

November 2019

WHADDON QUARTERLY



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Final deadlines for forthcoming issues:

17th January 2020, 17th April, 17th July and 16th October.

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Cover: Combine harvester at work in August just off Kennel Lane. By John Mortimer.

SNIPPETS

LILIAN ROSS is 100 on 10th November. Happy Birthday, Lilian. Read about Lilian on **p. 37**.

STOP PRESS. The VALP consultation process is likely to run from 1st November until 10th December. But could either Eaton Leys or Salden Chase (1,900 homes) be a better alternative? For more details see centre spread **p. 30-31**.



WHADDON CofE School "as part of the best practice recommended by the Department for Education" has "incorporated a period of consultation into the decision-making process" of the "proposed expansion of the school from a First School (ages 4 - 8) to a Combined Primary School (ages 4 - 11)." The consultation ran "from 2nd September until 5 pm on 14th October." The

school notes "The responses collected were 100% in support of the proposals. The school will now move to the next stage of the consultation process."

MARGARET BARRIE has an important message about Teas on Tuesday and the valuable service played by Mr Patel who runs the Post Office in Jubilee Hall. Read what Margaret has to say on **p. 57**. Margaret's plea comes as the House of Commons' business select committee has stressed that 'urgent action' is needed to save the 'fragile' post office network if it is to be of use and rid of its 'reactive and piecemeal' approach.



SHENLEY ROAD (right) was closed for a time on 2nd October while Anglian Water carried out repairs to the water main close to Bottle House Farm.

WILLIAM SAWBRIDGE informs "Milton Keynes and Whaddon bank have both gone into mid-tier grass with conservation strips along the bottom edges. It is a white and red clover with ryegrass mixture."



BUCKINGHAM Constituency Conservative Association met on Sunday, 20th October, to select a new prospective candidate to fight the general election on Thursday 12th December, following the resignation of Speaker John Bercow MP, reports Billy Stanier. He adds: Greg Smith, a self-employed marketing professional from Wendover, was selected from four candidates. Smith is married with a family; a supporter of Brexit he is a former councillor in London who opposes HS2 and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.

TALK of climate change throws light on a new Australian scheme. Could it come here? The first solar panels have been installed at a large rooftop array in Adelaide. The 7,500 panels are part of the 5-hectare roof of the Tonsley Innovation District, which will have a total installed capacity of 2.34MW. Plans call for that solar capacity to rise to 6MW with over 20,000 solar panels. The solar installation will work using on-site battery storage and smart technologies.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS and good health in 2020 to all readers from the *Whaddon Quarterly*. ■

EDITOR REQUIRED. An opportunity has arisen to edit this wonderfully popular Parish Magazine. Please contact the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@whaddonbuckspsc.org.uk



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

November 2019

THE Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) is due to go out very soon for public consultation and, as the Parish Council has warned, this is almost certain to include a large amount of housing in the so-called Shenley Park area, to the east of Whaddon. This would effectively join Whaddon to Milton Keynes when completed.

We publicised this around the village before our most recent Parish Council meeting in September, so that people could hear about the plans and make their views known.

There was an excellent attendance and the debate continued for an hour. We are well aware of your concerns about the urbanisation of Whaddon, and the loss of green space, quite apart from the major increase in traffic on roads, which are already overloaded. Please do respond when the consultation begins.

We are very supportive of the school's plans to expand to include Year 6 and will give them our support.

Further afield, Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) is strongly opposing the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, the route of which is not yet settled; but will be one of three options. Undoubtedly, it will bring not just a major road, but more housing growth along its length and, most particularly, in Buckinghamshire.

The same applies to the HS2 railway, where there are fears of a new settlement, as well as a station near Steeple Claydon.

AVDC had a special meeting to discuss Climate Change and declared a Climate Emergency. This aims to reach zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Aylesbury Vale District Council exists for only another few months; the formation of an entirely county-wide Council to replace it, and the County Council, is well under way. I am glad to say that AVDC's in-house Waste and Recycling Service, which I have overseen for many years, will continue as such (as opposed to the contractors used in all the other districts). ■

Billy Stanier

November 2019

FORTHCOMING: Next time in the *Whaddon Quarterly*...

- **Ron Unwin: My war years at Whaddon Hall**
- **The women behind *The Haunch of Venison* and *The Fox & Hounds***
- **Last in the series: Whaddonfield, not Akenfield – 3**

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

'The time has come,' the walrus said,
'To talk of many things:
Of shoes, and ships, and sealing-wax,
Of cabbages and kings,'
And why it's time to call it a day.

THIS slightly modified extract from Lewis Carroll's poem *The Walrus and the Carpenter*, sets the tone. It's time for me to hand over the reins to a younger, livelier soul with fresh ideas to move it forward. If you feel like 'having a go' please step forward and contact the Parish Clerk.

The *Quarterly* has changed over the last 16 issues. Is it really 16? The changes have been imperceptible, yet the familiar content's spine remains intact. Evolution came by widening its scope. Not 'novelties'. Genuine Whaddon matters past, present and future: the guiding remit.

The content is eclectic too: a matter of stretching the imagination. Besides regular items, the magazine has recorded other village happenings: births, marriages and deaths; and incorporated news, views and comments. It opened the door to let voices be heard: memories, like those of Margaret Barrie, Evelyn Jaworska, Lilian Ross and Frederick Hayward.

However, one normality of day-to-day life has overarched them: the passing away of loved ones who made a lasting village mark: Michael Howard Green (1937-2015); Doug Lowe, 1931-2015; Rowland Osterberg, 1931-2016; Dylan Petch-Stewart, 1981-2016; Florence (Florrie) Iris Parrott, 1930-2016; Sheila Warrington, 1934-2016; Betty Ashford, 1927-2017; Roger Henry Adams, 1939-2017; Edward Charles Roff, 1925-2017; Alison Beatrix Weatherby, 1928-2017; Michael Roland Hadida, 1932-2018; Tim Joint, 1965-2018; Beryl Hall, 1930-2018; and Roland Frederick Dormer, 1932-2018. To these must be added those in this issue: Emmond De Valerie McGuinness, 1933-2019 and Roger Edward Porter, 1942-2019.

It is hard to come to terms with four years' content, most of it focused on Whaddon. Look at some of the many varied items we have covered, from a Victorian killing to recycling coffee pods; even a touch or two of poetry. Above all, the magazine's remit is to inform and entertain.

In 2017: coded messages from a suitcase; a WW2 commemoration; Hobbs cottage rethatching; highlights of author Joan Selby-Lowndes, who enjoyed her 'environmentally-green' holidays in a horse-drawn caravan; Whaddon's brass band, and the case of the demented killer.

In 2018 the Whaddon Chase dispute became prominent, as did villager Old Adams, and the fallen of WW1. We revisited the country club that never was; noted Whaddon's village policeman, PC188; and brought to life Gilbert Greenall's horrific car crash in Windsor Great Park, which had a slim link to Whaddon and Greenall's Gin.

In 2019, we reported Calverton's new bells; the valued activities of the North Bucks Heating Oil Syndicate; Whaddon's successful beacon; Buckinghamshire's suffragettes; Whaddon's glider; the D-Day commemorations; Whaddon's second glider; and Peter Spooner, a WW2 airman and a former *Whaddon Quarterly* editor.

We paid tribute too, to Gussie Walsh, the village's much-loved former vicar who had a busy year in August 2018, as celebrant for a trio of Whaddon weddings.

The Entertainers' enthusiastic and memorable performances received wide acclaim. Unlike those speeding motorists whose criminality we twice exposed and published.

And there have been several articles under the umbrella of: The joys of If you feel empowered to write about one of the joys in *your* life please feel free to submit your ideas, for example the joys of genealogy. One joyful hobby did escape: The joys of flying model aircraft. Hey ho. Nevertheless, very many thanks to all who contributed: words and photographs.

But the biggest change came through Harlequin Press with its economic colour printing. Even this issue is different. Can you spot it? If you missed any items they are available on the site: whaddonquarterly.blogspot.com. An incredible editorial coverage for a parish magazine. ■

John Mortimer



Clerk's Corner

Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

Get clued up on winter driving.

While 14th October marked the start of winter for Transport for Bucks, there are many issues to consider when driving as the weather worsens. For example, winterise your vehicle.

In the event of bad weather the first thing to ask is can you postpone your trip? If not, plan your journey carefully. First, you can access information about designated snow routes online to select your best route. Next, ensure your windscreen and windows are clear of ice and snow. Clean them to minimise glare and improve visibility when the sun is low in the sky.

A must: top up screen wash with the correct levels of antifreeze added.

Remember to take your mobile phone and emergency supplies just in case you become stuck. Note that while roads may have been salted/gritted this process is less effective when temperatures are below -5C, so DO NOT depend on gritting to solve all the problems. Google 'Bucks winter driving module' for lots more useful tips.

Is MVAS working?

A recent Facebook post asked: is our MVAS – Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign – working? The answer is a definite YES! The MVAS unit will flash in the event that your vehicle is exceeding the speed limit in the village. The unit is moved around periodically, being turned to face opposite directions once a month.

The MVAS installation monitors and collects speed data for all traffic passing it; dedicated volunteers maintain and move the sign, and data are collected monthly. So YES!!!! This 'thing' does work and is a very useful source of vehicle frequencies and speeds that can be fed to law enforcement and highways planning departments.

There is one driver who regularly travels in the early mornings at 65 mile/h along the High St and Stock Lane. 'We know you are committing this offence. One day, a police speed trap might well be waiting for you! The result will be an instant driving ban and a hefty fine.'

SIGN UP FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPDATES BY EMAIL

Many residents of Whaddon Parish are not getting up-to-date and timely information about important issues affecting our Parish. You can receive *Whaddon Quarterly* by email, as well as lots of useful notices and information; e.g., refuse collection delays, road closures, planning applications, etc. Send a short email to ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk asking to be added to the list. You will NOT be 'spammed' and your details will NOT be passed on or used for any other purpose than this one.

Date of next Parish Council meeting(s)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take(s) place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm on 14/11/19, 9/1/20, 12/3/20. Please check Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm dates and location, as these can be subject to change. All Welcome!

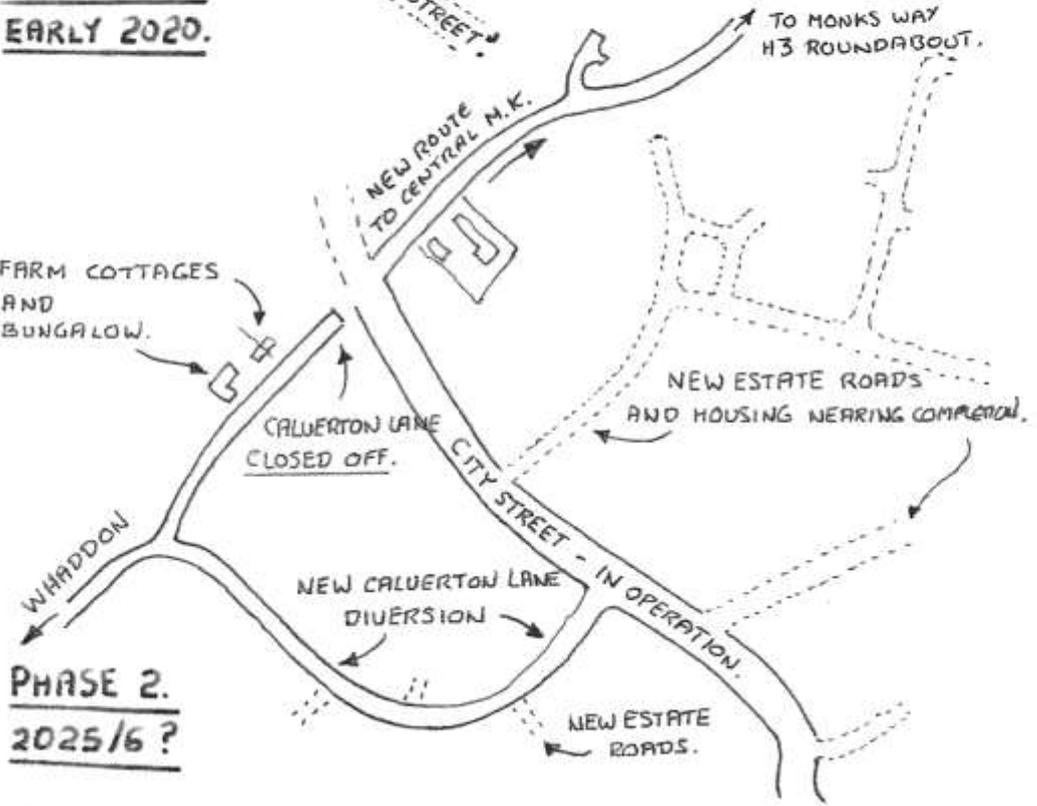
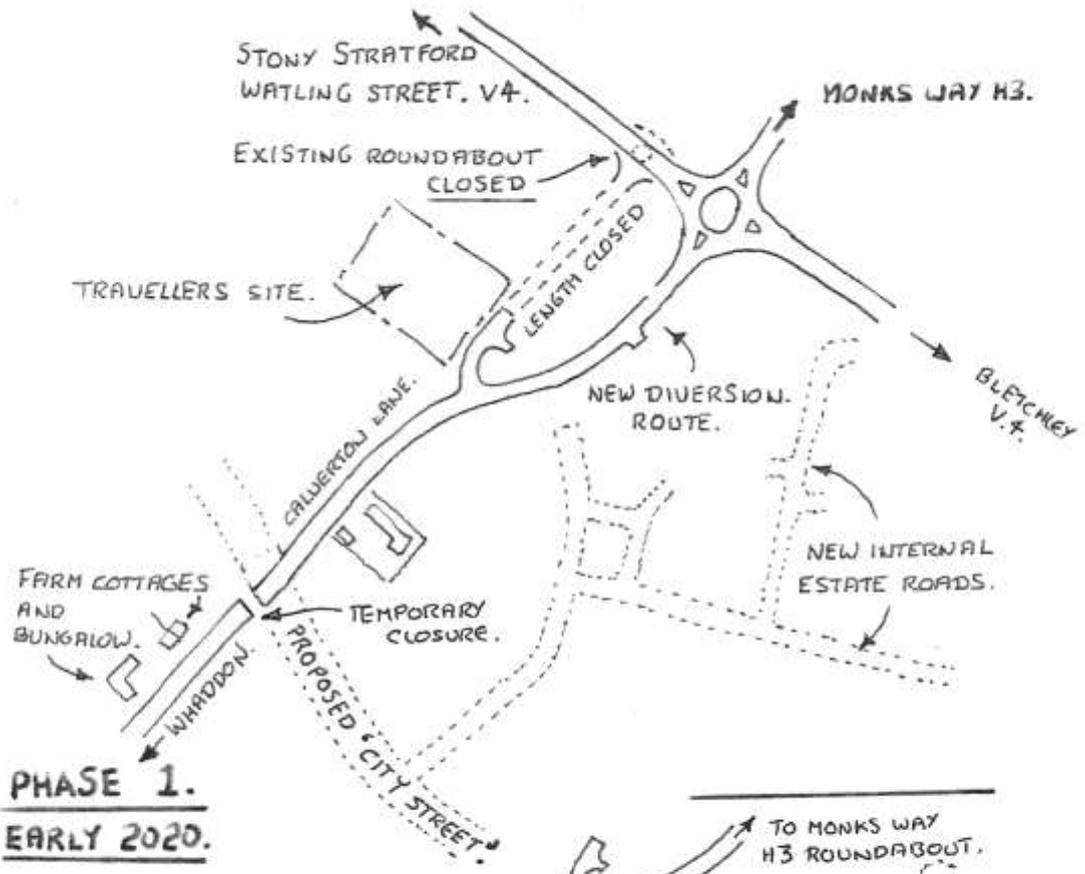
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Calverton Lane diversion update

Graham Stewart indicates the timing of a forthcoming road closure, and changes to Calverton Lane's road layout; changes that could affect your travel plans.

