made.

Some of the present parish councillors may not be in post when these school councillors decide to serve the community in a more official capacity, but they have no doubt that the future of the village will be in good hands with such lively, intelligent and motivated youngsters in the wings!

Rosemary Groves

**Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall Committee**  
**Time to Renew your Subscription to the All New**  
**100 Club!**  
**Year April 2015 to March 2016**



Join the '100 Club' and you could be one of our lucky monthly winners!  
 But what's new, we hear you ask!  
 Well, we've increased the prize fund, and we've doubled the monthly first prize to £30 every month (in December's bonus draw it will be even bigger!).  
 And if you're unlucky all year, there will still be a Losers' Only Draw in March 2015.

There's always a catch, and here it is – the annual subscription has increased to £15.

Back to the good news – you can still have more than one subscription!  
 So help support the War Memorial Hall and remember - you have to be in it to win it!!

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

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

NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS:.....

SURNAME:.....TITLE.....INITIALS.....

ADDRESS.....

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

**Cheques should be made payable to:**  
**Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall Committee**

**MOTHERING SUNDAY 15TH MARCH**

Instead of meeting in the War Memorial Hall, on 15th March at our Family Service we will celebrate Mothering Sunday at 10am in St Mary's church. All are welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

*Tim Tayler*

**From The Registers**

**Holy Baptism**

Layla Dawn Eve and Sophiya Dawn Eve whose Baptisms took place at All Saints' on 25th January.

Harrison Bevan whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on 25th January.

**Rest in Peace**

Irene Mary Hutchinson whose Funeral took place at Basingstoke Crematorium on 22nd January.

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

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

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



**Dates:**

**7 Feb - 12 Mar**

**13 Mar - 26 Mar**

**27 Mar - 9 Apr**

**10 April -23 April**

**24 April -7 May**

**Flowers:**

**Lent**

**Lent**

**Easter**

**Pat Keene**

**Gwen Pollard**

**Dusting:**

**Margaret Brooks**

**Audrey Cresswell**

**Jill Tayler**

**Wendy Casson**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH TERCENTENARY**

In 2016 St Mary's church building will be 300 years old. The PCC want there to be a grand celebration and to that end we plan a meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in the church to make plans. Please put this date in your diary.

We hope all the different clubs, societies etc. will participate together with everyone in the village who is interested who may or may not have ideas to bring to the meeting. Everyone is very welcome.

*Sally Dashwood - Churchwarden on behalf of the PCC.*



### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY ANNUAL BOX OPENING - 13TH MARCH 2015**

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

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

*Kate Bennett- 712028*

### **FRED THOMPSON**

We would like to thank everyone who attended our father's funeral service. He would have been proud and honoured by all who attended, and to know that £356 was raised in the collection tray for the Church new boiler funds.

Dad was a large part of village life for many of his 92yrs and hopefully will be remembered fondly by many within and around the village.

We have laid his ashes to rest with our mum in St Mary's church, Abbotts Ann, where they can finally be together again.

*Jenny Taylor, Barry and Philip Thompson*

### **ABBOTTS ANN BUSES UPDATE**

Since the new, and much reduced, bus timetables for 2015 were published, two additional weekday buses (with number **87A**) have been spotted passing through the village, and these have now appeared on the Wheelers website.

The first bus from Abbotts Ann to Andover is now at **0758** (not eligible for free travel with a senior bus pass) and there is an additional bus back from Andover at **1635**. Saturday bus times are unchanged.

Copies of the updated one-page village timetable are available to take away in the transport folder in the village shop.

*Julie Moon, Abbotts Ann Vision Transport Project*



## **Owls by Moonlight**

**at The Hawk Conservancy**

in aid of Andover Trees United

**Friday 13th March 2015 at 6.45pm**

*Doors Open 6.30pm, Carriages at 11pm.*

**Owls Flying Demonstration ~~ Bird Handling  
Buffet Dinner ~~ Auction of promises  
Music ~~ Dancing**

Please buy tickets and bring friends.  
Please donate a promise to be auctioned

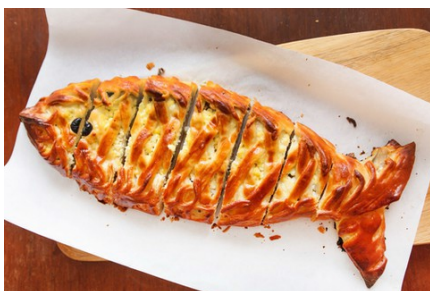
*Any offer gratefully accepted –  
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airport run .. a day's fishing or canoeing  
No Offer is too humble !*

**Tickets only £20** from Len Gates,  
01264 356759

or email [andovertreesunited@gmail.com](mailto:andovertreesunited@gmail.com)

**Andover Trees United wish to thank The Hawk Conservancy**  
*for their friendship and support in helping us to run this vital  
fundraising event*

## How good is your fish pie? Good enough for Good Friday?



### Family fishy Friday fun 3rd April 18:00 at the Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall

We challenge you to make the best fish pie  
ever eaten in Abbotts Ann!

