



# ABTALK

*News from Abthorpe*

*September 2012*

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Welcome back to *Abtalk*. We know that editors need a summer break but four months does seem excessive; questions should be asked. However, hopefully this bumper issue is sufficient apology, and more punctuality will be shown over the planned November issue.

## **CHANGES AT THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Following voting at the first meeting of the council year, Stephen Noble has taken over the chairmanship of the Parish Council, with Keith Fenwick stepping back to the position of vice-chairman.

## **AFFORDABLE HOMES IN ABTHORPE**

After a number of years of planning, building work has finally started on the orchard site behind the village notice board at the junction of Brackley Lane and Wappenham Road. The site was cleared, trees and hedges cut back and a fence erected in May. There was then a delay while all the planning conditions were satisfied. Work started in earnest on 24<sup>th</sup> and already the site looks quite different. Completion in spring next year is still anticipated.

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Taylor French Developments, a privately owned independent property development company, has been given the responsibility to bring the scheme to fruition. The company specialises in building projects in partnership with Housing Associations. There are three such associations involved in this scheme - the Grand Union Housing Group plus two of its subsidiaries, the Aragon Housing Association and South Northants Homes.

The nine housing units, to be built for local people for rent and shared ownership, will consist of four flats, a bungalow, three two-bedroom houses and one three-bedroom house. There will be 18 parking spaces provided. It is proposed to call the new road Snelsons Orchard.

### **MINI FARM**

Last year a planning application was made to give permanent permission for the site and to remove the tie restricting occupation to the present owner and his family. This was rejected and an appeal subsequently lodged. An informal hearing was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September by the Inspector appointed to determine the appeal. The Inspector set the agenda and started by clarifying some of the issues. Time was spent arguing legal points about both national and District Council's planning

policies with particular reference to Travellers' Sites. The District Council is in the process of preparing a new Policy specifically for Travellers' Sites. The Agent for the owner of the site, who has been involved in quite a number of similar appeals in the past, made much of SNC's failure to provide any sites so far. There was also considerable argument about whether this site was suitable for permanent use, since SNC had previously decided that it was not.

The Police expressed concern over the removal of the family tie as that could lead to different families on the site and the possibility of conflict between them. SNC indicated that they would accept an extension of the present temporary permission for another 2 years, i.e. to 2015, as by then they should have identified some permanent sites.

The Inspector will take account of written submissions which have been made but these were not repeated at the hearing. The meeting concluded with a site visit. A decision is not expected until November.

### **HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS**

The British Red Cross is working alongside the Fire and Rescue Service carrying out home fire safety checks and fitting new smoke alarms. This is a free service and available to people over 65, families

with young children under five and disabled people. If you or anyone you know would benefit from this service email [SPage@redcross.org.uk](mailto:SPage@redcross.org.uk) or phone 0845 0547171.

### **NOTES FROM THE NEW INN**

Some quite substantial changes are taking place at the pub. Nothing succeeds like success (or nothing succeeds like a parrot with no teeth), so with Hugh McIntyre joining the team recently, lunch (12.00 - 2.30) and dinner (6.00 - 10.00) are being offered every day of the week, the only exception being Sunday evening, Sunday lunch running from 12.00 to 4.30.

Alongside the full menu there are special evenings: bangers & mash for £5.00 on Monday; Wednesday is steak night: £10.00 with dessert; takeaway is available 6 nights a week. Friday and Saturday will see all-day opening, with Happy Hoooky time on Friday from 3.00 - 6.00 when Hooky and Carlsberg are £2.50 a pint.

And to show they have really been busy the Christmas menu is now available, to be served from 23<sup>rd</sup> November, so now's a good time to book up: 857306.

