



ABTALK

News from Abthorpe

November 2022

Parish Council News

Mike Greenhalgh, Chairman

Abthorpe is a small village with about 160 houses in the village itself and another 20 scattered around the parish. There are 350 electors in the parish.

The Parish Council is responsible for a limited range of local services and provides a channel for representing local views to the District and County Council. It is responsible for street lighting and the maintenance of the village green. It is regularly consulted on planning applications and its views are sought on the various plans which the West Northamptonshire Council formulates for the provision of its services.

The Parish Council consists of seven members elected every four years. The Council employs a part-time clerk who is responsible for the Council's finances and minutes. Much of the clerk's time is taken up gathering information to enable the Council to work on behalf of the people of the parish. The Parish Council has an annual budget of approximately £4,000, raised through the Council Tax. You will find the precise amount detailed in the Tax demand which you receive each year from the West Northamptonshire Council. The Council meets every 6 - 8 weeks in The Old School at 7 pm.

In this edition of Abtalk and the next we will be printing a short piece on each member of the Council.

Mike Greenhalgh, Chair

I am a retired GP having worked in the Towcester and Greens Norton area since moving to Abthorpe in 1987. I live with my



wife Jill, also a retired GP. We have 3 children: Kate, Rob and Nick. My interests include rugby, cricket, golf, gardening, watercolour painting and bridge. Since we came to Abthorpe we have been heavily involved with the village and have loved living here.

In the 1990s I was on the Parish Council for about 9-10 years, a number as chairman, giving that up to spend the time needed to be part of the Millennium committee and fundraising, culminating in the New Year's Eve party for the whole village at the Old School.

On retiring I decided to become involved again with the Parish Council, being a councillor for the last five years, which I enjoy though, as usual, there are some frustrations.

Rachel Stevens, Vice-Chair

I moved to Abthorpe with my husband, Alun, in 2016 and we have since welcomed our son, Elliott. I love village life and I am at my happiest when outside enjoying the countryside, either running, walking, on my bike or on horseback.

I am a registered veterinary nurse (RVN) and qualified twenty years ago whilst working in a small animal practice in Northampton. I was a Lecturer at the Royal Veterinary College for twelve years but Elliott's arrival prompted me to give up my lengthy weekly commute and move to Abthorpe full-time. Since then, I have had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know fellow residents and I have become increasingly involved in village activities, including as a parish councillor. I am currently vice-chair and police liaison representative.



Emily Humphrey

I work as Marketing Manager for a Food Service and Meat Wholesale business, based near Towcester.

My husband Tim and I have a working cocker spaniel called Blu. If you haven't seen us out for a walk with her, you'll have probably heard us whistling her back when she's run off to find something interesting! In my spare time, I like to keep fit, play tennis and enjoying cooking up a storm in the kitchen!



Abthorpe is a special village and we have made many great friends since we moved here seven years ago. I have previously been involved in helping with one-off events in the village and we always lend a hand with setting up and breaking down any village events, which is all good fun. I now bring my own business and committee experience to the Parish Council which I have been a part of for nearly two years.

Chris Zachar

I have lived in Abthorpe for nearly eight years, along with my wife Claire, my boys Ben and Thomas, and Jasper the Springer Spaniel. My wife and I run our own successful event management consultancy, specialising in the motorsport, automotive and pharmaceutical industries which includes travel overseas, most recently with Formula E. In my spare time I like spending time with my family and enjoying the surrounding area - occasionally on a bike, or a run - as well working on our ongoing house renovation project.

Community Speed Watch

Following on from concerns received from residents regarding the speed of vehicles travelling through the village, the Parish Council registered Abthorpe's participation in the Community Speed Watch scheme. This is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices. Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted - initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow, based on the collated evidence.

Throughout September, we held fifteen speed watch sessions. These were held across different days of the week and at varying times of day. As a result, fifteen police warning letters were generated and posted out to the registered keepers of offending vehicles. However, every session acted as a deterrent against speeding and volunteers felt it had a positive impact on slowing down traffic and was therefore a valuable use of their time.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the volunteers for their dedication, time and involvement. Many thanks also to those residents who allowed us to set up camp on the driveway and pavement outside their homes.

We will automatically receive an invitation to participate in this scheme, which will run again from March to October next year, but we can only do this if we receive sufficient support from the local community. We need a recommended minimum of two, ideally three, volunteers per speed watch session and so the more volunteers we get, the more effective this initiative

will be. There is minimal training involved and each speed watch session lasts, on average, only 60 - 90 minutes.

