

WHADDON QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2021



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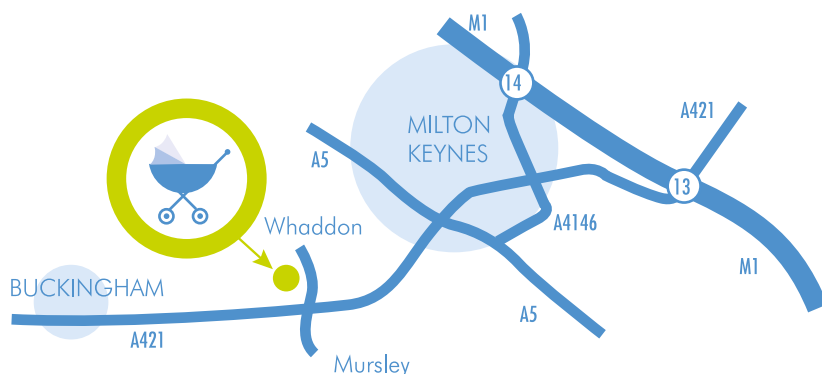
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Whaddon Quarterly

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For comments, queries and articles

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wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

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Advertising Rates and Publication Policy – page 42

LETTER

From the Editors



Welcome to the summer issue of Whaddon Quarterly!

There is the usual range of articles alongside lots of dates for your calendars, more history of the local area, new Whaddon Angel nominations, an update from the Friends of Whaddon School and the adventures of our very own Frederick from Briary View, who has shared how singing can help you make it across London! Also, Hazel Hedges' Valediction is particularly poignant after her loyal and dedicated service as church warden for eighteen years. We wish Daphne Willis, well as the new church warden.

On Saturday 11th September, a lively village social event took place organised by the Village Hall Committee; forthcoming coming village events include the welcome return of our annual Harvest Supper on Monday 4th October in the village hall. Please look out for your flier with further information. Tickets may be obtained from Daphne on 01908 501088 or daphneroberta@gmail.com. Please let her know if you have any dietary requirements. There is also a quiz night on 15th October in the village hall. This should be another enjoyable evening. Bookings are well under way but please contact Sharon Bessell or the village hall committee for further information.

We are also sharing some news of change for the village; our beloved historic pub is currently up for sale and the new housing at Shenley Park has been approved. You can read more about this on page 38, but please note, if you have any clear ideas, thoughts or wishes on how Shenley Park can improve village life, then please let your Parish Council know by emailing parishclerk@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk as soon as possible.

A huge thank you again to **everyone** who has contributed articles. There's no WQ without you!
Next WQ article deadline date: November 30th.

Gilli and Charlotte

Congratulations to **Marc Bull** for his fabulous picture capturing one of the gorgeous sunflowers from the 66 acres of wild bird seed mix dotted around Whaddon.

Want your photo on the front cover?

Then send your entry for the **Autumn** addition to:
wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk



Parish Council Chairman's Report

Buckinghamshire is a County blessed with great beauty, stretching from Burnham Beeches in the south to the Vale of Aylesbury and Whaddon Chase in the north; and then there are the Chiltern hills in the middle. Being no more than fifty miles from central London, it has always been a popular place to settle for many who work in London but want their family to have the benefit of country life: I myself did just that many years ago. Even then there had been a decision by the government to build a North Bucks new city, though its boundaries were not then known, but as it happened Whaddon was eventually outside of it. Whaddon will always have to battle to try to preserve its independence from Milton Keynes and to do so will have to try to steer Buckinghamshire Council away from allocating too much of its planned housing to this end of the county adjacent to Milton Keynes.

Traffic is just as much of an issue as urbanisation as we all find when we go down to the Whaddon A421 roundabout at almost any time of day, to find a constant stream of traffic in both directions. We were, in the end, spared from an Oxford to Cambridge expressway along that route, although it could be argued that this would have relieved a certain amount of pressure. Whaddon is also the shortest route away from certain parts of Milton Keynes bringing traffic through the village to avoid the city centre. Oxford and Cambridge are being linked again by rail and work is proceeding at pace which I know has caused quite a lot of short-term trouble with heavy lorries. We are far enough north of the planned HS2 railway not to be troubled by construction traffic though many villages have, and are, suffering greatly. We can be thankful that we are not in the same boat as Grendon Underwood, where the Government is planning a Mega Prison alongside the existing jail, a proposal which would engulf the village as it is today.

So, you can see that Whaddon, and Buckinghamshire as a whole have an ongoing, never-ending battle to retain village life as we have known it and your Parish Council will fight that battle, not as Nimby's (not in my back yard), but sensibly and coherently to retain an attractive 21st century village. It is interesting to look at the Electoral Rolls for both 2021 and 1981. 90% has changed in that time, meaning that the vast majority came to live in Whaddon in the last 40 years because they liked what they saw. Your Parish Council aims to keep it that way.

Billy Stanier

Clerk's Corner

Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council



Thoughts about Planning Applications.

As you know, new building works usually need planning approval. Residents can view local planning applications on <https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Currently, our area planning office is working hard to recruit new planning officers and address a backlog that has accumulated. We are hoping for a far faster and more efficient service in the near future. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with WPC if you have any queries.

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, but we are currently continuing to offer the zoom option for anyone who prefers it. Anyone wishing to attend the public forum in person at the start of the meeting is most welcome, and we are continuing to ask for masks, sanitiser and social distancing, 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 7pm in The Chapel, Stock Lane, MK17 0LU on:

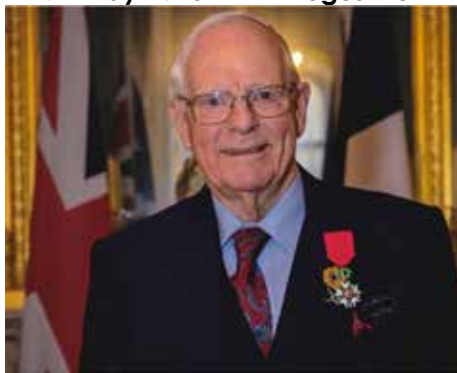
- 11th November 2021,
- 13th January 2022
- 10th March 2022

Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. Full details are also on the WPC website www.whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

All Welcome!

In Tribute to Geoffrey Pidgeon

27th May 1926 – 12th August 2021



GEOFFREY AT LANCASTER HOUSE 2019

Geoffrey Pidgeon, our father, passed away very suddenly while staying with his family on Thursday 12th August 2021. Geoffrey was born in Fulham in 1926 and was an active and very alert, 95-year-old whose passion in later years was writing about his experiences working on the transmission and output side of Bletchley Park.

Educated at Caterham School, Geoffrey moved to the Milton Keynes area where his father had been appointed as quartermaster sergeant at SIS/M16 Section VIII at Whaddon as part of the Bletchley Park secret operation. This move was accelerated when the family home not far from the Spitfire base at Kenley was shot up by the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain.

Geoffrey was by far the youngest in the department and began by making clandestine radio sets to be dropped to special agents in occupied Europe. His skills were such that he soon graduated to building the specialised wireless receiving vehicles that were provided to the top generals at the front so that the vital code-breaker's Ultra Secret Intelligence could be used by the field commanders. These vehicles, built at Whaddon, accompanied Allied leaders such as Montgomery, George Patton, Omar Bradley and Mark Clark on their way to victory in 1945.



Geoffrey Pidgeon at Whaddon Hall, 1944

anticipated invasion of Japan.

With his boss and life-long friend, Commander Dennis Smith RN, Geoffrey also fitted short-range close-contact espionage wireless equipment into special Boston bombers and MTB boats and went on some missions to prove their efficacy.

Immediately after VE Day, Geoffrey was flown to Calcutta and later Singapore in a dedicated four-day flight in a Dakota to set up special equipment thought to be needed for the

When war ended, Geoffrey joined the family business of builders' merchants. He was the fourth generation of a family credited with the invention and development of important products in the field of public health and sanitation.

He grew this business during the 1950s and 1960s and was the pioneer in the UK of plastic plumbing components, now universal, and acrylic baths. He sat on some 14 British Standard Committees on account of his expertise in the field; he had much involvement too in the metrication of the building industry and its components.

Much later, when the family business was sold, Geoffrey launched a new company selling and distributing advanced European bathroom products around the UK. Specialising in Italian products particularly, he made many good friends on his visits to that country. He loved his work so much that he was 82 before he chose to partially retire.



Geoffrey Pidgeon in Singapore

It was then that he started to put together information gleaned from his own wartime experiences and those of many others to write his book - *The Secret Wireless War* - which is universally accepted as the reference book on the transmission of Ultra Secret Intelligence and many of the other vital peripheral aspects of the Bletchley Park operation.

His regular newsletters on all matters connected to wartime wireless intelligence were sent all over the world and he has many followers in the United States, where his book is in the Library of Congress and at West Point, as well as in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. He even has readers in Germany and Japan!

In October 2019, Geoffrey received the *Legion D' Honneur* at Lancaster House from Her Excellency the French Ambassador and our Minister of Defence as the 6000th British recipient for their contribution to the liberation of France

Geoffrey leaves three sons and a wide family who will miss him very sorely.

