

WHADDON QUARTERLY

JUNE 2022



**The Queen's Platinum
Jubilee Edition**

**See Centre Pages for
Your Round Up of
Jubilee Events!**



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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@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

To advertise in the Whaddon Quarterly

Send your advertisement to the Editor as above
Advertising Rates and Publication Policy – **page 47.**

Want your photo on the front cover?

Then send your entry for the next addition to: wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk
Huge thanks to **Angie Joint** for her expert help with this edition's lovely artwork,



Whaddon Parish Council Chairman's Report

In my last piece for Whaddon Quarterly, the theme was "Times They Are A-Changin'" in a nod to Bod Dylan, and how certain things had altered in the Village and surrounding area in recent years with the prospect of great alteration at a faster pace than ever before in the near future.

The Shenley Park Development remains as the big threat on the horizon, and partly as a result of this, Buckinghamshire Council is to undertake a study of the traffic on the A421 all the way from Tingewick in the west to Bletchley in the east. Whaddon Parish Council have demanded to be part of the study team from the outset, as Shenley Park will spawn so many extra vehicles not just on the A421 but potentially through Whaddon as well.

However, not all is doom and gloom. We have had some lovely spring weather, surprisingly for the time of year, which has helped one of the best displays of spring flowers in living memory, not only on the village green and verges but also in the gardens of the village; with snowdrops being succeeded by crocus, anemone, primroses plus cowslips and a lovely display of daffodils.

Buckinghamshire Council raised Council Taxes by 3.99% recently, which was 1.99% with a precept of 2% to repay the extra spending on Adult Social Care during the pandemic, to which was added the small amount precepted by your Parish Council.

I have continued to represent the Winslow Ward, which takes in nine parishes, including Whaddon. The first year of the Winslow Community Board (a bigger area of twenty-seven villages) has been a success, I think with over £200,000 being paid in grants for projects put forward by Parish Councils (but other applicants as well).

I have been a member of the North Bucks Area Planning Committee which looks at the contentious and large applications, e.g., it approved the new science block in the listed grounds of Stowe School against officers' recommendation to refuse. I also serve on Licencing and Trading Standards Committees and at least one of us Winslow Ward Councillors (myself, John Chilver and David Goss) attends the Parish Council meetings in the Ward totalling around 80 meetings in a year.

Finally, I'm pleased and honoured to announce my re-election for another year as the Chairman of Whaddon Parish Council and am also pleased to welcome back Cllr Helen Hickman as my very capable Vice Chair.

Cllr Billy Stanier Chairman
Whaddon Parish Council

Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

The Clerk's Corner

Whaddon Quarterly Magazine Distribution

As you know because you're reading this (!) Whaddon Quarterly is available by paper copy and by email and to download via the Village Facebook page. We encourage those with IT facilities to receive an electronic copy as it saves pennies, around £1.50 a copy, and you can squirrel your copy away electronically and reduce the clutter if you want to. If you would like to change your delivery preference, please email me.



What does WPC actually do?!?!? Episode 2....

Following on from last issue's comments about what the Parish Council *actually does*... here are a few things that have been rolling across the desk recently. By the time this goes to print the allotments will be 'flush' with water via a new mains water supply. Rainwater will remain the mainstay of this ecologically motivated group, however, it will be a welcome backup. Also, this month has been the annual audit, where the books are checked for accuracy and the activities of the Council checked for compliance; a process which gets more detailed and onerous as the years go by. Also in hand are some large grant applications for village improvements which take a lot of time a nursing through the system. This is all in addition to the day-to-day 'stuff' of Clerks. No one could possibly say the job is boring....

SIGN UP TO GET IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPDATES BY EMAIL!!!

Send a short email to ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk asking to be added to the WPC Alert list. We promise absolutely you will NOT be 'spammed' and your details will NOT be passed on or used for any other purpose than 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 14th July 2022, 8th September 2022, 10th November 2022, 12th January 2023, 9th March 2023, at The Chapel, Stock Lane, MK17 0LU. 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.

All Are Welcome to Attend Meetings of Whaddon Parish Council

Whaddon Welcomes Ukrainian Refugees

We were all shocked, horrified and deeply saddened by the news that Ukraine had been invaded on 24th February 2022. It was a situation that had been looming, but not many believed would actually happen. A Whaddon Family has reached out a helping hand and is hosting a wonderful Ukrainian Family. Here's the story so far....

Yurii's Story On February 24, I was awakened by a loud explosion. Looking out the window, I saw columns of smoke coming from the military base, which is not far from my house. Then I realized that the war had begun. We decided to leave. Early in the morning we arrived at the station from which the evacuees were sent to go to Lviv, the station was completely packed with people, everyone in fear and wanting to leave the country. The journey took 22 hours. We arrived very tired, rented an apartment and stayed there for one week. Then we decided to head to Slovakia to start settling there. Then the idea came to us to fly to the UK and start studying there. We went to Hungary to apply for the Scheme for Ukrainians provided by the British government. We waited there for five weeks, and we finally got our visa approved. We were beside ourselves with happiness, because it was a very long and difficult process. After arriving in the UK, we were met by our sponsors, who are incredibly generous and kind people. We would like to express our gratitude to all the people who helped us along the way. And we want to wish everyone peace! *Yurii – aged 15.*



Oksana's Story Like so many, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Milton Keynes family, Simon and Mignon, who sponsored us, and to all the helpful British people. We had been waiting for the visa for a very long time (about 5 weeks), and we did not expect such a great reception. We have everything we need for life: rooms, food, household items, and most importantly, the care, attention and support that I experience at every moment of our communication. It's so nice and amazing! Pleasant surprises surround us, with flowers at the airport, a hair dryer, a manicure kit, yoga mat, comfortable slippers and bathrobes 😊, and finally warm evenings with families and conversations on various topics (despite my bad English). I experience a congenial person in the person of Mignon, great respect for Simon, pleasant feelings for their children, three dogs and a cat 🐱. Yesterday we visited a school for my children, and there is a job opportunity too. A lady from the village kindly welcomes us to study English with her, and another gave a laptop for online classes to my children. We were very lucky and have had a great start in our new life! And I am also amazed by the wide landscapes and picturesque surroundings of Whaddon, and the courtesy, politeness, tact of the English. I began to smile a lot, like the British 😊. Every time, with bated breath, I call home to relatives in Ukraine, read the news about the war and pray for a quick end to hostilities 🙏. I think that despite different cultural backgrounds, political views, etc., we are people with lively, strong hearts and live on the same beautiful planet Earth! We all need to take care of it and promote peace! Happiness, freedom, well-being to you dear British! Thank you 🙏, thank you 🙏, thank you 🙏! *Oksana - a very relieved and proud mum to two lovely sons.*

Whaddon Welcomes the Return of the May Fayre

The maypole has been danced, the raffle has been drawn and the wet sponges have been thrown!

Thank you all for coming out to support our Best of British May Fayre.

What an amazing time we all had despite the weather, it was so lovely to see so many parents, children and teachers having fun. A special shout out to all parents and children for all the effort that went into the children's amazing costumes!

Thank you to all the teachers who worked hard to co-ordinate the maypole dancing, it really was wonderful.

Thank you, Carole Munro & family @ Brambles for allowing the children to meet in your paddock, providing parking for parents and the last-minute event shelter in case of rain!



A special thanks to Guy, Sid, Graham, Dave for an awesome BBQ and for all their help with set-up & clearing down... a *mammoth* task!

Once again thank you to everyone who helped with jars, bottles, teddies, manning a stall, bought & sold raffle tickets, baked a cake, helped out on the day and for your general support. We couldn't have done it without you!

We are pleased to announce we collected a whopping **£3,700** which is absolutely brilliant!

The profits will go towards iPads for the children and panto tickets at Christmas.

Thank you to the whole Whaddon School Community.