If you are interested in participating in this important initiative and helping to reduce speeding through our village, please get in touch. Without your support, we are unable to make a difference.

We also welcome feedback from villagers regarding the speed of vehicles through our village, including your suggestions for long-term solutions and our future involvement in the CSW scheme.

Rachel Stevens, Community Speed Watch Coordinator

rachel.stevens@abthorpe.net

Wheelie bin stickers

For those who do not have wheelie bin stickers, these are available from Abthorpe Parish Clerk Tina Emerton at abthorpeparishclerk@gmail.com; tel 07708 933968.

The stickers are really most suited to those living on Wappenham Road. Their purpose is to encourage cars to slow down and keep their speed to less than the limit. The more stickers on display the better. Even though



they are only out and visible for a day a week, it is worth the effort to try and reduce speeding.



Abthorpe Mourns



The villagers of Abthorpe, as those throughout the country, were shocked and deeply saddened when news broke of the death of the Queen in September. This photograph shows the church bell being tolled by village volunteers as a mark of respect following her death. The church, being open in the daytime, allowed people to enter for a private period of reflection and a book of

condolences was available for personally recording our thanks for her long reign and to acknowledge her outstanding sense of duty.

The day before the funeral, a number of residents met as darkness fell for a minute's silence by candlelight for the national Moment of Reflection.

In addition, the millennium sign was respectfully adorned with black ribbon for the duration of the period of mourning.



Defibrillator

Newer residents may not realise (and longer-term ones may need reminding) that the village has a defibrillator. It is situated in the old telephone box on the Green.

If someone collapses and is in presumed cardiac arrest, you must first call for help from the Ambulance service on 999. The emergency services will give you the code to unlock the cupboard that houses the defibrillator device in the telephone box.

Basic life support with CPR should if possible be happening while this is being done. Once the defibrillator is available for the patient then follow the instructions on the device.

If any villagers would like training on both Basic Life Support and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), and also on use of the defibrillator then please contact our clerk Tina Emerton (see email address above). If there is enough interest we will try and organise some training in the New Year.



Church/Village News and Events

Harvest - a most successful Harvest Supper was attended by almost fifty villagers in mid-September. We were served with a traditional autumn fare of pies and crumbles and, as usual, there was a real feeling of community and friendship. The following day was Harvest Festival in church - a particularly moving service, given the recent passing of the Queen, led by

Reverend Paul as he linked the cycle of the seasons with the cycle of life. The church looked lovely with locally grown flowers, fruit and vegetables decorating the window sills.



The produce donated (above) was divided between Towcester Food Bank and the Hope Centre in Northampton.

Tea & Piece - the once-a-month chance to have a cuppa, a choice of home-made cake, and a good chat with neighbours continues to be popular. Over £600 has been raised for church funds over the course of the eight afternoon occasions this year.

The Tote - this continues to be the major source of funding devoted solely to the upkeep of the church and it is good that two people each month are lucky enough to be rewarded for their vital contributions. In July, Mike Matthews and Emily Lockett were the winners, followed in August by Lucy

Jones and Helen Taylor, in September by Bridget Burnet and Keith Fenwick, and in October by Barry & Liz Haycock and Roger & Mary Brennan. Winners are all receiving over £130 in prize money.

Food Bank Box - there is a box in the church porch for donations of food and essential household products that are regularly taken down to the Towcester Food Bank.

As Christmas approaches, a second box has been put out for festive products and treats too.

A list of welcome items can be seen below:

- Long life fruit juice (not chilled)
- Tinned veg (e.g. Peas, carrots, sweetcorn)
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned fruit
- Sponge puddings
- Savoury biscuits (e.g. Ritz, Cheddars)
- Pasta Sauce
- Feminine hygiene
- Rice, pasta or noodles
- Cuppa soups (4 packs)
- Tins of soup
- Baked beans
- Long life milk (1 litre)
- Instant coffee
- Tea bags, especially packs of 40's or 80's
- Jam
- Tinned meat (e.g. ham, stews, hot dogs)
- Tinned fish (tuna, salmon, sardines)
- Tinned potatoes
- Rice pudding and custard
- Cereals
- Biscuits
- Chocolate bars
- Laundry Gel/powder
- Washing up liquid
- Shampoo
- Shower gel and soap
- Toothpaste and brushes
- Deodorants
- Razors and shaving gel

Remembrance Sunday

As has become customary, there will be a short ceremony of Remembrance at the war memorial on Sunday 13th November starting at 10.50 am. This year we will be joined by 'Tommy' who has been donated to us by our local British Legion Association as a poignant reminder of those who gave their lives for us all.



