

# WHADDON QUARTERLY



## Harvest Auction and Supper

In aid of St. Mary's Church

# WINTER 2023

Welcome to Bump Start, the baby shop at Whaddon. We stock everything you could need for your baby, from car seats to cots to carriers. We pride ourselves on our product knowledge and will help find the ideal products for you. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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# Welcome to Whaddon Quarterly!

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The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors or Whaddon Parish Council. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but the Editor does not accept liability for any errors within contributed material. The Editor's decision is final.

**For comments, queries, and articles**

Please contact

**[wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)**

**to advertise in the Whaddon Quarterly**

Send your advertisement to the Editor as above.

**Want your photo on the front cover?**

Then send your entry for the next edition to: [wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)

# Editor's Letter

## Welcome to the Winter edition of The Whaddon Quarterly

It feels like only yesterday that I was writing the Editor's letter for the last Quarterly, but when I think of everything that has happened since that edition, I realise how much time has passed.

There have been plenty of amazing events over the past quarter to keep Whaddon busy. A fundraising quiz at the Jubilee Hall, the annual Harvest Festival Supper, complete with fundraising auction, an Italian-themed food and music evening and a winter craft fayre. Whaddon is a busy village with fun and interesting activities and events to get involved with, should you wish to. Please see the back page with "Dates for your diary", to ensure that you do not miss a thing in the next quarter.

Sadly, the village lost three much-loved members of the community in the last few months. Barry Dudley, Angie Joint and Peter Willis will be missed by all that knew them. Our love and kind wishes go to all their family and friends.

This edition of the Quarterly is my final one as Editor and the WPC are looking for a keen volunteer or volunteers to produce this magazine going forward. Please see below for more details.

If you have something that you wish to share in our village magazine, or have ideas of what you'd like to see included, please contact the new editorial team on [Wqeditor@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Wqeditor@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)

Deadline for the Spring edition is 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with publication planned within 7 days. Stay safe and enjoy the festive season and have a Happy New Year!

**Sharon**  
**Editor**

## YOUR MAGAZINE NEEDS YOU!

**Do you love living in/near Whaddon and it's warm and friendly community?**

**An important part of supporting that is our wonderful Parish Magazine. Full of news and views and valuable information. It's part of the glue that holds our community together.**

WQ needs a new Editor.

### COULD THAT BE YOU?

You just need basic MS Word skills and a knack for reminding contributors to get their articles in on time. You also get to showcase your writing skills if you wish to.

Plenty of help and support is available. You only need a few hours each quarter.

Please get in touch to find out more:  
[clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)





## Whaddon Parish Council Chairman's Report

Events in life move at a pace, I am sure you will agree and that is very true of our village at present. It is also true of those who live in it. The other day, I came across an electoral roll of thirty-five years ago and of the four hundred names on it; less than 10% remained the same. We are, therefore, a village populated by relative newcomers who have come here knowing well that once Milton Keynes finished populating its Designated Area, it would be seeking to burst its boundaries; but what they were not expecting was for Buckinghamshire Council to do it for them by creating Shenley Park which generates the prospect of creating a very different village.

Nevertheless, I am sure that all of us, whether newly arrived or not, appreciate Whaddon for what it is, as a small village with a great public spirit, using the Jubilee Hall for so many great events, together with the Lowndes Arms and St. Mary's Church.

Changes lie ahead and the Parish Council's battle will have to continue for several years to achieve the best outcome for the village as we now know it.

***Cllr Billy Stanier Chairman***  
**Whaddon Parish Council**

.....

### A Thank You Note ...

I have always maintained that living in Whaddon is so special that unless you do actually live there, you couldn't imagine what it's like to be part of such a loving community. I have been experiencing that tender loving care over the past week as I'm getting used to the world without Peter in it.

I will get round to thanking people individually, but for now, I would like to thank everyone so very much for all the messages, cards and flowers I have received, and for the absolute knowledge that I can shout for help at any time, and I'll be gently scooped up.

In case you didn't know, Peter died on 6<sup>th</sup> November in MK hospital. His funeral will be held at St Mary's Church on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2 pm. Anyone who would like to celebrate his life with us will be welcome to come.

**Daphne Willis**



# Clerk's Corner

## Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council



### Highway Repairs – the ongoing saga....

Residents will have seen the half-done job of repairing pavements on the High St, fallen village entrance gates, abandoned signs, potholes, outstanding repairs on the traffic calming in Stratford Rd etc, etc. The list is long and depressing. Please rest assured your Parish Council is on the case, early and often, to get these things fixed. There is a very limited budget, we are shouting as loud as we can, and will keep going as long as it takes!

### Grab an Allotment and Grow Your Own Veggies!

There are a small number of allotments vacant and in need of loving gardeners to tend them. The allotments now have an onsite water supply, great community spirit, and prices are from under £10/year! Get in touch now for more info.

### Get your copy of Whaddon Quarterly by Email!

Reduce the Clutter! Keep a Digital Historical Archive! Reduce Costs! Save Time on Deliveries! Sign up NOW to get your copy of Whaddon Quarterly by email. Drop a quick request to [Clerk@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk) and you'll be added to the email list.

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

Send a short email to [clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.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 for 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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at The Chapel, Stock Lane, MK17 0LU. Meetings are generally every other month on 2nd Thursday, but 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 at [www.whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](http://www.whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk). All Welcome!

## Whaddon Quarterly Advertising Rates and Publication Policy

### General and Commercial Advertisers

Full Page – Black and white – four editions	£90
Full Page – Colour – four editions	£100
Half Page – Black and white - four editions	£52
Half Page – Colour – four editions	P.O.A.

Advertising fees are payable in advance on receipt of invoice. Interest may be charged on overdue accounts. BACS payments to **Unity Trust Bank: Account 20454254 Sort Code 60-83-01.**

### 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.

### Format and Submission

Full page – A5 size. Copy to be submitted in .docx, PDF or high resolution .jpg format.  
Email content to [wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.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.

### Content Policy and Copyright

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



## Jubilee Hall – Whaddon's Village Hall

### News and Upcoming events!

You can hire the hall for private events at competitive rates. Chairs & tables can be hired if you need extra furniture for your private gatherings.

We have speakers to enable music to be played by hirers if required. And we have mood lighting that can be used upon request. Hall hire is £12 per hour for Whaddon residents; £18 per hour for non-residents, plus an additional cleaning charge for one-off bookings.

Please e-mail: [whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com) for more details.

Hire income alone is not enough to fund the running costs of the hall. Fundraising events are required to bridge the gap. That is why your support at our events is so gratefully received and very much appreciated.

In 2023, we have completed much-needed external work. We would now like to raise funds to repair and improve the flooring inside the hall. Please help us by supporting if you can.

#### Since the last Whaddon Quarterly:

##### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October:** Quiz night

We had another sell-out evening at our ever-popular Quiz evening with Joanne and Liz as guest question mistresses.

Congratulations to Les Quizerables who lifted the lovely Jubilee Hall Quiz trophy with Crystal Methodists close on their heels.

It was particularly nice to see lots of attendees from our neighbouring village of Nash and we hope to see them at future events too.



##### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov :** Italian-themed food and entertainment evening

Another magnificent evening at the hall which sold out well before the night. Fabulous food and first-class entertainment. Thank you to all who made it happen and contributed to it being such a spectacular success.

Once again, we enjoyed the company of many Nash neighbours as well as some new faces from Whaddon. We hope to see you all at the next event.

##### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Jubilee Hall Annual General Meeting.

At the Jubilee Hall AGM, the new committee was elected. Deb Spinks left the committee after more years' service that she'd care to admit.

Graham Hain, Pierre Hibble, Marianna Beckwith, Sharon Bessell, Trevor Bennett, Anne Tolfree, Charlotte Calder and Frederick Hayward all remain as committee members for another year. And we happily welcomed three new members, Hagar Niblett, Sriram Rajan and Sally Shrimpton.

Don't forget, we also have our "Happy Helpers" team who help whenever they can.

If you would like to find out more about how you can help, please contact any of the existing members through the Jubilee Hall Facebook page or e-mail: [whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com).



## FUTURE EVENTS:

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** Christmas tree Lighting-up ceremony followed by a festive village social evening with a bar and food van.

After the success of this event for the past 2 years, we are doing it all again!

Mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies are available from the hall from 5.30pm. Christmas tree lights switch on will be at 6pm followed by carols round the tree, supported by the village's own Chase Choir.

This year, we also have a food van, The Pitstop Trailer, from which you can purchase delicious food to eat inside the hall or alfresco (menu right), Children's options are also available.

A festive social event for all the family; please come along & bring your friends. For those new to the village, it's a great opportunity to meet the many lovely people living in our wonderfully inclusive and friendly community. And you'll be helping to raise funds whilst having fun and catching up with friends and neighbours!

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January:** Quiz night. Doors and Bar Open 7pm. Quiz starts 8pm. Bar until 11pm.

This event is almost sold out after being advertised on the Whaddon Village Facebook Group. But if there are still tables left, please e-mail [whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com) to book your table.

Come along to this popular village event and see if you can put Les Quizerables in their place and take home the Brainiest in the Village title. Teams of up to 6 people. £4 per person entry payable in advance.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March:** Tex-Mex Music and Food Evening. Doors and Bar open 7pm until late. Ticket only.

Dust down your cowboy boots and brush up those line-dancing moves. Keep an eye on the Village Hall Noticeboard and Jubilee Hall Facebook page to see when these tickets come on sale. Tickets will sell out fast and you won't want to miss it!

