

23 Mar	(Wed)	(Wednesday of Holy Week) See page 2 7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
		7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.45pm Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in UC Memorial Hall.
24 Mar	(Thurs)	(Maundy Thursday) Full service details Page 2
25 Mar	(Fri)	(Good Friday) Full service details Page 2 6.00pm Family Fish Pie Contest - page 7
26 Mar	(Sat)	(Easter Eve)
27 Mar	(Sun)	(Easter Day) Full Service details Page 3 British Summertime Begins
29 Mar	(Tues)	7.30pm Film Night at Goodworth Clatford Village Club
30 Mar	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
31 Mar	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's 7.30pm Abbotts Ann WI meets in Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall.

For Abbotts Ann Magazine and Diary, email: editor@abbottsnmagazine.co.uk

MUSIC AND READINGS FOR PASSIONTIDE PRESENTED BY THE HARMONIUM SINGERS

St Michael & All Angels, Colebrook Way, West Andover is the venue for another thoughtful sequence of music and readings from the Harmonium Singers, on Saturday 12th March starting at 7.30pm.

The local chamber choir is well known for combining appropriate words and music, with the intention of presenting choral music in an accessible way but in the context for which it was written.

This time the choir is mining the rich seam of music for Lent, Passontide and Holy Week. As musical director Bruce Randall explains: "There is so much glorious music written for this part of the church's year that it's hard to know what to choose. Much of it is intensely beautiful but also very focused on the dramatic events leading up to Easter. To sing this music in the isolation of a concert somehow diminishes its impact and meaning. That's why we've chosen to present these pieces in some sort of context, a seamless blend of words and music that, for some, will be something more spiritual."

Much of the singing will be unaccompanied, making full use of the church's spacious acoustic. The music spans five centuries and includes Allegri's famous 'Miserere' and miniature masterpieces from Tallis, Lassus, Handel and the young Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo.

Admission is free, with a retiring collection for a re-development project at St. Michael's and All Angels.

Bruce Randall, www.harmoniumsingers.org.uk

St Mary's Church, Abbotts Ann

Rector	Vacant	
Ministry Team (During the Vacancy)	Revd. Nicky Judd clive@judd47.plus.com Tim Tayler tim.tayler@talk21.com Peter Eastwood peter@eastwood.me.uk	729075 710201 353320
Churchwardens St Mary's	Gordon Howard 4 St Mary's Meadow, Abbotts Ann gweo_howard@btinternet.com Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery, Dunkirk Lane, Abbotts Ann	710830 710640
St Peter's	Jane Eastwood John Milne	353320 361206
All Saints'	Eleanor Jakeman Bill Mitford	362502 357675
Details of church officers and activities can also be found on the village website - http://www.abbottsnmagazine.co.uk/amenitieservices/church/		
Choir Practice	Thursdays 7.45pm, St Peter's, Goodworth Clatford	
Bell Ringing practice	Thursdays 7.30-9.00pm, St Mary's, Abbotts Ann Handbells 7.00pm 1st Thursday each month Tower Captain: Dudley Alleyway	710646
Secretary	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
Treasurer (Temporary)	Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery	710640
Editor	Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbotts Ann editor@abbottsnmagazine.co.uk	710630
Advertising Manager	Mark Stevens	710908

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN MARCH 2016

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

Date:

St Mary's Duties:

Sunday 28th February

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Family Eucharist
12.00 Baptism
16.00 Evensong

Third Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday 6th March

08.00 Said Holy Communion
09.45 Mothering Sunday Service
10.00 Sung Eucharist
10.00 Mothering Sunday Service
18.00 Evensong

Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday of Lent

St Peter's (NJ)
St Mary's (St Mary's Team) G&EH
All Saints' (NJ)
St Peter's (PE)
St Mary's (TT)

Sunday 13th March

08.00 Said Holy Communion
09.30 Sung Eucharist
11.15 Matins
18.00 Evensong

Passion Sunday, 5th Sunday of Lent

All Saints' (Rev. Andrew Warner)
St Mary's (Rev. Andrew Warner) G&EH
St Peter's (PE)
St Mary's (Peggy Ellis)

Sunday 20th March

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

Palm Sunday

St Mary's (NJ) Mrs N Keene
St Mary's (St Mary's Team) G&EH
St Peter's (NJ)
All Saints' (TT)

Monday 21st March

19.30 Night Prayer

Tuesday 22nd March

19.30 Night Prayer

Wednesday 23rd March

19.30 Night Prayer

Thursday 24th March

11.00 Renewal of Vows Service
20.00 Benefice Eucharist

All Saints' (NJ)

St Peter's (PE)

St Mary's (TT)

Maundy Thursday

Cathedral (all welcome)
St Peter's (NJ+TT+PE)

Friday 25th March

10.30 Easter Family Workshop
11.00 The Liturgy of Good Friday St Mary's (TT)
14.00 The Liturgy of Good Friday St Peter's (PE)

Good Friday

All Saints' (All Saints' Team)

I am sure I speak for many but I certainly speak for myself when I say a sincere 'Thank You' to him for his service to our village.

He is a true friend - long may he remain a Parish Councillor.

Stan Oram (Former Parish Councillor and great grandson of a founder member of Abbotts Ann Parish Council)

BENEFICE DIARY - MARCH 2016

1 Mar	(Tues)	7.00pm Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC
2 Mar	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
3 Mar	(Thurs)	10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning
3 Mar	(Thurs)	7.00pm Abbotts Ann Parish Council meets in Burghclere Down Community Centre .
		7.00pm Hand Bell Ringing Session at St Mary's Church.
6 Mar	(Sun)	7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's <u>(The Fourth Sunday of Lent)</u> – Mothering Sunday - full service details P2
7 Mar	(Mon)	8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
8 Mar	(Tues)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch at St Peter's
		12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
9 Mar	(Wed)	7.30-9.00pm Lent Study Group at Spring Cottage, Abbotts Ann
10 Mar	(Thurs)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall
		10.30am Children's Society Coffee Morning and Box Opening - page 16
		7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
		7.30pm Harmonium Singers Concert - page 28
12 Mar	(Sat)	<u>(The Fifth Sunday of Lent)</u> – Passiontide begins - full service details P2
13 Mar	(Sun)	8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
15 Mar	(Tues)	12.00noon deadline for receipt of copy for the April 2016 Abbotts Ann Magazine editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk
		7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI, meets in GCVC
		7.30-9.00pm Lent Study Group at Spring Cottage, Abbotts Ann
		7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
		7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
		10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
		<u>(Palm Sunday)</u> Full Service details page 2
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
		(Monday of Holy Week) See page 2
		(Tuesday of Holy Week) See page 2
		7.30-9.00pm Lent Study Group at Spring Cottage, Abbotts Ann