Best regards,

***The Friends of Whaddon School
Team***

Important Planning Information from Whaddon Parish Council

*** IMPORTANT - SHENLEY PARK - IMPORTANT ***

****** NEXT STEPS AND EARLY THOUGHTS ******

******* PLEASE REFER TO PLAN ON LEFT *******

WHAT WE DEFINITELY KNOW FROM THE VALP POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

1. At least 1,150 new homes, a 110-bed care home, and primary school will be built in Whaddon Parish; either side of Shenley Road beyond Briary View.
2. To comply with Local Plan requirements, 50 homes will be delivered within the next four years, meaning a start on site probably by mid 2024. (In 2-3 years.)
3. MK grid road H6 (Childs Way) is likely to be extended, bisecting the site, and leading to a new roundabout on the A421, some 500m from the one at Bottledump. It is also very possible that H7 (Chaffron Way) will be extended past Canterbury Meadows, to make a second link to the new grid road.
4. Whaddon PC is promised an 'early Summer 2022 consultation' on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which must be produced before any detailed planning application is submitted by the developers Crest Homes.
5. A long, detailed list of Site-Specific Requirements has already been produced, but as yet no detailed 'land use or highway/traffic' plan has been prepared, to help in our understanding of the 'bigger picture' - (benefits and disadvantages).
6. On the basis of 1.5 cars per dwelling, it is likely that 1,150 new homes will add in excess of 4,000 extra traffic movements per day - some of which are bound to impact on roads through Whaddon, adding to the existing safety concerns.

In order, hopefully, to influence the production of the SPD (see no. 4 above) your Parish Council, and residents, **MUST BE PROACTIVE** and should identify and flag up **ALL LOCAL CONCERNS** to Buckinghamshire Council (BC), whilst suggesting **POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS**. It will be necessary in due course to demonstrate **LOCAL SUPPORT** for these measures - in very high resident numbers - because, no doubt - some measures (if adopted by BC) will require a formal **Public Consultation**.

Measures such as a 20mph speed limit, junction changes, possible cycling and walking routes connecting with MK redways, and a possible HGV restriction will need to be **'put on the table'** with BC **at the earliest opportunity**. Given that a new MK 'grid road/mass rapid transport link' will bisect Shenley Park from H6 and or H7 to a new access roundabout on the A421 some 500m from the existing Bottledump one, the 'Stopping Off' of Shenley Road with new traffic calming along Coddimoor Lane, looks to be an obvious measure which would certainly help improve the village's traffic short cutting problems - but some residents may think it best to keep both roads open - this will become a vital question to consider in time. Village opinions on these and other issues may prove critical when discussions with BC commence. The legal process for 'Stopping Off' a road in certain circumstances is fairly straightforward but it can be lengthy. The sooner the **'flag is raised'** the better.

It is possible that further traffic calming measures could be sought from 'developer financial contributions' (known as Section 106 agreements), but such monies only become available if it can be demonstrated that mitigation is required, to 'solve a problem directly caused by the development itself'. The obvious candidates are traffic problems caused by extra vehicles, or landscaping to avoid coalescence. If an HGV limit were considered it would commence at the A421, and end where Calverton Lane eventually meets the new grid road in the Western Expansion Area.

Cont/.....

Shenley Park – continued.....

With this in mind, it may be possible to improve our existing traffic calming scheme to establish a proper 20mph 'self enforcing' speed limit, with improved signage, and perhaps raised tables (as recently installed along Shenley Road), road cushions, humps or further lit 'build-outs' etc. If Buckinghamshire Council agrees, a full public consultation would be necessary. Your Parish Council is in discussion with a traffic specialist to investigate these issues, who will hopefully suggest solutions for consideration at a future date.

During the January, March and May WPC meetings of WPC your councillors have discussed at length a possible '**Wish List**' of potential improvements to be discussed with Buckinghamshire Council - some points of which may be legitimate S106 claims, but others will be put on the ' Buckinghamshire Council Table' for future discussion - for instance when Buckinghamshire Council undertakes the promised A421 Study later this year - following the abandonment of the Ox-Cam Expressway. Without such an 'early list', important Village issues may be overlooked, and might be totally ignored by the Buckinghamshire Council decision makers. There is no guarantee that Buckinghamshire Council will support the community's wishes anyway, but 'unless your Council asks it is unlikely to get!'

THE 'PROVISIONAL' WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL 'WISH LIST' COMPRISES :-

1. Upgrade existing traffic calming scheme to establish a proper signed 20mph limit through Whaddon. Everyone understands that it must be designed to be 'self enforcing' and that Bucks Council will only support it, if it is designed along DfT guidance lines. Our MVAS data demonstrate that most vehicles pass through the village slightly higher than the average 24/25mph which is normally the starting point for an existing 'traffic calmed' area to be seriously considered for such an upgrade, but the consultant believes that opportunities do exist and improvements could be made that might possibly influence the discussions to come. It must be understood that enforcement by the police is unlikely to occur, so it must be 'self enforcing'.
2. Whilst consulting on a possible 20mph limit BC should combine it with an HGV restriction, which recognises that the village would still welcome agricultural vehicles and other HGV's needing to conduct legitimate local business. Over many years residents have fully supported the possibility of both a 20 mph limit and HGV restrictions, but WPC appreciates that only the 20mph limit would likely form part of any S106 developer agreement, if seen as being mitigation for extra traffic problems. If an HGV limit were considered it would commence at the A421, and end where Calverton Lane eventually meets the new grid road in the Western Expansion Area.
3. £22,000, S106 money is already agreed from the Salden Chase development. This should be 'wrapped up' with any future S106 monies arising from the Shenley Park development and hopefully - subject to design etc., - go towards a full length properly designed raised paved table outside the village school. There may be no need for the planned 'variable signs' if the whole village is calmed to 20mph?
4. WPC's initial preference is to close off Shenley Road completely to vehicular traffic (except for access to existing properties), but on the clear understanding that a proper MK Redway 'style' walking and cycling route is provided through open parkland from the existing Shenley Road narrowing, thereby ensuring easy and safe access to and from nearby MK facilities. The developers' very early sketches suggested a diverted Shenley Road route through the new residential areas to the link road, but this is incompatible with the 'Stopping Off' proposal because it would preserve a through-route for determined rat-runners. Access to Shenley Park should be from the link/distributor road only. This may be a divisive and contentious proposal and will need further very careful and detailed discussion when the land use and highway/traffic plans evolve through the SPD process, enabling the 'bigger picture' to become clearer. Such a plan will demonstrate the potential 'constraints and opportunities' - and highlight potential problems - such as the design, location and size of the new MK grid road together with the various traffic dispersal routes.
5. Bearing in mind the 'knock on' impact of a proper 20mph village limit and the possible closure of Shenley Road, Coddimoor Lane would become the main route into and out of the village. This road should therefore, in part, be traffic-calmed and signed, advising drivers of the entry into a 20mph limit

Cont/.....

Shenley Park – continued.....

area. WPC will look to our appointed Traffic Consultant and BC for their advice and expertise on all of these items, and potential designs - but councillors believe that Coddimoor Lane might perhaps contain a further 'lit' road narrowing, possibly raised tables and hopefully a reduced speed limit along its whole length from 40mph at the A421, then reducing to 30mph closer to the village where the 20mph zone might commence?

6. WPC unanimously supports a dual carriageway on the A421 between Bottledump and the new Shenley Park roundabout access, which is sought by BC within the VALP policy requirements for the SP site, (but subject to further traffic impact assessments from Crest Nicholson developers). Furthermore, WPC strongly believes that this dualled section should be extended up to the Whaddon roundabout - a point that WPC will strongly make when the A421 Study Work commences, but which is unlikely to be considered beforehand during the SP discussions. Serious concern was expressed by councillors as to what would happen if the new Shenley Park estate link road did not perform as expected, and the access roundabout into Shenley Park became overly congested at peak times, with long queues forming along the A421 towards Buckingham. This scenario would undoubtedly result in more traffic potentially diverting sooner along Coddimoor lane, depending on their destination, which is one of the several reasons for potentially 'Stopping Off' Shenley Road.

7. WPC also wishes to be advised of the design and likely route of the MK grid road through Shenley Park, and any connections to it (i.e. H7 Chaffron Way extended past Canterbury Meadows). This new grid road is required to support an estimated 35% diversion of incoming MK traffic from the A421, before reaching the Salden Chase development. It is also important for WPC to understand what future expansion reserve strips might be required for this road, if MK ultimately upgrades this road to become a mass transit corridor - an idea that was put forward by MKC at the recent Salden Chase appeal. The 'land take' and landscaping for such a new transport corridor is likely to be huge, and may ultimately frustrate the land use plan, which could severely compromise the separation distances between 'urban' and 'rural' development, which could lead to unacceptable coalescence with Whaddon village.

Your Parish Council has discussed this issue with MK Councillors, but the requested meeting with MK highways to discuss this crucial issue, has currently been declined.

RESIDENTS SHOULD REMEMBER THAT ALL MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE INTENDED TO **'FUTURE-PROOF THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT'** AGAINST THE IMPACT OF POTENTIALLY HUNDREDS OF EXTRA VEHICLE MOVEMENTS PER DAY, AND TO **'LIMIT THE INEVITABLE COALESCENCE'** WITH WHADDON.

