



News from Abthorpe

October 2011

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The District Council's planning committee should be considering the application for Mini Farm at the Abthorpe crossroads on 3rd November. The Parish Council has submitted objections based on the views expressed at the meeting on 5th September and there has been a number of other comments to SNC: in fact 89 to date. These views will be summarised verbally at the meeting in November to ensure that all members of the planning committee are aware of them.

A little background to this planning application: The family of Romanies has lived in the parish for a number of years. In 2010 the family was given

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retrospective planning permission to live on the site, which they own, for a period of three years to allow South Northamptonshire Council time to establish permanent sites for travelling people. The Parish Council objected to that application on the grounds that it was a development on a greenfield site contradicting planning policy. Now, with two years of their temporary permission still to go, the family has submitted another planning application to make the permission permanent and restrict the occupation to gypsies only. Additionally they have sought to obtain permission to keep three travelling caravans on the site in addition to the existing three static mobile homes.

The family is proud of its Romany culture with its strong family and Christian values. Earlier this year one of their children was baptised here. A member of the extended family is a Christian pastor who ministers to the travelling community. They like living in the parish on a site where their children are safe, able to go to school and surrounded by friendly adults. The additional caravans they emphasise are not for more people but simply so that they can on occasion indulge in their traditional nomadic lifestyle and visit family and friends in other parts of the country.

The Parish Council considered

the latest planning application at its meeting on 5th September. This meeting drew a large attendance – 41 people including some from nearby parishes. A number of people supported the application although the majority of those who spoke believed it should be rejected. The Parish Council felt that its original objections are still valid and that with almost two years to run the application is premature. The SNC has previously stated that this site is unsuitable for travelling people, a position the Parish Council believes is correct. Additionally, granting this application would set a dangerous precedent for similar small fields to be purchased and occupied in this way.

The application details can be found at snc.planning-register.co.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=65285

NEW DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Ashley Warren stood down as our District Councillor in May and Peter Davies replaced him, unopposed. Peter introduced himself at the Parish Annual Meeting in May; he has been helping resolve a few problems since then.

AFFORDABLE HOMES

Plans for affordable homes in Brackley Lane on the site of the orchard are still being prepared but may be submitted in the near future. When

that happens, a public consultation will be arranged in the village.

CROSSROADS SIGNS

There has been disquiet for some years that the road signs at the crossroads are inadequate following a number of incidents, including a fatal collision two years ago. New signs have been erected on the approach but additional warnings have still to be painted on the road.

NEW BUS SERVICE

The dial-a-ride bus service, known as CountyConnect, started as planned at the beginning of September. As expected, there have been a few teething problems as people become accustomed to the change, but overall the service has got off to a promising start. The bus serves Towcester as well as Brackley and Banbury, so one of our main comments on the draft proposals back in May was heeded. Connections in Towcester are available to the fixed routes to Northampton (every half hour), Milton Keynes (hourly), Brackley and Bicester.

Anyone is entitled to use the service; you have to register to use it (which is free). You have to book in advance, which can be done up to seven days beforehand; on the day bookings may be accepted. You will be given the nearest practical travel time to your request, subject to the

bus's availability. If a group of people wants to travel together one booking can be made for all.

The service runs from 7.00am to 7.00pm. And remember, it is not just for the older residents, but is equally suitable for youngsters who don't yet have their first car. Fares are comparable with scheduled bus services and much less than a taxi. There are reductions for under 16s and students and Senior's bus passes are accepted.

More details are available on www.county-connect.co.uk or 0845 456 4474, which is also the number for bookings. Leaflets have been distributed around the village, but more are available from the parish clerk, Bob Carter: tel 857753.

JOB CLUB

South Northamptonshire Council operates a Job Club which runs alternate weeks from Towcester and Brackley. Demand for the club has remained constant with over 1,100 visitors and the service is now being expanded to include a job match service in response to demand from local employers to help them recruit from the local workforce. In addition, a Job Club for parents is being started at the Sure Start Centre at Towcester Children's Centre which is designed for parents and carers wanting to return to employment, training or education.

