



# ABTALK

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**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The work on the Millennium sign has been completed. A big thankyou to Guy Beresford-Linnell for his patience in painting the intricate detail. When the sign went back it was found that the post was showing signs of decay at ground level. We have therefore had it replaced with a new one. This is in a slightly different position and is not be encased in concrete so should last longer.

The Council has set the precept for this coming year higher than last year at £3,750. As we now have more houses in the village there should not be a large increase in what you pay, but our reserves, which were considerable a few years ago, have gradually been eroded. The increase will enable nearly all the Council's regular outgoings, such as street lighting, to be covered.

The condition of the War Memorial is causing concern. In particular the tablet let in to the wall below the Memorial is deteriorating to such an extent that the lettering cannot be read. It may have to be replaced.

A new Council will be elected on 7th May this year, at the same time as the general election. There are seven members of the Council but it is many years since we have had a contested election. Could this year change that? If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, speak to the clerk, Bob Carter (bob.carter@

abthorpe.net, 857753).

Once again Philip Berry will be organising the rota for mowing the village green. He will be contacting the volunteers who helped last year, but is always on the lookout for more people. Contact Philip at [philip.berry@abthorpe.net](mailto:philip.berry@abthorpe.net).

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

We have mentioned reviving a modern Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village for some time, but needed a Coordinator. Pam Watkins has now kindly offered to fulfil this role, and is setting up an email database. Once up and running this will be a two-way communication using the [neighbourhoodwatch@abthorpe.net](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@abthorpe.net) address.

Notices from the police and other agencies that have a bearing on residents will be sent out, and equally as important, anyone seeing anything untoward can email the same address and this will be disseminated in as timely a way as possible.

For instance, there have been at least two occasions on which cars potentially associated with incidents have been noticed but there has been no way of alerting people to look out for them and notify the police speedily. Incidentally, 101 is the police number used at such times, unless you feel in immediate danger when 999 is more appropriate

If you would like to receive alerts and likewise be able to communicate anything you notice, please sign up directly through the Abthorpe village website: [www.abthorpe.net](http://www.abthorpe.net) or email [neighbourhoodwatch@abthorpe.net](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@abthorpe.net). You may register multiple address if, for instance, you would like to received notifications at work as well, or there is more than one person in the household who would like to see them. Those who have responded to the flyer are being added automatically. You may unsubscribe at any time.

It is not anticipated that there will be a great deal of traffic as we live in a very peaceful area, but we are not entirely crime-free and it would be reassuring to know that there are eyes and ears watching out for neighbours. This

necessarily has to be an email-based system, so hopefully neighbours of anyone without access will be their conduit.

As an example of raising awareness, several cars in the Brackley area have had tools stolen from them recently, and red diesel has been syphoned at Syresham.

### **NEWS FROM THE NEW INN**

Members of the Vintage Sports Car Club gathered at the New Inn for their informal New Year's Day meeting. Some twenty hardy souls attended, in various cars ranging from a superb racing Bentley, driven all the way from Stow on the Wold, to a humble Austin Seven from just down the road in Buckingham, proving that members like to use their vehicles rather than polishing



*A beautiful Bentley at the New Inn on January 1st.*



*Three more of the cars  
which could be seen on  
New Year's Day*

them. The meeting was voted a success and will be repeated next New Year's Day.

Christmas was the usual lively affair at the New Inn with a good take up of the special festive menu. Now it's back to normal service, with the blackboard menu retaining its firm favourites and ringing the changes occasionally with other offerings. And of course the 2 for £10 offer continues to be well appreciated.

Mother's Day is just around the corner, another good opportunity to enjoy a special lunch on 15th March.

The darts team had a notable success when George Hilton-Jones,

during the New Inn's away match to St Crispins Club in Northampton, scored the maximum outshot (final throw). With his three darts he scored a triple 20, another triple 20 and a bullseye. Wow! And of course the skittles team is still going well, as are the Sunday afternoon music sessions held on the last Sunday of the month, prior to the quiz in the evening.