THESE ARE COMPLEX ISSUES, THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY BUCKS COUNCIL, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO MAKE, OR SIMPLY WISH TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE COME ALONG TO THE NEXT PARISH MEETING ON THURSDAY 14th JUNE (7.00pm in the CHAPEL), OR CONTACT CLR. GRAHAM STEWART IN THE MEANTIME. EVERY RESIDENT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE 'SPG' WHEN IT EVENTUALLY IS MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATIONBUT WPC HOPES TO INFLUENCE IS CONTENT AS IT EVOLVES.

Cllr Graham Stewart

Whaddon Parish Council

The Jubilee Hall

Whaddon's Village Hall

News, Views and Upcoming Events!



Did you know....? You can hire the hall for private events at competitive rates? £9 per hour for Whaddon residents; £13 per hour for non-residents. Plus a £15 cleaning charge for one-off bookings.

Our chairs and tables can also be hired if you need some extra furniture for your summer garden parties!

For bookings please contact us through the Jubilee Hall Facebook page or e-mail: 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 general 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 are planning to raise the funds to carry out some much-needed refurbishment, with the small hall by the kitchen as a priority. Events since restarting operations in September 2021 have already enabled the small hall to be fully re-painted and it looks great! But we want to do more!

Please help us achieve this target by supporting us where you can.

EVENTS since the last Whaddon Quarterly:

Saturday 27th November: Christmas Craft Fayre – an opportunity to browse and buy gifts whilst enjoying a catch-up with friends and neighbours.

Saturday 4th December: Christmas Tree lighting up ceremony, songs from The Chase Choir followed by a festive social evening

Friday 21st January: Quiz Night – Congratulations to the Saga Louts on their win (pictured below)

Saturday 29th January: Coffee morning & Kid's corner

Saturday 12th March: Coffee morning & Kid's corner – 50% of profits donated to DEC Ukraine

Friday & Saturday 1-2nd April: Whaddon show performed by The Whaddon Entertainers

Saturday 23rd April: "The Big Walk" from Whaddon to Nash (and back again if feeling energetic) with village hall cuppa and cakes to raise funds in aid of PACE

Friday 6th May: Quiz Night – Congratulations to the Crystal Methodists on their tie-break victory over Les Quizerables.

Jubilee Hall: Future Events Calendar



Friday 3rd June : Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family BBQ party. Doors open 5pm. Food 6.30-7.30pm

Family friendly Barbecue with licensed bar (cash and card accepted) and music to celebrate this truly historic event with your friends and neighbours.

Optional fancy dress for children – Kings and Queen theme- with a prize for the best costume and sweets for all who participate.

This is a ticket only event and is now SOLD OUT.

There is a waiting list should anyone drop out, so if you wish to be placed on the waiting list, please email the village hall.



Congratulations to the Saga Louts on their Quiz Win on 21st January!



Friday 22nd July : Quiz Night
Doors/bar open 7pm. Quiz starts 8pm.



After another extremely successful quiz night in May with "The Crystal Methodists" taking the village egghead crown, we are holding another quiz so that the rest of you can fight back and steal the "Brains of the village" title!

Teams of up to 6 people. £3 per person entry fee. There are limited tables so book yours early to avoid disappointment.

For quiz bookings please e-mail Sharon.Bessell@btinternet.com.

COMING SOON: Summer Craft Fayre – Date TBC

Come and enjoy Whaddon's Summer Craft Fair. Browse the local craft stalls and meet up with your friends and neighbours for cakes and a cuppa! Event runs from 2pm until 4pm.

Please keep an eye on the Jubilee Hall Noticeboard for updates on events.

If you are on Facebook, please like our page "Whaddon Jubilee Hall".

The Whaddon Entertainers

The Whaddon Show 2020 – Yes the Show DID Go On!

Many of you will have watched, or even taken part in, the (in)famous annual Whaddon Shows performed by the village's extremely talented Whaddon Entertainers. 2020's show was to be held on 17th and 18th April, and tickets were sold out, costumes were being fitted, props and scenery were under construction, and the cast had been busy rehearsing for several weeks.

But on 16th March after much thought and discussion, the Entertainers took the difficult and disappointing decision to postpone in the light of the COVID-19 outbreak.



However, the show's Director, Sharon Bessell, decided that "the show must go on". She edited various filmed sketches from shows over the years into a Greatest Hits Edition and this was launched on Saturday 18th April 2020 when the show should have been performed. Over 40 Whaddon households tuned in and watched the extravaganza on YouTube, whilst chatting and giving feedback on a group messenger feed; feedback which included a video clip of the Joint Household emotionally waving the Union Flag and singing "Land of Hope and Glory" at the grand finale.

As the country were in strict lockdown at this point, it was a brilliant way for people in the village to get back in touch and have some fun and banter with each other. It was an extremely successful night and much appreciated by all of those that attended.

If you would like to see the Greatest Hits compilations or any content from previous shows, please search for the Entertainers channel on YouTube (it's called "whaddonentertainers" - all one word). Within playlists on the channel you will see "Whaddon Show Greatest Hits Act 1 1998-2015" and "Whaddon Show Greatest Hits Act 2 2015-2018".

Enjoy!

And back live on stage at last!!!
To *Wild Critical Acclaim*:
Whaddon Entertainers Presented
"Whaddon Zoo"!



A Selection of the Rave Reviews

After a four-year Covid-enforced hiatus, the Whaddon Entertainers made a highly anticipated return to the Jubilee Hall stage in April.

Audiences were welcomed to the opening of Whaddon Zoo over the course of two evenings, for a night of songs, well-loved sketches and original content. We were introduced to Steph Irwin (yes, you read that correctly!), and her team of zookeepers, who were all too eager to show us their deadly crocodiles, snakes, lions and... insects?

Musical treats included a rewritten version of Tony Christie's Amarillo, Born to Be Wild, a slightly amended Fairground Attraction's Purr-fect and Can You Feel The Love Tonight.

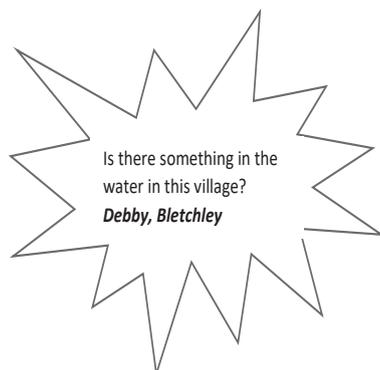
Another highlight for me was one of Guy Birch-Jones' first forays into writing for the Entertainers, with an all-too-realistic version of Children's Masterchef, where contestants compete to please fussy offspring with impressive dinners, only to be met with requests for chicken nuggets, chips and beans.

*It's great to have the Whaddon Show back, and what a way to make a return! A huge well done to the band, cast and backstage crew who work so hard to make it a success. We'll all be hoping it's much less than four years before they're back again for the next production. 5**

Amy, long time Whaddon resident and visitor

The Whaddon show; a time capsule of quality entertainment, a step from reality into a fabulous immersion of life, not as we know it but a well-received sheep dip of laughter & hilarity. A waking of the senses, camaraderie like no other, generations of talented committed thespians devoted to sharing their enthusiasm for life. Supported by like-minded hospitable locals committed to ensuring Whaddon villagers have a fabulous time. What an amazing experience, twice is not enough - can't wait for next year!!

David, Whaddon resident, first time audience member and returned for a second night!



So much talent in one village! After such a long delay, the anticipation (and expectations!) were high for the fantastic night we've come to know and love from the Whaddon Show. I may have been a little over excited having not been in an audience for so long, but I was hoarse from laughing, cheering and singing! Well done to everyone involved in putting on such a brilliant show. Thank you all!

Angie, Whaddon resident and Whaddon Show Aficionado

The Whaddon Entertainers
Invite you to the opening of

Whaddon Zoo



"It was actually quite good"
Christopher, aged 11

The Whaddon Show, it's not proper acting, it's just messing about.
J, aged 13, GCSE Drama student

Whaddon Gets New Power Lines

“Not so much Old Lace, as Arsenic!” writes John Mortimer.

In February, Whaddon’s village street scene underwent a transformation; new single-wire power lines, coupled with new posts replaced older equipment, as John Mortimer observed.



Perhaps it might make a question for a future Whaddon pub quiz: How many electric powerline poles are there in Whaddon; poles which carry the three-phase power lines? 27, 37 or 47?