Both initiatives are open to anyone residing in South Northamptonshire and for attendance at the Sure Start Club transport costs may be covered for those in rural areas where these costs may normally prohibit attendance.

For further information please contact Greg Ward: 01327 32266; www.southnorthants.gov.uk/jobclub.htm

VINTAGE CARS ON THE GREEN

On 20th August we were pleased to welcome the Vintage Sports Car Club who stopped in the village for lunch during their Central Rally. 40 cars, all built before 1940, made a splendid sight

arrayed around the village green as their crews enjoyed a superb buffet lunch cooked by the stalwarts of the Old School fund. After lunch the cars, which ranged from Aston



Martin through Lancia and Riley to Wolseley, were flagged away by the Rector, Rev'd Paul McLeod, for the afternoon run through our delightful Northamptonshire countryside.

At the finish of the event, which was won by a 1934 Bentley, the entrants expressed their appreciation of the welcome they received from local people, especially those of Abthorpe. And the Old School fund was pleased to have increased its total by some £400.

DOG FOULING

It is disappointing to have to raise this subject again, but the problem has got a lot worse recently. Perhaps some of the newer people in the village are not aware, but dog mess is unhygienic and dangerous to children as well as unsightly. Dog mess must not be left anywhere in the village - on the green, footways, verges or the roads. It is your responsibility to remove any mess left and dispose of it in a dustbin. And please don't leave plastic bags in the verges or hedgerows - they take even longer to decompose.

If you witness any instances, report the date, time and place of the offence to SNC's environmental protection team on 01327

322323 or email environmental.protection@ southnorthants.gov.uk.



SUPREME TEXELS

Many congratulations to Barbara and Rob Smith of the New Inn and Slapton Manor Farm where they specialise in breeding Texel sheep. The breed originated in the West Friesian island of that name in the Netherlands and is famed for its exceptional carcass qualities. At Blakesley Agricultural Show back in



August Barbara and Rob exhibited some of their Texels and were awarded eight rosettes by the judges. Their two-year-old shearling ewe, home bred in Slapton, was awarded the accolade of Supreme Champion of the show.

BYWAY REPAIRS IN BUCKNELL WOODS

Those of you who walk and ride in Bucknell Woods will have noticed the amount of work that has been done recently by the Council to repair the byway network, particularly the part coming in from the south west where



there is a section riddled with deep ruts and mud holes which were 4 to 5 metres wide and up to a metre deep. If you can imagine a large 360° digger getting stuck in the mud there, you get some idea of the extent of the damage making the route impassable.

The Council has responsibility for byways where there is a statutory

before.....

right of access for all: vehicles, pedestrians, horse riders. They do not own the land, just having a public access responsibility. The newly completed work is the culmination of two years of coordinating the Forestry Commission, Natural England (part of the byway is a SSSI) and landowners, and waiting for sufficiently dry weather to get the heavy plant in to the area.



.....and after

Everything came together this summer and a full width section was able to be flayed out and cleared through to the Silverstone Road. The large ditch created a couple of years ago was extended and the material from that ditch work used to fill the holes and ruts. This has been compacted and rolled with a camber to



encourage water from the path to run into the ditch. The cost has been high at between £5,000 and £6,000. Of the 3,500 kilometres of rights of way in the county, 20-30% of that budget is spent on just 150km of byways.

This byway will be closed to 4x4s and motor bikes during the winter wet period, but the wood is so riddled with paths that it is impossible to keep the traffic that does the most damage off the vulnerable parts. It would be heartening to think that this public access facility would be used responsibly so that everyone could benefit. A commonsense approach - if it's wet, don't use it - would preserve access for all, and relieve some of the pressure on hard-pressed budgets.

BEST OIL PRICES?

With no apologies, we mention again YOBCO, the Yelvertoft Oil Buying Consortium. With such high fuel prices, and especially for the benefit of the number of new residents in Abthorpe, it may be worth checking prices from YOBCO when you need to fill you tank. 01788 824236; www.yobco.co.uk.

