

Abbots Bromley Surgery and Dispensary
School House Lane (Tel: 01283 840228)

| Day | Doors Open | Booking for morning surgery | Booking for evening surgery | Doors Closed |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Mon | 08:00 | 08:30 – 10:30 | 16:30 – 17:30 | 18:30 |
| Tues | 08:00 | 08:30 – 10:30 | 16:30 – 17:30 | 18:30 |
| Wed | 08:00 | 08:30 – 10:30 | No evening surgery | 18:30 |
| Thur | 08:00 | 08:30 – 10:30 | 16:30 – 17:30 | 18:30 |
| Fri | 08:00 | 08:30 – 10:30 | No evening surgery | 18:30 |
| Dispensary | | | | |
| Mon – Fri | | 08:30 – 12:00 | 15:00 – 18:30 | |

We are open for enquiries from 8:00am until 6:30pm Monday to Friday.

Postal Services for Abbots Bromley

“Collect+” is available at The Cash Stores to send & receive parcels.
 See www.collectplus.co.uk for details, or call Cash Stores on 840210.

See www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder for Post Office branch details.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Uttoxeter: | 13 Carter Street, Uttoxeter, ST14 8HE |
| Rugeley: | 6 Anson Street, Rugeley, WS15 2BB |
| Hixon: | Smithy Lane, Hixon, Stafford, ST18 0PP |
| Draycott: | The Stores, Draycott In The Clay, DE6 5GZ |

Mobile Library

Visits **Fridays** every two weeks
2019 – 12th April, 26th April, 10th May, 24th May, 7th June, 21st June, 5th July, 19th July, 2nd August, 16th August, 30th August, 13th September, 27th September, 11th October, 25th October, 8th November, 22nd November, 6th December, 20th December
2020 – 3rd January, 17th January, 31st January, 14th February, 28th February, 13th March, 27th March

Abbots Bromley Bagot Arms 11:30 - 12:30

Police

Emergency calls (including First Responders) 999
 Non emergency calls 101

PARISH NEWS

for Abbots Bromley
 and Blithfield



Artwork supplied by Sheila Godfrey
 Tel: 01283 840771 / 07989 568582 www.sheilagodfrey.co.uk

Price 50p

June 2020

MINISTERIAL LETTER FROM COLTON

Herman Hesse in his book, 'If the War Goes on' penned an essay which reflected on the point of poetry in a time of war. He wrote:

"In selecting words and putting them down in a world that may be destroyed tomorrow, a poet is doing the same thing as the anemones and primroses and other flowers that spring up in our meadows. Perhaps the meadow will be shattered by shellfire tomorrow ... but the flowers do not let such possibilities deter them. They painstakingly put forth leaves ... with four or five smooth or jagged petals as precisely as ever they can."

(If the War Goes On, Picador 1974.)

Hesse's point, if I have understood it rightly, was made by Jesus when he spoke of the lilies of the field (most likely some kind of anemone). "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Matthew 6:28-29). Jesus goes on to teach us to trust God to provide even in our uncertainties. The lilies just go on being lilies whatever is happening around them even in their fragility. That is part of why Jesus' teaching on these flowers is so important. It is about trusting in God, but it also suggests that in being the best of who we are, whatever is happening, we can provide strength and hope for others.

These are difficult times. When it is all over and we look back from whatever 'new normal' we reach, then we will perhaps be able to engage in analysis. Right now, what we can do is go on being the very best people we can be; the people God creates us to be. We can be kind, we can speak of 'normal' things, we can receive the care of others and offer it ourselves. We can be like the lilies of the field for our communities. Each time we do that we give hope to others.

Over these last weeks I have seen and heard of so many people continuing to be who they are and do what they do. Our frontline services have helped many in our communities from farmers, mail and grocery deliveries, truck drivers and bin collections to NHS staff and carers in home and in residential care – I am sure you can think of others – all have kept going. There are also friends and neighbours who have shown the heart of kindness that beats within them. Their phone calls, shopping trips, prayers and conversations have enabled those who struggle to face another day.