The answer lies with Mr Heinz and his famous varieties! 57. This is according to KDR Powerlines Ltd which has been charged by Western Power Distribution to upgrade the village’s power supply.

In the space of some six to eight weeks, according to Western Power, contractors replaced most of the concrete and wooden powerline posts in the village. The work affected all village roads.

The work of transformation began at the eastern end of the village (Shenley Road and Briary View) with contractors working towards Whaddon Hall.

The contractor’s experienced teams worked to a target of four to five poles a day in addition to cabling time. However, depending on conditions it is possible to process up to eight poles a day.

Of course, some posts are easier to uproot than others. Most difficult are concrete posts; these can weigh some two tonnes each; they have to be taken away to be broken up and disposed.

As with many aspects of life, there is a sub-text to the common powerline post and its attached cabling. Utility poles are subject to the most harsh and unrelenting conditions that nature can unfurl: rain, ice and wind, not to insects and decay fungi.

Some of the wooden posts in Whaddon stretch back many years, some possibly around the mid-1960s. Such wooden posts were pressure treated with arsenic (specifically; chromated copper arsenate – CCA) which gave them a longer life. The CCA, which imbued timber with a greenish tint, was used to protect poles from attack from microbes, insects and climate.

It was invented in 1933 by an Indian chemist, Sonti Kamesam, and patented in the UK in 1934. Subsequently it became a requirement as a timber treatment and marketed under many trade names. In recent years however, due to environmental considerations, the use of CCA-treated timber has been outlawed. Pressure treatment could be so effective that the arsenic protection liquid could reach almost to the pole’s core, offering great longevity of protection; so much so that some poles could last up to 70 years. But with the outlawing of arsenic, it has been replaced by other preservatives. However, these penetrate a shorter distance (an inch or two) into the wooden post. The net result is a shorter life expectancy.



In Whaddon, new poles were placed directly adjacent to old poles, with adjustments made to wires accordingly. Contractors also replaced the previous four electric cables (three-phase and neutral) with one thicker cable). Finally, the old poles were removed.

The KDR team is small, just five including two bosses; they work as a close-knit group, each looking out for one another. The oldest post they have encountered in their experience is one dating back to 1939 – 83 years; those in Whaddon mostly date to 1965-66, which is usually about the age when poles are replaced.

A further element of the sub-text of electric powerline replacement centres on the expert team of men undertaking the work. Some men live a distance from home. Today, in a far cry from the 'old days' when local newspapers formed part of the ritual of looking for digs and the refuge of bed and breakfast accommodation after a hard day's work, some now use Airbnb to secure their bed for the night.

Another aspect of their work is determined by prevailing weather conditions. More often than not, such teams work in towns and villages during winter; in summer often they can be found working in the countryside, replacing powerline poles in fields.

♦ *Arsenic and Old Lace*, a play by American playwright Joseph Kesselring, was written in 1939. It became best known through the subsequent film adaptation starring Cary Grant and directed by Frank Capra.

John Mortimer

Whaddon's Much Treasured Historian & Roving Reporter

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# Reflections from the Rectory

**Revd. Jacqueline Dove**



***It's the season of Easter*** in the Church Calendar when we get to practise the discipline of joy. Easier said than done in these troublesome times. My inner Eeyore has plenty to dwell on at the moment. During Lent, which proceeds Easter, we get to reflect on our need as humans to change the orientation of our hearts from the pursuit of power, wealth and personal status which gets us individually, communally, nationally and globally into such a mess.

President Putin is a classic example of where this path leads to. But now it is Easter and we change our altar cloths from purple to white, the same colour used for other joyful occasions such as Christmas and Baptisms and Weddings. And I also wear my white stole, with the Tree of Life represented by a baobab, when I conduct a funeral because life and love is stronger than death.

I came across the idea of practising the discipline of joy recently and I think it is helpful because joy doesn't come easy and needs to be cultivated. Scientists explain that our brains are wired for bad news because at some point in our evolution we needed to be afraid, very afraid. Fight or Flight were apparently our main options to survive. So bad news sticks like Velcro and the default mode for our neural pathways is negative thinking. As Mark Twain said, ""I've had a lot of worries in my life, most of which never happened."

Joy is not a result of positive- *thinking- on -steroids*, think Tigger on his own. Eeyore and Tigger live together. I find that sorrow and joy rub shoulders together on a daily basis. On any given day I have conversations with people living with great sorrow. A much longed for and much needed hip operations is cancelled at the last minute; someone who was thrilled to get a new job is getting bullied by their new manager, someone who thought they had beaten cancer finds it has returned with a vengeance; a wife, mother, sister, close friend dies. The world is rife with tragedy, and I mourn with those who mourn. However, it is also full of so much beauty and goodness, and when we notice this and give thanks for it, therein lies deep joy. On Sundays during the fifty days of Easter I get to light the Easter Candle and read this prayer by Desmond Tutu:

***Goodness is stronger than evil;***

***Love is stronger than hate;***

***Light is stronger than darkness;***

***Life is stronger than death;***

***Victory is ours through Him who loves us.***

***Revd. Jacqueline Dove***

**The Rectory, Chapel Lane, Thornborough, MK18 2DJ. Tel: 01280 817828**



**St Mary's Church, Whaddon would like to  
invite you to the**

**'Songs of Praise' Service of Celebration  
In commemoration of the Queen's  
Platinum Jubilee.**

**Some of the Queen's favourite hymns  
will be sung**

**Joined by members of the  
Whaddon Chase Choir**

***Refreshments served after the Service***

## St Mary's Church Services for May, June and July:

|                            |                                                         |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun. 22 <sup>nd</sup> May  | 8.30am Holy Communion                                   |
| Sun. 29 <sup>th</sup> May  | 11.00am Benefice Service followed by lunch Thornborough |
| Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> June  | 10.00am Jubilee Songs of Praise                         |
| Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup> June | 10.30am Holy Communion                                  |
| Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> June | 10.30am Table Talk                                      |
| Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup> June | 8.30am Holy Communion                                   |
| Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup> July  | 4.00pm Forest Church                                    |
| Sun. 10 <sup>th</sup> July | 10.30am Holy Communion                                  |
| Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup> July | 10.30am Table Talk                                      |
| Sun. 24 <sup>th</sup> July | 8.30am Holy Communion                                   |
| Sun. 31 <sup>st</sup> July | 11.00am Benefice Service followed by lunch Nash         |

***All Welcome!***

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Whaddon Parish Council Focuses On Village Improvement Projects

Residents may not be aware of the very important work that your Parish Council continually undertakes with the 'WINSLOW AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY BOARD' at Buckinghamshire Council. This is a new initiative since Buckinghamshire became a Unitary Authority, which involves setting aside 'funds' that can be 'bided for' by the 23 villages within the Winslow & Villages Community Board's 'patch'.

The W&VCB priorities are that each year the Boards' membership will look at whatever matters and ideas are promoted by parishes within their local area and decide which are the most suitable and appropriate for implementing, using data and local intelligence to help determine the most deserving cases. The Board involves parishes, residents, partners, local groups and organisations in understanding what the local issues and priorities are.

The Priorities for 2021/22 are :- Improving the Environment; Health and wellbeing; Economic Recovery; and Transport and Highways. These priorities help determine where the Board takes action and allocate funding to improve the local area - normally with some minimal funding coming from the parish itself.

Whaddon Parish Council has been very active in this initiative, and the following is a list of what has been achieved to date, and what your councillors hope might be

achieved in the future But no guarantees can be offered because success depends on the strength of case, available funds and volume of applications.

ALLOTMENTS - Stage 1. Improved access gate and pathway, which hopefully will encourage full and better use of this important village facility. **Completed 2021.**

ALLOTMENTS - Stage 2. For years, water has had to be taken by hand to the site by plot holders. At long last a permanent water supply is **just being connected** centrally in the site by Anglian Water. This process has been lengthy and fraught with problems - mainly with the Water Board, but also inevitably inconveniencing some allotment holders. Thanks to them for their patience and understanding and to local 'handyman' Dave Taylor who has done a great job. Your Parish Council considers it vital that this resource is fully utilised and kept going. If you might be interested in taking an allotment or joining a waiting list please let WPC Clerk know.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES. This is a current project which has been accepted by the Board and Transport for Bucks, in principle, and is now waiting on finance approval before the project can proceed further. Highway safety, footpath blocking and village green protection have prompted this important safety initiative which, if agreed, will provide double yellow lines (no parking restriction), to comply with the Highway Code requirements to be located at the junction of High Street, Stock Lane, and Nash Road.