BEFORE the diversion can take effect, a ROAD CLOSURE may have to be imposed on Calverton Lane; although at this stage it is not entirely certain how this will be managed due to V4/Calverton Lane traffic movements. Your Parish Council has been informed about this by Milton Keynes Council which has promised to keep us in the picture. The closure of Calverton Lane may affect your travel plans, so keep up to date with Parish Council notices.

The Calverton Lane road closure is required as Anglian Water is currently laying a new water main along V4 Watling Street. It is expected that AW will need to cross Calverton Lane. This requires closure of the road; but the expected closure from 26th October until 3rd November did not take place as AW had fallen behind with its work. The Calverton Lane crossing work is now expected to coincide with Phase 1 diversion work.

In any case, it is always wise to double-check in the context of your travel plans during the forthcoming periods. Access to Stony Stratford will be available as usual via Calverton and the Weald hamlets.

Closure and diversion plans – Phase 1

To properly understand the changes which are planned over the coming few years, please refer to the drawings on the facing page; the plans provide an insight into the future of this road.

Phase 1 will see the top length of Calverton Lane (near the V4) diverted to meet the existing Monks Way H3 roundabout. In the process, the existing Calverton Lane roundabout will be closed and removed. It will be returned to an unbroken length of Watling Street: V4.

After the closure, road users will need to travel along the 'new diversion route' as shown on the plan. This work is necessary because before any housing work can commence; the necessary infrastructure works (internal roads and drainage, and so on) must be put in place. These Phase 1 Calverton Lane diversion works are likely to take place in **April 2020**.

The works, which will take some three months to complete, were originally planned for the autumn of this year. However, negotiations between MK Highways and developers L&Q Estates have not been concluded; accordingly the start date has been delayed.

Your Parish Council has requested as much notice as possible from MK Council to enable residents and their visitors to plan future journeys through this proposed lengthy closure period.

Access to Stony Stratford will remain available using Calverton and the Weald hamlets.

Closure and diversion plans – Phase 2

These works are unlikely to begin until **2025/6** at the earliest but, as time flies by so fast, residents will no doubt be interested in future plans and likely closures.

Phase 2 will see the middle section of Calverton Lane closed for a similar three-month period. During this time, Calverton Lane will be diverted through the new housing estate to meet up with the new City Street. This road will run through the entire new Western expansion area, where it will form the main central dual carriageway bus route.

The housing development, together with various road construction plans, will carry on in the background over the next few years behind existing hedgerows and following the initial Phase 1 closure. Your new travel route to central MK will eventually be via the two new diversions; these will be connected by the short length of City Street.

For further information or to view detailed plans, please free to contact Graham Stewart.

To receive updates about any future road closures please ensure your email details are registered with Suzanne Lindsey, the Parish Council clerk at parishclerk@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What girls did waiting for the bus

IN the last *Whaddon Quarterly* you asked what girls did while waiting for the school bus.

I remember only what happened before I went to Nash Village School (now the Village Hall) as, after that school, aged 11, I went on the school bus to Stony Stratford Senior School: St Giles and St Mary's and I don't remember doing anything whilst waiting for the bus to arrive.

However, before going to Nash school, I would collect a can of milk from Mr King at Wood End Farm. I took it to two elderly ladies: Aunt Lizzy King and her sister, Mrs Rose Haxley, who lived next door to the bakery. I received seven pence a week. After doing that, I went on to school.

I used to buy National Savings stamps; they were sold by the Post Office to help the war effort. On Saturdays, I would delivered parcels of washing back to people in the village; my mum had taken these in to do the washing. From that, my mum made a small amount: 6p a sheet, 2p a pillow case, 1p a collar – collars were separate and had to be ironed and starched. Men's shirts were washed and ironed, but I don't remember how much mum got for these.

The sheets were made of white cotton; they had to be ironed as well. With no electricity, the iron had to be heated on the fire or on a paraffin stove. All the washing was packed in neat, brown paper parcels.

Mr John Haseltine, a baker from Stony Stratford, used to come to the village twice a week to deliver bread. On a Monday, he also brought mum the family wash and collected it on a Friday, on his second bread round of the week.

During the blackberry season, most people and children went blackberrying and the blackberries were exchanged for money. Mr Hutt came from Buckingham with a van; inside he had a large wooden barrel and some scales.

The blackberries would be weighed and you were given money in exchange; the blackberries went to make dye. I think Mr Hutt came twice a week.

My mum, Mrs Varney, collected blackberries too; on a good day she could fill three buckets with blackberries. She would cycle about one and a half miles to where the best blackberries were, then she would cycle home with them.

When I was 14, I left school and worked for Mrs Delahook at Whaddon, and when they moved from the village, I went to work for Major and Mrs Lumstreet at Old Stratford. I cycled there and back each day. ■

Hilda Unwin, Nash

Girls, girls, girls

IN August's WQ, Derek White wrote entertainingly about how the boys of the village entertained themselves back in the 1950s. So I asked Evelyn Jaworska 'What did the girls get up to?' She supplied the answer, telling of a very different age from that of today.

While boys were boys, girls wore dresses and played with dolls. They were very girlie girls. Like the boys, they played in the streets but with skipping ropes or small balls.

Some girls had bikes, but the policeman's daughter was the most popular girl in the village, as her dad made a swing in their garden. While the boys made their bikes from scrap metal, the girls made dolls' clothes on Grandma's sewing machine.

But there were always woods and fields in which to explore, provided you were not caught on the Selby-Lowndes' private ground! ■

Margaret Barrie, Whaddon



The importance of Windy Ridge to WW2

In his regular newsletter, Geoffrey Pidgeon helps his readers to be aware of intelligence matters during WW2. In his August 2019 edition, he reported his time at Whaddon earlier this year, under the title: **My D-Day on June 6th 1944.**

ON D-Day in June 1944, I went from Whaddon Hall up to Church Hill in Whaddon Village, there to test the last mobile wireless trucks (SLU) we had just finished. I went along with its team. We knew Church Hill as 'Windy Ridge', as it was usually very windy!

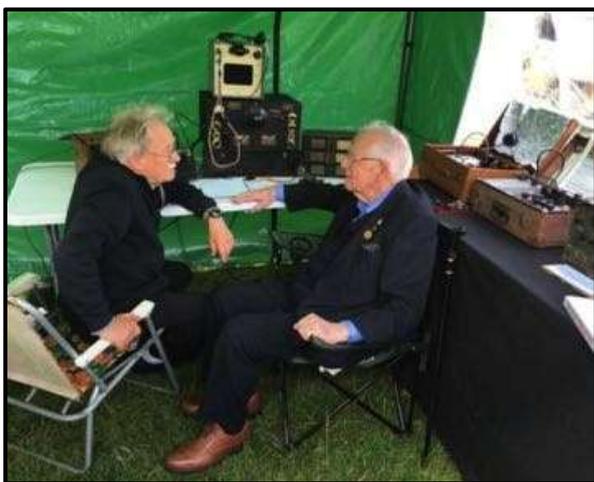
On Windy Ridge, stood the MI6 (Section VIII) wireless station that handled all the ULTRA messages arising from nearby Bletchley Park and intended for the Allied Military Commanders 'in the Field.' This had started with the traffic for North Africa, then Sicily and Italy.

However, its most important role was on and after D Day, when it handled the ULTRA received from Bletchley Park by teleprinter and sending it on by Morse to our SLUs. These were sited in the immediate vicinity of Army Commanders like Montgomery, Dempsey, and Crerar (Canadian Army), in the US sector; to the 1st US Army under Bradley, the 3rd US Army under Patton, the 9th US Army under Simpson and so on. The other vehicles had already left to join their allotted Army Commander and we had just finished the last two.



On Windy Ridge with my middle son, Michael, and pre-school children from Whaddon Playschool with their teachers (St Mary's Church is just visible to the right)

These SLUs had been fitted out at Whaddon Hall by 'Mobile Construction'. It was so-called because if it moved then we fitted our MI6 (Section VIII) wireless gear into it!



Again on Windy Ridge - with David White, the erstwhile curator of the famous wireless museum at Bletchley Park – sadly closed

75 years later

The boss of the unit was Dennis Smith; he was involved, along with his team of seven (including me, the youngest), in fitting our 'Ascension' into aircraft and testing them, sometimes going on operations. They were fitted into MGBs (Motor Gun Boats) of the 15th MGB Flotilla, down in Devon, and this involved testing in the English Channel, and of course into the SLU wireless trucks above.

This year, on 6th June, I was again on Windy Ridge where there was a team of amateur wireless enthusiasts who made connections by Morse to fellow amateurs on the beaches in Normandy.

The second photograph shows the wireless tent on June 6th where David White and pals were in contact with fellow enthusiasts on the beaches at Utah and Omaha. An HRO is in the centre of the picture. ■

France honours Whaddon's Geoffrey Pidgeon

WW2 veteran **Geoffrey Pidgeon** received the *Légion d'Honneur* award at a special ceremony in London on October 28th.

SOME of you will remember the wonderful Anglo-French event at Jubilee Hall in June 2014 to mark the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.

Since then, Geoffrey and I have kept in touch and we met this June, when he attended the 75th anniversary of D-Day on Windy Ridge and had lunch in the Jubilee Hall.

Geoffrey, now well into his 90s, attended the events along with many radio operators. He remembers the Jubilee Hall (and the village) very well from his wartime days; it being used then as a mess for men stationed at Whaddon Hall as part of Special Operations Executive (SOE). The SOE was based at Whaddon Hall, headquarters of MI6 (section V111) under the control of Richard Gambier-Parry.

Geoffrey was part of Mobile Construction. The group's responsibilities included handling wireless installations in ships and mobile wireless stations, as well as contacting agents on the ground from aircraft.

The unit also had operators in France; they received ULTRA signals traffic which arrived at Bletchley Park, through the wireless station on Whaddon's Windy Ridge.

In his 2014 speech, Geoffrey stressed the value and importance of the secret work carried out in Whaddon and he proudly presented the village with a Blue Plaque, now on the outside wall of the Jubilee Hall.

The plaque commemorates Whaddon's role in WW2, something he feels is still not fully recognised by Bletchley Park.

Meanwhile, in France on their D-Day anniversary, the then French President announced that the *Chevalier de l'Ordre de Légion d'Honneur* (left), France's highest and most prestigious award, would be given to all British veterans who fought for the liberation of France during the Second World War. Since then nearly 6,000 have received the medal.

Geoffrey Pidgeon is the 6,000th veteran. Having reached this new milestone (the 6,000th veteran) and given that opportunities in this field are becoming increasingly rare, the occasion was marked by a special event with a joint Anglo-French presentation at Lancaster House in London last month.

The reception, on 28th October, involved speeches by the British Secretary of State for Defence and the French Ambassador, along with the formal presentation of the 6,000th *Légion d'Honneur* to Geoffrey Pidgeon.

Congratulations Geoffrey, from the village of Whaddon!

The *Légion d'Honneur* presentations routinely attract very positive coverage by news channels, simply because these opportunities are becoming increasingly rare, as the number of eligible people gradually decreases. **(See also late breaking news item on p. 38.)** ■

Hazel Hedges

● **BUCKINGHAM MP** John Bercow, stepped down as Speaker of the House of Commons, a position he has held for 10 years, on 31st October, the day that the Brexit agreement should have been implemented. Following a vote for a general election, Parliament was dissolved on Wednesday, 6th November. According to convention during previous general elections, Speaker Bercow has stood unopposed. ■

A very small child's war

Billy Stanier recalls what conditions were like for a young lad growing in wartime.

I WAS a very small child in 1939 and in September, my sister, Sylvia and I went for our usual fortnight's stay with our grandmother in Shropshire.

The 3rd September was a Sunday; I will never forget hearing her announce, in her deep voice, after church: "We are at War".

I had no clue as to what that meant, but we remained with her right up to Christmas, as it was deemed to be much safer.

Nothing actually happened in the war until some eight months later, when the Germans forced our army out of France and back home from Dunkirk.

My father had been a regular soldier since 1916, winning a Military Cross as a teenager in the last year of World War 1. He was now commanding a battalion of Welsh Guardsmen, almost all of whom he managed get back home from Boulogne; he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and promoted to Brigadier.

At the time, the family, that is my mother, Sylvia and I, moved after Christmas to our holiday thatched cottage at West Wittering, on the Sussex coast.

All sign posts were removed

Travelling to get there was not easy; petrol was rationed, but also, all sign posts had been removed to slow up the Germans in event of an invasion. Should there be an invasion, then church bells were to be rung all over Britain (but not on any other occasion!).

West Wittering was almost deserted, with its sea-front houses locked and abandoned. Scaffolding had been erected on the beaches to block German tanks, while mines had been laid further back.

My mother totally trusted that my friend Eddy and I would not stray into the mine field when we went off cycling. There were always lots of aircraft around; we knew the types and names of them all.

I vividly remember watching a dogfight between a German fighter and one of ours; it ended up with the German `plane spiralling down to earth.

It was later in the summer that my uncle, who was also serving, sent us an SOS. The army was taking over his house in Oxfordshire; could we please get there quickly and stop them ruining it? We rented a house in nearby Wheatley, so that my mother could bring some influence to bear on the soldiers.

It was while we were there that I awoke one night to hear a fearful screeching noise of bombs landing nearby; they were called whistling bombs. These bombs sounded overhead but in fact exploded about a mile away.

Next day, we went to inspect the craters. These would have been dropped by German bombers returning from a raid on, say Birmingham, and they were clearing out their bomb racks on the way home.

My grandmother in Shropshire had the same thing happen; her gates were demolished by German bombs dropped from `planes heading home from a raid on Liverpool.

After three years away from home, in Shropshire, Sussex and Oxfordshire, we returned to our family house at Virginia Water, in Surrey.





During the war, youngsters were evacuated to the countryside (Courtesy Getty Images)

Soon it was time for me to set off at the age of eight to boarding school at Cothill, near Abingdon. This was a very frightening experience.

We had to carry gas masks in a pack round our necks. The school had an air raid shelter in the grounds in the event of attack; however, we never had to use it.

A peaceful existence

School proved to be a relatively peaceful existence in term time; we used to beg the nearby US soldiers for some of their sweets and chewing gum.

D-Day was looming, with my father having been chosen, as Brigade Commander, to lead the assault on Gold Beach; this was despite him having

lost an eye in a training accident.