Because of the extended restaurant opening hours the monthly charity quiz will move to Sunday evening, the first being 28<sup>th</sup> October, then

25<sup>th</sup> November, rounding off the year with a Christmas extravaganza on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The quiz evenings have continued to be successful throughout the summer. In May the Barflies donated the winnings of £72 to Dogs for the Disabled. The June date coincided with England's game in the world cup but enough people managed to be coaxed away from their television to play. Again the Barflies prevailed (although this team does seem to have a constantly changing cast of characters) and won £50 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The results for July are a bit sketchy beyond 5+1 topping the leader board. The Barflies were back at it in August, sending £100 to Help for Heroes, and yet again in September when Marie Curie Cancer Care benefitted by £72.50. Time for a serious challenge to their supremacy.

The Royal Oak Morris from Eydon made a welcome return at the end of June. The garden was packed with drinkers and diners - including some from Maryland in the United States who were having their first experience of this somewhat eccentric English tradition. The Royal Oak side specialises in dances from Cotswold villages with a particular focus on the village of Badby, the closest place to Eydon whose dances have been recorded.

When the dancers from the mixed Morris side took a break to refresh themselves their place was taken by members of the Stony Steppers from Stony Stratford whose clog dancing,



involving fast and intricate percussive steps, fascinated the audience. The evening rounded off with all the musicians having a jam session in the bar. Long may such traditions continue.

### **BROWNIE PACK NEEDS NEW LEADERS**

The Brownie Pack has been running successfully in Blakesley for the past 6 years and a number of girls from Abthorpe have been involved. In that time the girls have done many exciting and interesting things. Parents have used their expertise to work on badges with them; we've visited zoos, the theatre, Snowdome, swimming pools, had campfires, sleepovers and gone on a narrowboat, as well as having lots of

fun and games back at our base.

I don't know if you, like me, remember your experiences of being in the Scouting and Guiding movement when you were younger. I so enjoyed all that I did and learnt that I wanted to give a little back as an adult. As a volunteer I have gained so much more than the time I've given and have enjoyed the activities as much as the girls.

That is why I am writing today. After six years, all three Guiders' family commitments have changed. Although we love being part of the Guiding movement and hope to return in a couple of years, we are not able to continue leading for the immediate future. We will continue until December and will then need to give priority to our families.

Would you like to take part in a big Venture? There is as much training and support as you require. Please consider whether you would be willing to join in or pass the word around. You can talk to me to find out more, without obligation. Thanks.

*Snowy Owl.....Chris Cunningham, 857848*

## **MOBILE LIBRARY**

The time for the mobile library to visit Abthorpe (the Green) has been revised to the second Wednesday of each month, 12.10 to 12.30. Don't forget you can also manage your Library account online: getting email reminders of due dates of return, renewing, and accessing the county catalogue.

## **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST NEWS**

There has been a recent review of services in the benefice and changes from this review will start later in the year. Services for the next few months in Abthorpe are:

October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lay-led Harvest service, 10am
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Eucharist service, 9.15am
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Holy Eucharist service, 10.50am
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Eucharist service, 9.15am
Christmas Eve	Carol service, 4pm
Christmas Day	Holy Eucharist service, 9.15am

From November generally services will follow a pattern of two Holy Eucharist services per month: at 11am on the second Sunday of the month and 9.15am on the third Sunday. A list of services for the whole benefice is put on the church notice board by the north gate. Everyone is welcome at any of these services. The Christmas Eve Carol Service will start at 4pm and the Christmas Day Eucharist Service will be at 9.15am.

Our Curate the Rev'd Graham Buckle was ordained priest by the Right Reverend Donald Allister on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June at a service in Peterborough Cathedral. The following day Graham was the celebrant at his very first Eucharist or Holy Communion. A large congregation at St Michael's Church in Silverstone consisted of members of Graham's family and parishioners from the five parishes in our Whittlewood Benefice: Abthorpe, Paulerspury, Silverstone, Slapton and Whittlebury. At the conclusion of the service Graham invited everyone to a celebratory light lunch in the church rooms. Celebratory it certainly was, but light it certainly was not as a wonderful

full meal was served by members of the congregations.

There was enthusiastic participation in 'All the Bells' to herald the first day of the Olympics. The performance was Martin Creed's work no.1197 - a ringing of all the bells in the country played as quickly as possible for 3 minutes from 8.12am. There was a good turn out of more than 30 people of all ages bringing assorted bells to accompany the church bell. Thank you to everyone who came and joined in and enjoyed the bacon butties after the 'performance'.

