

# ABTALK



*News from Abthorpe*

*December 2014*

The Parish Council continues to nibble away at long standing minor problems. One recent success is that the hedge on the north side of the road approaching the village from Wappenham has been cut back to improve visibility. No such luck with getting Brackley Lane repaired; a few holes were filled in but the surface continues to disintegrate.

We all know that there is a general election next May. The Parish Council elections take place at the same time. In the past it has often been difficult

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to fill all 7 seats on the Council; in any case it would be good to have some new blood on it. So if you think you could contribute to running the village, find out a bit more by coming along to our next meeting.

### **MILLENNIUM SIGN**

You may have noticed that this prominent feature on the village green has disappeared. It was showing its age and is being renovated by Guy Beresford-Linnell, the local artist who designed the sign.

The double-sided sign has a depiction of the spire of the church and emblems representing shoe and lace making, trades for which the village was famous in the eighteenth century. It was cast in early 2001 but was not erected until June that year to avoid the problems encountered by Greens Norton who had to

take theirs down to await planning permission.

The official unveiling of the sign took place at on Saturday 23rd June 2001 as part of an Abthorpe Festival weekend. The oldest resident, Mrs Caroline Hewitt aged 100, and very young Hugh Dyckhoff who was born just in time for the ceremony, contrived between them with a little help from our then Parish Priest Canon Bridget Smith and master of ceremonies Dr Mike Greenhalgh, to slide away the St George's flag that covered the sign.

Perhaps we should have another party to celebrate the sign's refurbishment?

*Guy Beresford-Linnell hard at work.*



**NEWS FROM THE NEW INN**

The New Inn is gearing up for Christmas with its seasonal menu being served until 20th December. The six courses on offer for £25 seems very good value for a celebration. The Winter Warmer menu has particular deals on 2 and 3 courses. Additionally there are always five or six specials on the board each day with fish direct from Billingsgate Market being a highlight. Check out all the restaurant offerings at [www.newinnabthorpe.co.uk](http://www.newinnabthorpe.co.uk).

The bar will be open from 12.00 to 2.00 on Christmas Day. On Boxing Day light lunches will be available, with the pub open all day. New Year's Eve is always a celebration and on New Year's Day there may well be a handful of old cars to wander round.

5-Again were the victors at the charity quiz on 26th September when they were up against a packed house. £120 was raised on the evening and the team chose to donate it to Northampton General Hospital Charitable Fund. The next quiz, on 28th October, saw Not ABBA squeak home by one point, with the fight against Ebola being the charity to receive £140 from the night. The Barflies won in November and £50 goes to Willen Hospice. The Christmas special, always a good evening, is on 21st December.

Life doesn't stop at Christmas. On Sunday 25th January Rob has arranged another music session from 3.00 to 6.00, a tradition he hopes to continue on the last Sunday of every month.

The summer skittles team were runners-up in the Daventry District League - congratulations to them. The darts team may not be so successful at the silverware but are going strong with a keen bunch of throwers. There is even a condition called 'dart-throwers' elbow', probably more associated with the lubricating beer....

**SILVERSTONE SCHOOLS**

A planning application has been submitted for the new primary school featured in our last issue. It's on arable land on the north side of the road to Towcester on the edge of the village. You can see details at [northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications](http://northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications); select Current Planning Applications under South Northants. There are about 14 classrooms plus all the other facilities needed. It will have two forms in each year; the single form capacity of the present schools is not sufficient for current needs so as well as meeting that, the new school will be able to cope with the planned expansion of Silverstone village.

## THE OLD SCHOOL

The fundraising events put on by the Old School Committee form an important part of the social life of the village.

90 servings of fish and chips contributed to the success of the bingo and fish & chip night on 8th November which contributed £467.97 to the coffers. Everybody from the very young seemed to be having a lovely time.

The Women's Food and Farming Union ladies had a very successful cheese fest, where the audience discovered some interesting facts about dairy farming and cheese. The raffle proceeds of £55.00 were donated to the Old School.

The huge whisky jar which has stood on the bar at The New Inn has been emptied and everyone's loose change added up to an astonishing £138.54.

