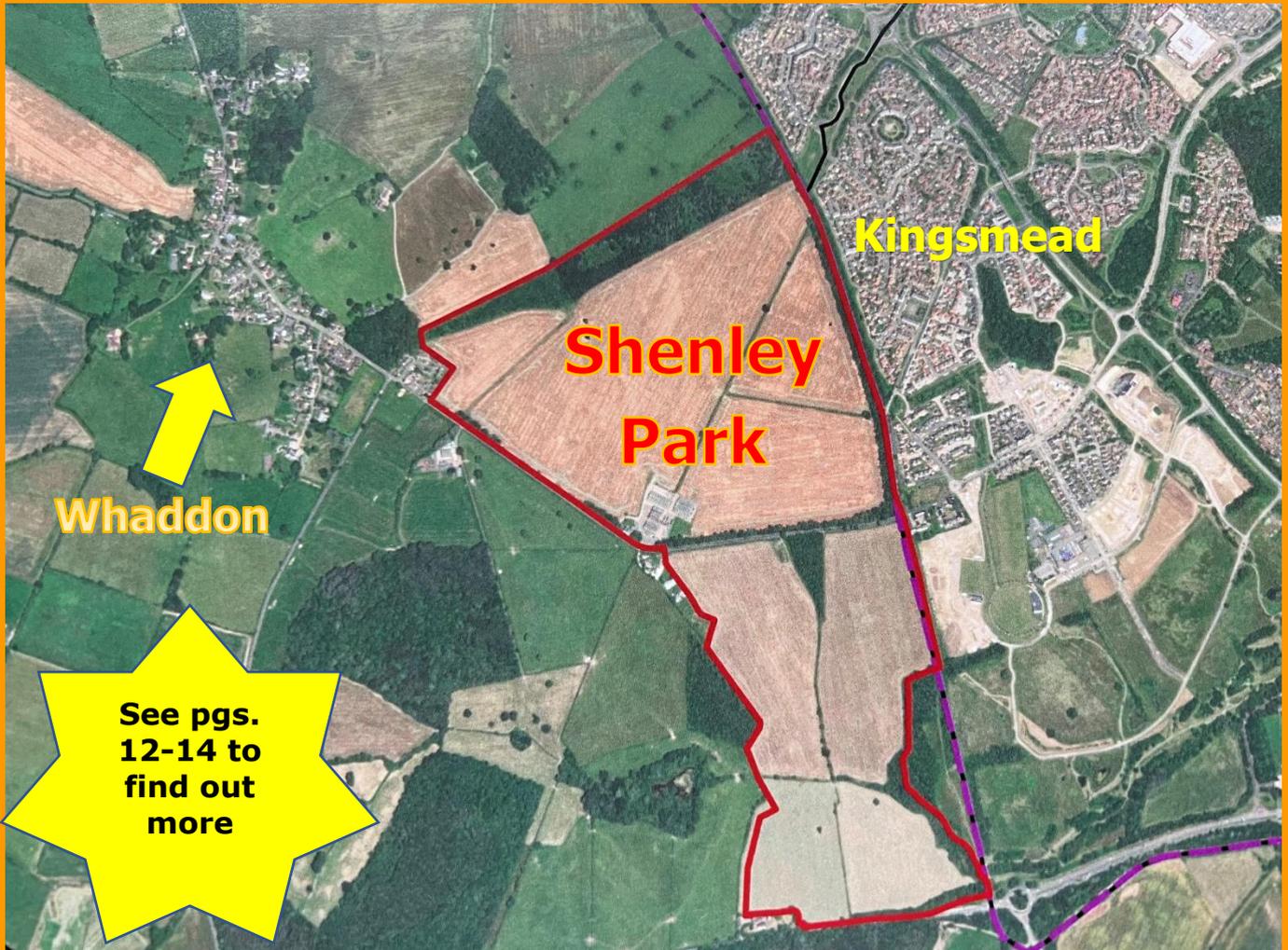


# WHADDON QUARTERLY



Shenley Park Proposed Development  
Between 1150-1650 homes  
(Enclosed by red border)

## Winter 2022

# Halloween in Whaddon



Whaddon does  
Halloween in style!  
See back page for  
more



# Welcome to Whaddon Quarterly!

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The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors or Whaddon Parish Council. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but the Editor does not accept liability for any errors within contributed material. The Editor's decision is final.

**For comments, queries, and articles**

Please contact

**wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk**

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Send your advertisement to the Editor as above

**Want your photo on the front or back cover?**

Then send your entry for the next edition to: [wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)

Back Cover photo: Many thanks to Vicky Harrison for sunrise over the fields of Whaddon

# bumpstart™

[bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk](http://bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk)

Welcome to Bump Start, the baby shop at Whaddon. We stock everything you could need for your baby, from car seats to cots to carriers. We pride ourselves on our product knowledge and will help find the ideal products for you. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## OPENING TIMES

Mon	Closed
Tue	10am - 4pm
Wed	10am - 4pm
Thurs	10am - 5pm
Fri	10am - 5pm
Sat	10am - 5pm
Sun	11am - 3pm

We are just 10 minutes from both Milton Keynes and Buckingham

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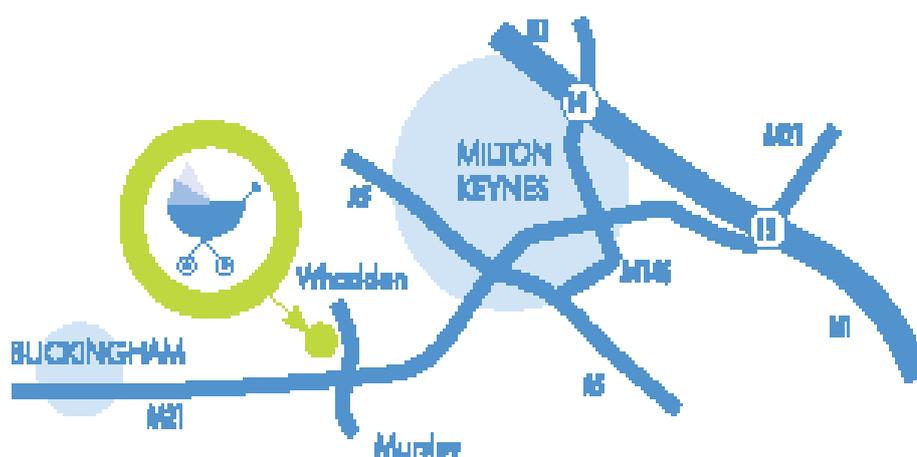
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**0800 594 3052**

fax: 01908 505636

email: [baby@bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk](mailto:baby@bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk)

web: [www.bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk](http://www.bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk)



[www.bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk](http://www.bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk)

# Editor's Letter

## Welcome to the Winter edition of The Whaddon Quarterly

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of The Whaddon Quarterly. There are lots of articles of interest submitted by many different people across our wonderful community to keep all of us informed about local history, village events past and present, planning applications which may impact us and much, much more.

In the short period of time since the last edition, much has happened in the UK. Our amazing Queen Elizabeth peacefully left us after 70 years of loyal service to the country, and sadly, we lost some much-loved members of our own village community. We have had two changes of Prime Minister and the country looks like it is heading into a lengthy and difficult recession. But on the positive side, (up until this week!), we have enjoyed milder than normal weather, enabling many of us to participate in outdoor pursuits and benefit from fresh air and nature when we might normally have been confined to our homes.

Also, Whaddon has provided much to keep us amused and busy; two fun quizzes in the Jubilee Village Hall; the fabulous Harvest festival and supper organised by the church; a fabulous evening of fun with The Opera Dudes; craft fairs to purchase Christmas gifts and enjoy a cuppa and cake; and an interesting play about Whaddon life many years ago.

There is a lot happening in the village in the next few months too. Too much to list here so please see page 9 for a summary of dates for your diary; put them in your calendar now so that you don't miss out.

Finally, please read pages 12-14 which detail the latest news on the Shenley Park Development. As you can see from the picture on the front cover, the proposed development is large and will have a potentially significant impact on Whaddon village.

If you have something that you wish to share in our village magazine, or if you have an idea about what you'd like to see included, please contact me on [Wqeditor@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Wqeditor@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk). I am always grateful for suggestions and submissions of content.

The deadline for the Spring edition is 17<sup>th</sup> February with publication planned within 7 days of that date.

Keep safe, keep warm and enjoy the upcoming festive season.



