

# Whaddon Quarterly

February 2017



**News, views, interest and  
events for your village**

- Whaddon in the Olden Time 1800, p 31
- My Whaddon families, p 33

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## Any comments, queries or articles

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## Deadlines for forthcoming issues

28<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

### Whaddon Quarterly

THIS electronic version of the *Whaddon Quarterly* is marginally and subtly different in content to that of the printed version. It is difficult, for example, to achieve a centre-spread as with the printed version. So the maps appearing on pages 31 and 32 are halves of the same map shown on pages 30 and 31 of the printed version. However, with the digital version the effects of full colour can be achieved, and small but nevertheless important late items included.

PLEASE NOTE. Page numbers of articles which appear here DO NOT necessarily correspond to the page numbers of the same article in the printed version.

**NEXT TIME.** The *Whaddon Quarterly* will incorporate an added feature. By clicking 'Back to Contents' at the bottom of each page you will, after reading one page, be able to revert to the Contents page to select your next article of interest. Something to look forward to!

## Snippets of village news

- **THE NEW LOWNDES ARMS**, according to a posting on Facebook at 19.18 on 8<sup>th</sup> February, will be 'opening soon'. Good luck in the future from the *Whaddon Quarterly*.

- **TODDLERS** at Village Hall school took advantage of snow on 13<sup>th</sup> January and built a mini (18-inch high) snowman, **right**. They had to be quick; a blink and it had melted away.



- **FOR THE RECORD – 1.** Work started 7<sup>th</sup> February refurbishing part of Vicarage Road.

- **FOR THE RECORD – 2.** On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 HCA laid a tarmac-surfaced gated road for Canterbury Meadows' residents allowing them access to Hayton Way – see picture p. 4. Is it possible the Shenley Road could be re-opened by September, or earlier?

- **OVER 400** children in Buckinghamshire seek a foster home. There are information sessions to discover more about what's involved. Email [Mybucks@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:Mybucks@buckscc.gov.uk)

- **THE FUNERAL** of Mrs Betty Ashcroft, Pat Haig's mother, was held at St. Mary's Church Whaddon on a chilly Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February. Betty, who died last month aged 89, was loved by all who knew her. A tribute will appear in the next issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly*.

- **SAD NEWS** too for those who recall former Whaddonian, Sheila Warrington who passed away on Christmas morning following a short illness. She died peacefully. The funeral was held on 13<sup>th</sup> January. A tribute appears on p 30.

- **THE CHURCHYARD IS NOT** a rubbish dump nor a site for fly-tipping; it is a beautiful and tranquil space that most respect and enjoy, carefully maintained by dedicated volunteers. Bright ideas are needed to deal with this selfish, lazy, antisocial, irresponsible behaviour.

- **WHILE** not affecting Whaddon, the House of Lords Select Committee is now examining the Bill for the High Speed train. The Bill could achieve Royal Assent during 2017. AVDC opposes plans for HS2. See the HS2 website or email [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)



- **VERY IMPORTANT NEWS.** The **Whaddon Show** is on **7<sup>th</sup> April** and **8<sup>th</sup> April** at the Jubilee Hall – all the usual songs, sketches and magic plus a trip through space time (see p. 49). The show starts at 8.00 pm. Adults £8. Under 12s & OAPs £6. For tickets please contact Daphne on 01908 502 088. Organisers say "Unfortunately due to budget constraints safety cannot be guaranteed."

• **DID YOU SEE** that in a recent survey carried out by National Trust and the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) that of 1,200 councillors questioned, 58 per cent feared their local authority would have to sacrifice precious countryside land by 2022 to meet Government housing demands, up from 51 per cent four years ago. Theresa May has said



her Government will make housing one of its main priorities in the year ahead. More housing on p. **48**.