STREET LIGHTS

Despite the policy of some authorities in the area, all the street lights in Abthorpe will remain in use and none will be switched off during the night.

We pay a flat rate for each light so switching them off would not save us

anything. The lights are automatically switched on at dusk and off again at dawn so adding controls to each light to switch it off at another time would be expensive.

It has also been suggested that white lights would be preferable to the sodium (yellow) ones currently in use. To change would also be expensive and would not save on running costs. However, it may happen in time as manufacture of these sodium lights will cease in 2015 due to regulation changes. Spares may be available for some time after then, but once stocks are exhausted we will have to purchase new white lights.

NEWS FROM THE NEW INN 857306

The regular events at the pub continue, with the Tuesday monthly charity quiz, the skittles and darts teams.

The bar will be open on Christmas Day from 12.00 - 2.00, and New Year plans are afoot for one of Bunny's famous pig roasts with live music to help the evening along.

Chef Steve and his partner Sian are settling in well and appreciative of the local support they have been receiving. Steve is full of innovation, refurbishing the restaurant, varying the menu and putting on special evenings. For instance the Wednesday night 'all you can eat

for £10' Abthorpe tapas is going very well. Steve stresses this is 'Abthorpe'-style, varied each week, and not just Spanish. He has also introduced take away fish and chips (scampi or sausage alternatives) on Friday evenings from 4-7pm, which has been well used by those who have had enough of cooking by the end of the week. And it will also be available on Christmas Eve.

Steve is making full use of his new oven: Sunday lunches, now extended to 4.30pm, are popular with a record-breaking 65 dinners being served on an ordinary Sunday just recently.

The Christmas menu is available at www.slaptonmanor.plus.com/Christmas.html, with a special offer of a free bottle of wine for groups of four. It will be served between 12th November and 15th January (although not on Christmas Day).

FANCY NORDIC WALKING?

Over 50 people in South Northants have learnt to Nordic walk and feel the health benefits the activity can bring. Apparently, because of the special poles you walk with, you can burn up to 46 per cent more calories than normal walking as well as reducing pressure on your joints. And it's a great way to get out and enjoy the countryside.

A short four-session course

teaches the basic technique and costs only £25. Once you've completed the course you can join free, volunteered social walks around the district, or further afield. The Towcester course started on 20th October from 10.00 to 11.00 am at Towcester Library. Booking is required: Colin Hull on 322337; colin.hull@southnorthants.gov.uk.

CHURCH NEWS

A report on the Autumn Fayre and the evening concert is detailed under the Old School Fundraising piece, but of the £1,332.82 raised on the day the Church's share was £468.02.

Harvest celebrations fell on a beautiful weekend at the beginning of October, which allowed at least the

children to eat their Harvest Supper outside on Saturday evening. The proceeds amounted to £580.17. On Sunday, the windowsills in church looked a treat, decorated with wellies containing flowers as well as harvest food donations. Jan Miles, Alison Robbins and Francesca Wright led the 'service with a difference' showing a film depicting the lives of two African children and how constant efforts are being made to make African farming more efficient so that in the long term there will not be a need for charitable help. And of course there were the usual lovely harvest hymns. As an alternative to the collection, a pledge could be made for October to donate the money saved by giving up something. Barbara Malcomson



left to right: Jan Miles, Alison Robbins and Francesca Wright

writes: "Feeling very unfit myself, I was very impressed with the long journey the children in the film had to make to get to school each day. I decided therefore to donate money each time I exercised. I hope when you read this that I have managed a reasonable donation!" The donations and the collection will go to Farm Africa and the Harvest food donations have gone to the Hope Centre in Northampton.

Barbara would also like to thank everyone who decorated the church, donated food, took or helped with the service, cooked mashed potato or helped with washing up at the harvest supper. Special thanks to Alison Robbins for her wonderful crumbles and Tony Abbott for his very delicious sausage casserole.