Christmas Coffee Morning - a joint venture with the Old School

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd December - 10.00 until 12.00

Do come and enjoy a cup of freshly brewed coffee or tea in the Old School

There will be a tempting array of tasty traybakes and savoury snacks for eating in or taking away

Raffle: many prizes including Christmas hampers and a home-made Christmas Cake

Everyone welcome

Christmas Tree Light-Up - Roll up, roll up for the moment when the lights go on, we have a bit of a sing-song, and warm up in church with a hot drink and refreshments. Venue: The Green. Date: Sunday 11th December at 4.30 pm.

Beer and Carols - after a fresh outburst of Covid meant last year's gathering at the New Inn was a wash-out, let's make this year's event extra special. Reverend George will lead the Carol Singing (probably rivalling Reverend Paul with some truly awful Christmas cracker jokes) and Rob and team will provide (free) edibles - a fun and festive evening. Venue: the New Inn. Date: Wednesday 21st December at 7 pm.

Christingle and Carol Service - for many of us this service on Christmas Eve marks the real start of Christmas. The service starts at 4 pm and the church is usually packed with villagers, families and friends. Mulled wine and mince pies follow, making for a memorable event.

Supporting Ukrainian Refugees - a group of volunteers from the five parishes of the Benefice have been meeting together to decide how best to support our Ukrainian guests and neighbours. A 'Welcome Evening' was held in the summer when, as well as providing refreshments and a chance for a chat, there were talks on local resources available such as the Ability Community Bus service as well as some very practical offers of help. It has become clear that, as the likelihood of a quick return to the Ukraine fades away, many are beginning to struggle financially in addition to feeling isolated and homesick. To provide another opportunity for them to meet with each other around Christmastime and to raise some money to help those in particular need, a Craft and Produce Fair is being planned. This is to be held on the afternoon of Saturday 10th December between 2 and 5 pm in Silverstone Methodist Chapel. If anyone would like to donate any craft or produce items - as well as new or 'as new' toys - to be sold at the Fair, please give them to one of the following members of the PCC: Jill Greenhalgh, Barbara Malcomson or Alison Robbins. We all live on Wappenham Road: Jill at no 17 (Fawe Park), Barbara at no 2 (The Leys) and Alison at no 4 (Willowbrook).

Stamps for Charity - there is a small box for used postage stamps in the church porch. These will be sent to the 'Against Breast Cancer' charity. The stamps need to have at least a 1cm border of envelope left around them. With Christmas just around the corner, there should be plenty of Christmas cards being sent, so hopefully we can get a good collection.

Old School

Although the date has yet to be fixed, a **Race Night** is planned for the New Year.

Back by popular demand, a **Truckers Breakfast** has been pencilled in for 21st January. Keep an eye out for more details on the Old School website www.abthorpeoldschool.com.

The website also contains information about the twice-weekly **Pilates** classes and the Saturday **Zoom Pilates** class.

It is encouraging to know that the Old School is also booked by William Blake House in Blakesley for Art Therapy sessions for their residents once a week.

Abthorpe Old School events can also be viewed on the Abthorpe Old School Facebook page.

A message from Lynn: 'If we have any budding **bridge** players out there who would like to join us for a friendly evening of bridge, please get in touch with me at oldschool@abthorpe.net or 07767 082594. If you message me, I will then give you details of when and where we meet. We would love to see you'.

It is planned to re-start the **Games Afternoons** in the not-too-distant future.

New Inn

Regular events at the New Inn include:

Quiz Night happens on the last Sunday of the month. For a small fee, you can enter as a group or just join an existing group, be provided with a light supper, and have fun. The winning team is invited to donate their winnings to a charity of their choice. In both July and August, the quiz was won by Barflies who on both occasions donated £220 to Men's Minds Matter. The September victors were a team from Weston called the Bard from the

Crown, who gave their £224 winnings to Macmillan Cancer Support whilst the Calverters of Greens Norton won in October. They have not had much success recently but on this occasion rose to the challenge and £204 is now on its way to the Air Ambulance. The next quiz will take place on Sunday 27th November and will be the last one for 2022.

