

WHADDON QUARTERLY

SPRING 2021



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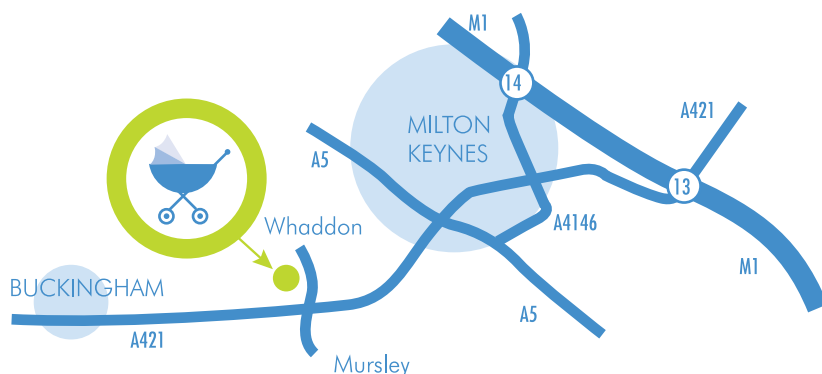
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WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL
Whaddon Quarterly
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One line 'For Sale' and 'Wanted' ads submitted by Whaddon residents – FOC.

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Format and Submission

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

Email content to wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

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Whaddon Quarterly

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For comments, queries and articles

Please contact the Editors, Charlotte Calder & Gillian Hosier at:
wqeditor@whaddonbucks.org.uk

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Send your advertisement to the Editor as above
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A huge thank you again to **everyone** who has contributed articles. There's no WQ without you!

LETTER

From the Editors



Welcome to the spring issue of Whaddon Quarterly!

This issue contains the second part of John Mortimer's feature on family genealogy, as well as the usual features.

As we go to press Whaddon is looking particularly beautiful. Please think about the summer competition for the cover and send in any photographs to the WQ inbox.

There is an article about Stowe which is certainly a favourite place to visit for many of us.

In the next issue we plan to look back at lockdown in Whaddon, if you have any particular memories or photographs please let us know. We plan to include some extra colour pages. We would like the Summer issue to form a record of the events and activities which make Whaddon such a special place to live.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue; you all make the magazine so special.

Best wishes

Gilli and Charlotte
Your Editors

Congratulations to **Angie Joint** for her wonderful picture on the front cover of our local lambs!

Please send your snaps for the summer issue to:
wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk



Parish Council Report

Spring always delights us each year with its unfolding succession of flowers and trees leaping into life around us and nowhere more so than in Whaddon. In past years, many good people have planted daffodils on street corners and cowslips on the green which have been our pleasure throughout April. Our pastures are brimming with ewes and their lambs. Together with a dry and sunny at times month, we have had every reason to be cheerful, particularly as the Covid situation is so vastly improved giving hope for a return to near normality by the end of June.

The beginning of May brought the postponed Local Elections for both Whaddon Parish Council and the Buckinghamshire Council, both having been postponed from last year. Whaddon Parish has never had a contested election in half a century and, yet again there exactly the same number of candidates as seats i.e. seven. Party politics has never featured at Whaddon Parish Council and is, I think, the better for that.

Two members of the Parish Council retired. First I must mention Derek White, a life-long resident of Whaddon and a Councillor since the 1970s whose wise views have helped guide the Parish Council for nearly half a century and then Graham Hain who, though for a shorter period has given equally valuable service. Thank you both. We now welcome Georgina Geddes and Jane Herriman in their place.

Local elections at County level are very different. The political battle is as intense as Westminster, (though my father and grandfather who were both County Councillors were adamantly independent! those days are sadly gone). This year was the first ever election to Buckinghamshire Council, following the abolition of the four Districts and the County Council last year; it had been postponed due to Covid.

We became part of the Winslow ward, which consists of eight villages and the town of Winslow. I was selected by the Buckingham Constituency Conservatives as one of their three candidates for Winslow and I walked and drove many miles delivering our leaflet. The other two Conservatives easily won the first two places with me contesting an incredibly close run third place with a Liberal Democrat gentleman from Winslow.

The result was 1311 votes to me and 1309 to him. Phew!

Billy Stanier

Clerk's Corner



Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

Nuisance Parking: Many residents have been dismayed by the amount of nuisance parking recently. It is illegal to park on the pavement, such that a wheelchair cannot pass, and it is illegal to park on a bend, or within 10m of a junction. Check the Highway Code for complete details. If the law is being broken, you can submit the problem on <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> and/or call the police on 101 or 999 for an emergency. And if you can provide photographic evidence, plus vehicle and driver details, dates and times it is helpful.

Return to Normal for Parish Council Meetings. The Parish Council is pleased to say meetings have reverted to face-to-face format, following a year of remote meetings. Whilst we are experimenting with having a zoom option, anyone wishing to attend the public forum in person at the start of the meeting is most welcome. We will need masks, sanitiser and social distancing for a while yet, but all are welcome to come and have their say.

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

Many residents of Whaddon Parish are not getting up-to-date and timely information about very important issues affecting our Parish. You can also get Whaddon Quarterly by email, and lots of useful notices and information, e.g., refuse collection delays, road closures, planning information, etc.

Send a short email to ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk asking to be added to the list. We promise absolutely you will NOT be 'spammed' and your details will NOT be passed on or used for any other purpose than Council and/or Police matters.

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s). The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take place at 7.00pm on 15th July 2021, 9th September 2021, 11th November 2021, 13th January 2022, 10th March 2022, at The Chapel, Stock Lane, MK17 0LU.

Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change.

Full details are also on the WPC website www.whaddonbuckspsc.org.uk.

All Welcome!

In Tribute to Cal Kier 1962 -2021



Cal was my constant and wonderful neighbour and friend for over 16 years in Whaddon. She was also the first neighbour I met moving into Vicarage Road (after the first very important introduction to her beautiful dog Zac over the garden gate). Zac's personality reflected her in every way – loyal, warm, kind, and generous of spirit. And that same garden gate would be the start of many a traditional chat - either one of us hanging over that gate to catch up with each other. Cal really loved a chat!

She also adored her natural garden, especially the roses she tended to so well – there were many wild garden flowers she picked for me to put in my kitchen over the years. Her generosity meant she just wanted to share the pleasure she got from it. Cal gave me great insight as to when and where she'd planted them with her great friend Elaine who was always there for her.

Like many people in our street, Cal supported her friends through life's great challenges we all experience – her advice and sincerity is so hard to replicate and was a massive support to me through the tough times. I honestly couldn't have got through the early days without her guidance. And she was always there for other people too – whether this was her pupils at school or friends in the village. Cal truly knew how to be the finest neighbour, always an open door with such a good and kind heart.

Cal also loved young children and had a very close connection with Whaddon school and the May Day fete (face painting was her speciality!). Her artistic flair was quite well hidden apart from her special Easter cards that she'd paint and send to me. She truly loved watching my son grow up and showed such a massive interest in his development. She taught us (both!) so much – I remember her showing us the elephant moth caterpillar, how the evening primrose flowers would open and close, rescuing a frog that jumped into my kitchen, rescuing baby birds and hedgehogs...

My sons love of nature and passion for English have been cultivated by Cal over the years. She also taught him how to hold her chickens (and was very forgiving when our dog ate one 😞).

Cal was a brilliant English teacher – one I wish I'd had the privilege of having. Her passion for the subject spilled over when she read some of my son's work – it genuinely brought joy to her face and she was a true example of how a teacher can inspire and influence children in so many ways. I remember Cal as a beautiful soul inside and out, her wonderful Cumbrian voice ringing out in the garden, her Chanel perfume and her love of humankind and the party spirit!



She brought up two wonderful children (Elly and Archie) and she would be so proud of their courage, strength, and support to her, especially at the end. All these traits they've gained from her.

I will miss her immensely.

Rachel Fensome

I feel there is not much I can add to Rachel's beautiful tribute to Cal - it says it all.

