

# Abbey Action

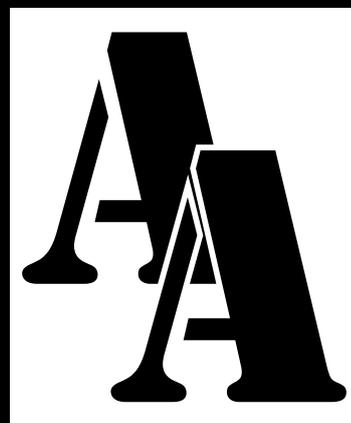
## ABBEY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The Community Newsletter for East Barnwell/Abbey

Autumn 2009 Edition

Contact: Abbey Action, c/o East Barnwell Community Centre,  
Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8RS.

Tel. (01223) 517259 Email: abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk



## Gown meets Town

A scene from a previous Stourbridge Fair outside the Leper Chapel when the traditional opening proclamation is made at 12 noon in the presence of the Mayor and some University of Cambridge officials.

See pages 2 and 3 for more details about the forthcoming Fair and a special **'Ideas in the Community: gown meets town'** event at East Barnwell Community Centre being run by the University of Cambridge and the City Council's Community Development Service.

This is a taster event before the University's main 'Festival of Ideas' programme coming up around the city in October. All residents are welcome to these events.

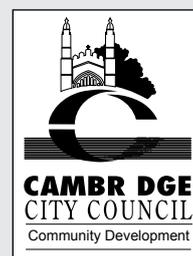
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# The University of Cambridge comes to Abbey!



It is the year of **Cambridge University's 800th Anniversary** celebrations – one of the world's most well

known education establishments. Many local people have had some connection with the University, often as employees of colleges or departments, being one of the city's biggest employers. However, whether you have any links or have never stepped inside a college building, there is a great opportunity coming up to learn about the University, its work and ideas over the last 8 centuries during

the **Cambridge Festival of Ideas 2009**.

Over 150 events (including workshops, debates and taster sessions) will take place around the departments and college buildings from Wednesday 21 October to Sunday 1 November 2009.

The Festival aims to enable participants and audiences to explore and discover more about the world we live in, on a global and local scale. It is brought to you by the team behind the popular annual Cambridge Science Festival. There are also family activities that include an opportunity to try your hand at pottery and 'hunting' with a spear

thrower at the Prehistory day on the 24th October.

**For more information phone 01223 766766 or visit For more information and for a downloadable pdf of the full programme please visit [www.cambridgefestivalofideas.org](http://www.cambridgefestivalofideas.org). Printed copies of the programme are available from many public buildings. Call 01223 766766 or email [cfi@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:cfi@admin.cam.ac.uk) for more details.**

**In addition, you can join the Festival of Ideas as it travels into the wider community to offer three fun-packed days of discovery for all the family. Drop in to find out about crime-solving, gardening, local history, music, nutrition and much more. With talks, workshops and hands on activities for all ages, there is something for everyone!**

**One of these takes place right here in the Abbey area, a few weeks before the main Festival starts.....**

## Ideas in the Community: 'gown meets town' – Abbey event

Saturday 26 September, 11am – 4pm

East Barnwell Community Centre, Newmarket Road, CB5 8RS

The Cambridge Festival of Ideas 2009 visits East Barnwell Community Centre this year. The University of Cambridge's Community Affairs team has teamed up with the Abbey Action Project and the City Council's Community Development Service to put on this special day.

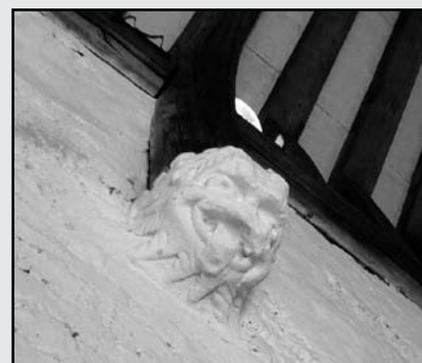
### PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDES:

- 11am Come and play Samba – learn Samba drumming techniques with the University's Faculty of Music and create your own mini Carnival parade
- 12noon Hands on activities with the



*Autumn crocuses*

- Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
- 2pm Tony's top tips. Come and meet the Head Gardener of Newnham College and take part in Gardener's Question Time



*Leper Chapel gargoyle*

- 3pm Join local historian Honor Ridout to find out about town and gown relations over the last 800 years

Throughout the day there will also be hands on children's activities (with a seasonal theme), and a local history display (Abbey – University links).