**Sharon**  
**The Editor**



## **Whaddon Parish Council Chairman's Report**

A former Prime Minister once said, "A week is a long time in politics". That is true, I think, in all aspects of our lives and none more so than in the last quarter. I was writing happily in my column last August of hot sunny days, of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Whaddon and I mentioned the sporting success of some of our national teams. Now, sadly, three months on, the outlook is not nearly as happy in so many of our national affairs. We have not only seen the death of our Queen, but we are also facing inflation and recession with no easy solution to our economic problems in sight.

Buckinghamshire Council, where I represent you, will have budget difficulties to resolve for some years ahead. We most certainly must be prudent in our council tax calculations for the County, but at the same time maintain our standards on social services, road repairs and all the other services that we provide.

The Parish Council met recently to fix its precept (the money that we ask Buckinghamshire Council to provide) at an unchanged level. We believe we can maintain our services to the usual standard.

We are studying the progress of the County's plan to build more than a thousand houses on the Milton Keynes edge of Whaddon Parish, known as Shenley Park. A planning document giving greater details will be published in January. Traffic movement will be one of the biggest issues and we are liaising closely with Whaddon School on the implications for education.

By the time that the Parish Council meets again in January, I hope that everyone will have had a good Christmas and New Year, despite the uncertainties facing us all.

***Cllr Billy Stanier Chairman***  
**Whaddon Parish Council**

## Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council



# The Clerk's Corner

## New Email Address for Whaddon Parish Council.

Your Council is busy planning ahead for the future, and we have upgraded our email address to give us better security, improve our ability to circulate email information to residents, and demonstrate our proper status as a Council. Please note our new address [Clerk@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk). The old address will continue to work for a while, to facilitate the changeover.

## The Art of Effective Complaining!

WPC gets its fair share of problems and grumbles about things around the village, and, as in all walks of life now, it gets harder and harder to get authorities to pay attention and get anything done to fix it. We compete for ever-dwindling resources, and this can only get worse in the light of current economic circumstances.

If you have something you want to complain to WPC about and ask us for support, it is hugely helpful if you can write formally to WPC; stating who you are, what the problem is, what effect it has on you and your fellow residents, and what you'd like done about it, and give us permission to forward the complaint. Keep it polite, to the point, include facts, data and examples, and photos are good too.

## Sign up to get important information and updates by e-mail!

Send a short email to [clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk), asking to be added to the list. We promise absolutely you will NOT be 'spammed' and your details will NOT be passed on or used for any other purpose than for Council and/or Police matters.

## Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s):

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take place at 7.00pm on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023, at The Chapel, Stock Lane, MK17 0LU. Meetings are generally every other month on 2nd Thursday, but please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. Full details are also on the WPC website [www.whaddonbuckspc.org.uk](http://www.whaddonbuckspc.org.uk).

**All are welcome!**

## **Hazel Hedges Retires from WPC after 23 Years' Service.**

WPC was both sad and happy (for her!) to accept the resignation and retirement of Cllr Hazel Hedges, who is stepping down from her long-held place as Councillor on WPC, after 23 years' valuable and dedicated service to the village and the local authority.

Cllr Hedges was appointed to the Parish Council at the AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1999. Back then the millennium celebrations were being planned and the entire meeting's minutes covered a page and a half, all typed on a manual typewriter! Things have certainly changed a great deal since then!



WPC Councillors would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation for all the hard work and dedicated service given by Cllr Hedges over the years, and we are sure all Whaddon's residents will join us in wishing her a very well deserved and happy retirement.

**Councillors and Clerk of WPC.**

## **Whaddon Parish Council Vacancy**

WPC has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you have any interest in this position, please contact the Parish Clerk on [clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk) or on **07891 887826** during office hours.

Requirements are to live in or within a short distance from the Parish, proficient email skills, time to attend six evening meetings a year plus deal with correspondence, and an interest in supporting the community.

**Suzanne Lindsey**  
**Clerk to Whaddon Parish Council**

# What's happening in Whaddon?



## Dates for your diary

**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER:** St. Mary's Church Christmas Fair in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall 2pm. Mulled wine, mince pies, crafts, raffle and much more including a visit from Santa too!

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER:** Christmas tree lighting up ceremony at the Whaddon Jubilee Hall 5.30pm-6pm; accompanied by festive songs sung by The Chase Choir; followed by a social evening in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall with licensed bar and music. Free Entry.

**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER:** Christmas wreath-making at Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Booking essential. See Whaddon Jubilee Hall page.

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER:** Ladies Night at the Village Hall. Open to all ladies in the village. Bring your own drink and a contribution to the food table. £4 each, excess after hall hire to charity. Please contact Sharon on [Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com](mailto:Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com) if you want to find out more.

**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER:** Service of Lessons and carols at St. Mary's. 6pm.

**MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER:** The Chase Choir Christmas Concert in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall 7pm; £5 entry fee with proceeds going to charity.

**THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY:** Whaddon Parish Council meeting 7pm at The Chapel, Stock Lane.

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY:** Quiz in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Doors open 7pm. Licenced bar and raffle. Book your team in now! See Whaddon Jubilee Hall page for details.

**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:** Costa del Whaddon! Spanish themed social evening with food and entertainment at Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Tickets purchased in advance required for entry. See Whaddon Jubilee Hall page for details.

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:** Auction of Promises, fundraiser for St. Mary's Church, 7pm at Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Food and bar, followed by social evening in the hall.

**FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Live music and dancing to "The Midnight Jams" with Whaddon's own drummer, Chris Mansbridge. And featuring Phillipa Akers from "The Voice", 7pm at Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Proceeds to St.Mary's church.

## Regular events across the village

**MONDAY EVENINGS:** Chase Choir in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. 7.45pm-9.30pm. No experience necessary. Please call Marianna Beckwith on 01908 503194 for more details.

**LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH:** Whaddon Book Club. Please contact Jane Porter on 01908 501709 to find out more.

**TUESDAY EVENINGS:** Table Tennis in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Contact Mark Carter on [maqcarter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maqcarter@hotmail.co.uk) to find out more.

**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH:** Whaddon's Women's Institute 2pm in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Please call Jill Aitken on 01908 502781 for more details.

**THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH:** Women's Institute Nightowlers 7.30pm in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Please call Daphne Willis on 01908 502088 for more details.

**THURSDAY EVENINGS:** Mindfulness based Yoga with Lauren in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. 7.30pm-8.30pm. Please contact Lauren Bennett on [lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk](mailto:lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk) if you are interested.

# The Jubilee Hall – Whaddon’s Village Hall

## News and Upcoming events!



Did you know that you can hire the hall for private events at competitive rates? Our chairs and tables can also be hired if you need some extra furniture for your private gatherings.

We have recently installed speakers to enable music to be played by hirers if required. And we have some mood lighting that can be used upon request.

Hall hire is £12 per hour for Whaddon residents; £18 per hour for non-residents, plus an additional cleaning charge for one-off bookings.

Please contact us through the Jubilee Hall Facebook page or e-mail: [whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com) for more details.

Hire income alone is not enough to fund the annual running costs of the hall, which include heating, lighting, insurance, cleaning, water rates, licences, and maintenance. Fundraising events are required to bridge the gap.

That is why your support at our events is so gratefully received and very much appreciated.

In 2022, as well as normal day to day maintenance, we have re-painted both the large and the small halls and now need to focus on some much-needed external maintenance. Please help us achieve this by supporting us if you can.

### EVENTS since the last Whaddon Quarterly:

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:** Quiz Night - Congratulations to “Our drinking team has a Trivia problem” on their win (pictured right).

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October:** An evening of music and mirth with the incredibly talented and funny Opera Dudes. A fabulous time was had by all who attended.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November:** Whaddon Jubilee Hall Annual General Meeting. Committee elected as follows:

Chairman:	Graham Hain
Treasurer:	Pierre Hibble
Bookings Clerk:	Marianna Beckwith
Caretaker:	Frederick Hayward
Other members:	Deb Spinks, Trevor Bennett, Anne Tolfree, Charlotte Calder and Sharon Bessell.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November:** Winter Craft Fayre. A chance to purchase from local crafters and join friends and neighbours for a cuppa and cake.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November:** Quiz Night – Congratulations to the Crystal Methodists on capturing the latest crown for the Brains of the village (pictured right).



## **FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR - Please save the dates in your diaries:**



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December:** Christmas tree lighting up ceremony followed by a festive village social evening.

5.30pm - Mulled wine and mince pies available to purchase to get you in the Christmas spirit while you sing along with members of The Chase Choir.

6pm - Tree lighting up with carols around the tree, followed by a social event for all the family in the hall.