Open Mic sessions are once-monthly events which take place on the 2nd Sunday from 4 pm. Anyone can come along and sing to a friendly and appreciative audience.

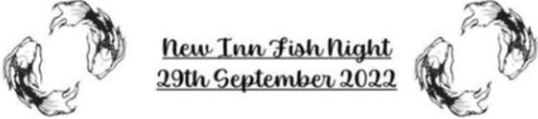
Chef's Table - on the first Monday of the month, a rather special one-off menu is created for the gourmands or would-be gourmands in our midst. There is one more opportunity to participate this year: on 5th December.

Fish Night

A new and, it turns out, very successful introduction from the kitchens of the New Inn is a monthly Fish Night on the 3rd Thursday of the month. If you love fish then you will not be disappointed; if you are currently ambivalent about such food, give it a go and you might well be converted! The chef uses his imagination and skill to turn wonderfully fresh fish into delicious and unusual dishes as this photo and the following menu show.



There will be just one more Fish Night this year - on Thursday 24th November.



New Inn Fish Night
29th September 2022

Pan Fried Scallops Wrapped In Pancetta, Sereved on a bed of
Poy Lentil and Cream Valoute Sauce

Asian Style Razor Clams, Serevd With Fresh Aromatic Salad,
Toasted Rustic Bread

Palate Cleanser, Raspberry Compot Topped Raspberry sorbet,

Pan Fried Hake, Served With Celeriac Purée, Safron Potato
Fondant, Topped With Cockle Pop Corn and Cockle Butter
Sauce

Home Made Raspberry & Prosecco Cheesecake, Served With
Chantilly Cream and Brandy Snap Biscuit

£40pp Including Bottle of Wine per Couple booking,
Choice of White - Pino Grigio, New Zealand Sauvignon
Blanc, White Rioja

£10 Deposit Per Person To secure Booking (non refundable)

Christmas Menu - Message from the team: 'We have been asked our prices for the Christmas menu so we thought we would shout it from the roof top! One Course - £13.95; Two Courses - £19.95; Three Courses - £24.95; add a hot drink to the end of your meal for just £1.50 (large and small tables available)'.

On **Christmas Day** itself no meals will be served but the New Inn will be open between 12 noon and 2 pm.

On **New Year's Eve** there will be a chance to see in the New Year with a Pig Roast provided by Bunny.

For further details of any of the above and additional news from the New Inn, keep an eye on the New Inn Facebook page.

Tove Valley Broadband

Keith Fenwick

We last reported in the March issue on our project to upgrade from wireless to fibre for most of the village. The project was eventually approved in June, after more bureaucratic delays. That enabled us to start planning in detail and arranging to run fibres around the village.

So far, our contractor has completed the trenching on the periphery of the village; this had to wait for the crops to be harvested. Fibre has been laid and connected to twenty-four properties out of a total of seventy-five.

To give you an idea of what is involved, the photo on the right shows one of the main feeder boxes where a main input is connected to individual fibres which serve each property. One of these boxes can serve 15 or 20 homes.



The photograph on the next page shows the box which goes on the outside wall of each house. From there a thin blue patch cable goes inside, where it terminates on a fibre receiver.



We now have to lay fibre across Main Street and School Lane to reach the rest of the village. Road crossings are not easy to organise. We have arranged a ground penetration survey and obtained Highways permission and are now engaging a contractor. Exact timing depends on contractor availability and the weather. Then fibres need to be laid to each property. So over the next few months we will be calling on help from members to do this work with the aim of getting everyone connected by Spring next year. Several members have already helped in this way.

Once fibre connections are made, you may find that the wifi in your home is the bottleneck. I was asked a few weeks ago if a unit purchased now would be out of date in two years' time - and gave a positive 'Yes' answer to that question. That is not to say that you need to change your wifi every two years, but wifi technology is continually developing. It is easier to get a signal throughout houses with thick stone walls. More and more devices are using wifi. Units which are five or seven years old may now be worth replacing. There is advice on our website on what is currently available.

Abthorpe is not the only village where fibre is being installed. There is a large project for Lois Weedon and Weston to follow the Abthorpe project. We are not sitting on our laurels but continue to keep up with the demands on the system.