THE END OF AN ERA

Abbott Ann recorded another milestone in its history at the February 2016 Parish Council meeting with the departure, after 27 years loyal service, of Mr Bernard Griffiths as Chairman, the post to which he was first elected in May 1989. He stands down still at the top, having topped the poll at the last election (and I believe he topped the poll in May 1979 when he was first elected). Happily, for the village, he is remaining as a Councillor where his breadth of knowledge on all matters Parish will be immeasurable. Few people alive today can have served our village so devotedly and passionately for so long. If ever there has been a truly adopted son of Abbotts Ann it is Bernard. He has been a Parish Councillor for nearly forty years and its Chairman for nearly thirty - the actual figures being 37 years and 27 years. What a record! I am constantly amazed at his knowledge of parishioners, family connections, planning applications (approved or declined), local organisations, landowners, etc, etc, to say nothing of his knowledge of council procedure, council officers, councillors of both Borough and other Parishes. Perhaps it is risky to have such a fount of knowledge in one person though the other view is that we are lucky to have anyone who has such knowledge.

His knowledge of procedure, Local Authority law, Planning applications, Local Plans, County plans, National plans, legal considerations etc. has seen us safely through the complexity of much council business. If ever, (whenever) we lose his services our parish will be immeasurably poorer. Rarely can an adopted son have served so faithfully his adopted parish. I know not who to contact to ensure that his service is recognised but I shall do all that I can to ensure that it is. This man deserves to be recognised. He has served through the reign of eleven Parish Clerks, namely Arthur Lacey, Rosemary Wilson, Adrian Stokes, John Davison, Jill Jones, Sally Dashwood, David Downey, Kevin Lawton, Adrian Stokes, Arthur Peters, Amy Taylor (locum), Clare Cotterell. He has led numerous (28) Parish Councillors through all or part of their term to wit, Tom Vallis, Ken Robinson, Fred Thompson, Jimmy Andrews, George King, Percy Morrell, Brian Sims, John Barlow, John Aldridge, Joanna Holmes, Henry Plascott, Renee Royce, Penny Wilkins, Stan Oram, Graham Whyte, David Paffett, Dudley Alleway, Rebecca Bone, Alison Barham, Paul Stanton, Basil Hibbert, Ray Whittle, Sally Coffey, Beth Deacon, Elizabeth Howard, Andrew Hayter, Susan Bleeker, and Peter Gibson. I may even have missed a few! What a record – it leaves me breathless. This man is a legend!

It would be remiss to omit to say that the last 18 months or more have been an incredibly stressful time for Bernard who could not have continued without the dedicated support of his wife Rosemary. Some of us know more than others just how much she has supported him throughout.

Sunday 27th March

08.00 Said Holy Communion
09.30 Sung Family Eucharist
11.00 Sung Family HC by Extension
11.00 Sung Family Eucharist

Easter Day
St Peter's (NJ)
All Saints' (NJ)
St Peter's (PE)
St Mary's (NJ)

Mr/Mrs G Howard

Sunday 3rd April

08.00 Said Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist
10.00 Family Service
18.00 Evensong

Second Sunday of Easter
St Peter's (NJ)
All Saints' (NJ)
St Peter's (PE)
St Mary's (TT)

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.

*Revd Nicky Judd (NJ) Tim Tayler (TT) Peter Eastwood (PE) Choir (CH)

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:

26 Feb - 10 Mar
11 Mar - 24 Mar
25 Mar - 7 Apr

Flowers:

Lent
Lent
Easter

Dusting:

Sally Flint
Beth Deacon
Jill Tayler

From The Registers

Holy Matrimony

The marriage of Edward Michael Davis and Rachel Larissa Langdown took place on 30th January at All Saints'.

Rest in Peace

[Elsie] Mary Palmer, aged 93 years, was buried on 19th January at All Saints.

Burial of Ashes

Margaret Angela Brooks on 22nd January at St Peter's

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

Dear Friends,

This month I am going to highlight a few things, both answering questions and giving you advance notice of events that are on the horizon.

Children in church

The question has been asked, “Are children welcome in our Benefice churches?” The answer is a very definite, “Yes.” In St Peter’s there is a permanent children’s area, which is carpeted, has books, toys and a small table, as well as a display board where work from Clatford School is exhibited. At All Saints there is a children’s corner set up for any service if children are present, with toys, books and colouring sheets. At St Peter’s and St Mary’s there are monthly Family Services which are short and designed to have something in them for all ages. The Family Eucharist at All Saints has flexibility and can be adapted to enable any children present to be included in the service. If you have children and would like to bring them to a more formal service, we will be delighted to see them, and they are most welcome to come up to the altar for a blessing if it is a Communion service.

Enquiries about Baptism are also welcome. Baptisms will usually take place on a Sunday and should be during the main morning service, but can be arranged for later if necessary.

Our Parish Mission Action Plans all have a section about the importance of reaching out to families with young children. To help us think about one way we can do this, we have arranged a training day on All-age Worship in the Benefice on 5th March.

Confirmation

These days parishes are encouraged to take part in Confirmation services at the Cathedral. There is one on Sunday 15th May (Pentecost) at 6.30pm at which Bishop David will preside. If there are any adults or young people interested in making their full commitment to the Christian Way, then please contact me to explore when preparation classes could take place.

Holy Week and Easter

You will see from the rota of services all the things that are going on over this period, including Palm Sunday processions, formal services and a craft workshop with an element of worship. Starting on Palm Sunday we will be following St Luke’s story of the days leading up to Easter, with a little of the story being told each day. This replaces the long Passion Narrative reading which has been a feature of Palm Sunday in past years. On Easter Day there will be Easter Egg hunts after the main service in each church. I do hope you will be able to join us at some of these services.

Maundy Thursday

Each year the clergy and lay ministers of the Diocese are invited to renew

So far, I have worked with more than two dozen councillors and twelve clerks and I was humbled to be re-elected to the council last May with seven hundred and fifty-nine votes. After much thought, in changing times, I now feel I can better serve the village, which has always been my overriding aim, by remaining as a councillor and representative of the parishioners, not as a slave to bureaucracy, pernicious minutiae, obfuscating regulations, as you will have noted from my earlier remarks about doughnuts, and now, to my mind increasingly, the inhibiting impartiality of the Chair.