For more information, please contact us:

laurence.pidgeon@mac.com michaelpidgeon25@yahoo.co.uk john@ajp-interiors.co.uk

Geoffrey Pidgeon funeral

We say goodbye to Geoffrey on **23rd September from 11.20 till 12.40** at the Mortlake Crematorium, Kew Meadows Path, TW9 4EN. We are asked to wear masks at the crematorium.

All those who knew Geoffrey will be very welcome.

Afterwards there will be drinks and a buffet at the Royal Mid Surrey Bowls Club which is off the Kew Road in Old Deer Park, **246 Kew Road TW9 2AZ**. Please let us know early if you wish to join us here as we have to indicate numbers attending soon.

We would like flowers only from the family but would greatly welcome donations to the Stroke Association through the undertakers, T H Sanders & Sons Funeral Directors –

28-30 Kew Road, Richmond, TW9 2NA, Contact Amy Peters, **020-3930-2447**, sanders.richmond@dignityfunerals.co.uk

Around the village

Vicarage Road gets a mini make-over

WHEN heavy road-laying tackle began to arrive at 7am on Friday 27th August, residents of Vicarage Road knew that D Day had arrived.

Inevitably, during the day, there had to be some disruption. Some residents' cars had to be parked in Stock Lane. Access, except on foot, was impossible. But finally, come 4pm-ish the job was done.

And the job? Well, at least the first some 25 metres or so of Vicarage Road now has a new, much-needed road surface.

Jolly hockey sticks!



Time to replace a broken pipe.

A good deal of activity could be witnessed in mid-August as heavy plant and equipment arrived to support work at the Sewage Plant further down the lane. Contractors have been working since on behalf of Anglian Water using a digger



behind safety fencing. The purpose of their employment? To find a broken drainpipe at the bottom end of the Sewage Plant. They plan to replace the pipe with a new pipe which will discharge into a nearby stream. How a section of the pipe came to be broken is a mystery.

Improved Wi-Fi for Whaddon village?

Engineers arrived on Wednesday morning, 14th July (Bastille Day) to make ready for them upgrading BT's fibre optic Wi-Fi network in Stock Lane. Their work was completed in the day, under traffic light control.

John Mortimer



Friends of Whaddon School

In the words of our good Queen Bess, this has been an annus horribilis. The children have missed over a term of school due to the national lockdown, we also had to close the school due to having two positive Covid cases twice. When we were all in school, essential Covid restrictions have meant school life simply hasn't been as carefree as usual. Of course, this has affected everyone greatly. Thankfully, no member of our school community has suffered badly from Covid and we look forward to a new school year when we can be a part of the village again with classes of children out and about learning and everyone able to come into the school again.

During this difficult time, Whaddon School has undergone a change of status. Demand for school places had come to mean pupils would leave Whaddon School earlier and earlier to secure a junior school place elsewhere. For the survival of the school, we needed to be able to offer classes up to the end of Key Stage 2. Through the support of the village, and quite a bit of hard work, this was achieved and from September 2021, we will have our first year 4 class. Each subsequent September we will have a further year group until we reach Year 6. Year group numbers have halved to ensure the school can continue to offer great ratios. This is also good for the village in terms of traffic. Usually, we would be welcoming around 16 new children to our reception class, with a large amount of these families, travelling in from outside Whaddon in individual cars. This September, we only have four children who are from out of Whaddon or who don't already have siblings attending.

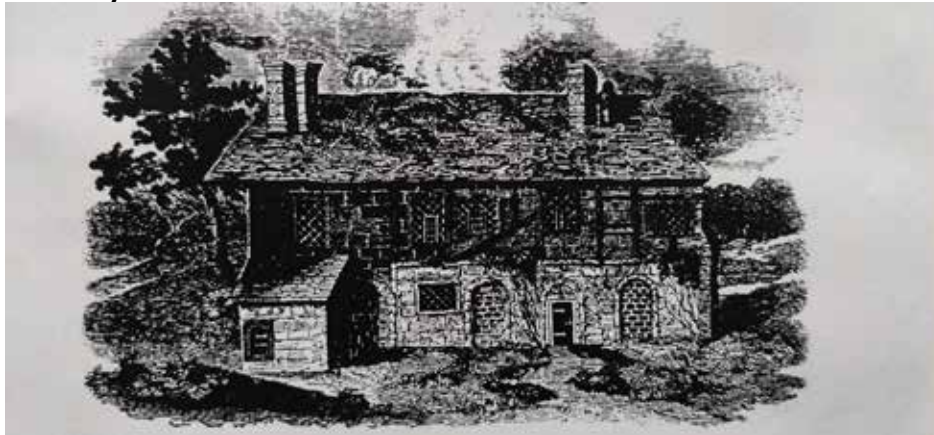
Inevitably, more classes created a need for more rooms and a further classroom and changing room was required. Friends of Whaddon School have not rested throughout the Covid period. They continued to raise money to ensure the funding we had secured would be topped up enough to be able to afford the build. The build began at the start of the Spring term. The children soon became used to the team of builders on site, wishing them good morning each day. The actual construction and installation of the building was swiftly and professionally carried out and everyone was very excited. The project has been delayed at times by supply issues due to Covid and the EU situation and by Western Power, who are in no hurry to ensure the new classroom has an electricity supply, but the builders have worked closely with us to ensure we were kept informed and the work continued.



We are now almost at completion and are eagerly anticipating the excitement of the children when they arrive back and see their new classroom for the first time. We wish to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to making this happen. Not least to members of Friends of Whaddon School, who are already fundraising towards equipping the classroom with much needed furniture and resources. We look forward to showing members of the village community round soon and (Covid permitting) will be planning a Christmas event for all.

History Half Hour

The Priory at Snelshall



The origins of the small monastic house of Snelshall are somewhat mysterious. Traditionally The priory was founded some time before 1219 by Ralf Martel. However, the priory's own cartulary preserves this 'foundation grant' which is quite clearly a confirmation of the gift of his grandmother, Sybil de Aungerville, of the chapel at Tattenhoe, with land and house and other appurtenances, to the 'brethren serving God at Snelshall'. The charter further states that Sybil's gift was confirmed by Roger de Chesney, Bishop of Lincoln (1147-1168). Clearly then, some sort of monastic establishment existed at Snelshall by 1168 - some 850 years ago!

Colvin (1951) has convincingly argued that the early foundation at Snelshall was a cell of the Premonstratensian abbey of Lavendon, and not a Benedictine house at all. Lavendon seem to have renounced any claim to Snelshall and Tattenhoe by 1232. It seems likely that Snelshall was originally a cell of Lavendon, and that in the first years of the thirteenth century Lavendon withdrew its canons and leased the property to the incoming Benedictine monks.

The priory was dedicated to St. Leonard, and it is probable that it was never intended to support more than about half a dozen monks. Like the other Benedictine houses of this county, it has very little history. However, we do know that in 1224 the King gave five oaks from the wood at Salcey for the building of a church tower at Snelshall and that Henry 111 granted the monks the right to thirty carts of wood from Whittlewood Forest (which suggests a community of some size). This state of affairs did not last for a visitation of Bishop Burghersh, dated 1321, describes it as so poor that the monks had scarcely the necessities of life, and had to beg even for these; an indulgence was granted at this time to those who should contribute to their support. Again in 1490 the prior at Snelshall was presented to the archdeacon for not paying the tithes to Shenley Church for lands which lay in that parish. In 1529 Bishop Longland visited the house and evidently found some irregularity amongst the two of three monks who remained. He ordered the prior, William Maltby, on pain of deprivation, to observe the purpose of the foundation and to see that others did the same: and enjoined him also within 10 days to dismiss all women, married or unmarried, from the precincts of the monastery, retaining only two of more than forty-eight-year-olds and of unexceptional character as servants. There were to be three brothers in the house besides the prior and no strangers were to be entertained except in the way of hospitality.

In 1535, after the passing of the first Act of Suppression, the local commissioners reported that there were only three monks in the house, two priests and only one novice, and none of them guilty of immorality; that there were eight servants also living in the monastery, as well as the prior's father and mother, who had brought all their goods with them, and hoped to spend their old age there. The house was said to be 'wholly in ruin', but it was not in debt.

William Maltby, the prior, with two monks had signed the Acknowledgement of the Royal Supremacy in the same year. At the surrender of the house, which must have been before 28th July, 1535, he received an annual pension of £5.

The endowment of the priory comprised the land on which it stood, with 'husbote and haybote' in the woods of Tattenhoe, sufficient for fuel and building purposes, and of underwood enough for making bread and beer, and quittance of pannage for hogs. The chapel of Tattenhoe was also granted to the monks with a virgate of land, some with small parcels of land in the neighbourhood and in Northamptonshire. The temporalities of the priory in 1291 amounted to £8 14s 8d.; the chapel of Tattenhoe seems only to have been worth 13s. 4d. A taxation of 1383 only amounted to £6 19s. 3d besides the chapel. The commissioners of 1535 reported the clear value of the monastery to be £18 1s 11d; on the second survey £19 14s 8d; bells, lead, etc. were worth £10 16s 8d The Minister's Accounts of the same year give a total of only £15 7s 10d.