Eleven years ago, there was a knock on my door "Hello Love, I'm Cal...I just got the feeling you might need a friend...fancy a glass of wine?". I had landed in Whaddon traumatised and vulnerable having fled an abusive relationship. From that moment on I was part of the family with walk-in rights to her home. She held my hand through the next two difficult years day in day out. She fed me, clothed me, protected me, fought for me, encouraged me, gently introduced me to her closest and most trusted Vicarage Road friends, cried with me, laughed with me and literally saved my life. Elly and Archie didn't bat an eyelid as this strange woman became ever-present in their tiny cottage - it was non-negotiable and not the first time it had been a refuge and safe space.

Cal loved people and her home was always full of friends, friends of friends, young people, neighbours - her front door was always on the latch. In fact, if somebody knocked rather than walked straight in, she would immediately assume it was someone official and therefore not good news.

She was my kind, generous, huge-hearted, quirky, loyal, funny, clever, strong, vulnerable friend and I will miss her terribly. Her affinity with and love of teenagers and young people was amazing and was repaid with love and gratitude. She would be well pleased with my boys' tribute - "Cal??? The best! Quality! A total legend!"

Alex Moodie

History Half Hour

When housemaids cleaned out the grates

Anyone who has closely studied the photographs which have appeared from time to time in the *Whaddon Quarterly* highlighting the interior features of the former residence of the Selby-Lowndes family may have noticed the large fireplace.

Aristocracy employed 'skivvies' to undertake menial tasks, like dealing with fires to keep the occupants warm. For example, the poor housemaids had to light fires in grates and clean them out each day. They had a housemaid's box with a tray in the top that contained black-lead and two brushes, one for spreading the black-lead and one to polish off. There was also emery cloth to polish any iron work as well as metal polish to clean the brass; house maids of course also had dusters and cloths to clean the brass, the box to was used to collect the ashes. I have just made a housemaid's box and tray especially for Milton Keynes Museum.



It was not just a case of 'blacking' one fireplace, or even two, in the lounge or dining room – no, there were bedrooms to contend with as well. So perhaps it was not surprising, especially in the case of some working in service in 'posh' residences, for housemaids to develop their own 'techniques' of 'cutting corners' to relieve the boredom and tedium of their daily duties. For

example, it was easier and not unknown - but surely not at Whaddon Hall – for housemaids, instead of polishing both sides of all the stained and highly glossed doors in every room, to apply wax polish instead to just the door surround. The fragrance offered up by the beeswax from the door surround was probably enough to convince 'her ladyship' that the entire door had been polished.



During WW2 many changes took place at Whaddon Hall, most noticeable to any casual observer who happened to pass the semi-palatial structure were the removal of the balustrade which surrounded the building at roof level, and the erection of a chimney which exceeded the height of the building itself. The chimney, which allowed smoke and gasses to escape from a new boiler room, signified the arrival of 'central heating' in the hall for the first

time. In WW2 the then residents - service personnel and civilians alike engaged in highly secret work - had to be kept warm in winter as they went about their work in the Hall's vast rooms.

Ron Unwin

Part 2: You never quite know what you'll find while tracing family history. It can reveal names and dates, it can unravel also social history and places to visit when Britain returns to 'normal'. John Mortimer examines an engine driver in his tree and makes unexpected finds.

Work started in late 1869 necessitating 2,300 men; Batty Wife Hole accommodated the largest of three camps. In 1871 it had a population of 342. But as 1874 ended, the last stone was hauled in place so that by May 1st, 1876 the line opened for passenger services – Britain's last main-line railway built with manual labour. Over 100 navvies died; accidents, fights and smallpox to blame. Today, it is a sight worth seeing!

Back in Hessay, the new railway heralded hope for Robert. He had already explored York; they journey in reasonable comfort at four times the speed of horse and cart, made an impression: could he even become a driver?

York provided that lightbulb moment; that split second when it dawned prospects outreached any in Hessay. Farm labouring brought only basic rewards. Talking to others, he knew he could better himself in York; he must kickstart his life, even at the risk of finding new lodgings. So, by his mid-20s, Robert discarded agriculture, exchanging it for railway labouring: this meant anything from track work, in all winds and weathers, to manual work in carriage or wagon works.

Most likely Robert worked for NER; it owned virtually all the area's track. He would be employed on track work.

The arrival of good fortune

But later good fortune prevailed: the 1867 engine drivers' dispute would allow Robert's transition from labourer to driver – neither Midland Railway nor the Great Northern Railway (GNR) had similar events. But first Robert discovered more than railway labouring: he fell in love. Robert and Mary Henderson (from Sowerby) wed at St Olaf's Church in York on 28th May 1860 – 100 years to the day before our wedding!

The couple chose Cecelia Place; two lodgers bolstered Robert's wages. Cecelia Place housed a mix of employments: railway drivers and stokers, clerks and gardeners. But to become an engine driver, Robert first had to serve as a stoker, the accepted first rung. Then, in 1871, aged 40, Robert reached engine driver status. He found driving exhilarating, enthralling; careful inching of polished brass levers let life-giving steam enter cylinders, turning wheels without spin.

With that, the couple moved to Swan Street. With four children – all girls – their next-door neighbours included widow Mary Nutbrown, a laundress living with her son James, 15, a solicitor's clerk, and daughter Elizabeth, 11. Mary, like many household heads, took in boarders to supplement income; in her case, confectioned John Shee, 36. Other street residents included another blacksmith, a glassmaker, a joiner and undertaker, and a shoemaker.

A local newspaper carried a surprising item about Robert, described a "cow-keeper". The *York Herald* of Tuesday 25th September 1877 announced: A New Company — County Loan. It noted "The business proposed to be carried on by this company is the discounting of bills, making of loans, receiving deposits and dealing in money and financial business of all kinds."

Registered on 17th inst. with a capital of £20,000 in £1 shares the subscribers included Robert Mortimer, York, cow-keeper, 1. (£1 then is worth £122 now). Did cow-keeper sound more credible as an investor than engine driver? The *Investors' Guardian* item added that initially directors would be determined by subscribers; they would act *ad interim*. A general meeting would determine remuneration with John Soulby appointed managing director "for life" at a salary of £1,000 per annum, (£1,223,917.59! now), but not payable until declaration of a yearly 10% dividend on paid-up capital.



Engine driving in Robert's day lacked the humour of Edwin Jones, more commonly known as Jones the Steam in *Ivor the Engine*, the tv series created by Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin's Smallfilms company that follows a small steam locomotive's adventures in the "top left-hand corner of Wales".

Robert's job was dirty, greasy and dangerous. Even so, he relished the new freedom, remaining a driver for life.

By 1881, the family (now with three children) had escaped Swan Street to the salubrious-sounding No. 38 Oxford Street. Still in York (**see map left**), the street echoed to the

soundtrack of shunters fussing about their task; wagons rattling over points and express trains straining to gain speed.

Every day a black and white day

However, while local scenery differed from Swan Street's, Robert and Mary's neighbours' employment did not. They remained the bedrock of English town life: blacksmiths, railway workers, clerks, shoe repairers, dressmakers and bakers/confectioners. The tightly-packed, cheek-by-jowl housing, and the close interaction between neighbours emerges from the 1900 photograph of Oxford Street (**below right**). It has all elements of an L. S. Lowry (1887-1976) painting with its stylised figures, absence of shadows and without weather effects; it carries images of rectitude as women and children dutifully lined up on pavements; the warp and weft of Yorkshire life. And yet, each individual appears immaculate, working class yet without sign of lurking poverty. Immaculate; no sign of any earlier back-breaking work.



Above: Robert Mortimer's house, No. 38, is at the far end of Oxford Street on the left-hand side. The street backs onto the main line into York.

Black and white defined everyday colours.

Life on the 'street' was hard and tough, but not as tough as London's East End. But for Mary Mortimer it became harder. Lace curtains and aspidistras shielded secrets; aspidistras were 'cast iron' plants – indestructible, even if subjected to hurled plates or boots! Yet not all secrets could be withheld. The women who, in their 'Sunday best', assembled for a photograph, were the self-same as those who, each morning by 7am, were on their knees with chalk to smarten front doorsteps; white equated to perfection – any woman using Cardinal Red deserved a scowl! Yet, behind Oxford Street's innocent façade lurked underhand secrets. Inside No. 38 (**right**), Robert, had his own secret; life suddenly became twisted out of shape. He came within reach of the law.