These are historic times. As far as I am aware, since Parish Councils began in 1894 (Abbotts Ann’s being one of the first, in which former Councillor Stan Oram’s great-grandfather served) there has never been such a high proportion of new members, (five new and two former) as at the recent election, and at the same time, a new Clerk.

We are facing now huge changes in local government and parish councillors. The village is changing, many move here now, rather than grow up here. The parish council consequently changes. New people, new ideas. Renewal. Moving forward.

My unswerving hope is that this council carries on in friendship, for, bar one or two hiccups, it has always been so. And this does spread out into the village, which is what makes this place so special.

To this council and its successors, to my mind this is the one, profoundly important message you must not forget.

It remains to me a huge privilege and very humbling to have the confidence and support of so many to continue representing you all in this very special, unique village. I am most grateful to my fellow-councillors, mentors past and colleagues present, and to those clerks who have worked with us, for what I have learned, and am continuing to learn, about this village, its history, characters and its future. Thanks, too, to our neighbouring parish councillors, borough councillors and county councillors, and their officers, many good friends made.

I look forward to continuing to serve the people who elected me – and those who didn’t, as well.

I will continue to do my best as long as I am able. I feel better placed now to represent you, as a parish councillor, and to speak my mind on your behalf. Thank you all for your encouragement.

Bernard

THOUGHTS FROM THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

The Parish Council meeting of 4th February 2016, the first of two that month, was momentous for me, retiring from the chairmanship of the council after quite a long time. It has been a great privilege to have the trust and confidence of my fellow councillors each year, too, to fulfil the task for the successive annual terms of chairmanship. I hope that my successor, Cllr Beth Deacon, will enjoy and appreciate the role as much as I have done.

I was first elected to the council in 1979, having been helped in my “campaign” by a girl-friend at the time, who drove me round the electors’ houses in her red MG Midget. Unfortunately, I omitted to tell her the result of the election (she had to telephone my mother to ask if I had been successful.) Pity we lost touch a year or two later... Never mind... she turned up again many years later and helped again in the last election. She now sits-in at parish council meetings as the Village Correspondent for the Andover Advertiser, writing as Rosemary Groves, but she is also Rosemary Griffiths, my wife. She also covers other village activities when asked, and contributes to the parish magazine. Some people at a recent parish council meeting had apparently not made this connection and felt others might not also do so and since Rosemary receives a retainer from the Andover Advertiser (equivalent probably to a couple of dozen doughnuts a month) Bureaucracy requires me to state at each meeting that I have a pecuniary interest in my connection to the Press Lady, who is my wife.

That first election for me was thirty-seven years ago. Tom Vallis was Chairman. He had farmed in the village for many years, and I don’t know how long his very lengthy service to the council was. Unknown to us at the time, he had been a prisoner in Colditz, and under sentence of execution when he was liberated, just in time, in 1945. John Barlow succeeded him as Chairman for eight years, before me.

Arthur Lacey - only known to be a DFC after his death, he was so self-effacing - had been Clerk to the council for over twenty-five years when I joined the council. He had served on Lancasters as a navigator and had survived two tours on a Pathfinder Squadron – possibly the most dangerous of the dangerous in Bomber Command. Arthur’s minutes, of the once-every-two-months Parish Council meetings, were typed on one page of foolscap and carbon-copied seven times. The top sheet was for the minute book and the seventh carbon copy, barely legible, for the new boy – me. I still have them. These two, and their colleague councillors, knew the true meaning of life and would not tolerate trivia. Jesse Threadgill, George King, Jimmy Andrews, Percy Morell, Fred Thompson, Ken Robinson – the list of venerable councillors is long. They taught me valuable lessons as a rookie councillor, and I have always regarded it a huge privilege to have inherited their legacy and trust.

their vows at the Maundy Thursday Eucharist in the Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to attend the service, to support their ministry teams and to participate in the worshipping life of the Cathedral. This year the service will be at 11.00 am on 24th March and will be followed by soup and sandwiches in the North Transept, to which all are invited. If you would like to go and have no transport, please speak to me, Tim or Peter.

With my best wishes,

Nicky

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

From Beersheba in the Negev Desert to the source of the River Jordan at Banias, join us on a 13-day pilgrimage to the land of the Living Stones, the streets where Jesus walked.

From September 14th - 26th 2016 visit Hebron, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Nablus, Tiberias, Nazareth, Capernaum, Tabgha, Acre and Caesarea Maritime. Let the Land speak as the “Fifth Gospel”, challenging and changing our faith as we meet the people and see the places.'

For more information please look at the website www.mccabe-travel.co.uk or e-mail the Revd. Alison Shaw on alishaw2001@yahoo.co.uk or contact Nicky Judd on clive@judd47.plus.com or 01264 729075.

‘QUIET DAY AT HILFIELD

Brother Sam and Hilfield Friary have kindly agreed to host a Quiet Day for our Benefice on Friday 8th April. We are invited to share a day of discussion, prayer and quiet reflection at this very peaceful, rural spot. We will also join the brothers in a communion service. There will be space for a total of 12 from the Benefice. Geoff Scard is co-ordinating the visit and will provide more information nearer the time on the weekly pew sheets. If you are interested in joining the group, this notice gives you chance to make a note in your diary.'

Geoff Scard

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.

CHURCHYARD SPRING CLEAN-UP

Please contact one of the churchwardens for the date of our spring clean-up. It will possibly be the week after Easter as the builders may still be finishing off the roof.

The work will still need to be done so volunteers will definitely be needed, and we look forward to your company. The normal times are Friday and/or Saturday in the morning or whatever time you can manage.

Sally Dashwood, Churchwarden.

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH ABBOTTS ANN

It is that time of the year again! The current Electoral Roll will be available in the church for viewing from Thursday 25th February until Thursday 24th March. It does not get renewed this year, but new members may be added to the roll and those no longer eligible, or wishing to be taken off it, removed. Application forms for anyone wishing to be added will be available in the church during the period given above or can be obtained from Elizabeth Howard, 4 St Mary's Meadow, (phone No. 710830).