In 1547, Snelshall consisted of various houses comprising the site of the priory, six acres of woodland, near the priory, a meadow of sixteen acres and an adjoining pasture also of sixteen acres, twelve acres of common and pasture for 300 sheep, a pasture called Codimere (the site of the hermitage of Codesmor which seems to have been absorbed by Snelshall in the thirteenth century: now Coddimoore Lodge (Farm) south of Whaddon and various lands in neighbouring parishes.

In 1539, Henry V111 demised Snelshall to Thomas Lenthorp of Pitchcott and that same year granted Francis Piggott of Stratton the fee simple and reversion of Lenthorp's lease of the priory. Piggott seems to have sold his rights back to the King and in 1548 the Priory estate was granted to Sir Thomas Palmer. On Palmer's attainder the estate reverted to the Crown and was granted in 1553 to Edmond Ashfield of Tattenhoe. Edmond's daughter Cecily took the estate as part of her marriage portion and it was sold by her heirs (the Fortesque family) to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, about 1620. In 1697 the property was purchased by James Selby from the Trustees of the Villiers heir. It then descended down the Selby line as part of the Winslow Manor.

The remnants of the priory seem to have been converted into a farmhouse which was eventually demolished in about 1830. An engraving of this house published by Lipscomb (1847 - see illustration), shows a stone-built and arched ground storey with a timber-framed upper floor; Sheahan claims these arches were part of the cloister (1862. 768).

Little may be known of the history of this small priory, but its Cartulary preserves much detail of its early thirteenth century activities, estates and business, mostly in the immediate neighbourhood of the house. Several of these entries are of considerable archaeological interest, for example: at some time before 1218 Ralf Martel gave the priory land to enlarge their cemetery and courtyard in the direction of Whaddon (Jenkins 1945 No. 4). In a slightly later charter William, brother and heir of Ralf Martel, gave the monks land to enlarge their cemetery next to the gate in the Whaddon direction, because during the Interdict they buried their dead and the dead of Tattenhoe not in their cemetery but in a wood (Jenkins 1945 No. 11).

In about 1250, William de Jarpeuile granted the priory a plot of land in the common pasture of Tattenhoe within the parish on that hill on which the monks may construct a windmill, with free access for their men with horses (Jenkins 1945 No. 35), and baggage, or without horses, and about the same date.

The monks granted William de Jarpeuile the right to grind two quarters of corn at their mill three times a year (at Christmas, Easter and the feast of St. Laurence) without payment. (Jenkins 1945 No. 37)

A seal of this priory is attached to the Acknowledgement of Supremacy. It is in red wax and represents a prior standing with staff in his right hand and an open book in his left.

Legend; S. PRIORS ET C ... DE SNELLESHALL

NOTE: This summary is based on the accounts in VCH Bucks 1, 352-253: Jenkins 1945: Colvin 1951; Sheahan 1862, 768-9 and Lipscomb 1847, 505-7.

Priors of Snelshall

William	occurs 1219
Hugh	occurs 1226
Nicholas	occurs 1232
John	occurs 1240
Hugh of Dunstable	elected 1251, resigned 1272
Warin	elected 1272
Nicholas of Hanslope	resigned 1300
Richard of Eye	elected 1300, resigned 1302
Nicholas of Hanslope	re-appointed 1302, died 1319.
John of Conesgrave	elected 1319
Hugh of Leckhamstead	elected 1334, died 1357
Richard de Nibbeley	elected 1357, died 1367
Roger of Oving	elected 1367, died 1393
John Middleton	elected 1393
Simon London	resigned 1431
William Whaddon	elected 1431
Hugh Fuller	occurs 1461
John Medburn	occurs 1478
John Wells	occurs 1488, resigned 1492
Thomas Broke	elected 1492, resigned 1503
Hugh Brecknock	elected 1503, died 1529
William Maltby	last prior, elected 1529.

Packards and more, in Whaddon

It's good to talk, so the saying goes. And so it is, as John Mortimer discovered in conversation with three people in their 90s, and who brought something to light unknown to him, as he explains here.

IMAGINE the scene. In your mind's eye you are walking towards Stony Stratford. It is summer 1940. Britain is at war; people are feeling demoralised after the grim retreat from Dunkirk (26th May and 4th June).

Whaddon's High Street traffic, at its very best, was sparse. A quiet farming village, Whaddon sprang to life only for fetes, harvests and the Whaddon Chase Hunt.

But there was something different that particular day. Out of your eye corner, as you wait to cross the entrance drive to Whaddon Hall, a very large motor car approaches from behind. An American car – twice the size of any you'd seen before. A Packard.

A solitary figure, seated in the rear, is accompanied the driver of the car. As the camouflaged car rounds the corner and disappears majestically through the lodge gates, the powerful eight-cylinder engine burbles away purposefully.

Mr Pidgeon was attending for his second MI6 interview, having already been 'grilled' at HQ, in London, where he was presented with a railway ticket to Bletchley. On arrival at Bletchley station, he was collected by the Packard and taken to Whaddon Hall.

Within weeks, following his interview, Mr Pidgeon had become Sergeant Pidgeon. He wore the uniform of the Royal Corps of Signals. Annual salary: £260. His duties? To assist experts constructing highly secret communication radios.

Whaddon Hall, once a grand country house, had been transformed, building by building, into an arm of the military; an arm in much need of mobile radio receiving and transmitting vehicles.

In due course, Horace Ernest Charles Pidgeon – known as 'Pidge' to everyone down from Brigadier Richard Gambier-Parry ('Pop') – and his family had exchanged their home in Caterham (between Croydon Airport and RAF Biggin Hill) for No. 95 High Street, Stony Stratford.

Mrs Pidgeon – Edith Adelaide – became a full-time Bletchley Park Red Cross nurse; son Geoffrey, 15, attended Wolverton Grammar School. Within two years, Geoffrey Pidgeon had found employment at Whaddon Hall too, also taking day release at Wolverton Technical College.

The downfall of Nazi Germany at the behest of 'Pidge', everyone else at Whaddon Hall and many, many others, was still some years away.

And the Packard? Well, when 'Pop' took charge of affairs at Whaddon Hall in 1939, his game plan included some very special means of transport: namely, some world renowned large and powerful motor cars: an American luxury car; a Packard.



By 1940, 'Pop' had purchased every single new Packard in the UK. Some had come from Canada, others probably assembled by Leonard Williams Ltd on the Great West Road, Brentford – the Golden Mile – using imported chassis, body panels and partially-assembled kits of parts.

'Pop' acquired 60 saloons, three limousines, two drop-head coupés and three business coupés.

The Packard, as you can see **above and below**, was not your average car for an everyday out-for-a-Sunday-jaunt motor car. Owning such a car was a prestigious accolade, a favourite with celebrities and corporate America.

'Pop' sent the cars to Tickfords Ltd in Newport Pagnell where they were repainted in khaki, and much of the interiors were stripped out to make way for some very secret radio receiving and transmitting equipment.

For Whaddon Hall's technicians each Packard was a mobile tin box; a capacious and powerful tin box, an ideal mobile radio communications unit. These vehicles would be known as SLUs – Special Liaison Units.



Meanwhile, 'Pop' also had eyes for a cheaper 'tin box', namely a Pontiac 'Woodie' station waggon – see illustration **(left)**.

The Pontiac, a lower-priced General Motors car, fitted in above Chevrolets, but below Oldsmobile, Buick and Cadillac in the GM vehicle hierarchy. But 'Woodies' were very much bespoke. They had six- and eight-cylinder engines.

As to fuelling the thirsty cars, although Whaddon had a solitary petrol pump (**right** behind Evelyn Dormer) in Vicarage Road, the American cars (and for that matter trucks and Dodge ambulances) were refuelled at the Motor Transport (MT) depot at Gee's in nearby Little Horwood where a very large warehouse had given over to MT and radio construction.

The radio equipment installed in each SLU was the same. There was a Whaddon-built Mark III transmitter and an American HRO receiver. Electrical power came from several sources: local mains connections, batteries (using a Tiny Tim charger) or an Onan AC generator.

Some SLUs were dispersed country-wide. Later, a few were sent to North Africa, for example to Libya. However, there they proved unsatisfactory as off-road vehicles.

In view of this, a detachment in Cairo stripped out radio gear from the Packards and fitted it into vehicles more suited to the conditions.

Even so, Packards were fun to drive. Noted Geoffrey Pidgeon: "I had the great good fortune to drive the drop-head coupé, belonging to Major Freddie Pettifer (in charge of our transport which included the Packards). It was D-Day (6th June 1944) and we had just finished installing new equipment on our test aircraft, an Avro Anson based at Horwood Aerodrome.

Geoffrey added: "I drove a Packard myself only if a driver was unavailable, when our driver wanted a rest, or sometimes if my immediate boss, Dennis Smith, felt I deserved a treat. I am sorry to admit that this was not a frequent occasion."

Confessions of a driver

Geoffrey tells how, one day having finished work early and with the airfield deserted (it being used only for training flights) he was very bored.



"I set off in the coupé down the runway, increasing the speed to something over 100mile/h. I then swung round under the control tower. I returned to where our driver was just waking up from a quiet snooze on the grass where our 'plane was parked."