Harvest Supper will be held in the Old School on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00 for 7.30. The sausage and mash with a very special onion gravy, followed by fruit crumble, sounds mouth-watering. The following day the Harvest Festival Service starts at 10.00. This 'service with a difference' is now becoming established as a regular favourite. All the donated gifts will go to the Northampton Hope Centre.

Remembrance Day will be commemorated with a service starting at 10.50am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The services put



*Rev'd Vic Read*



*Rev'd Graham Buckle*

together is recent years have been thoughtful and full of interesting detail, an opportunity to remember villagers and all

those who have fought for the country.

The Rev'd Vic Read celebrated the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination by leading the morning service on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Before his ordination Vic worked for eight years in scientific research and was then called up for service in the Royal Air Force where he was posted to the Suez Canal Zone in Egypt. His wife Pat made the white stole that he wore at ordination using a kit that she purchased from a convent of nuns at East Grinstead.

Vic wore that very special stole for his 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Vic retired from full time ministry in 1994 and he and Pat moved to Towcester. During the service Vic reminisced that things ecclesiastical were much more formal all those years ago and there were no services in modern English such as are found in today's Common Worship - only the Book of Common Prayer first published in 1662.

Recent tote winners have been Rona Cambray who won in May and Rene Balderson in June, each winning £232.50. In July Mr and Mrs Lacy won £230 as did Chris Scrivener in August. Congratulations to all. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the tote. If you are not a member, but would like to join, please contact Richard Tomalin (858316). All the money raised goes towards the upkeep and repair of the church building here in Abthorpe.

### **RETURN VISIT OF THE JOHN CLEVELAND BAND**

Following the success of last year's concert the John Cleveland Band returns to Abthorpe on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September to play in the church. Even the non-musical should find themselves tapping along to the beat. This is a shared fundraiser between the Old School Committee and the Church.

### **UPDATE FROM THE OLD SCHOOL**

The dream of a convivial summer's evening on the Green with a fish and chip supper was somewhat dampened by the cold and wet that greeted everyone. But the inclement weather didn't stop the supper being an enjoyable opportunity for villagers to get together, its success aided by Hooky, wine and delicious desserts. And another £857.22 was added to the coffers.

Unfortunately the planned family BBQ at Holly Blue Farm at the end of July fell victim to the weather and had to be cancelled. Hopefully it can be reinstated on the calendar for next year, when we surely deserve some decent summer weather.

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October a new venture is to be tried: a clay pigeon shoot at Oxbridge Meadow Stables. During the morning beginners from 10 years old can enjoy a have-a-go session with professional instructors. During the afternoon there will be a competition for experienced shots who must have their own gun and licence. Further information from Jules Dyckhoff: [jules@dyckhoffonline.co.uk](mailto:jules@dyckhoffonline.co.uk); 858600.

Probably the last event for this year is the race night on 24<sup>th</sup> November. It will follow the usual format, with supper, in the Old School. Watch out for the flyer nearer the time. Tickets

will be on sale door to door a couple of weeks before.

At the last count the fundraising total for the refurbishment of the Old School stood at £8,973.24.

Now that Abthorpe Nursery School has closed, the Old School is available for hire during the day as well as at evenings and weekends. Bookings: [jules@dyckhoffonline.co.uk](mailto:jules@dyckhoffonline.co.uk); 858600.

### **TOWCESTER FOODBANK**

Today in Towcester there are a number of families struggling to put food on the table. For people on low incomes a sudden crisis such as redundancy, benefit delay or an unexpected bill can mean going hungry. Towcester Foodbank

is being set up as a collaboration between South Northants Homes, Churches Together in Towcester and the Trussell Trust's UK-wide foodbank network, and will operate from the Riverside Centre in Islington Road. Families access the service by vouchers, which are given by frontline care professionals such as doctors or social workers. The vouchers are exchanged for 3 days of food and while at the foodbank clients receive support from volunteers who can refer them to other services. There are several contact points for further information and how you can be involved: [info@towcester.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@towcester.foodbank.org.uk); Revd Paul Knight, 353173; [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org).





## QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

While parents erected marquees on the Green in preparation for the Jubilee lunch the following day, Stephen Noble the newly elected Chairman of the Parish Council presented each child in the village with a specially commissioned commemorative mug. If any children were away on the day their mugs are still waiting for them with Bob Carter (857753).

There are still a number of Jubilee mugs for sale. There are not very many of the smaller one with the 'Bunting' design, but plenty of the other two showing the young and older Queen's head. Cost

is £4.50 each from Keith Fenwick or Bob Carter.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June the Rev'd Graham Buckle started the day with a short thanksgiving service for the Queen's Jubilee.

The plans for a large gathering on the village green had to be somewhat modified due to the weather. We all



wanted rain, but it did not have to come on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the event part of the group took refuge in the Old School while the rest braved it out in the marquees. A few even returned to the warmth of their own homes. But those who stayed once again demonstrated that they were not going to be defeated by the weather. Picnic baskets

and bottles of wine came out, food was cooked on BBQs and impromptu games were organised on the green for the younger ones. Fortunately two celebration cakes had been provided, so there could be separate cake cutting ceremonies : in the Old School, by Len Bodily, and on the Green, by Katie Noble and Grace Neasham. Thanks go to everyone who helped to set up and clear away again.

After lunch there was an opportunity to look at a gallery of photographs displayed in the Old School of village people and scenes from across the years. Of particular interest were those around the coronation. It's fascinating to see how the village and its celebrations have changed over the years, although the thread across the generations can still be seen running through them all.

To round off a celebratory weekend, Slapton had challenged Abthorpe to a cricket match in the lovely grounds of Slapton Lodge as the entertainment after their own street party on the Monday. The rules were local: 25 overs per side but with as many batsmen as could be mustered. Slapton racked up a healthy 123 for their innings, to which Abthorpe made a spirited reply. Despite having overs in hand, Abthorpe ran out of batsmen



even after drafting in the aged and incompetent, and had to settle for a 10-run defeat.

This excellent day was enjoyed by both villages, not just because of the scrumptious tea laid on by Slapton, and hopefully will become an annual fixture. We must at least have the opportunity of a rematch!

### **BLAKESLEY SHOW**

Another prominent victim of this year's awful summer was Blakesley Show. Scheduled to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> August at Hootens Farm, the ground was so sodden that it would have taken months to recover from the potential damage.

## PEOPLE

David Darling sadly died on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. David and Angela came to the village in the mid-1960s when they bought Leeson House. It is hard to imagine that this house, with its well kept grounds, was derelict in the 1950s but it was an ideal place to bring up their two daughters, Annabel and Mel. David was active in many aspects of village life, chairing the Old School Committee for many years and also the Leeson Charity, a duty which he had not long given up. His contributions and direct business-like approach will be missed. He was a keen fisherman and had only recently returned from a few days in Wales although quite ill at the time. Our sympathy goes to Angela and all his extended family. David's funeral will be on 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm in Abthorpe Church.

We are also sorry to have to record another death of one of our long-standing residents, Mrs Bream of Home Farm.

Many congratulations to Katie Robbins and Chris Deal, who were married in St John the Baptist in July. The church was packed and even the weather smiled on them as they emerged into the warm bright sunshine of the first dry day for what seemed weeks. After the service Pimms and canapés were served on the Green before the wedding guests made their way to the reception. As well as being a wonderful opportunity for villagers to give Katie and Chris their good wishes, it was also nice to be able to catch up with Rev'd Canon Bridget Smith, our previous rector, who had come to take part in the service alongside Rev'd Paul McLeod.

Katie and Chris were determined to have a real village wedding and that's exactly what happened. The reception and celebratory evening country dance were held in a marquee in the paddock adjoining the village green.