Licensed bar and music. Under 18's welcome for the earlier part of the evening. Hall doors and bar open at 6.30pm until 11pm.

Please come along and bring your friends too. For those new to the village, it is a great opportunity to meet the many lovely people living in our wonderfully inclusive and friendly community. And you'll be helping to raise funds whilst having fun and catching up with friends and neighbours.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Wreath Making. 2pm-4pm. Pre-booking essential.

A relaxed, informal workshop, at an easy pace and designed to help you create your own special masterpiece. All materials and equipment provided along with light refreshments. £55 per person.

Please contact Sharon Bessell on [Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com](mailto:Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com) or via the Jubilee Hall Facebook page to find out more.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January:** Quiz Night – Doors/bar open 7pm. Quiz starts 8pm.

Come along to this popular village event and claim the “Brains of the Village” title!

Teams of up to 6 people. £4 per person entry fee. There are limited tables so book yours early to avoid disappointment.

Please contact Sharon Bessell on [Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com](mailto:Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com) or via the Jubilee Hall Facebook page to book your team.



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February:** COSTA DEL WHADDON - A Spanish-themed social evening with food. Doors/Bar open 7pm, food serving begins at 7.30pm. Limited numbers. Pre-Booking essential.

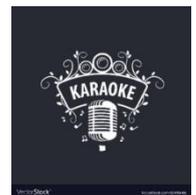
Paella (Traditional and Vegetarian options), Sangria, Spanish music and fabulous entertainment. We can't bring you Mediterranean sunshine, but we can bring you food, fun and fiesta! It's a night that you will not want to miss.

Tickets are £23 each. You can reserve your tickets by paying in full now or pay a £5 deposit per ticket now and the balance by 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Please contact Sharon Bessell on [Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com](mailto:Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com) or via the Jubilee Hall Facebook page to reserve your ticket.

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March:** Social evening with a bar and Karaoke. Free Entry. 7pm-11pm.

Please save the date and more details will follow in the next edition of the Whaddon Quarterly.



**Please keep an eye on the Jubilee Hall noticeboard for more details and updates. If you are on Facebook, please like our page “Whaddon Jubilee Hall”.**

# **SHENLEY PARK - PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

## **\*\*WHAT WHADDON RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW\*\***

If you have read recent Whaddon Quarterlies, you will know that **at least 1150 homes** are planned along Shenley Road, just beyond Briary View at a site named Shenley Park (see front cover aerial photo). This figure could **increase to up to 1650** homes, depending upon the planning application that the developer, Crest Homes, submits - probably during next year. Buckinghamshire Council (BC) are hoping to have these new homes built and occupied by 2033. Looking even further ahead, this figure might possibly increase closer to **2000 homes or more**, depending on the number of extra homes needed in Buckinghamshire and if, during the review of the replacement VALP to 2040, BC considers that extending this site up to the woodland east of Coddimoor Lane is a sustainable option.

Key land uses within the site also include a 110-bed care home or extra care facility, a new primary school and nursery, possibly a site for a secondary school if needed, a mixed-use local centre including a community hall, a contribution towards a health care facility, multifunctional green infrastructure, and a new link road from the A421 to H6 Childs Way and/or H7 Chaffron Way.

The Whaddon parish population will **increase almost tenfold** from some 400 now to around 3500 probably before 2033 - just ten years from now - with the first 50 homes expected to be completed by 2025. These new residents will pay their council tax to Bucks Council and not Milton Keynes.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION - EARLY JANUARY**

A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is currently being finalised by BC and they inform us that this will go out for a 6-week public consultation, very early in the New Year. At this time, we have no clear idea of what this crucial consultation will contain, or what questions may be asked. But most certainly BC will present a draft 'land use plan,' together with various options for consideration on traffic, landscape and general development parameters. It will be on these documents and plans that residents' views will be sought **BEFORE** it is finalised and adopted as planning guidance.

This document is required by BC as a guide to development and should be in place before Crest Homes can make a planning application. WPC has had some limited involvement in this process and has prepared a village 'wish list' on possible traffic, highway and landscape improvements, **but there is so much more to consider!**

## **THE SPD IS HUGELY IMPORTANT TO EVERY RESIDENT**

### **BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.**

**Everyone** should be thinking about how Whaddon village can or will integrate with what is essentially a new suburb of MK, but in doing so, they should **remember** that **all of the 'at least 1150 homes'** will be within Buckinghamshire and more particularly **within Whaddon Parish** itself.

No one can predict with any certainty, but you must assume that not all residents within this new supposedly sustainable development will automatically align

themselves and their families towards MK and some, possibly many, might prefer to be welcomed as part of a village community, and those that do, might enjoy joining in with Whaddon Village activities.

### **WHAT WILL NEW SHENLEY PARK RESIDENTS DO?**

Will they attend functions within Whaddon Jubilee Hall, which will be within easy walking and cycling distance, and within their parish? Presumably they will be invited to do so, as they move in and the population grows, and maybe some will look to make Village Hall bookings, for parties or other events. Or will new (or indeed existing) residents congregate towards the proposed new community hall, which might get built, but probably at a later stage in the development process, if at all?

Will the mixed-use local centre contain a new Pub, and even if it does, will the new residents prefer the ambience of the historic local hostelry: the Lowndes Arms?

The same goes for our Village Church and Chapel, as the VALP policy makes no proposals for places of worship within the new development area. It would be wonderful if the Church, for instance, had an even larger congregation. But remember the Church has no water supply or toilet facilities, so can it cope?

I do not know enough about education, so I am hesitant to speculate on the future of our village school, but surely the future looks good? And what about the future and the councillor composition of your Parish Council? There is an awful lot to consider, and now is the time to do so!

### **THE MAIN ISSUE .... AND REASONS.**

Every major development must provide or contribute to the basic services that a new sustainable community will require, such as roads, drainage, education, social and affordable housing, public open space, play areas etc, all paid for out of the dramatic increase in land value that the grant of planning permission brings.

Additionally, and if as a direct consequence of the development, it can be demonstrated that such growth impacts negatively on nearby communities causing problems to existing facilities and infrastructure, it may - repeat 'may' - also be possible (by agreement between BC and the developer), to provide capital funds (but not ongoing running costs) towards general community and leisure facilities. Such negotiated funding can be used for the provision, extension, adaptation or enhancement of local facilities and infrastructure thereby helping to cope with the additional pressure that the development might cause.

This type of funding, commonly known as a 'Section 106' agreement, is drafted when it is considered that a development will have **significant** impacts on the local area that cannot be moderated by means of conditions attached to a planning decision.

*For example, a new residential development can place extra pressure on the social, physical and economic infrastructure which already exists in a certain area. A Planning obligation will aim to balance the pressure created by the new development with improvements to the surrounding area ensuring that where possible, the development would make a positive contribution to the local area and community.*

This type of funding is often associated with local 'off site' highway improvements because new development can have huge traffic implications, and whilst BC will try and negate such concerns, they must also be made aware of other community concerns and requirements, especially when such large development proposals are planned so close to existing communities and are certain to impact on them.

## **WHAT CAN RESIDENTS DO?**

**THERE IS A VERY SIMPLE RULE - IF RESIDENTS DON'T MAKE THE CASE, IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED BY BC - AND THE DEVELOPERS ARE UNLIKELY TO OFFER - BECAUSE IT WILL DIMINISH THEIR PROFITS!**

Therefore, when the Public Consultation takes place in January, residents should **carefully consider** what the impending growth will **mean for Whaddon**, and indeed themselves, and what might be needed to negate any problems caused by development - which is likely over the next 2 - 20 years. There is bound to be a large increase in traffic, footfall and events arising as a direct consequence of some 3500 new 'Whaddon' Parish Residents who will be within easy walking/cycling distance of Whaddon facilities, including the Village Hall, Public House, Church, Chapel and playing field.

**THE JANUARY PUBLIC CONSULTATION WILL BE THE LAST CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN, BEFORE THE DOCUMENT IS ADOPTED AS PLANNING GUIDANCE.**

Your only chance to comment thereafter, will be at the actual planning application stage (likely during next year) **but to influence change at that late stage, may be very difficult indeed if not impossible, because any planning application submitted by Crest Homes should be based upon the already adopted SPD!**

### **When commenting, remember the Assessment criteria:**

**The purpose of a S106 agreement is to mitigate the impact of the development on the local community and infrastructure, but:**

- **It must be necessary and** caused directly by the development.
- **It must be relevant and** required to mitigate the impact of the development.
- **It must be reasonable, in** scale and kind, and any other legal criteria by BC.