On the subject of the quiz, January's winners were No Eye Deer and the large sum of £145 raised on the night was donated to Willen Hospice – turned into £181 by Gift Aid. However, the cold and wet evening of February's quiz

inspired even greater participation and generosity. A record £175 was raised, which Trigger's Broom decided to split between Macmillan Nurses and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. These lively evenings continue through the spring on 29th March, 26th April and 31st May.

### **EVENT VOLUNTEERING**

Anyone with an interest in sport will find a range of sport-related local volunteering opportunities at [www.snvb.org.uk/News/1850.html](http://www.snvb.org.uk/News/1850.html). Among them is the chance to be a 'Racemaker' at the grand prix at Silverstone which this year takes place over the weekend of 2nd to 5th July.

And the Towcester Food Festival is back on the 6th and 7th of June, and they have 'Festivalmaker' volunteers. See [www.towcesterfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.towcesterfoodfestival.co.uk) for details.

### **TOWCESTER FOOD BANK**

The generosity of local people in supporting the Food Bank based at the Youth Coffee House in Branson's Lane is gratifying and much appreciated. Before Christmas seasonal goodies were added to the usual non-perishable fare.

Some stark statistics underpin the difficulties some people find themselves in. During 2013 the Food Bank fed 156 adults and 89 children. In 2014 this had risen to

175 adults and 131 children. Care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, CAB and police identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher which can be redeemed for three days of emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea or free hot meal and are able to guide them to agencies able to help with longer-term problems. The Food Bank also runs a rural delivery service which takes emergency foodboxes to clients living in rural areas who cannot afford to get to the Youth Coffee House.

Thanks are due to John and Joyce Riches who are wonderful at getting the boxes to the foodbank regularly.

If you feel able to support this cause, boxes await at the back of the church. More information: [www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk)

### **ABTHORPE ROUNDABOUT IMPROVEMENT**

After plans to improve the junction at the Abthorpe (McDonald's) roundabout on the A43 with a 'hamburger' layout were abandoned back in 2008, and the A5/A43 work has gone ahead, the congestion at the roundabout we encounter travelling from Abthorpe remains.

However, in early December South Northamptonshire Council secured Department for Transport

funding of £4.5 million which, along with the £3.1 million for the current Tove roundabout improvement, will continue the programme of work to connect the proposed Towcester A5 bypass south of the town to the A43.

The overall project will support the growth of Towcester and remove through traffic from the town. It will relieve a major pinch point on the road network and also free up road capacity to support the development at Silverstone, which is continuing to expand. Work on the roundabout at Abthorpe is anticipated to commence sometime within the 2015/2016 financial year.

The fact that the DfT has also made a formal commitment to the

bypass, which has been 20 years in its gestation, may enable the project to be brought forward.

### **OLD SCHOOL NEWS**

When spinster Jane Leeson died on 1st April 1648 it would have seemed inconceivable that 366 years later her name and legacy would still be remembered in the village. She paid for the construction of a simple cottage to act as a school. Two hundred years later as that building was considered "narrow and incommodious" a new "handsome schoolroom" was added in 1870.

The latest updating started on 16th February when CS Construction of Towcester set to work on the cloakroom area. Their programme



*Chris and Anthony hard at work in the Old School.*



*The jolly kitchen staff preparing breakfast and washing up.*

is due to take about four weeks after which the modernised suite, including new facilities for the disabled, should be ready for its grand unveiling in April.

Also new is the cleaning cupboard which has been built by Steve Gray. It sits in the hallway outside the kitchen and could have been there forever.

The Christmas coffee morning hosted by Janet Dancer made an amazing £424.30, the most ever raised at one of these events. There were lovely wreaths to buy, bottle bags, cakes... the list is long. It was a wonderful turn out and lots of new faces.

People were already queueing outside in the bitter wind when the doors opened at 9 o'clock for the latest Saturday Truckers' Breakfast. It was very sociable, with daily newspapers to read and endless cups of coffee and tea, toast and jam. The buzzing atmosphere made all the Committee's hard work worthwhile. They provided 85 much-appreciated breakfasts and the added bonus was an addition to the renovation fund of £341.20.

