



News from Abthorpe

December 2006

ABTHORPE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS

As you probably know by now, the success of last year's celebrations has led to a repeat performance this year, but with some subtle changes.

A Christmas tree will be going up in the churchyard, suitably decorated and lit – thanks to Bunny and his head for heights. The children's party is on Saturday 16th at 2.45, preceding songs and carols on the green. The children will join us at 5.00 so please do come and enjoy a good sing, well wrapped up and carrying your torch or lantern to read the song sheets. There's chairs for anyone who needs them, and we'll happily pick you up from home and bring you either to the green or straight to the church so you don't have to walk down in the dark. Just let any committee member know, or call June Willsher on 850575.

The church has kindly opened their doors for a glass of mulled or non-alcoholic wine and mince pies to warm us up after the singing. There will be live musical entertainment between the chance for a chat.

The older Abthorpians have been invited to lunch in the pub on Wednesday 20th.

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ROAD TO TOWCESTER

Although the road between the edge of the village and the Silverstone crossroads has finally had the worst of the damage mended, you will have noticed that the spring is again flowing across the road. The Parish Council has written to the Council Council to make them aware of the dangers of sheet ice on those bends should winter eventually decide to arrive.

NEWS FROM THE NEW INN

It's difficult to believe the Jane, Robbie, Michael and Matthew have been at The New Inn for a year. Last Saturday they held their first anniversary party - Suited and Booted - with elegant dress everywhere. And to celebrate, they have won a brewery award for most improved exterior, for which they are justly proud.

Jane has again been busy arranging events to celebrate the season. By request another karaoke night is on the 9th December; a 70s evening on the 23rd: dig out those flares and mini-skirts and dress the part. Themed music and a mini 70s quiz will be accompanied by a few surprises (undisclosed to anyone as yet).

On Christmas Eve take a favourite song to the pub: record, CD, tape, which will be played, or sing and play for yourself. The pub will be open on Christmas day from 12 - 3

(but not for lunch, as Jane will be busy preparing her own family meal).

The Christmas menu is well under way and pre-booked lunch or dinner is available for £6.99 (1 course), £8.99 (2 courses) or £10.99 (3 courses + wine).

The New Year will be greeted in style: come masked and ready to be entertained, fuelled by a pig roast and buffet and the usual celebratory alcohol.

There is now an Events Committee at the pub who welcome ideas for different activities anyone would like to see. Jane will pass on your thoughts - pop in or call her on 857306.

STREET PARKING IN TOWCESTER

Northampton County Council is conducting a consultation exercise on street parking in the county as they take over responsibility for enforcement from the police, and Towcester is one of the towns affected. Of particular interest is the consideration of on-street parking 'controls' (without any definition of what 'controls' may mean). All the current free limited-waiting on-street parking is being looked at, and you may have strong views about the possibility of this changing and the repercussions on all of us who use the services and shops in Towcester as well as on the businesses themselves. More information is at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/

parking; phone 01604 654633 or email: parking@northamptonshire.gov.uk. Although comments were requested by 30 November we have only just received the leaflets. Please do let your views be known; any proposals may have considerable consequences for the vitality of Towcester.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS - Christmas services are listed in the Events

Fred Huggins

The collection at Fred's funeral was given to Abthorpe church funds. The PCC wished to use this money to provide a lasting token of Fred's service to the church. As there was no modern translation of the bible for use on the lectern, a fine leather-bound example has been purchased and is already in use. Two large print copies of each of the hymn books were also bought.

These books will be dedicated at a service on 28 January hopefully attended by many people who knew and loved Fred.

Abthorpe Church Tote

November winners were Chris and Dave Cunningham who won £252-50. There will be a Christmas draw in December, the winner to be announced in the pub on Friday 22 December.

The tote will continue next year and it is hoped that everyone will want to continue as members. 101

people subscribe at the moment and the church is very grateful to their support.

CRIB FESTIVAL

There were over 75 cribs displayed around the outer aisles of the church last weekend, loaned by local people and the surrounding churches. The varied materials used to create them and the range of cultures represented made a fascinating display. The organisers ensured a warm and relaxed atmosphere in the church, fuelled by tea and cake. Congratulations to Richard Tomalin for getting it together and many will hope it becomes a regular Christmas event.

GREAT SOUTH RUN 2006

Caroline Kellner 857195

Very many thanks to all who sponsored me in The Great South Run. I managed to finish despite appalling weather conditions and raised £492 including gift aid for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

It was a very enjoyable day which I shall repeat next year so if anyone wishes to join me let me know!

This will be added to the impressive total of £4,343 raised by Elizabeth and Barry Haycock at their annual fund raising day in October. The total raised since 1984 now stands at £50,992.

CAN YOU HELP

I am desperately searching for a copy of Reg Chapman's photographic book: *These I Have Loved, Volume II*. I thought I had tracked one down, only to be disappointed. If anyone knows of a spare copy please let me know – a suitable reward awaits!
Jill Tolson - 857320

A full round up of People news will be in the next issue



This photo of Martha and Joshua Gray from Brick Cottage at the Crib Festival is a delightful replacement

EVENTS

Tuesday 12 December

Towcester Choral Society Christmas Concert, 7.30, Towcester Town Hall. 01604 859645

Saturday 16 December

Abthorpe Village Fund: Children's party in the Old School, 2.45
Songs and carols on the Green, 5.00, followed by refreshments and musical entertainment in the church

Monday 18 December

Abthorpe Old School AGM, 8pm in the Old School: all welcome

Wednesday 20 December

Abthorpe Village Fund: lunch for the older residents, the New Inn

Sunday 24 December

Christingle Service at St John the Baptist, 4.00

Midnight Holy Communion, St Michael's Church, Silverstone, starting at 11.30

Christmas Day

Holy Communion, St John the Baptist, 9.00 am

Sunday 31 December

Candlelit New Year Service, St John the Baptist, 4.00

New Year's Eve masquerade party at The New Inn

Monday 15 January

Parish Council meeting, Old School, 7.45pm

Sunday 28 January

St John the Baptist, 11.00, dedication of the new bible and large print hymn books to Fred Huggins