Coming up there will be a Christmas coffee morning at 35 Wappenham Road from 10.00 to 2.00 on Thursday 4th December. These are pleasant social events with an opportunity to chat with neighbours in the village. If anyone would like to host one of these mornings (which are normally only 2 hours) please get in touch with Jan Miles: [jan.miles@abthorpe.net](mailto:jan.miles@abthorpe.net); 857427.

The very popular Truckers

Breakfast will be back in January before the Old School closes for four weeks for the building work to be done - see more below. And a future date for your diary: the summer fish and chip supper on the green will be on the 20th June, so keep the date free and let's hope the sun will shine

As you will probably be aware, the Management Committee has been working through a programme of renovation of the building and has now come to the next substantial project which is to provide a disabled toilet and update the whole cloakroom area.

The exciting news is that, after agreeing architect's drawings, satisfying the Listed Building Officer, and putting together a funding package, all the pieces are in place and builders have been appointed to start the work in February. South Northants Council has offered £8,500, the Big Lottery £7,619, the Constance Travis Charitable Trust £2,000 and Abthorpe Parish Council £1,000. A substantial amount of fundraising, around £5,000, has contributed to the final budget.

Once the project is completed the Old School will be accessible to all members of the community, and welcoming to even more activities and events. See [www.abthorpe.net/the\\_old\\_school.htm](http://www.abthorpe.net/the_old_school.htm) for details

of how to hire the hall (which includes free WiFi) and for a list of forthcoming events.

### **HORSE TACK**

Apparently, of all the rural crimes, the theft of horse tack has shown a significant increase. For information on tack marking see [www.ukhorsewatch.org.uk/index.html](http://www.ukhorsewatch.org.uk/index.html)

### **STORIES FOR CHILDREN**

Towcester Library runs a series of storytime sessions for 3-8 year olds accompanied by an adult. There is a special one on Saturday 6th December from 10.00 for half an hour. It's free; no need to book, just turn up. All the events at the library are on their online calendar.

### **CHURCH NEWS**

*Barbara Malcomson, 857066,  
malcomson@abthorpe.net*

#### *Remembrance Sunday*

John Riches took the Remembrance service in this significant year and focussed on local people, for which he had done considerable research. There was a good congregation and listening to these local stories brought Remembrance Sunday very much into our community.

Claire West spoke about her relative, Sergeant Andrew Malsbury of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps,

who died on 3rd March 1919 almost four months after the end of the First World War, it was assumed of his wounds. His name is on the war memorial as well as on a Commonwealth War gravestone in the graveyard extension, but there is no record of his burial in Abthorpe. Claire's further researches since the service have clarified the mystery.

Andrew Malsbury was born on 2nd June 1882 and was baptised in our church the following November. He was the second child of Elijah and Ellen Malsbury who were born, baptised and married in Abthorpe. Elijah was a shepherd and Ellen a lace maker and for a while they lived in Great Billing. After a move back to Abthorpe where four more of Andrew's siblings were born, they went on to Sywell where three more children were added to their tally - nine in total.

Andrew became a groom and married Ellen Eva Rose in the Hardingstone District. No doubt helped by his expertise with horses he joined the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and rose to the rank of sergeant. Claire admitted that his whereabouts during the war is a mystery but he survived and was posted to Ireland during their War of Independence. The family story is that Andrew died in action near the River Liffey in Dublin. His death was

registered in Dundalk on 3rd March 1919. When his parents received the news of his death they were living in Cadogan Place in Abthorpe just along Silver Street.

Apparently his body may never have been brought back from Ireland despite the fact that an official memorial stone has been erected in the churchyard extension in his honour. Claire's research continues.

Frank Osbourne recounted the story of the collision of three American Bombers in 1944 in South Northamptonshire, killing 11 servicemen. There is a memorial at Woodend and Frank told us of finding parts from the planes in the fields his family farmed around there. (See *Abtalk* February 2012, p.14, [www.abthorpe.net/Documents/Abtalk%201202.pdf](http://www.abthorpe.net/Documents/Abtalk%201202.pdf) for more details of this sad event.)

### *Harvest*

The Harvest Service on 12th October was a Eucharist Service this year. As in past years the produce donated was taken to the Hope Centre in Northampton. Thank you also to everyone who made 'cobbler' or 'tart' dishes. All were delicious and we raised £515 for the church.