On leaving one person said, "See you next Saturday - same time?" One committee member patiently explained that was not possible but that there would be more Truckers'

*And the consumers at the Truckers' Breakfast*



Breakfasts later in the year.

Upcoming events include the start of this year's coffee mornings (flyers with all the details very soon). Then the plant sale has been arranged for 24th May, with a fish and chip supper on the Green on 20th June.

The AGM was held on 21st January. The accounts were circulated around the whole of the village but in summary there was a surplus of £12,484 to 30th September 2014 which includes grants of £10,619. A total of £3,324 was raised from the events held by the Old School Committee who would like to thank the village for their support.

### **THE SGT ANDREW MALSURY MYSTERY**

In our last issue we featured the story of Andrew Malsbury who was killed in action in the Irish uprising

after the first world war and whose death was registered in Dundalk in March 1919. Although there is an official memorial stone in the churchyard extension it seems that his body was never brought back to Abthorpe, his family home, as there was no official burial record. A relative, Claire West, has continued her research.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission replied to Claire's query. "As Serjeant Malsbury is commemorated with a Commission headstone in Abthorpe Church Cemetery, that is where he is buried." That, remarked Claire, backs up the fact that her mother always referred to it as "Uncle Andrew's grave." But it remains a mystery why there is no burial record.

Church Warden Richard Tomalin has again checked the burial register



and there is definitely no record of a burial in 1919, or any other year, for Andrew Malsbury. He has also noticed that the grave stone for Andrew is sited the wrong way round, with the inscription facing west rather than east like all the other head stones. Richard is puzzled by that. If the War Graves Commission says that there could definitely not be a stone without a burial, then he supposes that has to be accepted.

Richard explained that the churchyard extension first came into use in 1862. At that time there was a plan of all the grave plots: small ones near the entrance for ordinary people and big ones at the far end for upper classes! The only other piece of information that Richard believes might still be available and could confirm whether there had been a burial service for Andrew Malsbury, is the record of church services book that may still be in Northamptonshire County Records Office. Claire intends to carry out further investigations.

### **TOVE PHOTO SHOW**

Over the weekend of 13th-14th June this year the Church will join with Tove Valley Broadband to hold a photographic exhibition in the Old School. Plans for the exhibition, including its name, have yet to be finalised, but the idea is that during the Saturday evening there will be

a wine and cheese party and an opportunity to view the photographic exhibits. On the Sunday they can be viewed whilst enjoying afternoon tea.

Among the themes of the show will be 'Seasons' with both adult and children's categories. Old photographs and slides of past people of our area will form another section. Details of how to enter exhibits will be published in due course.

This is the third such exhibition the broadband network has organised. Back in June 2005 digital photography was a new medium that caused the rapid closure of film processing shops including the one in Towcester. Memorable pictures from that year were Bernard Cory's entry depicting the Grafton Hunt in a local lane. Bernard was a Dr Barnardo's boy who was billeted in Abthorpe just after the Second World War. Another memorable snap was Sue Atkins' picture of a polar bear taken whilst she was on holiday in Alaska. Yet another was Nottingham resident Paul Mabbut's close-up of an insect feeding from the stamens of a flower in an Abthorpe garden.

Five years later in July 2010 a steady stream of local people and visitors stopped at the Old School to admire the second show. By then the new technology had become very familiar and even those who battle

with using computers and the internet had adopted the new medium. One local woodpecker, it seemed, had flown round the village posing to be photographed by a number of local people. Audrey Dancer's selection of black and white photographs from her family's personal archives attracted a lot of attention. Her late husband Tony was a driver with Northampton Transport, the former municipal bus company. Rosemary, Audrey and Tony's daughter, was pictured on her 21st birthday having just passed her public service vehicle driving test sitting behind the wheel of a number 14 double-decker with her admiring Dad looking on.

So please put the date in your diaries and start getting your favourite photographs, both modern and old, ready for the show.

### **SILVERSTONE ROAD CLOSURE**

The road from Abthorpe to Silverstone will be closed for 4 days from 2nd March for work on the bridge at the entrance to Silverstone.