**POLL FOR FUTURE EVENTS** – In the last Quarterly, we invited you to e-mail us to let us know what you'd like to see in the hall. Combined with a Facebook poll, we noted your votes. The most popular ideas were Quiz Nights; Themed food and music evenings; Social night with live music; and social evenings with karaoke. We are using these ideas to shape our planning for 2024 but please let us know if you have further ideas. Thank you. **Please keep an eye on the Jubilee Hall noticeboard for more details and updates. If you are on Facebook, please like our page "Whaddon Jubilee Hall".**

PITSTOP	
TRAILER	
BURGERS	PITSTOP CLASSICS
Pitstop Smash Burger (Gfa) X2 seasoned beef patties, Fried Onion, Monterey Jack & Cheddar Cheese, Crisp Shred Lettuce, Tomato, Gherkin & Burger Sauce -Served in a seeded Brioche Bun	Halloumi Fries -Served with a Sweet Chilli sauce & Coriander
Bean Burger (Vg) Bean Pattie, Cathedral City Cheese, Crisp Shred Lettuce, Tomato & Vegan Mayo -Served in a soft Roll	Halloumi Fries -Served with Greek Yoghurt, Pomegranate & Coriander
Chicken Burger -Kentucky Style Fried Chicken Breast with Crisp Shred Lettuce & Mayonnaise -Served in a seeded Brioche Bun	Chilli Nachos -Pitstop Chilli, Sour Cream, cheddar cheese & Jalapenos* (optional)
HOT DOGS	DRINKS
Classic Hot Dog - 8" Lincolnshire Pork Sausage & Fried Onions with Heinz Ketchup, American style Mustard & Jalapenos (optional) served in a Brioche roll	Tea (PG Tips) £1.50 Nescafe Coffee (Decaf available) £1.50 Latte £2 Vanilla/caramel/gingerbread syrup 0.50 Cappuccino £2 Hot Chocolate 2.50 Deluxe Hot Chocolate MBe £3 -{Cream & Marshmallows} (Alternative Milks Available).
Pitstop Chilli Dog -Homemade Chilli, Cheese, American style Mustard & Jalapenos (optional) Served in a Brioche roll	Cold drinks £1.50
SPECIALS	Please inform us of any Allergies or Dietary Requirements before ordering- Thank you! (Vga) - Vegan alternative (Gfa)- Gluten Free alternative
Dry Cured Smoked Bacon, Creamy Brie & Cranberry Sauce Roll	
Winter Macaroni Cheese £5 (+ Sausage or Bacon) £7	
Sausage, Stuffing & Apple Sauce Roll £6	



WHADDON JUBILEE HALL



PRESENTS

# CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

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**SATURDAY**

**02**

**DECEMBER**

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**5.30PM to 11.00PM**

**FAMILY, FRIENDS, FOOD, DRINK, CAROLS AND FUN**

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**6.00pm** Christmas lights switch on, followed by carols round the tree with the Chase Choir.

**6.30pm** bar opens in the hall and food available to buy from The Pitstop Trailer.

CHARITY NO. 300348



# Angie Joint (1965-2023)

Angie was born on the twentieth of April 1965, at home in Dunstable. She grew up with her younger sister Jenny and parents Ray and Sheila, in the same house where Ray still lives today.

She had a happy childhood surrounded by animals, including her tortoise (ironically called Timothy!) and often talked of her earliest memories of holding baby racing pigeons in her Grandad Wood's pigeon loft.

At school, she was a trampolinist and gymnast, and could still proudly do a cartwheel and headstand well into her fifties. After the funeral, we were reminded of one of our favourite stories about her: a village hall event which carried on well into the night, at some point during which the police arrived to check what was going on, to find her doing a headstand against the wall of the hall!

She appeared in many theatre productions at school including Oliver, where she played a workhouse boy, and The Wizard of Oz, where she was one of the bricks in the Yellow Brick Road. After her death, while searching through paperwork Amy and Alex discovered she had completed several grade exams in Clarinet as a teenager, which was a surprise, although she did take every opportunity to show people that she knew how to play Lord of The Dance on the recorder!

After leaving school and completing work experience with the BBC, she became a Graphic Designer, which lent itself to her creativity, attention to detail and efficiency. This was much more successful than a previous job as a waitress, where she accidentally poured an entire jug of gravy over a man's brand-new suit, and a job behind a bar where she would occasionally make up the prices of a round of drinks because she didn't want to do the maths on adding up all the prices.

She made friends easily with anyone and everyone, often shocking strangers by challenging them to a game of pool in the pub, and then well and truly defeating them.

Around this time, she bought a flat in Newport Pagnell, and met Tim at a friend's work's Christmas Party in 1990 when she was 25.

They got married at the Priory Church in Dunstable in 1994, ahead of her joining Tim in a move to Canada. He had been working in Canada for six months at the time of their wedding, so planning the celebrations was a joint effort with her Mum, Sheila. She didn't seem at all phased by the fact that he was flying back to the UK just one day before the wedding, although Tim did reveal a few years later that he did have a backup flight booked, just in case!



*Angie & Tim shortly before moving to Whaddon*

Once in Canada, they moved to a small town just outside of Toronto called Richmond Hill. While she found it hard being away from friends and family, Angie fully embraced Canadian life, making new friends she stayed in contact with for life, windsurfing, ski-ing, waterski-ing and even trying husky sledding. She also became an excellent Niagara Falls and Toronto tour guide for family and friends who came to visit.

She returned to the UK in early 1996, pregnant with Amy, and it was at this point they stumbled across





Whaddon while looking for a house to rent “temporarily” while they both sold their flats. They moved into Freshfields next door to the village hall and loved it so much that “temporarily” turned into 7 years, before buying their house in Old Manor Close and settling in the village permanently.

In this time, Alex was also born, by which point she had become heavily involved in village life: her Mum used to call the village hall “an extension of the living room” as she could be found in there so often over the years – running a children’s nursery rhyme group, organising social events including her beloved Theatre In The Villages programme, and later doing yoga and joining in with the choir. She also spent several years as a Governor for Whaddon School, aiming to give back to the place that gave her two children such a great start to their education.

As Amy and Alex grew, she returned to work, balancing being a loving Mum with endless time and patience, with fulfilling her creative streak. She started out freelancing, before dabbling in travel agency with Whaddon’s own Scott Travel, which landed her a free trip to San Francisco with a group of strangers, all much more experienced travel agents. This would have daunted someone with less courage, but she had nerves of steel! She eventually returned to Freestone Creative in Stony Stratford, where she had worked in the 1990s, and would also often be found creating logos for friends’ business ventures. A playgroup, a band, a football team, a beer company, a gardening business and a dog walking field, to name just a handful, all have their logo thanks to her artistic streak and generosity with her time!



*On Fistral Beach with Amy & Alex in 2000*

Family holidays were mostly spent in Cornwall and Devon, her favourite place being the tiny riverside village of Helford Passage. Each New Year was spent on holiday, usually in fancy dress, with 30 friends: the New Year Crew. She wasn’t afraid to go further afield either, having spent time on holiday in places as far flung as Sydney and across Europe and America. However, we never let her forget the time she booked a holiday to Barcelona, then walked into a travel agent and flipped through their book on Italy, confused at why Barcelona was nowhere to be found! One of her greatest achievements was completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge: 24 miles and over 5000 feet of ascent, with a group of friends: the Ladies Up Steep Hills, for the diabetes charity JDRF.



Her life was not without hurdles. Within the space of two years, she was diagnosed with Lupus, lost her own Mum Sheila, and lost Tim. She was resilient though, and really understood that pain in life helped you to understand the importance of the joyful things it still had to offer.

She spent nearly two years self-isolating during Covid to keep herself safe, but took it all in her stride, even building a summerhouse for friends to come and sit outside with her for a cup of tea, or more likely a glass of prosecco, at a safe distance, regardless of how rainy it was. In the depths of

lockdown, she kept up with friends through Whaddon’s weekly quizzes, which were for certain the highlight of her week, and most other people’s too.

She happily welcomed back Amy and Alex, along with their partners Omri and Pippa, during the first lockdown, appreciating the chance to get to know her children's other halves well. When Amy and Omri returned last summer, she was slightly cautious, but very gracious, about having Bramble the enormous Lurcher move in with her, but they became completely inseparable and would share a banana every morning.

While she wasn't your average car enthusiast, she loved driving. Her love of Minis started as a toddler with her Dad's Minis, her first car was a tiny Mini, and she very proudly bought a new Mini Cooper in 2016 which was her absolute pride and joy – Omri even once made her a birthday cake version of it, numberplate and all!

We think there were two clear parts to her personality, and both are exactly how we want her to be remembered:

The first is the creative, precise woman who sat for hours teaching her children to paint, who inherited



*With this year's batch of sunflowers, her tallest yet!*

her Dad's and Grandad's artistic talents, whose friends would come to her for advice on colour schemes and who was helping Amy and Omri with all the details of planning their wedding and making their stationery.

The second is the fun, outdoorsy, sociable woman who was most at home out on a walk with her friends, somewhere she could bring fancy dress, or anywhere she could sit in a kayak.

It brings us great comfort that her final summer, though she didn't realise it was her last, would be so full of adventures for her. She'd been to Wimbledon with Alex, a first for her, on holidays across the UK with several groups of friends, on trips to the theatre for the first time since before the pandemic, and on a road trip across Ireland with Amy, getting to see Dublin, Kerry and even witnessing the glow of bioluminescent plankton in the waters of Kenmare Bay, on a midnight kayaking trip.

She spent her final week in her beloved Cornwall with two of her closest friends, Mary and Ruth, a long-awaited first time back there since losing Tim, again in her happy place in her kayak, where we will remember her.

The most perfect Mum and the most wonderful friend, you have left us far too soon.

## **Amy and Alex Joint**





## VINCENT BARRY DUDLEY OBITUARY

I have to report that a sad event took place in St Mary's Church on Friday 6th of October when we said goodbye to a great friend: Barry Dudley. Barry had been battling bravely against ill health for some time, but always managed to live life with a smile and a cheery word. We will remember him fondly.

I first met Barry when we moved to the village in February 1999 and set about getting to know the people of the village. I quickly found out that he was an ex-military man, having served in the Royal Navy for 9 years on 9 different ships. He started as a Deck Hand and rose to the position of Lead Steward. His longest tour of duty was on the Aircraft Carrier HMS Victorious working in the Wardroom looking after the ship's complement of Officers, which is probably where he developed his taste for fine wines! As an ex-military man myself, I was keen to chat to him about his life at sea. I soon found out that he had spent quite some time in Gibraltar when the ship he served on was put into the Royal Naval Docks for repairs. The crew were all accommodated at the RN base there for some months while the repairs were carried out and he told great stories about the fact that one of the RN dry docks was filled with seawater and reserved as a swimming pool for the ship's crew! Barry and I used to have long discussions about life as a serviceman in Gib; we would reminisce and compare memories, as I had served there in the RAF, but not at the same time!



