

Abbotswood Newsletter

Issue
#10



Artist's impression of the new Abbotswood Community Centre

Abbotswood Local Centre - News

The Abbotswood Local Centre, which includes the Community Centre, has now received full planning permission. The Abbotswood Consortium, on behalf of the developers have engaged an architect who has provided detailed specifications for the interior of the centre which are currently being reviewed by TVBC and Abbotswood Community Association. Once finalised, the plans will be put out to tender, a contractor chosen and work should commence on building the Community Centre in Spring 2016.

The drawing above is an artist's

impression to give a sense of the design, scale and layout of your Community Centre.

In addition to the Community Centre, the local centre includes a convenience store, shops, commercial units, a public house, doctors/dentist surgery and a day nursery. These will be provided on a commercial basis and these local centre facilities will be marketed for a full year following completion of the final house on the development so timescales for delivery can not currently be specified. Any enquiries regarding the commercial units should be made to Simon at Neilson Property Consultants by emailing simon@neilsongroup.co.uk

All the documents relating to the Local Centre can be found on the Test Valley Borough Council website under Planning Reference 14/01836/RESS.

Delivery Hours

In November, the Southern Area Planning Committee agreed to a request by Perbury (the developers), to change permitted delivery hours to the commercial units within the Abbotswood Local Centre, subject to certain conditions. You can find details at www.testvalley.gov.uk reference number 08/00475/OUTS.

The new permitted delivery hours:

For the commercial units and residential care home:

Weekdays	0600 to 1800 hrs
Saturdays	0600 to 1300 hrs
Sundays	no deliveries allowed

For the convenience store:

Weekdays and Saturdays (excl. Public Holidays)

0600 to 1900 hrs – Deliveries of newspapers
 0630 to 1900 hrs – Other deliveries
 0800 to 1800 hrs – Waste collections

Sundays and Public Holidays

0600 to 1600 hrs – Deliveries of newspapers
 0830 to 1600 hrs – Other deliveries.
 No waste collections

Abbotswood Community Association news

The Abbotswood Community Association Trustees have been beavering away behind the scenes over the past few months. Members have been successful in securing two small start-up grants to help pay for items such as public liability insurance, some training and a contribution towards events and other items. More recently they have been involved in consultations on the specifications for the anticipated Community Centre.

They welcome a new trustee, Tim Piercy, who has developed the new website for the Association. The website is still a work in progress but can be found at www.abbotswoodromsey.co.uk. We will be adding local information and diary dates in due course and you can contact trustees through a page on the website.

THE BIG Summer BBQ

Following the success of the 2014 Summer BBQ, the Abbotswood Community Association banded together with the 10th Romsey Scout Group to host the event again this year. As the previous two 2015 Picnics in the Park had been rained off, the BBQ planning committee watched the weather with crossed fingers. By Thursday 17 September a bright and sunny weekend was forecast, so posters went up and flyers were distributed; all was set for an enjoyable day.

On the morning of Sunday 20 September, the Scouts set up the BBQ next to the Abbotswood play area and at the other end of the park, a coconut shy and community information tent were erected. By noon the enticing smell of sizzling burgers and sausages was in the air and a queue was forming at the ever popular face painting stand.

Families spread picnic rugs and soon the BBQ was doing a roaring trade with the buckets filling with donations. The sun was out and the park filled with Abbotswood residents, families and friends enjoying the fun and games.

By 3pm the Scouts had managed to serve 200 hotdogs and burgers and it was time to clear up and pack away for another year.

Many thanks to everyone who helped on the day and to all who attended.

Lantern Making Workshop



The Community Association also contributed financially and in person at the recent lantern workshop, held at the Scout Hall. Many residents attended the three hour workshop, with and without children, to make their lanterns for the forthcoming Lantern Parade in Romsey and Abbotswood.

Romsey to Abbotswood art project



You may have encountered the artist Nicola Henshaw, out and about in Romsey, running sessions to gather local memories. This is one of the art projects

funded by the Abbotswood developers (Section 106 contributions) to create art works that connect Abbotswood and the neighbourhoods of Romsey. Nicola will use the memories to create a community poem with the help of poet Cat Randle. A later project will involve art located within Abbotswood itself.

You can read about the project and add your own contributions at the blog: romseytoabbotswood.org

Art sessions were held at King John's House. Participants created block prints inspired by the Sprat and Winkle railway line which ran through Romsey, following the canal route from Redbridge to Andover. The prints will provide inspiration for permanently sited artworks along Romsey's canal between the Plaza and the Abbotswood nature reserve.

Road and bus developments

By the time you read this newsletter, works will be under way to provide a bus-only access in to Abbotswood from Woodley Lane. Bushes and scrub were removed under the supervision of an ecologist, to protect and safely relocate any wildlife. Two toads were found and safely moved to the nearest pond at the Natural Conservation area.