All events are free, with lunch provided at a cost of £1 per head.

**For more information contact Keith Jordan (at Abbey Action) on 01223 517259 or email [abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk)  
Leaflets also available from Keith or local community buildings.**

## Re-enactment of the ancient Stourbridge Fair at the Leper Chapel

Sat 12th September from noon to 4 pm

The main annual event at the Leper Chapel is the re-enactment of the Stourbridge Fair. Every September for centuries, traders and visitors from all over the country and Europe converged on Stourbridge Common around the Leper Hospital and Chapel to sell and buy a variety of goods including silk, wool, garlic, hops and cheese.

The fair dates back to the reign of King John, at least, when he granted the lepers the right to hold a three-day fair on the Vigil of Holy Cross. Rent from the stalls and booths added to the leper's income, which was otherwise derived



Stourbridge fair, Leper chapel

from begging on the roadside, and from crops which they grew. By 1279 the hospital ceased to take people suffering from leprosy but the fair continued, being run by the town and University in turn.

It is thought that Stourbridge Fair became the largest medieval fair in Europe. Although the commercial fair finally ended in 1933 the intense trading that went on live on in the names of the surrounding streets – Garlic Row, Oyster Row, Mercers Row and Cheddars Lane.

Today's Fair is more modest but there will be stalls and entertainments with a medieval flavour:

- Stalls selling cheese, apple juice, garlic, cakes, honey and beeswax
- Entertainments including children's games, the Capriol Medieval Dancers, story telling and living history talks. You may also find yourself talking to an alchemist and medieval peddlers selling their wares.
- The new apple press bought by the Freedom Club Timebank should also be in use.



Stourbridge fair 2006

- See a 'timeline' of the Abbey area illustrating the incredible history of the area since the Leper Chapel was built. It will also have a 'fruit and veg' theme, showing when some of our vegetables, fruits and plants were introduced into the country over the last 800 years.

The chapel stands near the former Barnwell Junction station on Newmarket Road, almost opposite Cambridge United's pitch. Please note that there is no disabled access to the Chapel.

**More details about events at the chapel:**

[www.theleperchapel.org.uk](http://www.theleperchapel.org.uk)

## Gardening Skills Swap and Produce Display

Thursday 8th October 2009, 1 – 4pm At East Barnwell Community Centre, Newmarket Road  
Open to all - No admission charge



2009 has become the 'Year of Grow Your Own' with so many more people growing

some of their own food at home or on their allotment. By October, the growing season is slowing down and the first frosts may be finishing off the more tender crops like tomatoes and courgettes. However, it's a good time to reflect on the season just gone and make gardening plans for next year.

Many people are just starting out, but others have been tending their

garden or allotment for decades and have a wealth of knowledge they can pass on. Here is a chance for the novice and experienced gardener to meet each other and swap skills.

We hope people will bring along and display some crops they still have growing or have stored (potatoes, onions, squashes, etc.), flowers (fresh or dried) or any jams or preserves they have made. It will be great to see the display of exhibits, whatever shape or standard they are – they still taste the same! Come along even if you don't have anything to display, and get some inspiration!

**Packets of seeds and sundries for all participants and some prizes for the best entries!**

### PROGRAMME

**1 – 2pm** Setting up displays – bring along your fruit, flowers, vegetables and preserves

**2 – 3pm** Weivng time & refreshments – just turn up and look and learn from each other

**3 – 4pm** Skills Swap session – a chance to pass on some tips, or ask about plant pests and diseases or best methods to grow or store crops, make jams or preserves.

The event is supported by the Abbey Action project, Freedom Club Timebank (the local skills swap group) and Cambridge Carbon Footprint and is part of the Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age programme running throughout October.

**For more details contact: Keith Jordan, Abbey Action Project,  
Email: [abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk) Tel: 01223 517259**

The autumn season is here and we feature some of the learning opportunities in the area, whether you are employed, out of work, retired or looking for new skills and interests. Life-long learning is vital for everyone, whatever their age, in a fast changing world but it's not just about degrees and work-related courses but learning new subjects for the fun of it, life skills and those that improve your confidence and self-esteem.