And a very big thank you is conveyed to everyone who has helped with church life this year. The men on the rota have done a wonderful job keeping the grass in the churchyard and extension cut. Others have done readings, coffees, cleaning, setting up before services and working the hymnal - not forgetting those who contribute to the church tote. Thank you also to Carolynn Tomalin who tries to organise everyone on the rotas - not an easy task!

Recent tote winners are: Barry Haycock who won £217.50 in July;

Bob and Jenny Carter, August winners of £215; and Mike Matthews won £227.50 in September.

During the Remembrance service on November 13th the life of a First World War Veteran who worked in the Abthorpe shoe factory will be remembered and the commemorative gifts he was presented with by work colleagues will be on display.

The response from so many people to the shoebox appeal, Operation Christmas Child, has been very gratifying. At the time of writing 23 boxes have been collected, with potentially more to come, and these will be sent on their way at the Holy Eucharist service at the end of October. Many thanks to everyone who participated. Hopefully some of the boxes will be tracked to see where the children live who receive them. Anything that has been given but for one reason or another is not able to go into a shoebox will be taken to Peterborough Diocese Family Care to be used for children in distress in our area.

At a recent meeting of the Giving Committee it was decided that the charities Family Care, World Vision and the Alzheimer's Society would be supported this year. Each charity will receive £287.

If you fancy a bit of exercise on Saturday 17th December the church's

winter clean will take place between 10.00 and 12.00. The reward, apart from the social chat, may well be a few mince pies too!

Forthcoming services are in the Diary on the back page.

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

This year, Liz and Barry Haycock will be holding their coffee morning/day/evening on 27th October: 10.00 to 2.00 and 4.00 to 9.00. The amounts that they manage to raise are staggering - over £5,000 last year. This vibrant event has a range of produce and gifts to buy, plus a raffle and bring and buy.

So do lend your support at Highfield Farm.

OLD SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

*Update from Committee Chair,
Julie Dyckhoff*

Once again I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events over the last few months. These have allowed us to increase our total raised to date to an incredible £5,356.

Our thanks go to Sheila and Steve Andrews, Sian Young, and Jackie Balfe in Slapton for opening their homes and gardens for Pimms, scones, tea, cakes and music, raising a combined total of £613.

Many of you will have seen the

fantastic display of vintage cars parked on the village green at lunchtime on Saturday 20th August whilst the rally competitors and marshals enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by members of the Old School Committee. This event raised £410.

The next event was our Autumn Fayre on Saturday 10th September, organised jointly with the Church and Abthorpe Fund committees. As the weather was forecast to be somewhat inclement, the various stalls and games, which included toys, books, 50:50, tombola, cakes and produce, face painting, lucky dip and a raffle, were set up in marquees on the village green - a blessing when the short, sharp shower arrived mid-afternoon!

The fun dog show proved very popular, with our judges, former Abthorpe resident Eileen Vielvoye and her Italian guest Giorgia Musina. Giorgia lives in Trieste, not far from Venice, and is working on a PhD in Archaeology at Bologna and Oxford. She is a dog lover and was given the task of lead judge. She had some difficult decisions to make as she loved them all, especially 'the most badly behaved dog' and 'waggiest tail'. Both Giorgia and Eileen thought there was a good atmosphere and everyone took part with a great attitude and in the fun spirit of the show, and the young owners did very



well indeed. Notable winners were Tony Abbott and Ziggy for the best six legs and Andrew Dancer's Bertie, handled by Katie Noble, taking Best in Show. The day was rounded off by a very entertaining evening with the John Cleveland Band raising the roof in church, playing a spell-binding evening of music from the likes of Glenn Miller, Abba, West End shows and lots more. Not only did they play a stirring rendition of the hymn Love Divine all Loves Excelling (as a homage to performing in church) but also Status Quo from the other end of the musical spectrum. Both events together raised £728 for the Old School, with additional monies for both the Church and Abthorpe Fund.

Finally, our thanks go to David and Angela Darling for hosting a bridge evening on 14th October which raised £475.

