

Abbotswood Newsletter

Issue
#9



Newly formed **Abbotswood Community Association**

Left to right: Eugenius , Jan, Sarah (Treasurer), Phil (Chair) Donna (Secretary), Matt and Dave. Trustees not pictured - Rachel and Jess

After several months of a group of dedicated residents trawling through a constitution and attending trustee training, the Abbotswood Community Association has been formed! Hooray!

The constitution was adopted and trustees were elected at a well-attended public meeting at Woodley Village Hall on 12 May. Approximately 35 residents were present to witness the meeting, meet the trustees, sample wine and taste a range of cheeses.

Now it's on with the business of the Community Association and the fun begins! Over the next few months trustees are planning several events as follows:

Picnic in the park

Trustees will be picnicking in the park by the play area on Sunday 26 July and Sunday 26 August. Please feel free to join them from 12 noon to 2pm and bring blankets, chairs, games and nibbles. This event will be weather dependent.

Big BBQ

It's back! After the success of last year, the trustees are keen to join forces with the 10th Romsey Scouts to hold a summer BBQ on Sunday, 20 September from 12pm to 3pm. Other activities will be provided but are yet to be confirmed.

Can you help?

Abbotswood Community Association trustees will be working on producing policies, delivering fundraising projects and creating publicity materials to ensure they operate in a competent manner. Please get in touch if you have any of the following:

- Access to a company that offers grants or sponsorship to local charities or organisations
- Time to develop a website for the community association
- A desire to get involved and put the FUN into fundraising. Perhaps you could get involved in a quiz or curry

night, or even make tea or bake a cake!

- Ideas for summer events

Please let us know if there are any other areas you can help with. In the interim, to contact the community association trustees, please go through Barbara Wyant, Community Development Worker for Abbotswood, by emailing bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk

If you recognise any of the trustees from the photo, please stop and say hello, we are very friendly!

Yours - Abbotswood Community Trustees

Abbotswood survey 2015

As a resident of this new neighbourhood, you will have views about the needs of the community. You can help Test Valley Borough Council and other agencies plan services and help shape the future provision in Abbotswood. We would like to know what you think and we invite you to take part in the Abbotswood survey. Those of you who were already living here last summer may remember last year's survey; you can see the results

at www.testvalley.gov.uk on the Abbotswood pages.

You can complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AbbotswoodSurvey> and it should take no more than five minutes. If you prefer to complete a paper version, please contact Barbara. We will use your views to help build an ongoing picture of life in Abbotswood.

Thank you, we appreciate your time and ideas!

Abbotswood Community Centre

One of the community association's responsibilities will be to manage the Abbotswood Community Centre. Planning permission is complete and the legal teams are working to progress the project. Watch this space!

Meanwhile, here are the approved plans for the local centre, in the south-west corner of Abbotswood, bordering Braishfield Road and Woodley Lane. The centre includes a convenience store(G), shops, public house(J), community centre(F), doctor/dentist surgery(E), day nursery(H), office units, a recycling centre and a play area. If you wish to see the plans in more detail, you can access them via the Test Valley Borough Council website. All the documents can be found under planning reference 14/01836/RESS.



Getting out and about in the summer



Free Sunday bus

Would you like a FREE bus ride for a Sunday or August Bank Holiday outing? There is a free summer Sunday bus service run by the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, operated by volunteer drivers from Test Valley Community Transport Services, until 20 September. From Abbotswood, you can join the bus at the Hillier Gardens, and it will go to:

- Mottisfont and Dunbridge railway station
 - Mottisfont Abbey
 - Houghton Lodge and Gardens
 - Stockbridge
 - Longstock Water Gardens.
- The service is funded by Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Mottisfont Abbey, the Museum of Army Flying and the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership. You can see the full timetable at the Council's website, www.testvalley.gov.uk, and at www.threeriversrail.com.

Leaflets are available in the temporary community centre and the timetable and map is on the notice board.

Summer bus service to Paultons Park

A new bus service, X24, will be running to Paultons Park every weekend this summer until 6 September. It will also run daily from 27 July for the school holidays. The service operates from Bitterne in Southampton, and travels via North Baddesley (Bedes Lea), Romsey Plaza, Romsey railway station and bus station to Paulton's Park. The timetable can be found at www.xelabus.uk

Marwell Zoo

There are additional public transport services to and from Marwell Zoo this summer.