In the next few weeks it will be necessary to undertake an informal village consultation, which if supported by the majority of village residents will proceed to a formal Bucks Council/TfB consultation before contractors can be appointed and the works undertaken. If successful the works could be completed very late this year, so watch out for the informal consultation forms dropping through your letterbox soon!

VICARAGE ROAD IMPROVEMENT. For a very long time WPC has been looking for ways to improve this road whilst at the same time providing some additional parking. This scheme has enabled councillors to suggest a short length of widening alongside the allotments, which might enable new kerbing, protection of the remaining grass verge and some additional limited parking for allotment holders and/or local residents. The scheme has been looked at by Transport for Bucks, and the indicative project costs suggest that it may be a 'non starter' but WPC is putting it forward to the Board for consideration anyway! Watch this space!

If any residents have ideas or suggestions for future possible village projects that comply with the criteria, then please come along to a Parish Council Meeting and make your views known.

Cllr Graham Stewart

Whaddon Parish Council

News from St Mary's Church

Hello everyone in Whaddon, or further afield....

Warm summery greetings to you all! I hope you have been enjoying the sunshine lately, the glorious greening of trees and shrubs and the joyful sight of lambs gambolling in the fields around the village. How fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful place.

Mothering Sunday was celebrated in St Mary's with daffodils, and Easter Sunday with lilies, and they were both really joyful occasions. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection, and with that, new life, and growth in general – and we are focussing on these aspects as we consider the part our church plays in the life of our village.

During the past year there have been baptism and funeral services at St Mary's; there is a wedding to look forward to in June, and enquiries have been made for future baptisms. We are also looking forward to celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee with a special Songs of Praise service on the first Sunday in June. It is wonderful that we have our church, that we know that these services can take place and that our special family occasions can be thus celebrated. There is a very grave danger, however, that this may not always be so.

At the moment St Mary's is 'kept afloat' by a really small number of volunteers, and we heartily thank those wonderful folk who mow the churchyard, clean the church and the brasses and provide and arrange beautiful flowers for the altars and windows. Jacqueline, our village priest, supports the village by conducting regular church services, visiting the school every week, holding Toddler Church, along with Sally Green, ministering to anyone who needs to see her in their own home, attending village 'happenings' and groups, and generally holding us all in her heart.

For all this, we thank her – but are thanks enough? Back to resurrection and regeneration! We currently have quite a small PCC who are determined to keep the church here for a long time to come, and we're 'on it' with lots of ideas to raise much needed funds. However remember that old Kitchener poster? Yes, your church needs YOU! Are you able to offer your time, either to help the PCC when we do hold an event, to offer to sell raffle tickets or donate prizes, or to give us some more ideas for fund raising? We will be delighted to hear from you.

The PCC will be holding a Great Jubilee Raffle to kick off our fund-raising efforts and tickets will be on sale throughout June. Some great prizes have already been promised, and the draw will take place at the end of June. Please look out for details of Florrie's Coffee morning too – that is planned for later in July, and we are looking forward to holding it again, now that we can host lots of people together in Barry and Hazel's garden.

Please come and sit in the church for a little while if you can: it is open every day. Enjoy the tranquility there, and appreciate the simple beauty of a very special village church. It would be so sad if the church were to close, and I sincerely hope this won't have to happen. We are very happy that we have two fund raisers to start our regeneration – please support them so that St Mary's can stay open.

Daphne Willis
Churchwarden. St Mary's, Whaddon

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ARTICLE - SPRING 2022.

Whaddon residents have reported possible theft from their oil tanks, and as prices rise this worrying trend is likely to continue.

How to secure your oil tank

Theft of domestic heating and commercial diesel oil often increases when the price of crude oil rises. Thieves target fuel tanks at homes, businesses and farms. They may use the oil for their own purposes or sell it on at a handsome profitSo,

it makes good sense to take precautions and invest a small amount of money, if you can, to prevent thieves targeting your tank.

There are several ways to do this and it is worth looking online for advice on :-

1. Location of your oil tank.
2. Hide your oil - Consider camouflage.
3. Defensive planting.
4. Fit oil level gauges and tank alarms.
5. Security lighting.
6. CCTV.
7. Make some noise with gravel.

BUT, THE SIMPLEST, EASIEST AND CHEAPEST WAY INITIALLY IS TO INVEST IN QUALITY PADLOCKS.

A thief will usually come equipped with tools to attack your tank so it's worth investing in good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are most effective as they offer most resistance to tools such as bolt croppers. If possible, padlocks should be shrouded to make bolt cropping of locks or brackets difficult for an offender.

See it? Report it

Remember that you - the public - are the 'police' eyes and ears in the fight against crime. If you spot any suspicious activity, please call Thames Valley Police to report your concerns on :-

999 - Emergency incidents/crimes in action or have just occurred.

101 – Non- emergency crimes/incidents

You can also speak to their Crime Prevention Unit about protecting your property and reducing your chances of becoming a victim of crime, email or report online -

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/



You are cordially invited to a

Jubilee Beacon Event

Thursday 2nd June - 7.15pm - 10.00pm

Beacons will be lit across the UK at 9pm

Cash donations on the evening to Ukraine.

Hosted by Chris and Helen Hickman

Coddimoor Farm, Coddimoor Lane

Whaddon MK17 0LR

Limited parking in the yard at Bumpstart.

Walking encouraged.

Bring your own picnics, drinks and chairs

Please note that Coddimoor Farm is a working farm and as such all attendees are required to stay in the designated area. Children must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. Any dogs must be kept on a lead. Please take away any rubbish that you bring so that the farm can be ready, working, and safe for animals and farm people the very next day. There are no toilet facilities.

Thank you for your understanding.





Your 2022 Queen's Jubilee Round Up of Events!



Book Early to Avoid Disappointment!

Day/date	Event	Other details
Week of 23rd May	Whaddon CoE School. A number of activities leading up to the Platinum Jubilee Weekend including a National Flag Competition, in-house Street Party & Presentations to pupils.	WPC have given each young person at the school some seeds to grow in the spirit of the Palace's wishes to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'.
Thursday 2nd June	From 7:15pm-10:00pm: Beacon Lighting Event at Coddimoor Farm, MK17 0LR, in Whaddon, hosted by Helen & Chris Hickman, for families and residents in the village. Bring your own picnics, drinks and chairs. Limited parking in the yard at Bumpstart. Car sharing/walking encouraged. 2:00pm-3:30pm Bottomless Pimms – Lowndes Arms. Unlimited Pimms & Eton Mess Waffles.	Beacons will be lit at 9:00pm across the UK. Cash donations on the night for Ukraine. No tickets required. Free Event. Please let us know if you require disabled access beforehand (Jane mob. 07760 227729). £19:95pp.
Friday 3rd June	5:00pm-10:30pm: Village Hall Party to include BBQ (food from 6:30pm to 7:30pm) with bar and music. For families. <i>Ticket entry only. This event is now sold out but a waiting list has been created.</i> 8:00pm onwards: The Lowndes Arms: Pub Quiz	Kings & Queens fancy dress for children. Sweets for all those who dress up. Pre-booked tickets only: whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com £8 per adult, £5 per child (U12s), £22 family ticket (= x2 adults and up to x3 children). £2.00pp

Cont/...