It emerged in 1883. Aged 52, the head of No. 38 came up before the 'beak'; his name hit local newspapers. To his eternal shame and chagrin, the *York Herald* of Saturday 7th July 1883 exposed him as a 'milk adulterer'. He received a £5 fine: that's £600 today!

The raw headline in the *Herald* yelled: Milk Adulteration in York — Heavy Penalty. The item read: Robert Mortimer, engine-driver and milk-seller, Oxford-street, Holgate-lane, was summoned for adulterating milk. Mr. Proctor appeared on behalf of the Urban Sanitary Authority, and Mr. Wilkinson defended Mortimer. Mr. John Atkinson, Inspector of



Nuisances, said that on the 15th Inst he had visited the defendant's house, and there received a pint of milk from the defendant's wife, which he divided into three parts, one which he left on the defendant's premises, one he sent to the Borough Analyst (Mr. Baynes), and he kept the other himself. Witness produced a certificate from Mr. Baynes, which stated that the milk contained at least 20 per cent. of water. The Bench fined the defendant £5 and costs. News of Robert's sin was broadcast wide: the *Stamford Mercury* of Friday 6th July 1883 carried a report of a heavy fine for Robert Mortimer, engine-driver and milk dealer, of Oxford street, Holgate-lane, York. Robert was not alone; milk adulteration was commonplace, as was butter and tobacco!

Tension within the household

One can but surmise the tension within No. 38; the vicissitudes. Could even 'cast iron' aspidistras survive such turmoil? Was the family so hard pressed for money that Robert had to break the law? Quite where Robert grazed his cow is unknown, likewise how many cows or for how long he had adulterated milk. No further newspaper items appeared, so perhaps Robert was 'cured'. By then, to underpin the engine driver's income, the Mortimers accommodated two lodgers, brothers Richard Young, 30, a railway porter, and Thomas, 28, a boilermaker) besides their three children. A busy household and ample work for Mary!

Ten years on and Robert remained an engine driver; niece Martha Mortimer, 26, a domestic servant from Sicklinghall, was the couple's only companion. But not for long. Robert died on 24th June 1903 no longer an engine driver. The death certificate cites him as milk dealer. He suffered a cardiac atheroma with his wife at his side.

But Robert's tale has one last throw of the dice. The certificate shows H. Mortimer as his widow. Surely, some mistake there? Robert's wife was Mary! Yes, no? How did M become H? Well, Mary, who suffered from 'heart problems', had died aged 69 at home two years' earlier, on 17th July 1901. Mr. J. H. Mawson, L.R.C.P. (Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians), signed the certificate; he gave Mary's cause of death as acute mitral disease (a heart murmur which doctors recognised with a stethoscope). Robert then described himself as 'Railway Engine Driver'.

Just 18 months after Mary's death, and five days before Christmas 1902, Robert (71) remarried. He and Hannah Peckitt wed on 20th December at St Paul's parish church, York. Hannah's address was No.6 Upper Street, St Pauls Terrace in Holgate, York.

How did Robert and Hannah meet? Well, that is easy to answer. The year before, Hannah and sons John William, 28, (a golf green keeper at the nearby newly-opened York Golf Club) and Lewis Walter, 26, (a joiner and carpenter) lived two doors down at No. 36 Oxford Street!

Widow Hannah, 51, ran a fish and chip shop on her own account. It served also as a coffee house. And the moral? Past certificates *can* make interesting reading! Have a go. You never quite know what you'll find! It may surprise you.

** Trains came before railways: from way back, tied lines of wagons drawn used a single power source (maybe a horse or a mule [mule-train]) to move along roads with channels. The word 'train' comes from the Latin for "to draw or pull"; George Train, the American who 160 years ago inaugurated horse-drawn trams in Birkenhead, is just a coincidence (though a nice one). Railways made the idea of a train more practicable; smooth wrought iron rails and flanged wheels dramatically reduced friction; removed other obstructions, making it possible for a horse to pull loads of several tons; wrought iron rails emerged a little before steam locomotives at the start of the 19th century.*

(A superb example of Andy Gibbs's (Harlequin Printing Ltd) printing skills is my little book Robert Mortimer: Engine driver (94pp); as is the much larger, also recently completed Zerah: The tormented engineer. (682pp).

John Mortimer

Uncovering Stowe's Hidden Heart



Over the past year, many of us will have discovered new walks and locations to explore in the local area. A particular favourite with many Whaddon residents is the wonderful 250-acre National Trust estate at Stowe, near Buckingham, which has provided welcome opportunities to blow away the cobwebs throughout every stage of lockdown.

But how many of you are familiar with the magnificent building at the heart of the gardens: the house itself? Although you can hardly miss this imposing 400-room mansion as you walk the estate's paths, many people assume that the interior of the house is off-limits as it's home to the world-famous Stowe School.



However, thanks to the work of the Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT), the house - one of the finest neo-Classical mansions in Europe - is very much open to visitors. From the end of May 2021, it will once again be possible to visit this awe-inspiring building to view the latest results of this pioneering restoration project.

Stowe's interiors are truly jaw-dropping: the Marble Saloon, with its beautifully ornate domed roof and extraordinary plasterwork frieze, surely has to be one of the grandest rooms in the UK, while the Music Room, with its whimsical decoration, is a definite candidate for one of the prettiest. And SHPT has not



been idle during lockdown: it's taken the opportunity to commence the restoration of two more of the house's key rooms: the State Dining Room and the State Drawing Room. The Drawing Room ceiling, with its unusual pink and gold decorative scheme, has been repaired and regilded; the ornate fireplace has been recreated; and the walls are currently being rehung with a patterned apricot silk damask-effect wallpaper, to bring the room back more to how it would have looked when Queen Victoria visited in 1845.

Like many other heritage properties, Stowe House is now emerging from its enforced hibernation (hurray!) and will be open to visitors for the May half-term holidays (from 31 May 2021). It will be open again in the school summer holidays from 5 July. It's possible to view the house both via guided tours and also by self-guiding (and if you visit on a Tuesday or Friday, you may well receive a friendly Whaddon welcome from either Chris Robinson or me as we both work as volunteer house guides!). Pre-booking via the website is encouraged due to Covid restrictions and it is possible to visit the house without entering the National Trust grounds. House admission charges apply (although the house is free to Historic Houses Association members and there is a reduced charge for National Trust members).

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing our stories with you! www.stowehouse.org

Julia Lemagnen

Reflections from the Rectory

Last year all the churches across the country were forced to close on the 23rd March due to the National lockdown, for the first time since 23 March 1208, when worship was suspended for six years by Pope Innocent III, to punish King John. It is significant that lots of people were upset when the churches were closed, including people who don't regularly attend church. Churches have always been associated as places of sanctuary and surely in a time of crises the churches needed to remain open. After all, in our hour of greatest need don't many of us instinctively turn to God in prayer. The group of rural churches which includes Whaddon Church responded by reaching out to people in their homes, sending two weekly emails, put through the door of those without computers, and later services moved onto ZOOM which people could also access via their telephone. So, church continued providing solace and support in a different sort of way.

What is encouraging is that the Christian values that underpin the church could be seen in abundance as the country went into the first lock down. In the midst of great uncertainty love of neighbour became the mainstay. We valued the key workers who often follow in the footsteps of Jesus by default, as they put themselves at risk to serve the needs of others. I think we learned during this time how much we value human connection, and our pets, and that being with others is of far greater value than continually wanting more 'stuff'. Hopefully going forward, we might live more in harmony with our planet and stop leaving behind a legacy of plastic. And we definitely learned the value of the countryside reminding us that we can discover God through creation. In other words, we can find peace and joy and awe and wonder at the gift of life when connecting with nature.

As the Church doors open again for prayer and worship, we have started Outdoor Church for every age on the first Sunday of every month at 3pm with a particular focus on nature. We hope in time, when the COVID guidelines permit, that this will include walking through the countryside and picnics. Love our World – Outdoor Church is an opportunity to build on what we learned during this past year, as together we connect with God and each other giving thanks for the beauty of the earth and the Christian values which have stood the test of time.