The couple will live in Milton Keynes where they can easily commute to their work in London. Katie, or Dr Katherine as she should be called, has a PhD in archaeology and works for the British Museum as a

**PEOPLE (CONTINUED)**

member of the Portable Antiquities Scheme that encourages the voluntary recording of historic objects found by members of the public. Chris is a modern historian with the Imperial War Museum. He is working towards his PhD by researching how the Soviet Union portrayed the 1980 Moscow Olympics boycott to the world via the medium of short wave radio.

A warm welcome to Sandra and Richard Cook who have moved into Church View, Main Street. They are dividing their time between here and London, where Richard is a professional musician playing New Orleans-style jazz, while Sandra enjoys her creative pursuits, mainly sewing and embroidery.

### **MARIE CURIE COFFEE DAY**

This year's event in support of Marie Curie Cancer Care will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, as ever at the home of Liz and Barry Haycock, Highfield Farm. Regular readers will know the extraordinary fundraising that Liz and Barry have done in the past (over £5,000 last year); this year will be another opportunity to add to the total. There will be an array of local and homemade produce to tempt you, as well as gifts, bring and buy and a raffle all available throughout the day except for a short break in the afternoon (10am-2pm and 4pm-8pm).

### **A FAMILY OF PRIESTS**

We have chronicled Rob Jones's delving into his Northamptonshire ancestry in previous issues of *Abtalk*. He has now published a beautifully illustrated and produced book entitled *A Family of Priests*. Although it was produced in Australia the contents describe his quest into his family history. There are impressive photographs of Abthorpe and surrounding villages, linked by a fascinating narrative that describes Rob's historical researches.

Rob's fourth great grandfather was the Rev'd Pryce Jones who served as Vicar of Abthorpe from 1793 to 1831 and was the son of the Rev'd John Jones the Vicar of

Llanwonog in mid-Wales. The Rev'd Pryce Jones was obviously loved by someone and respected sufficiently enough to have his name and that of his family featured in memorials on the walls of our parish church. But he had some significant human failings as he was incarcerated for debt in Northampton prison and must have spent a Christmas as a guest of His Majesty. The reason for his financial difficulties may well have been because for many years before his death Mr Jones was utterly incapable of carrying out one of his duties, namely teaching children in our school, as he had fallen into habits of intemperance and could not manage his money.

One of Pryce Jones's children, also confusingly names Pryce Jones, became curate of Helmdon from 1819 to 1855. He and his wife Mary Ann had twelve children, all born in Helmdon. Nine of the children survived and the eldest was Rob's great great grandfather who emigrated to Australia as a young man.

### **DON'T FORGET TO BIN IT!**

Back in June National Poop Scoop Week was arranged by the UK's largest dog welfare charity, Dogs Trust. In support of this South Northamptonshire Council urged dog owners to 'bag it and bin it' as faeces

pose a public health risk and it is breaking the law to allow your dog to foul in a public place. They said, "the public can help reduce dog fouling in the area in which they live by reporting concerns to the environmental protection team (01327 322323) or filling in an online form at [www.southnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk). It is important that the information given includes the name and address of the person in charge of the dog if known, a description of the dog plus the date, time and place of the offence".

### **SILVERSTONE SCHOOLS**

Many of our children attend Silverstone Infant and Junior Schools. Unfortunately we missed the opportunity to publicise the Friends of Silverstone Schools' appeal for volunteers to help at this year's Grand Prix, but it seems as though it's a wonderful fundraiser for the schools. Their parking and catering operation is a slick affair extending to online pre-booking for the parking, and raises money for extras that the schools' statutory fundings can't run to.

There is another opportunity to support their work on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September. In partnership with the New Bekash Indian restaurant in Towcester, from 5.30 to 11.30pm 25% of the takings including takeaways will go to Silverstone Schools. Book your table on 01327 350505/353149.

### **FILM ABTHORPE**

Pam Watkins has been joined by Marna Perrigo to arrange the monthly film shows in the Old School, assisted as ever by their technical team. On 18<sup>th</sup> October they will be showing *Hear My Song* with Ned Beatty and Adrian Dunbar about some shady dealings in the Irish music business, described as 'a little movie with heart, wit, and charm'.