Barry was born in Westminster in 1938; he lived in Battersea and attended St John's Grammar School. He was born into the Catholic faith and so had to have a saint's name as his first name. He was christened Vincent Barry Dudley, after Saint Vincent, the patron saint of charities and volunteers, which was quite fitting in more ways than one. When I first met him, I couldn't resist telling him that my surname was Vincent and I had been born in Dudley, (but I was C of E!). After school he started work in London as an office clerk for Israel Airlines but had little taste for office life. He soon moved on to work on the Thames as a tourist guide on boats, using his local knowledge to talk about the features and landmarks on the banks of the Thames.

Barry married Hazel in 1961 and left the Navy in 1966 to begin civilian life. They lived on the south coast: hardly surprising given his 9 years in the Navy! He had met Hazel in a jazz club, and he had an eclectic taste in music covering blues, gospel and, in later years, rock. They later moved to Aylesbury from the south coast where began his work as a roofer, which continued for some 30 years and proved to be a major asset to the community here in Whaddon. When he and his family moved to Whaddon, his roofing skills and community spirit were of great benefit to both the Church and the village.

Barry gave a lot of his time to help St Mary's Church and was treasurer of the Whaddon Parochial Church Council for many years. He also took on the role of purchasing all the equipment needed to maintain the churchyard. I spent many a happy hour discussing the merits of different motorised garden machinery with him and, as a result, we have what is probably the best looked-after churchyard in the county, for which we should all be most grateful! He leaves us with the legacy of the Merry Mowers, and we will all strive to maintain our standards as a tribute to him! He was invaluable as an advisor on the maintenance of the church roof, particularly when most of the roof lead was stolen one night! I can personally verify his skills as a roofer! Some years ago, we had lost some tiles off our roof, and I asked Barry if he would mind having a look for me and advise on a suitable course of action. A couple of days later he turned up with a handful of tiles and a couple of sofa seat cushions. He then proceeded to climb out of a bathroom window and, using the cushions to take his weight, he scrambled across the roof, removing tiles to make use of the battens as steps, replaced the broken tiles with the new ones, made his way back across the roof, replacing the tiles he had removed on the way out, and climbed back in through the window bringing

the sofa base cushions back with him! He did all this in about 15 minutes at no cost! Needless to say, I was most grateful!

Barry was also a keen walker and outdoor adventurer. He completed the Pennine Way, the Samaria Gorge in Crete, where he also walked the sharp ridgeline of the mountainous spine of Crete, the climb up to Machu Picchu in Peru, travelled across Russia by train to China, hiked the Inca trail in Peru and rafted the Grand Canyon! There cannot be many people on this earth who could match such a level of achievement.

Before I finish, I feel I must report on Barry's other great success: as a stage performer! He was not a regular at "treading the boards" but when he did, he did so in some style! His major claims to fame as a thespian were hilarious! In a village show some years ago he featured as one of 4 ageing male ballerinas in tights and tutus performing a piece from Swan Lake to the delight of an ecstatic audience! He also featured in what was initially planned as a Punch and Judy puppet show! Sadly, due to the lack of availability for such an event we were about to remove this sketch from the running order, until it was decided we would continue with the plan after all. An enlarged Punch and Judy stand was manufactured, and Barry was cast as "the baby"! The show started as normal but, when the time for the baby to appear, up popped a grinning Barry in a very large representation of a baby's christening gown, grinning sheepishly at the audience; this brought the house down and those from the village who saw this still have fond memories of Barry's hilarious appearance.

Barry will be sorely missed, and we should be thankful for his hard work and contributions to village life, from which we all benefited.

Au revoir old friend: we will meet again in a better place!

**Sid V!**

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## **News from Whaddon's Chase Choir**

It can't be almost Christmas, can it? Well, oh, yes it can, apparently! Chase Choir has been rehearsing Christmas, and not-so-Christmas songs for quite some time now, and we'd love you to come along and be a part of the festive jollity when we perform them. There will be special guests, some of whom will be familiar to you, and others who may not: some nice surprises in store.

We'd love to see you and send you away full of warmth and end-of-year cheer, so do come along on 11 December and support us, and Brain Tumour Research, which is a charity very close to our hearts. This is Whaddon, of course, so you can expect a raffle and, most importantly, a bar!



And if one of your New Year to-do items is to have fun, improve your mental health, meet friendly people and try something new, or revisit something you've tried before, do get in touch with Marianna on 01908 503194, who will give you all the details. We will be no doubt delving into some new pieces come January, so we'll all be exploring new things together.

We meet on a Monday in the Jubilee Hall from 7.30 – 9pm. Do it! You know you want to! Oh yes you do!

**To find out more, contact Marianna on 01908 503194**

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# **CHASE CHOIR**

WARMLY INVITES YOU TO

## **A Christmas Concert** with festive music and special guests

**Monday, December 11th**  
**Whaddon Jubilee Hall**

**Doors and bar open 7pm**  
**Concert starts at 7.30pm**

CASH ONLY EVENT

Tickets £5 on the door

Raffle

All proceeds to Brain Tumour Research







# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WHADDON

YOUR LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS		
Graham Stewart	2 High Street	Tel: 01908 501973
Peter Beckwith	6 Old Manor Close	Tel: 01908 503194
Sally Green	Bellsbrook, Church Lane	Tel: Ex -directory
David 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

## **Home Repair Improvements.**

When thinking about home improvements or looking to get repairs done on or around your home make sure you think **#CHECK:**

**COMPARE** – Speak with multiple tradespeople to compare. Get at least three quotes. Check with friends and family for recommendations. TAKE YOUR TIME - legitimate traders will not rush you to make a decision.

**HISTORY** – Ask for the traders' references, recommendations and reviews and make sure you check them out.

**ESTABLISH THE DETAILS** – What work will be carried out? When will it start? Who will be doing the work? How much will it cost? Remember that a quote is more binding than an estimate.

**CONTACT** – Ensure everything is recorded and ask for a contract for the work.

**KEEP ALL THE PAPERWORK** - This may be needed should anything go wrong.

To check out a Trusted Trader visit:- <https://www.trustatrader.com/builders-in-buckinghamshire>.

**Please be careful. Keep Safe.**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



## Trust your instincts

### Protect against scams and fraud

The following article is taken from the 'Thames Valley Neighbourhood Alert', and distributed through the Neighbourhood Watch Network, which is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349.

*"Any of us can be caught out by scammers. They deliberately target our better natures 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" - it's ok to be firm in telling scammers you are not interested."*

**John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network.**

Visit the following websites for more guidance on recognising, avoiding and reporting scams, and many other personal and home safety tips:-

<https://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/> or <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk>

**Action Fraud and UK Finance** have shared their *Take Five to Stop Fraud* campaign, with three simple steps to help you avoid becoming a victim of scams:-

- **STOP:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information 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.
- **PROTECT:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

### **YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!!!!**

#### Want to play a Key Role in the Future of your Village?

Especially at this crucial time with many huge changes to our village in the planning pipeline.

**Whaddon Parish Council will be looking for candidates to join the Parish Council as New Parish Councillor(s) in the near future.**

- You get to participate in important decisions for your village
- You get to be a voice for your community
- You'll need attend six council meetings a year and deal with the general correspondence
- You'll get lots of help and support
- You can make a really positive difference to your community!

To find out more, get in touch with any member of the Council, or contact the Clerk on [clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk) or

Mob. 07891 887826.

# WHADDON SCHOOL NEWS

Whaddon School's Nativity '**A little bird told me**', will be performed by Reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils at **Whaddon Jubilee Hall** on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 1.30pm and again at 6.00pm.

Please let the school know if you wish to attend so that the numbers of those attending can be managed safely.

We welcome everyone and look forward to seeing you there!



We will be holding a Christmas Fayre on 18<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30-2.30pm. A range of tabletop sales, games and hot chocolate available - everyone welcome! This will be followed by Christmas carols sung by children and visitors, 2.30pm until 3pm, when the school closes.

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## Whaddon Women's Institute



Whilst many members of the WI are crafting geniuses, it must be said that it is not everyone's favourite activity. We are not all confident crafters. So, this September our group decided to choose an activity we could all have fun with. We gathered in the church hall with paints, trims and pre-cut wooden shapes and had ourselves a Christmas decoration-making party. Of course, there was plenty of tea, cake and biscuits; we are the WI after all! Once we had the official meeting completed, we set to making our creations whilst chatting about life in general with, of course, much laughter. Those of us who were not confident creators (me included), were very pleasantly surprised by what we were able to produce: all tree-worthy productions.

In October, we all met up at Thrift Farm; this was somewhere we all drive past on a regular basis but had not often visited. Their new garden centre had a great selection of plants and pots; this combined with their shop enabled us all to find something we needed to buy. I must say that browsing in a group was great fun, as we all have different tastes and perspectives, so I found uses for things I would normally have walked straight past. After shopping, we decamped to their new Potting Shed Café, which none of us had visited before, for the obligatory tea and cake. I have to say, they had a great selection, and the quality was superb. We all decided this was somewhere we would visit again.

November was time for our AGM. We are now planning our activities for next year, so if you are interested, we would love for you to join us and give us your ideas for things to do and places to visit.

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2pm for about 2 hours at various locations in Whaddon and its locale. Come along to any meeting for £3 as a visitor and see if it is for you. Or contact our secretary **Jill Aitken on 01908 502781** to find out more.

**Jane Wycherley (committee member)**

# Reflections from the Rectory

BY REVEREND JACQUELINE DOVE

I am currently on one of those rollercoaster rides that life randomly sends our way and I never did enjoy a rollercoaster ride at the funfair. I'm at heart an optimistic person and so the saying 'when life gives you lemons, make lemonade' comes to mind. However, I'm also learning to accept sadness and lament. The Psalms give us a good blueprint for lamenting all that is difficult and tragic in our lives.

My father is dying from kidney failure back in South Africa and after spending 11 days visiting him in ICU in South Africa, I needed to return back home. Last week we were told he probably had 7 days to live, today the doctors say it could be anything from two weeks to two years. So, it's a rollercoaster all right.

I find that when I am going through a challenging time, I am more aware of the consoling power of other people's goodness. A good nurse and good doctor can make all the difference. Kindness becomes like a candle flame shining in the dark. Like the kindness of the person manning the parking boom gate who lets you through when you can't find your pre-paid hospital parking ticket and the kind smile of someone serving you a cup of tea in the hospital café. It's rather like my spiritual practice of being present to the presence of God in the present moment. Which in many ways is what Christmas is about: celebrating God-with-us.