The best fish pie will win a mystery prize.

**Fishy quiz, Fish Pie Contest and wine tasting,  
Raffle during desserts**

**Book a table, cook a pie for entry  
and bring your friends to share it!**

Tickets £7 per adult - £5 per child.

Free entry to all fish pie chefs. Paying bar.

**Tickets for sale in the Village Shop & Post Office**

**If you wish to enter a pie please call:**

**Neil 711108 or Lisa 710231**

All ingredients must be written on an entry form accompanying each entry  
for health & safety and allergy advice. If you have an allergy please check with  
your host chef.

## ABBOTTS ANN BUSES revised 2015 timetable

To Andover	From Andover	To Salis- bury	From Salis- bury
87	87	87	87
(20 mins	approx.)	(1 hour	approx.)
<b>Mon – Fri</b>			
<u>0758</u>	1000		0933
1026	1200	1018	1127
1226		1218	1327
1426	<u>1635</u>		
<b>Saturday</b>			
	1000		0933
1026	1200	1018	1127
1226		1218	1327
1426			1535
1626	1645	1659	

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

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

*Julie Moon, Abbotts Ann Vision Transport Project*

**COUNTRYMAN'S CORNER**  
**The peaceful countryside?**

From the town-dwellers' point of view, the "Countryside" seems to be regarded as an amenity – somewhere they can go to find beauty and tranquillity. It should therefore be preserved for their enjoyment, though sometimes, of course, the city-dwellers' insistence on getting from A to B as quickly as possible, or on relieving congestion in their town-centres, will mean driving railways, motorways and by-passes through great chunks of it. Never mind that someone has to clear the tons of litter chucked out of car windows, farmers have to make a living, and real people actually live in the cottages lining the pretty village streets and lanes. If the visitors are disappointed, they complain.

For instance, there are the visiting photography enthusiasts, who find there's no way they can take an award-winning photo of Little Ann because of the cat's cradle of overhead wires that spoil the sky. They may be aware that the natives are advanced enough to want telephones and washing machines, but "Why can't they bury the blinking wires underground?" they mutter. Well "They" could, if someone paid for it. In fact "They" did, many years ago, make a start on burying the wires, beginning with the easiest bit, and got, from Dance's Corner, not far beyond Abbotts Close. Big deal.

The other day an enthusiastic city-dwelling walker, who is very fond of our village and its surroundings, was heard to express – well, he used a stronger word than *dismay* – about notices adorning trees, fences, telegraph poles and verges. It was thought that he was taking notes, so as to record any changes for the better or worse when he returns. His fingers were clearly itching to compose a strongly-worded request – nay demand – that "They" should do something, with a veiled threat that otherwise he would bring a bin-bag next time and do something himself.

You might be forgiven for thinking that J.K.Rowling, having made quite a comfortable living out of Harry Potter, might have switched off her computer and gone to live somewhere warm and sunny. But instead she decided to branch out into literature for adults with *The Casual Vacancy*, a best-seller with its TV version being hyped as the most unmissable production since *The Forsyte Saga*. It's set in a country parish about the same size as ours, with some surprisingly similar challenges to its treasured tranquillity, including, for instance, the threat of encroaching urban development; the story revolves around the repercussions of a vacancy arising on the Parish Council. The subsequent crises engulf both Council and community. Interesting viewing....

But actually my point here is not about the rather lurid plot of the novel and its frightening picture of a self-destructing community. It concerns another example of a complaint by a visitor. Filming took place in Painswick, a very attractive village in Gloucestershire. Ah yes, I remember it well, long before the hills were alive with royals and oligarchs. All honey-coloured limestone

Abbotts Ann Primary School's

**Spring Jumble Sale  
on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
at Abbotts Ann Primary  
School**

**Entry 50p**

**If you are having a Spring Clean then please  
donate your good quality jumble - clothes, toys,  
books, & bric-a-brac.**

**Collection of jumble will take place  
around the Village the week beginning  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**For alternative collection call Aly Godman on 710633**

**Threadgill Cup 2015  
Entries now open**

**Large Gardens • Small Gardens • Eco Gardens  
Vegetable Plots • Baskets/Containers**

**We welcome Brian Davis, a RHS and  
Britain in Bloom Judge this year.**

**Competition day is May 30th.**

Please contact Stephanie Wheeler for entry forms -  
01264 352693 or [stephaniewheeler1972@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniewheeler1972@yahoo.com)



a quiet rural village and you would like things to continue that way then perhaps you might even consider standing as a councillor yourself. Now there's a thought!!