Hope to see you there.

Revd. Jacqueline Dove

The Rectory, Chapel Lane, Thornborough, MK182DJ, 01280 817828

A Time for Reflection

With D-Day and Battle of Britain anniversaries upcoming it's perhaps a good time to reflect about what so might easily have been, as John Mortimer suggests.

THESE two anniversaries are important in the annals of WW2; as for recalling D-Day in Whaddon, in past years David White G3ZPA and his colleagues have used Windy Ridge to link up by Morse code signals to colleagues in France.

As to holding the event this year, David tells me: "I Don't think. We did it on 6/7th May but from Bletchley Park only, and we did make contact with them all. We decided to do it from there as we were in a nice warm room with plenty of food and hot drinks. We can't rely on the British weather outside. We haven't forgotten though, and Geoffrey Pigeon keeps in contact."

Anyone born after the end of WW2 is likely to be unaware of the abject treatment metered out by the Nazis to the Jews and others, following the invasion of Poland on 1st September 1939, should read *The German war* by Nicholas Stargardt.

Published six years ago, in June 2015, it is the author's understanding of the experiences of those who not only lived in Germany, i.e. citizens, but those who lived under German occupation during the Second World War. The book is based almost entirely on letters from individuals describing what was happening on the ground.

What happened in those first few months of the invasion of Poland and what would later unfold *had* Germany invaded Britain, is a grim reminder of the de-humanising cruelty which could have been inflicted on British people had the Battle of Britain not been successful.

The defeat of the Luftwaffe by the RAF was crucial and caused Adolf Hitler to rethink, and axe, his invasion plans, and give Britain a breathing space to go on the offensive.

Equally, the success of D-Day was of paramount importance; thankfully activities at Whaddon Hall and other local 'stations', as well as Bletchley Park played a vital part.

**FRIEND OF WHADDON, Geoffrey Pidgeon, celebrated his 95th birthday on 27 May.
Congratulations, Geoffrey.**

Whaddon Angels

Thank you to the individuals in our wonderful village who:

- ♥ Covered over poor deceased Brock the Badger
- ♥ Filled in the pathway with stones into the Chase Field
- ♥ Planted all the gorgeous daffodils this year
- ♥ Mow the Church grounds
- ♥ Picked up all the litter down the main road outside of Whaddon



If you would like to thank a Whaddon Angel, please send your thanks to the Editors for the next issue.



Happening in your village.....

Derek White retires from Whaddon Parish Council

DEREK WHITE (**right**) is one of few people – possibly only two – not only to have been born here in Whaddon, before the war, but has lived in the village for his entire life. To add to this uniqueness Derek has given 47 unstinting, unbroken years of service on the Whaddon Parish Council.

Anyone who has conversed with Derek will very quickly be aware of his wide, and deep knowledge of the countryside, including all wildlife and animal husbandry.

This knowledge has been bolstered through his agriculturally based working life. After leaving school he worked at Bottle House Farm for Mr. (Bob) Bullock, and then moved to the Milk Marketing Board's Cattle Breeding Centre where he stayed for 33 Years before going to M S F animal feed mill at Finmere where he was for 10 years

Derek was born into a hunting family just before the war; his great grandfather was huntsman for the Whaddon Chase Hunt between the two world wars when the two royal princes – the Prince of Wales (later Duke of Windsor*) and the Duke of York (who became King George VI) – hunted with them and the old Squire (William Selby-Lowndes) was Master.

At a personal level, Derek has a deep understanding of clocks and clock machinery having tended the Church clock for many years; and he has a love of bell ringing, having been tower captain of St Mary's Church, Whaddon, for 40 years. He also loves his garden alongside Sue, his wife, and used to grow vegetables on the allotments in Vicarage Road.

Whaddon's Parish Council will sorely miss Derek's wise council, his words of wisdom and experience.

He told me he would love to have completed 50 years, but he felt that the Council would like some new, younger councillors and sadly thought it time to go.



John Mortimer

**See Whaddon Quarterly, August 2020, p. 42, and the reference to the Duke of Windsor and Mrs. Wallis Simpson.*

St Mary's Whaddon Churchyard Management Plan

Whaddon Churchyard for many years has been expertly cared for by Barry Dudley and people have come to expect high standards. You might have noticed that some of the churchyard has been left to grow. This is the result of a new Churchyard Management Plan adopted by the PCC (Parochial Church Council) which is briefly explained here.

The churchyard – God's acre – can become a sanctuary for the living as well as the dead, with an abundance and diversity of indigenous and naturalized wildlife. We are proposing this year to explore ways in which to manage the churchyard that are sympathetic to the natural habitat and ecology of native plants and animals.

This can be achieved by designating some parts as 'meadow areas', which are mown less frequently in order to allow wildflowers to grow and set seed, and other parts as permanent close-mown grass. When defining these areas, it is important to bear in mind that the churchyard should be

- A pleasant, reflective place for congregation and visitors
- A fit and proper setting for the church
- An environment in keeping with the purpose of burial and memorials to those who have been cremated, with an atmosphere of respect and commemoration for the departed
- A haven for grasses, wildflowers, trees, birds, butterflies and other wild creatures.

In order to determine the best way to achieve this, we propose to set up 'meadow areas'. The meadow areas will be left uncut until the end of September in the first year, to allow any wildflowers to bloom and set seed. The cuttings will then be removed. There will be a further cut at the end of October, again with removal of cuttings. This is important to reduce the fertility of the soil and encourage a greater diversity of wildflowers.

Other areas of the churchyard will be mown as at present, cutting regularly and closely.

The church is hoping to form a Churchyard Management team made up of those who already help with cutting the grass and those who would be interested in helping to develop the wildflower meadow area.

If you are interested, please contact:

Barry Dudley: barry.dudley@sky.com or telephone: 01908 505727

Whaddon Bellringers Remember HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

On the 17th of April, with the flag of St George lowered to a proud yet respectful half-mast atop the tower, a lone bell tolled at St. Mary's church, marking the occasion of the funeral of His Royal Highness Prince Philip later that day. Ninety-nine times it sounded, once for each full year of the Prince's life.

Phillip Starr

St. Mary's Church – Whaddon



Regular Services

1 st Sunday	3.00pm Outdoor Church Informal all age worship
2 nd Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion - shortened Covid version
3 rd Sunday	No service this month
4 th Sunday	8.30am Said Holy Communion - shortened version
5 th Sunday	Benefice service at one of the churches - venue to be notified

Whaddon Services

June		
8	3.00pm	Love our World Outdoor Church
13	10.30am	Holy Communion
20		No Service
27	8.30am	Holy Communion (Traditional)

July		
4	3.00pm	Love our World Outdoor Church
11	10.30am	Holy Communion
18	10.30am	Cafe Church
25	8.30am	Holy Communion (Traditional)

August		
1	3.00pm	Love our World Outdoor Church
8	10.30am	Holy Communion
15	10.30am	Cafe Church (Patronal Festival)
22	8.30am	Holy Communion (Traditional)
29	10.30am	Benefice Service at Thornborough with picnic at the rectory

Hazel Hedges
Churchwarden
01908 501729
Hazel.hedges@gmail.com

Reverend Jacqueline Dove
01280 817828
revjdove@gmail.com

Linda McIver
Hon Sec to Whaddon PCC
01908 330 904

Dates for Your Diary

- ♥ The **Annual Parish Church Meeting** will take place on July 11th immediately after the 10.30 am service at around 12 noon. The Annual Reports will be presented, and PCC members and church officers elected. If you would like to join the PCC, or become a sides person please contact Rev Dove, Hazel Hedges or the Hon Sec, Linda McIver (details below). It is proposed to follow the meeting with a light lunch in the Jubilee Hall (restrictions permitting). This will be your opportunity to comment on the life of your church and say how you would like the church to move forward and better serve your needs. After such a long lockdown when the church had to be closed, it is not easy to resume church attendance, but we do hope that more of you will feel able to attend.
- ♥ **Bucks Historic Churches Trust** invites you to join the annual "Ride & Stride" in September to raise funds to provide grants for Bucks churches repairs (details nearer the time). St Mary's has had many grants from the Trust over the years towards repairs and restoration so your support of this event will be appreciated
- ♥ **Café Church** on the 3rd Sunday will start in July at 10.30am. It will provide an informal space to meet up with others to talk about some of the big (and not so big) questions of life over a cuppa and croissant. The hope is to create a caring community as we share our hopes and fears, held together by the love of God and each other.
- ♥ We still need volunteers to help with **cleaning** the church on a rota basis. If you can give any time to dust the pews or Hoover the carpets or polish the brass, please contact Rev Dove or Hazel Hedges. All materials are supplied!
- ♥ Volunteers to do **flowers** for the main altar and Lady Chapel vases, perhaps in memory of someone, are asked to contact Janet Spencer on 01908 502540. The small vases do not lend themselves to large arrangements, so no great expertise is needed.
- ♥ **The Blackthorn Chase Benefice** - I am pleased to be able to tell you that the creation of the new benefice has been accepted by the Church and received Royal Assent. Rev Dove can now be licensed as Rector of the Benefice, rather than the vicar.