In South Africa I could glimpse a patch of the Indian Ocean where I was staying and because the weather wasn't particularly good, the sea was often an expanse of brooding dark greyness. This felt a fitting representation both of the world news at the moment and my current context. However, I noticed how when the sun broke free from a cloud it would light up a patch of sea transforming it to shimmering silver. I find my daily prayer practices which include listening to a piece of music, reflecting on a passage of scripture, liturgical prayers and silent, meditative prayers, are rather like the sun shining on the grey sea, as they fill my soul with shimmering silver. I also think human goodness has the same effect on heavy hearts.

Talking of human goodness, my heart is still lit up at the response of the village to our request to help save the church. The generosity of those who responded to our plea has significantly reduced the threat of St Mary's running out of money and so means that we will probably, together with some great fundraising ideas we received, be able to stay open and active. If you haven't yet joined the Parish Giving Scheme, please be assured that as little as £5 a month will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!! Wishing you all a Christmas full of goodness and gratitude.





# Christmas Fundraising Social Evening for St. Mary's Church

Last Christmas, the ladies of the village came together for an evening of music, food, drink and laughter in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. It was so successful, that we are doing it again this year.

It is on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** from 7.30pm until late.

There is a small charge, payable in advance, to cover hall hire and cleaning charges, and everyone brings their own drink and a contribution to the buffet table. This is coordinated amongst attendees so that we don't end up with a table full of sausage rolls!



A raffle will be held on the night, and proceeds for this, plus excess "entry fees" are being donated to St. Mary's Church. Last year the event raised over £150 for charity; we hope to raise even more this year.

We have some fabulous prizes in the raffle and due to gambling laws, you must be at the event to buy a ticket. If you can't be there but would still like to help with the fundraising by donating a prize, please contact Sharon (see below).



If you are new to the village, this would be a fabulous way to get to know other ladies in the village and enjoy the lovely Jubilee Hall facilities.

If you are interested in coming to this fun event, and in helping St Mary's Church in the process, then please contact **Sharon on 07703 388571** or via e-mail : **Sharon.Bessell@btinternet.com**



St Mary's Church, Whaddon - presents

# LIVE ACOUSTIC EVENING

SAVE  
THE DATE  
SAT 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
2024

## Spring into Whaddon

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you or your company are able to help with sponsorship for refreshments, printing, staging or even WC facilities, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Get In touch with Ruth or Helen to find out more.

CHASE  
CHOIR

LOCAL  
MUSICIANS

SPECIAL  
GUESTS

FOR INFO CONTACT  
RUTH SCOTT 01908 501865  
HELEN HICKMAN 01908 501816

# News from St Mary's Church

Hello everyone, in Whaddon, or further afield,

I'm writing this on behalf of our Church Warden Daphne, after the recent loss of her husband Peter, whose funeral will be held in the church on the 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm.

It's that time of year when I'm very grateful for our wood burner and mindful of all those who can't afford heating. If this includes any of you, please do contact the church PCC.



In September the Church PCC held a meeting in the village hall appealing to the village to help save the church. There was a good turn out and the PCC is very grateful to those who have generously agreed to support the church financially by setting up a monthly direct debit. This will significantly help the church to remain open and active. We are also grateful to those who offered to help in other ways offering their time and talent, inspired perhaps by the Merry Mowers (the volunteers who keep the churchyard looking so good). We now have a fundraising committee that is committed to organising events to raise money for the church. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact our Treasurer, Chris Robinson.

In October, we celebrated the Harvest. Thanks to all those who supported the Harvest Supper and auction. The auction raised an amazing £1,620 with the Chris Hickman marrow (turned into chutney by our Treasurer, for the cartel of six) going for £600. Half of the money raised was for the Tear Fund Harvest Appeal and, together with the Harvest Festival collection we were able to donate £855 to a very worthy cause. I was also very grateful to the two families who brought children to the Harvest Festival, as I had hidden potatoes for my story about the magic soup stone. The children were fantastic.

It has been a sad time for Whaddon since the last Whaddon Quarterly with the funerals of Barry Dudley and Angie Joint seeing the church packed with people coming to show their respects for two much loved individuals who will be greatly missed. In November, we remember those we have loved but no longer see, with a special All Souls Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. We also honoured all those who gave their lives for the peace of our country on Remembrance Sunday.

Information on future events: the church is holding their Annual Christmas Fayre on **Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> November between 2-4pm**. The newly formed fundraising committee has introduced some exciting additions with live entertainment which will have us all joining in with the Christmas festivities. We will also be having a Christingle this year on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at 4.30pm, to tie in with the lighting up of the Christmas Tree at the Village Hall taking place at 5.30pm. The annual Carol Service with Chase Choir followed by mulled wine and mince pies is taking place on **Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**. There is a Crib Service for very young children on **Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am**; Christmas Eve communion is on the **24<sup>th</sup> December at 10pm** and Jesus' Birthday Party is on **Christmas Day at 10am**.

I wish you all a joy-filled Christmas full of wonder at the incredible story that God came to dwell amongst us as a tiny baby born to vulnerable parents in scandalous circumstances.

**Rev'd Jacqueline Dove** on behalf of  
**St Mary's, Whaddon**

## christingle service

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER  
AT 4.30PM

everyone  
welcome

The  
Children's  
Society



## St. Mary's Church, Whaddon – Services December 2023 & January 2024

*Everyone is most welcome to all our services*

|                                   |                |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec      | 4.30pm         | Christingle                                                |
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec        | 4.30pm         | Advent Carol Service at Nash Church                        |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec       | 10.30am        | Holy Communion                                             |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec       | 6.30pm         | Carol Service with Chase Choir                             |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec       | 10.30am        | Crib Service                                               |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec       | 10.00pm        | Christmas Eve Communion                                    |
| <b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Jesus' Birthday Party</b>                               |
| Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec       | 10.00am        | Benefice Service at Thornborough followed by refreshments. |
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan        | 6.00pm         | Compline                                                   |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan       | 10.30pm        | Holy Communion                                             |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan       | 10.30am        | Table Talk at the Whaddon Chapel                           |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan       | 9.00am         | Said Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel at Whaddon Church   |

***Save the date for Live Acoustic Evening in the Church on  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024.***

## **SHENLEY PARK, WHADDON - PLANNING UPDATE**

### **Current position of the Crest Nicholson (CN) planning application to Bucks Council (BC) - Ref:- 23/02180/AOP.**

The consultation period has ended, and BC have said they will consider no more late submissions from CN the developer, but anyone can continue to make comments until the application is formally taken to the Strategic Sites planning committee to discuss and decide - which could take several months yet!

MKCC, as an adjacent authority, and a statutory consultee, has asked for further time to formally respond, despite having agreed a lengthy objection at their two recent Delegated and Planning meetings during early October. This delay must be to do with further traffic assessment work that is being undertaken to update their traffic prediction models.

The archaeology report on the trial trenching on the northern part of the site is still awaited, and once received it will be uploaded to the BC planning website for all to see. BC has already advised WPC that nothing of any significance has been found and it is unlikely to impact the planning application, by way of major changes.

Anyone interested in the site's Education needs, can now inspect the Bucks Education and School Site Specification responses which were posted on the BC planning website on 8th November. To inspect these, go to:- <https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/>

### **Current position of the Crest Nicholson (CN) planning application to Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) - (23/01610/OUT)**

As an adjoining authority BC has also requested an extension of time to respond to the identical MK application (albeit just for access, as it is only the H6 Childs Way, H7 Chaffron Way and part A421, that



fall within the MKCC district). The reason given by BC is due to its scale, and because BC is still awaiting highway comments and responses from other statutory consultees. BC may also be wanting to progress the SPD discussions further, before responding formally to MKCC (see SPD update below) because clearly BC needs to demonstrate that the highway and connectivity plans will work in practice. MKCC have agreed a new response date with BC of 1st December, and it will be interesting to see how BC respond, because it should be understood that BC are extremely keen to ensure that this major site does eventually receive planning approval, as it forms a crucial part of their policies helping to achieve the Council's housing requirement figures in its adopted Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VALP) to 2033. To achieve this, BC must obtain MKCC approval on the highway access aspects. It was expected that MKCC would determine their application soon, but we are now informed that it will not be this year!

#### **Update on the Bucks Council SPD on Shenley Park.**

WPC's 18-page response was submitted prior to the 10th of October deadline. Whilst WPC does not know how many residents submitted responses via the complex, but preferred BC online method, we do know that thanks to certain residents who very kindly helped with preparation, delivery and collection, some 270 individual signed written responses were hand delivered to BC, giving simple and clear answers to the 4 main questions asked within the SPD consultation. It is hoped .... but not guaranteed .... That this should strengthen the clear message that VALP policies f & g for Shenley Park are not met and need to be reconsidered. (long term defensible boundary to the western edge of Milton Keynes and conserving the setting of Whaddon with a substantial countryside buffer - amongst other issues).

Your Parish Council will be meeting with BC and their consultants on **22nd November** to further discuss the WPC and resident's response to the SPD and how BC intends to deal with them, and if allowed to, will impart the outcome to residents as soon as practicable thereafter. After this meeting BC have said that they will meet CN again - presumably so that Crest can consider any changes that may be necessary to their existing - but as yet - undetermined BC and MKCC planning applications (23/02180/AOP & 23/01610/OUT). WPC are informed that there will be no further consultation on the emerging SPD, and that BC is aiming to have a final revised draft SPD by the end of November. This will then allow BC to commence their internal governance process in December, ready to adopt the SPD in March 2024.

#### **As a reminder, the main WPC and resident issues, can be summarised as follows:-**

- a) Future of Shenley Road - There is a clear preference to close Shenley Road (but just for vehicular traffic), if suitable traffic calming is introduced along Coddimoor Lane, and extra calming is introduced through Whaddon village - hopefully by a yet undiscussed S106 legal agreement.
- b) Width and landscaping of Green Buffer, which should be 300m - 400m minimum with a future parkland use (not a cricket pitch) - and without any intrusion of future transport corridors.
- c) Proven need and purpose for 'Reserved Strategic Transport Corridors' - and indeed whether such 'new policies' should have been allowed to be introduced to an SPD that is only supposed to provide detail on existing adopted VALP policies.
- d) A421 and Link Road - how do these help Whaddon rat-running because the BC proposed 35% diversion from the A421 onto the link road is unlikely to be achieved, given that they now propose a 'primary street' which will serve a completely different function to that of a link road.
- e) The long-term defensible boundary to the western edge of MK is not achieved, and proposals in the SPD and emerging development plan seek to destroy this adopted VALP policy.
- f) Severing the North Bucks Bridleway - at grade, underpass or bridge.
- g) Provision of Public Transport is not satisfactorily achieved or explained.