*Stan Oram, Abbots Ann Parish Councillor - February 2015*



## **Daffodil Sunday** **12th April 2015 2–5pm**

**IN AID OF ANDOVER RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

**At Binley, St Mary Bourne, SP11 6HA**

**Two glorious gardens with Woodland Walks.**

**Home made Teas, and as always an exciting Plant Stall,**

**Entrance £3.00**

**Well behaved dogs on leads welcome (50p)**



## **Bring-and-Buy Plant Sale** **& Table-Top Sale**

**Saturday 23rd May 2015**

**10 am – 12.30 pm**

**Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall**

Refreshments, raffle,  
crafts – and much more!

**ALL PROCEEDS FOR FETE FUNDS**

For more information contact Anne  
On 710851 or 07788 645723

with Cotswold stone roofs, it was situated a bit further uphill, and a good bit more up-market, than the *Cider with Rosie* valley of Slad. One of its attractions, for youngsters anyway, was the churchyard, which is said to contain 99 yew trees; but every time you try to count them you get a different answer.

The other day a regular visitor was outraged to see a new shop in the High Street; its windows displayed extremely scanty lingerie, with hints of associated equipment available within. The complainant vowed never to set foot in Painswick until “They” got it removed. The (real) Parish Council was able to reassure the lady that the offending boutique had never been open for business and would soon disappear, once it had played its part in JK’s drama. Any controversy in Painswick was quickly defused when two elderly ladies were seen peering into the “shop” window, and overheard declaring “We’ve already got all that stuff.” The parishioners thought it all a great joke, and when the film crews left, the Council’s Treasurer was no doubt chortling all the way to the bank.

Meanwhile, in search of authenticity, the BBC team had attended meetings of this Council, and declared it to be much more civilised than the fictional one. Well, you couldn’t build a best-seller round the sort of harmonious, relaxed but dedicated Council that your scribe had the privilege, and fun, of serving as Clerk for a total of 11 years, could you?

Complaints have become such a feature of life that hardly a day passes without news of a whistleblower bravely spilling some beans about anyone from beastly bankers to noisy neighbours. Dealing with them can find you enmeshed in legal procedures, boards of enquiry, contractual obligations, reams of paper and hours of time which would be much better spent in the fresh air of the countryside than in the tedium of the office.

It can hardly have escaped the notice of readers that this column often focuses on the power and fascination of words. Both in his previous incarnation in education and as Parish Clerk, your scribe must have dealt with thousands of complaints, ranging from being kept awake by dogs, church bells, late parties, cockerels and even peacocks, to dog mess, puddles in the car park, moles in the graveyard, mud on the footpaths, speeding in Duck Street, more dog mess, felled or fallen trees, and St John’s Cross. Making a mental list of the words used by complainants kept the little grey cells ticking over for nearly an hour the other day while waging the unwinnable war on ground elder and bindweed.

The total was around 32, and the range was as wide as the topics covered. At the quieter end were words like *worried*, *anxious* and my first choice, *concerned*. The like of these don’t indicate a high level of distress in the author or cause much pain to the recipient. Screw the intensity up a bit and you may find *upset*, *irritated*, *surprised*. Beyond this, though steam may not yet be issuing from any ears, there are words like *angry*, *astonished*, *dismayed*, *alarmed*; near the top come *horrified*, *infuriated*, *disgusted* and my favourite in

this category, *flabbergasted*. After that come the unprintables. The top dozen or so should surely be issued with a health warning, covering, for instance, side effects such as a sore throat from excessive exclamation, headache from percussive impact on brick wall, or bruised hand from violent contact with tables or persons; these could affect senders as well as recipients, and none would be likely to lower blood-pressure. Perhaps the worst effect would be *apoplexy*. OK, to professionals making a diagnosis, that's about as useful a term as *lumbago* or *collywobbles*. But isn't it a rather splendid word, reminiscent of explosively outraged cartoon characters? Anyone remember the great H.M. Bateman with his apoplectic CEOs, headmasters, colonels, bishops or JPs?

Happily, your scribe's blood pressure is still as low as in his days as an oarsman way back in the reign of George VI. Maybe it's luck, or genes; maybe it's the result of those years of rigorous training leading up to the Boat Race. But the credit for some of it should go to the awareness of the power of words. Particular favourites amount to one flash of mental enlightenment, one small word worth its weight in gold, and two dicta (yes, the plural of dictum). The mental flash is "Whoops!" The golden word is "Sorry." The first dictum is "The soft answer turneth away wrath" from the Book of Proverbs; the second is Gilbert and Sullivan's "Quiet calm deliberation disentangles every knot." These policies have proved their effectiveness over a longish lifetime in all sorts of crises and dramas. They are great de-fusers of stress and distress at any level from concern to apoplexy. Especially when things are tough, they are worth thinking about.

*Hadrianus Antiquus*

## 100 CLUB



### **FEBRUARY DRAW WINNERS**

**First Prize : Graham Stallard**

**Second Prize : Nick Bone**

**Third Prize : Kate Wingate**

Next month is our Losers Draw and then we will be starting a new 100 Club year running from April 2015 to March 2016.