## First Aid Course – Emergency Life Support (Children & Infants)

Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th  
October 7-9pm hosted by Barnwell  
Baptist Church, Howard Road.  
**Run by St John's Ambulance** and  
covering topics such as: -  
Communication & Care; Managing  
an Unconscious Casualty; Head  
Injuries; Resuscitation; Choking;  
Falls; Cuts & Bruises; Burns  
and Scolds; Convulsions. Each  
participant will receive a certificate  
upon completion of the course.

Subsidised by Cambridge  
City Council East Area Grants  
committee, hosted by Barnwell  
Baptist Church. Cost is £15 per  
person (please get in touch if this is  
difficult as we may be able to come  
to some arrangement)

To book, contact Stuart Wood on  
**Office@barnwellbaptistchurch.org.uk**,  
or phone C.292454/07770 792 371

## Back to Work Advice at the Fields

The Fields Children's Centre is a  
local venue for careers and back to  
work advice. If you have children  
under 5 & are thinking of going back  
to work & would like information  
on accessing childcare/jobcentre  
plus services/careers guidance or  
qualification training, advisors are  
available on 23rd September/28th  
October/25th November.

You can make an appointment from  
10am to 4pm 01954 273371 (or just  
drop in 12-1pm)

The Fields Children's Centre is the  
local Centre for Abbey, Fen Ditton,  
Horningsea & Quy. Children's  
Centres are a new way of supporting  
all families with children under five.  
They offer easier access to health  
and family support, help with finding  
jobs and training, drop in sessions  
and activities and information about  
local childcare and early education.  
By 2010 all communities should



have access to the services of a local  
Children's Centre.

For more information about all other  
services call in or phone:

**The Fields Children's Centre**  
**Galfrid Road, Cambridge, CB5 8ND**  
**01223 518333**

## Coleridge Community College classes

Parkside Federation, Coleridge  
Campus, Radegund Road,  
Cambridge CB1 3RJ

The college will be re-launching  
evening classes on a Thursday  
evening in the autumn.

Many classes also at Parkside  
and Manor Community Colleges.

Enrolments 5th / 10th Sept.

More details: Tel. **01223 712340**

Email: **learn&train@  
parksidefederation.org.uk**

Website:  
**www.parksidefederation.org.uk**

# Broaden your Horizons

The University of Cambridge Institute  
of Continuing Education, based at  
Madingley Hall provides opportunities  
for adult learners in Cambridge and  
beyond to study at University level on  
a part-time basis.

**www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk.**

We offer a wide range of programmes  
to individuals and professional  
groups, locally, nationally and  
internationally, to excite and interest  
and to encourage you to return to  
study

**Why are we developing our  
eLearning programme?**

Studying is more satisfying, more  
successful and, indeed, more fun in

the company of fellow students and  
with eLearning support, your fellow  
students are always only a click  
away.

We can offer an unparalleled level  
of online support and direction from  
experienced and enthusiastic tutors  
that will accelerate your learning and  
lead to deeper understanding.

Finding the necessary time and  
space to study in a busy life is always  
difficult, so our online teaching and  
resources enable you to study when  
and where you want to.

All you need is a computer with an  
internet connection and access to an  
email account.

## Cambridge Regional College

[www.camre.ac.uk](http://www.camre.ac.uk)

Most of the college's activities have now been relocated to their main Kings Hedges campus, but if there is enough demand, some courses could be put on in the Abbey area such as:

**Maths & English** – from beginners to the equivalent of GCSE A-C grade. Help to improve your job prospects with a Maths or English qualification. Help your children with their homework. Gain confidence with numbers, calculations, reading, spelling or writing.

**Citizenship Course** – for people

applying for citizenship or settlement in the UK.

**English Classes at all Levels** – classes progress to nationally-recognised qualifications. All levels cover reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Tel. 01223 418844 for more details.

### Entry to Employment (E2E)

The 'E2E' Project is partly based at East Barnwell Community Centre. It is a course to help people gain the skills needed to get a job, get into further education or into an apprenticeship.

- For ages between 16 and 18 years old (and 19 years in some cases) and those without a Level 2 qualification
- For those in that age range who are not in education or training and do not have a job

Learning in three core areas: Basic skills, vocational development and personal and social development.