# **WHADDON PLANNING SNIPPETS**

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**23/03007/APP** - Householder application for conversion of integral double garage into habitable space and changes to fenestration. Erection of detached garage and open car port - 16 High Street, Whaddon.

This is a re-application of 23/01005/APP considered earlier in 2023 and refused following BC Heritage Dept comments. The new application has removed the overlooking Velux windows, and the architect has made alterations to help overcome the Heritage Dept concerns. WPC has raised no objection but will be guided by BC Heritage's further comments. No decision as of 15th November.

**23/01969/APP** - Householder application for single storey front extension, wood burner, roof windows and internal modifications - Saddlers Lodge, 2 Whaddon Hall Mews, High Street, Whaddon.

Householder Permission Granted - 14th September 2023

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

**21/04926/APP** - Demolition of existing greenhouses. Erection of a childcare nursery, enclosed outdoor play space, landscaping and associated infrastructure - Thrift Farm, Bletchley Road, Whaddon.

There has still been nothing posted on the BC planning website since the WPC response was posted on 10th October. A final decision on both applications is still awaited.

## **APPEAL RESULT**

**33a Stock Lane, Whaddon - Householder application for proposed carport.**

**Planning Appeal Dismissed** on 4th October 2023. BC ref no: 23/00016/REF

The Inspector found that the proposal would harm the character and appearance of the area, including the protected trees.

## **OTHER MATTERS.**

**The Oaks, Stratford Road - Proposed Solar Park Planning Application.**

The expected planning application has been delayed until late November/early December because the applicants are having to provide BC highways with extra traffic information to support their plan for a new vehicular access off Stratford Road. (WPC are informed that they are unable to use the existing concrete track). The site for solar panels is slightly smaller, and proposed equipment has been removed from the northern field due to a requirement for the proposal to include suitable land for ecological mitigation. This field will no longer include any equipment and will only be used for proposed planting and bird mitigation, with the equipment re-positioned within the two southern fields.

Innovus are expected to attend **WPC's 11th Jan 2024 meeting** to explain their plans further and answer any further questions that concerned residents may have.

**New vehicular access into the Western Expansion Area, off Stratford Road, (in the Milton Keynes district).**

This newly built access is to a large allotment site serving parts of the Western Expansion Area in MK. It is temporary, and once operational, will be for the use of Whitehouse residents, until a proper permanent access is secured from the future residential development to be located behind, at which stage the temporary access will be closed and the hedge/verge reinstated. MKCC have indicated that the temporary period will be for about 2 years, until the residential land has been sold and a planning application approved, but this may be optimistic due to changing residential market and other concerns, which may mean that the timescales become delayed. WPC has asked that the legal obligations relating to the CEMP and WEA construction traffic be reinforced, as some vehicle movements have been witnessed through Whaddon which should not be legally allowed. **Any breaches of this agreement should be reported to the Parish Clerk**, with the date, time, construction vehicle type, operating company and vehicle registration number.

# Hedgehogs

## Myths vs. Facts



Hedgehogs are unquestionably some of the most cherished and iconic members of the United Kingdom's animal kingdom. Their charming appearance and distinctive behaviours have captivated the imaginations of people around the globe. Nevertheless, akin to many other animals, hedgehogs are shrouded in a veil of myths and misunderstandings. Within this article, we shall dispel several prevalent hedgehog myths and present the accurate information, providing you with a deeper insight into these remarkable creatures.

### **Myth 1: Hedgehogs are related to porcupines.**

**Fact:** While hedgehogs and porcupines share a resemblance due to their spiky exteriors, they belong to entirely different families. Hedgehogs are more closely related to shrews and moles and are part of the family Erinaceidae. Porcupines, however, are part of the rodent family.

### **Myth 2: Hedgehogs are aggressive and dangerous.**

**Fact:** Hedgehogs are generally docile creatures and are not known to be aggressive. When threatened, they prefer to roll into a ball, presenting their spiky quills as a defence mechanism. This behaviour is more defensive than aggressive. There is always the exception to rule so don't rule out biting if you need to handle a sick one! They can also show aggressive streaks when fighting for food or competing for mates.

### **Myth 3: Hedgehogs can shoot their quills at predators.**

**Fact:** Hedgehogs cannot shoot their quills. Quills are modified hairs made of keratin, the same material as our hair and nails. When a hedgehog rolls into a ball, its quills provide a protective barrier. They can be easily dislodged if touched, but they don't shoot out like projectiles.

### **Myth 4: Hedgehogs are rodents.**

**Fact:** Hedgehogs are not rodents. They belong to the order Eulipotyphla, which also includes shrews and moles. Rodents belong to the order Rodentia and include animals like mice, rats, and squirrels.

### **Myth 5: Hedgehogs can eat bread and milk.**

**Fact:** While this image of hedgehogs enjoying a dish of bread and milk may be charming, it's not suitable for their diet. Hedgehogs are insectivores and need a diet rich in insects and invertebrates. Feeding them bread and milk can be very harmful, causing severe dehydration leading to death and **must be avoided**. If you want to feed them, stick to Spikes Hedgehog Food, Brambles Hedgehog Food or kitten biscuits.

### **Myth 6: Hedgehogs are only active at night.**

**Fact:** Hedgehogs are primarily nocturnal, but they can also be active during dusk and dawn. Their nighttime activity is linked to their foraging habits, as they search for food when many of their prey species are active. Sometimes, large active hedgehogs may be seen during the day. These are busy, nesting mums! Any other Hedgehogs seen out during the day should be reported to your local hedgehog rescue for advice.

### **Myth 7: Hedgehogs can survive just fine in urban environments, so long as there are plenty of gardens.**

**Fact:** While hedgehogs have adapted to urban environments, they face numerous threats such as traffic, habitat loss, pesticides, lack of nesting sites, and a lack of food and water. Creating hedgehog-friendly spaces and raising awareness about their needs is essential for their survival in urban areas.



Hedgehogs are remarkable creatures with a rich history of myths and legends. By dispelling these misconceptions and understanding the true nature of hedgehogs, we can better appreciate and contribute to their conservation. These spiky marvels deserve our respect and protection, and separating fact from fiction is a crucial step in achieving that goal.

# Why is helping hedgehogs important?



Protecting hedgehogs is essential for several important reasons:

- 1. Biodiversity:** Hedgehogs are an integral part of the ecosystem, and they play a role in maintaining the balance of species. They help control insect populations, including pests like slugs and beetles, which can have a significant impact on gardens and agriculture.
- 2. Indicator Species:** Hedgehogs can serve as indicators of the overall health of an ecosystem. A decline in hedgehog populations may signal environmental problems, such as habitat loss, pollution, or a reduction in prey species.
- 3. Conservation of Native Species:** Hedgehogs are native to many parts of Europe, including the UK. Protecting them helps conserve native wildlife, maintaining the diversity and stability of local ecosystems.
- 4. Education and Awareness:** Hedgehogs are charismatic and beloved creatures, making them excellent ambassadors for wildlife conservation. Their protection can raise awareness about the importance of preserving natural habitats and biodiversity.
- 5. Ecological Balance:** As natural predators of insects, hedgehogs help control insect populations naturally, reducing the need for chemical pesticides, which can have harmful effects on the environment and other wildlife.
- 6. Ethical Considerations:** As sentient beings, hedgehogs deserve protection for ethical reasons. They are living creatures with intrinsic value and a right to live without unnecessary harm or suffering.
- 7. Cultural and Aesthetic Value:** Hedgehogs have long held a special place in human culture and literature. They contribute to the cultural and aesthetic richness of the natural world and can inspire artistic and literary creations.
- 8. Ecosystem Services:** Hedgehogs provide ecosystem services by aiding in nutrient cycling through their diet and their role in soil aeration. Their presence contributes to the overall health of ecosystems.
- 9. Future Generations:** Protecting hedgehogs ensures that future generations can enjoy the benefits of having these endearing creatures in their environment, fostering a connection with nature and a sense of responsibility for its preservation.
- 10. Mitigating Extinction Risk:** Hedgehog populations in some areas are declining, and in some cases, they are at risk of extinction. By protecting them, we can mitigate this risk and prevent the loss of a species from our planet.

In summary, protecting hedgehogs is not only a matter of preserving a beloved and iconic species but also a crucial step in maintaining ecological balance, conserving biodiversity, and promoting a deeper understanding of our responsibilities towards the natural world.

## Top 10 tips to make your garden hedgehog-friendly

1. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways
2. Make your pond safe with a ramp
3. Create a wild corner
4. Deal with netting and litter
5. Put out food and water
6. Stop using chemicals
7. Check before strimming
8. Be careful with bonfires
9. Make a home for hedgehogs
10. Become a Hedgehog Champion



## How Miss Eileen became Lady Cruise – Part 3

**Last time, the twice-widowed Maude Wotherspoon and her daughter, the golf-loving Miss Eileen Greenlees, had arrived at Whaddon Hall. Here we find out what happened next. By JOHN MORTIMER**

At that time, at Whaddon Hall, mealtime conversations no doubt invariably turned to foxhunting and steeplechasing. And, before too long, Miss Eileen would have become aware of one individual in particular: perhaps the most high-profile among Whaddon Chase's coterie, namely Sir Richard Cruise.

Who was he? For indeed, on one occasion, Colonel Selby Lowndes even mused that he and Sir Richard 'once got married' at the same church – St George's, Hanover Square – but 23 years apart!

The Colonel described Sir Richard as brave and daring; a horseman whose encounters frequently attracted newspaper editors' attention. Sir Richard's excitement, gained through chasing foxhounds, possibly equalled, or bettered that gained by schoolboys at the end of summer terms.

When back in London however, Sir Richard became transformed: for there, he had to project an air of meticulous composure and confidence; his calmness able to quell the fears of any faltering royal family member.

And so, it would be only a matter of time before the two were introduced: Miss Eileen Greenlees and Sir Richard Cruise.

