



ABTHORPE

News from Abthorpe

December 2005

CHRISTMAS IN ABTHORPE

Plans are now complete for the Christmas celebrations organised by the Village Fund group. During the weekend of 10/11 December, Bunny will do what only Bunny can do, and decorate one of the fir trees in the churchyard with lights, which will shine on throughout the festive season. On Thursday 15 December the older residents of Abthorpe have been invited to a special lunch, prepared by Jan Miles and June Willsher at the New Inn. Saturday 17th sees the main events, with a children's party in the Old School from 3.00 to 4.30pm; Julie Dyckhoff and Lynn Neasham are doing sterling work preparing for this. Then fingers' crossed for good weather as we all gather on the green at 5.00pm (not 5.30) for a celebration of Christmas for all (if the weather is bad, it will take place in the church). This is an all-embracing event, with children's songs, carols and secular songs, and a short remembrance of the religious meaning of Christmas. Do come along - with a torch - for a good sing, meet your friends and neighbours and have a natter in the church afterwards over wine, tea, coffee and mince pies.

Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire in the last issue and contributed their thoughts on the uses to which money raised should be put. The two most popular suggestions were tidying up the churchyard extension and measures to reduce speeding through the village. The Village Fund Group will be looking into these after Christmas, but getting together a working party to initially clear the

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PEOPLE

Kaye and Brian at 2 The Green have been in the village since the beginning of August, so you may well already have met them at various events. As they both work in Milton Keynes and spend much of their free time travelling - either to exotic warm places or catching up with friends at the weekends - their time in the village is limited, but they do enjoy living here and coming to as many village events as possible.

Our very best wishes go to Melanina for her forthcoming operation. She will miss the lunch on the 15th, but hopefully repairs to her knee will mean she can get about more easily.

And welcome to Joshua David, our newest, youngest resident, born to Sue and Steve of Brick Cottage on 23 October. No lightweight, he arrived weighing 8lbs 3oz, and is on course to be a handy member of the local rugby team.

We'd like to say a fond farewell to Ken at the pub, and welcome Jane, Robbie and sons Michael and Matthew who took over The New Inn on 5 December. They have great plans - more in the next issue.

Also welcome to Annabel and Ed Speir who are renting Yew Tree Cottage.

churchyard seems to be the practical way forward, although it is only worth doing if the right long-term solution can then be put in place. The perennial speeding problem may be a harder nut to crack.

Continuing a few village social events was also popular, so - new year, more planning - seems the order of the day.

JASON BOOKINGS

Most of you will know that the two fully accessible JASON buses can be booked for travel between any addresses in the district. They now have a new booking and enquiry line

which is open from 8.00am to 4.00pm: 0800 032 3208. JASON can be used for journeys to work and shopping; for visiting friends and relatives; social and leisure trips. There is a small membership fee and mileage charge.

FURNITURE RECYCLING PROJECTS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Getting rid of unwanted furniture can often be a problem, so why not think of ways in which it could help others and the environment? There are several recycling projects which would welcome offers of your cast-offs:

- s Spencer Contact (which also welcomes household equipment and furnishings): 01604 791177; mail@spencercontact.com; www.spencercontact.com
- s Daventry contact: 01327 310711
- s Sofa-wise: 01933 270623
- s New Initiatives: 01536 402181
- s Phoenix Furniture Project: 01536 310477

FOOTPATH BEYOND BRACKLEY LANE

The Country Council have repaired the footpath which runs alongside Bucknell Wood. Even in Wellington boots this stretch used to be difficult to navigate. New gates have been provided to prevent off-road vehicles using it but horses and walkers have easy access.

VICTIM SUPPORT

Although Victim Support is a national charity helping people affected by crime, its local branch is actively helped by the Parish Council who gives an annual donation of £50 on behalf of the village. The organisation provides confidential, free support to victims of crime, their friends and families, both practically and emotionally, whether or not the crime has been reported. There is also a witness service for anyone going to court.

Victim Support is looking for volunteers to help with their work. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in finding out more about, have a look at their website: www.vsnorthants.co.uk or call 01604 603477 (which is also the number if you'd like their support). The next training course for new volunteers is in the new year.

..... And at this time of giving, don't forget the the Volunteer Bureau is always looking for people to help make our area a better place to live. No matter how much or little time you have, everyone has something to offer: 358264.

WINTER WEATHER AND THE ROADS

The recent bad weather, probably not the last we'll see this winter, brought to mind some interesting facts and figures on the salting of the roads. Approximately 1,800 km of roads (just under half in the county) receive precautionary salting when surface temperatures are 1°C or below. Our road falls into this category. The average cost of one salting is £20,000. Priority is given to roads with the highest volumes of traffic and risk of accident; another 900 km are salted in prolonged adverse condition.

Now there are some facts to dine out on! If this isn't enough and you're

desperately keen to know more, a full information leaflet is available on 0845 601 1113.

COOKIES FOR A CURE

LEPRA, the British Leprosy Relief Association, is asking us to hold a Cookies for a Cure Party during World Leprosy Week: 22-29 January 2006. Just £21 is all it takes to help cure one person of leprosy. I prefer Cakes for a Cure, but the idea is excellent and I'd be happy to host an evening session on Wednesday 25 January if everyone would help by inviting as

many friends and colleagues as possible. If anyone would like to do something in the morning or afternoon as well, please let me know on 857320. There is a pack containing a poster, balloons, invitations, special cookie recipe and a collecting box, which I shall send for anyway.

Jill Tolson

AND FINALLY ...

Just to reiterate Richard Tomalin's email advice from Neighbourhood Watch, do take particular care during this period when a number of burglaries have taken place locally.

EVENTS

Wednesday 7 December

Abthorpe Nursery School Nativity Play in church, 12noon. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 8 December

Discounted pet micro-chipping evening, Towcester Town Hall. Appointment: 322295
A Thin Thread: Arts workshop at Towcester Library at 7.30pm. 350794

Monday & Tuesday, 12 & 13 December

Towcester Choral Society Christmas Concert, Towcester Town Hall, 7.30pm. 359276

Thursday 15 December

Lunch for our older residents in The New Inn, 12.30pm

Saturday 17 December

Village Christmas parties, carols and songs

Sunday 18 December

Morning prayer with carols at St John the Baptist, 9.15am

Friday 23 December

Carol singing round the village, final event for the Church Fabric Appeal. 6.00 at the Old School finishing in the pub (all welcome).

Saturday 24 December

Midnight holy communion at St John the Baptist, 11.30pm

Wednesday 25 January

LEPRA Cakes for a Cure party, 7.00pm, Shunpikers, Church Lane: 857320