Once the new access is in place, the bus companies will be applying to make changes to their routes so that buses will operate in Abbotswood.

Nature conservation area

The perimeter fencing surrounding the very large pond in the conservation area has been temporarily removed during the final cutting of the meadow grass.

Let us know your views! Abbotswood survey 2015

As a resident, you will have views about the needs of the community. You can help Test Valley Borough Council and other agencies to plan services and help shape the future provision on Abbotswood. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think!

www.surveymonkey.com/r/AbbotswoodSurvey

The survey will close at the end of the year. If you would prefer a paper version, please contact Barbara Wyant, Community Development Worker, by emailing bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk. We will use your views to help build an ongoing picture of life on Abbotswood. Those of you who were living here last summer may remember last year's survey. The results of this can be seen at www.testvalley.gov.uk on the Abbotswood pages.

Thank you, we appreciate your time and ideas!

Parents, Babies and Tots Group at Woodley Village Hall

- Thursdays 1pm to 3pm

Last session of 2015 – Thursday 10 December

First session of 2016 – Thursday 7 January

The Parents, Babies and Tots Group is running from strength to strength every week. We appreciate the support of Maggie from Little Oaks Children's Centre, in running 'messy play' sessions and 'signing time' once a month. With the help of residents and volunteers, we hope to offer a variety of activities more regularly in the new year! If you can help or would like to be kept informed about this group, please email Barbara on bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk. Sessions are on a drop-in basis and we invite a donation of £1 per family per session, with a drink and biscuit provided.

Seasonal fun with children

The Little Oaks Children's Centre is running its own seasonal activities including a Fun Day provisionally planned for 17 December. See their newsletter on the Action for Children website, call 01794 834740 or email littleoaks@actionforchildren.org.uk

Health Visitor Clinic

Many parents have told Barbara Wyant that they would like a local Health Visitors clinic, as they can find it difficult to get to the centre of Romsey. Barbara has approached the local Health Visitors about running a session at the same time as the Parents, Babies and Tots Group, in the room next door. The Health Visitors have been moving offices and therefore have not been able to get this running but she will be pursuing this. Meanwhile, please talk to your Health Visitor if you are having difficulties in accessing their services.

FREE community football sessions for 7 to 16 year olds!



Back by popular demand! We will be running a one-off sports session at Romsey School AstroTurf, from 2pm to 4pm on Tuesday 22 December.

For more information, contact lcooper@testvalley.gov.uk or stuart.mcclosky@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or call 01264 368000.

Abbotswood Court Care Home Official opening



Fred Dineage MBE has officially opened Abbotswood Court in Romsey, Hampshire – the purpose-designed care home, fully equipped to provide residential and dementia care, including permanent care, respite and day care services all under one roof.



First resident to move to Abbotswood Court, Daphne, with her daughter Angela were in the front row at the time of the ribbon cutting and were joined by other residents Tom, Monica, and Joan.

Staff at the care home are keen to welcome local residents and plan many community events and activities to be held at Abbotswood Court, and will be offering residents the opportunity to participate with their residents. The pumpkin carving has been a popular event, but sadly the fireworks event was rained off.

Abbotswood Court Christmas Event

Saturday 19 December, 5.45pm

Abbotswood Court Care Home is offering friends of Abbotswood a small number of tickets to its Christmas show. It is full of all the best bits of Christmas - there's even a pantomime section - Oh yes there is! The King of Rock and Roll will be entering the building and there will be more than five costume changes. To really make it into a party there is also a festive style buffet which will be £6 per adult, £3 for children under 12 OR a family ticket (up to two adults and two children) for £15. RSVP is essential by 14 December as admission is by ticket only.

Please ring Abbotswood Court Care Home on **01794 528700** for more details.





Abbotswood Court

part of the Hartford Care family



General Manager - Gemma and the Abbotswood Court team warmly invite you to our

Christmas Party & Show

Saturday 19th December
Between 5.45pm - 8.00pm

Enjoy a fantastic Christmas Show performed by our special guests, Tickled Pink, a delicious home-made buffet and great company!

Friends & Family welcome - let's get into the Christmas Spirit!