Fear and anxiety are very real for many that is why those of us who are able can be beacons of hope to those who struggle. When we allow what is best about us to shine then goodness and hope will live amongst us. A simple smile or a cheery hello becomes the sign of hope, of something normal, just like flowers, the lilies of the field, which go on growing whatever is happening.

May God keep you safe, guard your hearts and minds, and enable you to be the best of who you are.

With love and prayers, Anne Noble

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCHYARD

On Friday 8th May, as I returned from the day's exercise on my bike via Friary Avenue, I was planning to put some papers unobtrusively through a letterbox. To my astonished delight, Preedys Close in the sunshine looked like a scene from Portmeirion in 'The Prisoner'. On each driveway there seemed to be a table. On each stood a bottle and glasses and by each a couple ready to welcome and (at a distance!) to offer a glass to this invader.

The chance to talk was irresistible. Someone realised that I must have been around on the original V.E. Day. What did I recall? Not much, is the truth, except a sort of disbelief, and the glad knowledge that schools had been given two days' holiday and that therefore I should be able to enjoy my fifteenth birthday at home.

You see, the days when the Dengie Hundred district, a peninsula north of Southend-on-Sea, had swarmed with troops in transit, were long past, as were the mornings when we'd arrive at the bus station in Maldon to see airmen, still in their sheepskin jackets and flying-boots, waiting for transport to their fighter drome at Bradwell. For five long years, the villagers had lived with the aftermath of the landmine in 1940. The Americans had come and gone. We were still under the flight-path of friendly and enemy planes but the beauty of Hurricanes and Spitfires had long been replaced by the grimness of heavier aircraft. Before D-Day, of which no-one knew anything beforehand, there had been huge transport planes towing gliders.

The great horror was yet to come: the Buzz Bombs. Germany's new V1 and V2 rocket missiles followed a trajectory above us on their way to London. When the sound of the engine cut out, the bomb was doomed to come down and wreak havoc. Since their systems were not 100% reliable, a great many came down prematurely on our peninsula. At the corner of our school field was an Observer post. We were never so frightened as when they gave a warning of an impending rocket. For the only time in my experience, the whole school was instantly ordered to the air-raid shelters. (Though built of brick, these had no glass in their structure.) Then we waited for the whine of the engine to cut out....

In truth, by 1945 attention had turned from home. The cinema newsreels began to report the tragic state of Europe as our forces found it. I don't remember much about the actual V.E. Day, save walking up the street to join in the rejoicing, but on the next Sunday we sang, as we had at so many drum-head services since our church had been damaged in 1940, both of the hymns that we sang this 10th May, "O God, our help in ages past" and "Now thank we all our God", followed of course by "God save the King".

Jean Biggs

JUNE PARISH NEWS DISTRIBUTION DISRUPTION

June's *Parish News* can be found online at www.achurchnearyou.com/abbots-bromley-st-nicholas This has had contact information removed in order to allay data privacy concerns.

Visit www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley for a hyperlink to the *Parish News* and to see any latest comments from St. Nicholas' Church. You can view this page without a Facebook account.

For those who require the usual hardcopy it will be available for collection from Cash Stores (Top Shop) free to subscribers or 50p per copy. Remember to use virus transmission precautions if handling these.

Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

Ed

BLITHFIELD NEWS AND NOTICES

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, BLITHFIELD

As in April and May, because of the Covid-19 measures, all Church services are cancelled and rotas suspended until further notice.

SAVE THE DATE

~~Sunday 7th June 2020 at 3:00pm~~
at **Manor Lane, Newton**
for **TEA IN A TIPA**
Pimms, Scones & Strawberries, ~~7~~ Music
In aid of
Blithfield
EVERYONE WELCOME
Details follow

POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

SUPPORT A.B.S.A. WITH USED INK CARTRIDGES

WANTED: Genuine (not compatible) used ink cartridges

HP – Frama – Dell – Pitney Bowes – Canon – Neopost – Kodak

NOT Epson and Brother cartridges please

These will be sent for recycling with **Recycle 4 Charity** who will donate £1 for each cartridge received to the Abbots Bromley Sports Association.

Please put cartridges through the front door of **Middleton House** (on the corner of Bagot Street & Goose Lane) **enclosed in a small plastic bag or cling film** please! Thank you!