Geoffrey Pidgeon, his wife and a Packard

"He saw me arrive and was about to explode when, before he could say anything, the Wing Commander arrived. He calmed down when I suggested he try the car himself, which he did; but only on the perimeter. The driver very kindly did not report my prank to Dennis."

"Even now, I realise how foolish and dangerous it was and cringe at the thought of what might have happened."

Geffrey was just 18. Elsewhere in Europe, things were not so jolly: on the beaches of Normandy hell was breaking loose as the allies attempted to advance to Germany.

As the war unfolded, Whaddon would witness many more strange vehicles: Guy army trucks, Dodge ambulances, and dispatch riders.

Noted Geoffrey Pidgeon: "I also had the great good fortune to drive the drop-head coupe, belonging to Major Freddie Pettifer (in charge of our transport)."

A six-week assignment

But the Packard was not Whaddon Hall's only American car, as Ron told me. He, and his father, discovered this when they were required to work 120 miles away in Crowborough, East Sussex.

It was Ron's 16th birthday when he and his father were driven by an official driver to Crowborough in a Buick.

Buicks were an accepted brand amongst medium-priced American cars. Like Packards, UK Buick models came from Canada and thus were 'Empire-built'. 'Pop' had an incentive: a Buick had to have them: one had been sold to the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII.

Ron, who had left school aged 14 to work as an apprentice electrician at Whaddon Hall with his dad, has good reason to recall that particular day.

Their arrival at the top-secret underground bunker in Ashdown Forest on Ron's birthday, coincided with a rare sight: overhead a doodlebug, or V1 flying bomb, was tipped on its side by a chasing RAF fighter aircraft; whereupon it crashed and exploded.

Why was Ron and his father at Crowborough? Quite simply they had been assigned to work on a top-secret installation: namely Aspidistra, a British medium-wave radio transmitter used for black propaganda and military deception against the enemy. It was the world's most powerful broadcast transmitter.

By then, ASPI 1 was already in place, but Ron and his father were engaged on a second transmitter. But why was it called Aspidistra? It is claimed 'Pop' was inspired by Gracie Fields' comic song *The Biggest Aspidistra in the World*.

Almost impossible to kill

As gardeners aware, Aspidistras are known as the Cast Iron Plants; they're almost indestructible. A common sight in front room windows in the 1920s and 1930s, aspidistras received very little care – the first example of 'buy and forget'.

ASPI 1, was installed in 1942 at the Crowborough site; others followed: ASPI 2, 3 and 4. In 1943, ASPI 1 was used to disrupt German night fighter operations against Allied bombers over Germany.

ASPI 2 had a different role: the Political Warfare Executive ran many operations from places in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire; but most notably from Milton Bryan, near Woburn, where a top-secret state-of-the-art radio station had been built to record black propaganda radio. The powerful signals were sent from ASPI 2 right into the homes of the population in Germany from the broadcasting 'station' in Milton Bryan, Bedfordshire. Led by former *Daily Express* correspondent, Sefton Delmer, a multi-national team pretended to be Germans. Their task: fooling the enemy into thinking they were listening to real German radio stations. After six weeks' work at Crowborough, Ron and his father returned to Whaddon. Ron later moved from his digs to live at Tattenhoe Camp (see *Whaddon Quarterly*, February 2020).

Whaddon Hall reunion

However, that was not the end of the Packards. Geoffrey Pidgeon organised a reunion, as the photographs below, published here for the first time.

In one of his newsletters, Geoffrey noted: Some of you will remember the Packard Meeting held at Bletchley Park back in August 2001. In the late afternoon, a convoy of about 20 or so cars drove off to



nearby Whaddon Hall – where 70 Packards had been based during World War II. The Hall was the wartime HQ of MI6 Section VIII - the communication division of our Secret Intelligence Services (SIS). The then present owners kindly gave us tea; a good time was had by all and some super pictures taken. Appropriately, I'll leave the last words to Whaddon's oldest resident, Evelyn Jaworska,



who has lived in the village all her life. She remembers Packards well, even though she was only 9 or 10 at the time. When questioned in June, she replied: "Do you mean the army cars? I remember them so well because there were so few cars in Whaddon in those days. Only the policeman, Mr. Gaylor; the vicar, Mr Selby-Lowndes; Mr. Jinks, who had the local shop and the petrol pump in Vicarage Road; and Mr and Mrs Peverill, farmers of Vicarage Road, had cars. The postman delivered letters using his bike." She added: "I would fill up cars with petrol and also put air in their tyres." Whaddon's solitary petrol pump was removed over 40 years ago.

♦ **Evelyn (pictured) reached 90 on 22nd February 2021; and despite the rain, family and friends wished her a very happy birthday. Somewhat ironically, it snowed 90 years previously on the day Evelyn arrived in the world.**



♦ ♦ **THIS ARTICLE can be seen as a tribute to Geoffrey Pidgeon, who sadly passed away on Thursday, 12th August from a heart attack. Whaddon, and the *Whaddon Quarterly* in particular, send their heartfelt condolences to Geoffrey's family. Geoffrey was a good friend to Whaddon, being involved with many village events, especially those associated with Whaddon Hall and**

WW2. I found him most helpful. – John Mortimer.

Whaddon Angels

The lovely neighbours nominated for this issue are.....

Sharon Bessell, for initiating and running the weekly/fortnightly Whaddon Quiz Night since the first lockdown. It was an absolute lifeline for me, for one, during the pandemic: a social event and a chance to connect with other villagers at a time when almost all social contact had to stop. It became the highlight of the week! Sharon put a great deal of her time into setting questions and organising the other quiz hosts, whilst going through a very tough and sad time in her personal life.



Clare Garland and **Jo Bush** for taking on the admin of the Village Facebook group and managing it with a firm but fair hand. It had drifted from its original purpose of being a friendly place where we could share news, details of village events and offer assistance to other villagers, but now I think we have that lovely, welcoming space again.



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

Did you know?

- A rooster's crow is as loud as a jet taking off 15 meters away.
- Blackberries are normally at their best at the end of August to September. Legend has it any picked after the end of this month are best avoided, as the devil is said to have peed on them. We're not sure this is true, but by October the damp weather will have certainly soiled many crops



Reflections from the Rectory

It's Harvest time again in the Church calendar. Thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest are both worldwide and very ancient. We read in the bible verses from 6th Century BC, "Celebrate the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field" (**Exodus 23.16.**) **We also read,** "When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands." (Deuteronomy 24.19 So, for thousands of years, we have celebrated the harvest and in doing so have also been generous towards those in need of help.

This year during these topsy turvy times we hope to once again continue this ancient tradition with a Harvest Service on the 3rd October at 10.30 at St Mary's and a Harvest Supper and auction at 7.30 in the Village Hall on Monday 4th October. The Church will also be open on Saturday the 2nd October from 2-5 pm with tea and scones. Food will be collected for the foodbank.

Sadly, in 2021 harvests in many countries have been hit by either record heat waves or devastating storms. I'm writing this on a Sunday when we had three services in the benefice focussed on the climate crises, as part of an initiative calling on churches to hold a Climate Sunday Service in the run up to COP26. We sang some lovely classic hymns celebrating the beauty of creation.

The Celts used to talk about the little book - that was the Bible - and the great book - that was creation, and they read God in both. The instinct to worship in response to the beauty and mystery of the universe is as old as the human story itself. Yet our modern secular societies have invested heavily in the material rather than the spiritual. We have tried to fill the internal void with things regardless of the impact of our rampant consumption on planet earth, forgetting our commission given to us at the creation of the world to be stewards of this planet.

As we celebrate the Harvest Festival this year, donating food for the foodbank, may we also commit ourselves to care for God's creation by reducing our waste, living sustainably and valuing biodiversity, including more diverse habitats in the churchyard.

Rev. Jacqueline Dove
The Rectory, Chapel Lane, Thornborough, MK182DJ, 01280 817828

A VALEDICTION

In 1998 I was a member of Whaddon Church PCC and the then Rector wrote asking if I would take on the role of Churchwarden. After some thought I agreed but, apart from serving the church community and supporting the priest, I had little idea of what was involved. Regular church attendance is the least of it.

At the time, Whaddon church was part of the United Benefice of Stoke Hammond, Newton Longville & Whaddon.

In 2003, the benefice was split up and Whaddon rejoined Buckingham, of which it had been a member until Nash church was built in Victorian times, when Whaddon joined Newton Longville and Nash stayed with Buckingham. Prior to this, the parish was called Whaddon - cum - Nash and all Nash weddings, funerals, baptisms etc took place in Whaddon church and are recorded in Whaddon's early registers. These can be viewed every October when the archives are on show at Whaddon church's Open Day.

Since then much has changed in Whaddon church: new heating throughout, the removal of the rear pews to create a flexible space, used for our Christmas Birthday Party for Jesus. Major works include the restoration of the tower stonework and the erection of the glass screen in the ringing chamber. The bells have also been rehung. A loop system was installed and has recently been updated, to mention only a few.

On two occasions the lead was stolen from the roof and replaced, the second time with Terne coated stainless steel and funded by our insurers, Bucks Historic Churches Trust and generous donations from the village. We now have an alarm system installed.

I feel privileged to have been part of these changes and to have been involved in the numerous baptisms, weddings and funerals which have taken place over the years – important family occasions for those taking part.