### *Tote*

In September Sue and Ian Atkins from Wappenham won £230 and in

October Phil and Marie Pratt were the winners of £232.50. Congratulations to both and a big thank you to everyone who supports the tote.

### *Winter Clean*

We are having a winter clean in preparation for Christmas on Saturday 6th December at 10am. Come and enjoy a bit of exercise, a lot of chat and some mince pies. All welcome.

The church decorating for Christmas will take place after the service on Sunday 21st December at about 10.30am.

### *Messy Church*

Families with children aged about 3 to 12 are invited to a special Messy Christingle on Saturday 20th December at Whittlebury Reading Room. Starting at 10.00, the next hour and a half will be taken up with crafts and making Christingles, with refreshments and a Christingle service. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Further information: Rev Graham Buckle, 831002, [dovecote10@btinternet.com](mailto:dovecote10@btinternet.com).

### *Church Path*

If you have been past the north side of the church recently you will have noticed the smart new path laid by Raybell & Sons of Northampton. The tarmac on the previous one,



last renewed in 1947, had worn away leaving a very muddy walk up to the church door. An electricity cable has been laid at the same time and the plan is to have a new lantern made which fits into the square slot above the north gate. The lighting should then be much better when leaving church after dusk.

After spending so much money on the upkeep of the church in recent years, including £10,000 on the tower, the Parochial Church Council was unable to afford this much-needed refurbishment. Richard Tomalin has worked hard in applying for grants and the following were received: £1,000 from the Constance Travis Trust; £750 from the Historic Churches Trust; £500 from the Allchurches Trust and £500 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. We have also received £1,000 in donations from people in the village. Thank you for these donations and also to Richard.

### *Christmas Services*

Sunday 21st December: 9.15am Holy Eucharist

Carol Service: 4pm on Christmas Eve

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist: 9.15am

Again, everyone is welcome to all of these services.

### *Whittlewood Benefice Vision Day*

I am sure everyone is aware that there is a general decline in church-going today and in order to try to address this locally we held a Vision Day in the benefice recently.

As well as Abthorpe, our benefice also consists of churches in the villages of Slapton, Silverstone, Whittlebury and Paulerspury. There was a good attendance including five from Abthorpe. From all the feedback on the exercises we did we will form a Growth Action Plan. This could be exciting times! We really appreciate all the support we do get from the village but we are such a small PCC and we need to ensure that the church will survive into the future.

Thank you to everyone who supports the church in any way. The PCC wishes you all a lovely Christmas and very happy 2015.

### **SNVB ON THE MOVE**

As part of the Moat Lane redevelopment on 19th November snvb moved their office just round the corner into Whittons Lane.

The telephone numbers and email addresses remain the same. The new office will have all the same facilities as previously, including a meeting room for groups to use.

### **TOWCESTER FOOD BANK**

Mary Taylor, representing Towcester Food Bank, has thanked the people of Abthorpe for their generous contributions that help to support local people who face short term hunger, usually as a result of a sudden crisis.

Mary explained that in September the Towcester Food Bank fed 165 people - just over double the normal amount. Since the food bank commenced operations in 2010 the total donated from Abthorpe is 347.7kg. Mary describes this as an excellent figure for a village the size of Abthorpe and thanks everyone for their efforts

It's amazing how quickly the boxes at the back of the church seem to fill up with gifts of foodstuffs such as tins of fruit and vegetables, pasta and even the occasional box of chocolates. With Christmas approaching it is hoped that gifts of food will continue to flow in to help local people facing tough times. Suggestions for the Christmas period include: mince pies (only a few), tinned ham, Christmas pudding, Christmas cake, box of biscuits, children's selection box, box of chocolates, large bar of chocolate (150/200g), snacks and nibbles, UHT milk, long life fruit juice, cordial/squash.

## PEOPLE

John Henry Foster, one of the village's colourful and seemingly ever-cheerful characters, died recently. At his memorable funeral service in Abthorpe led by Peter Byng he was given a wonderful send-off by family and friends. The service sheet, complete with pictures of his life here in the village and the military, as well as Spitfires flying above the clouds, reflected his love of his family and all things aeronautical.