We invite you to join us at any of our services when you can be sure of a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you very soon.



Whaddon Allotments

Whaddon's Enthusiastic Band of Allotmenters welcomed a new gate and pathway to their allotments, completed on 10th May. Paid for by generous grants from Buckinghamshire Council and Elmer's Charity, the smart new gate and path will provide easy safe access for users and visitors, and improve security for tools and equipment, to say nothing of the improved appearance.

Thanks are due to the Dave and Dan Handymen for their hard work and high standards of finish. It was a big job involving shifting an astonishing 13 tonnes of pathway materials!

Behind the project is Lee Ann Stephen who has been the inspiration and driving force for the repurposing of a sadly neglected village asset. Thanks to her we have a thriving friendly community



of gardeners, a huge boost to interest in environmental issues and growing top quality organic produce, and a wonderful transformation from overgrown neglected weed patch to valuable community asset.

Three cheers to everyone for their hard work and success!

We have something to be really proud of.

Suzanne - WPC Clerk.

Whaddon Jubilee Hall

The Committee is very pleased to see that the hall is gradually coming back to life, as restrictions ease and groups are comfortable to meet again, albeit with added precautionary measures.

So far, Baby College, Chase Choir and the Night Owls WI have been meeting, along with the Post Office on Tuesday afternoon 1.30-3.00pm, which has continued throughout the pandemic. Anyone wishing to book the hall for a regular group meeting is advised that a risk assessment is required to be submitted to the bookings clerk before commencement of hiring. This does not apply for one-off bookings.



The hall can be hired for £9 per hour (village residents' rate) or £13 per hour (non-residents' rate). Obviously, at the moment, we need to ensure everyone's safety, so additional precautions will need to be in place, and the Hall has its own procedures, risk assessment and Covid-compliant hire arrangements in place.

It's great to see the village hall used again and we look forward to more bookings in due course. For details, please feel free to contact Marianna Beckwith on 01908 503194.

Tuesday 1.30pm -3.30pm Post Office in Jubilee Hall

Volunteers sought to help with *Teas on Tuesday* in the Jubilee Hall.

Sue White and Margaret Barrie have run *Teas on Tuesday* [in the Jubilee Hall 14:00 – 15:45] for about 10 years, until the Covid lockdown obliged them to suspend this. We hope that Covid restrictions will soon end, so that *Teas on Tuesday* may resume.

If you know how to make a cup of tea, and are free on occasional Tuesday afternoons, then please volunteer to perpetuate this weekly gathering. If you like gossiping and could bake a cake you would be ideal.

But if you merely like to drink tea or coffee and nibble a biscuit just turn up and discuss the latest scandals.

The Jubilee Hall Committee



Whaddon Women's Institute



All our members are still keeping well and in March we were lucky to have another Zoom meeting with our speaker Daphne who taught us about spinning plates – no, not the ones that we all think we are spinning at one time, but the movement of our planet Earth. We heard about volcanos that appear from nowhere, cracks so big that suddenly appear in the ground big enough for oxen to fall into, and volcano tourism. We learnt that Vesuvius in the bay of Naples erupted in AD79 and also that 800 million people live close to volcanos (really???) as the soil is good, however ash is like shards of glass. There are 1500 active volcanos worldwide and changing plate boundaries as seen for example in the Rift Valley. A very interesting afternoon indeed!

Easter came and went and although we still weren't able to meet up each had a special treat, courtesy of our members Mala and Mary, in the shape of an Easter bag (see photo) containing Easter eggs and egg cups and a pretty hand-made card. A great way of keeping in touch!



We are delighted that all 10 of our members decided to renew their membership. Our lovely little group will continue for another year.

Because of the continuing Coronavirus situation, we sadly had to cancel our April outing to play croquet, but I'm sure we will try again later in the year.

In May it was our 85th birthday – amazing for our tiny village - and to celebrate we had a fascinating talk, again via Zoom, from Hearing Dogs. We were surprised to learn that each dog costs £40,000 to breed, feed, train and to support throughout their working life and that 159 dogs had been trained so far this year. We were treated to a demonstration of how the dogs are taught to nudge their recipients to alert them to a doorbell, timer, telephone etc., and to lead them to the sound and to lay down to warn that a smoke alarm had gone off. Great care is taken to match each dog with their recipient. A hearing dog can be sponsored for as little as £3 per month. The organisation welcomes volunteer support even for a few hours occasionally. We even had a chance to learn some sign language!! It was a great pleasure to see the dogs and their trainers Mary and John in action.

In June we are hoping once again to get together at our annual garden party. Will it rain again?? We will see, but whatever the weather we will enjoy ourselves!!

In July all being well we will welcome Gill from Titfers who is a local milliner to demonstrate how to wear and to choose the correct hat which we are really looking forward to.

We will also have an open meeting on 16th July in the village hall when we will welcome villagers to come along and meet our MP Greg Smith (see poster). We do hope we will see you there.

Our little group would like to welcome you to our W.I. We usually meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall in Whaddon and we hope that this will start again soon.

If you would like any further details, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jill Aitken (Secretary) 01908 502781



Whaddon W.I. would like to invite you to come along and meet your MP

Greg Smith



Friday 16th July 2021 at 6.15 for 6.45

Jubilee Hall, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

Please come along and join us

Your chance to meet Greg and ask him your questions

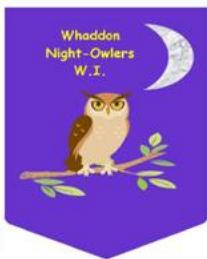
Tickets £6 per person to include refreshments available from:

Jill – 502781

Nesta – 505574

* raffle *

Looking forward to seeing you there!



Whaddon Night Owls

During lockdown this year we have been keeping going with our meetings via that miracle of modern technology known as Zoom. We have had a variety of speakers and it has been surprisingly good to interact with each other via a screen. A welcome change! It's always nice to have a chat, and a cold evening, doing it from the comfort of your own living room has its benefits!

For Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter we have also been sharing gifts to bring us together - one member made the Easter boxes pictured here, another made cards for everyone, another sourced mini chocolate eggs for the boxes and others delivered them to everyone in time for Easter treats. It was a delight to get a surprise gift and the personal handmade element made it even more of a joy.



Over the next few months we are looking forward to getting back to our normal meetings and have a wide range of activities and speakers booked - including stained glass, art trail walking, the Parks Trust - all following on from an amazing virtual walking tour of Cambridge where we learned about how cars get on to the roofs of college buildings and strange clocks with different faces.

If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome - please contact Daphne on 01908 502088. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm, normally in the Jubilee Hall, currently on Zoom but hopefully not for much longer!

