

November 2020

# WHADDON QUARTERLY



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### 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.

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#### **To advertise in the *Whaddon Quarterly***

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Advertising Rates and Publication Policy – page 36

**This addition comes with special thanks to the amazing John Mortimer for creating Whaddon Quarterly from 2015 - 2020. Thank you, John, from all of your fellow Whaddon residents!**

Thank you to **Linda Warren** for our cheeky front cover! A massive thank you to **everyone** who has contributed articles. There's no WQ without you!



## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Three months ago, I had hoped that when I wrote in October, I would be able to confirm that our lives were nearly back to normal. Sadly, that is not the case. We are seeing an increasing number of Covid-positive tests, though South East England, and that includes Buckinghamshire, which has been affected to a lesser extent.

Those of us who are Councillors at Parish or County level have become used to meeting in front of our computers by setting up a video link via Zoom or Teams, names most of us had not heard of six months ago. It has worked, though lacking the personal touch of face to face meetings.

Elections should have taken place in May, but were cancelled at both Parish and County level, so your Councillors soldier on till such time as we can offer ourselves for your approval. In the meantime, Whaddon Parish Council meets via a Zoom video link every other month as usual and, as always we scrutinise all Planning Applications; we look after village assets such as the Recreation Ground, the allotments and the street lights, but above all, we are the flag-bearers for keeping Whaddon rural and that it should not become an extension of Milton Keynes.

The new Buckinghamshire Council has set up local Community Area Boards. We are part of the Winslow Community Board and I hope to report in future of its positive results.

**Billy Stanier**

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## Clerk's Corner



### Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

**New Street Lights:** WPC is in the process of upgrading our motley collection of old street lights with nice new LEDs. Bucks Council recently announced that a whopping 25% of council carbon emissions are down to street lights, so we can be pleased and proud of our efforts. It's now impossible to source spares for our older lights, and along with savings to be made on lower electric usage and better reliability we are ticking all the boxes.

**Recreation Ground Update:** Many will have spotted that our Rec is being well used and looking great after lots of litter picking, equipment maintenance, mowing and hedging. Please note the new signs; with Covid-19 on the rise again you must comply with the safety rules and please be very careful of touching un-sanitised surfaces. Please also note; no dogs, no bike riding, no motorbikes or e-scooters, and no fireworks allowed, which means we all stay safe and respect all users and adjacent homes.

**Allotments:** Now is the time to sign up for an annual allotment lease, they start from late September so you can prepare your plot over the autumn and winter for the spring growing season and all those yummy fruits and vegetables. There are a few plots available, including micro-plots, medium-sized, and larger ones for the ambitious. Groups wishing to lease a plot together are very welcome. Prices are very, very reasonable, so drop me an email or get in touch asap.

**On-Line Parish Council Meetings.** The Parish Council continues to conduct meetings via Zoom, in accordance with current recommendations and guidance to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and keep everyone safe. Notices with Zoom joining details and the agenda, and of course minutes, will be on the Parish Council's website and posted on the bus stop noticeboard as usual. Please note the change of time to 7pm.

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

Many residents of Whaddon Parish are not getting up-to-date and timely information about very important issues affecting our Parish. You can also get the Whaddon Quarterly by email, and lots of useful notices and information; e.g., refuse collection delays, road closures, planning information, etc. Send a short email to [ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk](mailto:ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.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 Parish Council and/or Police matters.

**Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s).** The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take(s) place at 7.00pm on 12/11/20, 14/1/21, 11/3/21. Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. All Welcome!

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## **Our Member of Parliament for Buckingham**

Whilst Coronavirus continues to dominate the way we live our lives, locally, there is already good news. With Milton Keynes Hospital the nearest and main hospital for Whaddon residents – indeed, most North Buckinghamshire residents – the Department of Health has confirmed plans to build a brand-new women's and children's hospital on the site. This is in addition to previously announced rebuilding and refurbishment of the main Milton Keynes Hospital building. Further south, the other main hospital serving Buckingham constituency residents, Stoke Mandeville, is also receiving £15 million for a new children's A&E and inpatient ward.

Work has started on plans for 50,000 more nurses in the NHS, with more than 14,000 more nurses already working in the NHS compared to last year. Likewise, over 9,000 additional doctors are now working in the NHS. It takes significant time to train new doctors and nurses, but we are happy on track to hit the challenging numbers set.

The next couple of months are going to continue to be turbulent. But we will get to the other side of this virus. It is vital we continue to deliver on the improvements to our NHS alongside so many other areas – additional police, fixing our broken asylum system, implementing a much fairer points-based immigration system, securing new free trade deals around the world, I could go on and on. Our great country is strong and there are so many reasons for hope.

In the meantime, I remain at your service – do drop me a line if you would like my help or would just like to let me know your views on national or local issues.

**Greg Smith MP**

**Email:** [greg.smith.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:greg.smith.mp@parliament.uk)

# History Half Hour

## Prince of Wales gives chase in Whaddon

Can the Prince of Wales and Whaddon *really* occupy the same sentence, as inferred in the August 2020 *Whaddon Quarterly*? Of course. Just 100 years ago, Whaddon hit the nation's headlines big time propelled by the then infamous Prince of Wales who became patron of the Whaddon Chase, as newspaper reports recorded. John Mortimer pieces them together.



The extent of Whaddon's influence in the mid-1920s, and in particular that of the Whaddon Chase, long outside the enclaves of living memory, emerges when peering through the keyhole at time-faded newsprint with its 1920s eloquence and deference, and a strong urge to impose capitals on its readers. Their words and phrases unfurl a bygone age of style,

while photographs reveal top hats and scarlet: glaring reminders of authority and control over the countryside.

That arc of Whaddon's influence embraced the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII and then Duke of Windsor following marriage to twice-divorced Mrs. Wallis Simpson. But years before Mrs Simpson's unwelcome arrival on the scene, the Prince developed a close bond with the local hunt, possibly through the well-known cricketer and polo-playing Master of Hounds, Lord Dalmeny who suffered sunstroke during one polo match in 1923.

The Whaddon Chase offered the fearless Prince excellent hunts close to the capital and alongside like-minded society souls.

**Crossley**

**H.R.H. The Prince of Wales**  
Having the Courtesy of England  
to visit the Whaddon Chase he  
is using throughout his Indian Tour

It is not only an indication of the high esteem in which these cars are held. You are invited to open for full details of the two Crossley models, the 25/30 and the 25/30, to Crossley, Ltd., 10, Cannon Street, London, E.C. 4. Mr. E. J. C. Molyneux, 10, Cannon Street, London, E.C. 4, will be glad to answer any queries for the motorist.

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Edward arrived on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1894 in the reign of his great-grandmother Queen Victoria as the eldest child of the Duke and Duchess of York, later King George V and Queen Mary. He became Prince of Wales on his sixteenth birthday, seven weeks after his father succeeded as King. As a young man, Edward served in the British Army during the First World War and undertook several overseas tours on behalf of his father.

Notwithstanding this, the womanising Prince engaged in a series of affairs; to say these caused concern for his father and British prime minister, Stanley Baldwin, is an understatement.

Besides women, he loved motor cars, and not just Rolls-Royces, the staple mode of royal transport. For example, he favoured Crossley 25/30s (pictured) for his tour of India from November 1921 to March 1922 and for the tour of South Africa in 1925; the only official car for use in those territories.

Fatefully, Edward became King on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1936 on his father's death. Impatient with court protocol, the new king caused concern among politicians with his apparent disregard for established constitutional conventions.