Did they 'click too'? Miss Eileen sensed in Sir Richard a certain magnetism; a vortex of energy enhanced by his height and lofty status as oculist to the nation's reigning monarch.

Yet behind his outward bravura, unknown to anyone at Whaddon Chase, or indeed Whaddon Hall, Sir Richard nursed domestic disharmony of the most unsavoury kind for a man of his status: an unfaithful wife had made the king's oculist's life increasingly fraught.

Trouble had been brewing for some years, but it bubbled to a head in 1924, the same year that widow Maude Wotherspoon and Miss Eileen Greenlees arrived at 'the Hall'.

Sir Richard, alive to society rumours about his wife circulating in London and elsewhere, knew the immense implications scandal of any sort *might* inflict on his high-profile career. He knew, too, just how

the long journey back to ever enjoying normal family life again for himself and his daughter (Peggy) might take.

However, almost coincidentally, a young horsewoman and keen golfer had emerged miraculously through red matrimonial mist. Gradually, through the auspices of the Whaddon Chase, Miss Eileen and Sir Richard began to see more and more of one another. But even Miss Eileen could sense a change in the huntsman's mood when, for some reason, in a flash, he betrayed twinges of annoyance at his wife's dalliances.

For, while remaining outwardly supremely confident, worldly, assured, resilient and ambitious – almost a father-figure (Miss Eileen lost her 'real' father when she was only three, and then gained another 'father', so she had missed that valuable father-daughter connection) – Sir Richard had become morose and sombre, even slightly withdrawn.

Because, behind the scenes, Sir Richard's wife, Lady Margery Cruise, had become the focus of London's intense, scrutinous and ever-circulating society gossip that caused Sir Richard humiliation. And all wholly unwanted for a man of his status and substance – a king's eye surgeon.

By a strange coincidence, and one that Sir Richard learned only later, he and Margery were married at the self-same London church in Hanover Square, where Florence and William Selby Lowndes had wed many years earlier in 1887. Richard and Margery married on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1913. A couplet of unlucky 13s!

Apparently, for some time, Lady Cruise had been routinely seeing a former man friend who turned out to be Sir Guy Gaunt. Gaunt's presence threw Lady Cruise's marriage in doubt.

### **A fly in the ointment**

Following World War 1, in 1919, a tiny, inconspicuous item appeared in the *Wigton Advertiser* of Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April. It noted: "Honour for Sir Guy Gaunt. President Wilson has conferred the American DSM. on Rear-Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt, formerly a naval attaché in Washington."

What a strange item to appear in an obscure Cumbrian market town newspaper. Who was this Sir Guy? What possible had he with Cumbria? Well, that tiny clip serves no less than an introit, as an introduction to the fly in the ointment of Sir Richard Cruise's wedded bliss.

Sir Guy Gaunt appeared in print four years later. The *Driffield Times* of Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1922 carried a headline: "Fancy dress carnival, Drill Hall, Driffield, Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 1923". And it reported: "Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt KCMG, MP (accompanied by his niece), has promised to present Prizes at a fancy-dress dance to be held in the hall, on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1923. Prizes will be given for best costumes. Parade at 9pm. Dancing to commence 8pm. Music: The British Legion Orchestra."

Again, the question: what connection with Driffield?

A year later and Sir Gaunt's name re-appeared. The *Shields Daily News* (Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1924) drew attention to Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt writing in London's *Evening News* about "the present-day boy is every bit as good as were his predecessors: any difference there may only be is a question of the channel that his thoughts run in."

Two years later and Sir Gaunt's name appeared again in print. A correspondent writing to the *Driffield Times* of Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 1926 enclosed an extract of a leading article in the February issue of *Table Talk*, a Melbourne, Sidney, and New Zealand publication which "gives the lie to many of the rumours reporting Sir Guy Gaunt and expresses in no light manner the invaluable services rendered by him to his country during the War."

The article continued: "Sir Guy Gaunt is giving the House of Commons a reel or two of mystery drama. Speculation is rife as to the breezy admiral's whereabouts. Most boys would have given an ear to have had Gaunt's adventures as Head of the British Secret Service in the United States while War was in its most thrilling stages."

By that time, however, attentive readers of the *Northampton Chronicle and Echo* (Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 1926) would know that "Sir Guy Gaunt will be vacating his seat in Parliament for the Buckrose division of Yorkshire owing to the state of his health. He has been unable to attend the House of Commons for a



year and has, this week, formerly tendered his intent to vacate his seat. He has represented the division in the Conservative interest since 1922."

### **Burnished image punctured**

Back among the Whaddon Chase Hunt fraternity, Sir Richard's burnished public image was irretrievably punctured: he had no alternative but to instruct his solicitor to initiate proceedings against his wife, with the obvious ripple effect of proceedings in London's Divorce Court. The details were sufficiently intriguing to attract the attention of the national newspaper editors.

London's editors pounced: first on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1926. But their reports were picked up five days later, thousands of miles away in Australia. For example, *The Register* of Adelaide on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1926; it relished 'the juice'. It launched forth with a three-deck headline: "Sir Guy Gaunt, Naval will-o'-the-wisp Mentioned in Court."

It revealed – or should it be revelled? "A decree nisi was granted today in an undefended suit brought by the eminent ophthalmologist, Sir Richard Cruise, for divorce from his good-looking wife, Lady Margery Cruise owing to her misconduct with Vice-Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt.

"It was disclosed in evidence that Lady Cruise (who was then Miss Woollencomb-Boyce) and Sir Guy Gaunt were friends before her marriage to Sir Richard."

"They were in Kenya at the same time in 1924. In March last year, Sir Guy, it was stated, told petitioner that he was getting too fond of her and had decided to leave the country. A later letter from the wife was the first intimation that anything was wrong.

"Sir Richard said he had tried every means to induce his wife to give up her association with Gaunt, but, as the result of another of her letters to a third party, he had consulted his solicitors."

The report added: "It was elicited that she and Gaunt were together in a yacht in British Columbia and had stayed together at the same hotel in Vancouver. Sir Guy Reginald Archer Gaunt, who is widely known in English society as "the breezy admiral", was formerly Conservative member of the House of Commons for the Buckrose division of Yorkshire."

"Early this year, much discussion was aroused by the fact that he had been absent for a year, and that his friends had no news of his whereabouts. In England, however, it was believed that he was making satisfactory progress following an accident in 1924 when he had fractured a collar bone. Another story suggested he went to Hong Kong in December 1925 and engaged a steamer to cruise in the South Seas."

"As a matter of fact," the report continued, "Sir Guy arrived in Sydney by *RMS Orsova* on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1925, and it is thought he left for the East immediately. Subsequently (11<sup>th</sup> April 1926), his resignation from the House was received."

"The Vice-Admiral is 57 years of age and son of the late Mr Justice Gaunt of Victoria. He retired from the navy in 1924. He was appointed Rear-Admiral following distinguished service in the Great War – he served as Captain on several warships and was Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies in 1917-1919. In 19, he was made Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG). He married the daughter of the late Sir Thomas Wardle of Leek, Staffordshire."

### **News reaches the States**

The following year, news emerged of a further twist in the tale of Sir Guy Gaunt. Several newspapers in the US reported an event of the previous day. The *New York Times* carried an item on page 3 in typical US newspaper style. The three-deck headline it shouted: "Lady Gaunt Divorces Retired Vice Admiral Officer. Who Disappeared with Lady Cruise? Was Naval Attaché Here?"

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* no less of Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1927 used a similar headline: "Philandering charge brings divorce", with the sub-heading reading: "Sir Guy Gaunt Makes No Defence to Wife's Charges of Misconduct with Lady Margery Barbara Cruise."

Based on a report from London of 21<sup>st</sup> December 1927, it reported: "Lady Margaret Elizabeth Gaunt today obtained a divorce from her husband, Admiral Sir Guy Arthur Reginald Gaunt. The grounds were misconduct with Lady Margery Barbara Cruise. The case was not defended."

### The royal surgeon's case

Back in the UK, Scotland's *Dundee Courier* of Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 1926 noted that: "Sir Guy Gaunt, until recently Unionist member of Parliament for the Buckrose Division of Yorkshire, was co-respondent in an undefended suit heard in the Divorce Court yesterday, in which Sir Richard Robert Cruise, the noted ophthalmic surgeon, of Wimpole Street, petitioned for divorce on account of the adultery of his wife, Margery Barbara."

"Sir Richard Cruise is the King's surgeon oculist and was Knighted in 1922. He said they were married on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1913, at St George's, Hanover Square, London. There was one child, and the marriage was quite happy. Sir Guy Gaunt was a friend of his wife before her marriage to him."

"In 1924, she renewed her acquaintance with Sir Guy, who became a friend of witness as well. At that time, he had no suspicion there was anything other than friendship between them. In the autumn of 1924, his wife went out to Kenya. Sir Guy went out with her. In March 1925, Sir Guy told him he was getting too fond of the respondent, and that he intended to leave the country."

"The same month, he (Sir Richard) went to Aylesbury for a weekend, and, when he returned, his wife had gone, leaving a letter. His efforts to get her to return were unavailing. Respondent and co-respondent now had a yacht in Victoria, Vancouver. The President granted decree nisi, giving Sir Richard the custody of his daughter."

The following year, *The Scotsman* of Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1927 reported a further development. It announced: "Lord Merrivale in the London Divorce Court yesterday granted a decree nisi to Lady Margaret Elizabeth Gaunt, now residing at Monaco, for the dissolution of her marriage with Sir Guy Reginald Archer Gaunt, formerly an officer in the Navy, on the grounds of his misconduct with Lady Margery Barbara Cruise, formerly the wife of Sir Richard Cruise, at an hotel at Vancouver, British Columbia."

Three years later, there was yet another development. The *Hampshire Telegraph* of Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 1932 revealed under the headline of "Tangier ceremony": "It was announced Friday that Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt was married at Tangier the previous day to Mrs Sybil Joseph, daughter of Mr and Mrs Grant White, of Cairo and London. Sir Guy ... was third son of the late Judge Gaunt, of Melbourne, Australia. Sir Guy is a brother of Admiral Sir Ernest Gaunt."

"He was educated at Melbourne Grammar School. During the War, Sir Guy was Naval Attaché to the British Embassy in Washington and afterwards attached to Naval intelligence at the Admiralty, being made a Rear Admiral in 1918. He said on one occasion, 'I am probably the only man since Nelson's days who started as a boy of 14 in an old windjammer and finished up by flying his flag in one of His Majesty's ships in the War'."