I have enjoyed serving the community in a small way and am grateful for the help and support I received from members of the congregation, especially preparing for fundraising events. For me, one of the highlights has been the Harvest Supper, which brings the village together, and the Auction which raises hundreds of pounds for charity. The auctioneers make the evening a fun occasion with much laughter.

I first gave notice in 2017, at the Annual Meeting that it would be "my final year as warden" but events overtook my decision: Revd Gussie Walsh's retirement, a two-year interregnum and then, just as Revd Dove was appointed, lockdown began. A brief pause in September 2020 meant she could be licenced but the idea of the villages forming a new Benefice was mooted and a new lockdown was imposed, and churches closed.

Last Sunday the Revd Dove was licenced as the new Rector of our new Benefice of Blackthorn Chase.

So, I am now able to stand down as warden and to hand over to Daphne Willis our new warden. I wish her well in her new venture and assure her of the support of us all.

Many thanks to all who supported me over the years.

Hazel Hedges



Four Feet

By
Rudyard Kipling

I have done mostly what most men do,
And pushed it out of my mind;
But I can't forget, if I wanted to,
Four-Feet trotting behind.

Day after day, the whole day through—
Wherever my road inclined—
Four-Feet said, 'I am coming with you!'
And trotted along behind.

Now I must go by some other round,—
Which I shall never find—
Somewhere that does not carry the sound
Of Four-Feet trotting behind.

Dedicated to Frank.



Happening in your village.....

Whaddon Jubilee Hall

The Jubilee Hall – Whaddon’s village hall – getting back to some village fun!

Following the lifting of government coronavirus restrictions, the Jubilee Hall committee is starting to plan events to bring our wonderful village community back together in the real, non-virtual world at last.

SAVE THE DATES:



Friday 15th

October : Quiz

Night – Doors

and bar open at 7pm. Quiz starts at 8pm.

After over a year of quizzing virtually from the comfort of your chair at home, now it's time to pit your wits against others in the village in the real world where you can see the whites of your opponents' eyes!

More details to follow on the Whaddon Jubilee Hall Facebook page and Jubilee Hall noticeboard in the garden.



Tuesday 16th November: Jubilee Hall A.G.M.

The current committee will stand down and a new committee will be elected. The positions to be elected are Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and general committee members.

We would love to see some new faces at the AGM, particularly if you fancy getting involved with our many events and particularly if you have some fresh and new fundraising ideas. We meet 6-8 times a year to organise events and we all have lots of fun doing it.

More details to follow on the Whaddon Jubilee Hall Facebook page and Jubilee Hall noticeboard in the garden.



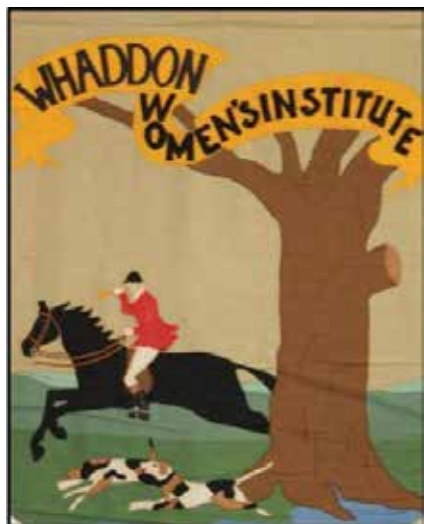
Saturday 4th December: Festive village social evening.

A village social event for all the family. Licensed bar and music. Under 18's welcome for the earlier part of the evening.

More details to follow on the Whaddon Jubilee Hall Facebook page and Jubilee Hall noticeboard in the garden.

*If you have any queries about any of the above or wish to make enquiries about booking the hall for your own event, please contact us through the Jubilee Hall Facebook page or by e-mailing:
whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com*

The Jubilee Hall Committee



Whaddon Women's Institute

IT DIDN'T RAIN!! We met for our garden party and it DIDN'T RAIN! It was so nice to be together in the sunshine, and of course there was lots of tea and chocolate cake to eat! It was good to see that our members thankfully remain well.

We have had to change our plans because of the ongoing pandemic, but we still managed to have an outing to Lakers garden centre (yes – more delicious tea and cake!) and have had the chance to learn how to improve our computer skills with the W.I.'s very own Digital Team Leader and Chair of the Buckinghamshire Federation, Joycelyn Cull, when we met for the first time in the Jubilee Hall.

Sadly, our fundraising Open Meeting arranged for 16th July with Greg Smith, our MP, had to be postponed due again to the pandemic. This will hopefully be rescheduled for next year, possibly in the spring, and we do hope you will be able to come along and join us. Watch this space for more information!

We have the garden party at Waddesdon Manor to look forward to and are hoping to book Gill the milliner again to come and talk to us as this too had to be postponed earlier in the year, and we also are planning to learn Bollywood dancing! Following our Zoom talk from Hearing Dogs, we are excited that they are keen to see us in person in the near future! How are we going to fit it all in???

This year we have had a competition to see who could grow the biggest sunflower and this is reaching an exciting conclusion and I can tell you that it wasn't me!! More on this in the next issue! We are beginning to think about our Christmas meal and what we would like to do for our programme next year, so if you are thinking of joining our little group, now would be the perfect time.

We are a small, friendly group and we meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any more information, or better still, why not pop along to see what we do?

Jill Aitken (Secretary) 01908 502781

Whaddon Book Club

In June we resumed gathering in a member's garden, it was a great joy to be able to do so.

In the past quarter we have enjoyed reading:

- The Hopeless case of Charlie Summers by Paul Torday
- A 'Bridgerton' book by Julia Quinn
- The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
- The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow

We are moving on to authors Ruth Ware and Agatha Christie!

We now meet on the last Tuesday of the month in the afternoon at 2 pm. We aim to have 10 minutes' chat followed by 30 minutes discussing the book after which time some stay, some go.

If anyone is free to join us, please contact:
Margaret Barrie 01908 501 564



What happens when your beloved Musical Director moves on to pastures new? We were all very sad to hear that Karen and Paul had decided to move away from Whaddon, although we also understood why, and we wish them every happiness in their new adventure in Cumbria. We had a wonderful garden party to say our goodbyes, with singing, food and a few surprises too.

And then we waited. Karen was sure that someone would be found to step up to the podium, and it seems her intuition served her well. We can't say too much just at the moment, as at going to press, we're still in talks with someone new, but it's looking hopeful and we hope to put an announcement out on Facebook and within the village very soon.

It will mean a new start for existing members and new members alike, and this is where you come in! Have you ever thought about joining a choir? Now would be the ideal time to join, as we all get to know a new MD with new ideas, new music and a new way of being Chase Choir. All you need to do is to get in touch and register your interest.

We're all looking forward to what happens next with Chase Choir and it would be lovely to welcome you to be a part of that.

To find out more, contact Marianna Beckwith on 01908 503194 or email mariannabluesky@gmail.com

Save the Date

St. Mary's Church

Harvest Festival

We really hope our Harvest Festival will go ahead this year as planned but please be aware that things may change.

Church Open

Saturday 2nd October 2pm-5pm

Join us for Cream Tea

Harvest Family Service

Sunday 3rd October 10.30am

Produce donations welcome all weekend and during the service.

Harvest Supper & Auction

Date TBC

Whaddon Jubilee Hall 7.30pm to late

£7pp

For tickets contact our lovely new Church Warden,
Daphne Willis on 01908 502088

If you'd like to help in anyway such as volunteering to help at an event, baking scones or donating towards the auction please contact
lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk



Reflections of an Allotment Gardener

Farewell to Whaddon – by the time you read this, Karen and I will have left Whaddon after nine (mostly) great years (the year I got cancer – 2018 – wasn't so great). We have really enjoyed our time here and made so many lasting friendships which we hope will endure throughout our lives. We also have very many great memories to keep with us – the madness of the Entertainers' Shows, persuading some of the brave ladies of Whaddon to bare all for charity in a stage production of Calendar Girls and shooting the Calendar itself - the harmonies of the Chase Choir, our Wedding Blessing in 2014 and the reception in a marquee in the pub car park, which must surely go down as one of the greatest parties in Whaddon history!

Then Christmas services in the church, daffodil bulb planting every winter, lazy and occasionally busy, summer afternoons in the garden, walks in the surrounding countryside, especially during last year's lockdown, when Whaddon's surroundings became an invaluable resource to protect the mental health and well-being of us all. Which is, in a way, why we are moving – we had been thinking a lot about moving on to Cumbria, where Karen has her roots and family, and lockdown just brought everything into much clearer focus. We decided that we wanted an adventure before we were too old. We considered selling up and back-packing around the world, but Covid has put paid to that idea for some time to come. So instead, we will be moving to northeast Cumbria, to a little village called Gamblesby, nestling under the Pennines, and taking over the running of four holiday cottages. You can see whence we have gone at www.villagebreaks.uk and we hope that many of our friends will come to visit our dog-friendly cottages. We hope to be up and running by mid-October.