### **REMEMBERING ABTHORPE FLOWER CLUB**

When Charles Goshawk retired as a parish priest he and his wife Evelyn moved into Thorpe End at the junction of Wappenham Road and School Lane. Evelyn was a very energetic and creative person and as she was a keen gardener and flower arranger she decided that the village needed a flower club.

In April 1962 she called a meeting in the Old School and the flower club was formed. The club met every third Tuesday with an annual subscription of 30/- (£1.50) to include afternoon tea. The club thrived and was soon

affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangers and Evelyn Goshawk became that organisation's publications officer for the South Midlands area. She wrote articles for the *Flower Arranger Magazine* and even wrote a poem for a flower festival that was held in Westminster Abbey.

By 1985 as the membership of the club had declined it was decided to move to Weedon Lois and in 1990 membership had risen to over 50. Over the years members of the club have decorated the church here in Abthorpe and contributed to many flower festivals. It still meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:30 in Weedon Lois Village Hall where members are treated to a variety of flower demonstrations and some hands-on sessions. Evelyn Goshawk died in 1990.

A lunch to celebrate the first fifty years of the club's existence was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The club is always looking for new members and as it is a very friendly organisation Vicky Boswell the current Chair encourages people to give them a try. You can contact her on [ahboswell@btinternet.com](mailto:ahboswell@btinternet.com)

### **TRACING THE HISTORY OF ABTHORPE HOUSES**

With the advent of the online censuses it is fairly easy to trace families in a village back to 1841 but house history is more difficult. Houses were sometimes built and pulled down within 50 years if they had been built to provide an income. The parish overseers had a row of nine houses built behind the blacksmith's shop (Forge Cottage) in 1837 but they were gone by the 1920s.

The date stone with initials of the original owner was often replaced on the rebuilt cottage giving the impression of an older dwelling. If the fabric is studied it can be seen where the old and new join. If there are stone mullions the bedroom mullions may be less worn than the ground floor ones or there may just be a few feet of the old building above ground height. Some pieces of the church which was rebuilt in 1871 have been incorporated into garden walls which can be recognised as the old church window mullions. The 1839 tithe map shows all the houses in Abthorpe but many now standing are on foundations of these dwellings. Some houses have their original date stone. The Stocking Frame which was built as a pub in 1776 still shows its date stone 1776 initials B/VE, Valentine and Elizabeth Barford, but its older foundations can be seen. Date stones in Silver Street include Sunny View: J L Eyre 1761. This was built for shopkeeper John Eyre soon after his daughter Ann was born. Lane Cottage: RCH 1896 was a house built for

Robert Henson on the footprint of two small cottages.

Sometimes an alteration date can be established by the hearth tax. In 1662 Stockley was the Leeson farm bailiff and lived in the house after Jane Leeson died. At that time it had three chimneys. By 1674 the first man to act as school master was Mr Nicholls living in the same house but by then it had seven chimneys. The manor had four chimneys at both dates, whereas most households had only one chimney.

Yew Tree House was rebuilt circa.1900 on the site where there had been a farm house from at least 1700 belonging to the Bailey family. They owned the farm buildings opposite and a hundred acres, wealthy enough to have a stone put in the church floor commemorating a relative, Revd. Joseph Key. The date stone of Spring Meadow Farm refers to the still standing original house, well built with stone mullion windows, but not the frontage where the stone was later placed. The current three cottages on the Green dated WS 1859 were originally shoemakers cottages which were altered to five cottages by Hinds circa. 1905 to provide an income for one of his daughters.

Identifying the streets is interesting. Land deeds name fields which predate the building of the houses, as most streets did not have names or were later changed. The houses built in Wappenham Road west of Brackley Lane in the early 1920s were called after Poplar Close, the field they were built in. Further east the cottages on the hill opposite the Stocking Frame also acquired by Hinds for his other daughter were in Back Lane; it was common for villages with a green to have one street called Back Lane. It's fascinating that what we now think of as the main road through the village from Towcester to Wappenham was a 'back lane'. Silver Street was called Factory Lane but only whilst the shoe factory was there. Cadogan Place was a row of cottages with no back way built by the New Inn landlady from her profits when the railway was built early in the 1870s. The district council took them over, modernised them, then in the 1970s demolished them and built bungalows in the gardens.