If you need to contact us, use our support phone number - 08432 898 350 or open a ticket on our website www.tovevalley.com

Nature in the Churchyard

The eagle-eyed among us noticed some interesting bees in the churchyard in September swarming busily over the grass on the south side of the church. When you mention bees, most people think of honey bees or bumble bees and few realise that there are nearly 250 species of solitary bees, which make up around 93% of all species in the UK.



Ivy Bee @Archie Mathison

‘Our’ bees were identified as Ivy bees - similar in shape to a honeybee but with much more vivid black and yellow stripes (like a wasp). The Ivy bee is a latecomer in many ways; they were only described as a new species in 1993, they were first recorded in the UK in 2001, and they are the latest flying solitary bee in the UK.

Ivy bees prefer short grass and loose soil so the newly weeded and regularly mown church-yard suited them very well.

Each female emerges in late August/early September and, once she has successfully mated, will start to dig her burrow and excavate multiple chambers where she lays her eggs. Once she has done this, she begins to collect and store ivy pollen as a food source for the larvae. After a busy six weeks, she will die but her eggs will hatch into larvae. Larvae then begin to feed on the pollen stores she has gathered for them and grow until they are ready to pupate and become adult ivy bees. They emerge as adults in late August the following year and the cycle begins again.

Autumn Bounty

To the surprise of many of us, the dry hot summer did not prevent a bumper (and quite early) crop of fruits and berries. Blackberries were ripe and ready for picking in August, sloes followed in September and villagers with apple, plum and pear trees in their gardens reported branches heavy with fruit and welcomed other residents to come and pick their own.

Whilst most of us are familiar with apples and pears, a less well-known fruit is the quince, and Abthorpe is the home to at least one quince tree.

A quince tree in fruit is a beautiful thing with those downy, golden pear-shaped orbs hanging temptingly amid oval green leaves. Unlike apples and pears, however, quinces are almost completely inedible until they're cooked. With its amazing aroma - quince smells like a vanilla-scented orange - you might be tempted to scoop one up and bite into it. Resist. The tough, grainy flesh of a quince has an astringent, sour taste. But when they're cooked? That's when the magic happens.



Quince trees originated in the Caucasus. They're a relative of apples and pears, and have a long and exalted history. The 'apples' referred to in the story of Adam and Eve, and in the Song of Solomon, were almost certainly quinces. It's highly likely the golden apple of Hesperides, which Paris gave to Aphrodite, was also a quince. For the ancient Greeks, the quince became associated with love and fertility. It was a staple ingredient in wedding feasts and cakes- and often the fruit would be tossed to newly wedded couples as a token of commitment.



King Charlemagne of France was a great fan of quinces, ordering them to be grown in all the royal gardens, and after the Norman Conquest they found their way over the Channel - our word quince is derived from the French "coing". In 1275, Edward I planted four of the first quinces in England, paying sixpence for each one, in the grounds of the Tower of London. Their popularity grew and in any English garden with even just a few fruit trees,

one of them was sure to be a quince. Then they almost disappeared. Happily - for they are a true culinary gem - they now seem to be enjoying something of a revival.

So, you're ready to give quinces a go. What should you do? Well, first you need to rub off the downy fur and drop them into lemony water as soon as they're peeled - their flesh turns an unappealing brown with astonishing rapidity. Once prepped, they have a wide range of uses. Their high pectin levels mean they make excellent jams and jellies, or they can be boiled down to make intense membrillo. Or simply add a few poached slices to an apple or pear tart or crumble. Their tanginess makes them a perfect foil for rich, meaty dishes, too - they often feature in Moroccan tagines and Persian stews.

And keep a few in a bowl in the kitchen or hallway too - they'll fill the house with a heavenly scent, leaving you in no doubt as to when they're ready enough to eat.

If you are now tempted to try out one or two quince recipes, why not look up these:

Thomasina Miers recipe for *Fragrant Lamb and Quince Tagine*; Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's *Sticky Quince and Ginger Cake*; Riverford's *Honey Baked Quinces* or the more classic *Membrillo (aka Quince Paste)*.

Quinces are not easy to buy so that's all the more reason to either grow your own or beg some from a friendly neighbour. Did I mention a friendly neighbour? Phil and Marie have a wonderful quince tree in their front garden at no 6 Wappenham Road and would be delighted to share their harvest with you. Simply stop on the front drive and help yourself! Quince Chutney, here I come.

Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge

TV presenter Matt Baker MBE and a team of five incredibly inspiring young people, all of whom have been supported by BBC Children in Need-funded projects, recently took on a relay-style ride over five days between Monday 17th October and Friday 21st October.