Please remember to complete the renewal form as soon as possible and send with your remittance to Hazel Carter at the address on the form.

You need to be in it to win it.

*Lucy Urquhart*

when I volunteered to coordinate the council's efforts to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 (and in passing may I say one of the most satisfying and fulfilling things I have done for the village). One of the requirements for the events that we arranged under the auspices of the Parish Council, and hence to be covered by the Council's insurance policy, was that we must have a qualified First Aider in place, at all events, for the duration of each event. Finding First Aiders proved to quite a challenge and only the valued services volunteered late in the day by a locally resident GP provided the required cover. After the celebrations were over I suggested to the Council that, since there seemed to be so few people so qualified, it might be in the best interests of the village for us, the Council, to sponsor a first aid course, in the village, to ensure that we had a body of first aiders in place throughout the parish. The council thought this was a good idea and of course, like all bright ideas, the one who thought of it was given the task of researching and arranging such a course. So it came to pass that in January 2013, 15 people from the parish attended a First Aid course in the War Memorial Hall, which I had arranged on behalf of the Parish Council, and were subsequently qualified (and which I commented on at the time by saying – 'probably the most worthwhile £250 the Parish Council has ever spent').

The instructor, a very able and likeable young man closed the day with the following comments (perhaps not word for word but the message he gave is the same!) – 'well, your potential clients will have a better chance now than they did before but your chances of success will be greatly magnified if you have access to a Defibrillator – and we do run courses in their use'. As the course broke up Carol Murphy and Pamela Mallaburn (if my memory serves me correctly and as I reported in the Parish Magazine with the names of all those having now qualified) announced that they were going to start fund raising to buy a defibrillator. This they did starting with a very generous donation from Pam's husband Steve. Time went by and the fundraising had stalled somewhat so some of the councillors thought that we should assist the fund to reach a target to buy one device. With the aid of the Chairman's vast growth of facial hair we did just that and the rest is where I started at the top of this piece. The fact that the Defibrillator was in the Eagle pub, and available if required, was made public by Rosemary Griffiths in her article in the June 2014 edition of the parish magazine. In hindsight (always 20/20!) it might have been better if we had made a specific banner announcement of its availability and location rather than giving that information enclosed within her article.

I could go on, and I might well air my thoughts on other topics in future editions as I mentioned above, but for now let me just end by saying that, if you value this village as a peaceful, quiet, slightly rustic backwater then you should think carefully about who you vote for in the coming May election to the Parish Council. If of course there are fewer than seven candidates all will be elected unopposed (as I always have been). If you like the sleepy ways of

## SOME THOUGHTS FROM A RETIRING PARISH COUNCILLOR

My Time on the parish Council will soon be at an end. I stood forward to offer myself as a parish councillor in order to provide a voice for those in this village who call no other place on earth 'home'. I remember the shock on the face of a work colleague, also a Parish Councillor in another parish, who, sometime after I had joined the council, asked what our precept was. When I said I had no idea he couldn't believe it. I had honestly never given a thought to how much money we had to spend nor what we might be obliged, or might choose, to spend it on (I do of course know what our precept is now!!). My interest was purely in giving representation to those to whom this place is and always will be the only place they call home because they know no other such place on earth.

Over the years various things have happened and we have moved forward in that slow and deliberate way which village communities do – or at least used to do. There seems to be now a concerted campaign to change the Parish Council into something akin to a business which is something I am not comfortable with. It is true that we have to conduct ourselves and the business of the Parish Council in a proper manner but that proper manner does not have to mean that we embrace every latest new fangled idea going. Paper records, for instance, properly kept are in many ways far easier for others to audit and review while computer records are much more easily lost, corrupted by gremlins or just plainly out of sight, to say nothing of being easily copied, misdirected etc. Either way is fine but neither way is wrong.

One subject (and I might write on others in the future) that I was involved with, but I would like to make clear that I am now not, is that of the Defibrillator, which was purchased through the Parish Council using publicly donated funds, and which is now out of my hands. Having taken delivery of the unit, and discovered that it needed to be environmentally nurtured to keep it frost free, I handed it over to the Chairman who delivered it to the Eagle where the landlord had very graciously agreed to have it reside and where he (our Chairman - Bernard), in consultation with the landlord, arranged for a cabinet to be made. I am no longer in the loop. I might be peripherally attached (while I remain a member of the Council) if and when the Council authorise me, or request me, to arrange for a training course to be set up. Until they do, and having previously explored the costs of courses, I will do nothing I have not been authorised to do. We have always worked as a coordinated body and with most things they move forward steadily as each council meeting decides where and what we do next. We have never operated with 'Project Managers' or any such appointment, the whole council being responsible for the actions and the direction we take.