### **NEWS FROM THE CHURCH**

*Barbara Malcomson: 857066,  
[malcomson@abthorpe.net](mailto:malcomson@abthorpe.net)*

The Church looked beautiful for Christmas, decorated with candles and greenery and of course the lovely Nativity scene took pride of place in the Lady Chapel. This was

believed to have been donated to the church by Reg Chapman in 1953, in memory of his mother who was churchwarden for many years. Reg lived in the Old Bakehouse on The Green and also ran the post office in the village. The figurines in the Nativity are around 45cm tall and sit in a beautifully-made stable.

The Carol Service on Christmas Eve and the Eucharist on Christmas Day were lovely services and well attended. We have held our Carol Service on Christmas Eve for the past few years and it now seems to be a traditional start to Christmas in the village. And thank you to everyone who helped clean and decorate the church for Christmas.

The Annual Church Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm in the Old School. It's an opportunity to hear what has been happening over the year and learn of plans for the future. To vote at the meeting you will need to be a member of the Electoral Roll. If you would like to join the Roll and need a form or want any more information, please contact Barbara.

Saturday 28th March will see the church being spruced up by its spring clean. All hands will be very welcome for a couple of hours from 10am, with the promise of friendship, exercise, chat, coffee and probably hot cross buns!

*Services for March and April*

8th March, Holy Eucharist, 11am

15th March, Mothering Sunday Holy Eucharist, 9.15am

5th April, Easter Sunday - Holy Eucharist, time 9.15 or 10.00, to be confirmed.

12th April, Holy Eucharist, 11am

19th April, Holy Eucharist, 9.15am

*Tote*

The tote draw takes place at the end of each month, and in November Clive and Cherilyn Fielding won £235 in time for Christmas. Then in December Tim and Helen Pope were the winners of £232.50. It was Phil and Marie Pratt's turn to scoop £217.50 in January, and the winner

in February Steve Casemore who won £215.

**TOVE VALLEY BROADBAND***Keith Fenwick*

The ABbA AGM was held this year at Lois Weedon, just to demonstrate that we are not completely Abthorpe-centric. Eric Malcomson, in his chairman's report, described the considerable progress which had been made, even with the difficulties of dealing with government departments. We now have a one gigabit connection to Wappenham as the previous 100 megabit service had become overloaded. Eric pointed to a notice pinned on the wall which gave details of world-wide broadband speeds country by country. Singapore

*Tove Valley directors looking towards Japan (the wrong way round!).*





was top with speeds averaging 105.16mbs, Hong Kong came second with 97.24 and Japan third with 69.95. The UK was 29<sup>th</sup> on the list. Half-jokingly Eric's vision is for Tove

Valley to be third on the list in the near future. There are currently 377 households connected to the service, many more than we expected.

The latest news is that fibre had

*Fibre blowing was undertaken by our contractors, Fibre Options. In the top view, the fibre on the drum is ready to be blown into the pipe which has been laid under the fields. In the photo on the right, Andy is splicing fibres together, not an easy job on fibres which look like human hairs.*



been installed between the villages. Work on this was formally completed on 12<sup>th</sup> February, although the link to Abthorpe had already been brought into use. The rest of the fibre network is now in use apart from one connection to Bradden which will be done shortly. This should ensure that everyone is able to get at least 30Mbps for most of the time. We are monitoring performance to spot any weak parts of the network and take the necessary steps to eliminate them. We have therefore now undertaken all the work which is covered by the government grant. We have to demonstrate that we have met all the conditions of the grant to get the final payment. It has been a long hard slog; several of the volunteers are looking forward to having a bit more time for other activities.

On a Sunday afternoon recently John Riches, curious to know what broadband speeds he was getting, did a speed test during what is one of the busiest times of the week. The download speed was recorded at 61.93Mbps and upload 51.86. So in order to fulfil Eric's dream perhaps it won't be long before we ask Japan to move over and let Tove Valley Broadband into the third spot.

But if you are measuring your own speed, remember that the wifi in your home will reduce the speed you measure.

### **LOCAL WIND TURBINES**

The claim lodged back in September at the High Court to quash the decision of the Planning Inspector granting planning permission for a free-standing wind turbine, hard standing, access road, substation and trenching for cable at Poplars Farm Wind, Wappenham, was listed for hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice on 18th February. The results are not yet available.