Alison Cross



Chase Choir is very excited. We're saying farewell to Zoom and getting ready to start rehearsals in person once again and we can't wait! Rehearsing on Zoom brings its challenges and we were more than ready to meet them during lockdown. To be fair, we couldn't have done it without the superhuman enthusiasm of our lovely choir leader, Karen Logan and our awesome accompanist, Ros Whatmore. Their hard work each week has meant that we

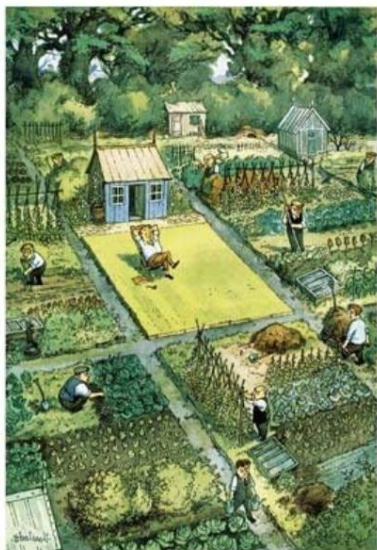
could see each other and sing "together" as the weeks and months dragged past. It's been just what we needed, but now the time has come to get back to the proper way of rehearsing as a choir: together!

Rehearsals will look a bit different for the time being. We'll be in smaller groups and taking all the precautions we can to make ourselves and each other safe, until we can all congregate once more. It'll be a good way to ease back in, while we're all feeling just a little bit new to this mingling with others malarkey; it's been so long since we've been able to do it!

Our "out of lockdown" celebratory recording of Hallelujah is almost ready, thanks to technical wizardry and Paul Logan's extreme patience, so we're all looking forward to seeing and hearing that too. In the meantime, it's almost business as usual and, as the meme goes: Keep Calm and Carry on Singing! Fancy joining us? Contact Karen on 01908 501922 or Marianna on 01908 503194 for more details. We meet on Mondays at the village hall.

Marianna Beckwith

Reflections of an Allotment Gardener



What a strange Spring we have had! One of the driest Aprils on record, certainly the sunniest on record and the lowest average minimum temperatures for April since 1922. Jack Frost certainly did some damage – at least in my garden, with tender shoots on hydrangeas and my infant fig tree badly burnt.

Now we are into May with warmer winds and the April showers have finally arrived! But do watch out – it is a rare May when we do not have some frost about, so don't be in hurry to plant out those tender seedlings – especially beans. Hardening off is really important and should be done over a period of a few weeks, from a heated greenhouse – if you are lucky enough to have one, to a cold frame, which you can close at night. If you don't have a cold frame, a sheltered spot close to the house or shed will do, where the young plants will be protected.

From this week onwards, you should be ok to move slightly tender plants such as agapanthus, pelargoniums and dahlias outside, but do keep an eye on those night-time temperatures. Tomatoes can also

be put into their final greenhouse growing positions.

This year, I planted two troughs with mixed salad seeds and grew them in the propagator in the greenhouse. I eventually moved them into the cold frame and as a result, we have been eating fresh mixed leaves every day for the past month, although they are running low now.

The spring bulbs are now well past their prime, but everything else is starting to grow – fast! This is the first year that I have been able to properly harvest my asparagus bed, planted three years ago, and this week, we have sampled our first tender stalks – yummy!

In the garden, take care to stake those fast-growing perennials before the wind can blow them over. Twiggy pruning's make good stakes and blend into the borders.

Of course, the other things which really grow fast in May are weeds – do try to keep on top of them, otherwise it can become a major job!

Down in Vicarage Road, great things have been happening on the allotment site, with a host of new gardeners joining up so that I believe almost all the plots have been taken. The Parish Council secured some funding for us to improve the site, with a new gate and a wider central path. The social area has now been developed with a 'field' kitchen, shelter and even a composting loo (not sure if anyone has tried it yet!).

As we move into June, it will be time to sow tender vegetables such as squashes, French beans, sweetcorn. I am hoping for great things from my one surviving artichoke, the last survivor of the three that I grew from seeds two years ago, but we will have to see.

So, enjoy your gardening and growing!

Paul Logan

Information for our village....

North Bucks Villages Oil Buying Co-operative

Do you use heating oil? If so, did you know about the North Bucks Villages Oil Buying Co-operative?

Around ten years ago Whaddon's villagers got together to purchase heating oil as a group, to obtain a better price at a time when prices were going through the roof and hitting record highs. Over the years residents of adjoining villages found out about the advantages to be gained, and have joined the group, and all benefit from worth-while savings on an ongoing basis.

Interested? Here's how it works... Once a month the volunteer coordinator contacts all the members by email to ask for orders and accumulates a bulk order. (Minimum individual order is 500L.) Then he polls all the local suppliers for the best price and delivery terms for the bulk order and places the order for delivery in the coming few weeks. Then purchasers are advised via a second email of the price obtained and the chosen supplier.

A few days prior to the delivery the supplier will contact the purchaser directly to confirm the delivery date and take payment details (the purchaser must pay promptly). The only other job is to remember to unlock your gate and oil tank on the day of delivery.

Obviously, if your oil top up is an emergency then this once monthly delivery is not for you, but it is great for regular deliveries as you get a monthly reminder to check your tank and keep from running out.

Participants benefit from saving time phoning around suppliers checking for the cheapest price and best delivery terms and save quite a few pennies per litre because of the size of bulk order. Suppliers like having big orders with lots of drops in close proximity so they are keen to oblige! Savings are well worth having.

If you are interested in joining, drop an email to oil@northbucksos.co.uk and ask to be added to the list. There is no obligation to order, and the coordinator does not take any fees for his work, it is purely done on the basis of goodwill and voluntary work.

The Lowndes Arms

Outdoor Opening times
Friday 3-10pm
Saturday 1-10pm
Sunday 12.30-5pm

Drink, Eat and relax - No bookings just turn up



Inside The Lowndes Arms

Nice to see so many local faces again and we are looking forward to meeting all the new residents within the village.





The inside of the pub as had a re-ferb, with new beverages including the Box Brothers Gin and gluten-free beer! Our new menu will be launched in June!

We have loads of exciting events to look forward to over the summer months; hope everyone becomes a part of it! No need to book a table as we have 67 tables out in our lovely big garden! We will be continuing with our Sunday roast takeaway service £11.95

If anyone is looking to hold an event of any kind, please contact us directly and we do our best to fulfil your requirements. **The Lowndes Arms**

Bin Days

The Council have a very handy website: <https://www.aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk/find-your-bin-day> and an app which tells you each week what to do. However:

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans and tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable	Garden Waste Bin: 
Wednesday 2 June		Wednesday 2 June	Wednesday 2 June
	Tuesday 8 June	Tuesday 8 June	
Tuesday 15 June		Tuesday 15 June	Tuesday 15 June
	Tuesday 22 June	Tuesday 22 June	
Tuesday 29 June		Tuesday 29 June	Tuesday 29 June
	Tuesday 6 July	Tuesday 6 July	
Tuesday 13 July		Tuesday 13 July	Tuesday 13 July
	Tuesday 20 July	Tuesday 20 July	
Tuesday 27 July		Tuesday 27 July	Tuesday 27 July
	Tuesday 3 August	Tuesday 3 August	
Tuesday 10 August		Tuesday 10 August	Tuesday 10 August



The Bucks Town & Country Show

the show with something for everybody

www.buckscountryshow.co.uk

26th and 27th June

Rye Park, Bassetsbury Way, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 1AN

FREE PARKING, DOGS WELCOME 10.30 - 5.30

ADULTS £9.50
CHILDREN £4.50
UNDER 5 FREE

INCLUDING:

- FESTIVALS OF CARS
- FALCONRY/WRESTLING
- DOG & DUCK/HEAVY HORSES
- ACROBATICS/THE ZULU'S
- COOKERY DEMO'S/HISTORY

DISCOUNTED TICKETS ONLINE

Quintessentially British Events, Classic Festivals and Events brings you:

The Bucks Town and Country Show

26th and 27th June

10.30am– 5.30pm

WITH SO MANY AMAZING ATTRACTIONS

We are extremely excited and cannot wait for the Bucks Town and Country Fair at The Rye, High Wycombe! What can you look forward to?