For more information contact Programme Area Manager:

Cathy Bayford on 01223 458256 or email [cbayford@camre.ac.uk](mailto:cbayford@camre.ac.uk)

## Adult Education at Hills Road Sixth Form College



Hills Road  
Sixth Form College  
Adult Education

Hills Road Sixth Form College offer an Adult Education programme with even more variety of courses during 2009-2010. Choose a course from the following areas: A2/AS levels, GCSE's, Art & Design, Counselling, English as a Foreign Language, Modern Languages, Professional training, Recreational, and Saturday workshops.

See our website: [www.hillsroad.ac.uk/adulted/adultcourses.asp](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/adulted/adultcourses.asp)

for information on all our courses. Benefits include free Hills Road Sports and Tennis Centre membership for adult education students for the duration of their course.

Early enrolments are welcome - please telephone the Adult



Education office on 01223 247251 ext. 1480. The office is open 9.30am-5pm Monday-Thursdays and 9.30am-4.30pm on Fridays. The Adult Education

enrolment evening is on Monday 7th September 5.30-8.00pm. Courses start the week beginning 21st September.

## Cambridge Women's Resources Centre

Hooper Street, Cambridge, CB1 2NZ Telephone: 01223 321148 General E-mail: [enquiries@cwrc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cwrc.org.uk)  
Skills and training for women on a range of subjects. Website on [www.cwrc.org.uk](http://www.cwrc.org.uk) for details.

## Summer outing to Great Yarmouth

The sun shone once again for the Abbey Action community outing to Great Yarmouth. Many residents have been going on these trips for years and Great Yarmouth always has plenty to offer from the sea and sand, amusements, shopping, museums and eating opportunities



## Cambridge Environment Festival 2009

The annual Cambridge Environment Festival took place in June. The event, now in its 20th year, was once again co-ordinated by Cambridge City Council as a celebration of our environment, both local and global. Over 40 events took place around the city including 5 in the Abbey area. The Freedom Club Timebank, a community group based in the Abbey area that swaps time and skills between members, organised a special 'Grow and Eat' event at The Fields Children's Centre. Seasonal gardening tips and plants were given out and snacks using fresh produce were prepared. The new



allotment area at The Fields was also looking good with lush potato plants and fresh pea pods in abundance.

**Local historian Allan Brigham and wildlife expert Iain Webb** took people on a guided walk across the 'wilds' of Coldham's Common noted for its rich history and wildlife. Keith Jordan, Community Worker for the Abbey area, led a series of walk around parts of the ward to look at the abundant variety of trees and wildlife living in the neighbourhood. 30 species of trees and shrubs were pointed out just on one evening walk along Barnwell Road.

**Keith is planning more walks** in the area during the autumn and winter months – **For more details** Tel. (01223) 517259 or Email: [abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk). It's a chance to find out more about the huge variety of plants and animals living in our local green spaces and along the suburban streets. Trees from several continents can be found growing along our streets – many that are as fine and interesting as those in the Botanic Gardens.

**Do you know** where can you find **wild**

**clematis** (Traveller's Joy, Old Man's Beard) growing in Abbey? You may grow clematis in your garden, but this is the only native wild clematis.

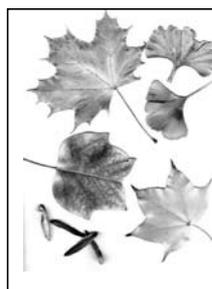
As well as the **Common Horse**

**Chestnut**, where on Newmarket Road can you find another variety of Horse Chestnut that isn't suffering so badly from the leaf-mining moth caterpillar that is devastating chestnuts around the country?

Native American Indians used to make their canoes from the straight timbers of Tulip trees. Where can you find at least two specimens of this North American species near Newmarket Road?

**Come on a walk and find out more!**

Tel. (01223) 517259 or  
Email: [abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk).



## Summerdaze in Abbey



Despite the disappointing weather during the first weeks of summer

the children, young people and families of Abbey have been out enjoying the fantastic and free activities provided by ChYpPS (Children and Young People's Participation Service). Reccy Ranger Jo Hunt and her team – Kirstie, George and Kaya – have been providing heaps of exciting things to do out on the parks and recs, plus shelter in the form of a marquee for when the heavens open!