And at Helmdon the Secretary of State has dismissed the appeal and refused planning permission for a five-turbine scheme at Spring Farm Ridge. The application has been up and down the appeal system for four years. The application was originally made in 2010 and refused permission by South Northamptonshire Council in 2011. Following an inquiry in 2012, permission was granted by an Inspector, but the decision was quashed following a High Court appeal brought by the Council and residents. A fresh inquiry was held in October 2013 during which the appeal was recovered by the Secretary of State for his decision. The Inspector's report acknowledged that the determination was finely balanced but ultimately the Secretary of State disagreed with where the balance fell.

**FILM ABTHORPE**

*On Golden Pond* with Henry Fonda, Katharine Hepburn and Jane Fonda kicks off the spring sessions of Film Abthorpe on Thursday 26th March at 7.30 in the Old School. The following month, on 30th April, Helena Bonham Carter and Rupert Graves star in *Where Angels Fear to Tread*. Both programmes are supported by episodes from Hancock's Half Hour.

If you would like to receive email alerts for the film evenings please email [pam.watkins@abthorpe.net](mailto:pam.watkins@abthorpe.net).

**HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

If you live or work in South Northants and would like to offer advice to the police and the Police and Crime Commissioner about issues affecting the community you represent or in which you work you might like to consider becoming an Independent Advisory Group member. You would be reimbursed £15 per meeting. Full details at [www.northantspcc.org.uk/#!/Volunteer/24184](http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/#!/Volunteer/24184).

**ABTHORPE FAMILIES AND THEIR STOCKINGS**

The word stockings conjures up various pictures in the mind: the delight of receiving nylons brought over by the American soldiers in WW2 which supplemented the gravy browning and eye liner used to imitate them when girls went to war time dances, wrinkly lisle stockings worn by most women before nylons became widely available, nylons so precious that there were shops to repair ladders for a small fee.

Fashions affect manufacturing. Court fashions in the late 1500s called for stockings for men, and more recently silk stockings between the wars became important when skirts went from ankle length to knee height in the 1920s. Knitted silk stockings were originally made by hand. So many were needed that a machine was invented to take over from the hand workers.

It became a cottage industry for whole families where the heavy frames were worked by men to produce lengths of shaped knitted silk in stockinette stitch, similar to the knitting produced by home flat bed machines sold widely in the 1950s. The quality of the final garment depending on the skill of the machinist. The stockings were seamed up by the wife whilst their children wound silk thread onto bobbins. The frames could be rented, although most families handed them down through the generations. They needed to be operated in a good light so some cottagers incorporated a large window

into the house wall. Church Cottage opposite the south gate of the church had such a window until the late 1970s although no records show whether it was for stocking knitters or lace makers.

The 1777 militia list for Abthorpe, where all men aged fourteen to forty-five were listed for possible military service, showed that there were eleven framework knitters, listed as FWKs in parish registers, more than the surrounding villages which only had the odd one.

For a time stocking-making was a lucrative employment and the frames were bequeathed in wills. In 1779 James Clare left his stocking frame to his daughter soon after he had bought the tanyard (where the house called The Tanyard now stands) and adjacent fields alongside Wappenham Road.

In 1776 Mr Henson, a silk stocking weaver, had sold the next adjacent road side field on top of the hill to Valentine Barford who then had built the first named public house in Abthorpe, the Stocking Frame. Names of pubs were recorded when people applied for liquor licences to sell ale and that year Valentine applied for a licence to brew beer at Fosote, probably in readiness for sale in the pub. Sadly he died of measles as soon as it was finished but his family continued to own it until it was sold to Phipps Brewery in 1864. Various tenants such as Robert Kendall and Mr Henson supplemented their incomes from the business with a second occupation of wheelright. They made wheels with elm hubs and ash spokes and rims. Blacksmith Charles Matthews and his family fitted the iron tyres by heating the metal which was knocked over the rim then cooled with water so the metal shrank to pull the wheel into shape. He and his descendants used the forge behind Forge Cottage from 1841 until the 1930s.