Our next event is a Quiz Night with fish & chip supper on Saturday 26th November. Flyers will be coming through your door soon and tickets will be on sale door-to-door from 7th November, so put the date in your diary and warm up those little grey cells!

FILM ABTHORPE

Following on from *Life is Beautiful*, Film Abthorpe is back on Thursday 3rd November at the Old School at 7.30, with a topical offering close to Remembrance Sunday of *Oh What a Lovely War*. Described as 'a savage, satirical sideswipe at the mismanagement and waste of life seen in World War One', it is based on the 1963 stage play. It is driven by tunes of the

time, each one seemingly innocuous, but loaded with irony and acid just below the surface.

This was Richard Attenborough's first attempt as a director and arguably his best. The cast reads like a Who's Who of British acting: John Gielgud, John Mills, Kenneth More, Vanessa Redgrave, Jack Hawkins, Dirk Bogarde, Maggie Smith.... As one critic put it: 'The poignancy of this film is that the songs, the events and even the statements of the main characters are all historically accurate and it reminds us that nationalism can be used as an unscrupulous tool by the political elite. Sadly, the lessons of this film are as relevant today as they were when it was made. An education as well as an outstanding piece of entertainment.'

ABTHORPE BROADBAND

The Annual General Meeting will take place in the New Inn on Tuesday 10th January at 7.30pm. Come along, whether you are a member or not, to hear about our plans for the future.



RUNNING POSTMAN HANGS UP HIS TRAINERS

Following over thirty-nine years' loyal service delivering the mail to Abthorpe in all weathers, residents of the village decided to thank postman John Lawrence by presenting him with a cheque for £270 on his retirement. John was well known in the village as he was always running when delivering the post.

"He was a very special postman and will be hard to replace", said one resident. "John will be greatly missed in the village" said another, "he was always smiling and ready to help where he could."

John Lawrence being presented with his cheque and card by Janet Dancer



Villagers signed a card wishing John a long and happy retirement.

WAPPENHAM EVENTS

There are a few events planned in Wappenham which may be of interest. Saturday 5th November, hoping not to clash with too many bonfire parties, sees another quiz with fish and chip supper at the Village Hall. Tickets are available from Michael Payne on 860373; wappenham@tiscali.co.uk

The New Perspectives Touring Theatre Company returns on Friday 9th December with 'How Steeple Sinderby Wanderers Won the F.A. Cup'. This acclaimed play is about how a village football team win the F.A. Cup against all odds - a sort of footballing version of David and Goliath. Tickets cost £7: 860073.

ABTHORPE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL



The modern chapel and school room in Wappenham Road was built in 1925 on land sold to the Methodist circuit by Ted Holton, much of the cost of £1,200 being raised from outside the village. Abthorpe families who supported the chapel included Richardson and Holton. The architect was F H Allen and the builder H J Newport; the minister was Rev J M Gunson. Lay preachers mostly came from Northampton often walking 12 miles each way to preach. Prominent names among them were Messrs Singlehurst, Moore and Britten.

There was enough spare land for two grass tennis courts to be built which were used by Abthorpe and Wappenham residents. These fell into disuse and for a time had hens scratching around until the circuit sold the land for building the adjacent bungalow. It was assumed by many that the money from the sale would be used just for the upkeep of

Abthorpe chapel but some of it went to Buckingham Methodist circuit.

As the chapel congregation had become very small by 1996, with the agreement of Mrs Betty Salmons (née Holton, sister-in-law of Bob and Kath Salmons) it was closed by the circuit. She had been responsible for the care of it as well as playing the organ; she had been baptised and married there. By the end she was the only regular Abthorpe resident attending the chapel although some from other villages occasionally joined her. When the chapel was sold the profit was used for the benefit of the whole of the circuit

This was the last link in the long history of Abthorpe's connection with Primitive Methodism which started in Lancashire in 1811. Its original ethos was to care for the poorer working people and encourage them with outdoor rallies and preaching in their homes. Primitive Methodism had reached Abthorpe by 1856 when open air and cottage meetings were held. In 1859 a large chapel, holding 120 people, was built in the garden of Stone Cottage in Main Street, then the property of Mr Flowers, close to the boot makers' workshop. This predated the decision of the village group to join



The 1859 Chapel taken in about 1912. The girl in the white pinafore is thought to be Marjory Rush, who was born in 1905.

the Northampton mission of Primitive Methodists in 1860. There was some controversial debate before it was agreed that the Northampton circuit should take over the building. Although there were only 33 members there was an average attendance of 110 on Sundays and 50 on week nights.