On the evening of 6th June, the headmaster informed me that my mother had telephoned; she said that all was well at the end of the first day.

She, in turn, had been telephoned by King George VI. He had had an observer at the D-Day landings and it was he who travelled with my father, together with BBC reporter Howard Marshall; both men were able to fly back late in the day to London.

My father received another DSO for his part in the D-Day landings; he received also the American Silver Star and remained with his Brigade right up to reaching the German border.

By that time, I was spending school holidays at home in Surrey where we suddenly encountered a new bombing menace; these were the V1 flying bombs, nicknamed Doodle Bugs. These bombs passed overhead on their way to attack London.

The bombs carried enough fuel to reach their destination, where they fell to the ground very soon after running out of fuel. If suddenly you heard one of these bombs become silent, it would mark the time to run for cover.

The V2s which succeeded them were more dangerous; they gave you no warning. Nevertheless, we used to go to London quite regularly by train with my mother; she ran the Regimental Families Association (RFA). We went shopping, and to the theatre at Christmas.

My father was posted back to England just before Christmas 1944: the best possible present.

The war ended the following May in 1945, but life was far from back to normal. Food, fuel and clothing were rationed; this rationing was intensified when bread was included; this had been unlimited throughout the war. It took several years before we were back to what one might call peace time conditions but at least the fighting had ended. ■

Billy Stanier

The joys (and occasional sorrow) of allotment gardening...

Many of Whaddon's inhabitants will, I'm sure, be unaware of one of the village's most under-appreciated and under-used assets. Paul Logan offers his experience with an allotment.



IF you wander up Vicarage Road from Stock Lane, then about 150 metres up on the left-hand side, you will come across a small gate in the hedge; this gives access to Whaddon's allotments.

The allotment gardens contain some 12 usable plots, varying in size from 75 to 150 square metres. The area is surrounded by high hedges, which provide good shelter and makes the area a haven for wildlife, some more welcome than others – more of that later.

I have had one of the larger plots for some three years and grow a variety of vegetables for consumption at home; these include potatoes, leeks, onions, beans, courgettes and marrows.

I enjoy it immensely; I find great satisfaction in harvesting the fruits of my labours. I won't pretend that parts of the process aren't hard work: digging the ground each year, for example.

However, there is something very pleasing about spending a few hours on a chilly autumn day, under a clear blue sky, turning over the soil. Even the larger plots can be dug over in a couple of days and the exercise is good for you!

The key to success is 'little and often': leave your plot alone for more than a couple of weeks, especially in the growing season, and nature will soon start to resist your efforts to keep things neat and tidy.

All it takes is quick visit every few days to check on how things are doing, some occasional watering and, as the season goes on, harvesting the results.

As for the (occasional) sorrow: just a few weeks ago, I was admiring and preparing to pick a lovely crop of sweetcorn. My big mistake was leaving it for an extra week to ripen. One week later, all that remained were chewed stalks: the deer had made a nocturnal visit! Next year I shall remember to put the netting round it!

I mentioned that the allotments are under-used; at present, there are several vacant plots, one of which could be yours for a rent of just £25 per year.

Think of what you could save in the supermarket by growing your own veggies! So if you fancy some fresh air, exercise and growing healthy food, contact the Parish Clerk and come and join the growingfun! ■

Look out for Paul's regular gardening column in the *Whaddon Quarterly*.

Whaddon alive in Lochs and Lowlands

Holidaying in the depths of the Trossachs in Scotland this August, we didn't expect to stumble across a mention of our favourite village, but it turns out that Whaddon follows you wherever you go!

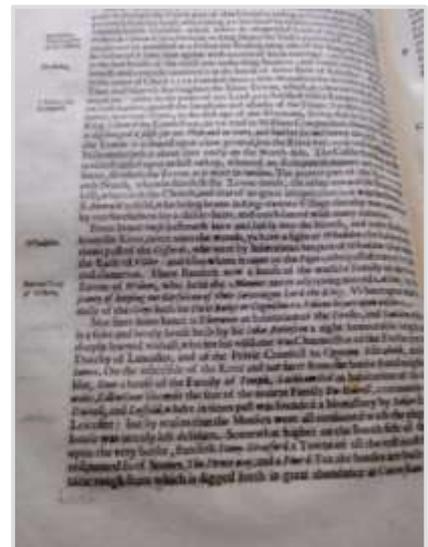
WE'D been visiting Scone Palace and on our way home we came across a completely hidden gem: the Library at Innerpefferay.

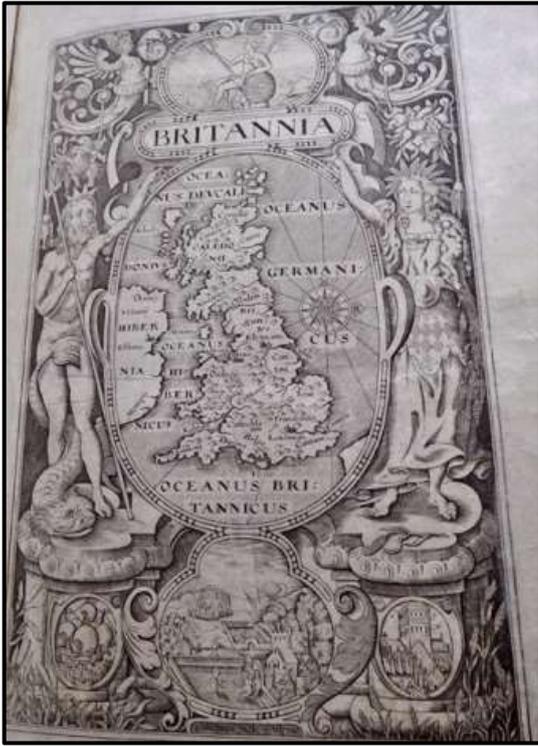
It's a wonderful place: Scotland's oldest free public lending library, founded in 1680 to make books available to ordinary people, free of charge: a fairly revolutionary idea at that time.

Housed in a beautiful building, it's completely stuffed full of wonderful books, with volumes from the 16th and 17th centuries to the present day. Subjects vary from witchcraft, animals, farming, hunting and medicine, to books about European history. And there's a 17th century atlas!

It was to this atlas that the friendly volunteers guided us; spotting our Sassenach accents, they asked us where in England we were from. They then helpfully presented us with a huge leather-bound volume called "*Britannia*" (see over).

Written in Latin and published in 1586 by an English antiquarian called William Campden, *Britannia* is described as "a topographical and historical survey of all of Great Britain and Ireland".





Thankfully, the edition we were looking at dated from 1637, by which time it had been helpfully translated into English!

We turned to the map of Buckinghamshire (**below**) and immediately saw the prominent position of Whaddon, which even had its own little illustration of a handful of trees, representing the importance of Whaddon Chase.

We then found the text relating to Whaddon, which again was far longer than the one-line mentions of nearby villages.

It reads: *"From thence, the Ouse hasteneth faire and softly into the North, and more Estward from the River, neere unto the Woods, ye have a sight of Whaddon, the habitation of times past of the Giffords, who were by Inheritance keepers of the Whaddon Chase, under the Earle of Villier: and from whom it came to the Pigets, who passed it away by [] and alientation. There standeth now a house of the warlike*

family of the Greys, Barons of Wilton, who held the Manour neere adjoyning named Allen, by sarjeanty of keeping one Gerfalcon of their Sovereign Lord the King. Whereupon that family of the Greys hath for their Badge or Cognisance a Falcon Sejeant upon a Glove."

We were really proud to see our little village featuring so prominently in this 450-year old volume, and to think that the place where we live was once the site of the home of the "warlike" Grey family.

It made me wonder how the Whaddon of today would be described for readers in another four centuries' time....

Julia Lemagnen

<http://www.innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk/#&panel1-1>



Thank you St Mary's Church mowers...



Thank you so much to Barry Dudley and his team of Church mowers; the churchyard has looked amazing over the summer. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team.



AND ANOTHER THANK YOU

A massive big 'thank you' to all who supported the Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 27th September. You raised the staggering sum of £431.25. That's quite amazing! Well done Whaddon. ■

Thank you all on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Care.

Sally Green

Worthy stand-in blooms at Harvest Auction

WITH the now traditional prize marrow on show for the 60+ guests to admire, this year's Harvest Supper and auction promised much, and didn't disappoint, as Marianna Beckwith observes.



Matt Garland, left, steps up to the plate to give chief auctioneer Mark Carter two helping hands.

CONSTERNATION that chief auctioneer Mark Carter's regular fall guy, Pete Bush, was not available (a victim to the "sickly plant" affliction, we understand), a certain Mr Matt Garland stepped up to the plate and proved himself more than a worthy apprentice: you're hired Matt!

After a plentiful and delicious meal, thanks to Hazel Dudley and the whole kitchen brigade, Brexit stockpiling was the order of the day from the auctioneers, who coaxed, cajoled and nagged bidders to fill their cupboards and fridges with a sometimes

baffling array of gourds (or were they squash?), apples, potatoes, onions and the more exotic Mazafruit (ok, it's a melon), mooli and pomelo.

The value of the Euro was reported to have plummeted, as lemon curd became the preferred currency, and for those of you who like to keep on trend with interior design, I can report that cyclamen doorstops are the next big thing!

Innuendo, most of it not for this family publication, was rife, and Whaddon's own Bake Off champions will be proud of how much was raised from a variety of home-made cakes.

But what of the marrow? I hear you cry (or maybe not!) Well, it was a tense final bidding war, which saw the winning offer climb to a big fat £125!

Thanks to everyone's generosity, a very respectable £725 was raised at the auction this year for the [Mercy Ships](#) charity, which provides hospital facilities on board ship, with the ability to travel to countries where surgical procedures and treatment are made available to change lives. Mercy Ships says: "Currently, the *Africa Mercy* is the largest charity-run hospital ship in the world, with greater capacity than all our previous ships combined. It contains five operating rooms, a four-bed recovery area, intensive care for up to five patients, and 80 ward beds. The *Africa Mercy* houses about 400 volunteer crew members from up to 40 nations." ■

St. Mary's Church Whaddon

NOVEMBER 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat	Nov 2 nd	10am-12noon Coffee morning in church
Sun	Nov 10 th	10.55 am Remembrance Day service in church; 11.45 am wreath-laying at War Memorial
Sat	Nov 30 th	2-4 pm Annual Christmas Fayre in Jubilee Hall
Sun	Dec 1 st	5.30 pm Christingle Service TBC
Sat	Dec 7 th	10am-12noon Christmas coffee morning in church
Sun	Dec 15 th	6 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Tues	Dec 24 th	10 pm Christmas ST MARY'S CHURCH
Sun	Dec 25 th	10-10;30 am Jesus' Birthday Party



REGULAR SERVICES

1 st Sunday	10.30am	Family Worship
2 nd Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
3 rd Sunday	10 for 10.30am	Sunday Special
4 th Sunday	8.30am	Said Holy Communion
5 th Sunday		Benefice Service (time & venue to be confirmed)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tues	2pm	Teas on Tuesday + Post Office in Jubilee Hall
Wed	1.45 – 2.45pm	Toddler Church. Parents/grandparents/all welcome
1 st Wed	2pm	Women's Institute in the Jubilee Hall
3 rd Wed	8pm	Whaddon Night Owls W.I. in Jubilee Hall
1 st Sat	10am-noon	Coffee shop in church

The Church Open Day took place on Saturday 5th October. In addition to coffee and biscuits during the morning, lunches of soup, bread and cheese etc. were available, with cream teas and cakes in the afternoon.

There were the usual attractions, including church archives from Aylesbury Museum. Between 10am and 4pm there was a steady stream of people, bringing their friends along to sit down and enjoy a chat and refreshments. At lunchtime, the soup was so popular that it ran out while the cream teas also sold out in the afternoon.

The Harvest Festival on the Sunday morning was well supported; lots of parents and children brought gifts to add to those already in the church.

The Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce on Monday 7th October held in the Jubilee Hall proved very popular. This event is always well attended with the auction of harvest produce enjoyed by all. Our thanks are due to the two auctioneers. This year Mark Carter was aided and abetted by Matt Garland; they made a hilarious team.

The funds raised are sent to charity and this year we supported Mercy Ships which sends hospital ships to deprived countries. The auction raised an amazing £725. This year, the winning bid for the marrow amounted to £125; it was the biggest marrow anyone present had ever seen. Our thanks also go to all who helped in any way to make our harvest weekend such a success.

Churchyard. We are desperately in need of more volunteers to mow the churchyard. All machines and petrol are provided and you would be mowing only one section. Please contact Barry Dudley on 01908 505727 for more information should you be able to help at all.

Flower Rota. If you would like to provide simple altar flowers on a rota basis then please contact Janet Spencer on 01908 502540, or Beryl Evans on 01908 502567.

And if you can help with cleaning the church, then please contact Hazel Dudley on 01908 505727. The cleaning consists of dusting furniture and hoovering carpets on one rota, or polishing brass on another. You do not have to be on both.

Benefice Profile. The Benefice Profile 2019 is complete, save for some minor adjustments and additions. The advertisement for Gussie’s replacement will be published in *The Church Times* and online in November. Applications will be shortlisted in early January with interviews being conducted at the end of that month. Hopefully, our new priest will be here by Easter. Please pray for a good outcome for our new benefice.

To arrange weddings, baptisms, and funerals during the interregnum please contact Rev John King from Nash on buckinghamvillages@gmail.com or 01908 501860.

We look forward to meeting you very soon at any or all of our services and social events; you will receive a very warm welcome. Thank you for your support. ■

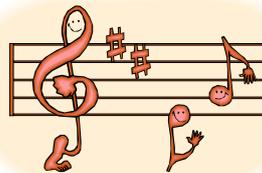
Hazel Hedges (Churchwarden) Tel: 01908 501729 or email hazel.hedges@gmail.com.

Your Parochial Church Council

Hazel Hedges	Churchwarden.	Tel. 01908 501729
Linda Maclver	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

Sylvia Stanier

The death is announced of Sylvia Stanier, sister to Billy Stanier, who died aged 91 on 12th October 2019 at Maidwell, Northamptonshire. She worked in Dublin, Ireland from 1950 to 1975.



TODDLER CHURCH

Calling all Toddlers, Mums, Dads, Grandparents & helpers too.

We meet at St Mary’s Church Whaddon.

FIRST Wednesday of every month (term time only from 1.45-2.45pm)

The hour consists of arts & crafts, songs & story time plus of course refreshments!

A warm welcome awaits you: no one is too old or young. So come along and join in the fun! We look forward to seeing you.

Term starts again on Wednesday 8th January 2020

Sally Green (01908 526033)

WHADDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

... And so to our Garden Party in August. Or perhaps it would be better described as a garden/party because of course it rained!

WE DECIDED to hold the business part of our afternoon indoors (after all, who wants soggy scones with cream and jam?) where we went through a formal meeting and democratically discussed and agreed some of our future plans, including our Christmas outing to Lakers Garden Centre in Winslow for a Christmas afternoon tea (there's a theme going on here).