- We are delighted with our Motorbike display and attraction area at the show on both days with our fantastic motorbike and BMX bike team. Fancy a go with on a BMX with a UK Champion, come along to The Bucks Town and Country Show!
- Our main area will have some fantastic demonstrations this year to include Barrel Racing thanks to the UK Barrel Racing Team, the inspiring Dog and Duck Shows with the amazing Chris Jupp and his beautiful Collie dog and fabulous runner ducks, Falconry with the World of Wings birds of prey displays thanks to the wonderful Ange and Rick and their excellent routines, African Dancers and Living History displays.
- Our Festival of Cars area has had amazing array of entries on both days with many different and exciting cars for all those car fans out there.
- Our Foodmarkets area will have some wonderful producers, Cookery demonstrations with some amazing Chefs including Italian Chef Claudio Bincoletto and many others.
- The Bucks Festivals of Dogs area at the show is hugely popular with Charity Fun Dog Shows (raising £3,800 for Charities in 2019), Owner and Celebrity Lookalike Competition, Dog Agility, Dogs Have Got Talent, Flyball and so much more.
- Circus Aerial Displays three times a day to the Greatest Showman as well as Magic Shows with was that one rabbit or seven? We are so excited to also announce our outdoor Theatre performances of The Buccaneers.
- Fancy a bit of Abba in our music area, well come along to the show and enjoy the Abba Tribute Band playing daily along with five other bands. We will also be joined again by the wonderful Wrestleforce Team with some wrestling fun, fun, fun.
- The Bucks Festivals of Kids - come along and meet Classisaurus our T-Rex Dinosaur who will be joined by his storm trooper friends who will be at the show this year. Lots for the children to do including Punch and Judy, Gemma's Petting Farm, rides and loads more fun.
- Rural Crafters – come along visit and support our avenue of Rural Crafters this year who will be demonstrating their crafts as well as selling them. Visit our Living History Village and try your luck with our Living History Archery and do not forget last but not least the opportunity to do some amazing shopping with our array of stands at the show.

The Bucks Town and Country Fair runs 10.30am – 5.30pm on 26th and 27th June at Rye Park, Bassetsbury Lane, High Wycombe, HP11 1AN.

For ticket information visit: www.classicfestivalstickets.co.uk.

Winslow & District Community Bus Timetable

Route 54a/b/c - Wednesday Winslow Market Service Timetable

**07483 336440 | wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com |
www.winslowbus.com**

Route 54a - Swanbourne, Mursley, Lt Horwood

Stops	Outward	Return
Winslow, Vicarage Road	n/a	11.20
Swanbourne, Village Hall	09.34	11.26
Mursley, War Memorial	09.38	11.30
Lt Horwood, bus stop	09.43	11.35
Winslow, Magpie Way	9.47	11.39
Winslow, Vicarage Road	9.49	n/a

Route 54b - Gt Horwood, Whaddon, Nash

Stops	Outward	Return
Winslow, Vicarage Road	n/a	11.45
Gt Horwood, Church	n/a	11.51
Whaddon, School	10.02	12.00
Nash, opp Church	10.06	12.04
Gt Horwood, Church	10.10	n/a
Winslow, Vicarage Road	10.16	n/a

Route 54c - The Claydons

Stops	Outward	Return
Winslow, Vicarage Road	n/a	12.15
East Claydon, Dead Tree	n/a	12.22
Middle Claydon, Church	10.26	12.26
Steeple Claydon, The Fountain	10.30	12.30
Botolph Claydon	10.36	12.36
East Claydon, Dead Tree	10.38	n/a
Winslow, Vicarage Road	10.45	n/a

Neighbourhood Watch

UNSCRUPULOUS TRADERS

Important advice from Thames Valley Alert



Over the past 12 months we've all been spending a lot more time at home and as a result building and home improvement projects have never been more popular.

Sadly, unscrupulous traders have taken advantage of the surge in demand.

There is an increase in consumers sourcing their tradespeople via community Facebook groups and pages. A typical post might go along the lines of "Does anyone know a builder who can quote for our extension project." People are then using the recommendations in the responses to source their tradesperson, without doing any further research on the person/company recommended.

Please do your homework before engaging with any tradesperson before allowing them to work on your home and garden.

- Always get three quotes for any work you want commencing
- Get the work expected in writing with a price, make sure you are happy with what's being listed as the work that will be undertaken
- If you're relying on a recommendation then do so from someone you know and trust, a friend, neighbour or relative.
- Go and see the work the tradesperson did for that person.
- Were they happy and was the work up to standard?
- Use traders who are registered with their trader's guild
- **Never use tradespeople who knock on your door** looking for work, good tradespeople are booked up weeks or months ahead of time

Remember that you have cancellation rights of 14 days if the contract is made away from trade premises.

This is a cooling off period to think about the quote given and maybe seek advice as to whether the price quoted is reasonable. It's important to remember to avoid allowing a tradesperson to start the job before the 14 days are up. If you do, you're waiving your right to cancel and the trader must confirm in writing that the consumer is waiving their right to cancel by allowing the job to commence.

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: 01908 526033
David MacIntyre	2a, Vicarage Road. Tel: 01908 867836
Howard Jones	8, Ladymead. Tel: 01908 501871
Sally Telford	4a, Stock Lane. Tel:01908 336960
Pauline Winward	1, Whaddon Hall. Tel: 01908 502559

Development Updates

Salden Chase – 1,855 New Homes - (between Bottledump roundabout and Newton Longville

The MKC appeal to determine whether or not the A421 (and various other improved roundabouts and junctions) are capable of serving this major development commenced on May 11th, and was programmed to last for 9/10 days, The Inspector referred to the WPC objection letter during his opening remarks, but in truth this site is more about Newton Longville and Bletchley, although if the development proceeds (and my guess is that it will), then at some stage Whaddon will benefit from approx £22,000 (section 106 agreement money) towards improved traffic calming, following your Parish Council’s successful argument that the development will increase the amount of traffic passing through the village. This money will eventually be earmarked towards designing a 20mph speed zone around the village school.

Unfortunately however the updated Traffic Assessment (undertaken in part due to WPC concerns that certain roads were closed during the data collection period) concluded that the Coddimoor Lane/Stock Lane/ Shenley Road junction even in the worst traffic increase scenarios would continue to work well within capacity, and therefore no further mitigation was required at this junction.

A successful appeal outcome will allow Bucks C. to formally approve the Salden Chase planning application, which in turn will lead to ‘at least’ 1150 new homes being built at Shenley Park, because the A421 capacity issues will have been resolved. This assumes that the Inspector on the recent VALP Hearings accepts Bucks C. site selection process - and if he does, further ‘traffic’ discussions will then have to occur regarding improvements to Whaddon’s roads and junctions.

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Shenley Park, Whaddon

At Least 1,150 New Homes - (between Briary View and Milton Keynes)

All residents should recall that Whaddon P.C. (and others) persuaded the VALP Inspector to hold further Hearing Sessions to examine the plans ‘Soundness’. The session relating to ‘Land near Milton Keynes - including Shenley Park’, was held on the 15th and 29th, when WPC participated virtually.

It is worth noting that at the beginning of each of the 7 sessions held over 5 days, the Inspector stressed that *"It was not his job to make the plan better, but to ensure that Bucks Council had compiled it properly and to ensure that it was sound"*. He then set out his understanding of individual issues followed by a summary of Bucks Council’s response to the objections raised by public consultees.

The first Shenley Park session covered “Reasonable Alternative sites”, followed by “Landscape; Biodiversity and Sustainability”. As was expected the agents for the developers (for the alternative sites at Eaton Leys, Salden Chase extension and Newton Leys West), questioned the

Council's selection process and challenged many of the findings - especially on traffic, Landscape and flooding (as did WPC), but the Council officers led by their Lead Planning Advocate were always given the 'last word' to answer any criticism and to sum up. The Inspector took copious notes, and rarely intervened - unless he required clarification on particular points. It was difficult to make any judgement as to his thinking although personally, I had the feeling that at times he was just going through the motions, and had already made up his mind - but I may be proven wrong?

The second full day session covered "Viability; Transport; Other Infrastructure ; Duty to Cooperate ; Coalescence and Capacity". The proceedings were very much like the first session (with occasional 'blips' in the technology!), but some very interesting debate occurred between Milton Keynes Council, Bucks Council and Crest Homes on viability issues (the cost of providing necessary highway infrastructure to the acceptable standards required by MKC, and the division of section 106 payments arising from the development between the two councils). The transport debate was lengthy and detailed with accusations that Bucks Council had ignored their own Highway Dept's evidence that the Buckinghamshire network was 'least disrupted' if the 1150 new homes at Shenley Park were deleted and placed at Eaton Leys - but we will have to wait to see how the Inspector finds those arguments.

