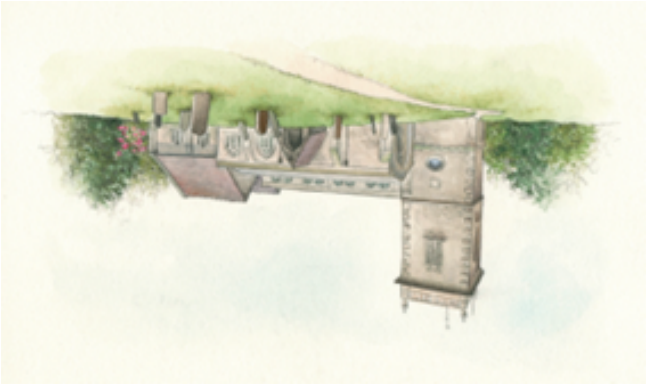


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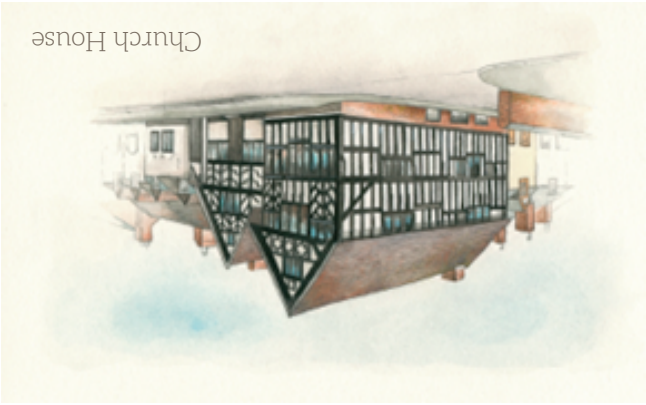
Not all buildings in Abbots Bromley are old. To celebrate the year 2000, Millennium Hall was built on the site of the former Village Institute. Standing on a slight rise with views towards Cannock Chase it is a modern sustainable design that respects village building traditions, which relied heavily on local resources - the oak forests surrounding Abbots Bromley.

Schoolhouse Lane leads north from the green to Richard Clarke First School housed in the former National School for Girls and Infants. The original grammar school, another timbered building (1699) stands at the top of the lane, with the later boys school in front. They are now private houses.

High Street, which runs from the village centre towards Lichfield and Burton, also has fine buildings. Among these are Norman Villa, and the "Big House" (partly hidden by the school chapel) which forms part of the Abbots Bromley School and International College, founded as the school of St Anne in 1874.



Along Church House Lane, are the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, reopened in 1915 and the parish church of St Nicholas. The present building was largely restored by J E Street in the mid 19th century, although there are traces of earlier construction. Further along Bagot Street there are many attractive, historic private houses including Georgian House, The Beeches, Bromley House and others.



Early prosperity has left a legacy of some fine and interesting buildings. The oldest and best known is the Butter Cross, site of the weekly markets confirmed in 1227 by Royal Charter, it stands in the centre next to the village green. Nearby the Goat's Head is a fine timber framed building. The Crofts, an imposing Georgian house, stands opposite. It was formerly known as Bull Stake House as bull bating used to take place outside it. Bagot Street, which leads from the centre of the village to Uttoxeter, contains the Abbots Bromley Hospital Almshouses, dated 1705, established under the will of Lambert Bagot, and Church House, dated 1619, a timber-framed building owned by the church and used by village societies and organisations.



Henry VIII's Dissolution of the monasteries of 1545 ended the Abbey's influence. The king gave Bromley Abbatis to Sir William Paget, Clerk of the Signet, Privy Counillor and the village became known as Paget's Bromley. During the 18th and 19th centuries the family gradually sold off many properties, and the village name reverted to Abbots Bromley as the family connection ceased.

Abbots Bromley did not have a resident Lord of the Manor, with a hall and manorial dues, unlike many villages of the time. Its allegiance was to the Abbey. This had considerable influence on how the village developed making it increasingly prosperous and a valuable source of income. So a small monastic cell was established, possibly at Manor Farm on Hall Hill lane. Gradually after four and a half centuries of monastic rule, Abbots Bromley changed from a village to a prosperous township or borough.

A brief history of Abbots Bromley In 942 it was recorded that the manor of "Bromleige" was given to Wulfisige the Black. It later passed to Wulftric Spot, Earl of Mercia, and under his will dated 1002, to the newly founded Abbey of Burton. The Domesday Book, William the First's general survey of land and property of 1086, also records the village mentioning a wood, two leagues long and one league wide, and a priest suggesting a church already existed.