Only months into his reign, he prompted a constitutional crisis by proposing to Wallis Simpson, an American who had divorced her first husband and was seeking a divorce from her second. The prime ministers of the UK and the Dominions opposed the marriage, arguing a divorced woman with two living ex-husbands was politically and socially unacceptable as a prospective queen consort.

Such a marriage would conflict with Edward's status as titular head of the Church of England, which at the time disapproved of remarriage after divorce if a former spouse was still alive.

Edward knew Baldwin's government would resign should the marriage proceed; it could have forced a general election and ruined his status as a politically neutral constitutional monarch. When it became clear he could not marry Simpson *and* remain on the throne, he chose abdication, to be succeeded by his younger brother, George VI. With a reign of 326 days, Edward is one of the shortest-reigning monarchs in British history.

### **First sighting in a hunt**

Wallis Simpson, as Wallis Warfield, was born in 1896 into an old-established American family. She married Earl W Spencer, a navy pilot, in 1916 and divorced 1927.

After living for a time in Warrenton, Virginia, she travelled to England, where she met Ernest A Simpson, an American-born British subject. They married in 1928 and lived near London.

Wallis Simpson met Edward, then Prince of Wales, while moving in fashionable British society circles. It happened on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1931 when Wallis was introduced to the Prince at Burrough Court, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire; both had been invited by Thelma, Viscountess Furness, to her house-party.

The romance blossomed; gradually they fell in love. Wallis sued for divorce from her second husband in July 1936, with the apparent intention of marrying Edward (who had become King Edward VIII), but as a woman twice divorced, she was socially and politically unacceptable as a prospective British queen.

Rumour and gossip were the *lingua franca* of 1930s Fleet Street newshounds as they surrounded the Prince and his lover, just as decades later they hunted Princess Diana.

Ten years earlier however, the Prince of Wales, in his late 20s, became a stalwart of the Whaddon Chase. That window of opportunity to hunt lasted over four years during which time the royal enjoyed some good hunting.

He did so largely through the good offices of a man who moved in the right circles: Archibald Primrose (1882-1974) the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosebury who styled himself Lord Dalmeny until 1929 and was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards. Like the Prince, he served in the First World War, but later became an active politician.

The Prince's first sighting in a hunt is recorded by *The Bystander* of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 1922 which, under the headline Waiting for the Draw in the first covert, recorded: 'The **Imperious aristocracy. English gentry in full dress and set to be in full flow. The Prince of Wales (extreme left) and the Duke of York out with the Whaddon Chase in 1922.**

Prince of Wales, whose recent accident has, fortunately, been very slight, and the Duke of York, have had some good hunting with the Whaddon Chase. Hounds killed after a hard twenty-five minutes' run.'

### **Performing pretty frequently**

In an article in the same publication under *Hunting Notes*, A W Coaten recorded: 'It is probable that in the spring we shall find the Prince of Wales performing pretty frequently over point-to-point courses, for he has several hunters who have an uncommon turn of pace and are accomplished jumpers.'

Coaten added: 'It is not often that Pet Dog (the Prince's horse) makes a mistake, but as luck would have it, he came down at the double jump across a narrow road when the Prince rode him in the Nomination Race at the Bullingdon Club point-to-point meeting near Oxford a few days ago.

'Earlier in the week H.R.H. had taken the precaution of giving Pet Dog a school over the Hon Aubrey Hastings' fences at Wroughton, and the horse had carried him very well then.



**Lady Chesham, whose husband was Master of the Bicester Hunt**

'It was the Prince's galling experience to watch the finish of the race instead of taking a practical part in it.

'In the Vale one day last week the Prince of Wales honoured the Whaddon Chase field with his company, and the Duke of York saw some sport in the delightful Vale of Aylesbury on the same occasion.

'After all that unhappy rumpus in the Whaddon Chase country a couple of seasons ago, things now seem to have settled down quietly on their old lines. For the most part hounds cover a pleasant grass country, which, with its flying fences and doubles, need not fear comparison with Leicestershire.'

After that, not much appeared in the in the Press in the context of the Prince and the Whaddon Chase for some 12 months until a flurry of activity appeared at the end of 1923.

#### **A sombre and telling tale**

The *Western Daily Press* of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 1923 recorded the Prince of Wales as 'among the followers of the Whaddon Chase hounds at their meet at Drayton Parslow yesterday.'

Adjacent to it however, appeared a much more sombre and telling item that 'Henry William Cumber, 21, club attendant. was sentenced to death at the Old Bailey yesterday for the murder of the newly-born child of Alice Crabb in March 1922.' Clearly, there was much more to this story than in these few lines.

That same day, *The Sportsman* (Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 1923) put more flesh on the Whaddon story, including a quip from the man himself, when it recorded that 'The Prince of Wales attended yesterday's meet of the Whaddon Chase Hounds at Drayton, Bucks. A fox found near Leighton Buzzard provided one of the best runs of the season. Although many followers came to grief, the Prince was in the first flight to the end. A motor-car was waiting to take the Prince to his host, but he declined, saying, "I have been on a horse all day, and I'll finish on a horse."' "

Two weeks later, the *Western Daily Press* of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December 1923 noted 'The Prince of Wales left Sandringham today to attend the meet of the Whaddon Chase Hounds at Great Horwood, Bucks. No mention of how he reached Great Horwood. By motor car, presumably. The following year, the *Bucks Herald* (of Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 1924) sprang to life with the following headline: Whaddon Chase. Prince of Wales at Birtton.

#### **Death of some hounds**

It reported that 'The prescribed restricted area for hunting on account of foot and mouth disease prevented the Whaddon Chase from fulfilling their fixture at Hurdlesgrove on Tuesday; instead they accepted an invitation from Birtton, where a large field was entertained by Mr William Bell.

'The Prince of Wales was among the visitors, and before hounds moved off, accompanied Lord Dalmeny, the Master, to Mr Bell's home. After a chat with the host the Prince mounted his horse and joined the meet.



'He received a loyal welcome from followers and villagers. Hounds led a lively 90 minutes' chase of a fox. Reynard first provided 6 minutes' run and then went to ground, but bolted again, and there was a further 30 minutes' gallop before the kill. 'The Prince kept in the first flight to the end.

'Horwood House was the fixture for Saturday, and Mr and Mrs Denny, as usual, dispensed their hospitality to a very large field. A few days later, and further afield, the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 1924, noted a loss at the Whaddon

Chase.

It posted: 'The meet of the Whaddon Chase Hunt on the old-fashioned green of Weedon, near Aylesbury, which resulted in the death of some of the hounds. These were killed by a train when crossing the main line on the heels a fox.'

The item included a photograph of the hounds in the village against a backdrop of the village's thatched cottages. Of course, matters of foxhunting were not confined to men. For example, the correspondent of *Prince of Wales and Duke of York with the Whaddon Chase*. *Gentlewoman* of 9<sup>th</sup> [February](#) 1924 noted: 'The Whaddon Chase hatchet is more or less buried, and I don't want to dig it up, though I shall always think that Colonel W Selby Lowndes will go down to history as the worst-treated Master of Hounds who ever hunted a country.'

### **Dripping with butter**

It added: 'Absence from foot and mouth disease restrictions more than anything else have taken the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York into the Whaddon domains. They've had some good sport, too; but they are oh so nauseated and sickened with the average daily newspaper report, steeped in sycophancy and dripping with butter, regarding their prowess in the saddle.'

Later that year, the Prince was back in the saddle, entertained at a grand house in the county as the *Gloucestershire Echo* of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 1924 reported.