Please RSVP for tickets to be issued by Monday 14th December
Email: Debbie.holmes@hartfordcare.co.uk Tel: 01794 528700



As seating will be limited, admission will be by Ticket only

Regular events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Second Tuesday of the month	10.30 am	Abbotswood Health Walk. Route varies, e.g. Abbotswood, Canal path/Fishlake or Woodley/Ganger farm	Meet at Abbotswood temporary community centre. Bring stout footwear and weather appropriate clothing.	Check start time with Jessie 07786 716718
Fourth Tuesday of the month	10.30 am	Braishfield Health Walk – 1 hour walk	Meet at Braishfield Village Hall /Pantry (Pantry closes at 12)	Check start time with Jessie 07786 716718
Thursdays	10am to 12pm	Residents drop-in – come for coffee and a chat	Temporary Community Centre	Barbara 07880 601028
Thursdays	1pm to 3pm	Parent, Baby and Tots play session Final session of term 10th December , restarting 7 January 2016 Fun days at Little Oaks Childrens centre Oaks on 17 December	Woodley Village Hall, School Road	Barbara 07880 601028
Second Thursday of the month	7.15 pm	Romsey Extra Parish Council meeting	NEW DINING ROOM, STROUD SCHOOL, HIGHWOOD LANE, ROMSEY, SO51 9ZH	Clerk to the parish council. clerk.romseyextra@parish.hants.gov.uk
Third Friday of the month	10am to 3.30pm	Fair Trade Cafe-coffee, cake, light lunches and home made puddings	Methodist Church Hall, The Hundred, Romsey (near zebra crossing)	Elizabeth 01794 514752
Fourth Friday of the month	10am to 12pm	Woodley Community Café	Woodley Village Hall, School Road	01794 519495
Last Thursday of the month	4pm	Dementia Awareness sessions	Abbotswood Court Care home, Minchin Road	Call Debbie to reserve your place 01794 528700

Upcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Tuesday 8 December	10.30am	Abbotswood Health Walk - 1-1.5 hours, free	Meet at Abbotswood temporary Community Centre	Jessie, Health Walk Leader 07786716718
Wednesday 16 December	6.30pm	Carol singing around Abbotswood	Meet at temporary Community Centre, finish at Abbotswood Court Care Home for singing round the Christmas tree and refreshments.	Barbara
Thursday 17 December	daytime	Fun morning	Little Oaks Children's Centre. Mercer Way.	01794 834740 or email littleoaks@actionforchildren.org.uk
Tuesday 22 December	10.30am	Braishfield Health Walk - 1-1.5 hours, free	Meet at Braishfield Village Hall car park. Braishfield Pantry open for refreshments 10-12.	Jessie, Health Walk Leader 07786 716 718
Tuesday 22 December	2pm to 4pm	Community Sport for 7-16 year olds	Romsey School (N B Not Romsey Sports centre)	Community&Leisure@testvalley.gov.uk 01264 368000
Thursday 7 January	1pm to 3pm	First Tots group of the school year	Woodley Village Hall	Barbara bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk
Tuesday 12 January	10.30am	Abbotswood Health Walk - 1-1.5 hours, free	Meet at Abbotswood temporary Community Centre	Jessie, Health Walk Leader 07786716718
Tuesday 26 January	10.30am	Braishfield Health walk 1-1.5 hours, free	Meet promptly at the Braishfield Village Hall. Braishfield Pantry open for refreshments 10-12.	Jessie, Health Walk leader 07786716718

Dementia Friendly Abbotswood

Romsey is a Dementia Friendly market town – why not get up to speed and become a Dementia Friend? An information session is interactive and fun and takes about an hour. Join staff and Abbotswood residents at the care home at 4pm on the last Thursday of each month. Contact Debbie to book your place on 01794 528700.

If you are interested in working for Hartford Care at Abbotswood Court please visit.

www.hartfordcare.co.uk/careers

Carol singing and lantern parade around Abbotswood

How about coming carol singing around Abbotswood? Or would you like carollers to sing outside your home?

For those going round Abbotswood, meet at the Community Centre at 6.30pm on 16 December. Bring torches and any lanterns from the Lantern parade. Carol sheets will kindly be provided by the association of Romsey Churches. Do you play an instrument that you can bring on the evening, and accompany us in the open air?

As we walk around the development we will be stopping to sing at various locations. Let me know if you would like us to carol in the street outside your home, or you have a neighbour who may not be able to get out at that time of the evening but would like to watch from the window. I envisage that we could text as we approach certain points.

Contact Barbara if you have requests!



Do you like playing Scrabble, or other board games – and need new people to play against? Let Barbara Wyant know what times and days are good for you, if you would like a games club!



Useful contacts

If you have any news, reviews or achievements that you would like to share with the community and feature in the next newsletter, or if you require further information about any events/activities please contact your Community Development Worker:

Barbara Wyant

Community Development Worker,
Abbotswood Community Centre,
Abbotswood Common Road,
Romsey, SO51 0BT

Usual working days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

Email: Bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk

Mobile: **07880 601028**

Temporary Community Centre - 01794 523199

Romsey Extra Parish Council

Chairman: Chris Wesson

Telephone: **01794 511535**

Email: cllrwesson@talktalk.net

Clerk: Mrs C Mcfarland

Telephone: **01794 884826**

Email: clerk.romseyextra@parish.hants.gov.uk

Your local representatives

Councillor Perry

Hampshire County Councillor for Abbotswood

Telephone: **01962 847750**

Email: roy.perry@hants.gov.uk

Test Valley Borough Council

Councillor Ian Hibberd

Romsey Extra,

Telephone: **02380 732247**

Email: cllrihibberd@testvalley.gov.uk

Councillor Alison Johnston,

Romsey Extra,

Email: cllrajohnston@testvalley.gov.uk

Dog owners

Thank you for cleaning up after your dog around Abbotswood.