John's family issued the following statement:

"John was born in Abthorpe to Maud and Arthur Foster on 4th December 1926. He attended both Abthorpe and Silverstone Schools. He spent a wonderful childhood in



the village and joined the Royal Air Force Cadets. He trained as an electrician when he left school. He was called-up into the Army where he served with the Royal Engineers. After some time in England he was drafted to Egypt where he spent two years near Ismalia and El-Ballah working in a power station overseeing Italian prisoners of war.

"After returning to England and being demobbed he worked for the local Electricity Board and Griffin's in Towcester. Later he joined Plessey at Caswell where he worked until he retired.

"He was married for nearly 40 years to Joy until she passed away in July 1991. He was always proud of his garden and vegetables, and spent many happy hours attending air shows around the country. He was a life-long Cobblers supporter and an avid footballer in his youth. He was never one to miss a laugh or a joke. He died in his sleep at Duncote Hall on 24th October 2014."

John and Joy were married in 1951 and lived in Abthorpe all their married lives raising two children. Joy passed away in July 1991 and his wish has now been granted that they are reunited.

### PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

In our last issue we welcomed Tina and Steve Clews to the village and mentioned that they were about to be married. The wedding took place in September, as illustrated by the lovely photograph. Congratulations and best wishes to them both.

A warm welcome to more neighbours who have chosen to live in Abthorpe. We hope they will enjoy their time here:

Marion and Jim Hyde have been released from the Workhouse in Towcester to settle at Yew Tree Cottage in Main Street. Although both of Lancastrian background, they have spent many years living in Africa and the Far East, moving around the world with their three children following Jim's work as a civil engineer.



Marion is looking forward to putting her mark on the garden, one of her pleasures along with cooking. Jim is a churchwarden at St Lawrence Church, Towcester. They would like to become involved in village life; the mowing rota has already been mentioned!

Tony and Peta Travis moved into Leeson House in October. Tony was born and grew up in Northamptonshire and is thrilled to be returning to the county now that he and Peta gradually become less involved with their work in London.

## FILM ABTHORPE

Recent screenings at the Old School have been *Sylvia*, about the life of Sylvia Plath, and *Time That Remains*, directed by an Israeli Arab called Elia Sulleman who was born in Nazareth. This editor takes full responsibility for recommending a film that we could all have lived without seeing!

The proposed date in December is getting a little too close to Christmas, so showings will start again on 15th January.

If anyone would like to be included on the list for being alerted to the next film evening, please drop an email to Pam Watkins, pam.watkins@abthorpe.net. The events are free with a few nibbles provided to go with whatever liquid refreshment you choose to take along.

## MARIE CURIE DAY

When Abthorpe farmers Elizabeth and Barry Haycock have brought in the harvest and life is less frenetic they concentrate their efforts on raising money for Marie Curie Cancer care. Elizabeth has served as a Marie Curie Nurse and following referrals by local District Nurses and doctors she helped families to look after terminally ill loved ones in their own homes.

Back in 1983 Elizabeth and Barry decided to have a coffee morning on

the last Thursday in October in aid of the charity. They raised £110. Gradually over the years the coffee morning has grown into a 'Coffee Event' that lasts all day. This year they raised an amazing £6,506; this makes the total since 1983 a magnificent £96,300. What a wonderful achievement. Surely next year they'll reach the £100k mark?

Elizabeth and Barry would like to thank all those who helped to make this year's event such a success.

## FLOODS IN ABTHORPE

Residents of School Lane and the eastern end of Wappenham Road were spotted building arks back September in which to survive their own private flood. Happily the leaking water main was soon located by Anglian Water. But the flooding outside the Old School and the torrent of water rushing down School Lane was not easily subdued and the water had to be turned off before repairs were eventually successful.

Then another breakout occurred in late November in Wappenham Road at the exit to the village leaving a number of houses without water.

Happily our local floods proved shortlived and hopefully we'll avoid those of the natural variety this winter.

**TOVE VALLEY BROADBAND***Keith Fenwick*

It has been a very busy time over the last three months as we implement our expansion plan. The first part, where we lay pipes across the fields between each of the villages, is complete. This involved use of a large trenching machine shown on the next page. On open fields this was able to romp along and lay the pipe quickly. However, field boundaries, hedges and ditches have to be done manually so these slowed down the process. We also have to dig manholes at intervals.