It noted: 'The Prince of Wales has arranged to hunt with the Whaddon Chase Hounds this season. His hunters arrived at the hunt horse stables at Linslade on Tuesday, and during his visits the Prince will be entertained at Mentmore Towers by Lord and Lady Dalmeny.'

That same day the *Gloucester Citizen* repeated the news, more or less word for word: 'The Prince of Wales has arranged to hunt with the Whaddon Chase hounds this season. His hunters have arrived at the hunt horse stables at Linslade, and during his visits the Prince will be entertained at Mentmore Towers by Lord and Lady Dalmeny.'

The vast 19<sup>th</sup> century Mentmore Towers was originally designed by Sir Joseph Paxton for the Rothschild family. Started in 1852 it was completed in 1854, but later required a full restoration following years of neglect and extensive water damage.

### **The most notorious hunt**

A day later, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, the *Portsmouth Evening News* weighed in with the headline: 'To Hunt This Year With The Whaddon Chase – The Prince of Wales has arranged to hunt with the Whaddon Chase Hounds this season. His hunters arrived at the Hunt horse stables at Linslade to-day. During his visits the Prince will be entertained at Mentmore Towers by Lord and Lady Dalmeny.'

The grandeur of Mentmore Towers coupled with the Delmenys' entertaining skills opened the Prince's eyes to another side to fox hunting.



**Lord Dalmeny and the hounds in Newton Longville**

But the big story surfaced 10 days later in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1924 with a headline in block capitals FOXHUNTING v. MOTORING: A WHADDON CHASE INCIDENT. LORD DALMENY SENDS HOME THE CARS AT THE WHADDON CHASE AT NEWTON LONGVILLE.

The magazine reported: 'Though the Whaddon Chase is not the most famous of all hunts it has of late years been the most notorious. The long drawn out dispute as to its Mastership has now passed into history, but another mild sensation occurred last week, when the present Master, Lord Dalmeny, at the meet here illustrated, stopped the hunt

because a great following of motors had headed the fox near Newton Longville, close to Bletchley.'

It continued: 'Finally the cars, many of which had probably come, not to see fox-hunting, but because a report had been spread that the Prince of Wales would be among the followers, were withdrawn.'

Three days later, more news emerged about the Prince and the Whaddon Chase in the *Lincolnshire Echo* of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 1924. It reported the 'Prince of Wales was being out with the Whaddon Chase Hounds to-day. The meet took place at Padbury, Bucks, and there was a large attendance of horsemen and spectators.'

As if not to be left behind, the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November noted: 'The Prince of Wales was out with the Whaddon Chase Hounds yesterday. The hunt took place at Padbury. There was a large attendance of horsemen and spectators. Captain Lampton was in charge of the hounds.'

### **Uninjured in hunting mishap**

Not to be outdone, and keen to feed its hunt readers with a few extra morsels, the local *Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press* of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November reported: 'The Prince of Wales went hunting for the first time this season with the Whaddon Chase on Friday, when the meet was at Padbury Green.

'The fact that the Prince intended to be present was not apparently generally known, for the meet is stated to have been a small one for the Whaddon.

'His Royal Highness was in scarlet, and it is stated that despite his great popularity and the innumerable photographs which appear of him in the pictorial Press many of the villagers were unaware of his identity.

'Lord Dalmeny, the Master, was unable to attend the meet, having an important meeting in London, and in his absence Captain W H Lambton, of Bedford was in charge of the hunt. Will Boddington, the huntsman, of course, being present, as well as Mr. P. C. E. Lovett, the secretary.

'Amongst other followers present were Sir Richard Cruise, the Surgeon-Oculist to his Majesty the King (who has recovered from his recent fall); Lord Orkney and Lady Mary Fitzmaurice, and Lady Ancaster.' There followed a 12-month gap before the *Western Mail* of 4<sup>th</sup> November 1925 reported how the Prince of Wales came to experience 'a nasty fall, despite his horsemanship.'

Another banner headline in caps observed: PRINCE OF WALES THROWN. UNINJURED IN HUNTING MISHAP. HORSE SLIPS INTO DITCH IN TAKING FENCE. In putting together his report, the newspaper's reporter knew which words would please his editor – and the Prince (should he ever read it): 'While hunting with the Whaddon Chase Hounds on Tuesday, the Prince of Wales had a fall, but escaped injury. The mishap occurred whilst a brilliant run was in progress between Wing and Cublington.

'When taking a fence, the Prince's horse slipped on the waterlogged earth and fell into ditch, from which it could not be extricated for some time. His Royal Highness took the accident very lightly, and afterwards proceeded by car to his stables at Leighton Buzzard, and inspected them before returning to London.

### **Fearless and insouciant to mishaps**

'The Prince is no stranger to mishaps in the field. He has met them in the polo field and on steeplechase courses, as well as in the hunting field, and as he is utterly fearless and believes in always being in the first flight, accidents are inevitable.

'Fortunately, none of them has been serious, for the Prince is light in build, and knows how to fall.

Three years ago, he received a sprained ankle while riding with the Badminton Hounds, near Malmesbury, and had to take to crutches for a few days, but this was the worst of his half-dozen or so hunting field mishaps.

'The Prince has also been thrown while playing polo, and two or three times in steeplechases. Four years ago, he was in a motor collision. The one severe accident was when he broke his left collarbone. This occurred in February of last year, when his Royal Highness was schooling one of his hunters at Leighton Buzzard.

'It was a nasty fall, for the Prince was pitched clean over the head of the mare he was riding while clearing a fence. Fortunately, the fracture was a simple one, and the Prince, after attention by a local surgeon, was able to travel up to London the same day.

'The Prince of Wales did not even mention his mishap in the hunting field on his return to town. It was, in fact, only through press inquiries that members of his entourage learned that he had had a fall.

'When he got back to St. James' Palace he made no reference to the incident whatever.'

That year, 1925, concluded with two minor reports from widely-spaced newspapers with identical reports. The *Lancashire Evening Post* of Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. December 1925; and the *Staffordshire Sentinel Lancashire Evening Post* noted: PRINCES OUT WITH THE WHADDON CHASE.

'The Prince of Wales and Prince Henry attended the meet of the Whaddon Chase Hounds at Ascott House, near Leighton Buzzard, today. Despite the bad weather there was a large field.'

The following year, events for the Prince of Wales veered as he took on more responsibility.

The *Birmingham Gazette* of Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 1926 observed, under Prince as Huntsman: HIS ENJOYMENT OF RUNS WITH WHADDON CHASE PACK. Lord Delmeny, in accepting the Mastership of the Whaddon Chase Hunt for next season at yesterday's annual hunt meeting, announced that the Prince of Wales had honoured the hunt by consenting to become patron of the Vale of Aylesbury Steeplechases this year. The Prince has thoroughly enjoyed his recent runs with the Whaddon Chase pack.'

But for the Prince of Wales there were many, many less enjoyable days far ahead. Even so, he lived a triple life in one: a go-about-town young royal with all that had to offer and which ended when he became besotted with a slightly younger American woman; their sympathy for Hitler and Nazi Germany, and exclusion in Bermuda; and, finally, as a recluse in Paris where he died.

The Whaddon Chase huntsman and patron is buried in England at Frogmore, Windsor, with his wife.