So, gardening for me in the past few months, has been a question of just keeping things tidy. At the end of August, I cleared my much-loved allotment plot ready to pass on to someone else (I believe there's a queue!) and I am looking forward to taking on a new plot in Gamblesby, once we are settled. Gardening in the north of England, just a few miles south of Hadrian's Wall, will likely present very different challenges to those here in Whaddon, but I will embrace them and look forward to creating something special in that environment.

So, all that remains on this occasion is to wish you all happy and productive gardening (not to mention good health and happiness) say 'au revoir' and who knows, you may yet see a 'Gardening on the Fellside' column in future editions of the Quarterly.

Paul Logan





CHOCOLATE GUINNESS CAKE



Makes: about 12 slices

FOR THE CAKE

- 250 millilitres Guinness
- 250 grams unsalted butter
- 75 grams cocoa powder
- 400 grams caster sugar
- 150 millilitres sour cream
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 275 grams plain flour
- 2½ teaspoons bicarbonate of soda

FOR THE TOPPING

- 300 grams cream cheese
- 150 grams icing sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornflour
- 125 millilitres double cream (or whipping cream)

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to gas mark 4/180°C/160°C Fan/350°F, and butter and line a 23cm / 9 inch springform tin.
2. Pour the Guinness into a large wide saucepan, add the butter - in spoons or slices - and heat until the butter's melted, at which time you should whisk in the cocoa and sugar. Beat the sour cream with the eggs and vanilla and then pour into the brown, buttery, beery pan and finally whisk in the flour and bicarb.
3. Pour the cake batter into the greased and lined tin and bake for 45 minutes to an hour. Leave to cool completely in the tin on a cooling rack, as it is quite a damp cake.
4. When the cake's cold, sit it on a flat platter or cake stand and get on with the icing. Lightly whip the cream cheese until smooth, sieve over the icing sugar and cornflour and then beat to combine.
5. If using double cream, add it and beat until you have a spreadable consistency. If using whipping cream, whisk first to soft peaks, add a couple of spoonfuls into the cream cheese mixture and once this is combined, fold in the rest.
6. Ice the top of the black cake so that it resembles the frothy top of the famous pint!

Information for our village....

Your new Family Information Service website

Buckinghamshire's Family Information Service has a brand-new website and directory making it even easier for families, parents to be, children and young people to find local support, activities and childcare.

The new website not only has a new look and feel but lots of the latest information from the team and experts within the council.

Head over to <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/> to take a look and find:

- support available to help with issues affecting your family
- what's on at family centres
- things to do and holiday activities
- support and inclusive activities if your child has SEND
- childcare and early years providers



Follow 'BucksFamilyInfo' on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram for the latest news affecting families and young people, local things to do and helpful reminders for all sorts of parent tasks like applying for childcare and school places.

Inside The Lowndes Arms

After a lot of consideration, we are pleased to announce we are moving onto a new, exciting chapter in our lives; so have decided to sadly put the Lowndes Arms on the market.

But don't worry, we will be here until it is sold! We have plenty of future events planned and are still open Friday to Sunday, everyone welcome. It's been great meeting people past and present, thank you all for your continued custom.

Have you ever fancied owning your own local? Or thought about buying it as a community pub? Do come in and speak with us if you do!

The Lowndes Arms



Bin Days

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

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin: 	Food Waste Bin: 
	Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans and tins	Non-recyclable or compostable
Tuesday 21 September		Tuesday 21 September
	Tuesday 28 September	Tuesday 28 September
Tuesday 5 October		Tuesday 5 October
	Tuesday 12 October	Tuesday 12 October
Tuesday 19 October		Tuesday 19 October
	Tuesday 26 October	Tuesday 26 October
Tuesday 2 November		Tuesday 2 November
	Tuesday 9 November	Tuesday 9 November
Tuesday 16 November		Tuesday 16 November
	Tuesday 23 November	Tuesday 23 November

Winslow & District Community Bus Timetable
07483 336440 | wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com |
www.winslowbus.com

Winslow Service, Routes 54 A/B/C

54A SWANBOURNE, MURSLEY, LITTLE HORWOOD TO WINSLOW

	out	return
Winslow, Vicarage Road	--:--	11:20
Swanbourne, Post Office	09:34	11:26
Mursley, War Memorial	09:38	11:30
Little Horwood, Crown	09:43	11:35
Winslow, Maggie Estate	09:47	11:39
Winslow, Vicarage Road	09:49	11:41

54B GREAT HORWOOD, WHADDON, NASH TO WINSLOW

	out	return
Winslow, Vicarage Road	09:50	11:45
Great Horwood, Church	09:56	11:51
Whaddon, School	10:02	--:--
Nash, Opposite Church	10:06	11:55
Great Horwood, Church	10:10	12:05
Winslow, Vicarage Road	10:16	12:11

54C THE CLAYDONS TO WINSLOW

	out	return
Winslow, Vicarage Road	10:20	12:15
East Claydon, Dead Tree	--:--	12:22
Middle Claydon, Church	10:26	12:26
Steeple Claydon, Fountain	10:30	12:30
Botolph Claydon	10:36	12:36
Winslow, Vicarage Road	10:45	--:--

This service is normally operated with a wheelchair accessible vehicle; passengers must contact Winslow and District Community Bus (Tel 01296 715786) by 16.00 the previous day if they wish to travel in a wheelchair.

Travel is free to all bus pass holders.

Why are bees important?



While to many they are simply the fuzzy flying insects we see darting among the flowers during the warmer months, bees are actually so much more than this, and have an important part to play in maintaining our planet. Where trees and woods are essential to filter our air, bees are vital to both pollinate the food we need to survive and pollinate many of the trees and flowers that provide habitats for wildlife.

There's a little something that everybody can do for pollinators. Read below about five simple actions you can take.

1. Grow more flowers, shrubs & trees

Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen as food for bees and other pollinators throughout the year. For example, pussy willow, primroses and crocuses in spring, lavenders, meadow cranesbill and ox-eye daisies in summer, ivy and hebes in autumn, and mahonia shrubs and cyclamen in winter. We just need more plants rich in pollen and nectar in our gardens, balconies, allotments, farms, and in the landscape around our homes and across our towns and cities.

2. Let it grow wild

Leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles and dandelions to provide other food sources (such as leaves for caterpillars) and breeding places for butterflies and moths. As land managers and gardeners, you can take simple actions to manage your existing land, green spaces and gardens to provide food sources and/or breeding places for pollinators.

3. Cut grass less often

Cut grass less often and ideally remove the cuttings to allow plants to flower.

Native flowering plants in grass areas, field corners, verges and specially sown flower-rich habitats support the greatest diversity of insect pollinators by providing nectar and pollen resources, places to nest or breed and leaves for caterpillars. Hence, it's important to get the management right.

4. Don't disturb insect nests and hibernation spots

Avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects, in places like grass margins, bare soil, hedgerows, trees, dead wood or walls. As well as making sure there are adequate food resources throughout the year for insect pollinators, it is also important to make sure they can nest in safety so that they and the next generation can survive overwinter, to start again in the following spring.

5. Think carefully about whether to use pesticides

Think carefully about whether to use pesticides especially where pollinators are active or nesting or where plants are in flower. Consider control methods appropriate to your situation and only use pesticides if absolutely necessary. Many people choose to avoid chemicals and adopt methods like physically removing pests or using barriers to deter them. If you choose to use a pesticide, always follow the label instructions.

WHADDON TRAFFIC, HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH CONCERNS

Residents often ask questions about these important ongoing issues, which are often difficult to answer or 'pin down' because Buckinghamshire Council is a very large District with a huge number of demands that continually weigh heavily on their constrained and very stretched budgets and purse strings. It is however a topic which is discussed at virtually every Parish Council meeting, and often results in correspondence with our newly formed Buckinghamshire Authority. The following information received at the end of August may answer some of the varied questions that local Councillors are often faced with:-

1. Parking problems - The Highway code is the 'Bible' on this hotly debated local topic, and there are some issues that simply cannot be overcome. However, over recent months there has been extensive discussion about the possibility of placing double yellow lines around the High Street, Stock Lane and Nash Road junction, where illegal parking, often on footpaths and sometimes on the Village Green itself, is becoming increasingly worrying, especially considering the increasing number of large agricultural and HGV vehicles that travel through the village. The solution is not easy and although the police and authorities are supportive, gaining funding and formal consent is difficult and has yet to be achieved. Your PC has submitted a funding application to the Winslow Community Board, for consideration later this year, and if approved, then no doubt some form of local consultation will need to be undertaken before a final decision is reached for possible expenditure in the Bucks Council 2022/23 budget. The Police, whilst supportive, are concerned that enforcement - if the lines are eventually placed - would be difficult, although clearly double yellow lines would be a visible and very helpful deterrent.

2. Improved traffic Calming measures. Now that the Planning Inspector has given the go ahead for this controversial 1855 new home development at the Salden Chase close to Newton Longville, and Bucks Council are likely to approve the formal planning application in the near future, your PC is pressing for additional safety improvements through Whaddon including additional kerbing and a 20mph variable speed limit on the approaches to the village school.

Please read the Salden Chase (SWMK) separate article for further information.

3. Road Markings. The School road markings have recently been refreshed. Transport for Bucks (TfB) has raised orders for other markings to be undertaken. The village gateways which are beginning to look very sad will be repainted and if found rotten will be replaced with plastic parts. Weeds and debris on gateways will be cleared by the street scene team, but no date has been given for these works to be undertaken.