At Wappenham, we had to get under the main road and up the church path and this was done by a drilling machine which looked a bit like an oil rig working parallel with the surface of the ground rather than digging straight down.

The next stage is to blow fibres through these pipes. We had hoped that this would have been done by now. The necessary kit is now on site but needs one small part to begin work. Once the fibres are blown, we will get on with instal the electronics at each end and bringing them into use.

Finally we need the upgraded



*Laying the cable across Philip Berry's field towards Slapton.*

link from the Internet. The fibre is complete from Wappenham church to Banbury but we still don't know when the connection from there to London will be available for use. This is very frustrating as currently our Internet link is working at full capacity every evening and often all day during weekends. It was noticeable how much demand there was during the school holiday week. We still hope we can sort this out during December.

We continue to attract new members and currently have 357 properties connected. Not bad for 18 months' work.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd January at 7.30pm in Lois Weedon Village Hall. The AGM is conducted as an open meeting which anyone with interests in the Association can attend, including Members' families and friends, all of whom can participate in discussions. Previous AGMs have

been well attended, demonstrating the support the Association has from the communities. So do come to the meeting (the official business is really short!) It's a good opportunity to find out what's going on and to chat with fellow members.

### **LIFE FOR AFRICAN MOTHERS PROJECT**

*Barbara Malcomsom, 857066*

With another of my 'hats' on, I have a little project going with Trefoil Guild (Guiding for adults) in the county. We are collecting baby bundles for the charity 'Life for African Mothers'.

We first heard of 'fish and chip' babies two years ago. The mothers have nothing to clothe the newborn babies in so they are wrapped in newspaper - hence the name. We sent out several boxes of knitted hats and tops to them and as the problem is ongoing, we have picked up our knitting needles again. The charity is also giving out 'baby bundles' to



*Getting ready to blow the first broadband fibre on 1st December.*

the mothers. These consist of babygro, hat, cardigan and blanket. The clothing need not be new, but it should be in good condition. We can just send out what we collect and they will sort out the bundles. A mother will desperately try to get to a clinic to get her 'bundle' and the mothers receive another bundle if they come to a follow up clinic. This makes childbirth so much safer for them.

If anyone has any baby clothes that are not wanted or feels the urge to knit the tabards and hats over the winter months they would be very much appreciated, and I can supply a pattern for the tabards and hats. We have generally tended to knit in bright cheerful colours.

Information on this charity can be found at [www.lifeforafricanmothers.org](http://www.lifeforafricanmothers.org) and if you click on 'getting involved/other ways to help' there is a little bit of information on this project. For a pattern, or any other information, please email me at [malcomson@abthorpe.net](mailto:malcomson@abthorpe.net)

### **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COMMUNITY CONNECT**

Until we have a more local Neighbourhood Watch in place, here's a way of getting information from the police. Community Connect has been set up as a free service for anyone who wants to hear directly from the police about issues and actions taken by officers in their community. As a member you receive weekly summaries, mainly by email, which provide a detailed report of general and local incidents of note and news relevant to where you live and work. You also have the opportunity to share your views on Northamptonshire Police and the services they provide.

The Community Connect system also provides the opportunity to forward information summaries to friends or neighbours via email, Facebook and Twitter. Once you have created an account and set your preference choices you can update your details or unsubscribe at any time. Information: [www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk), click on the 'Local' tab and follow the directions to create your account.

Just as an alert Wappenham has recently suffered a heating oil theft, and also a vehicle theft, so it is always useful to review our own security.

### **POPPY DAY COLLECTION**

Janet Dancer was active as usual in collecting £385 in Abthorpe for the Royal British Legion in this centenary year.

**EVELYN GOSHAWK'S ABTHORPE HISTORY NOTES - PART II**

Evelyn Goshawk was the wife of a retired vicar and when she moved to Abthorpe she continued her long interest in researching the history of the local area in which she lived.