Please use ALL bins around the Abbotswood to dispose of bagged dog waste. This will help keep the neighbourhood clean and tidy and reduce the potential health risk, especially for children.



Housing surgery



Shelley Honeyman runs a drop-in surgery for Sovereign residents once a month on a Wednesday at the temporary community centre. You can contact Shelley on **01962 833305**.

Homes occupied

Figures obtained from Taylor Wimpey, Bellway and Bovis show that as at the end of September 2015 there were 556 properties occupied in Abbotswood.



Romsey & District Society

conserving our heritage - protecting our future

Would you like to get to know Romsey a little better?

The Romsey and District Society will be giving a talk on “Romsey – its history, interesting buildings and recent events”.

Come along and I am sure, however long you have been a Romsey resident, you will learn something new or have a question to ask. We are planning for the talk to be held locally one evening in mid January-end of February, venue will be near Abbotswood – and depend on numbers.

Please contact Barbara if you are interested.

www.romseydistrictsociety.co.uk

‘The Society was founded in 1974 following a huge public protest about the destruction of fine old houses in Romsey to make way for new. It focuses on local planning, environment and countryside issues. The aim of the Society is to promote high standards of planning and architecture in the area, and to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historical or public interest in the area.’

What’s on in Romsey?

Romsey Tourist Information Centre has a diary of what’s on. Here are a few upcoming town events. You can find the centre at 13 Church Street, near the Post Office. Contact the Centre on 01794 512987 or visiting



www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

You can also find events, groups and local information in the Romsey Advertiser, which is published every Friday.

www.romseyadvertiser.co.uk

The web and social media

If you use facebook you may like to search for “Romsey” or “Abbotswood”, there are a number of local groups set up by residents and organisations.



www.woodley.net.co.uk is a local site which has a wealth of historical and current photos and information.



Parking issues

Please make sure that the main routes through Abbotswood are kept as clear as possible and free from parked cars, to ensure safe and easy flow of traffic, until such time as all the main access roads are open.

It is important to allow access for emergency vehicles and service vehicles at all times. Here is a reminder that

you should only phone 101, to report to the police to report car parking, if :-

- A car is obstructing a driveway and preventing access
- A car is parked within 10 metres of a junction
- Cars are parked preventing emergency vehicles getting through

Parking on access roads

Please can you make sure that allocated parking spaces are used to park your vehicles rather than parking them on the access roads.

Where vehicles are parked on the main routes through the development, and particularly when they are close to junctions and bends, they can restrict views. This can make it more difficult for other car drivers and in particular for larger vehicles, such as the refuse trucks, to safely access all roads. The areas of stone situated on the bends of the main access roads are there to provide the required overrun for larger vehicles turning around the bends and should be kept clear to allow access.

Cars parked on pavements or at roadsides can also make it more difficult for pedestrians to move around safely and this can be particularly dangerous for children.

Bus access to the development

The new bus access onto Woodley Lane is in the process of being constructed and should be complete towards the end of this year. This will enable buses to enter Abbotswood and provide residents with easier access to the buses, providing the access roads are kept sufficiently clear for the buses to travel along without obstruction. This is likely to result in some changes to bus routes at the end of this year and you are advised to check the bus websites and at the community centre for further information.

Cars are not permitted to use the bus-only access point to Woodley Lane and this will be enforced by use of a Traffic Regulation Order.

Your Neighbourhood Wardens



Neighbourhood Wardens work as part of the Community Team with local communities, to help them address issues affecting them. They provide information and knowledge on how to keep safe within each community. They work throughout Test Valley.

Tim Deacon and Doug O'Connell (pictured) work in Romsey and Southern Test Valley; Kat Slawska covers Andover and North Test Valley. You can leave a non urgent message on the Community answerphone 01264 368 638.

For emergencies please telephone 999 or for non-urgent crime or anti-social behaviour please call 101.

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/communityandleisure/communitysafety/neighbourhood-wardens/>

Woodley Rendezvous

Community Cafe



4th Friday every month

10.00am - 12.00pm

**Woodley Village Hall,
School Road, Romsey**

- **Community Café serving tea, coffee and cake.**
- **FREE shoulder massage by Red Cross volunteers**
- **Chat to friends**
- **Meet new people**
- **Local information**
- **Benefits advice**



For more information Tel: 01794 519495

A Community Partnership Initiative in Romsey Extra