Each rider took a section of the journey, travelling through their hometown and visiting places across the UK which held a particular significance for them along the way.

One of those five young people was local Towcester girl, Tabitha, who rode the 5th and final leg of the route.



Rickshaw team with Tabitha on the left

Two years ago, Tabitha's world turned upside down when she was diagnosed with Stage 3 Ovarian cancer - a type of cancer that usually affects older women and can obviously have lasting effects.

For a 16-year-old girl, who loved her fitness, this was utterly devastating. With a tumour that weighed 2kg, she quickly underwent seven hours of surgery, which was then followed



by ongoing and intensive treatment which caused hair loss. She was left weak, unmotivated and in pain but with her incredible attitude, support from family and close friends, as well as a charity called PASIC Cancer Support, she finished her final round of chemo in March 2021 and is now doing really well.

The BBC urged people to show support for the participants by standing along the route and cheering them on - and that is exactly what a large number of Abthorpe and other local residents did on the last leg of the route. We were told the Rickshaw would be travelling from Towcester to the Abthorpe crossroads before heading for the finishing point in Silverstone. In the event the dreadful weather delayed their expected arrival time at the crossroads by over an hour and we all got very, very wet but the mood remained upbeat and Tabitha and her companions were given rousing cheers and applause as they rode past.

You can watch how they got on in a special one-off documentary on BBC One on Tuesday 15th November, which will not only share the team's remarkable stories but also celebrate the history of the Rickshaw Challenge, while at the same time raising life-changing money for the charity, as part of its 2022 Appeal.

Fascinating finds in Abthorpe

Jill Tolson

Early in October Roger and I were completing a very pleasant walk heading back towards the village when we encountered about twenty people spread over two fields with metal detectors.

Being curious by nature we diverted to where their headquarters for the day were located. Finds had been laid out on a table so of course we fell into conversation with two or three people gathered round. And what an interesting half hour it turned out to be. Alan Standish and his friends are detectorists who investigate the historical background of the local area around Daventry. Having obtained the landowner's blessing and come to an agreement on the division of any finds, they set about quartering the fields.

That particular day had been fruitful, turning up:

- A bronze zoomorphic Viking mount/buckle, 10th/11th century
- Roman silver coin dated between 250 and 300 AD
- Gold posy ring with the inscription 'hearts content cannot repent'
- A Vesica (pointed oval) seal C14th century
- Two pennies from the reign of Edward II or III
- A Charles I rose farthing



L: Viking mount/buckle. R: Two pennies from the reign of Edward II or III and a Charles I rose farthing

Further research would be done back at base to establish more exact dates.

The time frame that their finds covered was intriguing and shows that people across many centuries have lived and worked in and around Abthorpe.



And a prize find: Roman Claudius silver denarius, 41-54 AD

Of course, any number of buttons and other metal items of less significant consequence are turned up, but those of interest are registered with the Portable Antiquities Scheme run by the British Museum (*much more information at finds.org.uk*).

Alan Standish gives talks on what they have found over the years, archaeological and treasure information illustrated by a number of artefacts which he brings. He has been enticed to the Old School on Saturday 18th February next year for what should be a very interesting evening. Look out for more information nearer the time.

Northants Open Studios

During August and September over 160 artists throughout the county welcomed visitors into their studios allowing us to find out the inspiration behind their work. One of these artists was Abthorpe’s very own Paula Le Baigue. Paula held an Open weekend at The Cottage, welcoming visitors to her garden and studio where she had many paintings on display. The weather was dry and sunny and it was a delight to wander around, glass of bubbly in hand, looking at her work and asking her what inspired her. Paula



has been painting more abstract work recently which has developed through her love of experimenting with art materials and translating the outcome into a landscape from her imagination and memories.

Weddings

There have been two more weddings in the village this summer - both Covid-delayed, so long-awaited. The first, in early August, was that of Helena Pope, daughter of long-term Abthorpe



residents, Helen and Tim Pope, who married William (Billy) Aprahamian in St John the Baptist Church followed by a marquee reception.

Then in early September there was another church wedding, this time between Amy Spirito, who used to live in Slapton, and Robert Scott. Another fine tartan on display and another beautiful bride.