ABBOTS BROMLEY NEWS AND NOTICES

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH & CHURCH HOUSE CLOSED FOR JUNE

As in April and May, because of the Covid-19 measures, St. Nicholas' church and Church House will be closed in June for all services, gatherings and meetings, and all Church rotas are suspended until further notice.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2020

Each year a Christmas Tree Festival is held in Abbots Bromley to raise funds for St. Nicholas' Church. It is a wonderful community day and is attended by many people from our village as well as neighbouring villages. The church always looks fantastic as most of the organisations and businesses in the village provide a tree and they are always decorated with great skill and imagination. What makes this such a wonderful event is that everyone is always happy to participate, and they willingly give up their time to ensure that the Festival is successful year after year.

The last festival was held on Sunday 15th December 2019. There were over 50 trees in the church; the choir from Richard Clarke School were brilliant and entertained everyone with all their songs. They were followed by the Abbots Bromley Community Choir who also captivated everyone with their repertoire of carols and songs. The wonderful refreshments were provided by the ladies of the W.I. and the amazing sum of £700 was raised for the Church.

As Abbots Bromley W.I. have hosted the Christmas Tree Festival for the past five years, the Committee would like to offer other organisations the opportunity to arrange this year's Festival. Members of the W.I. would be more than willing to offer help both before and during the event.

Clearly, we cannot be certain what the situation will be in December but let's hope we are back to normal and the 2020 Tree Festival will, as usual, be a wonderful event leading up to the Christmas festivities.

I do hope another organisation will take up this opportunity. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Tree Festival please get in touch and I will be delighted to answer your questions.

Alison Bramley Tel: 841067

ABBOTS BROMLEY W.I.

For obvious reasons the Abbots Bromley W.I. will not be meeting in June and of course we missed the May monthly meeting which would have been our A.G.M.

Nevertheless members are keeping in touch by email and several daily very amusing 'chuckles' are being enjoyed.

Quizzes have been set to stretch our brain power and a daily worship programme included.

The ladies have been able to communicate by 'Zooming' and found the weekly meetings productive.

Thanks go to one member who has been busy making nurses laundry bags for another member's daughter who works in palliative care. These have been prepared to share with a team of nurses.

Some ladies have helped to succeed in the aim, of providing scrubs for the Royal Stoke and County Staffordshire hospitals. The next phase in the mission can now move earlier than expected, to make the scrubs for health care workers in the whole of Staffordshire.

Members have also been busy with their knitting needles and at least 65 'knitted hearts' have been produced for distribution to hospitals for bereaved families.

We look forward to being able to meet normally again, but at least members are keeping in touch.

ABBOTS BROMLEY PRODUCE GUILD

Regretfully, we have decided, given the current situation, that this year's **Annual Show in September** will have to be **cancelled**.

Thank you to all of you who have supported the event in the past. We very much look forward to seeing you again next year.

EVERGREENS

Hello again to all our members from the Committee. We do so hope you are all keeping safe and well and endeavouring to get through these weeks of lockdown.

As I write this we have just heard of a few of these restrictions being lifted, but at the moment we have no idea of when things will return to how they used to be, or even if they will. As and when we can return to our 2020 programme we will certainly be in touch with everyone.

When we do find ourselves emerging from the current situation, we would be happy to see new members join and each year the Committee try very hard to produce an interesting and varied programme. The meetings are held in Church House and we try to arrange a couple of outings with 2 or 3 pickup points in the village, so it's all very handy and convenient. Should you or someone you know be interested in becoming a member or would like further information about Evergreens, please contact Jackie Brown, Chairperson (840226), Val Jones (840592), Brenda Adams (840207), or any other member of the Committee.

TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE, Sandra Cottrell, Secretary

A message from the St. Nicholas Welcome Team

Abbots Bromley is a friendly lively busy village and we would like to help new residents settle in and take part.

Have you a new neighbour recently moved to the Village?

How about dropping in a copy of our *Parish News* magazine to make them feel welcome or please ring Anthea on 840624 or Maureen on 840936 and we would be happy to assist.

ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Coping with Covid-19

The Parish Council would like to help any residents who require support during this uncertain and worrying period.