Your Jubilee Events Roundup... continued

<p>Saturday 4th June</p>	<p>2:00pm-4:00pm: The Lowndes Arms: Meet the Queen: Afternoon Tea with G&T, to include petite savouries, scones and sweets. Includes a 2-hour Cabaret Drag Show and a game of Bingo with Sandy Flaps.</p> <p>1:00pm onwards: Join Nash residents for a 'Celebration' at Nash Recreation Ground, for families. Including: music/BBQ/bars/coffee/bouncy castle/cake/zorbing/Jubilee talent/crafting tent/kids face painting/dance show, and more. With Aimee Vivian from capital FM.</p>	<p>£20pp local residents, £25pp non-locals. £5 deposit required.</p> <p>Tickets £5 per adult 16+, £2:50 8+,7s & U7s Free, book on www.nash-social.weebly.com</p> <p>Volunteers from Whaddon to help set up and take down. Contact Jen Brown (details below).</p>
<p>Sunday 5th June</p>	<p>10:00am: A 'Jubilee Songs' Service with Chase Choir, followed by refreshments, at St Mary's, Whaddon.</p> <p>1:00pm onwards into the evening: Street Party in Nash. Bring your own table (or reserve one from Nash Village Hall) decorations, music and food. 5pm: Fish & Chip Van. 6pm: Ice Cream Van.</p>	<p>Free Event. Contact Jen Brown mob. 07798 625143 or jen.brown82@outlook.com to book a table.</p>

Saturday 4th June - Order of the day

10am onwards, people are able to set up their Gazebos

Event begins at 1pm;

- BBQ 1pm – 5pm
- Pump & Prosecco Bar – 1pm onwards
- Face Painting and Craft tent 1pm – 4:30pm
- Bouncy Castle 1:30pm – 4:30pm
- Zorb Balls 1:30pm – 4:30pm
- Balloon Man 4:30pm – 5:30pm
- Farm Slice Pizza and Street food 5pm onwards

2:00pm – 4:00pm God Save the Queen & Jubilee Talent

4:00pm – 4:45pm Live Band – The Recollections

4:45pm – 5:00pm Saxophonist

5:00pm – 5:45pm Live Band – The Recollections

5:45pm – 6:00pm Saxophonist

6:15pm Onwards Music and Dancing

Music

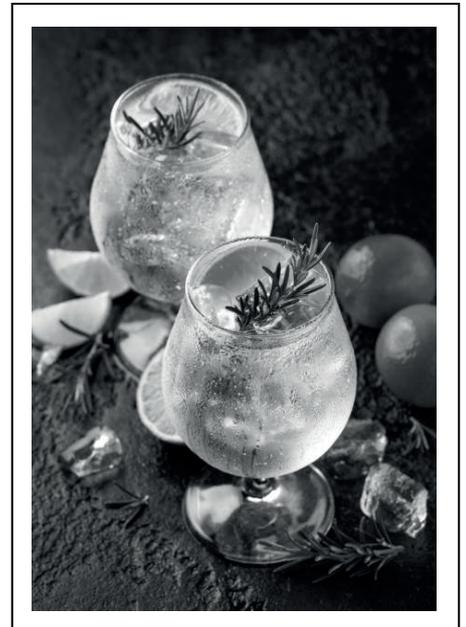
- 1pm until 2pm Sounds of the Early Years 1952 – 1977
- 2pm – 4pm Jubilee Talent
- 4pm – 6pm Sounds of the Silver Era 1977 – 2002
- 6:15pm Onwards Sounds of the Gold Era 2002 – 2022

The Perfect Jubilee Gin & Tonic!

The G&T is the mixed drink to end all others. So, is there a magic formula? Throughout the 20th C, G&Ts were a staple British drink, but it was the millennium and the change in laws which heralded its new popularity as botanicals were added to the mix.

So, what is the secret to the perfect G&T? Enough ice cubes to chill but not dilute, twisting not squeezing various citrus fruits (grapefruit works well) and $\frac{1}{3}$ gin: $\frac{2}{3}$ tonic sounds just perfect.

A great accompaniment to ***Afternoon Tea with the Queen*** on Saturday the 4th June 2pm-4pm at our Local Hostelry where you can decide if you add cream before jam to your scones or visa versa, and enjoy those crusts removed from the traditional sandwiches followed by a royal dessert. *See above for more details.*



MK Chorale www.mkchorale.org.uk



Crowning Glory

*A concert to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of
HM Queen Elizabeth II*

Sunday 5 June 2022 | 7.30 pm
Milton Keynes Theatre

MK Chorale with **Alina Orchestra** and guests
Oxford Pro Musica Singers, Musica Charity Choir, Polymnia
Mark Jordan | conductor

sponsored by  **Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors**

Tickets from £15 from Milton Keynes Theatre Box Office
www.atgtickets.com/MiltonKeynes



News from Whaddon C of E School...



Jubilee Wildflower Seeds for Whaddon School

In keeping with the Queen's wishes to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee', WPC were please to provide a packet of Queen's Platinum Jubilee Wild Flower seeds for each young person and member of staff at our Primary School. The packet contained a mix of red, white and blue British wildflowers to celebrate 70yrs of royal service, encourage children to learn about nature, and enhance our environment. The children will be planting their seeds in the coming week, and we hope to report on progress in the coming months.

Cllr Jane Herriman

Whaddon Parish Council

News from Whaddon's Chase Choir

"We're Enjoying the Different Approach" says Marianna Beckwith.

It's hard to believe it, but our "new" Musical Director, Craig McLeish, has been with us now for 6 months! Whilst we'll always remember Karen with much love, we're also very much enjoying a very different approach to singing on a Monday!

After a disappointing Christmas season, where we had to cancel all our planned performances for the usual tedious reasons, we're now feeling much more optimistic about performing, so look out for us, particularly during the Jubilee Bank Holiday.

A date for your diaries is July 4th, when we'll be putting on a summer concert in the village hall. Details to follow, and we'd love to see lots of Whaddoners (and their families and friends) there.

We'll also be taking part in the St Mary's service on Sunday 5th June, as well as a rather lovely village wedding, also in June.

This term, we've been looking at songs with a "folk" vibe, from all over the world, along with Craig's special "no music to look at, just listen and sing" pieces, which are always such good fun. If you hear lots of laughter coming from the village hall on a Monday evening, that'll be us, proving that singing really is good for the heart, soul and sense of humour.

If you're someone who fancies trying something uplifting and fun on Mondays, please get in touch (Marianna 01908 503194). We're a proper community choir: no audition is necessary and we don't take ourselves at all seriously!

Come along and try it out for one session; we're sure you'll be hooked!

Marianna Beckwith

Chase Choir



Whaddon Women's Institute



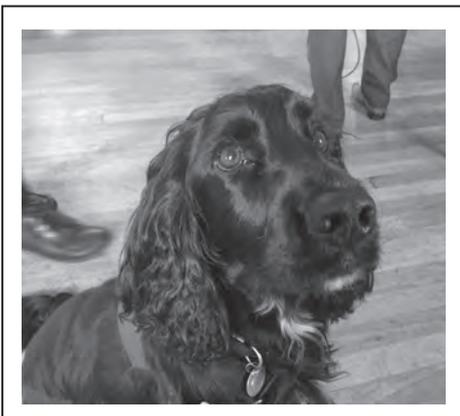
We've had a busy and successful few months in our little W.I. In December we tried our hands at glass painting under the expert eye of one of our members, Sue, which was great fun and we hope that Sue might teach us some more techniques another time. This was followed by a Christmas buffet.

In January we decided to meet via Zoom when we discussed our choice for the W.I. resolution to put forward. The W.I. is an influential and democratic group of ladies and each year we are given a choice of resolutions to put forward to government to help bring about change. We chose to support the resolution that women and girls with ASD and ADHD were under-identified, and we look forward to seeing what the winning resolution will be. If you like campaigning for change then maybe the W.I. is for you?

We then enjoyed a quiz which exercised our brains considerably. Do you know who the main antagonist from the Shakespeare play Othello is? Answer – Iago. And do you know the smallest planet in our solar system? Answer – Mercury. After all, both the body and the brain must be exercised regularly. We aim to exercise our bodies with Bollywood dancing at one of our meetings later this year. Marion won the quiz and was presented with a small gift at the next meeting.

In February Nikki showed us some incredible card making techniques and with Nikki's guidance we had a go at making our own with tremendous success. We were amazed to see the range of beautiful cards that Nikki makes which were inspiring. We hope that Nikki will come back another time to show us more.

In March we had a fascinating talk on birds of prey from Birds of Bray and were delighted to meet four owls – a Tawny Owl, a White-Faced Skops, a Barn Owl and a Little Owl – who were on their best behaviour and allowed us to hold them. We learned that there are 300 different types of owl and that they have asymmetric ears which aid hearing. They have such sensitive hearing that they can hear a mouse's heart-beat. They also can't hunt when they get wet. Another interesting afternoon which we all enjoyed.



In April we were delighted to have a talk from Hearing Dogs and to meet the volunteers and the dogs instead of seeing them over Zoom. We heard how Bishop – a three-year old black Spaniel – was qualified to alert his owners to the doorbell, alarm clocks, telephone etc., and little Jessie – an eight-month-old Spaniel was just learning the ropes. Bishop

demonstrated how to touch his trainer's leg as an alert, and we saw the tremendous difference that Hearing Dogs can make to their recipients. We discovered that we could sponsor a Hearing Dog for £3 a month and could also offer as much or as little time to them to help fundraise.

We also had a chance to recognise the loyalty of one of our members and were delighted to give a loyalty certificate to Sue White, former President, who has been a member for over 50 years. Amazing! Well done Sue!