Over the years the fortunes of the knitters declined. Working in close proximity in damp conditions they were vulnerable to TB as were the later shoe makers in their shared sheds. As the number and size of frames increased but the same amount of work had to be spread between more workers so their incomes reduced. In 1807 Richard Wadey in his will left his wife 'one silk frame of twenty gage with the name of George Harriotts Wadey on the top and cross bar beneath'. Richard's grandsons died in 1824 and 1826 whilst working for their father George Harriot Wadey who had bought Orchard Cottage in 1795. Their mother died in 1832, followed by father George in 1837 but not before he had married a young girl and had built the cottages adjacent to Orchard Cottage to provide an income for his new wife and her child Emma. He stipulated that the one well in his own garden must also serve the row of cottages and that no one should obstruct anyone

else's use of the water. Emma married butcher Edward Hayward and they then kept a butcher's shop at Orchard Cottage.

By the early 1800s small factories were being set up. Mrs Horton at Middleton Cheney set up a cottage industry which enticed Abthorpe workers. Thomas Sheriff left Abthorpe with his



family after 1813 to work at Middleton Cheney but by 1841 he was working in Leicester with his seven children where bigger shops holding up to forty frames had been set up.

By 1851 times were hard with Thomas's grandsons, aged seven and eight, recorded as working as FWKs. Improvements were made to frames with automatic thread carriers and wider frames which could make gloves and larger garments. These newer frames could knit several stockings at a time. But wages were low and the more efficient machinery destroyed the trade for the smaller units even though they set to and knitted gloves as well as half hosiery [socks]. Even after the trade for silk stockings had gone the skill was still there resulting in Hinkley and Leicester becoming centres of the hosiery and knitwear trade; similarly Nottingham became another knitwear town. There is a museum at Wigston in Leicestershire inside a hosier's workshop with the actual frames left just as they had been used until 1952 ([www.wigstonframeworkknitters.org](http://www.wigstonframeworkknitters.org)). Sketchley set up a large dyeworks in Hinkley where the locally-made nylons were sent to be dyed – either black or brown. Some knitwear manufactured there was sold on Northampton market stalls as seconds from the orders made for large stores such as Marks and Spencers. Perhaps it is as well that the Sheriffs and their work colleagues moved on to Leicester or else Abthorpe might have expanded like Hinkley into a hosiery centre.

In the end all that was left for Abthorpe was the knitting by the school children. First they had to knit long woollen stockings for headmistress Miss Abberley in the 1930s, not popular with some mothers as they considered their children's activity should have been directed to making stockings for



their own families. Later children made voluminous night gowns for her. Then in 1939 the photograph 'doing our bit' showed children at the school knitting for soldiers. At least one of those who knitted Miss Abberley's stockings is still hand knitting but now makes hats and gloves for friends and charities.

*M E H and R B*

### **THE WINGS FOR LIFE WORLD RUN**

WLWR is set to return to the lanes round Abthorpe on Sunday 3rd May.

This is a global event which in 2014 raised over 3 million euros for research into spinal chord injury. At 34 locations dotted across the planet - from Aarhus to Zadar and from Santiago to Niagara Falls - runners set off simultaneously, all managed by race control in Austria. Competitors run for as long as they can before they are overtaken by the catcher car. The UK winner ran an incredible 69.37km and achieved fifth place world-wide. The global winner was Lemawork Ketema from Ethiopia who ran 78.5km.

During last year's race Abthorpe crossroads was a hive of activity with lines of double decker buses, feeding stations, portable toilets and a good crowd of local people enthusiastically cheering on the runners. The scene will be repeated this year on 3rd May.

### **SAFARI SUPPER**

The annual safari is taking a break this year, but hopefully will be back for another outing next year.

### **THEATRE IN WAPPENHAM AND WESTON**

A theatre company has been booked to perform at Wappenham village hall on Friday 13th March at 7.30pm. The production is Dickens' *Bleak House* and is suitable for everyone over the age of 8. *Bleak House* is not bleak, as you will discover - there's romance, mystery, the first police detective, and lots more. A company of five actor-musicians, The Pantaloons, bring the novel's cast of over 50 characters to life in a thrilling tale of love, skulduggery and spontaneous combustion.