The Duke of Grafton bought part of Abthorpe Manor with its cottages in the 1820s. Some cottages were built on the waste alongside Wappenham Road. (Waste was land used by tenants on manor boundaries). Sometime after 1839 he had them pulled down. All that now remains of that row is the White House. To replace them he built five cottages, a set of two and three cottages away from the road, further along on the other side of Wappenham Road which included Elm House. The other cottages that he



bought along Main Street can be traced from the tithe list, including Rozel and Cedar Cottage which was one of the oldest cottages near the manor. In 1865 he gave land to build the churchyard extension stipulating a seven foot right of way through the garden of Rozel.

In the field at the end of Main Street by the footpath to Slapton, in what was then Tinker's Close, there had been a farmhouse and buildings which had been converted to six cottages. Nothing is left now except an old fruit tree and humps in the ground. So not all property was rebuilt. In the 1950s houses were condemned if they had no back door so some were sold very cheaply.

Houses were often named after the occupiers. Leeson House was called the Vicarage because it was used by various vicars but actually belonged to the Leeson charity not the church.

If anyone wants to trace the history of their house good sources at Northampton Record Office are the enclosure and tithe maps and land tax records which go back to 1780. (We will put maps from 1826 and 1839 on the Abthorpe website.) Deeds to land sales tend to only mention houses in passing but even when a location is named it is difficult to place a cottage. Marriage settlements are useful because when a bride provided the dowry money a document was drawn up naming all the fields bought in her name. Her trustees made sure the land went to her or her children after her husband or she died. Lousy Bush Close was part of a marriage settlement in 1651 between Griffith Knight and Mary Preston of Litchborough but Grafton View was not built on it until the 1800s.

One house in 1640, adjacent to Dog Lane Close which was next to Cadogan Place, was sold to a Dean of Bangor, Griffith Williams, whose wife lived there until 1673. His vitriolic publications about Puritans and the Westminster Assembly caused him to move around the country to evade punishment, eventually dying in Ireland. So Abthorpe was never his home, which was just as well as he was hunted by the Parliamentarians for his scurrilous writings and they would probably have punished any community harbouring him.

*M E H*

## **UPHOLSTERY CLASSES**

Damian York is an experienced tutor who 'covers' traditional and modern upholstery. He has started classes in the Old School on Mondays from 10am to 1pm, and again in the evening from 6.00 to 9.00. Such is the appeal that

he is planning an afternoon course as well on Monday, 2.00 - 5.00.

The classes continue throughout the year and will be booked/paid for month by month. Four 3-hour classes costs £72, working out at £6 an hour. There is a maximum of six students in each class. Students can work on any upholstery project regardless of their experience or the difficulty level of their project, with all skill levels welcome from complete beginner to advanced expert.

If you're interested in finding out more, talk to Damian on 07979 20018 or email: [damianyakupholstery@gmail.com](mailto:damianyakupholstery@gmail.com)

### **WAPPENHAM AUTHOR'S NEW BOOK**

Michael Koe has written an intriguing new book called *Walking with Wallace*. His first was *Charity Begins at Home* about his charity, the PSP Association, which benefits from the profits of both books.

The latter is a very different sort of book, covering the philosophical discussions he has with his Staffordshire bull terrier Wallace and his grandson Archie on their walks around the local countryside: about the meaning of life, the beginning of the universe, life on other planets (where perhaps dogs have humans as pets) and other subjects of interest to man and dog. The book will be available through [www.walkingwithwallace.com](http://www.walkingwithwallace.com),

or from Michael direct (cheapest) at £11.99 paperback or £19.99 hardback. 860342; [michaelrcoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelrcoe@yahoo.co.uk)

### **ABbA SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

ABbA's bid to DEFRA for a grant towards the cost of bringing a fibre-optic link to the Tove Valley was submitted in July. The directors hope that a response will be received in October, so are keeping their fingers crossed. In the meantime, they have been working on the details of how the network will be set up between the five villages involved.