In May it will be Whaddon W.I.'s birthday and we will be having a tea party. This W.I. has been going for more than 80 years – an amazing achievement for such a small village and we hope that it will continue for many more.

We are a small friendly group and would welcome new members. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall.

If you would like any more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.



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

W.I. Programme 2022

June 1st Garden Party

July 6th Introduction to gemstones

August 3rd Claydon House

September 7th Linda's volunteering work at the Elephant sanctuary

October 5th Everything Women Ought to Know In the 1900s

November 2nd Annual General Meeting and Social

December 7th Christmas party with Christmas Crafts and Secret Santa

theW.I.
INSPIRING WOMEN

(Please come and see what we do! Visitors £3)

News and Views from Whaddon's Night Owlers W.I.



***"Last month we were all at sea!"* Writes Alison Cross....**

Despite being almost as far from the coast as it is possible to be in England, we welcomed a speaker from the RNLI. We learned about the history of the organisation and their far-reaching role in saving lives at sea (and on some rivers too!) At the end of the talk, Daphne got to try on the kit and made a superb looking lifeboat person!

In May we are welcoming Sue from The Farm Deli in Winslow who will be talking about (and letting us taste!) some English Charcuterie. Her presentation and tasting notes on cheese two years ago was amazing so we are really looking forward to this one. Following this, in June we are hearing about recycling then in July we are getting out for a trip to a local bowling club. Our meeting planner certainly keeps us on our toes with a wide variety of topics and activities!

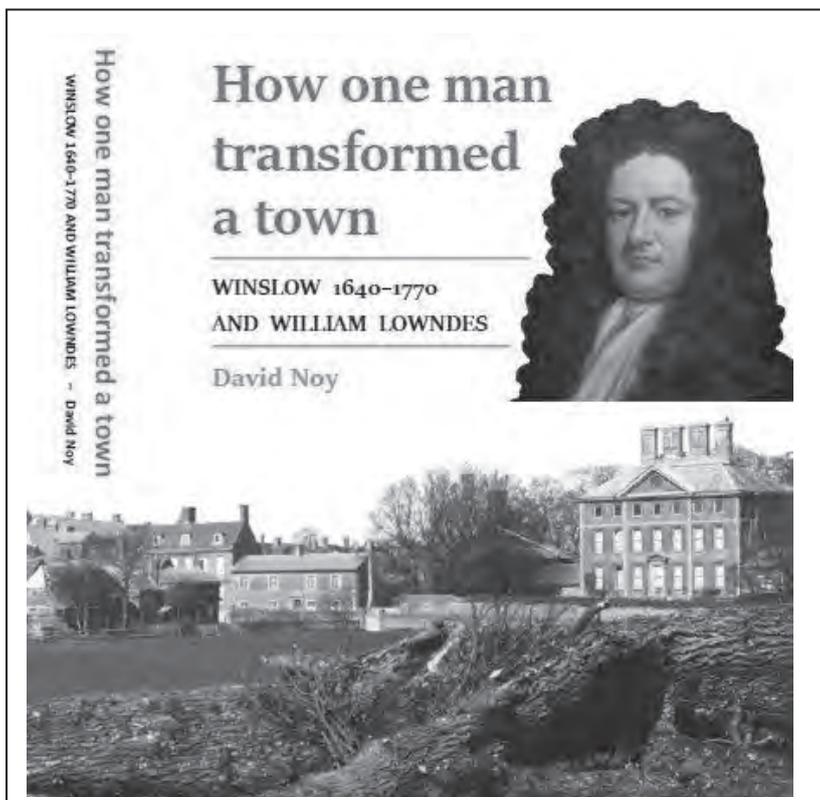
If you are interested in joining us, please contact Daphne on 01908 502088 - we always like to meet new friends!

Alison Cross
Whaddon Night Owlers W.I.

Whaddon Book Club

We continue to choose a wide variety of books, fiction and non-fiction. New members are always welcome; a liking for cake is especially helpful! For further information please contact Jane Porter: jane.porter@live.co.uk

Book Review: A Key New Book to Interest Local Historians!



How Rebecca came to go the extra mile....

Local historian, David Noy, in his wide-ranging and deeply researched book, brings to life many aspects of Winslow, a town of small-scale farmers and craftsmen and which received two visits from Oliver Cromwell. John Mortimer reviews it.

WILLIAM LOWNDES was a man of action; a man who, in more ways than one, did not let grass grow under his feet.

For example, he married four times: his first three wives (Elizabeth, Jane and Elizabeth) all died within, one, two and three years respectively of their wedding day. News of William's fourth marriage, to Rebecca Shale, travelled far and wide: even the *Baltimore Sun* in the USA picked it up, reporting the event in its 15th September 1907 issue! However, it is not clear where the couple wed. William married second wife Jane in 1683 at St Clement Danes church, Strand, London.

Late in the 9th century, Alfred The Great granted Danish settlers married to English women an area between London and Westminster to establish their community. As they moved into the area, they built a church, St Clement Danes; it became the burial place (1040) of King of England, Harold Harefoot.

William and Jane's daughter was baptised at another famous London church, St Margaret's Westminster, where William's next daughter, with third wife, Elizabeth, was baptised. Rebecca gave birth to no less than 14 children; together with William's previous brood of four, brought the grand total to 18.

William and Rebecca enjoyed 34 years of marriage before William passed away aged 74 in 1724. Rebecca died some 16 years later. Rebecca had a touch of class: her father, John Shales, was a goldsmith; her brother, Charles, followed his father's footsteps, but as a goldsmith in London where he became a banker in Lombard St. Charles's wife, Anne, was posh too. As Anne Barrington of Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, she was part of British aristocracy: daughter of Thomas Barrington and the Lady Anne Rich.

Further poshness emerges: Anne was sister and heir of Sir Charles Barrington of Barrington Hall, in Essex, and granddaughter of Robert Rich, third Earl of Warwick. Anne married Charles Shales on 17th November 1698 at Temple Church, London – another London wedding – but coincidentally died on 17th November, 31 years later, in 1729. Temple Church was consecrated in 1185, and was the church of the Templers.

So, this book is as much about families as it is of the part played by William Lowndes and his achievements: local families like Lowndes, Fige, Gyles, Grant/Miller, Gibbs, Hogson, Seaton, Budd, Elliott and Tomlin/Shaw. In other words, about shopkeepers, the professions and farming families.

Another highlight: the interconnection within families, most notably the Shales and the Lowndes families.

A Multiplicity Of Architectures

If you are a frequent visitor to Winslow, you may have asked yourself, as you look around: why does Winslow Hall dwarf the rest of the town? Why is there a vast open space in front of it? Why does Winslow have so many houses offering such a wide mix of architectural styles from different centuries? And why, oh why are all the farmhouses hidden away in the fields?

Much has to do with William Lowndes, a seventh century Action Man in making money work to his advantage: for example, how many boys of 15 in 1625 would launch from Winslow to make their way to the hurly-burly life of London in search of an apprenticeship as under-clerk in the Treasury of King Charles II, just as the bailiff arrived to seize his father's goods.

The history of Winslow of course precedes William Lowndes' deeds: after serving as an estate of St. Albans Abbey for seven centuries, the manor of Winslow remained with the Crown from 1539 until some 60 years later when it was sold into private hands, landing up with the Duke of Buckingham who already owned estates around Whaddon and Bletchley. Whaddon Chase, to the north-east and at one time heavily-wooded, probably attracted the duke for hunting.

As for William Lowndes, well he made enough money to begin buying up land in Winslow and knocking down houses. He turned the town into a place where one family owned most of the land, and built a mansion in a style Winslow people had never witnessed.

And, for a time, the Baptists became very influential and built their own meeting house.

Problems Of Deer Stealing

The author draws much attention to the happenings of town and country life; for example, the act of deer-stealing became a problem in north Buckinghamshire in the early eighteenth century. Deer were owned only by the very rich – no one in Winslow had any. And so, venison at that time could not be sold legally.

Accordingly, there was a 'black market'. Deer-stealers were alive and kicking and, because of incidents of theft and intimidation, one or two land owners gave up the ghost and sold off their deer to remove the problem, and make life easier.

There was a time, in 1729, when a Winslow butcher was found sending venison to London and Robert Lowndes, who had been involved in having wagons searched, was attacked one dark night on his way home from Buckingham. Commonly, deer-stealers 'got away with it' and were not brought to justice simply because north Buckinghamshire landowners had been successfully intimidated. All this was despite the introduction in 1723 of the Black Act which imposed the death penalty no less for poaching!