**To be eligible for Section 106 funding, the applicant/organisation must have:** -

- A constitution or set of rules,
- Demonstrate that they have consulted the facility users and/or the local community.
- Provide any other evidence of need for the project,
- Have the written support of the local Parish Council.

**GRAHAM STEWART**

## Fond memories of Queen Elizabeth II

In the last Whaddon Quarterly, we featured all the Jubilee celebrations and decorations in our lovely village. Three short months later, we were mourning the loss of our longest reigning monarch. We asked for Whaddon villager's stories about the Queen and Trudy Buckner provided this lovely piece about her mother, Evelyn.

On the right is a photograph of Evelyn Jaworska who has lived in the village all her life. She currently lives in one of the bungalows on Stock Lane.

She is all dressed up to attend the WI 50th Anniversary Garden party at Buckingham Palace held in 1965.

All WIs were invited to select one member to attend, and Evelyn's name was pulled out of the hat to represent Whaddon.

She thoroughly enjoyed her trip to the Palace and remembers it to this day.



\*\*\*\*\*

### Cheaper Heating Oil, anyone...?

You may not know it, but there's a buying syndicate for heating oil based in Whaddon and for nearby villages.

Operated on a not-for-profit basis, it is entirely free to join and can result in a saving of 4 - 5 pence per litre. Each month, members decide if they'd like to add to a group order (500 litres minimum), and if they do, they email the person who runs the syndicate. The price for a bulk order is negotiated and the order is placed by the syndicate organiser. You then pay the oil company direct at the agreed price and your oil is delivered, usually within 10 days.

Interested? Please email [oil@northbucksos.co.uk](mailto:oil@northbucksos.co.uk) for more info.

## A message to Whaddon from Olga

One more day, one more night... What's been happening today in Ukraine? I need to message my brother and friends to make sure they are ok... now I can sleep, tomorrow is a new day...

I wake up early, my son sleeps deeply. I make my morning coffee and open the door to the outside... yes, we are in Whaddon. It will be sunrise soon; I can hear birds' song, feel the wind blowing and the smell of the trees.

I try to enjoy this moment and keep looking around. My brain is unable to stop thinking... how could all this have happened? I'd never planned to visit the UK; I've never thought to live outside of Ukraine...but here we are in Whaddon. Whaddon... a small but beautiful village, we've already met people with big, kind hearts.

I believe when our life is active and we are kept busy, we often have no time to stop and think. But I feel it's important to keep positive, build new plans for our future and to find the energy to keep going.

We have had lots of difficult circumstances and every day I have been worrying about Ukraine and all our relatives and friends, I want to stop my mind from worrying, look around and know we are getting stronger and have the strength to move forward through all the difficulties we have faced... I do believe this has been made possible by the kindness people have shown us.

Here in the UK, we've met so many kind people who have inspired me every day. So many warm words been shared with us; there is so much help that people have kindly provided.

I keep in my heart and in my thoughts every piece of advice and smile that has been given, and everything provided for us. I would especially like to thank Julia and Peter for making us feel so welcome in so many ways ... not to mention helping me with learning to ride a bike and driving.

We are very lucky to be here, I have settled into my work, as has my son into his school. We are happy to have the possibility to work, study, sport, breathe, drive on the left side, have lovely new friends who do believe in us. We are proud to be part of their lives and part of the lovely Whaddon community.



**Olga**

## An update from Oksana

For the last six months, we have been living in Whaddon. During this time there have been many events. My children are studying in a beautiful school; I also work there as a Science laboratory Technician. I'm even driving a car which has been a huge challenge, but I'm trying to fight my fear.

I learn English daily and I'm improving my qualifications and experience; I find time for my hobbies, namely yoga, meditation, soul formula.

This summer, my children and I went on holiday to Plymouth where we stayed in a beautiful house with Hazel and her family, where we swam in the Channel! All this was made possible by exceptional people, especially Mignon and Simon.

I respectfully bow to them and all the English people who support our family, the Ukrainians and Ukraine.

There have been some unusual and surprising things I have noticed during my time in England:

- Friendly, welcoming people, willing to help. The most common words every day "Thank you" and "Sorry"
- The English people who we have met are hardworking, busy, but also have time to rest and relax. Almost everyone has a hobby.
- Tolerance, patience, calm attitude to other people.
- Pets in England are family members. Almost all families seem to have dogs or cats.
- Homeless people can be seen here, homeless animals are nowhere to be seen.
- There are many vegetarians and people who have a healthy lifestyle. Very rarely do we meet people who smoke.
- Equality between men and women in the family. Men are involved in the household tasks on an equal basis with women.
- "Tradition" and "community" are important words for British people.
- Driving on the left-hand side, narrow streets, welcoming gestures when you give way.
- Very beautiful nature.
- Many old houses in the same style.
- People don't take their shoes off at home.
- Separate taps for hot and cold water.
- Strict obedience to rules of law.
- Unusual holidays we have participated in or celebrated: Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, the Harvest Festival, Halloween, Guy Fawkes Day.
- For the first time, I learned about dyslexia.
- Many issues related to officials are solved ...eventually
- Not very clear system of health care and transport.



I am so grateful for the community of Whaddon who have been so kind to my family.

Thank you

**Oksana**



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – WHADDON

### YOUR LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS

Graham Stewart	2 High Street	Tel: 01908 501973
Peter Beckwith	6 Old Manor Close	Tel: 01908 503194
Sally Green	Bellsbrook, Church Lane	Tel: Ex -directory
David MacIntyre	2a Vicarage Road	Tel: 01908 867836
Howard Jones	8 Ladymead	Tel: 01908 501871
Sally Telford	4a Stock Lane	Tel: 01908 336960
Pauline Winward	1 Whaddon Hall	Tel: 01908 502559

### Clocks Went Back on 30th October

With the clocks having gone back on 30 October, our homes will be in darkness in the late afternoon – a gift for opportunist burglars. Unfortunately, burglars see the longer winter nights as an opportunity to increase their criminal activities, so to avoid becoming a victim of burglary, Neighbourhood Watch are encouraging all residents to look at their home security and take some simple, yet effective steps to protect their homes:

1. Use a timer switch to turn on lights and a radio (not too loud to annoy neighbours!) to give the impression someone is home.
2. If you are away overnight or longer, ask a neighbour to park their car on your drive to create the appearance of your home being occupied.
3. Fit sensor lights to the outside of your property to light up any unwanted visitors.
4. Keep valuables and other electronic equipment such as laptops out of sight, and security mark valuables with a UV pen and register them with '*Immobilise*', (a scheme which helps Police identify the owners of recovered property thousands of times every day).
5. Double-lock UPVC doors or use dead locks on solid doors.
6. Keep all spare keys, including car keys, away from the front door and out of sight to avoid them being 'fished' through the letterbox.
7. Keep windows locked with the key and keep it out of sight.
8. Don't leave the packaging boxes from expensive new TVs or game consoles outside by your bin, this will just act as advertising what goodies you have inside your home.

## **NUMBER PLATE THEFTS** (Hot off the Thames Valley Police press)

There have been increased reports of Number Plate Thefts in the Aylesbury Vale Local Policing Area recently.

The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number.

If your number plate is stolen, please report it to us immediately on 101 or online at

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

## **SCAMS.**

Be on the lookout for these scams and remember, if you, or someone you know, has been a victim, find out how to report it.

**Friend in Need:** A 'friend in need' scam is targeting WhatsApp users. Criminals are posing as friends or family members in need of help. They will text from what they claim to be a new mobile after their old one was 'lost/damaged.' They will then go on to ask for money to pay an urgent bill/new phone. Recent scams have even initially asked for funds to be transferred to a friend or family member before being sent on to the scammer to give the appearance of an initial low risk payment.

**Energy Price Cap:** With the severe increase in the energy price cap reported, fraudsters are likely to seize this opportunity to exploit those looking to change energy providers and/or tariffs. Individuals are being warned to be vigilant to avoid falling victim to new campaigns associated with energy supplies, for example: offers which seem too good to be true or fake rebates.

**Cost of Living Crisis:** With the cost-of-living crisis deepening scammers will be using the economic downturn to their own benefit. The warning comes as many are receiving a first instalment of a cost-of-living payment, worth £326. Reports have been received by Action Fraud of fraudsters attempting to exploit vulnerable people with the promise of money saving schemes, including, energy and council tax rebates or phishing exercises encouraging individuals to apply/ claim a 'cost of living payment' via text, followed by an email to gain further information from the victim.