- By train from Romsey to Eastleigh (www.nationalrail.co.uk). From Eastleigh railway station, use the M1 bus which includes discounted entry to the zoo up until the end of August 2015. This is the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership rail link; www.threeriversrail.com
- By train to Southampton Central station. From here, use the First bus, M2 service which stops at Lordshill, Southampton Central station, Bitterne and Hedge End. See www.firstgroup.com

Trains run regularly from Romsey station to Eastleigh and Southampton Central station. Train times can be found at www.nationalrail.co.uk

Abbotswood art project

This summer sees the start of the Abbotswood art project. There were 33 artists who responded to a brief that arose from the public art consultation last year by Space Placemaking and Urban Design (SPUD) Artworks will be created to connect Abbotswood and the neighbourhoods of Romsey. The artworks will be located away from Abbotswood and a later phase of the project will involve art located within Abbotswood itself. Residents from Abbotswood and neighbouring areas are taking part in the selection procedure. The successful artist will be consulting with residents in and around Romsey and Abbotswood in the coming months to bring a plan together.

Are you interested in taking part? Perhaps you are a member of a community group in Romsey who might be interested in participating. If you would like to hear more, please contact Barbara Wyant by emailing bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk

Evening visit to Hillier Gardens

On Wednesday, 15 July we have a rare opportunity for an 'after hours' guided tour of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Jermyns Lane. Wolfgang Bopp, Director, will give us an insight into areas of the garden and history of the plants. It should last between an hour and a half and two hours. These tours are very popular, so please book your place early with Barbara.

Broadband update

By now you will have noticed the new cabinets installed for the broadband service along Chivers Road. Here is a message from Hampshire County Council:

"Hampshire County Council has actively encouraged the availability of superfast broadband in Abbotswood and all other new housing development schemes in Hampshire and was pleased to see the agreement reached between Taylor Wimpey, Bovis and Bellway with BT Openreach for the installation of the new cabinets with fibre optic connection to the Romsey exchange.

"The cabinets have been installed and are undergoing final testing and commissioning under BT Openreach's quality assurance process which must be completed to ensure that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can offer a service to residents and businesses connected to the upgraded boxes. The County Council will email residents that have registered an interest via the Hampshire Superfast Broadband website once this commissioning process has been completed. Residents should be aware that connection to the upgraded service is not automatic and they will have to order an enhanced service from their ISP. "

News from Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch has been busy with two projects over the last few months; the police reorganisation and the introduction of the Hampshire Alert system.

In response to the most recent set of budget cuts, Hampshire Constabulary has reviewed staffing and its organisation. The police areas in Hampshire are now aligned with local authority boundaries. This means that the policing of Romsey has passed from Eastleigh to Andover and is now part of the Test Valley District Command. Having changed the boundaries, the police have reduced the number of senior officers without reducing the number of front line police.

At the grassroots level the seven southern Test Valley beats have been merged into three neighbourhoods. Rather than serving individual beats, the police constables and PCSOs are now allocated to the larger neighbourhoods. The good news is that most of the officers we already know are still in post and serving the same, if rather broader, communities. We have been fortunate to see an increase in the number of PCs or PCSOs in our area.

For residents of Abbotswood, day-to-day matters will be the responsibility of PC Hodges with PC Vernon Gook and PC Dave Hazlett. The PCSO with specific responsibility

for Romsey Extra and, therefore, Abbotswood, remains PCSO Jo Cole.

Hampshire Alert is the new police information distribution system. This system makes it easier for the police to send out timely and targeted messages about incidents and crimes. To receive these alerts you will need to register your email address at www.hampshirealert.co.uk. You can select the geographic areas and types of subject that interest you.

This new technology means that the police no longer produce weekly beat reports because they now rely on individual messages through Hampshire Alert. Romsey District Neighbourhood Watch Association is reassessing how it should operate in future. We are not actively setting up new watches at present but are encouraging people to register with Hampshire Alert.

We'll keep you informed about how things develop through this newsletter. In the meantime you can rest assured that Romsey remains a very low crime area and Abbotswood is particularly safe.

John Parker
Secretary, Romsey District
Neighbourhood Watch Association.



Around and about on the roads

Infrastructure road works



Here is some news about the Romsey infrastructure works, which the consortium of developers has undertaken as part of the agreement to build Abbotswood.

A cycleway and new footway have been installed at the Cupernham Lane/Sandy Lane junction, which has now been improved. The environment is now far more aesthetically pleasing but more importantly, is much safer for the road and footway user.

Work is ongoing through the summer on a new footway/cycleway along Fishlake Meadows and Greatbridge Road. This will incorporate improvements from Cupernham Lane roundabout to Richmond Lane. There is a new mini roundabout installed on the Greatbridge Road/Fishlake Meadows junction as well as some road re-surfacing. This work will take approximately 20 weeks to complete.

Sovereign and Partners half term fun day

Over the spring half term, Shelley of Sovereign Housing Association and Barbara Wyant of Test Valley Borough Council organised a community fun afternoon by the play park.

