



# ABTHORPE

News from Abthorpe

July 2005

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The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and was attended by a number of parishioners together with County Councillor Ben Smith, District Councillor James Garnett and our local policeman Will Hawes.

Keith Fenwick reported on the past year from the Parish Council's perspective. A mass of paperwork from various bodies now has to be dealt with, including some from the East Midlands Regional Assembly which covers a wide area – as far as Glossop and Scunthorpe. Updates were provided on several matters which had been raised last year. For instance, the noise caused by the helicopter landing at Slapton is now being monitored by the District Council. Several parishioners have helped with the community speedwatch campaign. The problems caused by resurfacing of the road to Towcester were outlined.

Ben Smith gave us a view from the County Council. He is now deputy leader and has the environment portfolio. He is keen to improve the facilities for waste disposal and recycling. The road repair backlog is now believed to amount to £254m so will take many years to overcome. More visible policing is also an aim.

James Garnett commented on the number of performance indicators which have to be provided, some of which are beneficial but others detrimental. He drew our attention to the success of the Sulgrave Village shop and commented on the low increase in the District Council's

*Jill Tolson*  
tel: 857320; [jill.tolson@abthorpe.net](mailto:jill.tolson@abthorpe.net)

*Keith Fenwick*  
tel: 857083; [keith.fenwick@abthorpe.net](mailto:keith.fenwick@abthorpe.net)

## PEOPLE

The sudden death of Steve Holley, a much-respected member of our village, was a shock to all who knew him. Our thoughts are with Dinah, Patrick, Michael, Neville and their families as they come to terms with their loss. Dinah is currently living at Clare House in Silverstone.

Steve had an interesting career in the Colonial Service in North Borneo and later became instrumental in the development of Washington New Town. He published several well-received books, including *Entente Cordiale* which showed his wonderful sense of humour, and a book of poems, *Godverse and Oddverse*.

He will be much missed.

A fuller appreciation by John Riches can be found on the Abthorpe website. The two books mentioned above are available for a small donation to a cancer charity - contact Jill Tolson.

Welcome to Nick and Francesca Wright who have just moved into Brackley Lane with their two daughters, Hannah aged 7 and Ruth aged 5. The family came from Sutton in Surrey and welcome the peace and quiet of the village. The girls are particularly impressed by their long garden and fish pond.

portion of local tax.

Will Hawes is part of the Silverstone beat. He commented that more time is now spent with burglary victims. He noted our concern with dog fouling and stated that on the spot fines can now be imposed.

Reports were received as usual from a variety of local organisations. Speaking for the Old School Committee, Richard Gladdle appealed for volunteers to serve on the committee. The present members came forward several years ago and feel new blood is needed.

The appeal for a new co-ordinator

of Neighbourhood Watch was answered by Liz Capurro, who will contact local representatives shortly.

There was some discussion on the question of how much, if any, additional house building should take place in the village. The consensus favoured small scale development at most.

## VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The examiners visited Abthorpe on 25th May and after touring the village discussed the entry forms with Keith Fenwick and John Riches. The outcome will be revealed during the

presentation evening on Wednesday 27 July.

### **SPEEDWATCH**

Drivers in the village may have been aware that volunteers were out over three separate weeks recently, including the run-up to the Grand Prix. As previously, useful data was collected.

Jo Sharp achieved fame in an article in the *Sunday Times* on 3 July about this national scheme. Copies are around; call 857320 if you would like to read more about it.

Thanks are due to all the volunteers. There was a certain schadenfreude in catching a police vehicle exceeding the speed limit but

not on an emergency call.

### **VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARDS**

The closing date for orders is 31 August. Call June Willsher: 850575.

### **THE ROAD**

As you will all know, the repairs have been carried out, more or less successfully and at least to schedule at this attempt.

However, the saga of The Road continues. The Wappenham to Weedon Lois road is also in need of repairs from just outside Wappenham over the disused railway bridge. This section will be closed for two weeks "in July", but as yet we can't find out which two weeks.

## **THE ABTHORPE DIRECTORY**

*Started by an anonymous contributor; you'll soon understand why s/he didn't want to be identified*

The triumphal launch of AbTalk and the runaway success of the broadband associaton, ABbA, has prompted a wave of re-branding amongst a number of village-based businesses, organisations and societies. We hope to limit any confusion caused by listing all changes here, and in future editions:

The village bakery is now operating under the name of Abdomen

The local supplier of saunas, jacuzzis and hot tubs is Abstemiuous

For solutions to computer problems, visit the website of Ability

The next meeting of Abate, an exclusive club for Abthorpe's richest inhabitants, will take place on the first Monday of September, venue to be announced

Holding a garden party? What better than music from the Abthorpe Medieval Chamber Music Quartet, Absolute - currently looking for a new 'cellist.

Need a special partner for that all-important business dinner? Abhorrent, Abthorpe's very own escort agency, may have the answer.

## VILLAGE SUMMER FETE

The Fete Committee would like to thank everyone for their support on 25 June. There was a buzz about the village that Saturday and from comments received a lot of people had a lot of fun and a true community spirit pervaded the afternoon

In the process, a magnificent £1,377.60 was raised for the Abthorpe Village Fund. The pig roast in the evening was a similar social and financial success.

The first benefit from the Fund will be a free 'village Christmas event', continuing in the same inclusive theme of organising something for everyone to enjoy from the oldest to the youngest Abthorpians.

With this in mind, who can be persuaded to be Father Christmas?

Please do put yourself forward - beard will be provided

The Committee would also be receptive to any suggestions from you of 'things' for the village or events which would please the majority. Do let me have your thoughts which I will pass on: [jill.tolson@abthorpe.net](mailto:jill.tolson@abthorpe.net); 857320.



*Mark Lawson opening the fete*

### EVENTS

#### *Thursday 4 August*

Art Zone Party at Greens Norton village hall - holiday fun for 5 to 12 year olds  
contact Sally Frayne for more information: 07761 728687

*Saturday/Sunday 3-4 September: 11.00 - 5.00*

*Monday-Friday 5-10 September: 2.00 - 8.00*

Northamptonshire Open Studios at The Stone Barn, School Lane - on view:  
cockerels, ducks, horses' heads, puffins, carrier bags, cards, etc

#### *Sunday 11 September*

Summer BBQ in aid of the Church Fabric Appeal