**Fake Santander Email:** Lots of people online have been flagging a fake Santander mobile banking email. The email impersonates Santander's branding and gives you a sense of urgency regarding your access to banking services, to pressure you into giving away data. Over recent weeks, use of the search term Santander email scams has increased by more than 5000%, showing the spike in people being targeted with this new scam. Know what to look out for.

**British Gas Fake Email:** Scammers are impersonating British Gas with fake emails tempting recipients to click a link to get a fake energy refund. Although the email looks legitimate, it addresses you by your email address and not your name. This is a potential giveaway that it's from a fraudster.

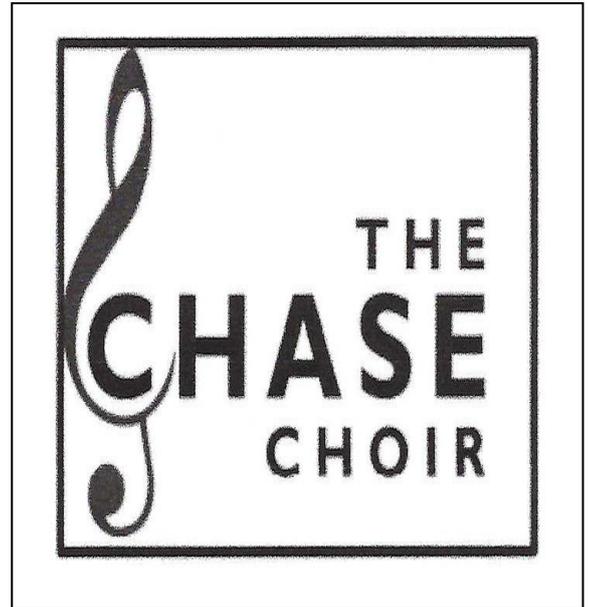
**Premium Rate Number Scams:** This scam tries to trick people who are searching online for telephone numbers of government advice services. It works by displaying an advert for the phone number of the relevant government advice line. But the sting is, that you'll be charged a premium for using this advertised telephone number – in some cases, as much as £20 or £30 a call. You are put through to the right advice line, but you pay a very high and unnecessary connection fee. Find out which phone numbers to look out for.

**If you are a victim of fraud, find out how you can report it.**

## **Neighbourhood Watch.**

# News from Whaddon's Chase Choir

Last Christmas, our planned performances all fell by the wayside. One after another, each one was cancelled, due to Covid fears and restrictions. A huge shame, as practice for these Christmas gigs starts in October, and we'd all worked really hard to polish up our jingle bells! So, this year, we're determined that things will be very different. Look out for Chase Choir in a variety of Christmas-themed attire in the following places:



**3 December at 2pm** we will be singing carols in Waterstones in Midsummer Place and collecting for our two charities: Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Keech Hospice.

**3 December** (yes, two gigs in one day!!) in the evening, a bunch of us will be making merry at the village Christmas lights switch-on at 6pm at the village hall. We're very much hoping for lots of audience participation at this one!

**11<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm** – we will be joining the congregation at St Mary's for a service of Lessons and Carols, plus a couple of extra-special pieces of our own.

**Your special attention for this next one, please!**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 7.00 for 7.30 pm** – you are all warmly invited to our Christmas Concert at the village hall. Entry on the door is £5 – children free - with all proceeds going to our two charities, as above. There will, of course, be a bar with added mulled wine, mince pies, open before, at the interval and afterwards, and naturally, a raffle! Please come and support these two fantastic charities whilst getting well and truly into the Christmas spirit. We promise a warm glow for everyone attending this event.

As I write, we're about to audition for a new MD. Wish us luck everyone, as all our members are very keen to continue in the New Year! Stand by for good news in the next Whaddon Quarterly.

If you're interested in joining our friendly, supportive group, you can come along for a trial session any Monday evening. Contact Marianna for more details on **01908 503194**.

Wishing you all a peaceful, happy festive season and everything good for 2023.

 **THE CHASE CHOIR** *Christmas Concert*

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Whaddon Jubilee Hall

*An Evening of Festive Songs*

Door and bar open 7:00pm for pre-show drinks. Concert starts 7:30pm

Bar open after concert  Raffle

Supporting:



Tickets £5

Available on the door (children 12 and under free)

[www.chasechoir.com](http://www.chasechoir.com)



# In Memory of Christopher Charles Kendall Hickman 1959- 2022

## An Open Letter to our friend Chris.

Dear Chris

We had to try our best to say goodbye to you on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. We weren't surprised that we had to lift so many chairs into the church as well as setting up screens and outside seating, courtesy of your AV-expert friends Dave and Graham. There was even some marquee erection involved with Pete, Guy and Sid, and of course Matt directing whilst avoiding anything too heavy! Inside cameras were also erected by Ben. It could have been mistaken for a Sky TV broadcast. It reminded us of all those years and 1000s of trips up and down your sheep trailer, hauling chairs, that we have done together. It wasn't the same without you but helped bring back happy memories of those times. But boy, did we miss you not being there, joining in the banter!



It was a good job we did empty the village hall of chairs, as you managed to burst the Church's capacity. Your lifelong friend Phillip commented in his fantastic eulogy that you would have been genuinely humbled by how many people were there. We agree, though none of us were surprised in the slightest. It's one of the side effects of being such a lovely soul: you tend to attract a lot of friends along life's journey.

Many of us learnt such a lot about you at your funeral from Philip's eulogy. Obviously, we knew you were born on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1959 to Sheila and 'Father'. Most of us witnessed the close bond between you and father, but some of us had no idea you were such an angelic baby or were an academic genius excelling in Chemistry. But rest assured, we had all noticed your enormous thumbs!

We laughed as we learnt of the origins of the infamous disco "ozone" with poor James being dragged along as your musical sidekick and your exceptional roller-skating skills, plus your love of a hot curry! Philip spoke fondly of Helen and how she came into your life in 1983 as Miss Sykes: she would often be referred to as your "better half". But if the truth be known, it takes 2 halves to make a whole, and you and Helen certainly made each other whole.

In Helen, Chris, you made an excellent choice, or before Helen thinks it first, you were the lucky one, as she chose you! Either way, the world did a great job of bringing you two together and "the Hickmans" are an essential and much-loved part of Whaddon's wonderful tapestry.

Talking of the "the Hickmans" you went on to add two daughters: Susannah and Georgina, who have become fine young women. I know how proud you are of them, and we all loved hearing you talk about them through the years and what they were doing. Fellow Fathers know this pride well and it's clear you were bursting with it.

They have both gone on to their own relationships and in Susie's case, marriage to Simon and of course the addition of your grandson Oscar, whom we know you were smitten with. Any kid whose Grandad has a Kubota is, of course, in for a lot of fun and we know you loved that time establishing the famous Hickman male bonding.

Simon has been a regular at events and our annual Xmas 12 Pubs trip. We do want to raise one concern: some of us have noticed he's not keeping your beer fridge stocked to its normal levels!

Susie, as you know, has done an amazing job taking over the reins at your and Helen's successful Bumpstart business and we know how proud that has made you and Helen.

Georgie also has made a great choice with James "Younger". We know he's been an amazing support to both Georgie and Helen during these sad months, saying goodbye to you and it's been pleasure for us all getting to know him.

We will all make sure we are there for all of them Chris.

There were so many amazing people at your wake (hard to write that word). We did you proud and it truly was a celebration of your life with us. We cried, we hugged, and we also laughed a lot. Everyone shared their stories about you, and you should for once drop your humbleness and be mighty proud of the love, joy and overwhelmingly positive impact you made on all of us that knew you.

It was wonderful to see Helen, Susie, Georgie, Simon and James at the Harvest Supper. You picked the right year to miss it: the marrow would have cost you £600! If only we had realised sooner that by changing its name to the "Chris Hickman Marrow" it would increase its value by 600%. Just another sign of what we all thought of you Chris.

We all have such wonderful memories of you Chris, whether that be your early days from childhood friends, your family time, or the memories you made in later life. The underlying message from all those that speak of you is love and respect.

You and Helen have always been such a positive presence in our community. Who can forget the amazing floats from the May Fayre with you and your tractor pulling them along? Then, once back at the school, donning your apron and grabbing your BBQ tools to serve burgers and of course beers for the afternoon.

Many of our children have such great childhood memories of their annual summer camping trips to the farm, where you would delight them with trips on the Kubota and making a huge water slide. Truth be told, us adults had as much fun with those things as well, with the Kubota taking on its new name as the Gin Buggy! Then so many great evenings of laughter and music in the "Love Shack".