### A connoisseur of wine

There were many ways in which Sir Richard might 'blend' with the owners of Whaddon Hall: although an expert shot, his unbridled favourite recreation was riding – in the hunting field and in steeplechases. However, he *was* also a wine connoisseur. Possibly less likely to be appreciated at 'the Hall' was his admission as an amateur of painting.

As a member of the Whaddon Chase Hunt, Sir Richard had opportunities galore, almost from the first day she stepped through the front door of 'the Hall', to observe Miss Eileen.

During the following months, the time spent in each other's company were enough to suggest Miss Eileen was a woman quite different in nature to Sir Richard's wife, Margery.

And certainly, by the time Miss Eileen (**right**) arrived in 1924, Sir Richard's marriage was already floundering. Miss Eileen, he noticed, was quiet and unassuming, thoughtful, and delightfully 'ordinary'; she appeared innocent, even. A woman of purity and 'comfortableness'.



Certainly, by the time Sir Richard's divorce came through he felt morally assured enough to unmask his growing fondness and affection for Miss Eileen. Even so, it took some time for the romance to fully bloom.

Thus, it was until the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1929 that news leaked out. It announced: "Sir Richard Cruise, the eye specialist and well-known cross-country rider, has become engaged to Miss Eileen Greenlees, daughter of the late Sir Matthew Greenlees and Mrs. Selby Lowndes, of Whaddon Hall, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire."

A month later, the couple married at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton Road, in London's Knightsbridge, on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1929. The bridegroom was considerably older than Miss Eileen.

The *Daily Mirror* of Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 1929 carried the headline: "Oculist to the King", with two photographs and captions: "The maids at the wedding were wearing halo dresses such as are now fashionable;" and: "Sir Richard Cruise, the King's oculist, and his bride, Miss Eileen Greenlees, leaving Holy Trinity, Brompton Road, after the wedding."

Whaddon's nearby *Northampton Mercury's* reported the wedding in its issue of Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1929 with the headline: "Sir Richard Cruise married to Miss Eileen Greenlees".

It recorded: "The marriage took place on Monday afternoon at Holy Trinity, of Sir Richard Cruise, K.C.M.G., and Miss Eileen Greenlees, only child of the late Mr. Matthew Greenlees, and Mrs. Selby Lowndes of Whaddon Hall Bletchley, Buckinghamshire. Mr Gough, officiated."

"The bride, who was given away by her stepfather, Lieutenant-Colonel Selby Lowndes, wore a gown of gold fashioned with a fitting bodice embroidered at the neck with pearls and diamanté. An ankle-length flared skirt of gold tissue, decorated with orange on the rounded end, fell from her shoulders. A wide band of gold, embroidered with pearls and diamanté, secured a tulle veil. She carried a sheaf of lilies."

The report continued: "There were four attendants: Miss J Pearson, Miss Peggy Cruise, Miss Diana Selby Lowndes, and Miss Winifred Clark. They wore halo head-dresses of golden prongs, and picture frocks with lace over tissue with gathered ankle-length skirts and fitting bodices decorated with gold embroidery. They carried sheaves of pink gladioli. Mr. Alan Horne was best man. A reception was held at Claridge's."

Included among guests were: "Mrs. William Selby Lowndes, the Rev. Edward and Mrs Selby Lowndes, Captain and Mrs Cruickshank, Earl and Countess Orkney, Lady Wood, Captain Hall, Lieut.-Commander Gairdner, Viscount and Viscountess Elibank (a well-known Scottish colonial administrator, politician, and nobleman), Lady Currie and Dowager Glenarthur."

### **The arrival of two children**

The married couple lived at 34 Wimpole Street, London and a second house outside Winslow. Sir Richard bought his property in Shipton, on the outskirts of Winslow, in the 1920s; it enjoyed stables for his horses for hunting and two cottages, one occupied by a groom.

An advertisement in the *Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press* of Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 1927 revealed: "WANTED young HOUSE-PARLOURMAID, for Hunting Season. Apply Housekeeper, c.o. Sir Richard Cruise, Ashmead, Winslow, Bucks." And another newspaper article noted that Sir Richard "went to Winslow at regular intervals for rest and quiet and the hunting which he enjoyed".

On Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1933, the *Dundee Evening Telegraph* offered good news: "Son for King's Oculist." It followed this headline with: "A son and heir has been born at their home, 34 Wimpole Street, London, to Sir Richard and Lady Cruise. Sir Richard has been surgeon oculist to the King since 1928. His marriage to Miss Eileen Greenlees, only child of the late Matthew Greenlees, jnr., and Mrs Selby Lowndes in 1929, was the culmination of a romance of the hunting field, for both were keen followers of the Whaddon Chase Hunt. He served in the RAMC during the war."

In fact, son Christopher Richard arrived at 34 Wimpole Street on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1933. He was not the couple's first child; Celia Patricia had arrived a couple of years previously in 1931. She later married medical student Alistair Ewan Cameron on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1952. At that time, Patricia was living at home in Shipston. The couple married at the Queen's Chapel of St John the Baptist, also known as the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. It sits on the site of the Savoy Palace, once owned by John of Gaunt. The chapel is owned by the Duchy of Lancaster and, as such, is a Royal Peculiar – outside the jurisdiction of a diocese, but under that of the reigning monarch.



Some years later, in 1937, Shipton's sleepy ambience was disturbed when Sir Richard was called to serve as a witness in a "Sensational Winslow Charge" – the headline of the *Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press* of 20<sup>th</sup> March 1937.

In a three-column item – meat and fodder to local newspapers – it reported a case in the Magistrates Court in which "Henry Rowland Wingfield (32) of Shipton, a stud groom for seven years in the employ of Sir Richard Cruise of Shipton Mead, was charged with converting to his own use sums amounting to over £407 which should have been paid to others, including a blacksmith and ironmonger in Winslow."

The charges covered a period between May 1934 and February 1937.

Sir Richard informed the magistrate that "Wingfield had been in his employ as a stud groom for six years and was "implicitly trusted", with his wages being £2 10 shillings a week, three tons of coal and an allowance for gas."

The lengthy report – it also included statements from policemen – concluded that Wingfield, who pleaded not guilty and reserved his defence, be committed for trial at Bucks Quarter Sessions at Aylesbury on 5<sup>th</sup> April with bail being allowed on surety of £200.

On Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, the same newspaper reported that, after a hearing lasting nearly 10 hours, Wingfield was sentenced to six months in prison.

### **A happy occasion at Jubilee Hall**

That same year (1937) brought Whaddon a pleasurable experience. The opening of Whaddon's Jubilee Hall marked a rich moment in Sir Richard's life. The *Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press* of Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 1937 hailed the occasion as a "great day in the village's history".

Jubilee Hall was opened by Lord Cottesloe, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, who declared the opening "made another epoch in the history of the village ... after years of effort of raising funds."

The ceremony, which took place on the crimson-carpeted stage at the end of the main hall, was performed by Lord Cottesloe. He was introduced by Col. William Selby Lowndes, supported by Mrs. Selby Lowndes. Others near the stage included Sir Richard and Lady Cruise, Miss Patricia Cruise, Miss Diana Selby Lowndes (representing Whaddon Hall), the Rev and Mrs. Edward Selby Lowndes and Miss Joan Selby Lowndes (of the Vicarage).

The audience, which included parishioners, were informed that "Sir Richard Cruise, who was so highly esteemed at Court and specially valued by the late King George V and Queen Mary, had obtained two pictures from Queen Mary: one signed by Her Majesty and the other inscribed in memory of her husband, King George V."

After Sir Richard Cruise had hung the portraits on the wall at the back of the Hall's stage, the audience sang the National Anthem.

### **An A-list celeb of his day**

In today's world of A-list celebrities, Sir Richard would certainly be amongst the glitterati, as he was in the 1930s. He brought passion to everything he touched – sport or work. For example, he was frequently photographed at first night openings (invariably without Lady Cruise) and hunt balls. He also attended farmers' meetings.

Picking out two newspaper accounts of first night events is enough to reveal the extent of his 'celeb' status. *The Sketch* of Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1931 reported: "The first night of Mr. Charles B Cochran's new Revue of 1931 at the London Pavilion was as brilliant a gathering as our most famous showman's premieres. Social, political and stage celebrities could be observed in the boxes and in the stalls. Mrs C B Cochran's guests in her box included the distinguished oculist and sportsman, Sir Richard Cruise."

*The Sketch* of Wednesday, 24 February 1932 reported: "The first-night audience at the Playhouse for the presentation of *King, Queen, Knave*, the new Harwood and R. Gore Browne play, in which Miss Gladys Cooper and Mr. Leon Quartermaine are appearing, included any number of screen and stage celebrities. It is true that a few social well-knowns also assembled, such as Countess Howe and her beautiful daughter, Lady Georgiana Curzon, and Sir Richard Cruise, the celebrated oculist."

Closer to Whaddon, the story was the same. Witness two accounts from the *Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press*. On Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1931 it reported: The annual invitation ball of the Bucks Farmers, in aid of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, took place at the Town Hall, Aylesbury, on

Wednesday of last week. Those present included: The Earl of Rosebery (Master of the Whaddon Chase) and Countess of Rosebery, the Earl of Orkney, Countess of Essex, Lord and Lady Chesham and Sir Richard Cruise.”

Nearly three years later, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 193, it revealed “a divisional whist drive of the North Bucks Conservative Association was held in the Odd-fellows Hall on Thursday week, when there were 21 tables, and some 40 players qualified to take part in the later competitions. The ladies and gentlemen who contributed to the prize fund were Miss Lambton, Mrs Robson and Sir Richard Cruise.”

### **Heavy footfall at *The Lowndes Arms***

It might have been the case in those days, the 1930s, for those who knew their place in society, to disfavour fox hunting; it being the regime of the ‘toffs’ – a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century word, perhaps a derivation of tuft, used to denote a gold tassel worn on the cap by titled undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge.

However, there were those whose livelihoods depended on it: grooms, farriers, blacksmiths and kennels. And public houses. For example, *The Lowndes Arms* would have been just one such beneficiary. Many noteworthy people would cross its threshold during the hunting season which lasted from the second Tuesday in November until lambing time – February. It was customary during the ‘season’ to wear scarlet. Hunts like the Chase would require an up-front annual fee of 50 guineas; a reflection that wearing scarlet was expensive.