4. Footpath Damage. Some granite setts were recently replaced in High Street; other defects will be monitored and included in future work schedules as required. Already one kerb sett repair has been damaged (workmanship/lorries?) and has been reported to TfB. Footpaths are part of BC's ongoing countywide inspection programme. When urgent repairs are identified (there were none on the last inspection) they are added to the repair programme and undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

Whilst your PC continues to hold dialogue with TfB, residents can help by reporting any concerns online at: www.fixmystreet.com. It would be helpful to copy your complaints to Whaddon Parish Clerk at: ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC

Neighbourhood Watch

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch recently said:



"Any of us can be caught out by scammers. They deliberately target our better nature and use psychological tactics, like being overly friendly or pretending to do you a favour, making you a limited-time offer, telling you everyone else has done something or trapping you into doing little tasks for them. If you sense something's not quite right, give a clear, firm "no". Politeness and fear of offence can make us more vulnerable – so we want to tell people it's ok to be firm in telling scammers you are not interested".

SO, TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. Stop and think. It could protect you and your money.

STOP: Take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information that could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE: Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you into making a quick decision.

PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud. (actionfraud.police.uk or telephone 0300 1234 2040)

It is good practice to ensure that you do not hold too much cash in your current accounts. Keep the bulk of your money in savings or deposit accounts. This means that if a criminal does gain access to your current account or convinces you to make a payment, they will only be able to access a limited amount of your money.

If you are struggling to manage your financial affairs or feel particularly concerned about scams, consider contacting your bank. Explain how and why you feel concerned about scams and ask them for help in providing additional security measures to protect your account better. The bank will then offer a range of measures to support you and protect you from scams.

If you notify the bank, the bank has a duty of care to ensure you are protected.

Resources

Age UK has produced an excellent 40-page guide called 'Avoiding scams' – print off the relevant pages you wish to highlight.

Action Fraud has a range of printable fact sheets, leaflets and posters on different types of scams.

Now on its fourth edition, the Little Book of Big Scams is a 46-page booklet highlighting the most common frauds and how to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

Consumers' group Which? Has produced a guide to help people spot whether something is a scam.

LOOKING AHEAD.

The most vulnerable people could be offered a booster Covid-19 vaccine from September/October 2021 to protect as many as possible from becoming seriously ill due to Covid-19 over the winter period.

There is the potential for cybercriminals to target vulnerable or older adults who are eligible for the vaccine, so be aware and only deal directly with the NHS or your GP.

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

PLANNING SNIPPETS

The following Appeal decision and new planning applications were discussed at the Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021. Other, as yet undecided applications have been updated as appropriate.

APPEAL - APP/PO 430/W/21/3269545 - Park Hill Farm, A421 (Opp Horwood turn)

Recontouring of Agricultural Land using inert Clays and Soils.

Despite not complying with the policies of the Buckinghamshire 'Waste Management Plan' the Inspector has **allowed** this appeal, mainly, because of the need to support economic growth, productivity and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses. There is a long list of planning conditions attached to the permission, including what site machinery is allowed, highway issues, number of vehicle movements, future landscaping and orchard planting etc. Over time, it may be necessary to monitor these conditions in order that the operators are not found to be in breach of their obligations.

21/03014/APP - 7 Vicarage Road, Whaddon - Single storey side and rear extension. extension to the dormer window and create a drive for three cars.

Similar historic side and rear extension applications have been approved by AVDC, and although never built it is unlikely that an objection could be sustained, so this element was not objected to.

However, the extended loft conversion with an unsympathetic box like rear dormer ran contrary to AVDC's own design guide, and no acceptable justification was submitted for the three additional car parking spaces. These two elements were objected to and concern was raised about the future use of the building.

It is unlikely that a decision will be made for 2-3 months.

21/02510/APP - 4 Briary View Whaddon, MK17 0LP - Two storey side and single storey rear extensions.

Although a further plan has now been submitted showing how the three car parking spaces required for a four bedroomed house can just about be achieved within the front garden. A decision is still awaited.

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

Although not in the Whaddon Parish, it was agreed at a much earlier meeting to raise an objection on traffic and safety grounds to this application for a gas tanker offloading facility. Objections continue to be submitted - mainly on traffic noise and pollution, and a final decision is still awaited.

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

Decision still awaited.

21/01445/APP - Turrets 26 High Street, Whaddon - Garage conversion to create home gym

No decision yet.

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 and although this application for a unique and individual contemporary home has not been withdrawn, a completely new application has been submitted by the same applicant. (see listing immediately below).

21/01219/APP - Beachampton - Grove Farm Stratford Road Whaddon Buckinghamshire MK17 0NF - Two storey rear extension.

Decision awaited.

18/01333/APP - Field, Stratford Road (opp. Whaddon Hall entrance)

Although the original planning application was refused the enforcement case relating to the planning application 17/00359/CON3, is still ongoing.

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

See - 18/01333/APP above, which relates.

Decision still awaited after some 6 months. WPC has asked BC for clarification on what action - if any- will be taken to monitor the dog training use that is allowed by permitted development for 28 days each year (i.e. parking, noise, operation hours).

21/01444/ALB - 'Turrets', 26 High Street, Whaddon - Insertion of lantern roof light into existing flat roof and removal of internal wall.

Decision awaited.

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

No Decision yet.

21/01334/APP - 8 Vicarage Road, Whaddon - Single storey rear extension.

Decision still awaited

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR INFORMATION :-

It appears that Bucks Council (BC) is considering changing the way that Planning applications are reported online, in order to bring all previous individual Bucks councils in line.

This is likely to include how the publishing of comments from the general public are dealt with, due to the GDPR problems of protecting personal information.

In future public comments may not appear at all on the council's planning website, or alternatively they may be deleted immediately after a decision is reached.

This would not apply to statutory consultees, such as Whaddon Parish Council.

If the earlier position is confirmed as looks likely, then WPC will endeavour to inform residents as early as possible, in order that you know and understand what any new procedure involves. Depending on BC's final decision, it may be necessary in the future to copy any comments that you wish to submit on planning applications to the WPC clerk, especially if you require help or guidance on the process.

PLEASE REMEMBER that you can view these or any other planning applications, on the AVDC planning website by simply Googling: AVDC planning simple search. Open this link, highlight the appropriate search (i.e. application) and then type in the planning application reference in the box provided, then click 'search'. Open the documents and inspect the plans/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 Thursday 11th November 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, where the agenda will be posted 3 days beforehand.

Graham Stewart

.....

SALDEN CHASE (SWMK), NEWTON LONGVILLE.

The planning progress of this major strategic site, which will impact Whaddon village, has been followed over many years by your Parish Council, and regular update reports have appeared within past editions of the Whaddon Quarterly.

The long-running saga is nearing its end!

The Appeal against the highway access, lodged by MKC, West Bletchley and Newton Longville Councils has been **LOST**. Now that the Planning Inspector has given the green light for the consortium of 5 big name developers promoting this controversial development to go ahead, we can expect Bucks Council to formally approve the planning application for 1855 new homes (behind the Bottledump roundabout, between the A421 and the railway line, close to Newton Longville) in the near future, once all legal agreements and section 106 matters have been finalised. The Inspector agreed that the mitigation measures proposed by the consortium to improve many roundabouts close to the development - **including minor improvements to the Whaddon one on the A421** - are acceptable and will not endanger road safety. The fact that the A421 may be, or is, close to capacity at peak times was not a matter for the developers to resolve, because all they need to do is mitigate for the additional traffic caused by the development itself. This decision will be welcomed by Bucks Council, as it will allow them to press forward with formal approval of the 1855 new homes (all within the Buckinghamshire district) and the adoption of VALP, which is reliant, in part, for these houses to be built within the plan period to 2033.

When this application was first submitted some years ago WPC argued that traffic arising from the development would impact Whaddon, and over time our concerns have been partly answered. The draft 106 legal agreement - still to be approved - contains the following clause, under the heading 'Highway Improvements':-

- 17. WHADDON SAFETY SCHEME CONTRIBUTION
- 17.1 to pay the Whaddon Highway Safety Improvement Scheme Contribution to the Council on or before Occupation of the 100th Dwelling.
- 17.2 not to Occupy or cause or permit to be Occupied and/or used more

than 99 Dwellings until the Whaddon Highway Safety Improvement Scheme Contribution has been paid to the Council (unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Council).

The amount agreed was £24,000, to pay for kerbing between Ladymead and the Coddimoor Lane junction, and for the installation of Variable 20 mph speed restriction warning signs on both approaches to the Village School. Bearing in mind several years have passed since this figure was first agreed, WPC have written to the Highways Development Team requesting that a review of this figure takes place, before the agreement is finally signed, to ensure that the amount is sufficient for purpose, considering price increases etc. that will have occurred during the lengthy intervening period. A reply is awaited and hopefully, if everything is agreed these improvements could be installed in approximately five years' time.

.....