Some of us were lucky enough to share some skiing holidays with you as well. As with roller-skating, you surprised us all with how good you were. Well, most of the time anyway. There was of course the infamous incident when you confidently finished off a run leading into the ski lift area. Alice Hain waved at you, and you went to stylishly pull up, unfortunately not before skidding and wiping out not only poor Alice, but a whole row of innocent skiers waiting at the lift!

The memories of you Chris, will surely last a lifetime through and every day brings a new one, that lifts our spirits and brings a smile to our faces. You are a cherished husband, an adored dad, a fantastic brother, a diligent son, a cheeky grandad, a true friend and a rare gentleman.

In the words of our late Queen, Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup>: "Grief is the price we pay for love" and this, Chris, is why we find ourselves all grieving for you so hard.

So, my friend, may you rest in peace and know the legacy you leave behind is captured in the hearts of every single person you ever met. Until we meet again...

With love

Your friends in Whaddon

# News from St Mary's Church

Hello everyone in Whaddon, or further afield,

However much notice our Editor gives for the Quarterly publication deadline, the time hurries on, and I'm ashamed to say I often find myself scurrying to write something at the last minute. So here we are in November – and it IS that last minute!

November is a month for remembering family members and friends who are no longer with us, past events, and those who bravely fought, and died, to give us our tomorrow. Jacqueline held a beautiful, gentle Service of Remembrance at the beginning of the month, when participants were invited to record the name of a loved one on a heart-shaped card, to be hung on a memory tree, and to light a candle for them. It was a very poignant service, and everyone involved felt that they were in a really safe and sacred place where their memories and their grief could be expressed.

The Remembrance Sunday service began at the war memorial, with the traditional words, the two minutes of silence, the dipping of the standard and laying of wreaths. It was a solemn acknowledgement of the gratitude we owe to those who gave their lives in past, and current conflicts. Many thanks to Paul Mileham, who conducted the service, outside, and later, in the church. The church looked beautiful, adorned with poppies knitted or crocheted by Brenda Green, Sally Jaworska, Chris Robinson and Sally Green – huge thanks to all of you; they are lovely.



Back to October, when the Harvest Supper was, as ever, great fun, and a huge success. It was very special to be able to dedicate the event to Chris Hickman, and lovely to have Helen and family present. Pete Bush and Mark Carter were on brilliant form for the auction, and they managed to encourage mega-bucks spending! So much so, that we were able to offer a large donation in honour of Chris, to the Florence Nightingale Hospice. Thank you so much to everyone who helped on the day: to Pete and Mark, to those who set up the tables and prepared the hall, did the shopping and served the food – and thanks to all of you who came and enjoyed the evening, and parted with your money!

And now it's onwards to Christmas. Our Carol Service will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 o'clock. We look forward to welcoming you all, to sing carols with us, to hear the Chase

Choir sing and to join us for mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. You are also welcome to join Toddler Church on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December for their special Crib Service in the church at 10.30 am. The Toddlers will be creating a Nativity Scene and would love to have people from the village there with them. I would advise anyone who is able to join them to bring tissues! The Midnight Mass Service on Christmas Eve will be at 10.00 pm.

New Year's Day falls on a Sunday next year, and a very special Forest Church is planned: a walk across the fields to Nash, starting at 3.30, so that those who wish to can join the congregation there for Compline.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported St Mary's this year, by officiating at services, or attending them; organising rotas; cleaning and preparing the church for services and events; for looking after the finances, and for keeping the churchyard looking so beautiful. Thank you all. And finally, just a reminder that both Toddler Church and Table Talk will now be taking place in the Chapel – it's a lot cosier than the church for the winter months!

With very best wishes for Christmas and the new Year.

**Daphne Willis**  
**Church Warden, St Mary's, Whaddon**



**Normal services:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Forest Church	3.30 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	10.30 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Table Talk	10.30 am
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	8.30 am
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Benefice Service	11.00 am followed by lunch

# Reflections from the Rectory

BY REVEREND JACQUELINE DOVE

I can't believe we're hurtling towards Christmas already. Posters advertising Christmas Fairs abound. Dates have also been set for four Carol Services across the benefice. Whaddon School has booked the church for their Christingle Service. It's obvious to see the value of having a Parish Church at Christmas time.

As a young child, church took place in my parents' home, and I was taught that it was the people who gathered who were the church and not a particular building. There is a lot of truth to this and when I pray for the different churches in the benefice, it is the faces of those who are beginning to feel like family who come to mind, rather than the four distinctive, beautiful, listed buildings.

However, since I last wrote a reflection from the rectory, I have seen two of the Churches in the benefice packed full with standing room only, as people came to pay their respects to someone in their village who had died. The churches also became a focal point for commemorating the Queen with special services and books of condolences. Each church also held a Harvest Festival Service, Memorial Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving and a Remembrance Sunday Service. Whaddon School used the church for their Harvest Festival and Act of Remembrance for Remembrance Day. There have also been several weddings and baptisms across the benefice, which have been very special occasions of great joy. What I don't know, is how many people go to sit in the church to pray, or simply soak in the deep peace.

Clearly, I'm biased but I wonder how many of you also think having a beautiful ancient church building and churchyard within walking distance is really, rather special?



If this is you, perhaps you would be willing to consider joining the Parochial Church Council which is responsible for ensuring the church stays open and active? We are particularly looking for a new treasurer, but all new members would be most welcome. If you are interested, please speak to me or Daphne. Another way you could show your appreciation, is by supporting the *'keep your church alive, support the big five'* initiative. We hope to have the church full of all ages as we gather together to build faith, hope and love at least five times a year. Why not show your support by attending the Carol Service on the 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm? Hope to see you there.

# Whaddon reverberates to harvest bale carting

**It's harvest time again. And that means bale carting, as the residents of Whaddon are only too fully aware.**

ONCE again, fields beyond Whaddon have yielded their harvest of grain.

And, in the far distance down Kennel Lane and beyond, ricks have grown higher and higher as one bale is mounted carefully upon another **(right)**, almost taking on the stature of an ancient citadel or an Egyptian sphynx! Long gone are the days of stooks, pitchforks and horse-drawn wagons as today, one bale alone, even though lighter than some wheat straw bales, can weigh in excess of 65kg – well out of the capability of one man, or even two. So, it's hardly surprising in this highly mechanized age that forklift trucks have a vital role to play.



These trucks come into their own again when the time comes **(left)** to transport them to another place for longer term storage – in Whaddon's case to Bottle Dump Farm where passers-by can see the bales stacked high, dwarfing nearby New Bare Farm and New Bare Farm Cottage.

Four-wheel tractors and long, flatbed trailers **(right)** undertake ferrying duties from the fields – typically a flatbed can accommodate as many as two dozen bales, though sometimes only 16 are required for a particular stacking situation.

If past practice is anything to go by, wheat grain from fields adjoining Whaddon Hall and beyond find their way to Warburtons for breadmaking.



# Whaddon Women's Institute



Our members are keen to step in at short notice when our speaker lets us down, and that's what Sue and Mary did in July when they showed us how to make fabric covered egg shaped decorations. It was so interesting listening to the conversation flowing whilst we concentrated hard on not sticking pins into ourselves and we all ended up with a decoration to be proud of.

Our plans changed again in August when we decided to go out to Lakers Garden centre in Winslow for tea and cake instead of our planned visit to Claydon House. As always, we were made very welcome. Lakers is well worth a visit if you haven't already been and even if you have been – it's always worth another visit as there is always much to be tempted with.

September brought another change to our speaker. We were lucky to have a demonstration of mystery and magic by David. We were a very attentive audience, even if we couldn't work out how he did things!! A fun time was had by all. We also had the results of our sunflower competition, and the winner was ME!! I managed to beat last year's champion, Sue, by just ½"!! I was presented with the winner's sunflower plate. We all agreed that we had enjoyed it and will do this again next year.

In October we had – guess what – another speaker change, perhaps to be expected in these difficult times and this time we were treated to a talk on gemstones and their history and had a chance to buy beautiful jewellery as well.

We have such a varied time in the W.I. and that's what it's all about: enjoying each other's company and learning something new, and there's usually cake involved somewhere.

In November, we will have our Annual Meeting where the committee step down and a new one is formed. Hopefully, we will be able to continue for another year.

In December, we will all be going out for a Christmas meal, which we are really looking forward to.

We have started planning our programme for next year, which so far includes a visit from a community doctor, walks, crafts and we are determined to finally have a go at Bollywood dancing!!

We are a small group that welcome visitors and new members. If you would like any further information, please let me know.