Amazingly, it did dry up and it was a pleasure to show our members around our garden and explain how it had evolved over the years. We did manage to sit outside and enjoy ourselves, eventually and yes, we managed another scone or two too – and Mala's wonderful Samosas! (Thanks Mala).

In September, Andy Harding (**above**) gave us a fascinating talk on Moths of an English Garden. Who knew there are over 200 different types, some of which fly in the daytime, and are as colourful as butterflies? His slideshow and commentary left us spellbound. Nature right under our noses which we were totally unaware of, but that's the great thing about being a W.I. member where education is a driving factor - we have learnt something new and now we know!!

By the time you read this we will have learnt about Myanmar from our October meeting. More on this in the next issue!

We are finalising our programme for next year; it looks exciting and includes an outing to a pig sanctuary, another garden party in June – this time when the weather may be kinder and there will be more colour, and an outing to Bletchley Park. We also have some craft projects planned.

In December, the committee stands down, and we do hope we can get a new President, Secretary and Treasurer so that this wonderful little W.I. can continue. Do let me know if you are interested in any of these posts or would just like to become a member.

We are a small, friendly group and meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall. Please pop in if you would like to give it a try. You will be sure of a great welcome!

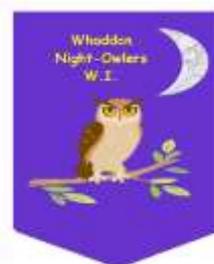
If you would like to find out more about our W.I., feel free to contact me on 01908 502781. ■

Jill Aitken, 01908 502781



Whaddon Night Owlers WI

THE Jubilee Hall became a Court Room in September when the local Magistrate came to speak at our annual group meeting. The Night Owlers were hosting the meeting and welcomed members from the Bletchley, Stony Stratford and Whaddon Women's Institutes for the evening.



Jane, our Magistrate, had come armed with scripts, parts were given out, furniture was moved around and the hall soon became transformed into the Magistrates' Court ready for the mock trial to take place.

The evening proved to be a great success – we had a lot of fun enacting the whole scenario, and in the process, learnt a lot about Court procedure. Opinions were rather divided as to the outcome of our trial, but at the end the Defendant was found Not Guilty, due to insufficient admissible evidence.



One thing I love about our meetings is how different they are! The one following the Court Drama was a feast, not only for our eyes and our brains, but for our tummies too!

We enjoyed a cookery demonstration on how to prepare the Chick Pea Curry that featured in the August *Whaddon Quarterly*, and in case you haven't ventured to try the recipe ... please do: it is delicious! We were shown how to make it, then feasted on the results, supplemented by one that Mala 'had prepared earlier'.

Meetings for the last two months of this year will comprise our AGM and our Christmas dinner – then it's on to next year. We have some great speakers and demonstrations planned and would love to welcome new members in 2020.

If you would like to join us for any of our sessions, please contact Daphne on 01908 502088 or come along to the Jubilee Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm to see what we're up to.....be prepared for the belly-dancing class in February!

Words: *Daphne Willis*. Photographs: *Alison Cross*

WHADDON BOOK CLUB

RECENT books given the intense scrutiny of the Whaddon Book Club were *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman, *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, and *Black Rabbit Hall* by Eve Chase.



Gail Honeyman's book was enjoyed universally. A remarkable first novel, with the main characters well developed; it provided delight as well as much material for discussion. Why were the social workers appointed to help, not helpful? How surprising was the ending?

Eleanor, a young woman with no relations and a tragedy in her past that led her to be a social misfit, narrates her life working alongside colleagues she cannot relate to, and a home life confined to a routine so minutely ordered you feel a major upset would occur if anything disturbed it.

A weekly 'conversation' with her mother; a regular call from a social worker; daily avoidances of work colleagues until an accident with a stranger throws her ordered life into question.

An easy read and thoroughly enjoyed by all of us.

Michelle Obama's autobiography, *Becoming*, was our book for August. It is a book of two parts. The first part details Michelle's life as she grows up in South Side, Chicago, the influences of her family and the people around her. The second part details life as Mrs Obama and then First Lady.

It was a very well-written book, clearly so often written from the heart: for example, when she describes her parents' sacrifices in order to fund her and her brother's education; and when trying to keep her children away from the spotlight. We read too about the hardships of growing up within a family of strong ideals in one of the poorest areas of Chicago, the racial inequalities prevalent at the time, the ambitions and family values which led her to work hard, stay honest and use her voice. And then, when she becomes Mrs Obama we saw how her ambitions have to adapt to cope with her husband's ambitions.

We read how subtly she manages to adapt, but keeps to her self-determined programme. If this was a manifesto for the Democrats, it would be winning hands-down; Michelle seems to have so many ideas to improve social inequalities.

Once the book reaches the period of Barack Obama's presidency, we are given another picture. Almost a tick list of places, achievements, setbacks and visits, this picture has likely suffered from embargos or other hindrances.

However, a clearer picture emerges of Michelle's fight, as far as possible, to maintain family life as an ordinary family. If the father just happens to be President, let that stay as much as possible in the background, despite all the extra security which could not be hidden from her children.

Our September book *Black Rabbit Hall* offered a very easy read, one which everyone enjoyed. Lots of family issues: ,bereavement, adoption, insanity and wicked step mothers... set within the grand gothic manor Black Rabbit Hall. As Amazon would say, If you like Kate Morton or Sarah Waters, you'll like this.

The group is now reading *The Scapegoat* by Daphne Du Maurier. November's book is *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen (those dark evenings lend themselves to reading at length!) ■

Jenny Smithson

● **NEW SPEAKER.** MPs elected Labour MP and former Deputy Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle as the new Commons Speaker on Monday, 4th November. Traditionally dragged to the Speaker's chair by MPs, he pledged to be a "neutral" and "transparent" Speaker. The Speaker keeps order in Commons debates and calls MPs to speak. Seven candidates were in the initial running but the list was reduced in round-by-round voting. John Bercow stood down on 31st October. His resignation as Buckingham MP took effect on Monday 4th November and therefore did not vote.

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Handyman

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Emmond De Valerie McGuinness 'Eamonn'

4th August 1933 – 20th July 2019

Mack: The man who was a bit of a lad

DAISY and William McGuinness welcomed Eamonn into the world on 4th August 1933. Eamonn was to become his oldest of five children; he had two brothers, Brian and Michael, and two sisters Yvonne and Daphne. The family lived in Mallis, Suffolk.

Eamonn's real name was actually Emmond, although he was often known as Mack. The name Emmond was a surprise to Shiree; the name only came to light when she registered his death. He may never have known this himself.

Eamonn was particularly close to his younger brother Brian. They would get into all sorts of trouble together and were partners in crime.

Once they cut the tongues out of their dad's leather winter working boots and made a catapult out of them. They got a serious telling off for that.

They would also return pop bottles to the pub for the deposit money and then nip around the back of the pub to where the landlord kept them. They would pinch them and take them back again for more pennies.

Eamonn left school at a young age. He looked after his younger siblings whilst his mum and dad were working in the fields.



In the Military Police

He then went on to do his National Service in the Military Police. He was a tall man, at 6ft 1in, and he was a bit of a 'jack the lad' who thought he was 'untouchable'. His colleagues would always get Eamonn involved to sort out the troublemakers.

It was whilst doing National Service that Eamonn met Lillian. They met at a dance and they married on 19th December 1953.

Eamonn loved to dance, and he loved music, particularly country music and rock'n'roll.

The following year, 1954, Eamonn and Lilly had their first son Terry; they then went on to have two further boys, David and Ian.

Lilly was determined to keep going until she had a daughter; they were both delighted when Shiree arrived in 1958 to complete the family.

Eamonn adored his wife and would do anything for her. He used to say, "You'll never get better than my Lilly".

A few different jobs

The family came to live in Whaddon, with Eamonn employed in a few different jobs over the years. He worked on the land and in factories including the Oxide factory in Deanshanger, where, to earn money extra money he would clean out the furnace and would go home covered in orange dust.

He also worked at Dunlop & Rankin Steel in Wolverton. The last 30 years of his working life were spent in the building trade.

Eamonn had a few interests, one of which was cars. He would spend hours doing them up. Shiree recalls that he'd be outside until late at night in all weather, on his back under a car. He taught his own boys to do their own car maintenance.

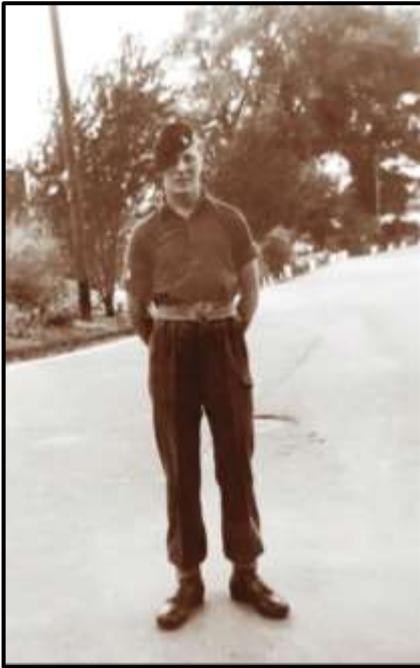
He also loved to watch a good game of football. He didn't really support one particular team; he just appreciated the game.

Eamonn would make acquaintances wherever he went, and he thrived on meeting people he could have some good banter with, such as the butchers and the bookies.

Eamonn was straight talking and once seen, or heard, he was never forgotten.

Hoping for a big win

He regularly played the lottery; he used the same numbers each time, numbers which he memorised. He bought scratch cards in the hope that he would get a big win so that he could leave some money for his children.



Shiree would like to thank her dad for the unclaimed £15 she recently found!

Eamonn had a lovely heart and was a very loving man. He adored his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was very caring and protective to those whom he loved most, his family.

He took after his own mum who was very gregarious. He was a loud character who said it as it was. He called a shovel a shovel. He just loved life.

In the early part of 2018 Eamonn's health started to deteriorate and he was diagnosed with secondary cancer. He spent his 85th birthday in hospital and sadly he didn't pick up. His spirit was crushed when he was informed that the cancer had spread and that there was nothing that could be done for him.

Eamonn wouldn't talk about dying and he wasn't one for medication; only taking paracetamol right up until his last two days.

With Shiree by his side, he quietly passed on 30th July at home in Whaddon, just five days before his 86th birthday.

Let us remember Eamonn as he was before he was struck by illness. He was a strong force, a determined man; he could be a tad stubborn at times and he was a bit of a lad.

But also, let us remember him, for being the caring, protective, big-hearted, lovely old chap that he was. ■

Written and delivered by celebrant Emma Satchwell-Graham at the funeral of Eamonn McGuinness on Friday 22nd August 2019.

Whaddon and when Harry met Cubby

A NEW book charts the lives of Harry and Cubby. Harry and Cubby? What's their link with Whaddon? Well, they were the producers behind the James Bond films; they were the business end of these iconic films. What author Robert Sellers calls 'lawyers..... agents and flashing tempers'. And the Whaddon connection, you may ask? Well, look at **p. 36** and **p. 38** to read how Ian Fleming and secret agent 007 came to be linked with Whaddon Hall.

'Cubby' Broccoli and Harry Saltzman were introduced to one another in 1961 by Wolf Mankowitz, but two years before, Cubby, a warm-hearted New Yorker, was in London where he immediately grasped that Ian Fleming's book had potential. Amazingly, no one agreed.

However, following their introduction, Cubby and Harry formed a company which paid Ian Fleming \$100,000 per film and 2.5% of the net profit. But when they purchased the rights, they astutely included an option on all unpublished, even unwritten, future James Bond stories. They also asked Mankowitz to write the script for Dr No. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The book is full of the glitz and glamour which surrounded these men, the Bond films and the actors and actresses. Harry died in 1994; he lived in an apartment near Victoria Station, London. Cubby died some years later in Beverly Hills, Hollywood.

When Harry met Cubby by Robert Sellers, published by The History Press, £20. 288pp.

Roger Edward Porter

7th August 1942 – 26th July 2019

Loving father, perfect gentleman, brilliant engineer

A light has gone out in the Porter family, with death of Roger who died peacefully at home surrounded by his family.

ROGER was at the centre of the family he loved so much: his wife, his four children and his 11 grandchildren; all gave him so much joy. He derived so much enjoyment from his work too. Indeed, he found time for everyone in his life; he could bring a smile to people's faces as well as comfort to those who needed it. He truly loved his family and his friends.

Indeed, it's a measure of the affection with which he held people, that so many travelled from near and far to attend Roger's Requiem Mass at St Alban's Church, Winslow on Thursday, 8th August (Roger was received into the Roman Catholic Church in May of this year); of course, not only family members but long-standing friends too. Roger is buried in St Mary's churchyard here in Whaddon.

Born in Isleworth, Middlesex, Roger's parents moved first to Birmingham and then to Bath. In both cities, he attended, through scholarship, the well-known King Edward schools. In Bath, one of life's amazing coincidences faced him as he walked in for his invigilation: the man facing him was no less than headmaster Harry Porter, an enormous man seated behind an equally enormous desk, topped with 'the Crack', a cane for administering summary punishment.

Roger later declared "The Head wrote out the exam questions and I answered them. Without a further word he welcomed me to the school."



School proved to be a strict and scholarly environment with "lots of sports, including boxing, and cadet corps." At weekends Roger helped his father build a greenhouse, a portent of things to come, i.e., an engineer, a self-confessed tech-geek and a DIY man, all rolled into one.

Instead of following his father's advice, Roger went his own way, setting his sights on a career in civil engineering (his father being a mechanical engineer), a career which brought immense fulfilment and an opportunity to travel the world.

Important infrastructure projects

Roger worked on large and important infrastructures around the world, such as London Bridge and the Victoria line, to name but two; being employed by prestigious companies such as Costain, Mowlem International and Nuttals. Roger enjoyed his work from which he gained immense satisfaction: a satisfaction enhanced by the company of people with whom he shared time. He was justifiably proud of his input and involvement in such mammoth projects.

Notwithstanding all of this, for Roger work was so much more than a selfish route to achieve personal satisfaction; it provided the driving force that would better the lives of his entire family: offering the stable background against which his children could mature into adulthood.

Inevitably, perhaps, it led to many upheavals, including working in Greece for several years: an uprooting which involved a terrible wrench for him and his family.

But quite aside from this, throughout his life Roger loved to travel for pleasure and explore the treasures of different countries. His last overseas journey with his wife took in a visit to the memorable Camino de Santiago.

Roger had a particular and unusual level of determination, a determination which powered him through the last 13 years of his life since diagnosis with an incurable cancer. This cancer dogged his path at almost every step yet, despite all the twists and turns, he witnessed the magic of watching his grandchildren grow up.

That he could navigate through the travails and ordeals of his cancer was due in no small part to the added influence of amazing doctors and the associated medical care, overarched by the unstinting support and love of his wife.

He was rarely anything but sanguine about his treatment and managing life with cancer. He endured many operations, innumerable treatments and various indignities in a spirited way.

Guiding him through his travails too in recent years were the moments of warmth and happiness he gained from the various gatherings; these proved of utmost importance.

A talented scribe

On a lighter note, Roger gained much pleasure from writing and language; often being playful with words. He wrote children's stories, while at the other end of the scale he contributed regularly to *The Times* newspaper. He was adept too, in dealing with the bureaucracy of public limited companies (PLCs).