*Elizabeth Howard, Electoral Roll Officer
St Mary's Church Abbotts Ann*

ST MARY'S CHURCH - DECORATION FOR EASTER

Please come along to St Mary's on Saturday 26th March from 9.30am to decorate our Church for the Easter Festival. We really do need some new helpers to join our small band of volunteers. Gifts of flowers would be most welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to make a donation towards the lilies in memory of a loved one please contact Sylvia Burson (710852).

THREADGILL CUP ORGANISER NEEDED

Would you be interested in running the Threadgill Cup this year? It's the village gardening competition. The date and judge are booked, we just need an organised person to handle the applications and escort the judge on the day. If you are interested or want further information please contact Stephanie Wheeler on 01264 352693.

Thank you.

Stephanie Wheeler



As an AmDram group, our primary aim is to entertain, and we are always appreciative of those of you who come to watch our productions. We also like to benchmark ourselves against other groups, and so for each production we invite the Southern Daily Echo 'Curtain Call' team to do an independent review, and over the years have received a number of nominations for awards, even winning one once a few years ago - well done Jill Lloyd!

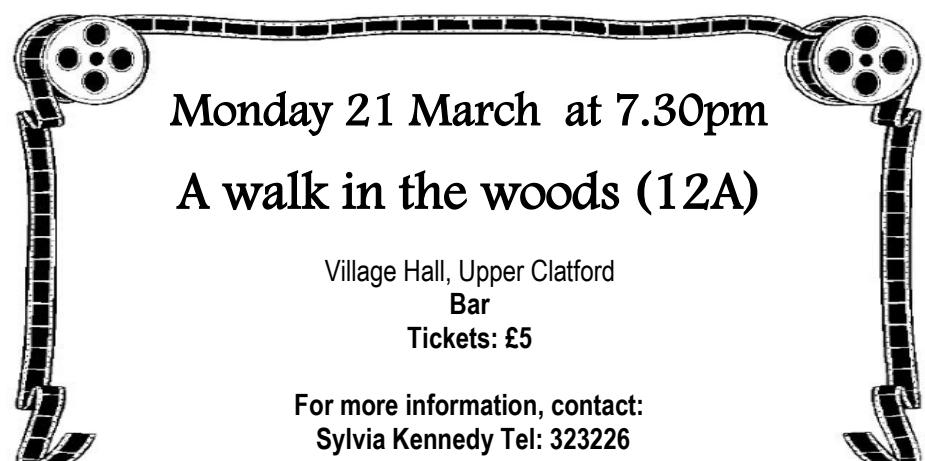
I mention this because a group of BVP members recently attended the Curtain Call awards night to proudly support our Matilda Murphy who was one of 6 nominees for 'Best Actress in a Drama', our Spring / Summer 2015 production, 'Looking for JJ', observing that '*Murphy is a compelling storyteller*'. We are so proud of this achievement by one of our younger members.

January was a busy month for the group:

- a new Committee has been appointed
- Peter Pan the Musical has been selected for our Christmas 2016 production
- Our next production – **June 3/4/5 - 'Cash on Delivery'** has now been cast by Director Will Johnson, and script learning is underway. This is a hilarious farce, written by Michael Cooney. Put it in your diaries now – we've been in stitches at the first practices! More details next month.

For more information on Burdock Valley Players, look us up through the following media:

Jon Slingsby



just lifted itself to fly above the car. If it hadn't been for a car behind me I would have stopped. A week later as Father of the Tribe and I return from a thrilling trip to IKEA, on the opposite carriageway, we see a swan land rather ungainly just outside of the central reservation at the edge of the fast lane. Astonishingly, there was some spectacularly good driving with flashing lights and drivers slowing for the majestic bird. I have no idea what consequently happened to it.

Swans have a wingspan of 6', so they can do an enormous amount of damage to both themselves and anything they might crash into. Wondering about the two swans that I'd seen, I've since learnt that swans are not the best flyers; if they miss just one wing beat they can plummet to the ground. Once down, they need a long run up to get airborne again. I thought perhaps that the swans had mistaken the roads for rivers, but this is a common misconception. It is more to do with the turbulence caused by heavy traffic, which can literally suck the swans out of the sky. Despite the recent increase in traffic along Cattle Lane, I don't think that it can really be construed as 'heavy' so I guess that the 'Cattle Lane' swan had just taken a wrong turning. Perhaps a sign warning of 'low flying swans' may encourage drivers to slow down along Cattle Lane; nothing else has worked so far.

Mother of the Tribe - www.lifewiththetribe.com

How to contact your Member of Parliament



Kit Malthouse

Email: kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: 01264 401401

Or write to me at my Constituency Office:
2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

I hold regular surgeries for all constituents in North West Hampshire

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

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY FISH PIE CONTEST

It's back, and this time it just got fishier?



FAMILY FISHY FRIDAY FUN

25th MARCH 6PM

at the Abbotts Ann War MEMORIAL HALL

We have challenged Abbotts Ann to see who can make the best fish pie and we need you to come and eat it to see who will be the 2016 pie master!

2015 winner – Stephen Godman

Fishy quiz, Fish Pie Contest and Raffle Prizes

If you think you have what it takes why not join in the fun and battle it out with local cooks and see if your pie can be crowned Abbotts Ann Fish Pie of 2016!

Or just buy a ticket and help us celebrate the winning pie.

Tickets: £10 per adult - £4 per child. Paying bar.

Tickets for sale in the Village Shop & Post Office

VERY LIMITED TICKETS DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

If you wish to enter a pie please call or email:

Neil 711108 wheelyp@gmail.com

ABBOTTS ANN WI - JANUARY 2016

Little did we know when we invited local Magician, Michael King, to entertain us at our New Year Dinner that we would be putting our necks on the line, well at least one of our members did.

We were all able to sit back and relax as our delicious three-course dinner was cooked and served to us by our favoured caterer, Mr Davies from Totton and his efficient staff. Michael said he was delighted to have a short commute for a change and kept our members enthralled as he worked his magic. We were all watching closely, trying to see if we could spot exactly how he executed his many skilful tricks. Not a chance, much too quick and slick for us to discover his secrets.

For his finale he chose Aileen, our Minutes Secretary, to assist. Having demonstrated that his portable guillotine (no we did not watch whilst knitting) was in good working order, Aileen very calmly allowed him to lay her head quite literally on the line. Secretly wondering whether there really was any jeopardy involved, his audience watched with some anticipation, quickly he pushed down the blade and no it's fine, her head remained attached to her body and she survived intact. Phew, what a relief.