Tickets are £9 each or £25 for a family of four, available from Sara on 860940.

Weston and Weedon Drama Club are presenting *Oliver Twist* on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th March at Lois Weedon village hall. Performances are at 7.30pm with 7.30pm, with a matinee at 2.30 on Saturday. Tickets cost £6 adults or £3 children from Tom Pomeroy, 01295 760762, [tompomeroy@gmail.com](mailto:tompomeroy@gmail.com)

### **VILLAGE 'GARAGE' SALE**

The Church is organising an interesting event on 6th September.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is organising a table top sale on a grand scale! – a jolly afternoon walking around the village bargain-hunting. Sellers can put their sale articles on their driveway, on the patio or wherever it suits them best. What a chance to sell all those unwanted objects lying around in the garage, hiding in the attic, under the stairs or in the shed.

The PCC will organise the advertising, parking arrangements and a map showing who in the village is participating; they will ask for a fee in return.

As an interlude to bargain hunting, tea will be laid on either in the Old School or on the Green, depending on the weather. Areas will be provided for those who live outside easy walking distance to display their pre-loved items, again for a fee.

So now is the time to start thinking about taking advantage of

this opportunity. Jill Greenhalgh has all the information, so please contact her at [jill.greenhalgh@abthorpe.net](mailto:jill.greenhalgh@abthorpe.net); 858102.

### **ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE**

The latest Halifax Quality of Life survey found once again that South Northamptonshire is the seventh most desirable place to live in the UK.

The survey takes into account a range of measures including residents' health and life expectancy, overall wellbeing, employment, a low crime rate, relatively good weather, and good broadband internet access.

South Northamptonshire covers an area of approximately 634 square kms (26.8% of the area of the county), and has a population of approximately 85,000 people, projected to increase to 94,000 by 2021.

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### **ABTALK ON LINE**

Copies of *Abtalk* can be found on the Abthorpe web site: [www.abthorpe.net/newsletters.htm](http://www.abthorpe.net/newsletters.htm). Here you can see the pictures in glorious technicolour and use the website and email links directly.

We are investigating making it available by email and will provide more information next time.

For one time only, the **PEOPLE** feature is being held over until the next issue.

### **LATERAL THINKING**

Check how good you were at lateral thinking with the results of the puzzles posed in the last issue:

- A I understand
- B crossroad
- C 6 feet underground
- D backward glance

### **DIARY**

*continued from last page*

*Thursday 30 April*

Film Abthorpe, 7.30, the Old School

*Monday 11 May*

Annual Parish meeting, 7.45, the Old School

*Monday 18 May*

Parish Council meeting, 7.45, the Old School

*Sunday 24 May*

Plant sale and tea, the Old School

*Sunday 31 May*

Live music at the New Inn, 3.00 - 6.00

Charity quiz at the New Inn, 7.30, £3 including supper

*Saturday and Sunday, 13-14 June*

Photographic exhibition in the Old School

*Saturday 20 June*

Fish and chip supper on the Green

*Sunday 6 September*

Village-wide 'garage' sale

**DIARY**

*Monday 2 March*

Parish Council meeting, 7.45, the Old School

*Sunday 8 March*

Holy Eucharist, 11.00

*Sunday 15 March*

Mothering Sunday - Holy Eucharist, 9.15

Mother's Day lunch at the New Inn

*Thursday 26 March*

Film Abthorpe, 7.30, the Old School

*Sunday 29 March*

Live music at the New Inn, 3.00 - 6.00

Charity quiz at the New Inn, 7.30, £3 including supper

*Sunday 5 April*

Easter Sunday - Holy Eucharist, time tba

*Sunday 12 April*

Holy Eucharist, 11am

*Monday 13 April*

Parish Council meeting, 7.45, the Old School

*Sunday 19 April*

Holy Eucharist, 9.15am

*Thursday 23 April*

Annual Church Meeting, 7.30 in the Old School

*Sunday 26 April*

Live music at the New Inn, 3.00 - 6.00

Charity quiz at the New Inn, 7.30, £3 including supper

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