In the specific case of the defibrillator it might be worth recording for posterity how we came to go down this route in the first place. It all started

## CLATFORD VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

The New Year began with a talk by Mike Read on 'At Home with the Robin', illustrated with some lovely photographs, which he was able to get by building up a close relationship with one particular male robin and its mate.

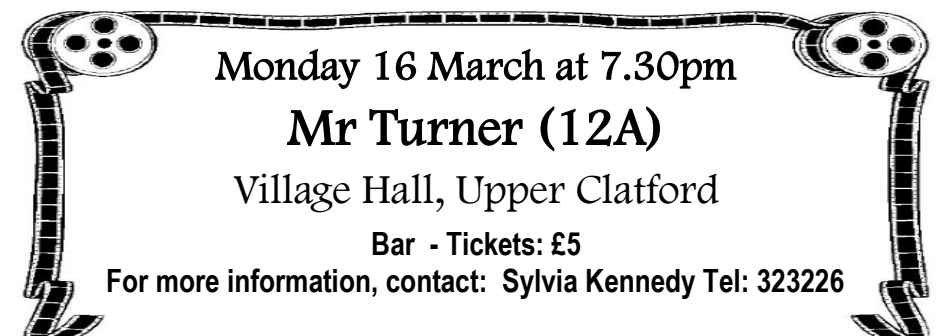
There are on average, about 5 million robins in the British Isles living in a variety of habitats such as gardens, hedgerows and scrubland, but not in open fields. It is basically a woodland species, particularly coppiced woodland and its range extends from southern Britain to the north of Scotland. They are very territorial and defend their territories by puffing themselves up and singing. At about Christmas, robins pair up after which the female stops singing, and she alone builds the nest. The nest is kept very clean and faeces are removed so that the smell does not attract predators, and after the eggs have hatched the female eats the shells. Many of us were caught out by the question 'How far up does the red colour go?' Given the three following alternatives, which one would you choose? a) to just below the beak, b) up to the beak, c) over the top of the beak. Now look at a picture of a robin (not on a Christmas card) and check.

Ways of encouraging birds into the garden were then described. Don't be a too tidy gardener was particularly relevant, i.e. leave seed heads at the end of the year, and grow plants such as teasels, evening primrose, *Pyaeacantha* and *Cotoneaster*. Also if you can, allow some dandelions and nettles to remain in the garden. A pond is very beneficial but must have sloping areas to enable animals to climb out. In severe weather apples are a very welcome addition to the food supply of garden birds.

The evening ended with tea or coffee and a biscuit, during which cards and notelets produced by Mr Read were on sale.

Our next meeting is on **25<sup>th</sup> of February**, when Steve Austin will give a talk on 'Wesonbirt Maples'. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7.45 at Upper Clatford Village Hall and new members are very welcome. We have a very interesting programme for 2015, including two evening visits and a full day visit.

Jenny Llewellyn



**Monday 16 March at 7.30pm**  
**Mr Turner (12A)**  
Village Hall, Upper Clatford  
**Bar - Tickets: £5**  
**For more information, contact: Sylvia Kennedy Tel: 323226**

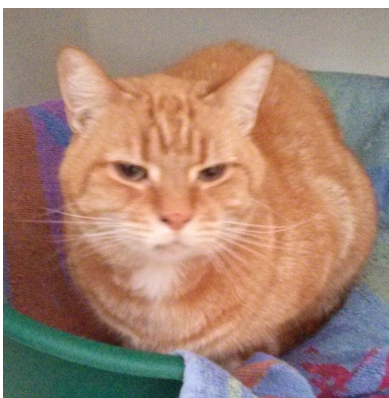




Enquiries 01256-892019 or [www.andovercats.org.uk](http://www.andovercats.org.uk)  
Stories of rescued cats [adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk)  
Fund-raising/volunteers [adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk)  
Items for resale 01256-892773

If you are a Facebook user be sure to join our group Andover and District Cats Protection, where you will see that our Regional Development Manager, Becky Venning, is doing a skydive to raise money for us. We shall be grateful for any sponsorship, however small. Alternatively, donate by contacting us on our Enquiries number.

In 2014 we found homes for 130 cats, 20 more than the previous year. There are many cats on our waiting list and if we could find more fosterers we could increase this number. We also helped financially with the neutering of almost 300 cats.



Barnaby, last month's cat has found a new home. Our March cat, Obi, is an adorable lad, very friendly and loves a cuddle. He would make an excellent companion for a retired person. He was in very poor condition when he came in but after receiving treatment is much better and Cats Protection would be happy to help with any future veterinary bills.

*Martin Bevan*

## **Harlequins Concert**

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



## **ABBOTTS ANN SCHOOLS' NATIVITY PLAYS**

Abbotts Ann began the Christmas festivities with delightful nativity plays by the Church of England School and the Nursery School.

Key Stage One at Abbotts Ann School had learned long and complicated songs to illustrate the Christmas story and performed with energy and enthusiasm. The young narrators were word-perfect in their rhyming couplets, and the action flowed colourfully and smoothly.