Those who knew him were aware not only of his love of a good joke, but also of his naughty sense of humour; he often bemoaned the fact that his best ballet dancing days were over and that his tutu no longer fitted!

He worked with his hands and loved to be outside gardening. In a different age, far removed from the digital one, he enjoyed photography, particularly when it came to his darkroom where, one by one, the images gradually emerged in the developing tank.

Music too, brought great joy, the more so as it was a passion he shared with his wife. They attended many recitals as well as operas, both locally (in Wavendon and Milton Keynes) and abroad. Together, they were regular visitors to Glyndebourne and Saltzburg: a favourite spot.

Roger's love of music came deep-rooted; as a young man in South Wales, he conducted an all-male-voice choir. And he frequently broke into song in the car and at home.

And, as readers of the *Whaddon Quarterly* (a magazine to which he contributed many times) will know, he was the man who discovered the secret about Dame Janet Baker's knickers.

His time as a schoolboy in Bath, and later in South Wales, triggered another passion: rugby. He avidly followed Bath RFC and there are abiding memories of many outbursts from Roger, as he watched games on tv, most usually when the ball went over the line, or there was a needless penalty.

Perhaps four nouns define Roger most: intelligence, charm, humour and generosity.

But it was with his family: children James, Andrew, Alice and Edward, and grandchildren Joe, Iris, Sophia, Florence, Maggie, Freddie, Alexander, Sebastian, Gabriel, Oscar and Elliot, that he was most at peace, particularly too, of course, with his wife Jane who provided so much love and support over the years.

For her part, Jane particularly wishes to thank those in Whaddon who supported Roger during his illness.



JM

A joined-up fellowship of minds

Roger Porter and I connected instantly, joined by triple invisible umbilical cords: engineering, classical music and Isleworth.

ISLEWORTH? How come? Roger was born in Isleworth, and just after the war my family having just moved from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, I grew up aged 12 in Osterley, next door to Jersey Park and Isleworth with its Southern Region (SR) railway station, its red London Transport trolleybuses (route 667 to Hampton Court) and the Odeon cinema I attended on Saturday mornings. Every weekday I caught the SR train from Syon Lane (next stop to Isleworth) on my way to school in Chiswick. Syon Park blossomed just across the River Thames and close to Kew Gardens.

As professional engineers, Roger and I had a natural point of contact: he a civil engineer, me an aeronautical engineer.

As a former civil engineer Roger knew his subject as deeply as the Victoria Line's tunnels beneath London. How could I, embedded in aero engines, know remotely anything about civil engineering? How could we possibly have a point of contact?

While editor of the weekly *The Engineer* magazine, the publishing company launched *Career Choice* and purchased two magazines: *Civil Engineering* and *Tunnels & Tunneling*. I edited all three newcomers for many months (at the same time as *The Engineer*) until new editors could be found. During that period, I learnt much about civil engineering and tunneling. Roger and I knew what it was like to work deep underground.

This made it easy for us to rub shoulders; easy, too, through our love of classical music. Living in Osterley, the Proms for me were relatively close by No. 91 bus.

A heaven-sent wordsmith

But, perhaps above all, Roger was a wordsmith; that heaven-sent editor's angel of mercy who could 'churn out' copy at the drop of a hat. Just what any editor needs. It did not matter a jot what the subject might be; Roger could deliver 50, 100, 300 or 1,000 words on demand.

This was not ordinary 'copy' comprising ordinary words; instead each word was a gem, a carefully chosen pearl plucked from an immense deep-sea lexicon. It would be easy for anyone to worship at his footstool given his wide command of words (and language), the meaning of words and how to string them together.

The most amazing ideas spilled out from his mind. Like the time last year he unearthed from a music stool an old *Daily Mail*. This dusty, faded newspaper yielded an insignificant society diary item about the forthcoming marriage of Mrs Gilbert Greenall. Mrs Greenall? What possible connection could Mrs Greenall have with Whaddon?

Roger turned it into a story headlined *Greenall About It*. And from that, plus a touch of probing by myself, emerged a follow-up article about a car crash in Windsor Great Park that killed Lieutenant Gilbert Greenall, the great-uncle of Lord Daresbury: Lord Daresbury being married to former Whaddon resident Clare Weatherby. Amazing! Truly amazing!

Roger played another indispensable service for the WQ. He scanned photographs that otherwise required a trip to the printer.

Towards the end of his life, this became an increasingly onerous task; it was grossly unkind to inflict him with this task. But Roger, being Roger, wanted so much to continue; the mind ever-willing, the body ever less so.

We spent our last time together in his lounge; me chatting, he listening. When the time came, we shook hands firmly; our eyes locked in direct contact as silence enveloped the room. We both understood the significance...

I miss him. I have fond memories of the short time we spent together, the shared discussions and engineering magazines; and emails about this and that. A legend. **JM**

The Entertainers: getting set to entertain in 2020

THE Whaddon Entertainers are planning to perform their next show in April 2020 and, even in the early stages of ideas-sharing, it is already clear that the show is going to be a cracker!

The Entertainers are always looking for "new blood" to come and join in the fun. Musicians, singers, actors, technical crew and anyone who wants to get involved in putting on this legendary entertainment extravaganza are welcome to join.



If you want to find out more, please message via the Whaddon Entertainers' Facebook page or e-mail sharon.bessell@btinternet.com and they will be in touch. ■

Harry Vardy, Whaddon's hurdle maker

Following publication of August's *Whaddon Quarterly*, Antonio Romeo brought forward two photographs (below) of his great grandfather, Henry (Harry) Vardy. Ron Unwin of Nash has kindly added his commentary about Harry Vardy.

HARRY Charles Varney was born in Whaddon, in the cottages at Bottlehouse Farm, in 1893. His father was a timber merchant and the family moved to Nash two years later, in 1895, to continue their timber business there. When Harry left school, he joined his father in the timber business in Nash.

In WW1, he joined the army and served in the Warwickshire Regiment, where he rose to the rank of sergeant and was mentioned in dispatches. He became a member of the British Legion and would carry the Legion Banner during British Legion parades.

After the war, he returned to help his father in his timber business, and in about 1923 he married Rachel May Hopkins in the Congregational Chapel in Whaddon.

The couple lived in a cottage in Kennel Lane, but in 1928 Harry and Rachel moved into a new council house in Whaddon. Harry occupied that house for the rest of his life. He had three daughters: Mary, Phyllis and Vera. During the Second World War, Harry joined the Home Guard and became a Captain, being in charge of the Whaddon section. Harry achieved this rank probably on the basis of his experience of military life during WW1.

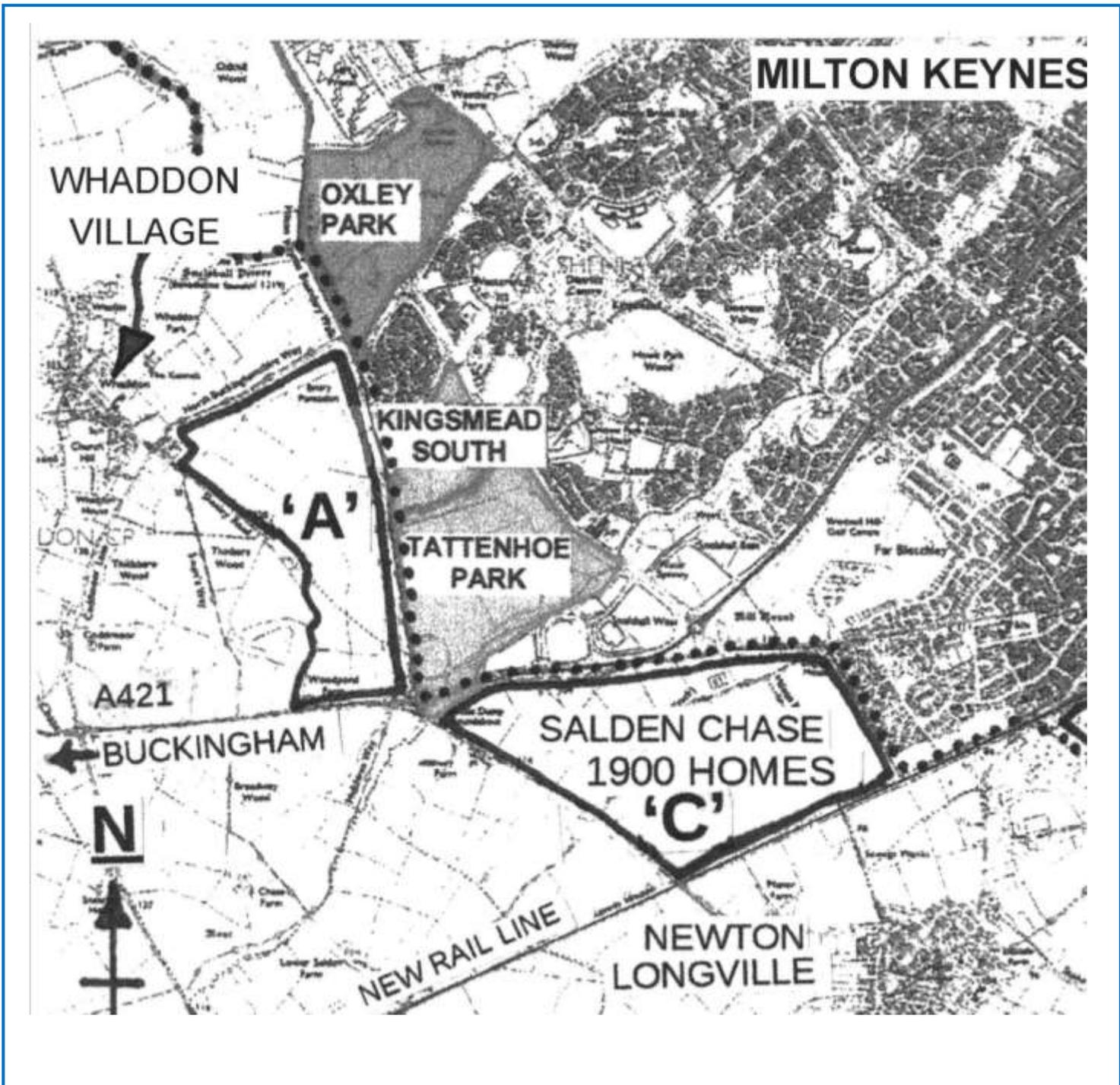
After the war, he continued in the timber business until it ceased trading in 1956. As he had been in the timber business all his life, it was perhaps only natural that Harry managed to obtain the use of a disused ex-army building on Windy Ridge (Church Hill). There, he continued to make hurdles until shortly before his death in 1970.

Hurdles are portable fences which can be used to control or enclose animals, such as sheep. Once made of wood, they are today constructed of steel. ■



Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP)

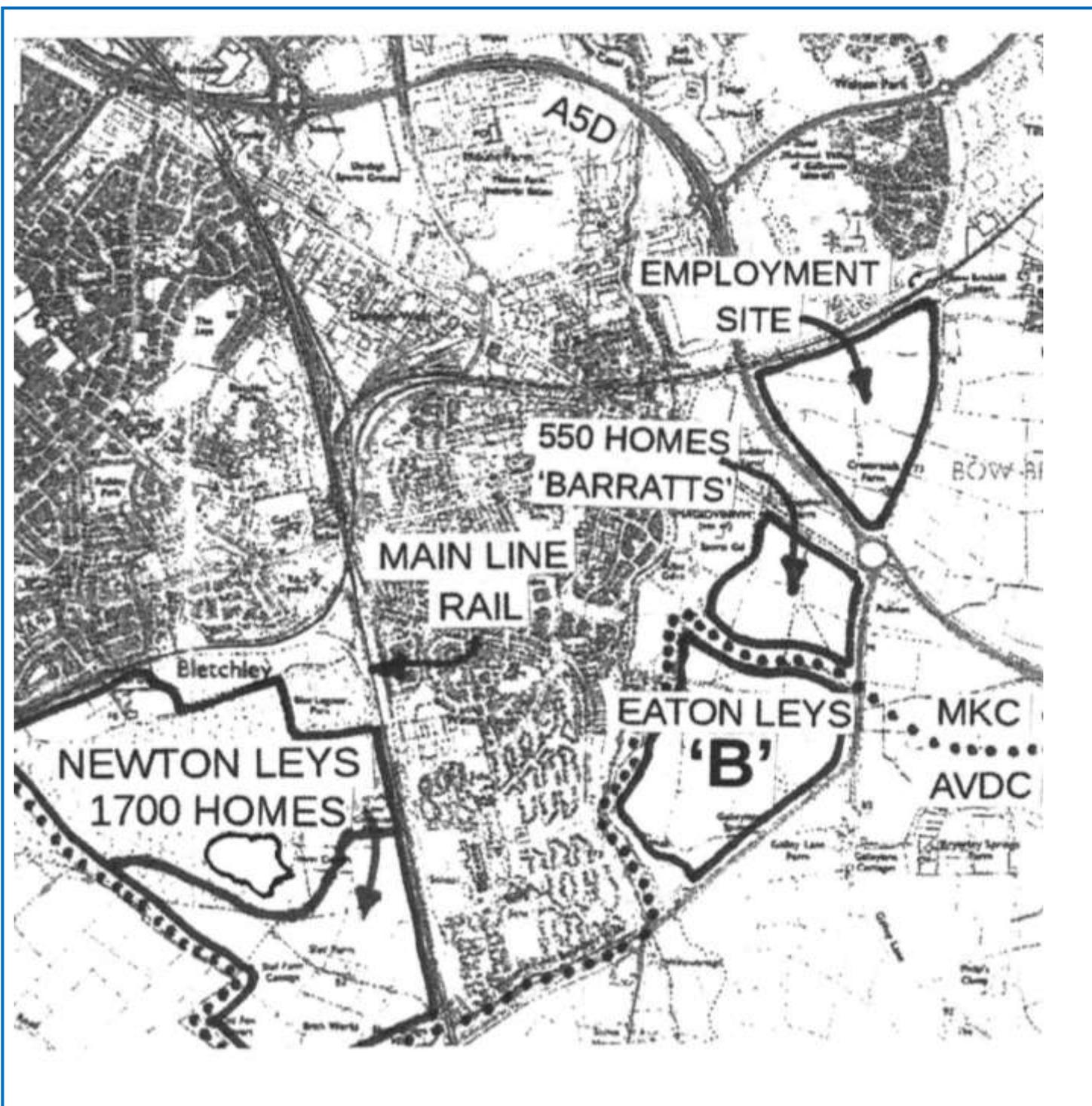
Public consultation is in operation: November - December



A minimum of 1,150 new homes are required close to Milton Keynes

**AVDC is recommending 'Shenley Park', Whaddon, ('A' above)...
BUT is either 'Salden Chase' ('C' above) or 'Eaton Leys' ('B') (next page)
a better choice?**

MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN (SEE BELOW)



PLEASE MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN. THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST AND ONLY OPPORTUNITY

Please ensure that you are registered on the village email mailing list for notification, and ideas on how to respond.