More than 160 residents and friends sat in the sunshine, did the recycling quiz, learned about fire safety in the home, won coconuts at the coconut shy and talked to representatives of three Abbotswood housing providers; Aster Communities, Radian and Sovereign. Over 60 children got their faces painted for free. Adults could too, but there were no takers!



Parents, babies and tots group

Woodley Village Hall - Thursdays 1pm to 3pm



The parents and tots group is running from strength to strength every week. If you would like to be kept informed about this group, please email Barbara on bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk.

The monthly visits from Little Oaks Children's Centre, bringing messy play, story time and singing, have been very popular. We have arranged for Little Oaks to come to the last session before we break up for summer, which will be on Thursday 23 July. If you have children who are on summer holidays, please come along. It's a £1 donation per family.

After a summer break the group will re-start on Thursday 3 September. Please contact Barbara if you have ideas for the group or can help set up the group (12.30pm to 1.15pm), or tidy away (2.45pm to 3.15pm).

Expecting a baby?

We would like to welcome mums-to-be on maternity leave and new parents with small babies to make friends in the local area, at the parents and tots group on Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm. We have a dedicated parent and baby area and will be happy to accommodate baby changing and baby feeding according to your needs. Alternatively, if you would like a parents-to-be session at another time – perhaps an evening – please contact Barbara Wyant on bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk.

August fun

While Abbotswood parents and tots group takes a holiday, the Little Oaks Children's Centre will be running their own fun days on 6 and 20 August. For details of these and other activities, find their newsletter on their website, <http://services.actionforchildren.org.uk/test-valley-childrens-centres>, call 01794 834740 or email littleoaks@actionforchildren.org.uk

Are you looking for childcare?

Services for Young Children (SfYC) are here to support parents, carers, families and everyone working in childcare and early years education. Their aim is to ensure that Hampshire's young children have access to everything they need for the best start in life. They work closely with all pre-schools, child minders and out-of-school provision in the district.

Services for Young Children also work closely with Children's Centres across Hampshire, aiming to give every child the best possible start in life. They are places where families with children under the age of five can easily access a range of different services to support them, including:

- information and advice about family support services
- drop-in sessions for parents, carers and childminders
- access to early education and childcare for children under five
- access to child and family health services
- links with Jobcentre Plus, further education and training opportunities

If you are searching for childcare and cannot find what you are looking for, or have a question about your childcare search, please contact the Family Information Service on **0300 555 1384** or email childrens.services@hants.gov.uk If you would like further information, please contact Test Valley Services for Young Children, The Wedge, London Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 2PS. Tel. 01264 387443 Email sfyc.tv@hants.gov.uk

Cupernham School

Back in March, a call came through to Barbara from Cupernham Infants School. The children's gardening club needed help to fill tyres, and grow flowers and vegetables. Members of the Abbotswood construction team, Tony of WYG and Chris Nichols of Gracelands, delivered a load of topsoil. Barbara and Tony were recently invited back to the school by the teachers, members of the pupils gardening club, Isaac, Sam, Lewie, Jonathan, Hannah and Ellie, proudly showed off the wonderful displays of flowers and vegetables



Abbotswood Court care home



You may have noticed the scaffolding being taken down from the large building on the south perimeter of the development, bordering Woodley Lane, and yellow signs appearing on main roads. This is Abbotswood Court care home. The home is owned by Hartford Care from Basingstoke, and will offer residential and dementia care including permanent care, respite care and day respite care services. Please telephone 0800 954 6916 or email info@hartfordcare.co.uk for further details. If you are interested in working for Hartford Care at Abbotswood Court, please visit <http://www.hartfordcare.co.uk/careers>

Dog owners

Thank you for cleaning up after your dog around Abbotswood.

Please use bins around the development to dispose of bagged dog waste. When the roads on the Abbotswood development are adopted by TVBC, rubbish/dog mess bins will be provided. Until that time please take your dog's mess home with you to dispose of. This will help keep the neighbourhood clean and tidy and reduce the potential health risk, especially for children.



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: clrwesson@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: clirhibberd@testvalley.gov.uk

Councillor Alison Johnston,

Romsey Extra,

Email: clirajohnston@testvalley.gov.uk

Housing surgery



Please note a change of date: Shelley Honeyman runs a drop-in surgery for Sovereign residents which has moved to the THIRD Tuesday of each month at the temporary community centre. You can contact Shelley on **01962 833305**.

Keeping Romsey tidy

Are you interested in spending an hour or so helping to keep your community tidy? If so, visit the Facebook group 'Romsey Wombles'. Why not organise a social litter pick with other like minded people?

What's on in Romsey?

Romsey Tourist Information Centre has a diary of what's on. You can find the centre at 13 Church Street, near the Post Office and can telephone them on 01794 512987.