The nativity story is so well-known that, after two thousand years, it is hard to find a new way to tell it! Indeed, it is the comforting familiarity that is part of the attraction. This version was completely traditional with angels, the Star, three wise men, shepherds and a donkey. As a gentle modern twist, the angels have decided to hold a party to celebrate the birth of a new king, sent by God, who will bring love to everyone. People are invited to the "Census Party" and much dancing and joy follows. Boogie-woogie in Bethlehem!

Jane Hall, the headteacher, praised the children for their hard work and obvious enjoyment. When she asked the pupils who should be thanked, it was touching to hear them call out "The teachers – they have worked hard!"

Abbotts Ann Nursery School, also revelling in the party theme, played to a packed War Memorial Hall: Happy Birthday, Jesus! For nearly an hour, the children sang and acted out the Christmas story with confidence and evident pleasure. Emma Davies, who guided them almost imperceptibly through their performance, later commented: "We did practice a lot and that showed! The children knew all the words and actions and we are very proud of them all. There was brilliant team work from all the staff at the school."

As ever, there was many a moist eye in the audiences, from present parents and those remembering their own now grown-up infants.

May this tradition continue long into the future!

*Rosemary Groves - Village Correspondent*

*(Apologies for the late publication of this report. Editor)*

## **BRING AND BUY PLANT SALE**

The annual Plant Sale, in aid of fete funds, will be held at 10.00am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the War Memorial Hall. As usual, any donations of plants will be most welcome on the day.

Additionally, we always have a small selection of other stalls eg crafts. If you are interested in hiring a stall please contact me for further details.

*Anne Emerson (Show Secretary)*  
*Home: 01264 710851 - Mobile: 07788 645723*

## **ABBOTTS ANN GREEN ACTION LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR COMPANY AT THESE EVENTS IN MARCH:**

### **Annual General Meeting:**

- annual report and up-date on current plans for our community energy project
- election of officers and committee for the coming year
- fifteen minute film: 'The Winds of Change' - shows how energy use can change in a local community
- refreshments and conversation about green issues in Abbotts Ann

**18th March 7.30 PM**

**War Memorial Hall - everyone welcome**

### **Community Energy Morning:**

- come and find out how to save energy in your home – displays of methods from the cheap and simple to the more adventurous
- bring your questions about the insulation needs of your home – and get the answers
- plenty to interest everyone, especially those who have had a visit from the thermal imaging camera (see below)
- At 10.30 and 11.30 – a presentation on plans for a community energy project for our village

**28th March 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM – drop in any time.**

**War Memorial Hall - everyone welcome – refreshments will be served**

**For more information** contact David Read on  
[david.read@mybroadbandmail.com](mailto:david.read@mybroadbandmail.com) or 710090

**Find the hot-spots in your home** - where are you leaking heat? Our thermal imaging camera expert will tell you. Contact Ann Hopwood on 710090 or [ann.hopwood7@bitinternet](mailto:ann.hopwood7@bitinternet) for a £10 visit.





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

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

### **Moving on**

Our shop is as ever, changing and adapting to the constantly evolving buying habits of our customers. You may be surprised for example, to hear that cans and packets of food now generally only account for 15% of takings in rural shops. So fresh and locally produced food is increasingly sought after.

Some changes you may not even notice but are necessary to minimise our costs such as new Led lighting that will help save on our considerable electricity bills.

Many community shops now offer cafe type facilities which together with the Post Office underpin the shop as being the social hub for the village. If you have not stopped for a cup of tea and a cake, or indeed a hot pie then do make use of our catering. Later this year we will be having new baking and preparation facilities and keen local chefs will be cooking all they can for you to consume.

Perhaps our humble beginnings as a cafe are one reason why our takings significantly improved in the latter part of last year. More developments are planned. Already, after just a few days, our new £1 section is turning over fast! Take a look at the bargains for yourself.

### **Locally sourced**

We are always looking to increase our variety of local produce so if you are planning your vegetable production before Spring takes off then why not consider planting some for the shop.

Apples from the village produced 100 bottles of juice with a fantastic flavour for our shop last year.

Did you know that our Austwick pies and meals come from Anna Valley so their food miles are less than much you might buy at a supermarket?

### **Our profile**

Believe it or not some people still manage to drive through the village without knowing we are there, so a new sign (locally made of course!) is soon to go up after the accidental demolition of the old one.

Finally, please do consider whether you can help us as a volunteer in any capacity. There are many skills that are needed to help the shop continue to function. If you are interested speak to Carol or George and they will be happy to assist.

*Chris Davis (while Elizabeth Howard is taking a break).  
Volunteer and Chair Management Committee*

America. She was far busier than I was, so I took up cooking, under her guidance, and became quite a competent cook – as some of you may know!