If you are self-isolating and unable to get out to buy groceries, go for a walk or pick up prescriptions or if you are an NHS worker struggling to get to the shops then do get in touch with the Parish Clerk and we, or one of the volunteers who have come forward, will do what we can to help.

Many of the pubs and cafes in the village are offering take-away meals and the Cash Stores (Top Shop) is offering free delivery of supplies to those that are vulnerable so do give them a call on 01283 840210.

Please check that your neighbours are ok. If you haven't seen them for a while pick up the phone and give them a call to see if they need any supplies or direct them to the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Clerk,

Marsh Farm, Uttoxeter Road, Abbots Bromley, Staffs. WS15 3EJ

Email: parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE SUSPENDED

The mobile library service is currently suspended, and all Staffordshire libraries closed, until further notice because of the spread of Covid-19. The visit dates for '20/'21 have not yet been released, but will be added to the rear cover of the *Parish News* as soon as they are available.

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH JUST GIVING PAGE

Following advice from Lichfield Diocese, Rev'd Davis has set up a fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abbotsbromleychurch at which you could make a donation. Remember, if you pay income tax you can apply Gift Aid effectively to increase your donation by 25% through tax recovery from HMRC.

ABBOTS BROMLEY SCHOOL OWNERSHIP CHANGE

In March, Saville's listing for the sale the Abbots Bromley School estate was marked with 'Under Offer'. Subsequently, towards the end of April, the listing was removed and the following announcements were made on www.saveourschool.co.uk

Parent Group Official Release

The Abbots Bromley School Parent Group are today delighted to confirm that contracts have been exchanged and the school will reopen under new ownership.

Following the schools closure in July 2019 the parent group has remained committed to finding a suitable investor to enable the tradition of learning and creativity to continue at Abbots Bromley School.

The Parent group approached hundreds of international education providers and can now announce that Shaanxi Junzi international education investment limited (Junzi), a company with a vision to prepare students for the 21st century using Fusion education bringing together the best of China and the UK and incorporating the most effective use of education technology, has now purchased the school and is eager to re-establish the tradition of academic excellence and creativity with new state of the art facilities providing significant resources to allow the school to have an exciting future.

The new owners visited the school last year and were impressed with the beautiful village setting in the heart of the English countryside, the superb sports, dance and equestrian facilities, and the reputation for outstanding academic success and tradition of performing arts.

We would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly and continued to have faith.

In particular we would like to add a special thank you to the Abbots Bromley School Parent community, the local community of Abbots Bromley and all of those staff who gave up their time and have been so supportive over the last months to get us to this stage, and have reminded us of the very special relationship the school has with those who hold it dear.

The Parent group have worked tirelessly to bring this deal to a conclusion and working with the new owners we are delighted to have secured an exciting future for a very special school with 145 years of history.

The new owners Shaanxi Junzi are working to a reopening date of September 2020 (although are continually evaluating given current environment) and the parent group will continue to work with them to help them achieve this.

More news will follow in the short term and we will of course keep you updated in the coming weeks.

We will also set up a pre registration system to allow you to be notified of all updates.

New Ownership Information

Shaanxi Junzi the new owners of Abbots Bromley School have an exciting vision for the future of the school.

With a blend of tradition and heritage, the future is at the forefront of the development plans to ensure the school is future ready.

The focus of the school will be to cultivate young minds across a broad range of subjects and extracurricular activities and to prepare students to work across cultures and to be equipped for the challenges of the future.

In addition to the purchase of Abbots Bromley School, Junzi has begun work on setting up a premium K-12 bilingual school in Xian, China, this school is expected to open in 2022 and will offer both British and Chinese curriculum.

In both schools Junzi is keen to maintain high academic standards whilst maintaining the ethos of both Junzi and Abbots Bromley School.

Helen Han General manager of Junzi UK said, "Abbots Bromley School is unique, has a rich history spanning 145 years and has produced great results as a non selective school, we aim to return the school to its former glory by investing in infrastructure, people and technology."

For further updates, please refer to www.saveourschool.co.uk

ABBOTS BROMLEY SPORTS GROUND DEVELOPMENT

Thanks to the dedication and tenacity of the Abbots Bromley Sports Association committee the second phase of the sports ground project is underway. The groundwork for the Junior and Senior Football Pitches at the Lichfield Road site, delayed from last Autumn after several challenges arose, began in May. Work is now progressing quickly thanks to the dry sunny weather.