Activities have included making bracelets and necklaces, natural art collages, giant paintings, football, cricket, basketball and clay sculptures using leaves, berries and grass from around the parks. At Barnwell East Nature Reserve children have been making bug huts with elder, sticks and string and taking part in scavenger hunts. The second week of summer saw many people 'doing something good for nature' during Green Balloon Club Week, whilst week three saw families out on Peverel Rd rec celebrating National Play Day by designing t-shirts and face painting. And finally at Jack Warren Green Community Day a fantastic turnout of over 80 people helped make a thoroughly enjoyable day of sports, races and arts and crafts.

Keep a lookout for Jo and the team on a park near you during term time when school starts back!

See [www.cambridge.gov.uk/chypps](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/chypps) or for more information contact us on 01223 457873 or [chypps@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:chypps@cambridge.gov.uk). And don't forget... all of our activities are free and open to all but under 5's must be accompanied by an adult.

## Barnwell & Fen Ditton Local History Society

Speaker meetings coming up during the autumn:

Wed. 16th September –

'The Ironmonger's Shop' by Mr P. Ibbett

Wed. 21st October –

'Life as a Mayor' by Mr J. Woodhouse

Wed. 18th November –

'Weeds or Medicine?' by Mrs J Dore

The meetings take place at 7:15pm at Abbey Meadows Community Wing, on the Abbey Meadows school site off Galfrid Road.

Members free, visitors £2.00.

Refreshments, raffle and friendly chat afterwards.

Local people most welcome to attend.

**Details – D. Cullum, (01223) 243353.**

## Priory Townswomen's Guild

Priory Townswomen's Guild have just celebrated their 55th birthday with a nice dinner at the Master Mariner. We meet at Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Galfrid Road, the second Wednesday at 7.30pm.

We always welcome guests coming for a visit, with a view to joining us.



## Barnwell Baptist Church's Golden Years

Christmas Shopping Trip to Milton Keynes

Barnwell Baptist Church's Golden Years group are running a coach to Milton Keynes on Tuesday 24th November, leaving Cambridge at 9.15 and

returning by 5.00pm, there are places available to join them. Cost £10. To book a place, contact Stuart Wood on C.292454/07770 792 371 or e-mail Office@barnwellbaptistchurch.org.uk

## Community Lunch Club

At Christ the Redeemer Church, Newmarket Road.

Forthcoming dates: October 7th & November 4th.

Everyone welcome 12 – 1.30pm

Come and try the good food and meet new people.

First time you come the lunch is free.

For more information call

(01223) 242226

## Drop-in Family Centre group:

Free Family Play Group

Every Wednesday afternoon 1-2.30

From Tuesday 8th September

At the Fen Ditton Village Hall

Run by staff of The Fields Children's Centre.

Come along for a variety of play activities,

Meet other parents and children and have Fun!

## St Andrew's Hall, St Andrew's Rd, CB4 1DH

With the opening of the new cycle bridge over the river last year, it is now much easier for residents of the Riverside area to access the community facility at St Andrew's Hall – directly at the end of the bridge on the Chesterton side!

There are activities taking place in this wonderful facility 7 days a week including:

Pilates, drop in coffee mornings, Yoga for Pregnancy and Birth, Beginners & Youth Brass Bands, Giving Voice Singing Workshops, Yoga for Everyone!, Learn Chinese (Children's Class), St Andrew's Young People's Sports Club, Chesterton Lacemakers, East Chesterton Women's Institute, Cruse Bereavement Care Drop-in Sessions, Church Mice Baby & Toddler Group, The Orlando Singers, etc.

People are welcome to come in and gather more info. (leaflet racks in the

foyer, and staff should be around too for some of the time).

Email: info@standrews-hall.co.uk

**Major special event: the Hall's 4th Birthday Celebration on Sunday 29 Nov. 2-5pm - stalls, teas, entertainment - entry free, all welcome.**

One of the regular groups that meets at St Andrew's Hall:

## GIVING VOICE

### Weekly singing workshops led by Rowena Whitehead

at St Andrew's Hall,

Wednesdays 7.30-9pm 9 September – 18 November (excl. 28 Oct)

Cost: £70/60 concessions\*

(10 sessions)

Come and expand your singing skills and confidence in a welcoming group. We will sing songs from different vocal traditions and styles rich in harmony and rhythm to develop vocal skills and confidence in group singing and improvising.

All are welcome – experienced, less experienced and only-in-the-bath singers. No music reading skills are necessary as everything is taught by ear. The workshops are fun and relaxing and you will be encouraged to sing from the soles of your feet!