**John Mortimer**

# Happening in your village.....

## Reflections of an Allotment Gardener

*'Tis Autumn – Season, of mists, mellow fruitfulness and .....leaf blowers!*



A recent short stay in hospital gave me the opportunity to reflect on my past as a gardener. I grew up on a North London council estate; one in which, at least to my memory, was always kept in a very neat and tidy fashion. My Dad was a great gardener, he was always growing lots of bedding plants, and in summer, the front garden was always a riot of colour. My earliest gardening memory of Autumn (I must have been about six or seven) was helping my Dad to pull up all the fading bedding plants, which were replaced with winter pansies and the like. It was an annual ritual that I always enjoyed, probably because I was much better at pulling things up than planting them out! When I was about eight, we moved a few streets to a slightly

larger house, with a good-sized garden, about 60 feet long. Dad promptly acquired an allotment plot, immediately adjacent to our back-garden, and proceeded to make our own little gate through the fence. That was the start of my allotment gardening proper and I watched with awe as Dad would coax various vegetables from the ground (not that I really enjoyed eating vegetables in my youth!). His real love, however, were chrysanthemums, which he grew as prize specimens to enter at the annual flower show. They were single stem plants, taller than me in the early years, and only one prize bud was allowed to develop at the top. As the bud began to develop, Dad would tie a white paper bag over it, to protect the nascent bloom from wind and weather, until on the day of the show, the paper bag would be removed to reveal, hopefully, a prize-winning bloom. I don't recall if he ever won any prizes, but it was in those early days, more than fifty years ago, that my love for gardening was born. Sadly, Dad was not blessed with good health, and as he did less and less on the allotment, I did more and more until I took over completely. Then came the time for me to leave home, and my allotment gardening was paused, for almost 40 years! I always had a vegetable patch throughout that time, but it is not just the same – apart from being easier to pop in for cup of tea.

So now, I am on my second allotment in Whaddon, and looking forward to next year's growing season. My shallots and onion sets are already under way in the greenhouse, as I wait for their first little green shoots to appear. Although Monty Don describes November days as "drawing in like noose", I really enjoy crisp winter days on the allotment, wrapped up against the chill, with a flask ask of something warm to one side, turning over the soil under a blue sky, while Mr Robin darts around, looking for tasty titbits. Let's hope we have some days like that in the coming weeks.



And so to the coming month; although any remaining salad crops are liable to be nipped by the frost, the season can be extended almost into Spring, by using cloches. Leave the ends open to allow air to circulate and if you are lucky, you might be able to enjoy homegrown salad with your turkey sandwiches! Everything else is just tidying up; clearing fallen, sodden foliage, as well as doing essential maintenance on your tools – sharpening hoes and secateurs so they leave clean, sharp cuts when once more employed. Finally, if we are blessed with the occasional warm day, don't forget to open the greenhouse for a few hours.

Happy Winter Gardening!

**Paul Logan**

## St. Mary's Church - Whaddon



As you know the church has been closed for some months, but we have started to have a weekly service around the Benefice until the end of this month:

- HOLY COMMUNION: OCTOBER 18TH 10am at Thornborough Church
- HOLY COMMUNION: OCTOBER 25TH 10am at Beachhampton Church
- REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> 10:45am at Whaddon Church

The normal format has been changed due to Covid, but there will be an Act of Remembrance around the war memorial in the churchyard where you can plant your poppy crosses. Details nearer the time will be posted on Facebook and on the church noticeboards.

Also, in November, the service times at Whaddon will revert to their original times to enable Rev Dove to take two services in the benefice every Sunday. The new rota is as follows and will be posted on the porch noticeboards.

- 1st Sunday 11am - All Age Worship with Sally Green
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 11am - Holy Communion
- 3rd Sunday 11am - Sunday Special (lay led)
- 4th Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion traditional (said)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday TBA - Benefice service (time & venue TBA)

The PCC has already discussed and agreed to the change, but it will be confirmed at the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup> at 8PM in the CHURCH when you will have an opportunity to make your views known. Suggestions as to how we move the church forward will be welcome.

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT OUR NEW RECTOR DESIGNATE, REV JACQUELINE DOVE, AS SHE BEGINS HER MINISTRY AMONG US.**

I'm sure you would wish me to thank all those who enabled our services to continue during the interregnum and especially since March during the lockdown by producing the weekly services online and liaising with all the parishes.

**Hazel Hedges, Churchwarden – October 2020**

**Tel:** 01908 501729 **Email:** [hazel.hedges@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.hedges@gmail.com)

### Your Parochial Church Council

Hazel Hedges	Churchwarden.	Tel. 01908 501729
Linda MacIver	Hon. Secretary.	Tel: 01908 330964
Barry Dudley	Hon. Treasurer	Tel: 01908 505727
	Electoral Roll Officer.	
Frederick Hayward	Jubilee Hall Repr'ive	Tel: 01908 506083
Hazel Dudley	.	Tel: 01908 505727
Clare Garland		Tel: 01908 501732

## Jubilee Hall

You will be glad to know that the Jubilee Hall is now **OPEN** for limited use and the committee has worked hard to produce a Risk Assessment and Guidelines for those wishing to book the Hall.

The booking Clerk is Marianna Beckwith at:  
[whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com) - please contact her if you want to hire the hall.

Only activities which can be carried out within the government guidelines will be permitted and they must be observed at all times Please note the kitchen is not available for use except by the postmaster.



**The Post Office** is still operating on **Tuesday between 1.30pm and 3.30pm**. Please use it as much as possible or we sadly risk losing the facility. Masks must be worn and please follow the taped off socially distanced "footpath" through the hall.

During these unusual times the Hall must be cleaned after each use and therefore, it has been decided by the committee to make a surcharge to cover this additional overhead.

The committee hopes that this difficult situation will not last for too long and we can fully reopen with a huge party! Meanwhile, we wish you and your family well and stay safe.

### The Jubilee Hall Committee

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## Inside The Lowndes Arms



I just want to say a massive thank you for everybody's support over the last few months! At the Lowndes Arms we have been finding ways to adapt our businesses; from our takeaway service, cream teas, hog roasts, to our pie night and not forgetting our delicious traditional Sunday roast! We've endeavoured to turn a small village pub into a fantastic community asset and it's so nice to see so many faces, old and new enjoying what we are doing during these challenging times.

We have held some great events and aim to have live music every Saturday over the next few months. If you are in a band and would like to play please get in contact with us! We are also open to any suggestions so if you have any other ideas please let us know! In the meantime, we are still:

- Continuing our takeaway pie night - enjoy a home-cooked pie with the filling of your choice with either chips or mash for £10.
- Holding our bottomless brunch -on the first Saturday of every month 12 till 2pm
- Offering a takeaway Sunday roast service - this has been very popular with over 100 orders per week!

For the present our opening days and times are:  
Fridays 1pm-10pm / Saturdays 1pm-10pm / Sunday 12pm-7pm

Please follow us on our Facebook page and call on our new telephone number: 01908 990334  
Keep safe and see you all very soon.

**The Lowndes Arms**

## Whaddon's fields will be alive with the sound of songbirds once again!

That is the aim for two local farmers William Sawbridge and Tudor Cowley, along with me (a full-time agricultural seed advisor and part-time game keeper) my wife, Carrie, and Ryan Carter who both help me with the practical conservation management.

Over the past five years I have been working with the two local farmers to create well-balanced areas for nature to flourish whilst trying to increase agricultural production and profitability. This is now starting to come together as some of you will have noticed the new areas of floristically enhanced grass margins, red clover leys and wild bird seed plots. Unfortunately, these types of habitats can't be created overnight, and it can take time for them to reach their full potential.