Most village reading rooms were established by 1906. They opened each autumn when the evenings became too dark to work outside. Abthorpe had a large committee of thirteen to run theirs (now part of The Old Reading Room on The Green) trying to make it more interesting and attractive to visit. Villages tried various tactics. Silverstone encouraged billiard contests and in 1907 opened a new building; Blakesley had lantern shows and newspaper sales but by 1907 it was threatened with closure through lack of interest; Bradden struggled to pay the expenses as the attendance was small; Tiffield had games, including bagatelle. It seemed that those committees which regarded their rooms as places of learning and improvement did not do as well as those which used them to actually entertain the young men. There is no mention of girls using them as they worked even in the dark evenings, some continuing lacemaking by candle light.

Evelyn wrote to church officials to obtain copies of items about Abthorpe which otherwise might not have seen the light of day. In 1970 she acquired the 1637 survey and 1552 inventory of goods. As Abthorpe was only a Chapel-at-Ease attached to Towcester until 1737 it was not often listed in church surveys so the 1552 inventory is important as one of the first references to the chapel in church records. In 1552 Edward VI intended to take church plate to be melted down as he needed money. Fortunately that order was reversed by Queen Mary in 1553 and all plate already removed was returned to the churches.

**Inventory of church goods in 1552 Abthroppe Chappell**

*The National Archives E 117/7/2/6*

ii [2] belle and a sancte bell in the steeple  
A chalyce of silver parcell gylte  
One Cope of sylke Vestments of grene sattin  
The linen is little worthe

*signed by  
Robert Kendall church warden*

Most churches were in a poor state so the diocese asked for a report on each one. This is an abstract from Northampton Record Office Church survey book 1637 for Abthorpe:

The leads of the Chancell and the timber are very defective and the main beam in the Chancell rotten

Answer:- the beame mended but not the leads done

The coion table [communion] not cancelled [railed in] but placed at East end of Chancell

The Church and Chancell both are very fowle and want whiteinge and sentences

Answer:- whited but not painted

A doore on the North side of the Chancell stopped up with loose stones.

Answer:- mended

The bible is old and not of the last translation

Answer:- not provided

A hood for the Minister wanting

Answer:- no graduate

A table of degrees of marriages wanting

Answer:- provided

The divers seats in the Church are undecent and want boording in the bottomes

Answer:- mended

The Church and Chancell both want paving in manie places

Answer:- mended

Some breaches in the wall at East end of the Chancell.

Answer:- mended

There was a dispute about the position of communion tables particularly in churches with puritan sympathies. In 1603 Church canons [ecclesiastical laws] stated that it should be placed at the east end of the chancel in a position previously occupied by the altar, except during Communion when it could be in the body of the church which is where Puritans wanted to keep it all the time.

Archbishop Laud, who brought an end to Church reforms which he believed had already gone too far by the early 1630s under Charles I, ruled it should be taken back to the east end and railed in. He was an enemy of nonconformity but paid for it when he was executed in 1645 after it was deemed that his canons attempted to establish divine right of the King above the laws of parliament.

In All Saints Church, Northampton, the table was kept in the body of the church until in 1637 the wardens were threatened with excommunication. Then then rapidly placed it on the east wall, railed it in and moved seating back north by thirteen feet as ordered. The Puritans felt that plague coming to Northampton at the same time was a punishment for railing in the table. The significance of Abthorpe's table not being railed in was that the congregation could have moved it back to the body of the chancel at any time. Northampton and Towcester were seats of Puritanism.

Thomas Shepard was born in Towcester and stayed in Foscoate with his grandparents in 1608 to avoid plague in the town. He became a nonconformist minister after leaving Cambridge University.

After he had been threatened by Archbishop Laud for preaching in London, in 1635 he emigrated to America, following in the footsteps of his nonconformist friends to Hartford, Connecticut. Shepard's writings, some previously printed in England, were revered by early puritans. The diary of his life was later published as *Autobiography of Thomas Shepard* which included his opinion of Abthorpe. It is now available as a free ebook. at <https://archive.org/stream/autobiographyth00adamgoog#page/n24/mode/1up/search/adthrop>.

MEH

*Part I of this article was published in Abtalk, September 2014. You can find a copy at [www.abthorpe.net/Documents/Abtalk%201409.pdf](http://www.abthorpe.net/Documents/Abtalk%201409.pdf).*

**WAPPENHAM WIND TURBINE UPDATE**

On 3rd September a claim was made at the High Court on behalf of the Wappenham Wind Turbine Action Group (WWTAG) seeking an order under Section 288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to quash the decision of the Planning Inspector granting planning permission for the Poplars Farm Wind Turbine. As yet there is no further news on the progress of the claim.