Before stepping inside *The Lowndes Arms*, the wealthy businessman and philanthropist Nubar Gulbenkian routinely left his horse outside (in the late 1940s and early 1950s) much to the glee of young local lads into whose capable hands he would thrust the steed’s bridle, and later, on returning, a half-crown for caring for his horse while he retired inside for a brandy, or a pint of ‘best’.

Gulbenkian, an eccentric but rich Armenian who, in WW2, worked for MI9 in France, would bring his horse to Whaddon in a horsebox while he travelled in style, luxury even; by Bentley or Rolls-Royce. Indeed, either or both makes of car were a common sight in Whaddon at that time.

Gulbenkian did not have far to travel; he lived at *The Old Rectory* in Hoggstone, Anglo-Saxon for Hogg’s Farm. In London, he lived at Arlington House, a block of flats close to the Ritz Hotel. His signature buttonhole, an orchid, was replaced every day, plucked from woods; some from forests around London.

Another public figure who frequented *The Lowndes Arms*, Lord Astor, was well known for removing his riding boots as sat in front of the pub’s blazing fire while he, in scarlet, consumed his alcohol. He lived at Clivedon, later famous for its early 1960s house parties and the infamous John Profumo and the Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies affair.

Lord Knutsford likewise gave *The Lowndes Arms* his patronage during hunting seasons. Outside season hunts people would change from wearing scarlet to dark clothing; every action being part of a ritual.

As was the case when a hunt traversed a farmer’s land. It was the farmer’s ‘pleasure’ – or more likely the farmer’s wife’s – to provide a Hunt Tea for the hunts people at 4pm (once the hounds had been dispatched to their kennels) of boiled eggs, home-baked bread, butter and fruitcake.

Other famous people who, from time to time, joined the Whaddon Chase Hunt were Arthur Stewart-Liberty (famous for the Liberty store in Regent Street); the Hon Diana Holland Hibbert (1914-1992), daughter of 4<sup>th</sup> Viscount Knutsford. Like the first Lady Cruise, in 1946 Bassano Ltd produced half-plate glass negative portrait photographs of Diana.

Sir Richard Cooper and his wife, Lady Angela Cooper, were also members of the hunt. Sir Richard was managing director of the family’s Berkhamsted-business of Cooper Ltd. It became Cooper McDougall Robertson Ltd which manufactured chemicals, exported pedigree live-stock and found success when it developed and manufactured the first effective sheep-dip.

It was a world away from today’s country life. For example, riding accidents in fields did not carry the luxury of today’s mobile ‘phones or air ambulance service, or ambulances from the then non-existent Milton Keynes Hospital as Lady Angela Cooper found to her lasting displeasure. Her accident is a case in point. She never rode again when her horse refused the five-bar gate at the back of *The Lowndes Arms*, throwing her heavily to the ground.

Her husband, Sir Richard, having perfectly cleared the fence ahead of her, was followed by his wife riding side-saddle. She was transferred to the hospital in Aylesbury, but not before much delay involving a call from the public telephone box, then outside the village hall.

### **In residence at Shipton House**

As storm clouds gathered over Europe in 1939, Sir Richard Cruise and his wife, Eileen, continued to live close to Whaddon Hall, the scene of their romance, on the Swanbourne Road, in nearby Winslow. This house was so large it embraced a nearby cottage (**right**) – one cottage being occupied by his stud groom/farm bailiff and his wife, Stanley and Ethel Vickers, and Lilian Strickland, a domestic nurse.



**Notice washing hanging outside cottages**

Sharing Shipton House with Richard and Eileen were Cicely M Flint, aged 34 (b. 22/02/1905), a children's nurse, and 37-year-old married cook, Cecilia M Flint (b. 06/08/1902) and Rosetta Clarke, 20, parlour maid. Two other residents are registered, but details are withheld; they could be the Cruise's two children: Patricia, and the couple's second child, Christopher.

Had Sir Richard maintained a Press secretary to garner his various Press clippings, then surely there would have been enough for someone to write an extensive biography of a king's oculist.

The *Britishnewspapersarchives.co.uk* website, for example, alone has over 700 references to Sir Richard and his wife.

Sir Richard Cruise died on Christmas Eve 1946, aged 69. Wills and probates records show Sir Richard, of 34 Wimpole Street, London W1 and Shipton, Buckinghamshire, left £42,462 9 (today worth £1,894,866) with probate granted to "Dame Eileen Celia Cruise".

Just days following Sir Richard's death, in far-away India, the *Civil & Military Gazette (Lahore)* of Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> December 1946 offered a new gloss on the life of the king's oculist, observing that he "saved many soldiers in the 1914 war from blindness."

"While serving in the medical branch of the British Army in 1917, he invented a chain visor that could be attached to the rim of a steel helmet. It was three inches deep and could be drawn like a veil across the eyes. The visor was adopted in 1918 and, in the words of a correspondent of *The Times*, it prevented a very high proportion of blindness. Ultimately, he became one of Britain's outstanding surgeon oculists."

Meanwhile, following her husband's death, Lady Cruise could be seen out and about in Winslow, just an ordinary lady with 'no side', who would talk to anyone, even the lowly, including tramps. She had a small holding in Shipton where, according to Derek White, she kept a herd or Jersey cows.

As for Miss Eileen, well to bring this history half-hour full circle, she passed away more than 30 years after her husband, aged 97, on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1997, at St George's Nursing Home, 61 St George's Square, London SW1.

She suffered chest infection and renal failure. Her daughter, Celia Patricia Cameron, was with her. At the time, Miss Eileen lived at 48 Elizabeth Court, Milman's Street, London SW10, her daughter's address.

**Many thanks to John Mortimer for the articles about Lady Cruise featured over the last few WQ editions.**



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## Be Scam Aware!

Did you know that scams cost the UK economy from £5 to £10 billion pounds per year, with only 5% of them being reported? 53% of people over 65 years old have been targeted by scams.

You can protect yourself and others by following these 5 tips:

1. Be sceptical, don't be afraid to hang up the phone, bin the junk-mail, delete the email or shut the door
2. Never disclose your personal or bank details
3. Don't assume everyone is genuine
4. Take your time, don't be rushed into making decisions
5. Stay in control

If you receive lots of nuisance phone calls, we can help stop this. Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards are offering free call blocking devices to all eligible residents. The device plugs into your landline and works with your existing phone. It is programmed with your known contacts and allows other trusted organisations (e.g., GP) to get through via a filtering system. All other nuisance calls are then blocked.

To help you feel more empowered on your doorstep to say no to unwanted knocks on your door, we have free No Cold Calling stickers that you can display. Other residents have found that they act as a deterrent to unwanted traders.

- To request more information about call blockers or to get your free no cold calling sticker pack please email us at [trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk) or call our colleagues at Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133
- To report a scam, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040
- To get advice or report a trader to Trading Standards, contact Citizen Advice on 0808 223 1133
- If you (or someone you know) is at imminent risk from losing money to a scam, contact police on 999. If it is a non-emergency, ring police on 101
- To become more scam aware, attend one of our free Friends Against Scams sessions [Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards Events | Eventbrite](#)
- To know the latest scams, follow our social media (the following icons also have the hyperlinks attached):



**REMEMBER, SCAMS ARE FRAUDS AND FRAUD IS A CRIME!**





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Winslow and  
Villages

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29th November 2023

18:30 – 20:00

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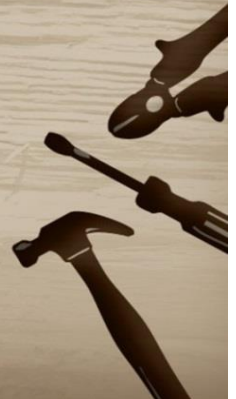
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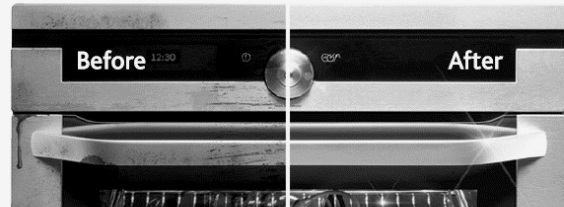
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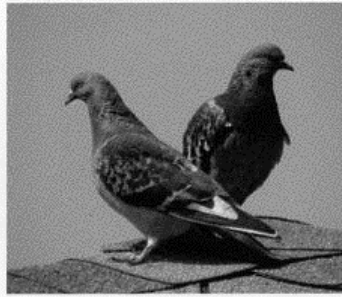
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# What's happening in Whaddon?

## Dates for your diary

### 2023

**SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER:** Church Christmas Fayre. Page 19

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER:** Christingle at St. Mary's. Page 22

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER:** Village Christmas Tree Lighting Up ceremony with carols round the tree, licensed bar and food van. Page 9.



**FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:** Christmas Fundraiser Social Evening for the Ladies of the village in aid of St. Mary's Church Page 20.

**MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:** Chase Choir Christmas Concert Page 15.

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:** "A little bird told me" Whaddon School Production Page 18.

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:** St. Mary's carol service with Chase Choir Page 23

**MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:** Whaddon School Christmas Fayre & Carols Page 18.

### 2024

**THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY:** Whaddon Parish Council meeting 7pm at The Chapel, Stock Lane. Page 6.

**FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY:** Quiz Night 7pm. Page 8.

**FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH:** Tex-Mex Music and Food Evening. Pre-booked Ticket only. 7pm. Page 8.

**THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH:** Whaddon Parish Council meeting 7pm at The Chapel, Stock Lane. Page 6.

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH:** Live Acoustic Musical Evening at St. Mary's Church. Page 21

**THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE:** Beacon Event to mark 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings.

## **Regular events across the village**

**MONDAY EVENINGS:** Chase Choir in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. 7.30pm-9pm. No experience necessary. Please call Marianna Beckwith on 01908 503194 for more details.

**TUESDAY EVENINGS:** Table Tennis in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Contact Mark Carter on [magcarter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:magcarter@hotmail.co.uk)

**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH:** Whaddon's Women's Institute 2pm in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Please call Jill Aitken on 01908 502781 for more details.

**THURSDAY EVENINGS:** Mindfulness based Yoga with Lauren in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. 7.30pm-8.30pm. Please contact Lauren Bennett on [lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk](mailto:lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk) if you are interested.