At our next meeting on 31st March (7.30 pm in the Village Hall) we will find out what our handwriting reveals about our character, as Graham Birchmore gives us an insight into Graphology. Members have been asked to bring along a piece of calligraphy for the exhibition.

Sharon King

BRING AND BUY PLANT SALE

The annual Plant Sale, in aid of fete funds, will be held at 10.00am on Saturday 28th 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*

ANDOVER SCRAP BOX

Please note the correct telephone number for Andover Scrap Box is 01264 359223 and not as printed in the February magazine

LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - JANUARY 2016

The year starts with a visit to Tyne Cot Cemetery - the largest Commonwealth Cemetery in the world. The cemetery was created to supplement the Menin Gate which had insufficient space to remember all the missing of the Salient. 35,000 names are recorded at Tyne Cot. Even today, bones are still uncovered as farmers plough the fields surrounding Ypres. The blue skies have left us and the bitter wind and grey seem fitting in this desperately sad place. The scattering of graves behind the central Cross of Sacrifice memorial - once a captured German bunker turned by the Australians into an advanced dressing station - shows how urgently the 3rd Australian Division must have buried the dead as they fought to keep the injured alive as battles raged around them. 350 men were buried here between October 1917 and March 1918. As we shiver in the cold, we wonder at how these young men continued to live and work in such utterly shocking conditions. It's only now, as we look across the fields around us, that we can understand a little more about the infamous mud that the 3rd Battle of Ypres was fought in - the rains began in August 1917 and continued into October, turning the battlefields into a quagmire. The Tribe are shocked by the sheer number of graves and names carved into the surrounding walls. There are four German graves; these are easily spotted as they are marked with rectangular grey block rather than the simplicity and purity of the crosses of white Portland stone. Three of the Germans are unknown. I imagine that the Germans were just as terrified as the Allies. It seems such a terrible waste of lives.

Returning into Ypres and walking into our tall town house we all reflect on an emotional day - the number of cemeteries that surround the city is mind blowing. But it is also such a beautiful city, as Michael Murpugo says 'the architecture is splendid beyond belief'. He also talks about it as 'a very positive place' and despite having been almost totally destroyed in WW1, having been completely rebuilt 'it symbolises hope'. We couldn't agree more.

Back in Blighty we are met by heavy skies and torrential rain! Despite this, January has been a very mild month with too much rain and rather a lot of wind. The few days of cold, crisp mornings and brilliant blue skies have been much appreciated. One glorious day (-7 as I take the older two to the station), it is beautiful - still, frozen, blue skies - my favourite sort of winter's day. There's a cock pheasant underneath the birch tree feeders, finding fallen seed on the frosted ground. A wood pigeon joins it. Blue tits, long tailed tits, great tits, chaffinches and a robin flit amongst the bare twig like branches between the feeders. Three little kittens sit at the kitchen window, tails flicking, wondering when they'll be allowed out to play. I guess that will be when I get round to booking them into the vets to get them neutered. A flock of starlings land in the field.

A few days later as I'm driving towards Andover along Cattle Lane, I find myself suddenly ducking in the car; a swan has just flown towards me and has

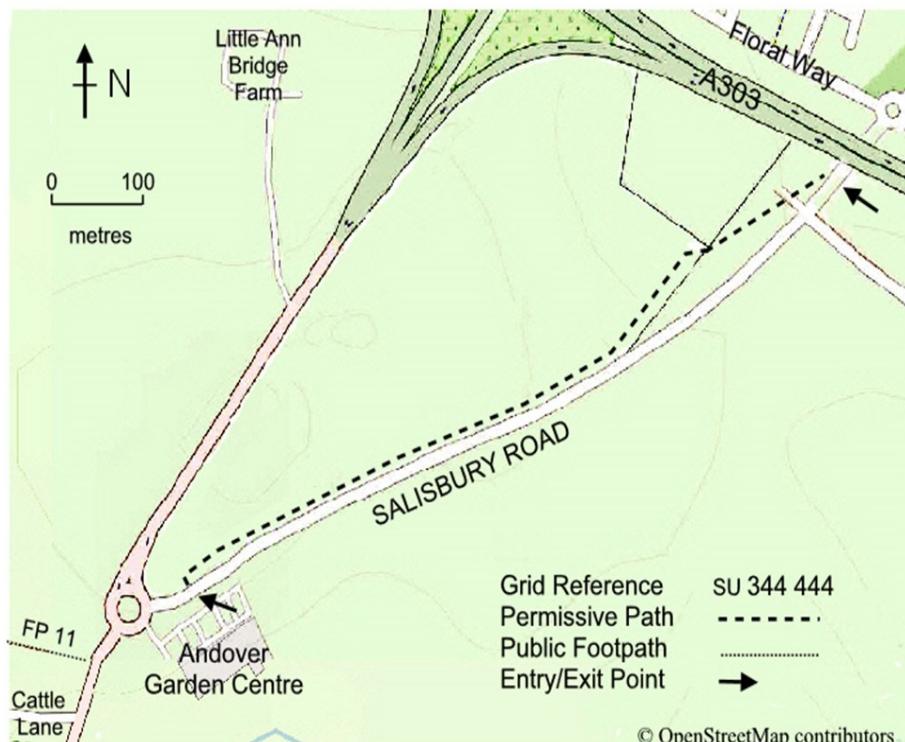
NEW FOOTPATH

There is now a new footpath from Andover Garden Centre to the A303 bridge on Salisbury Road. This is a permissive path that has been negotiated by Abbotts Ann Vision, and approved by the Parish Council, in order to provide a safe pedestrian route between the village and the edge of Andover. It runs parallel to the Salisbury Road, partly on farmland and partly on HCC land south of the A303, and links with the public footpath connecting the top of Green Lane with the Garden Centre Roundabout.

We are very grateful to A. Burnfield and Sons for permitting access along their field, and also to HCC for carrying out the initial work to establish the route across their land. We are also grateful for the recent efforts of a team from Andover Ramblers in clearing the surface of the path, which has complemented work by AAV clearing litter from the ends of the path and cutting back trees and shrubs on the road verge near the Garden Centre to improve visibility.

Watch out for details of an inaugural walk!

John Moon (Abbotts Ann Vision)



GROWING BRIDGE BUILDERS

As advertised, this was a course of study on Conflict lasting for four sessions which was held in the Benefice starting on October 24th. The sessions were held in the Meadow Room at All Saints' on Saturday mornings, each of four hours duration – with a much needed coffee break!