In 1861 a certificate of worship was registered for 'the building known as Primitive Methodist chapel at Abthorpe'. An earlier chapel in Tinker's Close, opposite (where the bungalow, The Close, now stands next to the footpath to Slapton) may have originally been a house because in 1851 a Meeting House certificate was granted 'for a room or building in Abthorpe which joined the house which was occupied by Elizabeth Linnell'.

The photo on the previous page, owned by Eric Snelson, shows the chapel about 1912 and had a note on it stating that 'in 1841 the original chapel was opposite this building in the field adjacent to the footpath from Slapton'. Mr Flowers told his family that if the chapel was no longer needed he wanted his garden back. This would explain why white stones from the first chapel were still in the field in the early 1930s but no sign of any loose bricks from the second one - which may well have been put to other uses.

The 1859 building looked sturdy but by 1923 it needed £150 of repairs so the trustees decided to build a new chapel on a larger elevated site. The name stones around it ensure that the generous benefactors can still be identified. Without outside contributions the local congregation would instead have found the means to repair the 1859 building which had been so proudly built with hard-earned money.

There are baptism registers (NRO NMC 23) for the Northampton mission 1844 to 1941 which include Abthorpe baptisms, mostly children of Abthorpe shoe makers: familiar names such as Rush, Snelson, Hurst, Foster, Osborne, Holton, Wills. The National Records Office also holds a programme of the opening of the 1925 chapel (NMC 63) and an historical account by preacher Britten of the previous fifty years (NMC 294b). *M E H and R B*

ABTHORPE/BLAKESLEY CRICKET MATCH

The annual cricket match between Abthorpe and Blakesley used to be a time to play out an old rivalry - see the proud photos in the pub. But for the last couple of years it hasn't been possible to raise a team.

So even greater efforts will be used next year to coerce all those who can lift a bat to take to the field. Be warned: Philip Berry and Rob Capurro will be pouncing next spring.

PEOPLE

Once again we have a number of people to welcome into the village. For such a small place it's interesting how many new inhabitants choose to come and live here.

Cherilyn and Clive Fielding have bought the Old Chapel in Wappenham Road, planning to bring it back to its former glory for which Clive's trade as a builder will come in very useful. More about the chapel above, but it still has restrictions to the extent that Cherilyn and Clive are unable to charge admission for any dances they may have, sell alcohol or, heaven forfend, trade corn on Sunday! Outside her work as a PA/book-keeper for an electronics testing firm, Cherilyn has a deep interest in genealogy.

The new owners of Hill View on Main Street are Jane and Steven Proffitt who have moved from Brackley to make Abthorpe their home, where they plan to settle long term and become involved in the life of the village. Steven is a support worker for the May Day Trust (a recipient of the pub's charity quiz proceeds maybe?), while Jane conducts VIP demonstrations for Jaguar. They share their new home and long walks with Stanley the spaniel and Benson, a Rottweiler.

Willow Tree Cottage further down Main Street close to the pub also has new owners. Chris and Bill Lamb have moved up from a village near Dartford in Kent to be more central to their children and grandchildren. Bill is a specialist propagator, a skill put to good use in their Nursery in Dartford which has been a family business for four generations. However, he and Chris have now given up the day-to-day running of the business in favour of developing their home in Abthorpe. Bill is currently realising one of his dreams and building a Victorian greenhouse.