Work on the temporary cabins by skilled members of the Cricket Club and local volunteers to convert them into changing rooms is also under way.

The cricket pitch is maturing nicely too, thanks to the regular maintenance work carried out by dedicated Cricket Club members.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to everyone who has supported this project one way or another.

Follow the development's progress on www.facebook.com/absportsground

A.B. VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB DRAW

The following are the winners of May's 200 club draws.

| Month | No. | Name | Amount |
|-------|-----|--------------------------|--------|
| May | 134 | Mr. Jim Barnett | £25 |
| " | 107 | Miss. Victoria Maidstone | £25 |
| " | 138 | Mr. Eric Lathe | £25 |
| " | 24 | Mrs. Maureen Allaker | £50 |

HOME-MADE JAMS AND MARMALADE

I still have plenty of home-made jams from last season and marmalade from this year. If anyone wishes to purchase some, please give me a call. All the money raised from the sale of these goes towards the upkeep of our beautiful parish church of St. Nicholas. I hope to be able to make more jams this summer – provided I can obtain the fruit!

Anthea Blower Tel: 840624

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH COLLECTION

Because of the current health situation, St. Nicholas' church has to remain locked for an indefinite period. During the current health emergency we are blessed with our Ministry Team on hand for any compassionate needs including dealing with families going through bereavement.

Sadly the Church, although closed, has to be maintained financially and because we are unable to receive gifts from our regular givers either by the 'planned giving' envelope scheme or on the collection plates at services income has dropped considerably. A gift could be made by setting up a direct debit or standing order with our bank for as long as the current emergency lasts. We understand that families are under a lot of pressure at this difficult time but if anyone could assist by setting this in motion we would be very grateful. Please contact Mrs. Gill Grundy on 840208 for details. Remember, if you pay income tax you can apply Gift Aid effectively to increase your donation by 25% through tax recovery from HMRC. Just ask Gill for the relevant form.

IN MEMORY OF HAZEL HAYWARD

In April, Hazel Haywood passed away peacefully after leading a full life.

Hazel lived on Bagots View, Abbots Bromley for 46 years before moving to a nursing home in Somerset in 2014 to be closer to her daughter Pippa.

In 2015 she celebrated her 90th birthday and was very appreciative of the cards she received from her friends in Abbots Bromley. She was a very special and much loved member of the W.I. May she rest in peace.

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HELPERS NEEDED ON CHURCH ROTAS

St. Nicholas' Church needs helpers, for the smooth running of services, to add their names to the following rotas: sides, ministry, readers, intercessors, chalice, coffee, and flowers. Help and instruction is available for willing volunteers. For further information, please contact Gill Grundy on 840208.

Church Cleaning Volunteers are also needed. Please contact Gill Grundy on 840208 if you can help.

FOODBANK

Business is 'As Usual' with Rugeley Foodbank although we are operating a little differently with social distancing in place and unfortunately we are not able to offer the usual tea, biscuits, chat and signposting service.

Many clients are unable to obtain vouchers from the usual sources so are contacting the Foodbank directly and we are assessing their needs and referring as appropriate.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 our food donation sources have diminished, with schools, churches and businesses closing down and generally less stock being available in supermarkets. Initially, we were inundated with offers of fresh food from local businesses to the point where we had to decline. However, Morrisons and Tesco have now stepped forward nationally and they are helping to supplement Foodbanks' shortfalls.

Fortunately, we have not had to implement a food delivery model. We have had more support agencies, social workers, probation, mental health workers etc. collecting parcels on behalf of their clients and we have signposted those people unable to ask friends, neighbours or relatives to collect food on their behalf to contact the Chase Coronavirus Support Network who are running a service of volunteers which includes drivers. This has proved to be working very effectively.

The Hart School have provided our volunteer front line workers with protective face visors that their 6th form have industriously made. They are also supplying other key workers in other sectors. Some of our regular volunteers have had to self-isolate but we are left with a 'hardcore' who are totally committed and dedicated to continue to provide a professional service through this adversity.