Shenley Park, Whaddon

VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN (VALP)

The Inspector has found the VALP to be 'sound', subject to further minor modifications and the approval of the plan is likely to be confirmed at a meeting of the full Bucks Council on 15th September 2021, before final adoption of the Plan later this year. Work has already commenced on the New Buckinghamshire Plan which will replace the VALP in about five years' time.

Apart from the acceptance of the min. 1150 new homes at Shenley Park, Whaddon, there are a few points which may impact Whaddon during the plan period to 2033.

1. Villages:

Policy D3 of the Plan advises that new housing development in smaller villages will be supported where it contributes to the sustainability of that village, thus allowing for the possibility that additional population could provide additional demand to sustain ailing services or facilities.

Part of Policy D6 asserts that "local and village centres will be encouraged to grow and loss of essential facilities and businesses such as local shops, pubs and post offices will not be supported." Policy 13 also asserts that the Council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings (shops, post offices and pubs) and facilities for which there is a demonstrable need.

2. Housing Numbers/Milton Keynes:

The Inspector has reached the conclusion that insufficient land has been identified for housing and that additional allocations need to be made, which gives an opportunity to redress the balance of development strategy between the north and south of the district by placing new sites in close proximity to Milton Keynes. If I have understood this correctly, an extra 1200 new homes are required of which some 350 could be placed close to MK.

3. Protected transport schemes:

A new roundabout access on the A421 will serve Shenley Park and, subject to more detailed traffic modelling, dualling between the new access and Bottledump roundabout will possibly be required. From the new roundabout there will be a link road through the site connecting the A421 with H6 and/or H7.

.....

SHENLEY PARK, WHADDON

Whilst very disappointing the Inspector has, as expected, confirmed the allocation of this major site, finding it ‘sound’, with virtually no changes to the criteria listed within the Modification Allocation, apart from the addition of four new descriptive paragraphs, which do not change the detailed planning requirements of the site.

The following comments by the Inspector in his report are worth noting: -

1. Development will not be restricted to just the northern half of the site (Bottlehouse Farm, north of Shenley Road), despite the Landscape and Visual Comparison Assessment saying, *"Development in the southern parcel would represent an unacceptable extension of development into the countryside and visible from the wider landscape"*. Basically, the Inspector accepts that this constraint can be overcome by the introduction of new and extended improvements to the existing woodland, to provide a green landscape within which the full development can be located. Requirements within the Development Criteria include the enhancement of significant blocks of woodland and hedgerows within or on the edge of the site to provide a long-term defensible boundary to the western edge of Milton Keynes.

By comparison, there is no explanation of how close or what landscaping will be required in the northern half of the site between the development and Briary View, and we must therefore assume that this will be addressed in the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) which has yet to be produced and will be the subject of a further round of public consultation.

2. No change has been made to the housing delivery programme, with 50 new homes to be provided in the next 4 years, before the end of 2025. To achieve this, and so as not to ‘open the doors’ for other unselected sites to be considered as replacements (thereby ensuring that the required housing numbers can be achieved within the plan period to 2033), we can expect the first bricks to be laid early in 2025, following the installation of infrastructure (roads and drainage) during 2023/4. It is safe to assume that the SPG will have to be produced later this year (2021) or early next, followed by a public consultation on its content. A full and detailed planning application is likely to be submitted late in 2022, or early 2023.

Whilst there is no opportunity to challenge the Inspector’s decision, WPC has contacted Bucks Council requesting further information on how and when the SPG will be developed, asking whether or not WPC and residents can be involved at an early stage (not after its production) to help shape and overcome the concerns of the community, which can be summarised as follows:-

Criteria f. How will the landscape-led assessment lead to a 'long term defensible boundary' to the western edge of Milton Keynes'?

Criteria g. How will the setting of Whaddon village and its conservation areas be conserved by a substantial, well-designed and managed countryside buffer (not formal open space). Where will this be placed and how will it be designed in relation to Briary View and the recreation ground?

Criteria n-q. Although not mentioned specifically, how will the new link road through the development help resolve rat-running problems through Whaddon - as maintained by BC?

What is the future of Shenley Road which will be severed by the new link road connecting the A421 at H6 Childs Way and/or H7 Chaffron Way?

What should happen to Coddimoor Lane to reduce the ever-worsening rat-running from the A421 to central and north Milton Keynes?

Criteria r. Does the provision of new public transport facilities '*to surrounding areas*' extend to Whaddon?

IMPORTANT POINTS FOR RESIDENT DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION.

This major strategic site is expected to provide a minimum of 1150 new homes, a 110-bed care home/extra care facility, new primary school, a mixed-use local centre (including a community hall and healthcare facility), a site for a secondary school if found necessary, and multifunctional green space. These specific requirements will all fall within Whaddon Parish, which raises the obvious question of how a major strategic development of this nature, so close to the village, will impact on existing village facilities, present and future residents and indeed on your Parish Council, as the development grows during the next 5-15 years?

Although the Inspector expects new residents of Shenley Park to use some facilities in MK, it is not difficult to imagine that existing village facilities will come under increasing pressure, perhaps facilitating change or improvement, brought about by the influx of some 3000+plus new residents and up to 5000 cars on our doorstep. Many residents may view this as an exciting challenge and an opportunity to possibly bring about change and improve the village, but others may harbour concerns that traffic and safety will worsen, and quality of life may diminish. The coming weeks and months will, I am sure, provide opportunities to voice your opinions on change which hopefully might perhaps help shape the future of Whaddon and its community, if our ideas are made known to BC during the production of the SPG and before any detailed planning application is submitted.

If you have any clear ideas, thoughts or wishes on how Shenley Park can improve village life, then please let your Parish Council know by emailing parishclerk@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk as soon as possible, especially if the village is given the opportunity to help shape the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) being the next stage in the planning process. Alternatively, there will be a further period of public consultation after the publication of the SPG, when residents can make their views known.

NOTE : The developers are only duty bound to undertake off-site works that are necessary or caused as a consequence of their development. This obviously relates to the impact of extra traffic arising from the development, and landscape works to avoid coalescence etc. but could also impact on local amenities if it can be demonstrated that new residents are likely to use them, as opposed to the new facilities on the development itself. If anything falls outside this generalised view, then applications can be made to the Winslow Community Fund, which has a Development Contribution pot of money, made available from larger developments for allocation on specific community projects.

Time to put your thinking caps on?!

Graham Stewart

The Adventures of Frederick Hayward

After a very trying year of 2020

I needed a break, so I decided to make plans to go to a lovely farm in the countryside of Essex.

Sometime after my first operation of 2021, I bought some tickets and later caught the train from Milton Keynes Central railway station which took me Euston. After passing through the ticket barrier a very nice rail employee asked me where I was going and as I was

with a walking stick and a trolley on wheels, I told her I was heading for Braintree. The lady said to me, "Follow me and I will take you to the taxis." which I did.

A very friendly taxi driver took me to Liverpool Street. He took me to a side entrance and spoke to a rail employee who opened a gate. The gentleman also telephoned a Liverpool Street employee who thereafter met the taxi and me. After saying farewell to the taxi driver, the Liverpool Street employee took me in a wheelchair to a shop in the rail station and then took me to the train to Braintree. I was first on and after saying farewell to the employee I settled into my seat. Lots of people arrived and soon the train departed. Some people left the train at Stratford, but lots more got on and the seats were soon all taken. The train journey went well, except for a short delay when a vehicle got stuck under a bridge. So, us passengers were informed on an intercom on the train.

Reaching Braintree, I hired a taxi at the station. A lovely lady drove the vehicle to the farm, which is a working farm, however, has cottages where people can stay.

I have visited the area before and again I was attending the photography masterclass. A lot of people were on the course. I met people I had met before and new people too. It was a wonderful four days there, lots of talk about cameras, photos being taken of people, trees, flowers, buildings and on site there were chickens, ducks, ducklings and a lovely black cat. However, the cat seemed shy and



I only saw the cat once so could not get a photo. Really lovely people, so friendly. All too soon it was time to return home.

After saying goodbye to the lovely couple who look after the farm and their son, the lady taxi driver called, and I returned to Braintree Station. I boarded the train which then departed for Liverpool Street. Here, I had an interesting time after leaving the train. I did not know what best to do. I went through the ticket barriers and went to the information kiosk. I asked the person the way out to the taxis, but there was so much noise I could not hear what was said. Well, I said thank you.

Then I saw a covered stall selling yummy cakes and lovely food called Lola. A lovely lady and gentleman were there. So, I started singing Lola from the song Layla. I said if I purchased some goods from your stall can you help me leave the station and get a taxi. So that was it.

I bought yummy cakes and goods and the gentleman helped me to leave the station, get down some steps, the nice man, me and my walking stick. I then hired a taxi thanking the person who helped me at Liverpool Street and after this I went across parts of London.

Arriving at Euston I was met by a gentleman who works for mobility at Euston Road Station. After a talk with him, he and a colleague took me to a train. He also found me a seat, asked me my name and said he would telephone Milton Keynes station so that a rail staff member could meet me there and that is what happened. The train was fast nonstop Euston to Milton Keynes in 30 minutes.

After a taxi home I arrived safe and sound with lovely photos and the memory of lovely people who helped me so much.

Frederick Hayward



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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 wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

Publication Dates and Copy Deadlines

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

Copy deadlines are available by contacting the Editor

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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