WPC argued strongly that Bucks had totally disregarded the high volume of traffic and transport concerns - which far outweighed the objections made on landscape and flooding - but the Council had then proceeded to make their final site selection based on those two 'relatively minor' factors anyway. WPC also made the case for A421 improvements, and strongly argued whether the new 'grid road' through Shenley park (connecting the A421 with H6 or H7) can possibly address the rat-running problems through Whaddon as Bucks Council claim that it will. In addition, your PC stressed the need for more detail on the future alignment/calming of Shenley Road and Coddimore Lane, to fully understand the significance of what might occur in traffic terms. The answer to these questions came - like in so many other instances - that the Government and NPPF rules on the allocation of 'Strategic Sites' should not go into this finer grain of detail. If the site is finally allocated by the Inspector these 'non-strategic' matters will be dealt with at the later 'Development Brief' and 'detailed planning application stages' where, once again residents would be able to make comments. However, it should be remembered that by this stage the site will have been included within an 'adopted' Plan, and is certain to happen!

Before the session ended the promoters of Eaton Leys strongly questioned the Bucks Council strategy on landscape constraint and site capacity, because they were effectively ignoring their own landscape evidence which suggested that only the northern half of the site (between Shenley road and Briary Plantation) was sustainable and properly developable. This was not the Inspectors understanding of the evidence provided, nor the view of Bucks C. who explained that the whole site was developable with careful mitigation - but nevertheless, the Inspector asked Bucks C. to provide an explanatory note on this issue - which has yet to be received.

Some doubts and concerns arose from a very late 'Memorandum of Agreement' that had been drawn up and agreed between Crest Homes and Bucks Council and was provided to the Inspector - and the Hearing participants - just the day before!

Despite a robust challenge by all concerned, I would be surprised if the Inspector found that the VALP, and the proposed allocation of Shenley Park was unsound, but we will have to wait a couple of months for his final and binding decision.

If the site is approved and the VALP adopted later this year, It is anticipated that Crest Homes will publish their 'Proposed Development Brief' very quickly. This document will provide details of numbers, land use, layout etc., together with any mitigation measures to overcome landscape, coalescence and traffic concerns.

We live in an area, which many believe is physically under threat of urbanisation, which could lead to Whaddon being 'swallowed up' by large scale housing development, and losing its individual identity and unique community 'feel' that has survived successfully since Domesday Book days. Shenley Park could be viewed as such a threat, but it is also an opportunity for residents to come together and address village sustainability in the context of the bigger picture, not only in terms of improved amenity but also as a place where individuals can relate to the heritage and the landscape surrounding Milton Keynes. The 'Development Brief' stage is when residents, and the whole village, will have the opportunity to make their views known.

OUT OF INTEREST - If readers missed the village email sent round recently, and would like to watch a short and interesting 'Planning and traffic' film, take a look at www.maidsmoretonmatters.org where our near neighbours at Maids Moreton face a similar but smaller (170 new homes) VALP battle to that faced in Whaddon.

Whaddon Planning Briefs

The following current and new planning matters were discussed at the Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th May 2021.

UPDATES ON EXISTING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

20/01938/APP - BEACHAMPTON - Grove Farm, Stratford Road, Whaddon. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and annex with associated landscaping.

Decision still awaited, nothing new has appeared on the planning web page since 19th February.

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

Decision still awaited.

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

Although not in our 'patch', it was agreed at an earlier WPC meeting to raise an objection on traffic and safety grounds to this application for a gas tanker offloading facility, as the delivery routes were unknown, and might even pass through Whaddon village? Although a final decision is still awaited, the Health and Safety Executive have recently confirmed that they do not advise against refusal on safety grounds but make the point that the final decision rests with Bucks Council. The number of local resident objections has increased from circa 1250 to in excess of 1450.

21/00085/APP - 1 Shenley Road, Whaddon.

Fenestration/material changes.

Householder consent granted on 15th March 2021.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

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

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

Decision awaited, and whilst WPC has not commented on the application itself, has maintained its earlier position asking Bucks. C. for clarification on what action - if any - will be taken to monitor the dog training use that is allowed by permitted development to occur on 28 days each year (parking, noise, operation hours).

Note:- The enforcement case that relates to the planning application 17/00359/CON3, is still ongoing with, we understand, the enforcement officer still speaking to the applicant.

21/01445/APP - 'Turrets', 26 High Street, Whaddon.

Garage conversion to home gym.

'Turrets' is a grade II listed building standing within the High Street Conservation Area. The proposal replaces two up and over doors with two pairs of french doors, together with bricking up a side personal entrance door and the construction of a shower room within the existing structure.

Whilst it is always disappointing to lose garage spaces the Hall is served by a private road with no off site (on road) parking, but there appears ample room for parking two vehicles on the existing driveway. WPC recommendation is 'No Objection', but with a need to use matching materials.

21/0444/ALB - 'Turrets', 26 High Street, Whaddon.

Insertion of lantern roof light into existing flat roof, and removal of internal wall.

Listed building consent sought to make two smaller rooms into a functional lounge dining room, with a centrally located roof light above. Although within the conservation area and Grade II listed the elevation drawing shows that the roof light will barely be visible through the turreted facade. WPC recommendation is 'No Objection'.

21/01368/APP - 2 Chase Farm Barns, Mursley Road, Whaddon.

Erection of single storey oak framed rear extension.

Centrally located in a wide rear elevation, with gardens backing onto open fields, this 8m wide by 4m deep 'dayroom' appears to have little or no impact on neighbouring properties. WPC recommendation is 'No Objection'.

21/01334/APP - 8 Vicarage Road, Whaddon.

Single storey rear extension, and internal alterations.

The proposal does not extend beyond a similar extension approved and built next door some 10 years ago. The two Velux windows present no overlooking problems, and due to aspect the extension is unlikely to block much light from the kitchen window (not a habitable room) to the south. There is a rear right of way that should be respected and kept clear at all times, and this may be a condition that Bucks C. should impose. Although not listed, these terraced row houses are considered to be buildings of 'Local Note', and stand within the Stock Lane Conservation Area. The WPC recommendation is 'No Objection', but with a matching materials condition.

APPEAL - APP/P0430/W/21/3269545. - Park Hill Farm, A421 (opp Horwood turn)

Recontouring of Agricultural Land using inert Clays and Soils.

This appeal by Churchill Waste Management Ltd, follows the refusal of application CM/0033/20, on 23rd Oct. 2020. The appeal will be heard by 'Written representations. It is normal practice for the Planning authority to submit comments made at the planning application stage to the Inspectorate, so both WPC 'objection' letters dated 15th July and 14th August, will be presented to and considered by the Inspector. No further representation was considered necessary. A decision is likely before the end of this year.

PLEASE REMEMBER that you can view these or any other planning applications, on the AVDC planning website by simply Googling: AVDC planning simple search, then open this link, highlight the appropriate search (i.e. application or appeal) and then type in the planning application reference in the box provided then click 'search'. Open the documents and inspect the public papers that are of interest to you.

The next meeting of Whaddon Parish Council where any new planning applications will be discussed, will be held on Wednesday 7th July at 7.00pm in the Village Chapel. All members of the public are welcome to attend, but it is likely that the wearing of masks, and social distancing could still apply - so watch the 'Bus Stop' notice board for full details, and the agenda, in the week beforehand.

Graham Stewart



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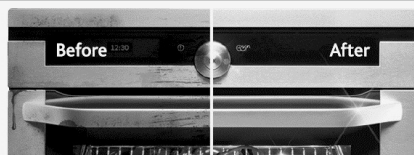
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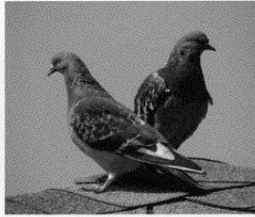
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