We never cease to be amazed by the overwhelming support and generosity of the local community by way of offers to volunteer, give food and monetary donations. Our communities of Rugeley and outlying villages can stand together in honour by the way they have continued to support those amongst us who have little hope and are even more vulnerable during these difficult times.

Thank you and God Bless you all, Dave Webb, Foodbank Manager

REFUSE COLLECTION DATES

The 2020 refuse collection schedule for your property, showing types of waste collected and on what dates, can be found online at:

www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling/collection-dates

For those without internet access, refuse collection dates for **Abbots Bromley village** will be as follows. Details for out-lying properties may vary by day and type (e.g. *Grey* and *paper* on the *Thursday* of the recycling week below).

| Waste for Incinerating (to generate electricity) | Waste for Recycling |
|--|---|
| <i>Grey</i> bin - non-recyclable, food | <i>Blue</i> bin - plastic, tins, glass jars <i>Brown</i> bin - garden waste (no food) <i>Blue bag</i> - paper |
| Wednesday 27 May | Wednesday 03 June |
| Wednesday 10 June | Wednesday 17 June |
| Wednesday 24 June | Wednesday 01 July |

The Brown bin (garden waste) collection has been reinstated subject to further review of the Covid-19 situation.

DIARY FOR JUNE

All of June Stay alert. Control the virus. Save lives.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

~~Sun 7 Jun~~ 3:00pm Tea in a Tipi for *St. Leonard's*, POSTPONED TO 2021
~~Sun 12 Jul~~ Open Gardens Afternoon, *Abbots Bromley* CANCELLED
~~Sat 12 Sep~~ Produce Guild Annual Show CANCELLED

For latest arrangements please contact your group's representative.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

There are numerous events taking place at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. For full details, or to book, please contact the NMA.

Tel: 01283 792333 E-mail: info@thenma.org.uk Web: www.thenma.org.uk

ROTAS FOR JUNE

All church services and rotas are suspended for June.

UNITED BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE

All Benefice Church Services are cancelled for June. The following is a list of potentially useful online resources.

St. Nicholas' Church's Facebook Page (a Facebook account or login is not required to read the posts):

<https://www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchabbotsbromley>

St. Nicholas' Church's "A Church Near You" Page:

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/abbots-bromley-st-nicholas>

St. Leonard's Church's "A Church Near You" Page:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4114/>

Church of England's latest guidance in relation to Covid-19

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

FROM THE REGISTERS

Not available

CONTACT PARISH NEWS

Please see earlier copies of the *Parish News* for our contact details.

Deadlines / Dates for July's magazine are:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Copy: | Monday 15th June |
| Print: | Monday 22 nd June |
| Courier by: | Friday 26 th June |



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MEETING?
OTHER EVENT?**

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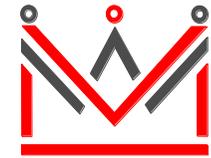
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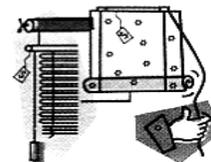
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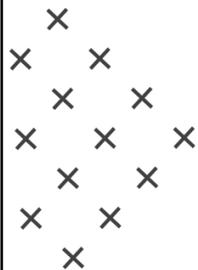


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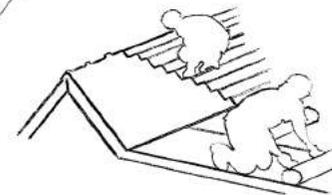
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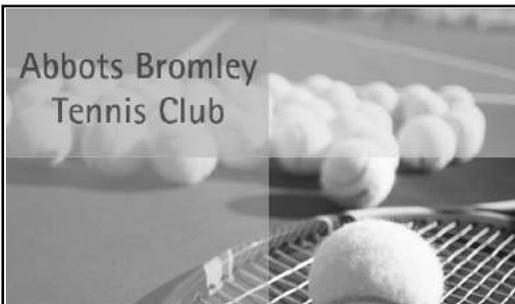
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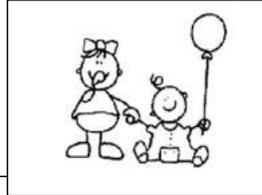
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