Tokyo was, still is, I believe, a wonderful place to live. There was no crime, you could let your children roam the streets without fear, utilities were efficient, services impeccable, people polite and friendly. I found to my surprise that I liked the Japanese. They have sense of humour much like ours. We used to give parties at our home for Japanese friends, particularly at Christmas and with a few drinks they would become completely uninhibited and riotously funny!

I reached retirement age in Tokyo, but a friend of mine from London who ran an investment management company asked me if I would be prepared to set up an office for him in Tokyo. Of course, I did! So we stayed for another two years in Japan and then had a consultancy job to come back to when we returned to London.

By this time I was quite well known to the Japanese financial institutions and was able to recruit considerable amounts of money for the investment management manager. At that time their funds, mutual funds and investment trusts were mostly invested in the emerging markets of the Far East (Japan's doorstep) an area which was prospering dynamically and whose stock markets were increasing in value outstandingly-so the funds performed well. But I came to the conclusion that clever young fund managers were about as good at picking stocks as the average race horse tipster at picking winners!

There are many wonderful things to see in Japan: ancient temples, castles from the civil war period and above all gardens. Japanese seasons are defined by flower viewing periods; cherry trees in the spring, iris gardens in May, wisteria in June, azaleas, then chrysanthemums in the autumn. Then there are gardens of pure landscaping with views (borrowed landscape) and, of course the raked pebble gardens with rocks and statues, with symbolic meanings. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are important to see for westerners to understand what nuclear war means. Looking back I regret that we did not see more.

The Japanese experience was a wonderful end to my career!

*AL 31/01/15*

## **PLEASE NOTE**

**The Village Defibrillator is located in the  
Eagle Inn, Duck Street.**

## TOKYO

Jill and I arrived in Tokyo on New Year's Day. It was the beginning of the long New Year's holiday in those days, further extended by the Emperor's Birthday. So we had a week or more to explore Tokyo. But we immediately found that we were both deaf and blind! We could not understand a word of Japanese and we could not read the road signs or the names of railway or subway stations. Nowadays everything is written in English (Romaji) but then it was all in Japanese characters. In travelling on the subway, armed with directions from our hotel, we had to count the stations and get out in faith at our destination. But it was a lovely way to start, Tokyo was deserted, there was no traffic, the air was clear and the sun shone. In due course my Japanese assistant turned up and became our eyes and ears our guide and mentor. She was a smart young lady and effectively ran our Representative Office.

My job was quite straightforward. Japan at that time was at the height of its prosperity, amassing enormous quantities of US dollars from its export surpluses. My aim was to persuade the Japanese banks that they should keep part of their surpluses with our bank in Dallas Texas, because it was a successful and reliable bank and handy for paying for oil imports! My role was basically diplomatic and my work was done taking Japanese officials out to lunch and being friendly. I had an advantage over my competitors – most US banks posted young “aggressive” executives to represent them in Japan. I was far from young; I had my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in Japan, almost respectably old by Japanese standards, and far from “aggressive” – so I went down favourably with my Japanese opposite numbers. In my spare time (plenty) I learnt Japanese and eventually became fairly competent at speaking and even reading Japanese. My US competitors, mostly on short term postings, did not even try.

Jill and I had a flat in Meguro district a comfortable modern flat on one of Tokyo's seven hills. One morning, looking out of the window, I saw a wonderful sight. I called Jill to come and see. There before us, clear as a Hokusai print, was Mount Fuji – more than 100 miles away! Often in Tokyo in the winter months one gets these crystal clear bright sunny days when one can see for ever. I always counted it a good day if I could see Mount Fuji in the morning before I went to work.

Meanwhile Jill started to teach patchwork quilting to American wives. She found a ready market because wives could not work, could not get permits, could not speak the language, so these charming intelligent women had nothing to do. A morning with Jill quilting, chatting, coffee and cakes was just the thing! Jill became a very creative quilter, inventing the ‘floating block’ quilt, random placed blocks, based on Japanese heraldic designs to create a piece of fabric art. She wrote a series of books which sold well in

## ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

### Post Office Money

ISA key dates: Don't miss out on your 2014/2015 tax year allowance.

28th March 2015 last date to apply in branch.

Bring your completed application form along with your payment to your Post office branch.

31st March 2015 last date to top-up an existing Cash ISA or Investment ISA in branch.

6th April 2015 The new tax year begins.

**Premier Cash ISA** - 1.50% tax-free/AER variable. Save between £100 and £15,000 tax free with the Post Office Cash ISA (subject to any stocks and shares ISA contributions)

**Fixed Rate ISA** - up to 2.10% tax-free/AER variable. Get a great rate for a term of your choice one two or three years.

Ask in branch for more details.

Post Office Premier Cash ISAs & Fixed Rate ISAs are provided by Family Investments. Money in Post Office cash ISAs is deposited with Bank of Ireland UK.