And Grafton View has undergone a transformation to provide a lovely home for Bridget and Keith Burnet, their two children Harry, aged 9, and Archie, 7, and not forgetting Bernie the golden labrador. Having moved from Farthingstone, they are able to indulge their love

PEOPLE CONTINUED

of the outdoor life when not working at their fitness businesses: Keith as joint chief executive of easyGym, and Bridget in her marketing role.

Another new arrival is the Fouad family at 14 Brackley Lane - Samir, Julieann and their three-year-old daughter Yasmeen. They will be here while their new house in Whittlebury is refurbished.

We have been following the successes of Sharon Wooller in her bowling matches for some time. At the Eastbourne Ladies Pairs Open Bowls tournament earlier in the summer, Sharon teamed up with her Mum, Viv Fermor, after her original partner was forced to withdraw. And they won. Well done to them both.

Sharon has decided that this will be her last tournament for a while so that she can focus on achieving selection for Northamptonshire county matches.



And finally many congratulations to Andrea and Graham Lambert whose daughter, Fenella Ruby, was born on 20th October weighing 7lbs 12oz. Brother Josh, who is almost 2, is just about getting used to the idea that baby is here to stay!

WARWICKSHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE

The Air Ambulance could play a vital role if you are suddenly taken ill or have a serious accident. Their latest newsletter illustrates cases where it was successful and records that over 10,000 missions have been undertaken since the service was launched. And at least one Abthorpe resident was recently grateful to be airlifted to hospital after an accident.

With no NHS funding it is entirely reliant on voluntary donations and costs over £1.7million per year to keep flying in our region. There are various ways in which you can help. There are regular collections of unwanted clothes - you should receive a bag for these every few weeks. Shops have been opened in Rugby and Daventry which accept quality clothing, bric-a-brac, CDs, DVDs and books. Local groups have been formed to organise fundraising. And why not leave a gift in your will - it will be free of tax. For more information or to become involved contact WNAA on 08454 130 999; www.wnaa.co.uk.

LIBRARY SERVICE CHANGES

The mobile library now comes to the Green on the second Sunday of each month at 3.10 until 3.25pm.

The next visit is on 13th November. This should prove a useful service for those working during the week.

As an alternative, the library in Towcester in Richmond Road has computerised its service so that books, DVDs, etc. can be renewed online and there is a very helpful email alerting service to remind you when your loans are due back and thus save the overdue fees. You can even browse the whole of the Northamptonshire library catalogue and reserve books online.

CADETS JOIN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE

Northamptonshire Police has started a scheme of Volunteer Police Cadets. Cadets are aged between 16 and 18 and will learn about and take part in policing activities. Meeting once a week their programme of activities includes self defence, first aid, team building, operational duties (assisting with Operation Guardian), educational visits and much more. They will be undertaking a BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Public Service as part of their training. Although the current cohort is full you can register your interest in joining the scheme in the future by emailing: lizzi.betts@northants.police.uk. The Force will be recruiting a new cohort in early 2012.

DIARY

Thursday 27 October

Annual Marie Curie coffee event, Highfield Farm, 10.00 - 2.00 and 4.00 - 9.00

Thursday 3 November

Film Abthorpe, Old School, 7.30: 'Oh What a Lovely War'

Saturday 5 November

Quiz with fish and chip supper, Wappenham Village Hall; tickets: 860373; wappenham@tiscali.co.uk

Sunday 13 November

Remembrance service, St John the Baptist, 10.55

Saturday 26 November

Quiz with fish and chip supper, Old School, 7.30

Sunday 27 November

Holy Eucharist, St John the Baptist, 9.15

Friday 9 December

'How Steeple Sinderby Wanderers Won the F.A. Cup', Wappenham Village Hall; tickets £7: 860073

Saturday 17 December

Church winter clean, 10 to 12 noon: all hands welcome

Saturday 24 December

Carol Service, 4.00

Sunday 25 December

Holy Eucharist, 9.15

New Year's Eve

Pig roast and live music, New Inn

Tuesday 10 January, 2012

Abthorpe Broadband Association AGM, New Inn, 7.30