**...if not registered, then send your email address to:
ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk**

(Regaining) The joys of motoring

Today, when driving, attention can easily wander to family matters or work; a momentary lapse of concentration can cause disaster. Kerry Edmunds, an IAM observer, stresses how re-assessing personal habits can enhance driving enjoyment.

MY driving experiences began in Harrow and Pinner, in northwest London. I started with a small motor cycle (150cc), passed my test on that and then bought a 'proper' bike – Royal Enfield Bullet (still manufactured in India).

Shortly after starting gainful employment, I purchased my first car. My parents paid for me to have 12 lessons with a 'proper' driving instructor, and my Dad used to allow me to drive his car. He would sit alongside me and teach me "roadcraft".

I passed my test at my first attempt one morning in midsummer 1968, and my younger brother promptly insisted that I drive up to Kensington that evening, on my own, to pick him up from an event he was attending, and then drive him back to our home.

Talk about being thrown in at the deep end! Over the next 30 years or so, I sort of developed my driving skills by watching other motorists, being out in cars with my family, friends, work colleagues, etc. I tried to copy their good driving habits while also noting their bad (sometimes scary) ways of driving.

I enjoyed my driving most of the time, but often found myself speeding, and getting irate with other drivers' bad driving, to the extent that I was often moaned at by my wife, and two children. I was not enjoying my driving as much as I used to.

Safer driving courses

Thames Valley Police in Milton Keynes used to hold safer driving courses for local motorists. They were headed up by two traffic cops. I signed up for one of their courses, consisting of six evening classroom sessions, during which we were told about the police's principles of driving.

One of the sessions consisted of talks by an officer who operated the speed camera van in MK and a colleague who was an accident investigation officer. All the sessions involved audience participation and our differing opinions on ways of driving led to some quite heated discussions.

I recall that most of the 50 people on that course had the mickey taken out of them on at least one occasion; notably for their opinions on what was considered to be 'safe and legal' driving. The last session of the course, which took place on a Saturday morning, comprised a drive-out as a passenger in an unmarked police car alongside a TVP driving instructor. This was followed by the chance to have my driving assessed by a member of the local branch of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

A critical assessment

That was the first time in over 30 years of driving that I had had another person critically assessing my driving skills on a route around Milton Keynes. The session lasted 45 minutes.

I was persuaded that I could get back to enjoying my driving again, and get rid of the bad habits I had picked up over 30 years or so, by enrolling on one of its courses.

In 1998, I joined the local branch of what used to be called the IAM, (re-branded as IAM Roadsmart a few years ago), and passed its advanced driving test six months later.

During the course, I discovered that advanced driving is not rocket science: most of what I was told appeared to be common sense, once it was explained why it was the best and safest way to drive.

The test was conducted by a serving police driver, qualified at the highest police standard. He wanted me to pass, as long as I drove in accordance with the way that is set out in their training manual, *Roadcraft*.

After passing my IAM test, I decided to continue as a member of MK Advanced Motorists (MKAM), and trained to become an Observer.

Giving help to new members

I have been helping new members to improve their driving skills, become safer drivers and pass the advanced driving test, since 2000.

Examiners look for four 'Ss' in an advanced drive – Safe (and legal), Systematic, Smooth, and with some Sparkle (i.e. keeping up to the speed limit when safe to do so, but exercising restraint when road conditions dictate).

What are the characteristics of an advanced driver? They are driving their vehicle at an appropriate speed; in the correct gear; in the right position on the road; in full control; ready to respond to changing circumstances; and, finally, driving safely for the prevailing conditions.

Who joins MKAM? We meet people who have been on a speed awareness course, or those who have received a few points on their driving licence and do not want any more.

We also have drivers who are apprehensive about driving on today's busy and congested roads (especially more mature drivers); as well as someone who has had an accident and had their confidence dented as well as their car.

Others who join include wives (or husbands) who are fed up with their spouse telling them how bad their driving is, and who want to prove them wrong.

By far the most common

We also have recently-bereaved widows who now have to do all their own driving, and concerned parents whose children have just passed the basic DSA driving test and want their youngsters to receive some more disciplined training, and maybe save on their insurance premiums.

There are also people who are worried about their elderly parents' standard of driving and whether they are safe to be on the road.

By far the most common reason I hear for completing the advanced driving course is: "I know I've got a few bad habits, and I've been thinking about joining the IAM for a long time. I tell them that the hardest part about doing the course and passing the test is actually picking up the telephone or joining the IAM's website, signing up and actually coming along to the first session.

If you recognise yourself as one of those described in the last paragraph, then please do take a look at the website of Milton Keynes Advanced Motorists/Motorcyclists, or contact us at: secretary@mkam.org.uk or call 0800 970 8630 (freephone).

Someone will call you to give you more information about MKAM and how we can help improve your driving skills.

MKAM offers the full range of IAM *Roadsmart* courses. If you would prefer to see how we work first, come along, have a tea or coffee and a chat; then have your driving assessed, and maybe receive a few tips about how you can improve your driving skills – no strings attached.

We meet on the morning of the third Sunday of each month, at Milton Keynes Village Hall, Willen Rd, Milton Keynes MK10 9AF.

By taking the IAM course, and improving my driving skills, I found that I regained most of the enjoyment I used to have for driving.

I find myself wondering how a lot of the people on our roads managed to pass their driving test in the first place, and sometimes how they survive!

More importantly for me, I do not get wound up when other drivers do stupid or dangerous things in front of me. Being an observer, I am also maintaining my own driving standards, meeting some interesting people (a couple of whom live in your village) and riding in a variety of cars. ■



Sunbeam Alpine Series III: one of Kerry Edmunds' earlier possessions

Look right, look left, look right again

THEY are not little green men from Mars, disguised as tiny robot trucks, practising their version of the Green Cross Code.

NOR, with a radius of travel of only three miles, are they likely to hit Stock Lane in a hurry, or even stagger up Old Manor Close.

Instead, as photographed in August's *Whaddon Quarterly*, they silently trundle through parts of Milton Keynes, including as nearby as Emerson Valley, the property of Starship. Even so, the question may have crossed your mind: how do they work?

These battery-powered little wonders are based at Starship in Monkston Park, Milton Keynes, a business based next door to the Co-op. When a customer places their first order: for example bread, milk and butter, it is necessary to download Starship's app onto a mobile.

Starship charges £1 per delivery and 10p per item. Following receipt of the customer's total payment, Starship transfers the balance and the order to the Co-op next door. The Co-op order picks the items, places them in the robot which begins its slow journey to the customer.

On arrival at its destination, the robot triggers the app on the customer's phone whereupon, by pressing an icon on the phone, the customer can gain access to retrieve the items. With the lid closed, the robot returns to base.

A Starship spokesman told *Whaddon Quarterly* each robot has a payload of 16kg, so it can easily transport a chicken, potatoes, vegetables, fruit and bottles of drink: in fact anything normally found in a food store.

At present, Starship has 50 robots operating within a radius of 3 miles of Monkston Park. The robots also 'work' for Tesco, Frankie & Benny's (which serves take-away meals) and a fish & chip shop.

Robots use MK's redways and can often be spotted, by their red flag, travelling alongside H8 and V2, for example, their red flags atop aerials being clearly visible.

Who knows what the future will bring when these little "green" delivery men are further developed to increase range and payload?

JM



Green Cross Code. A Starship robot waits to cross the road at Tattenhoe

When we played football in Stock Lane - 2

In the August issue, Derek White recalled his boyhood days. Here he continues memories of life for a young lad growing up in the village; much different from that of today.

I began my schooldays at Whaddon. At the time I lived in Mill Lane; today it is known as Kennel Lane. There was just the old building. We had about 50 children with ages ranging from five to 11. We had just one teacher - Mrs Sutton - who lived in the old schoolhouse opposite and next to the old police house.

Despite the age range, we had many children going on to Wolverton Grammar School after passing their 11+ examination.

As for myself, I had four years at Stony Stratford Senior School and enjoyed every minute of it. We had about 100 boys from Mr Fegan's home (Fegan's Orphanage and Training Home) which was at the bottom of the High Street in Stony **(next page)**.

There were some right lads amongst them. Two I remember in particular though, were Les Nicolas and Tom McLean. Les went on to play professional football for one of the Midland football teams while Tom rowed singled-handed across the Atlantic.

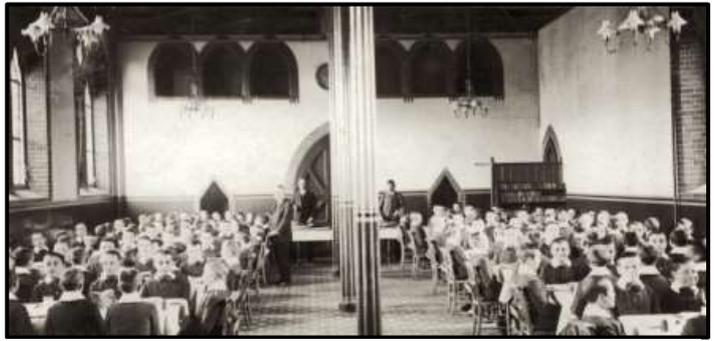
When Tom left school he went to work at John Venn's farm at Hartwell Hill Farm, Dunton, near Whitchurch. He then joined the army. He went straight into the Parachute Regiment and then the Special Air Services: the SAS. And the rest, as they say, is history!

What do I mean by that? Well, Tom McLean went on to be a survival expert. He lived on the island of Rockall from 26th May to 4th July 1985 to affirm Britain's claim to it; this was the third longest human occupancy of the island, surpassed in 1997 by a team from Greenpeace, which spent 42 days on the island, and in 2014 by Nick Hancock, who spent 45 days there.

The year 1953 will be remembered as Coronation Year. Whaddon was awash with flags and bunting; the front gardens of houses were planted up with red, white and blue flowers. The weather was dreadful; it rained all day.

Those who had a television set opened their homes to others. You could end up with a room full of people crowded around a little nine-inch black and white set to watch the ceremony.

In the afternoon we children had a party in the school and in the evening there was a bonfire on Church Hill. Happy days. ■



Besides enjoying a large dining hall (seen here in the 1920s) Fegan's Orphanage had a beautiful chapel

Whaddon pictured 100 years ago

AT one time, picture postcards were the rage: a very popular means of communicating, to inform folks back home of where you were and what you were doing.

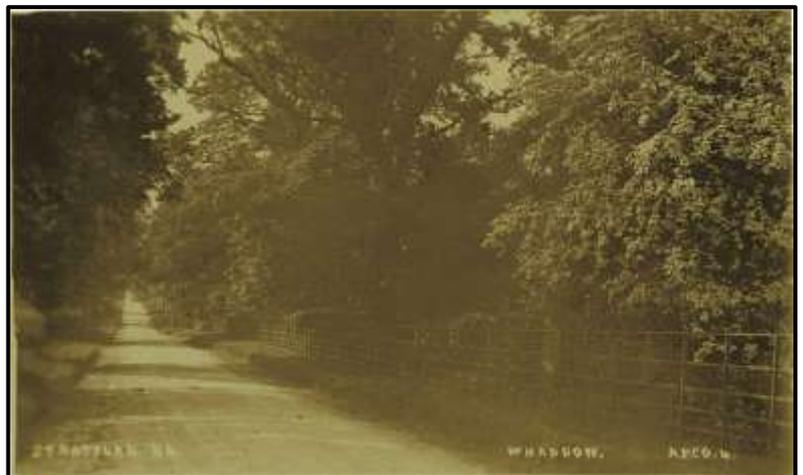
YOU did not have to be beside the seaside to scribble a hasty note to a family member or friend. You might be in Leighton Buzzard, or Whaddon.

In local village stores or newsagents in most towns, they could be found outside, all neatly arrayed on a hanger. There, one could find a postcard depicting the local high street, church or war memorial. This postcard (**below**), franked in Whaddon on 9th September 1917, sets the scene 100 years ago.

Addressed to Miss Winkworth, 36 Spencer St, St James End, Northampton, it carries (without punctuation but with a spelling mistake) the words: "Dear Olive I got here quite safe had a lovely walk be good too the children love from mother".

And the walk that Mother took? Is it shown in the photograph?

And where was the photograph taken? The photograph is captioned: Stratford Road. Is that part of the lodge at the entrance to Whaddon Hall? ■



Geoffrey: I will never forget this day!



Geoffrey (on the right) expresses his delight after receiving the award

TEN members of Geoffrey Pidgeon's family were present on Monday 28th October to see the Second World War veteran become the 6000th person to receive France's highest civil and military honour, the *Légion d'Honneur*.

Geoffrey Pidgeon, describing the occasion, writes: "They made a fuss of me today. I found it extraordinary to be one of the 6,000. I shan't ever forget this!"

The medal was presented by Catherine Colonna (**left**) at Lancaster House, the location where the UK and France signed the Lancaster Agreement in November 2010. This comprises two treaties: defence and security, and nuclear cooperation. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace also attended the presentation.

As *Whaddon Quarterly* readers, and indeed others in the village and nearby will be aware, Geoffrey worked for MI6 during WW2 and played a pivotal role in setting up wireless communications for the D-Day landings. The former MI6 agent follows 5,999 veterans who have received this honour since the 70th anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, when former French president François Hollande pledged to honour all British veterans who contributed to the liberation of France during the Second World War.

Ben Wallace (**above**) said: "The medal serves as a reminder of the debt we owe this special generation for the peace and freedom we now enjoy."

Added Catherine Colonna: "France awards this 6000th *Légion d'Honneur* to British veteran Geoffrey Pidgeon with a deep sense of gratitude for what all veterans achieved for the liberation of France and for world justice and freedom. It serves as a reminder of the selfless efforts of millions of brave British men and women throughout the war. Our country will never forget their fortitude; this highlights the enduring strength of the Franco-British relationship."

• LATER, on Friday 1st November, Geoffrey informed the *Whaddon Quarterly*: "I was somewhat overwhelmed by the turnout at Lancaster House for the presentation. There must have been about 12ish French Generals, Colonels, Admirals and so on, plus a number from the French Embassy. The British contingent included a General, an Admiral, an Air Commodore and assorted other officers. The *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express*, *The Times* and *Le Figaro*, as well as French TV and ITV, plus assorted others occupied all my spare time after the presentation. The day after, I had dozens and dozens of e-mails from all over the world. On Wednesday, I had more and then at home I had a reporter from the *Sunday Times* for over two hours for this week's edition. Then the headmaster of my old school, Caterham School in Surrey, sent me an e-mail from Hong Kong where he had seen Monday's *The Times*." ■

Do you know agent 007's link with Whaddon Hall?

IT MAY be hard to believe, but there *is* a tenuous link between Ian Fleming's James Bond (secret agent 007) and Whaddon Hall, as Geoffrey Pidgeon explains. Operation Golden Eye was an Allied plan during World War 2 to monitor Spain following a possible alliance between General Franco and the Axis powers and, if necessary, to conduct sabotage operations.