The tax advantages of ISAs depend on your individual circumstances and the tax status may change in the future.

### Stamps that say ‘1st’ ‘2nd’ stay valid in perpetuity!

*Stamps without a specified monetary value are described as Non Value Indicator (NVI) and are typically first and second class stamps. These do not have an expiry date and therefore can be used regardless of the length of time you have had them.*

*"Stamps with a monetary value also do not have an expiry date **and can be combined (also with NVI stamps if necessary) to make up the value of postage required.** This has always been the case with stamps and Royal Mail have indicated that there are no plans to make any changes.*

In particular: you can take a Non Value Indicator stamp, ie a first or second class stamp at its current monetary value and use that current monetary value to make up the cost of stamps/postage required. Another example: you could use two first class small letter (current value 62px2 = £1.24) stamps on a large letter instead of a Large Letter stamp to make up the postage value. Also you could use a combination of First and Second Class stamps to cover the value required for postage overseas.

Make sure that all of the stamps can be clearly seen and the values read by Royal Mail.

### **Santander UK Ltd**

Until now, Santander had been the only large British lender not to provide all its customer-base access to banking services over Post Office counters.

*January 2015 - Santander UK said: "As part of an overall commitment to providing our customers access and ability to do their banking when, where and how they want, Santander has concluded an agreement with the Post Office*

*"We expect to be able to offer our UK personal current account and business banking customers access to the Post Office's 11,000 outlets before the end of the first half of 2015."*

*Maureen Flood*



### **ABBOTTS ANN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** **JANUARY 2015**

Mention was made last month of the Centenary Baton which is making its progress through England, Wales and the Islands culminating in its arrival at the Royal Albert Hall on 4th June. Well it passed through our corner of Hampshire on Saturday 17th January, but blink and you missed it! Despite all the pleas for ideas to use extraordinary forms of transport, some of which included owls, vintage buses and the like, it actually arrived at Goodworth Clatford in a car. Most of us didn't even realise it had arrived and we certainly never saw it leave. Nevertheless, several of our members were present to get a glimpse, and in some cases a touch, of this once in a lifetime object and there is photographic evidence in our archives now! Whilst it was an opportunity to meet up with members of other Anton Danebury Group Institutes and enjoy the ubiquitous cup of tea and, of course, slice of cake, it wasn't quite the event we had anticipated. Seriously, though it is easy to comment, but none of us in Abbots Ann put up our hands to help plan the event and members of GC WI did sterling work on the day, especially catering for the unknown number of ladies attending. Other groups have certainly been ingenious in their choices of transport.

Our own events here in Abbots Ann, included our post-Christmas dinner in the village hall, which those of us attending enjoyed very much. As usual the food, courtesy of our favoured caterers, was delicious; we caught up with personal Christmas activities and stretched our minds with a short musical themed quiz, but with no actual singing involved. It is easy to get caught up in traditions and we did ask at our January meeting for feedback and whether we need to re-think the format.

On the 10th January the walking group met in Goodworth Clatford for a short stroll, and naturally adjourned to the Royal Oak for an enjoyable lunch. At the end of the month a reduced lunch club journeyed to The Black Swan which has recently re-opened again.

At our meeting this month, we had a re-cap of events planned for 2015 and an update on all our in-house clubs' plans for February followed by Lynne Lucas giving us some tips and advice on our own personal image. Lynne has previously trained as a Colour Me Beautiful Consultant and has experience of working in Selfridges as well as Marks & Spencer in Camberley, but she is no longer a practising consultant. However, Lynne has plenty of experience of advising customers when she had her own ladies clothing business.

Whilst previously we had been encouraged to think in terms of the four seasons and colours were described as being spring, summer, autumn or winter, the trend is now to talk in terms of dominant tones. That is, are we cool, soft, warm, deep or light? It all depends on our hair colour, skin tone and eyes and is not always easy to interpret, because as we mature these all change, with the exception of the eyes of course, and some of us confuse the issue with trying to disguise the encroaching grey hairs for as long as possible.

No doubt, Lynne was subject to more audience participation than she had anticipated, as she draped multi-coloured scarves of varying tones around the necks (not too tightly) of her various models, as the watching members were very vocal in giving their opinions.

Lynne was very patient with us all and, hopefully, we will think twice before we make our future wardrobe purchases - giving more thought as to whether the item is in the right shade or tone to suit us individually and it is not only the style and colour we should consider, but the fabric as well.

A complete change of subject as our meeting this month features Sentimental & Mourning Jewellery with Margaret Braddock - the date is 26th March and the meeting is in Abbots Ann Village Hall and starts at 7.30 pm.

*Sharon King*

### **TONY JACKSON**

A huge thank you to everyone who has shown such kindness to me and my family at this sad time. We have seen Abbots Ann at its very best - a warm and caring community.

Thank you so much for the cards, the letters and the flowers, they all meant so much to us.

*Andrea Jackson*