It was attended by a mixed group, some with a Church of England background and some from the Methodist community. It consisted of a series of discussions in groups on the various aspects of Conflict. It was led by two Methodist Ministers with excellent course material which we could keep for reference.

We explored Conflict, by means of communication, the importance of listening to each other, ways of expressing feelings, and methods of negotiation and working together. It helped us to understand that there could be different viewpoints to problems, and our need to pause and think before reacting to them.

It was relevant to our lives in the church, the community and our families.

Margaret, Tessa & Betty

MEET OUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

KIT MALTHOUSE

at a

Drinks Party

**Saturday 23rd April 2016
6 pm to 8 pm**

Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall

£5.00 to include a drink and nibbles

All WELCOME

Tickets at the door.
All inquiries to Michael Pugh (01264 711158)
Abbotts Ann Conservatives

ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL - FEBRUARY

The Parish Council was particularly busy this month, and held two meetings to cover all its business.

The date of the Annual Parish Assembly was set for Friday, 8th April. This is not to be confused with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, (the “AGM”), at which the Chairman is elected. The Annual Parish Assembly has no statutory structure, the only requirement being for an annual meeting of parishioners. It is your opportunity to hear what the Council and all the other groups in the parish have been doing, and their plans. This year, it has been decided that the Annual Parish Assembly will be fairly informal, giving members of the public a chance to talk to the various organisations, look at displays, have a drink, and get more involved.

After twenty-seven years in the post, Cllr Bernard Griffiths chose to retire as Chairman at the meeting of 4th February. He declined a suggestion he remain in office until the Annual Parish Assembly so he could be “properly thanked”! Cllr Beth Deacon was proposed as his successor, but one councillor considered it inappropriate to elect a new Chairman at this meeting as Cllr Elizabeth Howard, the Vice-Chairman, was away: since the Vice-Chairman’s only role was to stand in if the Chairman was absent, Cllr Howard should assume the role on her return. No one mentioned the obvious – the difference between the Chairman being absent (when the Vice-Chairman would deputise) and the Chairman being non-existent (having retired)!

However, Cllr Howard had already written stating that should a vacancy arise, she did not wish to take over as Chairman. Cllr Beth Deacon was duly elected.

Bernard remains on the Council and feels that now he is on the “back benches”, he will be in a better position to speak his mind, freed from the increasing weight of bureaucratic shackles. The ghost of Jacob Marley can now vacate Pennymarsh!

Disappointingly, following encouraging news last month, Cllr Susie Bleeker reported her application on behalf of the Parish Council for a second village defibrillator has, after a lengthy wait, been rejected. The British Heart Foundation scheme has been oversubscribed but Cllr Bleeker confirmed she will re-apply. In the meantime, please remember that the original device is still outside the back of The Eagle and can be accessed at any time and deployed by an untrained individual.

The burial ground continues in the Council’s thoughts, and a sub-committee is being set up to allow more concentrated discussion on its administration, including amendments to the rules. As formal sub-committees follow similar rules to the Parish Council itself, meetings will be open to the public. In the past, the “burial committee” was an informal liaison between the Chairman of the Council, the Clerk, the Church Wardens, the Rector (who chaired the

ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL

Extending the burial ground and moving the wildflower meadow

St Mary’s churchyard together with the burial ground provides a tranquil location for the final resting place of parishioners of Abbotts Ann. The Parish Council maintains the churchyard and manages the burial ground with the aim to preserve a traditional location for both burials and internment after cremation.

Graves, and Monuments are a solace to the relatives of the people they commemorate, visitors come to look at them, and passers-by pause to read the inscriptions. They embody the social history of a community and form a tangible expression of its roots. Most importantly, they express the purpose of a burial ground, as a place where the mortal remains of past generations are reverently laid and their earthly lives recorded.

The churchyard, the area surrounding the church, is now closed to burials although the Parish Council maintains it in cooperation with the Parochial Church Council. The burial ground which starts a little closer to the road is still open and for new burials as well as a garden of remembrance for those who are cremated and is managed by the Parish Council. The burial ground was consecrated many years ago and includes all the land down to the road apart from a small area furthest away from Church Path reserved as an unconsecrated area.

In the past few years, whilst unused for anything else the fenced area closest to the road has been established as a wildflower meadow. An active group of villagers including adults and children have worked hard to establish this area, and so finding a new location is a top priority.

With the existing burial area becoming fully used over the next couple of years, the area closest to the road will need to be brought into use. As part of this requirement, the fence across the burial ground needs to be removed, this as mentioned in the January edition will take place over the next few weeks. It is likely that there are still sufficient burial plots available in the current area for use throughout 2016 and possibly into 2017, and these will be used first before starting to use the wildflower meadow area which will recede over the years as it’s used for burials.

Through the 2016 growing season, the wildflower meadow will be re-established elsewhere. The most likely location is ‘The Green’, formerly the Manor Close Playing field. Abbotts Ann Green Action have taken on the challenge to suggest options, and these will be outlined to discuss at the Parish Assembly in April. The bird boxes installed by children from the Fun Club will be retained.

Clare Cotterell - Parish Clerk



Homing Enquiries 0345 2601501 or www.andovercats.org.uk
Fund-raising/volunteers 07969 708992 or julie72.julie72@gmail.com
Items for resale 01256-892773

Would anyone like to help in the Charity Shop in Whitchurch which will be occupied by this branch of Cats Protection between 3rd and 17th of March? It is easy work, good fun and a chance to meet people.

Our collection at Tesco River Way raised £110 and some cat food. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Wellington, our cat featured last month, settled very quickly into his new home. He was sitting on the sofa within twenty minutes of his arrival.



Cloudy and Digger are elderly sisters who came into care when their owner died. They are in good health and are looking for a quiet home in which to spend their last years. Cloudy is rather nervous, not helped by the fact that she required dental treatment, but is already becoming more relaxed. Cats Protection will assist with any future veterinary bills associated with their age.



Martin Bevan

ST MARY'S ABBOTTS ANN

Building Restoration

The building restoration work is proceeding well. The scaffolding and temporary roof have withstood the high winds and good progress has been made with stonework repairs and with the new roof and gutters. Repairs and improvements to underground drainage will start shortly. We are hopeful that all the work will be complete on programme by the 24th March.

WC

Planning permission has been granted for a stand-alone WC facility on the south side of the church opposite the door to the bell tower. This means that we can now invite tenders and make approaches to funding organisations for grant aid for this project.