For more details, phone Rowena on 01223 573288 or email talkingintune@ntlworld.com.



## The Cambridge Money Advice Centre (MAC)

exists to provide free face-to-face debt advice to help you to get out and stay out

of debt. We can contact creditors on your behalf to agree repayments and can provide further advice and support along the way. We stay with you for as long as you need us.

If you would like to speak to someone for advice on a problem with debt, MAC is just around the corner...



## The Lost Priory - a Cambridge Story

A local author has recently written and published a book about our area and Barnwell Priory called: 'The Lost Priory - a Cambridge Story.' Ann Hales-Tooke wrote it to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of Cambridge University. 'The Lost Priory' sets out to investigate the nature of the Tudor people who changed the Barnwell area.

Ann, a Barnwell resident, was interested to discover how events of nearly five

hundred years ago might be mirrored in more contemporary happenings involving the Barnwell community of Cambridge. The story features a murder at Stourbridge Fair in 1534 and a parallel event in 1990.

Available at Heffers bookshop the author will be selling copies at the Stourbridge Fair at the Leper Chapel on Saturday September 12th. Also via email: [ann.hales-tooke@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:ann.hales-tooke@ukonline.co.uk)

## Barnwell Priory

The Priory was founded in 1211 on 13 acres of slightly rising ground south of the River Grant (the Cam) and beside the road running east out of Cambridge to Newmarket (Newmarket). In this area was a holy well – its exact site unknown – going back to Pagan times, and a wooden oratory built by a hermit and dedicated to St Andrew who still lives on in the name of the small church on the Newmarket Road.

The name Barnwell, or, as it was, Barnwelle, meant 'The Children's Springs', as in 'Bairns Well'. These 'Children' were probably the young people who gathered at the sacred

well to celebrate the Summer Solstice with games and wrestling matches. This association lives on in the name of Midsummer Common. The monks were granted considerable income from the Midsummer Fairs

Barnwell Priory grew in size and importance and covered a considerable area that now forms part of Riverside and the roads aptly named Abbey, Priory and Beche - from an early patron of the priory. By Tudor times the priory was one of the largest local landowners. The Priory was finally destroyed during the Dissolution during Henry VIII's reign and only fragments still remain.

## A fruitful summer

Many people were seen picking wild plums and blackberries in the area during late summer. As in most years, the first blackberries were ripe during the same weekend as the Cambridge Folk Festival. Barnwell Road has a particularly good crop of blackberries and the small Cherry Plum bushes (yellow, red fruits) were so laden the stems were bent over. The small plum bushes on the edge of Coldham's Common, by Newmarket Road also had a huge crop. The good yields were probably down to favourable weather and lack of frosts in spring when the bushes were smothered in flowers.



*Plum blossom - Coldham's Common*

## FRIENDS OF STOURBRIDGE COMMON

Invite you to their **Launch and first Public Meeting**

7:30pm, Friday 11th September 2009 St Andrew's Hall, St Andrew's Road, Chesterton

Refreshments 7:15pm

A brief history of Stourbridge Common by Honor Ridout

Have your say on the future of the Common

For more details please email: [luther\\_p@hotmail.com](mailto:luther_p@hotmail.com)

## Abbey Action

**The Abbey Action project** provides an umbrella group for the area and is a link to other organisations working in Abbey, local councillors, facilities, faith groups and community groups. Local residents with an interest in their community and how to improve Abbey are welcome to get involved with the group that meets a few times a year. The next meeting is at Barnwell Baptist Church on Wednesday 23rd September, 6 – 7.30pm.

The project is funded and supported by the City Council's Community Development section. Over the year we produce the Abbey newsletter, oversee local notice boards, arrange the annual summer outing for residents and some other local events, prencourage local organisations to work together more closely, provide information to residents and groups about various topics (activities, community grants, etc.). Contact: Keith Jordan (at Abbey Action) on 01223 517259 or email [abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:abbeyaction1@tiscali.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PLANS

Edition **Winter 2009/'10**

Deadline **26th Oct.**

Covering period **Dec – Feb.**

Topics **Christmas events, etc.**

Distribution **late Nov.**

## Abbey – University of Cambridge connections

Sir Arthur Marshall was a graduate and honorary Fellow of Jesus College.

Many trainee RAF pilots who learnt their flying skills at Marshalls airport during World War 2 were stationed in the University colleges.