The clover leys will benefit the crops that proceed them but before that they will allow the farmers to deal with a very invasive weed species called black grass that has built up resistance to agricultural herbicides (via hard topping) whilst at the same time provide a much needed large/late nectar source for key pollinators such as queen bumblebees when the farmer stops topping them mid-summer. The flower-rich grass areas are like a fine wine and will get better with age. They need to be topped hard for the first year to help them establish correctly and after that will become examples of 1950's hay meadows. These areas will remain in place for a minimum of 5 years, whereas the red clover leys will be moved around the fields as part of the farm's crop rotation after 2 years. These flower-rich plots provide nesting cover for farmland song and game birds early spring, early to late summer they will support a plethora of insects which will then also feed the chicks that hatch (nearly all farmland songbirds and game birds will only eat/need animal protein (insects) for the first 21 days of their lives before they can start to digest seeds), before they then support mammals (such as voles) and hibernating queen bees over the winter months.

The added benefit to supporting the flowers/insect/chicks/songbirds/small mammals is that species such as barn owls and kestrels will also be increased in the long run as we are providing further hunting habitat and prey species for them.

The wildflowers species used are perennial and a lot more subtle when compared to flower beds etc. black knapweed, oxeye daisy, birds foot trefoil, red clover, black medic, self-heal and vetch are but a few of the species to keep an eye out for from the public rights of way.



The wild bird seed plots will help provide winter foraging habitats for key species such as the grey partridge, linnets, yellow hammer, green finch, gold finch, dunnock etc. Most farmland bird adult mortality will occur between early December and late March; this is what is often referred to as "the hungry gap" and the idea of these wild bird seed plots is that you grow crops but don't harvest them so the birds can eat the seeds they produce. Unfortunately, this does not stop winter mortality so the farmers and I will physically feed the birds ourselves using hoppers in the crops and putting food on the floor twice a week.

It is at this stage I'd like to point out the importance of leaving these wildlife havens quiet. Ground nesting birds, young leverets etc need to feel safe in their homes so the areas have been planted so they are not directly next to public rights of way to prevent regular disturbance by people and dogs. You may also come across or hear evidence of legal vermin control, this is as important as providing the habitat. Species such as foxes and crows will predate hen birds sat on nests along with their eggs

or chicks, and will also take leverets, so their populations are managed to help create a balance (opportunistic omnivores have boomed with the expansion of towns/villages etc and have had a massive roll in the decline of other farmland wildlife).

Please do enjoy the local countryside but do so responsibly, stick to public rights of way (there are plenty and an Ordinance survey map will show you where everyone is) take nothing but memories and leave nothing but footprints.

**Marc Bull**



We are now **running** our Wednesday Winslow Market Service and our Friday Aylesbury Market Service. (Excursions and hires remain suspended for the foreseeable future.)

Due to government restrictions, and the need to keep yourselves and our drivers safe, we have put in place strict guidelines for our drivers and passengers. To comply with current 1 metre + social distancing, we have removed some seats as we are only able to transport 6 passengers at any one time. It will also be impossible to use the tail lift while maintaining a socially safe distance, so you will need to be able to board the bus unaided using the main door. The bus has been professionally cleaned ahead of resuming our service and we will ensure that the bus will be cleaned by our drivers between each scheduled journey, using alcohol-based cleaning products.

**We are providing this limited service on the strict understanding that passengers travel entirely at their own risk. While we have made every effort to make the bus as safe as possible to travel in, we ask that all passengers follow the below guidelines:**

- Your place on the journey must be pre-booked by calling the WDCB Coordinator on 01296 715786 | 07483336440
- We will not accept cash on the bus, so any payment must be organised prior to the journey with the WDCB Coordinator
- You must complete a Contact Form prior to the journey and give it to the driver (you will only need to do this for your first journey). This will only be used as part of the track and trace process.
- Face coverings must be worn whilst boarding and travelling on the bus
- Hand sanitiser must be used before boarding the bus and when leaving your seat to exit the bus (sanitiser supplied on the bus)
- You must take the rear-most available seat when boarding the bus
- You must exit the bus one at a time, with the front seats exiting first
- **Passengers are not to travel on the bus if they or any member of their household are displaying any signs of the COVID-19 virus.**
- **Should you develop COVID-19 symptoms in the days following your journey on the bus, you must let the WDCB Coordinator know.**

Our aim is to restart **all** of our scheduled routes over the coming months. A current timetable can be found on the parish notice board.

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## Whaddon Women's Institute



Education is at the heart of the W.I., so it was with this in mind that we set out to visit the Curly Tails Pig Sanctuary in Newton Longville, now home to not only pigs that have had a rough time in life, but also those that had been dearly loved but their owners were no longer able to look after them. Jane, the sanctuary owner gave us a guided tour before their lockdown and explained the stories of each little (well not so little actually) pig. We also discovered that the sanctuary in normal times runs educational visits not only for W.I.s like ours, but for school children too and their expertise is sought often by local vets.

We learnt that pigs not only enjoy their pig nuts and vegetables, but also treats such as buns and croissants! They are sometimes impatient if others get their food first and let everyone know that they are not happy about this! They are very clean animals and enjoy a wallow which is made for them daily in the own areas. They also like a scratch behind the ears (who knew?)!!



Pigs are very social animals and live quite happily in groups. This is a wonderful place to visit and we were so lucky to catch a brief window when they were open.



We have managed to keep in touch via Zoom meetings and it is good to see that everyone is doing well. Those who do not have Zoom have been offered a chance to participate in these meetings at another member's house.

In October we were so lucky to have a talk again via Zoom on the Parish Council from not one but two Parish Councillors, namely Sir Billy Stanier and Graham Stewart. It was interesting to hear how they both arrived as Parish Councillors. Billy, who was not particularly interested in politics was asked to join in the 1970s and has remained ever since and has also specialised as an AVDC Cabinet member for the Environment for the last 15 years until the AVDC was abolished. Graham became a Parish Councillor in 2004 when he took early retirement and put his 40-year working life experience which included construction and planning matters into play to help the Parish Council so that we would all benefit. How lucky for us to have such a wealth of skills on our side in Whaddon. Both stressed that the biggest threat to Whaddon was the development from the overspill of Milton Keynes into its surrounding areas and also the East-West railway line with 1,000,000 homes potentially in the not too distant future. We discovered that the Parish Council oversees matters of finance, the recreation ground and its safety, street lighting, pavements and the allotments. Billy is also part of the Winslow Area Community Board which links in with other Parish Councils.

It is good to have this wealth of experience on our Parish Council and we owe them and the rest of the Parish Council a huge debt of gratitude for the work that they do on our behalf, whether it's considering new planning applications or fighting our corner with regard to large developments such as the 5,000 new homes at Salden Chase.

Our annual meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> November, and we are really hoping that this can take place in the village hall. This important meeting is when our committee stand down and a new one is elected. We have managed to form a committee this year after early problems when our little W.I. had to be suspended due to us being unable to get the officers required. I am delighted to say that the current committee is willing to stand again, so it looks like we will continue for another year. This is amazing as our tiny W.I. in this lovely village has been going now for over 80 years and hopefully will continue for many more.

In December we are planning a Christmas social meeting and a Christmas lunch at the Lowndes Arms as our W.I. is keen to support the local pub.

We are always delighted to welcome new members and we can now offer the chance of a taste of the W.I. for 6 months for only £10.75. This is half the usual price as new members usually join in October – December for £10.75. This offer is for 3 extra months for free. Subscriptions can be renewed in April 2021 at £44 for the year. No subscriptions are automatically renewed. This offer for new members only runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and includes W.I. Life magazine, physical/virtual meetings, access to a members only area online with recipes, craft projects and more and the opportunity to involve yourself in exciting local and national campaigns, so if you've thought about joining before, why not give it a try now?