New Arrival

On 2nd October Abthorpe's youngest resident made his appearance in the world. Tricia Jones felt the first pangs of labour at 2.00 am, popped into hospital, gave birth to Jay-Jay, was pronounced fit to be discharged and was back home in Abthorpe by breakfast time. Imagine the surprise of Tricia's other children who had no idea that any of this was happening and woke in the morning to find they had a new baby brother!

Congratulations to Tricia and Ash on this latest addition to their family.



From left to right: Sonney (7), Mia (16), Sofia (2), Tia-Maria (8), Leo (5), Jay-Jay (1 month), Jack-Dee (9) and Alfie (4)

Titbits

Crossroads Crash

Unfortunately, there has been another serious collision at the Abthorpe crossroads with a car coming up the hill from the Bradden direction failing to stop at the junction. Luckily neither driver was seriously injured but both cars were a complete write-off. Perhaps better or different signage is needed?



Neighbourhood Policing Team update

An email from PC Mel Carter (sent 11th October)

‘I’m writing to give an update on the neighbourhood police team that covers your village. Sadly, sickness has played a part in our visibility in recent months - PCSO Danni Morgan has been off sick since the start of August and will be working from home for the foreseeable future. I was off work for nine weeks with a broken ankle, physically returning to work today which left only PC Mark Mitchell covering the 43 villages across our beat.

Needless to say, you won't have seen us out and about as much as any of us would have liked. If there are any issues which have come to the fore in that time, and which you feel need us to look into, please email the team at NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@northants.police.uk. This email address should not be used to report crimes, they all need to be reported via either 999 (emergency call for crime in progress) or 101 initially, or via the online reporting form which can be quicker'.

Mel added: 'The darker evenings, in addition to the approach of Christmas, provide an opportunity for burglars so please spread the word amongst your communities to remain vigilant and to report anything by ringing either 999 if it's a crime in progress, or 101 to ask for an officer to attend.' She also recommended reading about Home Security which can be viewed at <https://www.northants.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention>.

Repair Cafe – 169 Watling Street, Towcester - Renew169

A Repair Café will be open at the above address on 10th, 11th and 12th November. Bring your items along on one of these dates. For more info, email: trustee@renew169.org.uk.

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Diary: November 2022 – February 2023

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| Nov | Sunday 13 th | Remembrance Ceremony 10.50 am - The Green Open Mic 4.00 pm - New Inn |
| | Sunday 20 th | Holy Eucharist 10.00 am - Church |
| | Thursday 24 th | Fish Night 7.00 pm - New Inn |
| | Sunday 27 th | Quiz Night 7.30 pm - New Inn |
| | Monday 28 th | Parish Council meeting 7.00 pm - Old School |
| Dec | Saturday 3 rd | Christmas Coffee Morning 10.00 am-12 noon - Old School |
| | Monday 5 th | Chef's Table 7.00 pm - New Inn |
| | Saturday 10 th | Craft & Produce Sale for Ukrainians 2.00–5.00 pm - Silverstone Methodist Church |
| | Sunday 11 th | Christmas Tree Lighting 4.30pm - The Green Open Mic 4.00 pm - New Inn |
| | Sunday 18 th | Holy Eucharist 10.00 am - Church |
| | Wednesday 21 st | Beer and Carols 7.00 pm - New Inn |
| | Saturday 24 th | Christingle & Carol Service 4.00 pm - Church |
| | Sunday 25 th | Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 9.15 am - Church |
| | Saturday 31 st | Pig Roast evening - New Inn |
| Jan | Sunday 1 st | New Year Benefice Service 10.00 am starting at Silverstone Methodist Church |
| | Sunday 8 th | Open Mic 4.00pm - New Inn TBC |
| | Monday 9 th | Chef's Table 7.00pm - New Inn TBC |
| | Sunday 15 th | Holy Eucharist 10.00 am - Church |
| | Thursday 19 th | Fish Night 7.00pm - New Inn TBC |
| | Saturday 21 st | Truckers Breakfast @ time TBC - Old School |
| | Monday 23 rd | Parish Council Meeting 7.00 pm - Old School |
| | Sunday 29 th | Quiz Night 7.30 pm - New Inn |
| Feb | Monday 6 th | Chef's Table 7.00pm TBC – New Inn |
| | Sunday 12 th | Open Mic 4 pm - New Inn TBC |
| | Thursday 16 th | Fish Night 7.00pm - New Inn TBC |
| | Saturday 18 th | Detectorist's Talk eve (time tbc) - Old School |
| | Sunday 19 th | Holy Eucharist 10.00 am - Church |