



# ABTALK

News from Abthorpe

January 2005

Welcome to **Abtalk**. For the last few years the Parish Council has published an annual newsletter, but we thought that a more frequent circulation would be appreciated. So, with your help, we plan to distribute **Abtalk** approximately every two months.

Although we are a small community, we are aware that there is more going on in Abthorpe than probably any of us individually knows. We would like **Abtalk** to be a way of communicating news and information between all residents.

We will include anything interesting of which the Parish Council is aware. Other local organisations and individuals are welcome to publicise their activities and circulate their news. 'Comings and Goings' will be a regular feature, welcoming new people to the village and saying farewell to others.

**Abtalk** is distributed free to every house in the parish, funded (very modestly) by the Parish Council. We aspire to make **Abtalk** a newsletter which everyone enjoys reading and gets a benefit from; therefore the more contributions and comments we receive, the more truly it will reflect our village. There is no set format, except for the size, so all suggestions are welcome. Please do contribute or comment.

*With thanks to  
Michael Walsh  
of Duck Creations  
for the cover design  
[www.duckcreations.co.uk](http://www.duckcreations.co.uk)*

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### **NEW BURGLARY HELPLINE**

Northamptonshire Police have produced a pack giving advice on measures that can be taken to protect against burglary. Leaflets show how you can make your home more secure, deal with distraction burglars, mark property and choose a burglar alarm. The pack is free and can be obtained by calling 01327 303189. You will hear a recorded message and then have to leave your name, address (including postcode) and 'phone number. Or send an email with the same details to [crimereduction-western@northants.police.uk](mailto:crimereduction-western@northants.police.uk).

### **HELICOPTER LANDINGS AT SLAPTON**

At a recent Parish Council meeting we received a request from Andrew Young, chairman of Slapton Parish Meeting, to support Slapton residents who have objected to the frequent helicopter landings there. The first step is to persuade the District Council, who are responsible for planning matters, that the use of the helicopter requires planning permission. The law is not clear on this point, but the District Council is more likely to take action if there is strong local feeling. Many Slapton residents have signed a petition to the District Council and our support has been requested. It is difficult to personally visit everyone in the village, but if you want to sign the petition, contact Keith Fenwick.

### **WAR MEMORIAL**

Refurbishment of the War Memorial has now been carried out with the remaining funds from the Millennium appeal. The stonework has been cleaned, moss removed and all the loose pointing replaced. On the stonemason's advice, no attempt has been made to repair the raised lettering which has weathered badly. Instead, a brass plaque and will be added to record the names for posterity.

### **ROADWORKS**

We were all inconvenienced by the closure of the road to Towcester last autumn. Subsequently many people have commented on the uneven quality of the new surface and the poor drainage. This has been taken up with Atkins, who manage road maintenance on behalf of the County Council. The good news is that remedial work will be undertaken, but the road will again have to be closed.

### **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, ABTHORPE**

The village church is part of the Whittlewood Parishes, consisting of Silverstone, Abthorpe, Slapton, Whittlebury and Paulerspury. Services are held in Abthorpe church every week: Morning Prayer on the first and third Sundays of each month at 9.15am, and Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays at 11.00am. All are most welcome. Please check on the village notice board or in the church

porch for details. The church is usually open every day during daylight hours. If locked, the key can be obtained from David Hughes, The Cottage, Church Lane.

Collections at all services during January are being donated to the Tsunami Appeal and anyone can leave a donation in the offertory box in church.

### EVENTS

#### *Monday evenings*

New Inn Darts Team - alternate Mondays at home

#### *Tuesday and Thursday evenings*

Towcester Youth Coffee House (The Coffee Shop) for 10-18 year olds, 7.00-10.00 (Dave: 07973 398847)

#### *Wednesday evenings*

Tove Quilters, 9 Meadow Court, Towcester, 7.30-9.30 (Joyce Riches: 857703)

#### *Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January*

Boot Sale at the New Inn: 50% of proceeds to Tsunami Appeal

#### *Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February*

Mums and Tots: 10.00-12.00 at 50 Wappenham Road (Louise Gough: 858850)

#### *Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February*

Blues Night with 'The Bluehounds' in aid of the Church Fabric Appeal - dance the night away. Tickets available soon.

#### *Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March*

Mums and Tots: 1.30-3.00 at Thorpe End, School Lane (Liz Capurro: 850535)

#### *Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April*

Mums and Tots: 1.30-3.00 at The Old Bakehouse, The Green (Julie Dyckhoff: 858600)

*Summer Fete:* June 25<sup>th</sup> on the village green

### NEWS FROM THE NEW INN

Ken Wingrove has now completed the refurbishment, and the Restaurant has re-opened for lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings. There are four real ales to choose from.

Players and supporters are always welcome for the Darts Team, who play each Monday evening, alternately at home. There's live music on some Saturday evenings, and in the planning stages are an Aunt Sally team, afternoon bingo and quiz evenings, perhaps re-establishing the quiz team. Let Ken know if you would be interested in getting involved in any of these - tel: 857306.

More news next time.....

**LADIES WHO SEW**

Tove Quilters meet at 9. Meadow Court, Towcester each Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:30pm. They are a small group of people who sew - mainly patchwork and quilting. Occasional workshops and demonstrations are included in the programme but it is mostly self-help. They have a yearly challenge; this year they are making a small quilt for the Pro Linus project that helps needy children.

New members welcome. For further information please contact Joyce Riches on 857703.

**MUMS AND TOTS**

This is a friendly and informal group which meets once a month. Mums, Dads or other carers get together whilst their pre-schoolers play. It's a good way for new parents - either to the village or to parenting itself - to meet others with children of a similar age. The 'Tots' range from newborn to 4+, although mums with school age children also come along from time to time to catch up with people they might not see very often now they haven't got children at home in the day. See Forthcoming Events for details of the next three meetings.

**SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE**

There has been concern over many years about the speed of traffic through the village. Recently the Parish Council coordinated volunteers to be trained to take part in Community Speedwatch, a trial scheme using a speed gun to measure vehicle speed during specific one hour sessions over three two-week periods. The impact of the fluorescent jackets was amazing and cars visibly slowed. Despite the Towcester road being closed the volunteers caught between 10% and 20% of the volume of cars per hour, ranging from 5 to 20 cars per session, exceeding the limit. This information was forward to the police to act on. The support of the volunteers who participated in the scheme was much appreciated.

**FIELDFARES RETURN**

Each new year Abthorpe welcomes back regular visitors - the Fieldfares - who fly in from Scandinavia and northern Russia to spend time in our village. They have been spotted feeding on berries and fallen fruit. These members of the thrush family fly to England when temperatures plummet in their summer breeding grounds close to the Arctic and food supplies there become scarce. Watch out for these delightful birds with their mottled breasts, blue-grey head and rump plus chestnut back and wings.

*With thanks to John Riches, who submits a weekly report about matters of interest in Abthorpe to both local newspapers, BBC Radio Northampton and the village web site. Please telephone 'Big' John on 857703 with any items of news.*

**CHRISTMAS - ALREADY?**

June Willsher is painting a unique Abthorpe Christmas card for 2005. More details in the next issue.....