Lieut Commander Ian Fleming, RNVR, of the NID (Naval Intelligence Division) formulated the plan. As part of his proposal, Operation Tracer was drawn up to monitor the Straits of Gibraltar. In the event, the Germans did not take over Spain, nor did they invade Gibraltar. Consequently, in 1943 the plan was aborted. However, Fleming later used the code name for his Jamaican home where, with his fertile mind, he created the James Bond stories, leaving the link between Fleming, James Bond and Whaddon Hall being very real indeed in the form of Richard Gambier-Parry (see **p. 45**) based at Whaddon Hall. ■

Read more about the link next time in the February issue of *Whaddon Quarterly*

Happy birthday Lilian, 100 years young

Lilian Ross is 100 years old on 10th November. So we wish her a very happy birthday and continued good health in the coming years.

LILIAN Grace Adams moved to Whaddon when she was about four years old and later attended Whaddon School. She moved from Buckingham with her mum and dad, Elizabeth and Thomas; and her younger brother, Eddie. Another brother, Henry, was born later.



The family lived at No. 10 High Street before moving to Briary View. After a while the family returned to No.10. (See also *Whaddon Quarterly* of August 2017 and May 2018.) Whaddon's last centenarian, Mrs Ethel Wrighton, lived at No. 13 Stock Lane.

Lilian met Alex Ross (**left**) when he came to Whaddon with the army. The couple married in 1945 and remained in Whaddon. Alex died 15 years ago. They had two daughters, Shirley and Nora and now Lillian has five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren who will be with her to celebrate her special birthday.

During WW2, Alex was a dispatch rider in the desert and a wireless operator on Windy Ridge. Following his involvement with Whaddon Hall he continued his work at Hanslope Park. When that period ended he took to working in engineering, including a period at Vauxhall Motors.

However, an air of mystery surrounds part of Alex's wartime contribution. After the war, it is known Alex attended SAS reunions and an SAS official attended Alex's funeral. There is a rumour that Alex was part of Popski's Army, officially No. 1 Demolition Squadron. It was formed specifically to attack Field Marshall Rommel's fuel supplies in support of General Montgomery's El Alamein offensive.

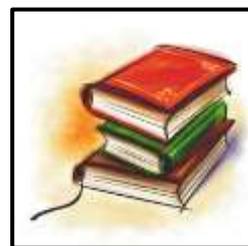
In a link with agent 007 James Bond (see item **above page**), actor Christopher Lee stated he too was part of the unique Popski's Army during WW2.

Enjoy your day with family and friends, Lilian. Happy Birthday from Whaddon village. ■

Shimmering like moonlight on a lake's surface

KEEN observers of the *Whaddon Quarterly* might detect this issue is a little different. It is now a 'glossy'; the final piece in the jigsaw. Not on the scale of *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* or *Tatler*. Or even *MK Pulse*. But still a glossy.

In the world of real publishing, 'glossies' face depleted sales and reduced profits as they become weighed down by huge print costs as suggested in a new book, *The Glossy Years*, launched at a glitzy party in the V&A Museum in London on 30th September. Author Nicholas Coleridge, former managing director of long-standing British Condé Nast, however remains optimistic.



Coleridge (Mr Glossy) writes in his book "No one has invented a digital way to replicate the gloss and sheen of a printed glossy, or the way that ink shimmers on the page, like moonlight on the surface of a lake." He adds that while the sales of some glossy magazines are falling like a stone there are others that defy gravity.

No one suggests the *Whaddon Quarterly* is a full, true glossy 'mag', but it now possesses tabletop appearance and feel. The improved WQ has come quite a way in four years. ■



Creative Coach:

Thoughts from my comfy chair

HELLO! You haven't had a piece from me for a bit, and I was wondering how you are? Normally, when someone asks, "How are you?" the standard response is, "Fine!" Either that, or, if not fine, then some details about a physical illness, forthcoming surgery, sundry aches and pains are usually acceptable responses.

But what if you're not fine in terms of how you're feeling emotionally? Would you be ok with responding about your mental health?

Whatever your answer to that, it's no secret that the longer, darker winter months can make it more of a challenge to stay motivated, energised, focused and perky.

And, I'm happy to say, it seems that talking about feeling less than 100% mentally is at last becoming more "acceptable". High profile figures, such as HRHs William and Harry are helping to lead the way to make mental health as easily discussed as any physical condition. We need to follow their example and help take the secrecy and stigma away from topics such as anxiety and depression.

So, while we're on the subject, how are you looking after your own mental health? The good news is that you're probably already doing quite a bit to help yourself. If you eat healthily; take some kind of regular exercise; make time for fun stuff (hobbies, groups, days out, time with friends); sleep well; make sure you have a few good people to offload to when you need to; get fresh air every day; are able to say "no" to stuff/others when it all gets overwhelming, then a big well done to you!

However, we're none of us perfect, so if you're scoring less than 7/10 on these, then what might you do to improve things? The aim is resilience. We can't always control the tough challenges life throws our way, but we can do what we can to make sure we're up to meeting those challenges.

And sometimes, we need to find the courage to speak up and tell someone when things get too much. There is help out there if you know where to look, and if you don't, there are people that do. Talking about it is the first step to making a change. ■

Marianna Beckwith

The man who came to... er... Jamaica

IAN FLEMING began writing his first James Bond novel, *Casino Royale*, at Goldeneye, Jamaica, in February 1952.

FOR the next 12 years, Fleming wrote all his Bond novels at Goldeneye, the original name of his estate on Oracabessa bay on the northern coastline of the island.



Several Bond movies, including *Dr No* and *Live and Let Die*, were filmed near the estate.

Fleming purchased 15 acres adjacent to the Golden Clouds estate in 1946 and built his home on the edge of a cliff overlooking a private beach. The three-bedroom structure, constructed from Fleming's sketch, enjoyed wooden jalousie windows and a swimming pool.

The famous author's visitors at Goldeneye included actors, musicians and filmmakers. The property now operates as Goldeneye Hotel and Resort; it consists of Fleming's main house and several cottages. ■



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - WHADDON

It's time to get ready for winter

NOW that winter is fast approaching, darker evenings can provide burglars with an opportunity to see easily which houses are unoccupied. Here are a few things you might like to consider to lessen the chance of your house being targeted:

- Invest in a timer light switch and vary the time it comes on each day to make it look more natural. It can also be used with a radio or TV to give the impression that someone's home.
- Perhaps purchase a fake/simulated TV device which lights up a room like a real TV.
- Keep valuables out of sight and mark them with your house number and postcode using a UV pen, or consider buying a forensic property marking system.
- Register your valuables via www.immobilise.com and keep an inventory list. It's free and takes just a few minutes.
- If you have jewellery at home, photograph it for insurance purposes and consider storing it in a suitable safe.
- Lock your doors and windows. If you have UPVC doors make sure you have double locked them by lifting the handle and locking with the key. Make sure the key is removed from the lock and out of reach.
- If you're going away on holiday, remember not to post details of your holiday on social networking websites, cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries and if you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set before you leave.
- Look out for your neighbours' houses, especially when they're not at home, and call the police if you see anything suspicious on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

For further crime reduction advice you can visit **Thames Valley Police** website.■

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



Whaddon Chapel

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth...

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. [John 1 v1-18]

"WHO are you?" This was not an uncommon question asked of Jesus. Some said he was a prophet, others a healer, others an important teacher. But there was only one true answer: Jesus is God's Son, the promised and anointed King (the *Christ*), the long-awaited Saviour.

He is God the *Son*, co-creator *with* God the Father *in the beginning* but, choosing to lay this aside for a season, *he became flesh and made his dwelling among us*, bringing *true light* into the world.

"Why did you come?" Intrigued by Jesus' presence, many asked this question. Before his birth, Jesus' purpose was revealed: the angel commanded Joseph, "...*you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*" [Matthew 1 v21]. Jesus was given his name (translated literally as 'God saves') because this was his mission.

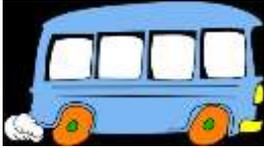
John, who wrote the words above, made it clear that all need Jesus, as all have sinned. '*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us*' [1 John 1 v8] – surely every human conscience affirms this? But John went on to explain that "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*" [1 John 1 v9]. What an offer!

Christmas doesn't simply bring light to a dark month. Christmas brought Jesus: a light in our darkness, a guide in our lostness; a rescue from sinfulness and true joy to our souls. Join us to find out more.

Chapel Services & Meetings:

- Carol Service and Christmas tea – Sunday 15th December at 4pm (chapel schoolroom).
- Regular services: Sundays at 4pm, Whaddon Chapel (please check the Chapel noticeboard for further details).
- Bible Study and Prayer meeting: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 7:30pm at 3 Briary View.

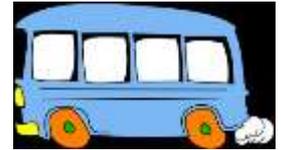
(Note: there will NOT be a chapel service on Sunday 22nd and 29th December)



Winslow Community Bus

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www.winslowbus.com

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Everyone is eligible to come on the bus. We pick up near to your house.

Please ring Sue for more information.

***Denotes bus pass accepted.**

- Tuesday 5th November** **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service, bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.
- Thursday 7th Nov'ber** **Cotswolds Tour** – Touring the Cotswolds and a pub lunch with Peter. Ride, listen and enjoy. £8.00 travel.
- Tuesday 12th Nov'ber** **Frosts Garden Centre** – Browse and maybe do a little early Christmas shopping. Have lunch or afternoon tea in their restaurant and coffee lounge. £5.00 travel.
- Thursday 14th Nov'ber** **Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book.
- Monday 18th Nov'ber** **Lunch at The Black Boy in Oving** - £2.50 travel.
- Tuesday 19th Nov'ber** **Bicester Avenue** - Blue Diamond Garden Centre, Lakeland, Cotton Traders, Laura Ashley and more. £5.00.
- Thursday 21st Nov'ber** **Milton Keynes Shopping** – Drop off & pick up in Centre MK. £4.00.
- Monday 25th Nov'ber** **Asda Shopping MK1** - option to go to M&S, Primark, etc., £4.00.
- Tuesday 26th Nov'ber** **Winchester** – Christmas Market in the Cathedral Grounds, Shopping, etc , £20.00.
- Thursday 28th Nov'ber** **Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book
- Tuesday 3rd December** **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service, bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.
- Tuesday 10th Dec'ber** **Asda Shopping MK1**- option to go to M&S, Primark, etc. £4.00
- Thursday 12th Dec'ber** **Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book
- Thursday 19th Dec'ber** **Christmas Lunch – The Old Thatch Inn, Adstock**
- Thursday 26th Dec'ber** **Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book

SCHEDULED WEEKLY SHOPPING ROUTES:

Every Friday and Saturday morning – Aylesbury Market Bus - from Winslow, through the Horwoods, Mursley and Swanbourne, arriving in Aylesbury just after 10am and departing 12.15pm. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £4.50 return.

Every Wednesday morning – Winslow Market Service – bringing surrounding villages into Winslow (Swanbourne, Mursley, Great Horwood, Whaddon, Nash and The Claydons). Pick up times vary according to village. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £3.00 return. ■

Ring Sue for more info or a timetable! 01296 715786

Why we are getting ready for Christmas

Is it ever too early to prepare for Christmas? Well, apparently not, as Karen has had us practising The Twelve Days of Christmas since September!

TO be fair, the music comes in at 31 pages long, and it's a fairly complicated arrangement, so she's probably right to give plenty of time to learn it, even if Santa hasn't even sharpened his pencil to write his list as we go to print, never mind check it twice.

In other news, we'd like to thank everyone who came and supported our summer concert – it seems a long time ago now, doesn't it? You helped us raise £693, which we will split evenly between our two local charities for the year: Harry's Rainbow and Milton Keynes Hospital Cancer Centre. The proceeds of our festive singing will also go to these charities, before we choose different ones for next year.



A date for your diary

Our Christmas concert is on Monday 16th December, at 7pm. Come and share mince pies, wine, good company and some festive music and help us raise some much-needed funds for our charities. Just turn up on the night, pay on the door, and you'll be assured of a warm welcome.

We've been delighted to welcome a lovely chorus of new members to the choir lately: a whole medley of sopranos, altos and basses, and we now number almost 50.

There's still room to grow though, so if you'd like some warmth and tuneful (well, some of the time!) companionship during the long, dark winter months, do come along and see what we do.

And when all that C*****mas stuff is done and dusted, you could always come along in January and give your wellbeing box a great big tick! Singing is very good for you, in so many ways. We meet every Monday in the village hall from 7-9pm. Contact Karen (01908 501922) or Marianna (01908 503194) for more details. ■

Marianna Beckwith

WHADDON PLANNING BRIEFS

NEW APPLICATIONS

19/02591/APP: 33a Stock Lane, Whaddon

Provision of open planned timber framed Carport with pitched roof

The open-sided carport measures approximately 5.6m square. WPC has, over many years, been concerned about the erection of front garages and carports along Stock Lane. The basis has been that any development in garden land in front of the recognised building lines would negatively impact on the open nature, and attractiveness, of the linear development in this

central village location, which is between the two conservation areas. If allowed, this would set an undesirable precedent, which might then be replicated. Accordingly, on this basis, both for fairness and consistency it was agreed that an objection should be made, although the final decision rests with AVDC.

19/02987/APP: 1 Stratford Road, Whaddon

New access to field from Stratford Road

This application is for a renewal of 16/03796/APP, which was approved in December 2016. The proposed access is on the western side of Stratford Road, midway between the entrance to Whaddon Hall and where the road narrows. Although a meaningful start on the work has not been made, this is a simple renewal application, and as the circumstances are unchanged, a 'No Objection' response was recorded.

19/02884/APP: Chase Lodge, Whaddon Road, Whaddon, MK17 0PR

Proposed front porch, single storey rear extension, revised fenestration to rear and Internal alterations.

Chase Lodge stands a quarter mile from the A421 Whaddon roundabout along the Whaddon Road; it is on the corner of the roadway to the Chase Farm development (the old insemination farm) opposite Stearhill Lodge. The application relates to a minor rear and front extension which will hardly be visible and, as there are no close neighbours and no loss of light or overlooking issues, a 'No Objection' vote was recorded.

UPDATES ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED APPLICATIONS.

The Oaks. 19/02309/APP: Demolish existing semi-derelict house and replace it with a new larger detached two storey dwelling

This application has not yet been determined, but WPC did not object and it is expected to be allowed with appropriate planning conditions in the near future. If AVDC do approve the application, then a detailed reserved matters application is expected to follow shortly thereafter.

The Oaks. 19/02345/COUAR: Convert existing open barn into four terraced houses

This application has been 'REFUSED', very much in line with WPC objections which were based on local and national planning policy relating to the conversion of agricultural buildings. In summary, the reasons were *"the proposed replacement of all the existing wall and roof cladding, retaining only the steel frame, purlins and trusses, exceeds that reasonably necessary for the building to function as a dwelling house"* and *"the proposed works would amount to a re-build with only the most limited amount of help from the agricultural building, and thus would not comprise a 'conversion' as permitted by the planning regulations"*.

The Oaks. 19/02291/COUAR: Convert existing brick barn into one new house

The conversion of this fairly substantial historic red brick and slate farm building has been 'APPROVED', with conditions in line with Whaddon P C's 'No Objection' response. The conversion could be undertaken with minimal alteration to the original fabric, no greater extension to its footprint and by keeping most of the interesting features. A detailed reserved matters planning application is likely to follow soon.