***Jill Aitken***  
**Secretary to Whaddon W.I.**  
**(01908 502781)**

## News from Whaddon's Night Owlers W.I.

Whaddon Night-Owlers WI has continued to enjoy a varied and interesting programme this year. We have been bowling in Stony Stratford, heard all about the work of an outreach worker, who meets an amazing range of people, and taken part in a card-making workshop. Be on the lookout for beautiful handmade snow globe cards this Christmas: the credit goes to Nikki and Ann who created the design and led us all through the process of creating these works of art! They will no doubt grace many a mantelpiece this year.



Following our general meeting this month, we have a superb programme lined up for the next year, including mulled wine, canal boats, weddings, a story about lady poisoners (!) and a couple of talks from local experts when we will be inviting guests.

Look out for info in the Whaddon Quarterly, or around the village; we would love to welcome you to a talk.

We will also be investigating the national resolutions and voting on whether we want to campaign on issues such as saving our water resources, supporting women tea workers, online gambling issues, water quality and wildlife. These form major campaigns that the WI lobby on and encourage members to get involved in to improve the lives of others in the wider community.

Interested in joining us? Come and see us on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall.

Contact **Daphne** for more info: **01908 502088**. We would love to see you!

**Alison Cross**

**Whaddon Night Owlers W.I.**

## Whaddon Book Club

Recovering from COVID has enticed members to enjoy activities other than reading books and attending meetings, although time away from the confines of home does broaden the topics for discussion when we do all get together.



We all enjoyed reading **Emma** by **Jane Austen**: her sparkling prose is so easy to read and the human relationships two hundred years after publication remain as problematic today as they were then.

**Sully** was very different from the film and a good read. **And the Mountains Echoed** was not in the same league as **The Kite Runner** by **Khaled Hosseini**.

This month it is **Klara and the Sun** by **Kazuo Ishiguro**.

We try to read as diverse a selection as possible, but all books are individual choices. You are most welcome to join us. We continue to meet on the last Tuesday of the month in the afternoon.

Contact for further information

**Jane Porter 01908 501709**

# News from Whaddon C of E School

## Welcome to Whaddon's new Headteacher.

Mrs Sarah Prior joins our Whaddon Community as the new headteacher from September this year. She is an experienced teacher of some 21 years having previously worked in Buckingham, Winslow and Aylesbury. Mrs Prior is committed to inclusive, meaningful and relevant learning experiences that inspire questioning and further exploration by young minds. She believes implicitly that the talents and interests of each individual should be recognised and supported, for them to be the best version of themselves.



As a school Mrs Prior, staff and governors, all strive to prepare its students for life in modern Britain, their responsibilities with their local communities and their transitions to the next phases of their educational journeys. She believes strongly that each child can flourish through outdoor learning experiences, holistic ethos and Christian vision and values.

Mrs Prior and her team look forward to serving the children and families of Whaddon and surrounding area, whilst being a custodian of the first National School of the Church of England, which was established in 1811. We look forward to working closely with her over the coming years.

**Cllr: Jane Herriman**  
**Whaddon Parish Council**



## How to save some money on your energy bills this winter

The prospect of huge home energy bills this winter, means we are much more conscious of our energy usage. Here are some tips and ideas that could help keep a lid on costs.

### Turn down the thermostat by one degree

If you turn down your main thermostat just one degree it will cut your heating bills straight away, and you may not feel any difference. Experts suggest waiting for a day and seeing how it feels. If you're still feeling OK, turn it down another degree. Most families are happy with a setting somewhere between 18C and 21C, but it may need to be warmer if there are elderly or infirm people living in the property. The Simple Energy Advice website says a one-degree reduction can slash your heating bill by 10%.



### Heat the human, not the home

When the energy companies advised customers to cuddle their pets it rightly caused a furore but there are obvious steps you can take to keep warm, such as wearing a thicker jumper or investing in a cosy layer. The shops are full of this type of clothing, including onesies and hooded blankets, at the moment with prices to suit every budget. If you are working from home the extra layer may help you stick to your conviction about the thermostat temperature.

### Winter-proof your home

There's no point cranking up the heating if that warm air is escaping up the chimney or under the door and there are cheap fixes for this. You can make your own draught-excluders for internal doors using rolled-up towels, or tights filled with old clothes. If there's a chimney you're not using, stop the hole with an inflatable chimney balloon, which cost about £20. The Energy Saving Trust (EST) estimates that installing a chimney draught-excluder can knock about £65 a year off your energy bills.

### Insulate your loft

According to the EST, an insulated loft can save up to £355 a year on energy bills in a semi-detached house, rising to £590 for a detached house. If your loft is easily accessible, you can do the work yourself using rolls of mineral wool that rest between the joists. There are videos online that show how to fit this. It costs about £630 to insulate a loft in a detached house, according to the EST, £480 for a semi, and £455 for a terrace house, so this is an investment that pays for itself over several years.

### Change how you do chores such as laundry

Washing clothes at higher temperatures uses more energy, so savings can be made when you turn down the dial. The EST says that washing at 30C, rather than 40C or higher, will save 40% of the energy used every year. Make sure you optimise your machine by only doing full loads. A tumble dryer will run up more costs, so try to air-dry on a clothes horse or heated airer. If you do have to use the tumble dryer, spin clothes at the highest cycle in the washing machine before putting them in.

## Turn off the heating in unused rooms

Many households will delay switching on their radiators for as long as possible. However, once the heating goes on, if you are savvy about the rooms you use (and use the radiator valves to turn the heating off) you can have it on, but still cut your energy usage. Also, ensure sofas or beds aren't in front of radiators, as that prevents the warm air from circulating. Whatever you do, don't forget to bleed radiators: ensuring there's no air trapped inside will keep your central heating system running efficiently. You can find guides on how to bleed your radiators on YouTube.

## Avoid standby, unplug gadgets and turn lights off

Unplugging devices at the mains will make sure they are not adding to your bill unnecessarily. Some gadgets are often left on all the time, barely noticed by the householder, such as computers, media servers, set-top boxes, heated towel rails and underfloor heating – collectively known as the “phantom load”. It won't recoup a fortune, but a simple step is to turn lights off when you leave a room.

## Make changes in the kitchen

Recent research by the energy supplier Utilita suggested households could save hundreds of pounds a year by opting for more efficient cooking methods. “Microwaves, slow cookers and air fryers all tend to be cheaper ways of cooking meals than using an oven,” according to Uswitch's energy expert, Ben Gallizzi. Other tweaks include batch cooking, using the right-sized pan with a lid, simmering rather than boiling, and avoiding overfilling the kettle. The study found that a microwave was the cheapest cooking option.

## Take showers not baths and install a water-efficient shower head

A five-minute shower uses about a third of the water of a bath. Obviously, the less water you use, the less energy you need to heat the hot water, and the lower your energy bills will be. Heating water is responsible for about 20% of household gas consumption and “low flow” shower heads can cut water use by about 40%.

Taken from The Guardian Newspaper – October 2022



## **WHADDON PLANNING SNIPPETS**

As this copy goes to press, these are the latest updates on old and new planning applications. Full details of these and other recent applications can be viewed on the Buckinghamshire Council planning web page at: -

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Just follow the instructions and enter the appropriate planning application number.

### **Current local planning applications.**

#### **22/02698/APP - Proposed detached dwelling - 8 Stock Lane, Whaddon.**

Following pre-application discussion with Bucks Council, initially for a more traditional two storey house, (which BC advised they were unlikely to support), the agents and architect for the applicant submitted a detailed planning application for a contemporary dwelling which incorporates significant design and other changes, aimed at overcoming BC's concerns. The application impacts on the adjoining village school, the character of Stock Lane and street scene, and has traffic concerns, although BC highways do not appear to have any objections subject to certain conditions. After careful consideration at the 8th Sept. parish meeting WPC submitted an 'Objection' response, which generally supports that submitted by the BC Heritage Department.

This application was WITHDRAWN on 24th Oct, with NO DECISION having been made by BC.

#### **22/02818/APP - Householder application for proposed conservatory - The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Whaddon.**

Householder Consent GRANTED on November 1st.

#### **22/00221/APP - Temporary siting of childcare nursery, enclosed outdoor play space and associated infrastructure - Thrift Farm,**

#### **21/04926/APP - Demolition of existing greenhouses. Erection of a childcare nursery, enclosed outdoor play space, landscaping and associated infrastructure. - Thrift Farm, Bletchley Road, Whaddon.**

Following the BC planning dept's confirmation to Highways that permitted development rights do not apply to this site, the highways dept. amended their reply to one of objection, but the planning dept. may override this advice. WPC has received confirmation that the adult care provision historically undertaken at the site will be safeguarded, and although some highway concerns remain (but that possibly do not impact on Whaddon that much) WPC submitted a 'No Objection' response.