Talking of campaigns, the W.I.s 'Make a Match Campaign' is a chance for us and our W.I. to help to save a life! Every 20 minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with blood cancer. A blood stem cell donation from a matching donor could save their life. In the UK, only 2% of people are registered as stem cell donors. The W.I. is working with DKMS and Anthony Nolan to increase the number of people on the UK's aligned stem cell registry, to help make more life-saving matches. If you are aged 17 to 55 then please consider registering or donating at DKMS [www.dkms.org.uk/thewi](http://www.dkms.org.uk/thewi) or for ages 16 to 39 The Anthony Nolan Charity [www.anthonynolan.org/WI](http://www.anthonynolan.org/WI) would be delighted to hear from you.

Next year's programme is taking shape and includes talks from a Milliner in January and on Macular Degeneration in February. We are also planning a Croquet taster in April and Bollywood dancing later on in the year!

We normally meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month in the village hall at 2.00 pm. We are a small, friendly and welcoming group.

In the meantime, if you would like any more information please don't hesitate to contact me.

STOP PRESS – You can sign up for a new W.I. monthly newsletter which is a round-up of everything from campaigns and craft to W.I. stories in the media. You don't even have to be a member!! You can do this at: [www.thewi.org.uk/media-centre](http://www.thewi.org.uk/media-centre)

**Jill Aitken (01908) 502781**  
**Secretary**

## **Keep Calm and Carry on Singing!**

Chase Choir is practising carols! And we started in October, which is late by our standards (last year Karen gave us a monumental Twelve Days of Christmas arrangement to learn, and very wisely started us in September!).

We're learning, by the power of Zoom and MP4 digital technology, some new pieces too, so we're feeling a teeny bit smug with our technical prowess, it has to be said.

All this does not take away from the fact that we'd far rather be singing together, in person, with our superb sopranos, awesome altos, terrific tenors and brilliant basses, in our village hall, but needs must as they say.

And so, our Monday evening rehearsals continue, everyone as focused (technical glitches permitting), enthusiastic (mostly!) and accepting of the situation as it's possible to be. Chase Choir is a force to be reckoned with (we tell ourselves!). We will be back when this inconvenience is over and done with, and we'll give you all a concert to remember. Who knows, we may even sing you our new carols in July: nothing wrong with that, I'm sure you'll agree! And what of our charismatic choir leader and her admirable accompanist? Well without their expertise, patience, dedication and sheer determination that we'll carry on regardless, we'd simply be unable to do it, so let's hear it for Karen and Ros!

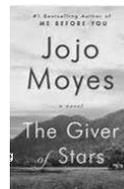
**Marianna Beckwith**

## Whaddon Book Club

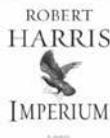
First of all, farewell and many thanks to John Mortimer who has done so much for us all, and a warm welcome to Gillian and Charlotte. Best wishes to them both.



The Book Club read 'The Stranger's Child', by Alan Hollinghurst, which was recently placed first in a list of modern classics. Sadly, none of us liked it! Could it be that 'experts' live on a different planet?



We followed this with 'The Giver of Stars' by Jojo Moyes. This told the story of the packhorse librarians who took books to the isolated cottages in the mountains of East Kentucky in the 1930's. Well told with a range of characters, we all enjoyed it.



Imperium by Robert Harris is set in 70BC and tells the true story of Cicero, the great Roman lawyer and orator. He talked so well, and so which was in use for some 300 years after Tiro's death. The author uses modern English to tell the tale and being a political journalist, is able to describe the politics of Rome in modern terms. Though we were divided in our opinions we all agreed it was a classic book. As the first of a trilogy, there is plenty more to come...

We meet at 7:30pm on Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join us, please give me a ring. **Margaret Barrie - Tel: 01908 502564**

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## Reflections from the Rectory

After two years of being empty, the Rectory in Thornborough is at last a home again to myself, Richard, Benjamin and Joanna. Sadly, no housewarming party, as yet, however we appreciated the cards, flowers and welcome cake we received from people living in the villages of Nash, Beachampton, Thornborough, Thornton and Whaddon. Thank you!

I largely grew up in South Africa where I came across the philosophy of *Ubuntu Abantu* which is often translated as 'I am because we are' – this is the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity. I think this universal bond was made apparent when we suddenly found ourselves in 'lock down', appalled by the daily death toll and the heart-breaking accounts of key workers losing their lives in 'the line of duty'. We were so obviously all in it together, and our shared humanity caused neighbourhoods to reach out to each other. COVID-19 has reminded us how important it is to be able to connect with each other, as families and friends and communities that gather together at places of worship, various clubs and at the pub.

Scientific evidence strongly suggests that social connection, the feeling when you belong to a group and generally feel close to other people, is a core psychological need, essential to feeling satisfied with your life. Talking to people living in Whaddon, it's clear Whaddon village seems to recognise this, and the village bus shelter is a good example of this. That we belong to each other is also a core Christian belief. Jesus said that all the commandments could be summed up by the commandment to love your neighbour as you love yourself. I personally find that it is in saying 'yes' to God's love that I am better able to love both myself and my neighbour.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September, I was licensed by Bishop Alan with the plan that I will be Rector of the Blackthorn Chase Benefice which includes the parishes of Thornborough, Thornton, Nash, Beachampton and Whaddon. My hope is that these Parish Churches will be places of solace and beacons of hope, where people feel they can truly belong. Please feel free to contact me.

**Rev'd Jacqueline Dove**

**Tel:** 01280 817828 **Email:** revjdove@gmail.com

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## Whaddon Night Owlers

The Whaddon Night Owlers have continued to meet throughout the summer, in spite of everything that has been thrown at us!

Our planned picnic in August was much anticipated. We were looking forward to a socially distanced meeting and the chance to see how everyone was getting on. However, we were washed out and had to cancel due to heavy rain – typical after a lovely long stretch of sunny weather! You just can't beat an English summer...

We thought we might be able to meet again in Jubilee Hall in September, but Boris struck again and we were back to online meetings. Undaunted we had a speaker – Jean Fullerton – an author who told us all about how she got into writing via careers in the police and nursing all while bringing up a family. Jean talked about how she researches and constructs her stories and builds them into the successful historical series she has written – fascinating!

In October we hoped again to meet up in person but were thwarted by the changing government guidelines! Instead we will be joining online again, this time to take part in a card making workshop, led by two of our very talented members. Individual kits will be distributed, and we will share in the creative process on the evening – look out for personalized cards this Christmas!

We are looking forward to seeing each other again when this is all over – if you would like to come and join in, contact Daphne on 01908 502088.

**Alison Cross**

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## Information for our village....

### ELMER'S CHARITY

**The Elmer's Charity was founded in 1653, with grateful thanks to William Elmer, whose last will and testament left a generous sum of money, where interest earned is still thankfully helping people in need today - as it did some 470 years ago - but not necessarily for just clothes, boots, blankets, fuel and medicine as it did then!**

**Today, you can apply to the charity for:**

The 'relief of need' for people who live in the villages of Whaddon (and Nash, Beachampton, Calverton and Maids Moreton).

The Trustees have a wide remit in how this is interpreted and have recently helped residents by paying for, or contributing towards:

- Making a donation towards funeral costs
- The equipping of a wet room for a disabled person
- Driving lessons
- The fitting of a bathroom
- Transport costs – e.g.: hospital visits etc.