Abbots Bromley

<http://www.abbotsbromley.com/>

Free Map & Information



Best Kept Village WINNER

Abbots Bromley Parish Council

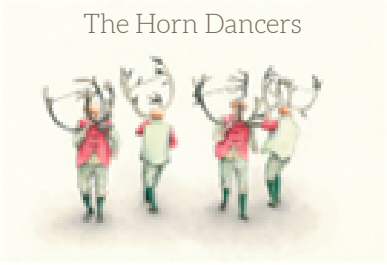
Street Index			
1 Cottrell Close	7 Longlands Place	14 Preedys Close	21 Birchwood Rise
2 Mires Brook Lane	8 Bagot View	15 Friary Avenue	22 Hillside
3 Paget Rise	9 Walnut Grange	16 Church Lane	23 Nancy Talbot Close
4 Cecil Payton Close	10 Old Dolphin Lane	17 Crown Bank	24 Seedcroft Lane
5 Alfred Lyons Close	11 Clarks Crescent	18 Hall Hill Lane	25 New Development
6 Salter Grange	12 Lintake Drive	19 Ivy Close	26 The Paddock
	13 St Nicholas Way	20 Needwood Grange	27 Mill Green Lane

The Abbots Bromley Horn Dance



The Abbots Bromley Horn Dance

It is believed that the horn dance, a peculiarly English rural custom, was performed at the three-day Berthelmy Fair, granted to the Abbots of Burton by Henry III in 1226, celebrating St Bartholomew's day on 24 August. The correction of the Julian calendar in 1752 moved the fair to the beginning of September, and over the years the three days have become one.



The Horn Dancers

The horn dancers

There is a band of twelve dancers, and by tradition, usually male. Six men carry the reindeer antlers accompanied by Maid Marian, the Hobby Horse, the Jester or Fool, a boy carrying a bow and arrow, another a triangle on which he beats time, and a musician, nowadays playing an accordion, but in past years, a fiddle.

The costumes worn by the dancers are modern. Originally they wore their ordinary clothes, sometimes enlivened by bits of coloured ribbon or cloth sown or pinned on. Just before Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887, the daughters of the then vicar of Abbots Bromley, the Reverend J M Lowe, designed and helped make the first set of costumes. These were green tunics with brown spotted sleeves, and blue trousers with brown spots, and the boys wore red velveteen hats. The present costumes were supplied as the result of an appeal in 1997.

How old are the horns?

Until recently, there was no way of knowing how old the horns really were, and these could only be guessed from the style of carving on the wooden heads and the character of the ironwork. In 1976 a small splinter of bone from a broken horn was sent to the Department of Geological Sciences at Birmingham University, and a carbon dating test gave the age as around 1065. This, of course, does not mean that the horn dance is the same age.

The earliest reference to the dance is in Plot's 1686 "Natural History of Staffordshire" although the dance appears to have been temporarily discontinued during the second half of the 17th century after the Civil War, when dancing and music were forbidden.



Blithfield Hall

Over the years the horn dancers have conducted their own affairs with a refreshing and very English lack of formality. Traditionally, the vicar of the parish is in charge of the horns. With the consent and cooperation of the dancers and the vicar, the Abbots Bromley Parish Council formally took over the legal ownership of the horns in 1981. But the actual running of the Horn Dance itself remains, as it always has, in the hands of the village, through the leadership of the Bentley and Fowell families. Throughout the day refreshments are available in Church House; there are displays in the church and stalls on the village green.

Horn Dance dates

There is no annual fixed date for the performance of the Horn Dance. It is always on **"the Monday following the first Sunday after the 4th of September"**. This absence of a fixed date often results in little crowds of disappointed visitors coming on the wrong day, but here they are for the next few years.

Forthcoming dates

- 2022 12 September
- 2023 11 September
- 2024 09 September
- 2025 08 September

Horn Dance (Approximate timings; see map above)

- 07:00 1 St Nicholas Church
Service of Holy Communion
- 07:45 Collect horns from church
- 08:15 2 Dance on the Village Green
- 3 Goose Lane
- 4 Yeatsall
- 11:00 5 Admaston Village
- 12:00 6 Blithfield Hall
- 13:45 7 Little Dunstal Farm
- 14:15 8 Rugeley Turn
- 15:30 9 The Bagot Arms
- 16:15 10 Infiniti
- 16:50 11 The Goat's Head
- 17:30 12 The Crown Inn
- 18:30 13 Schoolhouse Lane
- 14 Bagots View/Swan Lane
- 15 Radmore Lane
- 16 Lichfield Road
- 19:15 17 The Coach & Horses
- 18 High Street and Village Green
- 20:15 19 Horns returned to church
Ancient Service of Compline