• **NEW 'GARDEN' TOWNS** and villages will be built across England in an attempt to alleviate the housing crisis, the Government has announced. The plans call for 14 new villages of some 1,500 to 10,000 homes to be built outside existing settlements. A further three towns of more than 10,000 houses each will be built alongside Aylesbury, Taunton, Harlow and Gilson. ♦



## Parish Council Report

### Spring 2017

THREE months ago I reported the most challenging three months that I could recall, with many major decisions to be made, not so much by us, as by higher authorities. One quarter on, as is so often the case at all levels of government, very little has changed since I last wrote.

The Vale of Aylesbury Plan, final version, has been postponed by some weeks, hopefully to allow a reduction in the number of new houses required but, at this stage, WHA001 remains in the draft plan.

As regards the proposals for Unitary Councils, the leaders of all four District Councils met the Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, recently to push the case for a North Bucks Council as opposed to one for all of the county (see also p. **11**). We should know by the end of March which way he has decided.

As always, we are looking after the village assets and we are about to complete the lease on Constable's Plot, the fields on Stratford Road that we

own and where 150 years ago, the rent paid the annual wage of a village policeman.

We have recently completed the upgrade of the gate to the recreation ground to make it a safer crossing, especially for children.

We hope to be able to upgrade the street lighting, dependent on a meeting with the County Council and, in that regard, we were asked by BCC to produce a local list of Infrastructure projects, where, principally, we need to push for a 20 mile/h speed limit outside the school.

I need to report that the owners of the tree plantation on Stratford Road will be felling the poplars in the near future but it should not trouble residents.

BT is planning to remove the phone box on Stock Lane. Not only is it difficult to use (credit cards only) and is now technology of the past but, nevertheless a sad day to see it go.

At the recent Parish Council meeting we debated our precept i.e. budget and decided to ask for £15,500 as against £15,000, an increase of just over 3 per cent.

In conclusion, we need to think forward 21 months to 11 November 2018 when at 11 am World War 1 ended. We shall be celebrating with a beacon and, naturally, fully in Church and at the War Memorial.

*Billy Stanier*

January 2017

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## From the Editor's chair

So, what have we in this issue of the Whaddon Quarterly? Well, as we start the second year of a 'three-year plan', those receiving the magazine as an email from Parish Clerk Suzanne Lindsey will notice the digital version has undergone a major redesign to give it a clean, fresh appeal. The choice of green and blue reflects Whaddon's country setting: green fields and blue sky. The emailed version offers the advantage that it can be of any length, unlike the print version which must contain a multiple of four pages. The redesign makes subtle use of colour on every page; much more expensive to achieve with a print version. The order in which articles appear can also be slightly different to that of the printed version; notably, all church-related items are together. The two versions – print and digital – are essentially identical.

Meanwhile, with the start of a new year and blank pages staring out of the computer on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, the amazing coincidences that life throws up just cannot be ignored, especially for a journalist. And there are some strange ones. Like the map which is reproduced in this issue on pages 31 and 32. It was too intriguing to ignore, to the point that others too might now share that interest. However, the map came from two quite different directions, and they alone triggered journalistic motivation.

First, just before Christmas, Barry Dudley presented a couple of maps of Whaddon, one of which was very large; the other smaller. Both presented the same problem; too large to scan. The issue: how to cope with such a large map in a publication as small as the *Whaddon Quarterly*. But one map, the smaller one, proved particularly intriguing.

Then, out of the blue, a few days before Christmas, Janet Wyatt contacted the Whaddon website seeking information about her Whaddon family. Numerous emails were exchanged between December and January: too many to count.

Janet's knowledge proved deep, almost to the point of overflowing: an Aladdin's cave of information garnered over many years in her search for members of her family, the Underwoods. You will find part of her family's history starts on p 33.

What emerged, however, was Janet's copy of the self-same map that Barry had presented. The difference? Janet's map, which she called a 'naïve' map, came in digital form - ideal for reproduction. The journalistic coincidence proved irresistible. Sally Mason, archivist at the Centre for Buckingham Studies in Aylesbury came forward, on request, with an improved digital version of the same map drawn in 1800. It was a complete map, not one in two halves, as in the case of Janet's maps. Bingo.