For help please contact your local trustees: Derek White or Graham Stewart, or the trust's secretary Karen Phillips (78 London Road, Stony Stratford, MK11 1JH) or email her at: [elmerscharity@gmail.com](mailto:elmerscharity@gmail.com)



## FRIENDS AGAINST SCAMS - NEW SCAM PROTECTION ADVICE FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

Anyone can be the victim of a scam; however some people are more vulnerable to scams and criminals will use this to their advantage. People living with a cognitive impairment such as dementia, may be particularly vulnerable because they may be less able to distinguish a scam from legitimate contact. Criminals also appear to be targeting people with memory problems specifically because they know they may not remember being scammed before. **That's why a new guide has been produced: "Are you or your loved ones being targeted by scams"? - Help to manage finances and avoid scams for people at risk and those who support them.**

This guide has been prepared by the National Trading Standards Scams Team and the National Centre for Post Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice at Bournemouth University, working in partnership with Lloyds Bank, Halifax and Bank of Scotland. The guide provides information to individuals and their loved ones to help protect them from scams. It suggests measures that can be put in place to help prevent criminals from making contact, such as the use of call blockers and the mail redirection service. It also provides information on managing finances to reduce the risk of scams, such as implementing a Lasting Power of Attorney.

To find the guide:

- Visit:- the 'Friends Against Scams' website:  
[www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk)
- Click on 'where to get help'
- Scroll to the bottom and download the very helpful booklet
- Or, download the booklet direct from:-



<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/shopimages/Leaflet/Protection from scams guide.pdf>

### 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 McIntyre	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

## PAVEMENT PARKING - URGENT

As you read this, the Government's Department for Transport (DfT) are in the middle of a public consultation entitled '**Pavement Parking: Options for Change - GOV.UK.**'

The deadline for comment is **22nd November 2020**, so if you are interested in this subject or have concerns about pavement parking in Whaddon, then read on, because now is a rare chance to perhaps influence the DfT's decision - albeit in a very small way! **Details on how to read the document and respond to this consultation are at the end of this article.**

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Whaddon Parish Council (WPC) over the years have received many complaints about vehicles parked on village pavements, often when events have been held at the Jubilee Hall, St. Mary's Church or the Lowndes Arms, but instances are not necessarily confined to just these venues. These premises do not all have sufficient or indeed any parking facilities, and it is difficult for organisers of any event to 'police' the vehicle parking by their visitors - although the police would suggest that those holding events could

perhaps do more by asking their clientele to 'park considerately' without blocking pavements. The harm however is caused by inconsiderate drivers, who simply do not understand or choose to ignore the rules and are unthinking of pedestrians, some of whom may have disabilities and those who are pram/pushchair users, who definitely **should not** be forced to venture onto a dangerous and busy highway to avoid badly parked vehicles.

This is a matter that has been discussed with Thames Valley Police (TVP), who advise WPC that, "*If parking is dangerous or illegal then call the police on 101 and if resourcing permits then someone will come out to assess if vehicles can be moved or ticketed depending on the situation*". In fairness it is almost impossible for TVP to 'police' every infringement and clearly the police have commitments which inevitably have to take priority. Additionally, on the question of leafleting offending vehicles TVP advise "*this is not an issue as long as it does not damage the vehicle, and because TVP will not be doing the leafleting they have no suitably designed leaflets*". **Importantly TVP adds** that "*they have no record of any members of the public calling 101 (the non-emergency police number) to report any incidents or concern for dangerously parked cars in Whaddon this year*" ..... So it would appear that many of us are at fault for not reporting offenders, which clearly should be a priority for residents if the problem continues, so that TVP can monitor the situation.

Your PC has reviewed the 'advice' documentation that is to be found on the Buckinghamshire Council and Thames Valley Police websites, and the **main points that are relevant to, and of specific importance to Whaddon residents** can be summarised as follows:-

1. **DANGEROUS PARKING SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE ON 101.**

Parking dangerously occurs if the vehicle restricts access for those who are vulnerable, use prams/pushchairs etc. or who have disabilities.

2. **ILLEGAL PARKING SHOULD BE REPORTED TO BUCKS COUNCIL AT:-** [tfb@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:tfb@buckscc.gov.uk)

For Whaddon residents this includes parking opposite or within 10 metres of a junction, or vehicles that are actually parked over a dropped kerb.

If the parking does not fall within these parameters, then it is classed as 'inconsiderate' and is a civil matter for you to arrange/resolve with your neighbours - perhaps by a carefully worded leaflet. If a parking space is available on a public road, even if it is directly outside your house, anyone is allowed to park there. This can be frustrating but is not a matter for the police or your local council.

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So, back to the DfT consultation '**Pavement Parking: Options for Change - GOV.UK.**' where the deadline for comment is **22nd November 2020**.

**WPC** believes that of the three options proposed by the Government Department **options 2 or 3** are the only solutions that would most benefit Whaddon village and its residents.

- **Option 2:** - ***"Legislative change to allow local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement'".***
- **Option 3:** - ***"A legislative change to introduce a London-style pavement parking prohibition throughout England".***

The document is relatively simple to access, and you are encouraged to complete the consultation response form (online preferably), **and** let WPC know which option is best.

**The consultation documentation is best accessed by searching on Google for: 'Pavement Parking: Options for Change - GOV.UK.**

Your involvement would be much appreciated and might just help Whaddon overcome a problem that is bound to worsen as traffic levels continue to rise due to nearby planned major housing developments.

Whaddon Parish Council next meets (by Zoom) on November 12th and would really like to hear your views before that date, (or by Wednesday 18th absolute latest) on which of the two options that you would like the Government to adopt.

WPC councillors can then respond to the Government consultation representing the majority view of Whaddon residents.

**Please email your response to :- [ParishClerk@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk](mailto:ParishClerk@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk)**

**Or, phone Graham Stewart on 01908 501973.**

## WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

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### Remembrance Sunday and Poppies

This year Remembrance Sunday is October 8th. At 1045 (for 11am) there will be a short Remembrance ceremony at the War Memorial in the Churchyard when wreaths will be laid, and the 2-minute silence observed with the sounding of Last Post and Reveille. We do hope there will be a good turnout of people from the village especially in this Covid-wrecked year. Social distancing will need to be observed but we think that can be done without

great risk. The church will also be open all day for villagers to light candles in memory of loved ones and for the casualties of Covid.

#### Every Poppy Counts

The Royal British Legion has banned our usual house-to-house collections, but you will be able to get your poppies at the Remembrance Day ceremony where there will be a table of poppies and a collection box. For others who wish to donate text **POPPY2** to donate £2, **POPPY5** to donate £5 and **POPPY10** to donate £10. You can also donate through the RBL website: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

There are many military comrades in care homes and your donations are especially needed this year. **Please give generously.**

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## Whaddon Planning Briefs

### VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN (VALP)

The following update was received from Buckinghamshire Council on 8th October:-

*As requested by the Inspector, the Council is producing responses to the issues raised in the main modifications consultation which took place late last year. This process is nearing completion, and the responses are being sent to the Inspector in batches for his consideration, along with the additional documents. Batch one has already been sent and batch two was sent last week. We had anticipated the second batch to the inspector would include all the remaining information and documents but there are still two areas where work is being finalised. These are expected to be concluded shortly and will be sent to the inspector as a third batch as soon as possible. Once the Inspector has received all the information it will be uploaded to the website as examination documents, and he will decide the next stages of the examination. This could include further consultation/reopening of the hearing sessions, or the Inspector may proceed straight to writing his final report. The Council considers that a small number of further*