Ray Lucas

committee), and members of the laity – not exactly “in secret in a smoke-filled room”, as one councillor suggested, but perhaps not quite meeting the modern demands of transparency!

Cllr Andrew Hayter was authorised to call an informal meeting (not a sub-committee!) of interested parties to consider the future of the wild flower meadow, temporarily sited on the consecrated burial ground extension. Another small consecrated area has been identified within the burial ground which might avoid immediate use of the extension and allow time for seeds to be gathered. Nevertheless, despite its best efforts and goodwill, the Council cannot guarantee this part will not be required for graves this year and the fence will still be removed. The unconsecrated area in the burial ground needs to be kept as such for parishioners who do not want a Christian burial: all qualifying residents have a right to be buried within the parish.

Abbotts Ann Green Action is producing ideas for The Green at the Annual Parish Assembly, and these may include transferring the meadow there.

Having listened to the keen debate, the Church Warden present firmly told councillors she now expected to see them all giving some practical help clearing up the churchyard and burial ground at Easter! Indeed, any volunteers will be welcome to help to tidy this area, which is one of the oft-visited and most appreciated parts of the village.

On 17th March, councillors will hold an extra meeting to discuss their annual budget. Anyone interested can come and learn how it has been compiled. Previously, budgets have been educated “guesstimates” of future expenditure, based on experience of past costs, accountancy practice, prudence, and the considered advice of the Clerk. Now a new sub-committee will look at detailed allocation proposals.

Although a Council should not hold large general cash reserves in the bank, it is sensible to make some provision for the unforeseen, to avoid having to borrow in an unexpected crisis. The balance between over-funding and improvidence is one that common sense would always weight on the side of keeping “a bit in hand”. Clearly, it is preferable to know as precisely as possible what demands will be made on the purse-strings. For that reason, the Council hopes in future to ask village organisations to submit their requests for funding for specified items in advance of the council budget for the coming year – usually discussed around November. This will not only help the Council calculate the precept needed (i.e. their part of your council tax) but also encourage organisations to plan ahead.

Councillors considered whether the Sports Field Management Committee, which looks after the sports field and is raising funds for a new pavilion, should become an official sub-committee of the Council. There are advantages to its remaining free-standing. Further discussions will take place with the Committee.

Finally, the Dog Warden has visited the village and left “poo bags” in the shop for your use, as well as signs which can be placed near heaps of unattended mess to shame irresponsible owners.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 3rd March, at Burghclere Down Community Centre. Can more new sub-committees lie ahead?

Rosemary Groves

ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL

Be a responsible dog owner – and a responsible resident of Abbotts Ann

Abbotts Ann Parish Council has teamed up with Test Valley Borough Council’s Environmental Health Team to try and help educate dog owners on the importance of cleaning up after your dog wherever and whenever it is taken for a walk. It is part of the responsibility of owning a dog that you have to clear up after it. Leaving dogs’ mess lying around on the ground (or putting the mess into a bag and leaving that on the ground!) not only causes an unpleasant problem for other walkers, but it also gives all responsible dog walkers a bad reputation that they do not deserve.

Dog faeces is unhygienic and can be a health hazard. It can lead to toxocariasis in humans that causes serious illness and even blindness – this is a special danger to young children.

There are four ‘Poo Bins’ in the village – two on the Sports Field, one halfway along Dunkirt Lane at the bottom of the footpath that leads up to Monxton Hill, and one across the road at the end of Church Path. These are funded by the Parish Council and are there to make it easy for all dog walkers to pick up their dog’s mess and to dispose of it in a hygienic manner.

Sadly however, there remains a problem with dog mess in the village and some people seem to not be using the bins. We want to point out that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act makes it an offence to let your dog foul and not immediately pick up after it. **WALKING YOUR DOG IN THE COUNTRYSIDE DOES NOT MAKE YOU EXEMPT FROM THIS LAW.**

If the Environmental Health Team sees it happen, they can take people to court, where if convicted, offenders can expect to receive a fine up to £1,000. Be warned – the Dog Warden is going to be visiting the Parish regularly over the next few months so make sure that you are picking up after your dog!!

You can also do something to help to protect Abbotts Ann from dog fouling by calling the Environmental Health Team if you see someone letting their

THE POST OFFICE

PLEASE NOTE: As from 14th March 2016 Royal Mail will change the daily weekday collection time from the Abbotts Ann Post Office (this includes the Post Box outside)

NEW COLLECTION TIME: 16.30 HOURS

The actual collection time might be up to ten minutes before or after this time depending on daily circumstances.

SHOPPING FROM HOME AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT

You may have wondered what BT Openreach have been up to in the village over the past few months. They have been seen digging holes and erecting dark green cabinets on the side of the road, laying pipes under the ground down Church path and elsewhere in the village. The answer is that they have been installing fibre optic cables to provide a super fast broadband service.

The first broadband lines in Abbotts Ann became available in 2004. Now just 12 years on, the revolution has evolved to provide blistering fast connections and capacity using pulsating light waves through fibre optic cables to create a digital signal at the speed of light. Before 2004, in order to get ‘on-line’, it involved a modem ‘dialling up’ on a standard telephone line. Do you recall the strange tones made by the modem as it eventually established a dial up connection to the internet?

In those days you paid for the time you were connected. How frustrating it was waiting for the screen to update as it was such a slow connection. This system was later replaced with the ‘broadband service using ‘Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line’ technology (ADSL). This was the first revolution which really made the internet **usable** as it was able to manage data at around 7 megabits per second. Now with fibre optics to the street cabinets, your phone line can now become an even faster broadband service with speeds of around 18 to 27 megabytes per second depending on where you are in the village and what service you require.

The Internet is still relatively new but already it is astonishing how fast it has developed over the past 12 years. We can now shop on-line for almost anything, watch films, catch up with the BBC news, play games, pay bills, send and receive messages or have a video call with friends and loved ones on the other side of the world. All this is made possible through a strand of fibre measuring 50 microns in diameter. How amazing is that!

If you are interested in upgrading your current broadband service to faster broadband contact your service provider. They will be able to test your line and give you an idea of the speed you can achieve with the new ‘fibre to the street cabinet’ connection.