**BOOK GROUPS**

Abthorpe must be a well-read village having not just one book group but two. They each meet monthly and have a slightly different focus, so if you are interested in trying one out please contact Andrea Lambert for PageTurners, and Alison Symmers for ABC (Abthorpe Book Club): [andrea.sherratt@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.sherratt@gmail.com) (it is right, it's Andrea's maiden name), and [asymmers@gmail.com](mailto:asymmers@gmail.com).

**ROAD CLOSURE ALERT**

The road between Abthorpe and Silverstone will be closed from 9th February to 30th March to allow for the replacement of a culvert at the bridge approaching Silverstone.

This will mean planning quite a long detour via Towcester if you regularly use this road. More information: Mark Garnett of MGWSP on 01604 883400.

**CHILDREN IN NEED.....*Looking for applicants for funding***

BBC Children in Need supports over 450 projects across the central region, carrying out a wide range of activities all of which have in common a commitment to making a difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people. They want to support even more organisations to do this.

If you are connected with a voluntary organisation, registered charity or community interest company looking for funding for a project which supports disadvantaged children and young people you could be eligible to apply for a BBC Children in Need grant.

If you would like to apply but want to talk through an application with a member of the team, you can email [Midlands&East2@bbc.co.uk](mailto:Midlands&East2@bbc.co.uk) and one of the regional team will give you a call back. They are always looking for high quality applications for both their main and small grants programmes.

**ABTHORPE VILLAGE HISTORY**

*Richard Tomalin*

Anyone who has lived in Abthorpe for 10 years or more will know of Reg Chapman. He lived in The Old Bakehouse on the Green. In his retirement he wrote a book *The Story of a Northamptonshire Village* detailing the history of Abthorpe. He was very generous in giving copies of his book to people he met and one recipient was David Hughes who passed away earlier this year.

I have now been given this book by David's cousin in order to find it a good home. So the first person to contact me on 858316 or richard.tomalin@abthorpe.net (with maybe a donation for the church?) gets the book.

Be prepared - it's a stiff read!

**SOLAR FARM UPDATE**

In the last issue we described the proposal for a solar array at Handley Park Farm. The entrance was to be at Foscothe within the parish boundary which is why the Parish Council was involved, and submitted an objection. Following South Northants Council's rejection of the planning application a revised application has been lodged which no longer affects Abthorpe parish, although it is understood the revision has also been rejected.

*Don't forget you can read any back issue of Abtalk on the Abthorpe village website: [www.abthorpe.net](http://www.abthorpe.net). Look under News - Newsletters. All the pictures are in glorious colours.*

**A LITTLE LATERAL THINKING**

Here is an example of lateral thinking:

man  
\_\_\_\_\_ = man overboard  
board

Can you now work out what these mean?

(a)                   stand  
                          \_\_\_\_\_  
                          i

(b)                   r  
                          road  
                          a  
                          d

(c)                   ground  
                          \_\_\_\_\_  
                          feet feet feet feet feet feet

(d)                   ecnalg

## DIARY

### *Thursday 4 December*

Christmas coffee morning, 35 Wappenham Road, 10.00 to 2.00

### *Saturday 6 December*

Winter clean, St John the Baptist church, 10.00

### *Monday 8 December*

Parish Council meeting, 7.45 in the Old School

### *Saturday 20 December*

Messy Christingle, Whittlebury Reading Room, 10.00 - 11.30

### *Sunday 21 December*

Holy Eucharist, St John the Baptist, 9.15

Charity quiz at the New Inn, 7.30, £3 including supper

### *Christmas Eve*

Carol Service, St John the Baptist, 4.00

### *Christmas Day*

Holy Eucharist, St John the Baptist, 9.15

### *Thursday 15 January*

Film Abthorpe, Old School, 7.30

### *Monday 19 January*

Parish Council meeting, 7.45 in the Old School

### *Thursday 22 January*

Abthorpe Broadband Association (Tove Valley Broadband) AGM, 7.30,  
Lois Weedon Village Hall

### *Sunday 25 January*

Music session at the New Inn, 3.00 to 6.00

Charity quiz, 7.30, £3 including supper