Meanwhile, Lowndes family money helped create a town full of doctors and lawyers who modernised their houses, while the market and turnpike road provided business for inns and shops. The open fields were enclosed and farmers moved out into newly-built farmhouses.

It's all here;

♦ *How one man transformed a town. Winslow 1640-1770, and William Lowndes*, by David Noy. Published by Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, November 2020. £11.00. 361pp.

John Mortimer

Whaddon's Much Treasured Historian & Roving Reporter

Whaddon Parish Council's Run-Down of Local Planning Applications

PLANNING SNIPPETS!

The following planning applications remain undetermined at the time of going to press. Full details of these (and many others) can be viewed at the web page :-

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

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

22/00221/APP - Temporary siting of childcare nursery, enclosed outdoor play space and associated infrastructure - Thrift Farm Bletchley Road, Whaddon.

And :-

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.

The permanent facility would have a capacity of 99 pupils. The temporary facility has a reduced capacity of 54 pupils, supported by at least 16 FTE members of staff.

The Planning Officer has recently changed their advice saying that there is no permitted development fall-back position, following which the Highway Authority has raised an objection on the grounds of transport unsustainability.

WPC raised a number of concerns on traffic generation, impact on existing adult education, etc. Bucks Council own the site and it will eventually have to be decided at the Development Control Committee, rather than by delegated Officer powers.

NO DECISION AS YET.

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

The public house is 'Grade II' listed and the outbuildings standing within the site are 'Curtilage Listed'. The site is within the High Street Conservation Area.

The applicant's Architect describes the proposal as "two modest dwellings desperately needed in the village but ultimately for the survival of the Public House".

And "The site is located at the rear of the Public House and currently forms part of an underused car park. Car parking will be reorganised following any approval of this proposal so that no reduction of parking is felt."

Buckinghamshire Council and WPC will ultimately make their decision based on 'Material Planning Considerations', including adopted VALP policies; Government NPPF Policy, Impact on

the conservation Area and setting of listed buildings etc.

NO DECISION AS YET.

21/04686/APP - BEACHAMPTON - Grove Farm, Stratford Road, Whaddon. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and annex with associated landscaping.

The original house at Grove Farm was recently demolished. (It was not listed). New foundations can be viewed within the fenced off site. Buckinghamshire Council were informed on 7th October, as planning permission had not been received to demolish and build a new property. An application has now been submitted and appears to be in order. To comply with time requirements a 'No Objection' response was submitted recently. (Only the access road is in the Whaddon Parish - the house itself is within Beachampton).

NO DECISION AS YET

20/03539/APP - SGN Gas Depot, Bletchley Road, Newton Longville.

Although not in our 'patch', WPC objected on traffic and safety grounds to this application for a gas tanker offloading facility. Although a final decision is still awaited, it appears that the Strategic Sites Committee at Buckinghamshire Council continues to hold discussions with Newton Longville and Bletchley Councils on two options for variation to "the traffic management proposals and routing plan already submitted", neither of which appear acceptable.

NO DECISION AS YET.

22/00864/APP - Chase Lodge, Whaddon/Mursley Road, Whaddon. - Change of use from agricultural land to a horse manege.

WPC raised 'No Objection'.

NO DECISION YET.

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS HAVE NOW BEEN DETERMINED.

21/01368/APP - 2 Chase Farm Barns, Whaddon Road, Whaddon. - Erection of a single storey oak framed rear extension.

Householder consent GRANTED on 20th April. WPC raised 'No Objection'.

22/00204/APP - Parks Farmhouse, 6 High Street, Whaddon.

Householder application for replacement of all 9 wood windows with double glazed PVC windows.

The application was APPROVED on 16th March, subject to conditions. WPC made 'No Objection'.

21/01059/ACL - Land off Stratford Road, Whaddon.

Application for a lawful Development Certificate for an existing Equestrian/Paddock land retention of re-built stable building

The following advice has recently been received from Buckinghamshire Council:-

Please note that the enforcement case under reference 17/00359/CON3 which was inherited by myself has been closed with no further action required.

This conclusion was reached because it has been determined that the development is immune from enforcement action through applying the four-year rule as per Section 171B TCPA. The immunity was evidenced through the assessment of previous officers information, in which it was found that the roof trusses were erected in August 2017 and the buildings were found to be complete in December 2017.

Cllr Graham Stewart

Whaddon Parish Council

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# **Time to Get Walking Again? Here's How to Get Started.....**

***Whaddon has some great walks...*** And at this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Buckinghamshire <http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/bucks> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said, "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bedfordshire (part of the Walking in England website – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you".

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

***John Harris***

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

[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

# News and Views from Whaddon's Allotment Holders

## Topical Tips and Helpful Hints for Growing Fabulous Vegetables.... from Whaddon's Gaya Gopal

***A warm welcome to Whaddon allotment section.*** This is my first article so please read it carefully and happy to take feedback in terms of what you would like to see and hear from this section in future. I would like to start the article in terms of advice for the new allotment holders, as I came across many in the last couple of months who required this.

**If you are a new allotment plot holder, you may feel completely lost and not sure where to start? What should you do first? Here are some tips...**

### **1. Make a detailed plan**

Think about what you'd like to grow, watch to see how much sun the plot receives and if there are any shady areas, and make a note of fixed features such as a shed, water butts, compost bins etc.

### **2. Create access paths**

You'll need to be able to reach all your produce without standing on it, and you'll want to move easily between the beds. Divide the plot into strips 1.2m wide. Divide each strip out with twine and leave at least 30cm gap between each one. These gaps will become your pathways. Mulch the path with cardboard and wood chips. You'll be able to tramp up and down these to hoe and sow without treading on your vegetable beds – and 1.2m is a perfect width reach in from either side. Or you can build raised beds like as I have done on one of my plots. I prefer the former as less pests can hide in them.

### **3. Talk to your allotment neighbours**

They'll be the ones who can tell you what grows well on the site, what to avoid, and all the other tricks that will get you on your way. From my experience, it helped me a lot talking to Paul who was my allotment neighbour and whose allotment I have now taken on from being an amateur allotment-er.

### **4. Save money by starting small**

Choose just three of your favourite vegetables to grow in your first year. Leafy greens like kale, Swiss chard and perpetual spinach are a good place to start. They're easy to grow and produce all year around.

## 5. Clear your plot

If your allotment is overgrown when you take it over, strim it hard to get down to the soil level. Remove the debris and lay out thick layer of cardboard, water the cardboard and add well-rotted manure/compost on the ground to form beds. This is called 'no-dig' method which is now followed by many and proven to be successful. It also helps not to disturb the ecosystem below and saves your back from digging the clay soil.

## 6. Save soil

Whether you decide to dig over your beds or try the no-dig method, improving your soil is one of the most important things to get right.

Don't tread on soil you're growing on as it will squash the air pockets out and block root growth. Replenish its nutrients annually with a thick layer of peat free compost or well-rotted manure. Rotate crops every year, never growing the same crops in the same place to prevent pest and disease build up. E.g., growing potatoes in the clay soil helps break down the soil so try crop rotation.



## 7. Weed little and often



Weeding isn't much fun, but if you start each visit to the allotment with a quick 30-minute stint, you'll prevent weeds from getting out of control and stealing vital nutrients from your crops. Please try to avoid using weed killer, it's usually unnecessary and it's harmful to bees. Use a hoe to weaken small weed seedlings and lift larger weeds from the soil by hand. Try to get all the root out, doing this regularly really will pay off in the long run. **& Keep an eye on the harvest windows**

I hadn't appreciated that many vegetables and fruit have a limited 1 – 2 day window when they are perfect for eating. In particular raspberries, courgettes, broccoli and beans. On one Saturday they wouldn't be ready, then the following Saturday they'd gone past their best. So, make sure you harvest on time.

***So that's it! You can now start growing your own!***

## Best low maintenance crops for beginners

Here are some of the best low-maintenance crops to get you started in May:

- Squash and Pumpkin
- Chillies, Peppers and Aubergines (if you have grown the seedlings at home if not buy plugs from garden centres or the HUT)
- Maincrop Potatoes
- Root Veggies – Beetroot, Carrots, Radish
- Greens – Kale, Swiss Chard, Perpetual Spinach
- Sweet corn
- Beans and Peas – both climbers and dwarf varieties

**I hope you've found some of these tips useful and I wish you every success with your allotment.**

***Gaya Gopal***

**Whaddon Allotments**

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