Bernard Readman - Meadow View

Origins of Modern Postcodes

The postal reforms in 1840 and the rapid growth of London's population led to a greater volume of letters. Mail was often vaguely addressed which was a particular problem in London where many streets had the same name. In the 1850's, a committee on street names was established to consider renaming streets, but the plan did not meet with universal approval, especially not from wealthier families who lived in a street named after an ancestor. Not everyone, however, was against the changes and by the end of 1871 some 100,000 houses had been renumbered and 4,800 'areas' renamed.

Introduction of the current postcode system

By the early 1960's, the Post Office had started a major mechanisation programme designed to overcome the problems of labour-intensive sorting. The introduction of mechanical sorting depended on reducing the address to a machine-readable form – a code printed on the letter in phosphor dots which could be sensed by sorting equipment. A postcode system was developed from the Norwich trials, and the present system was introduced at Croydon in 1966. The task of coding the whole country was carried out in stages and was finally completed in 1974 with the recoding of Norwich.

Maureen Flood - Sub Post Mistress

A date for your diary:



Annual Children's Society Coffee Morning and Box Opening

**Thursday 10th March 2016 at 10.30 am
2, Catherine's Walk,
Abbotts Ann**

**Coffee, cake, boxes and lots more.
Call: Kate 712028 for more information**

dog foul or if you know an area where it happens, or even when it happens. You can contact them on **01264 368 000** to report it. The Environmental Health Team will explain in confidence what can be done. You can become involved, or you may remain anonymous, the choice is yours.

We have managed to source some free poo bags donated by the Dogs Trust and these have been left at the village shop to encourage dog owners to keep this beautiful village clean – go in and get some and make a small donation to the Dogs Trust at the same time.

Dog fouling is a problem that is caused by a small minority of irresponsible dog owners. Being a responsible dog owner means picking up after your dog and letting the Environmental Health Team know who is not doing so. It is in the interests of the health and hygiene of the whole community and our local environment to do this. Let's be clear here - it is not the dogs' fault. It is the irresponsible dog owners who leave the dog mess on the ground, and also anyone who witnesses it and chooses to do nothing about it.

Please help us keep Abbotts Ann free from dog mess!

CONTEMPLATIVE DAYS

From Sight to Insight – Journeying with Christ in Modern Art

The Revd Jenny Ellis (who was joint leader of the Growing Bridgebuilders course) is leading a series of Contemplative Days at her home, Batts Row Cottage, Laverstoke Lane, Nr Whitchurch, RG28 7PA. Each day can stand alone and will include simple worship at the beginning and the end, a way in to meditation, exploration of one or more images of Christ in modern art and relevant Scriptures, time for personal reflection, creativity or walking and an opportunity for sharing a little with others.

Each session begins at 9.30 am for 10.00 am and ends at 4.00 pm. The cost is £12 per session, including refreshments, light lunch and materials. The sessions and themes are as follows:-

March – The Passion

Tuesday March 15th

April – The Resurrection

Saturday April 16th, repeated Monday April 18th

May – the coming of the Spirit

Wednesday May 25th

June – Living Well

Begun Saturday June 11th and completed Saturday June 18th

If this is of interest to you, please book with Jenny at jenny.battsrow@gmail.com or on 01256 892 895

Rev. Nicky Judd



ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

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

March 2016

We have had an extra day in February, but still the month has flown by. Lots of happenings and yet lots to look forward to.

Mothers' Day/Mothering Sunday

This year Mothering Sunday is on 6th March. Start the day by popping into the shop and buying some freshly baked croissants or pain-au chocolat. A box of Abbotts Ann labeled chocolates would also be appreciated, or even one of our "home" made cakes. Then make mother's day by buying her a card from our excellent selection.

Home Made Cakes

As mentioned above, our Range of "home" made cakes has increased. They are made for us by volunteers; with some of them actually being baked on the premises. Varieties include – Victoria Sponge, Flapjack, Ginger & Honey slab cake and Mango & Chutney scones (very different and quite delicious!). All these, and more, are usually available fresh on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Pizza Night

March Pizza night is Friday 11th March
5pm to 7pm.

Make sure you place your order early to get your preferred time for collection.

Easter

Easter is early this year. We aim to have a small selection of Easter Eggs in the shop and of course Hot Cross buns for Good Friday. Easter Opening times will be:-

Good Friday - 25 th March	0900 to 1200
Easter Saturday - 26 th March	0830 to 1230
Easter Sunday - 27 th March	0900 to 1200
Easter Monday - 28 th March	0900 to 1200.

URGENT – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are getting very short of volunteers. It is not a very arduous task and, as I keep saying, it is a very good way of getting to know people. Volunteers are key to the continuance of our village community shop. It is very simple – **If there is no volunteer to serve for a given shift then the shop cannot open.** A shift is for 4½ hours in the morning or afternoon. You could work a split shift and do not have to do the same one each week. Please come and volunteer – have a chat with Tim (the Manager) or Carol (the Deputy Manager).

Dates to Remember for March

6th March – Mothering Sunday.
11th March – Pizza Night.
25th to 28th March – Easter Weekend.

*Elizabeth Howard
Shop Volunteer & Committee Member*

ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

Post Office Money – ISA key dates

Don't miss out on your 2015/16 tax year allowance.
30 March 2016 - Last Date to apply in branch. Bring your completed application form along with your payment (maximum cash amount in branch is £1000) to a Post Office branch.
1 April 2016 - Last date to top-up an existing Cash or Investment ISA in-branch.
Visit a Post Office with your Top-Up Card to add to your existing Post Office Money ISA.
6 April 2016 - The new tax year begins!
2016/17 tax year applications are accepted from this date. To find out what ISAs we have on offer, please visit us in branch.

Special Stamps on Sale: 15 March 2016

British Humanitarians

The UK has a proud tradition of its people offering humanitarian assistance to those in need, and in particular certain individuals who have devoted their energies to helping and protecting others. This stamp issue will commemorate the lives and achievements of six notable British individuals and their humanitarian contributions in the UK and abroad.

First Class - Nicholas Winton (1909–2015)

Saved the lives of 669 Kindertransport children on the eve of the Second World War

First Class - Sue Ryder (1924–2000)

Founded homes in the UK and Europe for people in need.

First Class - John Boyd Orr (1880–1971)

Advocated improved nutrition and global food provision and made a significant contribution to food security

£1.33 - Eglantyne Jebb (1876–1928)

Founded the organisation that became the Save the Children Fund

£1.33 - Joseph Rowntree (1836–1925)

Businessman who championed social reform and workers' welfare

£1.33 - Josephine Butler (1828–1906)

Campaigned for women's rights and social reform