A final decision on both applications is still awaited.

**22/01293/APP - Erection of two semi-detached cottages - Land R/O The Lowndes Arms Public House, 4 High Street, Whaddon.**

Nothing further has appeared on the BC planning website since 13th July. A final decision is still awaited.

**22/03410/APP - Householder application for proposed carport - 33A Stock Lane, Whaddon.**

This is a re-application for a double open carport at the front of the existing property. The previous application was refused, and this one seeks to overcome the original BC objections having regard to a new detailed tree survey, and a planning statement which together explain the slightly changed position and simpler design. WPC has, on balance, submitted a 'No Objection' response but suggesting possible conditions, but the final decision will be down to BC, based on 'development principle' grounds.

A final decision is still awaited.

**FINAL NOTE TO ANY BUDDING 'SELF BUILDERS'**

If you have ever thought about building your own home, and where to start, you might consider - for just £25 - registering your interest, with Bucks Council, who by law must keep a register and help satisfy this popular demand. Under their new Unitary status, they are looking to have one register for the whole of Bucks. Once registered, they will endeavour to ensure that enough self-build plots are incorporated on 'large sites' to satisfy the county demand. For instance, plots for self-builders could be made available at Shenley Park, Whaddon, thereby, trying to match applicants with sites. The concern is that if they do not have sufficient interest or applicants, they may not include self-build plots on these larger sites!

**Interested? Then contact the WPC clerk or BC directly for further information.**



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magcarter@hotmail.co.uk**

# HIGHWAYS UPDATES From Whaddon Parish Council.

## A Tale of Lots of Badgering!!!

Residents can't have failed to notice lots of highway activities around the village. Here are the details:

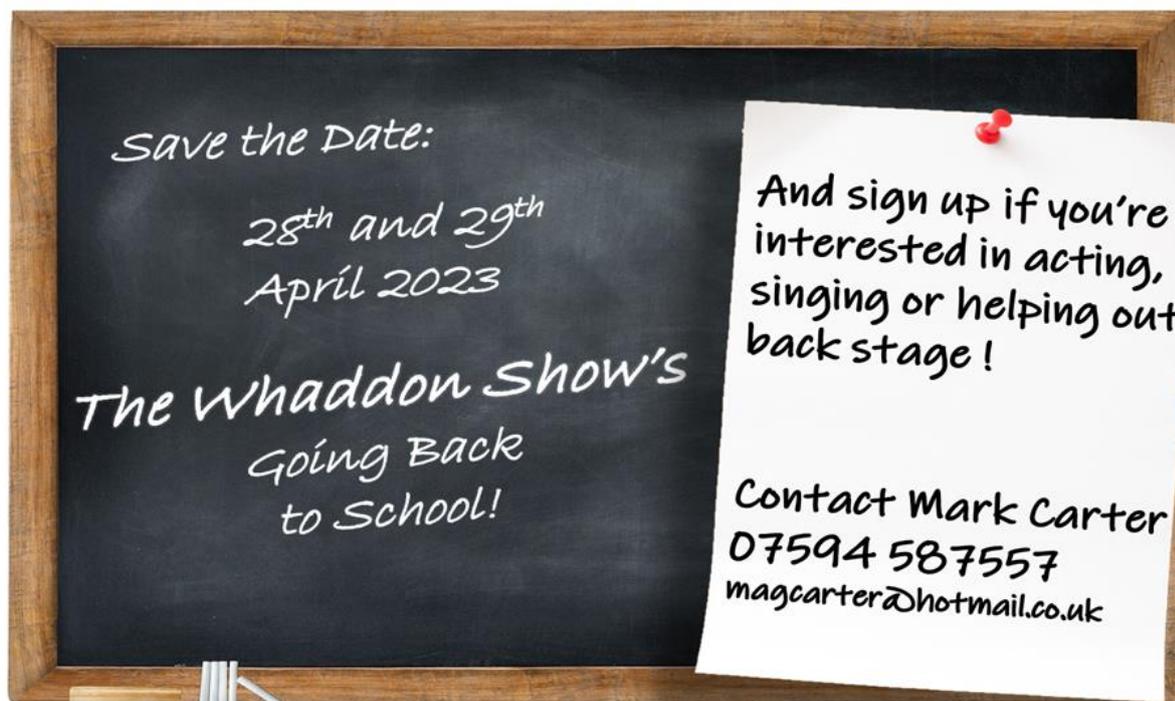
**New Field Gate on Coddimoor Lane.** After well over two years of badgering by WPC the smart new field gate near the junction of Coddimoor Lane and Stock Lane is now complete and compliant with planning and safety requirements. This will allow the landowner to rent out the land for grazing and allow agricultural vehicles to manoeuvre safely in and out the field, minimising obstruction and danger to other traffic.

**Clearance of Drainage Ditches near Stock Lane/Ladymead Junction.** Along with the above field gate works, and after well over two years of badgering, drainage ditches to carry away the surface water have been cleared all the way from the allotments along the field boundary to the culvert under the road, the pipes have been jetted, and Whaddon's own 'Lake Superior' by the Ladymead traffic calming buildout is now clearing a lot faster in times of heavy rain. There is still more to do to do on ditches running north of Stock Lane through the woodland, to ensure proper drainage continues, and lots of badgering is on-going, but a big improvement has been achieved.

**New Double Yellow Lines on the Stock Lane/High St/Nash Rd Junction.** Following many recent examples of illegal and highly dangerous parking around the Village Green area, including illegal blocking of pavements for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs, and following advice that the placement of lines confirms with the Highway Code so a village consultation is not necessary, WPC has secured funding from the Winslow & Villages Community Board for yellow no-parking lines. Badgering the police to enforce illegal parking regulations didn't work, so this is BC's and WPC's response to mitigate this dangerous problem. This work should be complete by end of March 2023 and should comply with and help enforce Highway Code regulations and improve safety. WPC would like to thank Bucks Council, and particularly the Winslow and Villages Community Board for their support and generous funding.

**Repairs to Stratford Rd Traffic Calming.** After more badgering by WPC, highways attended to remove the debris and make the electrical cables safe after an RTA. We're told replacement of the bollards is on the list, but we should not expect anything to happen for a few months at least. Safety signs are now in place. We will be badgering....

**Repairs to High St Pavements.** WPC has been badgering highways for funding to upgrade the High St pavements for well over ten years; promises have been broken many times due to lack of Bucks Council budget. In the last few weeks renewed efforts have been made to highlight the worsening condition of the pavements and we're hoping for a list of repairs to take place once BC has completed their promised 'Walk Around' and inspection following WPC's most recent badgering... with photos! We're looking for alternative ways of funding a proper upgrade and will carry on badgering....



New to the village? Got a sense of humour? Able to sing? Have a party trick? or just seen the show before and recognise the need for new talent?!!!

The Whaddon Show has been going over 20 years and is a fabulous event for both audience and performers alike with Sketches, Songs, Magic and more. If you're interested in participating it's not too late to sign up. It's a lot of fun and not too serious – contact Mark Carter

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Email content to [wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)

### **Publication Dates and Copy Deadlines**

Publication is four times per year in Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.

Copy deadlines are available by contacting the Editor

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You must apply even if your child is at the nursery attached to the school you would like them to go to.

Information about starting school for the first time will be available on our website from the end of October [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions).

If you cannot apply online you can fill out a paper application form.

**The application deadline is 15 January 2023, please do not miss it**

Please contact the school nursing service using the link below to find out what health checks and vaccinations are available for your child

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust - CYP Website

[buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/cyp/school-years-development/school-nursing](https://buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/cyp/school-years-development/school-nursing)



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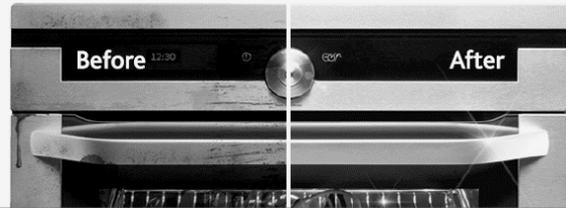
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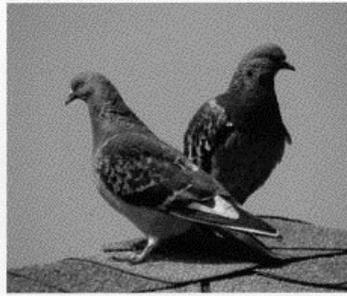
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