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

www.romseyadvertiser.co.uk.



Parking issues

Please be reminded that you should park your car considerately and in your allocated parking spaces where possible.

You should only phone 101 to report car parking if:

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

The web and social media

If you use Facebook, you may like to search for "Romsey" or "Abbotswood" as 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 historic and current photos and information.

Abbotswood Community Association is looking to set up its own website. Can you help? Contact Barbara Wyant by emailing bwyant@testvalley.gov.uk. Barbara will pass your details to the association.

Homes Occupied

Figures obtained from Taylor Wimpey, Bellway and Bovis show that as at the end of June 2015 there were 522 properties occupied in Abbotswood.



Care & Share Hampshire Timebank

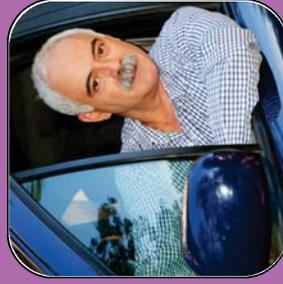
How does the Timebank work?



Amy joins CaSH and lists her skills and the help she needs.



CaSH arranges for Amy to do some ironing for David.



David gives lifts to some attendees of a local community group.



Glenda bakes a cake for the local community group she attends.



Pat does Glenda's shopping for her.



Charlie helps Pat out with some computer issues.

Do you know someone who needs some help? Could you offer help to someone? Care & Share Hampshire Timebank is the new way to help out in your community and get some help back. You can bank your hours, donate them to someone else or use them yourself. It's up to you!

Contact Charlotte Meader on Tel: 01794 519495 or Email: charlotte.meader@carerstogether.org.uk to find out more.

Regular events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Tuesdays in school summer holidays	2pm to 4pm	Free community football sessions (10 spaces), Age 7-16 - every half term and school holiday	Romsey Sports Centre (near the Rapids)	Community&leisure@testvalley.gov.uk 01264 368000 Facebook: Test Valley BC Twitter @TestValleyBC #communitysport
Second Tuesday of the month	10.30am	Abbotswood Health Walk, 1-1.5 hours	Meet at Abbotswood Temporary community centre	Jessie 07786 716718
Fourth Tuesday of the month	10.30am	Braishfield Health Walk, 1-1.5 hours	Meet at Braishfield Village Hall / Pantry (Pantry closes at 12)	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 23 July. Restarts 3rd Sept	Woodley Village Hall, School Road	Barbara 07880 601028
Second Thursday of the month	7.15pm	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 12 noon	Woodley Community Café	Woodley Village Hall, School Road	01794 519495

FREE sports sessions for 7-16 year olds

Community Sport

Free Community Football Sessions Romsey Sports Centre

10 Free sports sessions, from 2-4pm taking place every Tuesday in the school holidays, running from February to October half term.

For further information contact: Community and Leisure Online:

www.testvalley.gov.uk

Email: community&leisure@testvalley.gov.uk

Telephone: 01264 368000

Facebook: Active Test Valley

Twitter: @TestValleyBC #communitysport



Upcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Wednesday 15 July	6.30pm prompt	Hillier Gardens – an after-hours summer evening tour	Meet by pavilion at entrance to gardens	Please book in advance with Barbara
Sunday 26 July	1pm to 3pm	Picnic in the park	Meet near play park – bring a picnic, meet your community association	Just turn up
Thursday 6 August	Daytime	Summer fun day	Little Oaks Children’s Centre, Mercer Way. Bring a picnic	01794 834740 or email littleoaks@ actionforchildren. org.uk
Tuesday 11 August	10.30am	Abbotswood Health Walk, 1-1.5 hours, free	Meet at Abbotswood temporary Community Centre	Jessie, Health Walk Leader 07786 716718
Thursday 20 August	Daytime	Summer fun day	Little Oaks Children’s Centre, Mercer Way. Bring a picnic	01794 834740 or email littleoaks@ actionforchildren. org.uk
Tuesday 25 August	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 07786 716718
Thursday 3 September	1pm to 3pm	First tots group of the school year	Woodley Village Hall	Barbara bwyant@testvalley. gov.uk
Saturday 12 September	All day	Romsey Show	Broadlands	Romsey Tourist Information Centre
Tuesday 15 September	10.30am	Abbotswood Health Walk 1-1.5 hours, free	Meet at Abbotswood temporary Community Centre	Jessie, Health Walk Leader 07786 716718
Tuesday 29 September	10.30am	Braishfield Health Walk 1-1.5 hours, free	Meet promptly at the Braishfield Village Hall. Braishfield Pantry open for refreshments 10am to 12pm.	Jessie, Health Walk leader 07786 716718