A script accompanying the map is frustrating, but for what it does *not* say. The script is a list of Whaddon's inhabitants in 1800. Thomas Phillips, a 'local surveyor', drew the map, which contains the shapes of every house in Whaddon. Could he be the same Phillips shown as living in the village? Tantalising also, no name is given for the author of the script or of the 'elderly gentleman' who took a photograph of the original map and supplied the text's author with a Photostat.

**J**ulia Lemagnen is another who has been delving into her past. In this issue, Julia recounts her family's links with Whaddon: something of an unexpected trailer to the article in the last issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly* concerning the great oaks of Whaddon and *The Fairy Queene*. Julia's contribution begins on p. 23.

Back in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, residents, ever fearful that January's heavy snow could severely impede movement, breathed a sigh of relief; January offered just one mini snowfall. But fears had been magnified that closure of the Shenley Road would cause isolation and prolong the impact of any downfall. There remains all of February with which to cope.

However, removal, at some future date, by BT of the village 'phone box (photograph here from Kieren Beasley) marks the passing of an era. There was a time, which does not seem so far away, when the red telephone kiosk proved a lifeline for roadside travellers caught up in an emergency. Vital too, for anyone without a home telephone, the red kiosk offered a link with distant family and friends – even the doctor. It could also offer a brief refuge for anyone sheltering from the rain, or provide a vital link for separated lovers anxious to arrange their next date. Inevitably, too, it served as a clandestine means of conducting, without any internet trace, a tryst.

The relentless march of 'new technology' has sounded the death knell of the multifarious red telephone kiosk, with its huge black coin box and weighty telephone directories, and its unromantic BT equivalent. Perhaps the red telephone box was a symbol of Britishness; something gradually being eroded



**NEXT TIME. The Whaddon murder. A real-life Victorian who-dunnit. Something to look forward to! Don't miss it.**

# Clerk's Corner

Helpful information from  
Whaddon Parish Council



**Push for Residents to Receive Whaddon Quarterly by Email:** In line with all councils, we are looking for ways to make savings. Since we no longer receive assistance with our printing we now pay commercial printing rates, and costs have quadrupled. The good news is that WQ can now be downloaded from our fantastic new Parish Website [www.whaddonbucks.org.uk](http://www.whaddonbucks.org.uk) or get in touch with me to add your name to the email list. If you would like to advertise in WQ, the rates are very reasonable, and you get the added benefit of your ad appearing on-line on the Parish Website. Please get in touch with the Editor if you need any rates or further information.

**Garden Waste Collections.** By the time you read this, Garden Waste Collections will have restarted after the Christmas break. This is a really good service and a snip at £40 for fortnightly collections. For information and to sign up go to the AVDC website.

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

Recent communications about the expansion plans for Milton Keynes has highlighted that many residents of Whaddon Parish are not getting up-to-date and timely information about very important issues affecting our Parish.

### **SO SIGN UP NOW! BE SURE OF STAYING INFORMED!**

Besides receiving the *Whaddon Quarterly* by email, you can also obtain lots of useful notices and information; e.g. refuse collection delays, road closures, planning applications, etc.

Send a short email to [ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk](mailto:ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk) asking to be added to the list. We promise absolutely you will NOT be 'spammed' and your details will NOT be passed on or used for any other purpose than this one.

**Dates of Parish Council Meetings.** The next meeting of Whaddon Parish Council takes place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

There will be further meetings on **11<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> November. 2017.** Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm dates and location; both can be subject to change. All Welcome! ◇

## **Whaddon Quarterly**

**Editor:** John Mortimer

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

## Local planning matters

### Time for a re-plan of Tattenhoe Park

**ONE of the last remaining undeveloped areas of the 'Original MK Master Plan' containing some 1,300 new homes, Local Centre, playing fields and allotments, is currently being re-planned, as the old and original approval is about to expire – see maps over.**

About 150 homes and the Priory Rise Primary School (see bold outline on the accompanying lower plan over) have already been constructed under the original consent.

In advance of the new detailed planning application being submitted, the agents for the Government's owner, the Home and Communities Agency (HCA), met recently with Whaddon Parish Council (WPC) to outline the proposals and discuss any concerns the community might have.