3 Stratford Road. 19/02530/APP: Two-storey side and rear extensions

This application was approved on 30th August 2019 with three standard conditions.

The Gatehouse, 28 High Street. 19/00074/ALB: two skylights

This application has finally been approved in line with WPC's 'No Objection' response. The historic building officer eventually accepted that the original roof lantern design was acceptable, as it was not 'readily visible' from the roadway.

Land at Stratford Road. 18/01333/APP: Temporary application for dog training

This application still remains undetermined, mainly due to yet another change in planning officer appointment.

Apparently, the report has been written up and is going through its professional checks; but apparently changes are being made. AVDC were unable to advise just how long this process will take.

PLEASE REMEMBER that you can view these, or any other planning applications on the AVDC planning web-site, by simply Googling : Planning>>simple search-Aylesbury Vale District Council; then open this link and type in the planning application number in the box provided, then click 'search'. Open the documents and inspect the papers of interest to you. As with all planning applications, residents are able to inspect all plans and certain correspondence, together with statutory consultee responses, by following this procedure.

The next meeting of Whaddon Parish Council, where any new planning applications will be discussed, is on Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm in the village Chapel. All are welcome. ■

Whaddon Refuse Collection Dates

Food waste: Every Tuesday

Recycling: Tuesdays 12th & 25th November; Tuesdays 10th & 24th December; Wednesday 8th January; Tuesday 21st January; and Tuesday 4th February.

Waste refuse: Tuesday 19th November; Tuesdays 3rd and 17th December; Thursday 2nd January; Tuesdays 14th and 28th January.

Garden waste: If you have subscribed to the garden waste service, all collections will be the same day as the waste refuse collection, viz: 5th & 19th November.

Gambier-Parry: Man with gusto for life and living

Richard Gambier-Parry has appeared here from time to time in the last four years. But who was the man inextricably linked with Whaddon Hall in WW2? Did he possess some of the attributes of 007? John Mortimer sheds a little light.

RICHARD Gambier-Parry was born in 1894 at Cirencester, Gloucestershire the second son of Sidney Gambier-Parry, an architect with a practice in London. Following his early schooling, he attended Eton before going to America.

At the outbreak of WW1, he joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and fought with distinction in France and Belgium. Wounded three times and mentioned twice in dispatches, he later joined the Royal Flying Corps.

After the war, he married widow Diana Williams Andrews (née Norrington) one hundred years ago on 26th September 1919. After visiting America he joined the British Broadcasting Corporation in its public relations department; he remained there from 1926 to 1931.

However, the couple divorced and Gambier-Parry married Phyllis Gomm on 7th November 1931. By this time, during his stint at the BBC, he had become interested in radio and accordingly joined the Philco Company as sales manager.

In 1938, just before the outbreak of WW2, Gambier-Parry was recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) to improve its radio communications. Gambier-Parry set up the Radio Section following his appointment and there he oversaw a thorough modernisation of the SIS's radio capability.

For his second in command Gambier-Parry appointed Edward 'Ted' Maltby, a friend from his Eton days, while for technical matters he recruited Harold Robin, a fellow Philco employee.

During the war, among other activities, Gambier-Parry held responsibility for propaganda and Station X's (Bletchley Park) radio communications, operating at various times from Wavendon Towers and Whaddon Hall, headquarters of Section VIII, the Communications Section of MI6.

Following his divorce from Phyllis in 1944, Gambier-Parry married his secretary and driver, Elizabeth 'Lisa' Towes, daughter of Colonel Towes of the Royal Scots Greys. She had recorded the early propaganda broadcasts at Whaddon Hall which were then beamed out from transmitters at Gawcott to Occupied Europe.

After the war, he became Director of Communications of the Foreign Office establishment at Hanslope Park. ■



Why being a PR could be stressful

The role of a Personal Representative when a claim is made under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 can have implications.

CLAIMS for reasonable financial provision from an estate pursuant to the above Act appear to be on the rise. This increases the likelihood that a Personal Representative (PR) may have to deal with such claims as part of the administration of the estate. This can be stressful, as the PR can feel caught between the two warring sides.

What is the role of a PR? In general terms, the starting point is that a PR, in their capacity as PR, should stay neutral in relation to a claim under the Act.

The role of the PR is to distribute the estate to whoever is legally entitled to it. This could be beneficiaries under a Will or by intestacy rules.

It is not for the PR to decide if this is right or wrong. It is therefore not for the PR to form a view on the merits of any claim or to distribute the estate in accordance with that view. If

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they do so, they risk exposing themselves to personal liability for distributing to the wrong person.

Instead, the PR should insist that how they distribute the estate must be determined either by agreement between the parties or by the court.

In particular, they must not allow any animosity they may feel towards either the claimant or the beneficiaries to undermine their neutrality.

If the PR comes under pressure from one or both parties, their fall-back position is to seek directions from the court. A court order will generally protect the PR from any personal liability and preserve their indemnity.

(This article is not intended to be legal advice and you should seek independent legal advice for your own individual circumstances.) ■

Jubilee Hall is your village hall

THE Jubilee Hall was built on land donated by the Selby-Lowndes family and was opened in 1935. It has strong historical connections, as detailed previously in the *Whaddon Quarterly*. The hall is governed by a committee of trustees and has charitable status. A group of volunteers from the village takes care of administration and maintenance.



As well as offering facilities for many and varied activities for villagers to enjoy, it is also available for private hire. It is currently in regular use by the weekly Post Office, the Playschool, Chase Choir, Whaddon Entertainers, St. Mary's Church, the afternoon WI and WI NightOwlers, as well as for fun physical activities such as yoga classes, Pilates and table tennis.

For booking enquiries, please e-mail this address: whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com or message through the Hall's Facebook page "Whaddon Jubilee Hall".

Fundraising: In order to carry out improvements and maintain and protect the hall, the committee works hard to create fun events to raise funds. The committee is extremely grateful for the terrific support that is received from the local community.

Events thus far in 2019 have consisted of a Curry Night, a Spring Social evening and a Summer Barbecue. Each event had fantastic attendance and along with coffee and cakes sold at the

D Day event in June, funds of almost £2,000 have been raised.

Among events in the pipeline are the following:

Saturday 16th November: Opera Dudes (right). Tickets are selling fast for this and are great value at £12.50 each. Tickets can be purchased from Deb Spinks on 07737 412954 or by contacting any of the committee.

Saturday 7th December: Save the Date for a Christmas Village Social Evening.

Other events are being planned and will be advertised when arranged. For those of you on Facebook, there is a page dedicated to the hall. Search "Whaddon Jubilee Hall", "like" the page and you will be kept up-to-date with what is happening. If you're not on Facebook, please keep an eye on the noticeboards inside and outside the hall for information. ■

Jubilee Hall Committee

EDITOR REQUIRED. An opportunity has arisen to edit this wonderfully popular Parish Magazine. Please contact the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@whaddonbuckspsc.org.uk

Nash Events: November - December

Saturday, 2nd November 6.30pm to 10.30pm

Nash PUMP – Pop Up Micro Pub – popular monthly event serving ales, prosecco, wines & spirits as well as great Nash spirit!

Friday, 15th November, 10.30am to 4pm

Nash Community Café – drinks (now licensed) and cakes, light lunches, co-working space

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information

Saturday, 23rd November 10.30 - 12 noon

Coffee Morning, Nash Village Hall to support the work of Dr Shirley Heywood, with INF in Nepal.

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information

Friday, 29th November 7-9pm

Wreath Making £25 Contact Pam King pamking199@gmail.com to book tickets

Sunday, 1st December

Advent Carol Service 6pm, St Mary's Thornborough

Contact Pam King pamking199@gmail.com for information

Saturday, 7th December, 6.30pm to 10.30pm

Nash PUMP – Pop Up Micro Pub – popular monthly event serving ales, prosecco, wines & spirits as well as great Nash spirit!

Friday, 20th December, 10.30am to 4pm

Nash Christmas Community Café – drinks (now licensed) and cakes, light lunches, co-working space. Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information

Tuesday, 24th December 10-11am

Children's Christmas Activity, All Saints Nash. Contact Pam King pamking199@gmail.com

Wednesday, 25th December

Family Christmas Holy Communion 10am. Contact Pam King pamking199@gmail.com

For information on all events please contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com

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Whaddon Quarterly
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Half Page – four editions £48

Advertising fees are payable in advance. Cheques payable to Whaddon Parish Council or BACS payments to Whaddon Parish Council, Metro Bank, Account 16231142 Sort Code 23-05-80.

Non-Commercial Local Advertisers

For locally-based charitable and not-for-profit organisations publicising events for the benefit of the local community; insertion FOC, at the Editor's discretion, and subject to space.

Small Ads

One line 'For Sale' and 'Wanted' ads submitted by Whaddon residents – FOC.

Subject to availability of space.

Format and Submission

Full page – A5 size. Copy to be submitted in high resolution .jpg format.

Email content to John Mortimer – Editor at johnmortimermsc@gmail.com

Publication Dates and Copy Deadlines

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

Copy deadlines are available by contacting the Editor, and in the magazine.

Copy received after the deadline may be excluded, or if included, only on a best-effort basis at the discretion of the Editor.

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Whaddon Parish Council requires all material for publication in Whaddon Quarterly to be appropriate and suitable; and it may not contain any content that could be deemed offensive, discriminatory or derogatory. Any submissions deemed not to meet this standard will be subject to edit or exclusion by the Editor. The Editor's decision is final in this regard. Content of *Whaddon Quarterly* is subject to Copyright, and may not be used or reproduced without the Editor's permission. ■



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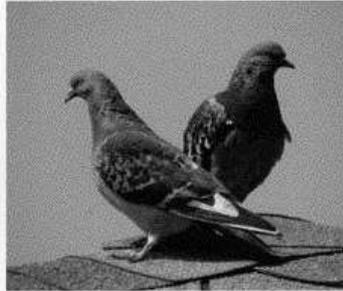
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A love of hunting, shooting and fishing. Whaddon Hall photograph courtesy of Martin Selby-Lowndes

The pond became a feature of the estate, so much so that the Hall's gamekeepers and gardeners alike received specific instructions from the then Master of the house. Gamekeepers were told not only to feed ducks (to encourage others to migrate there) but to carefully nurture them in whatever way to turn them into plump fare for the table.

The wild ducks were there for another express purpose: to provide entertainment for house guests during weekend shoots; shoots in which game birds: grouse, pheasant and pigeons were offered also as suitable targets. If it moved, it could be a target for marksmen.

After a good day's shoot in nearby woods, guests could meander past the duck pond. Grouse, pheasant and wild duck could be served up at dinner: delicacies alongside fine red wines from France.

That small enclave of habitation could not survive alone; hence further instructions to the head gardener. Bamboo and shrubs alike needed gardeners' careful attention throughout the year. Meticulous pruning ensured perfection.

Over the years the pond, fed from its underground spring, is now a shadow of its former self; it remains as a standard-bearer to bygone days.

Meanwhile, nearer to present day but still some 30 years ago, Bamboo Field provided a backdrop for another form of excitement. Within a few yards of the former duck pond is a riser; a riser that forms part of the underground water main feeding Milton Keynes. One day, the riser suddenly burst; such was the pressure and volume of water contained therein that these were sufficient to generate a fountain of water reaching hundreds of feet into the air; water which then flooded the surrounding area. ■

A service much too valuable to be lost

Teas on Tuesday is thriving but while the Post Office, held at the same time, has been given a reprieve until 2021 it could be under renewed Government threat thereafter. What then? Both activities need your full support.

TEAS on Tuesday continues to flourish. Did you know that Mr Patel, the postmaster who runs the Post Office in Jubilee Hall, is also a chartered accountant? His son (tall, dark and handsome) is in his second year at Lancaster University and intends to become an accountant too. Meanwhile, he takes his father's place in Whaddon on Tuesdays.

Don't forget: you can pay bills through the Post Office, or cheques into your account. You can obtain cashback and foreign currency. Equally importantly, groceries can be ordered in advance (tel: 01908 564490). And, of course, there are the usual stamps.

Now this is the important bit. Earlier this year, the Government announced it was planning to abolish the subsidy to the Post Office network, putting all post offices and the Outreach Service under threat. Many signed a petition in support of Mr Patel's service here in Whaddon.

However, the decision has been deferred only until 2021. So we are safe – for now.

But then what? We really need Mr Patel. If you have no transport, life in Whaddon can be very difficult. And the Patels are a godsend.

So come and join us on Tuesdays, if you are free. We may not serve cakes, but we do serve sweet biscuits, some savouries and donated cakes. Or you could bring one as a donation. Support Mr Patel all you can and come and have a chat.

Margaret Barrie

When guests enjoyed home-reared duck at dinner



Hidden from sight, except to those who deliberately seek it out, is a pond in the middle of a field near Whaddon. The pond has history, as John Mortimer discovered.

BEFORE the war, what today are known as Whaddon Bank and Milton Keynes Bank, formed part of the Selby-Lowndes' estate. The estate then enjoyed the grand title of Whaddon Park, a name known to gentry far and wide, not only for its hunting, but also its table fare and as juicy fodder for the inky chroniclers of glossy nineteenth-century magazines.

However, war brought many changes. Whaddon Hall became part of the nation's counter-intelligence armoury while surrounding grassland likewise suffered transformation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Min of Ag and Fish, for short!) deemed Whaddon Parks' lush grassland 'will be' morphed into arable land. The purpose? To bolster food production and, indirectly, the war effort; not to mention boosting the country's self-sufficiency.

Suddenly, brutally, ploughshares sliced their way through the turf, exposing long-forgotten earth to sun and rain, frost and snow. After countless years, worms could no longer pursue their silent existence; their world being literally and suddenly turned upside down. A farm track to equally long-forgotten Snelshall Priory suddenly arrived to divide the land into two fields: Big Field and Bamboo Field. Bamboo Field? That's a strange name.

Not really. Bamboo shoots had been carefully 'dibbed in' by the Hall's gardeners to give a lonely pond a protective shield: a shield able to could hide it from prying eyes. To enhance the shield's effectiveness, gardeners added shrubs outside the ring of bamboo to offer a double layer of concealment.

The secreted pond is not natural; it dates back to the estate's earliest days when a wet area of parkland indicated the presence of a spring beneath.

This fortuitous discovery prompted instructions for some of the estate's gardeners, of which there was an 'army', to hand-dig out the pond, an operation that must have been spread over several days. The creation of a pond did not come without an associated purpose. For the Selby-Lowndes family the pond would provide a happy home for wild ducks.

William Selby-Lowndes, 62, would have been Master of the household in January 1901 when Edward VII, eldest son of Queen Victoria, came to the throne in January 1901. His wife Jesse, also 62 and born in Shenley, employed no less than nine maids, including cook and housekeeper Alma Russell, 46, from Crowland in Lincolnshire. William's daughter Sylvia, 26, also lived at the Hall. Head gardener George Freeman, 68, and his wife Sarah, 70, occupied the Lodge on New Road.

Continued on page 57

Outside back cover: Gathering in the harvest of grain and straw.

John Mortimer

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