*modifications will be required to address issues raised in the representations, and to address other issues which have arisen outside the examination process. It is likely that some of these will be further main modifications, which would then be subject to consultation, but this is decided by the Inspector.*

**However**, the following note was received **just 4 days later** directly from the Enquiry Programme Officer on 12 October:-

*The Inspector has now received all the documentation from the Council relating to the Main Modifications consultation - this includes all the responses - as well as the additional evidence documents that the Council have prepared in response to the issues raised during the Main Modifications consultation which took place last year. As I am sure you will appreciate this consisted of a large amount of additional evidence which the Inspector needs to check prior to publication.*

*There is no question of any of the documentation that has been submitted to the Examination not being made public, and representors not having the opportunity to comment on this documentation. The Inspector will not be able to decide on the next steps in the Examination process until he has completed his assessment of the information that has been submitted. However, he has almost completed this work and I would expect that it will be possible to notify representors shortly of the next steps in the examination, which will include consultation on the additional evidence documents submitted to the Examination.*

I do wonder if the right hand at Bucks Council does not know what the left hand is doing!! ..... but what is conspicuously missing from both replies is an actual timeline for the next stage of the plan's production, but it would appear from the Inspector's Office (the horse's mouth - as they say!) that we might hear something soon ..... Perhaps even well before Xmas?

The whole VALP process appears somewhat academic, because the new Bucks Council must produce a completely new Replacement Plan for the whole of Bucks within 5 years, and this in turn will have to be drawn up in line with any new Government policies which are almost certain to be brought in quickly, following the conclusion of their current Planning for the Future consultation - which is likely to be concluded by end 2021.

### **SWMK (SALDEN CHASE) NEWTON LONVILLE AND SHENLEY PARK WHADDON**

Readers will recall that these two proposed major housing sites of approximately 2000 new homes each, could and probably would - if they proceed - have a major impact on Whaddon village ..... not least in traffic and transport terms!

AVDC (now Bucks Council) has already resolved to grant planning permission for the SWMK site (which falls just within the Bucks district), but final determination of 15/00314/AOP is held up because MK Council have refused to grant planning permission for the access into the site because the A421 (which falls just within Milton Keynes) is already considered to be over capacity - which would lead to unacceptable traffic queues forming, especially at peak travel times.

The developers are not unexpectedly appealing the MKC decision, but the expected 6 day hearing that was due to commence on 13th October has been delayed to early 2021 to apparently "allow for detailed review of the information provided as part of the applicants Proof of Evidence - which is still ongoing".

So, watch this space!! It is an intriguing situation because Bucks Council requires this site, as a minimum, to make up its housing numbers in its emerging plan. Both SWMK and Shenley Park are included within this emerging VALP (see above) - and without these sites the new Bucks Council will find itself in the very difficult position of having to possibly re-consider 'hostile sites' which have previously been considered unsuitable, or perhaps even in the worst case scenario having its planning powers taken over and controlled by Government. The threat of the latter is now unlikely to occur, because the streamlining of the planning system which is very likely to happen and be introduced before

the replacement VALP is completed (in 5 years' time) will likely introduce 'zoning plans' showing which areas of land that will automatically receive planning consent ..... and I'm sure we can all guess which areas Bucks Council are likely to zone in the first instance!!

If I had a crystal ball, I would guess that somehow the problems being directed at the A421 capacity will have to be overcome, either by the Planning Inspectorate being persuaded by the developers that sufficient capacity exists now (perhaps with the help of a new MK grid road through Shenley Park (which has been muted by Bucks Council as a remedy), or by urgent upgrades - perhaps by further dualling part-way from Bottledump roundabout to Buckingham - to help relieve peak time congestion, with funding coming from increased Government or developer spending.

Whatever the outcome, the future of the 2000 homes at Shenley Park hangs in the balance until the SWMK (Salden Chase) site is resolved, together with the perceived A421 capacity problems.

## **Whaddon Planning Application Updates**

### **20/00728/APP - 25 Stock Lane. - Proposed additional residential unit on ground floor, with first floor side extension and all associated works.**

Decision still awaited, but as an ex. VAHT property any new development is subject to restriction and possible deed variation requiring consent. As at 16th October, the planning officer was on leave so it was not possible to get an update for this edition.

### **19/03666/AOP - Rear of 'Freshfields', Stock Lane. - Renewal of outline planning approval (16/01298/AOP) for one dwelling, together with variation of boundaries.**

Decision still awaited. A report has been written by the planning officer and is currently going through the Bucks Council checking process.

### **20/01938/APP - BEACHAMPTON - Grove Farm, Stratford Road, Whaddon.**

#### **Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and annex with associated landscaping.**

Decision still awaited, but the council has requested more information on both Ecology and Biodiversity from the applicant.

### **CM/0033/20 - Park Hill Farm, Bletchley Road, Great Horwood.**

#### **Recontouring of agricultural land using inert clays and soils.**

Despite being told that a final decision was expected by the end of September further enquiries are still ongoing, with information awaited from the minerals and waste departments of the new Council. Planning consent refused 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### **20/02056/APP - Land at the Oaks, Stratford Road, Whaddon.**

#### **New Agricultural Grainstore.**

Planning consent was GRANTED on 14th October, with the normal 3-year commencement decision, and a requirement for two sparrow boxes to be included within the structure. Bucks Highways had no objections nor did they propose any conditions.

## **APPEAL DECISION.**

### **The Oaks, Stratford Road, Whaddon.**

#### **Conversion of agricultural barn into 4 dwellinghouses.**

The Inspector DISMISSED this appeal on 15 September 2020. He concluded that the proposal was not 'permitted development', and that the works necessary to create 4 new dwellings from the existing building on the site, would not fall within the scope of that permissible under part Q(b) of the Town and Country Planning Act. Whaddon P.C. supported AVDC in the view that the extent of the works required went way beyond what could reasonably be considered a 'conversion'.

The full refusal decision can be read at this link :- <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications> first click the appeal button - then enter the application no: - 20/00026/REF

**PLEASE REMEMBER** that you can view these or any other planning applications by simply Googling :- AVDC simple search, opening the link, and type in the planning reference number in the box provided. Click search, and open the documents that you wish to inspect.

**The next meeting of Whaddon Parish Council**, when any new planning applications will be discussed, will - due to ongoing Covid restrictions - be held virtually 'by Zoom' on Thursday 12th November at 7.30pm. For details of how to participate please contact the parish clerk at **ParishClerk@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk**

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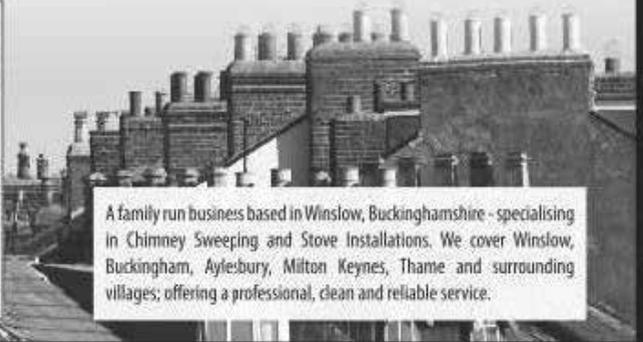
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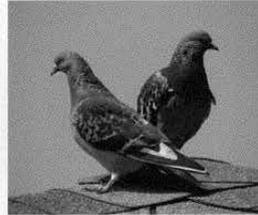
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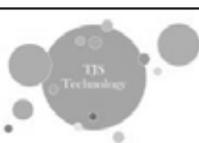
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