### **LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE**

Some interesting snippets of information come our way from many quarters. From South Northants Council Waste Management comes information on food labelling and the constant reviewing undertaken by food retailers and manufacturers of their guidance on labels. Not surprisingly they have discovered that two dates, 'use by' and 'display until' are confusing. Now fewer than a third of labels have the 'display' date, and the trend is for dates to become bigger.

'Best before' and 'use by' also lack clarity. So now 97% of packs carry a 'best before' date, meaning it's safe to eat after the date, but might not be at its best in terms of

quality. For example, £80 million of fruit juices and smoothies are thrown away every year because they're 'not used in time'.

Or maybe it's all just common sense.....

LoveFoodHateWaste.com

### **CAR PARKING**

Short of building a multi-storey car park in the village, we are just going to have to live with cars parked on all the roads around the village green. But please avoid parking on the road by the War Memorial; as well as being a public highway, it does detract from the view across the green to the church.

### **VOLUNTEER TO BE A MASTER COMPOSTER**

Yes, we wondered what it was as well....

Once trained under the scheme run by Northamptonshire Waste Partnership (a group of eight Northamptonshire local authorities) you would spread enthusiasm for gardening and composting to other people and encourage the art of composting by attending events to talk to people, organising local events to spread the message and give advice or solutions to those with a misbehaving compost bin.

Apart from being given all the appropriate clothing, books and kit

you would have annual membership of Garden Organic, which gives access to a number of gardens in the UK and GO headquarters at Ryton: [www.gardenorganic.org.uk/support\\_us/membership.php](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/support_us/membership.php). In return you would commit at least 30 volunteer hours a year. For more information email Rebecca Short: [rshort@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:rshort@northamptonshire.gov.uk); [www.RecycleforNorthamptonshire.co.uk](http://www.RecycleforNorthamptonshire.co.uk)

### **NEW MUMS' AND TODDLERS' GROUP?**

With the closure of Abthorpe Nursery School in July there is shortage of provision for the under 5s in the area. Lucie Grimes is keen to encourage the setting up of a mothers' and toddlers' group based in the Old School.

However, in the meantime she has arranged for the Sure Start play bus to visit the village each Friday, starting on 28<sup>th</sup> Sepember until 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30 to 12.00 (and free). It will be visiting for this term, after which is it hoped there will be sufficient interest to get a mums and tots group going. If you're interested to know more get in touch with Lucie on 858361 or [lucie.scriven@btinternet.com](mailto:lucie.scriven@btinternet.com)

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*Remember Abtalk is online, with the photographs in colour.*

**DIARY**

*Monday 30 September*

Parish Council Meeting, Old School, 7.45

*Friday 5 October*

Sure Start Playbus, the Green, 10.30 - 12.00

*Saturday 6 October*

Harvest Supper, 7.00 for 7.30, the Old School

*Sunday 7 October*

Harvest service, 10.00, St John the Baptist

*Thursday 18 October*

Film Abthorpe, 7.30, the Old School

*Sunday 21 October*

Holy Eucharist service, 9.15, St John the Baptist

*Thursday 25 October*

Marie Curie Cancer Care coffee day, 10.00-2.00 and 4.00-8.00,  
Highfield Farm, Wappenham Rd

*Saturday 27 October*

Clay pigeon shoot, Oxbridge Meadow Stables

*Sunday 11 November*

Remembrance Day service, 10.50, St John the Baptist

*Monday 12 November*

Parish Council Meeting, Old School, 7.45

*Sunday 18 November*

Holy Eucharist service, 9.15, St John the Baptist

*Saturday 24 November*

Race night, the Old School, 7.30

*Christmas Eve*

Carol service, 4pm, St John the Baptist

*Christmas Day*

Holy Eucharist service, 9.15am