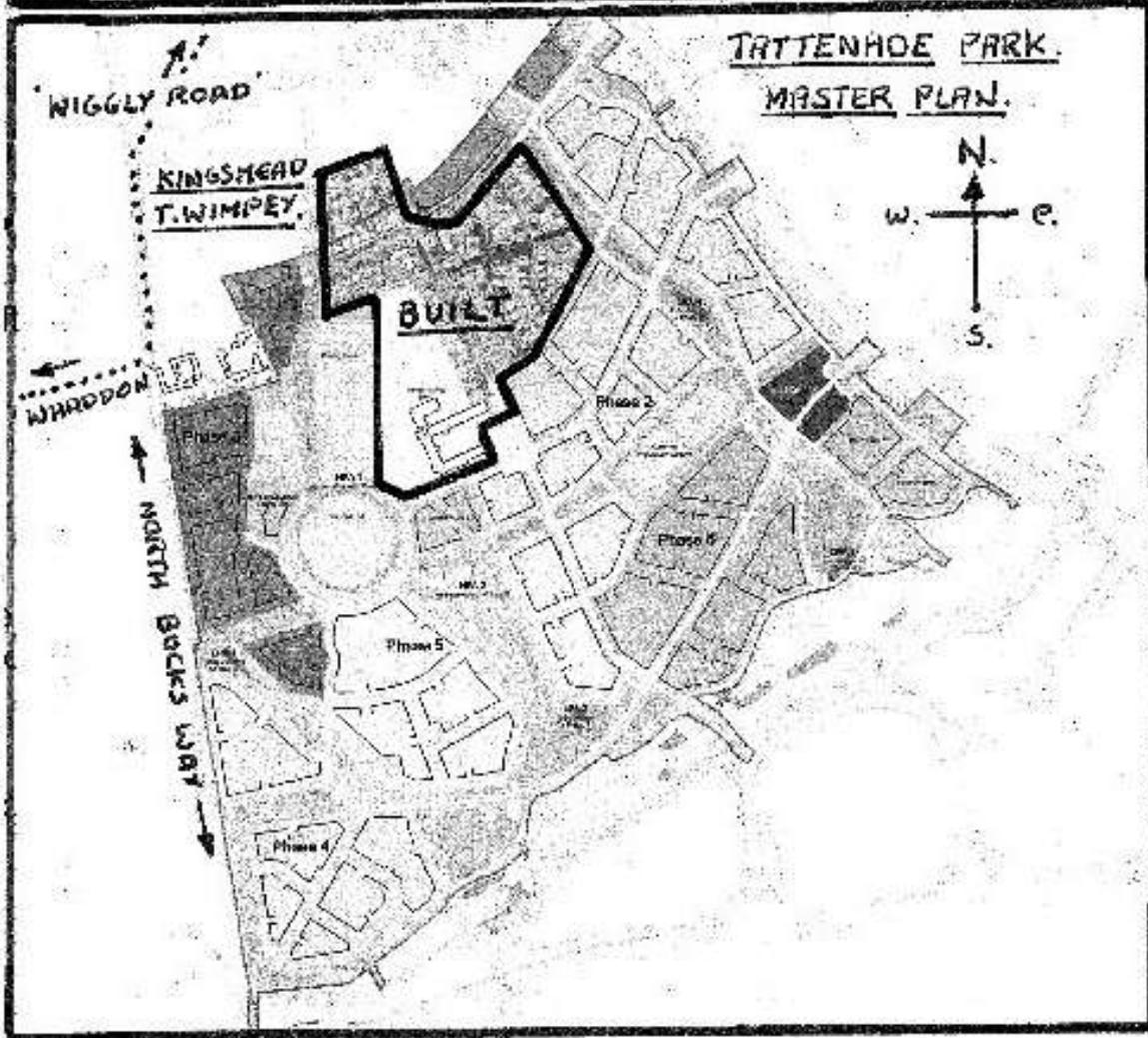
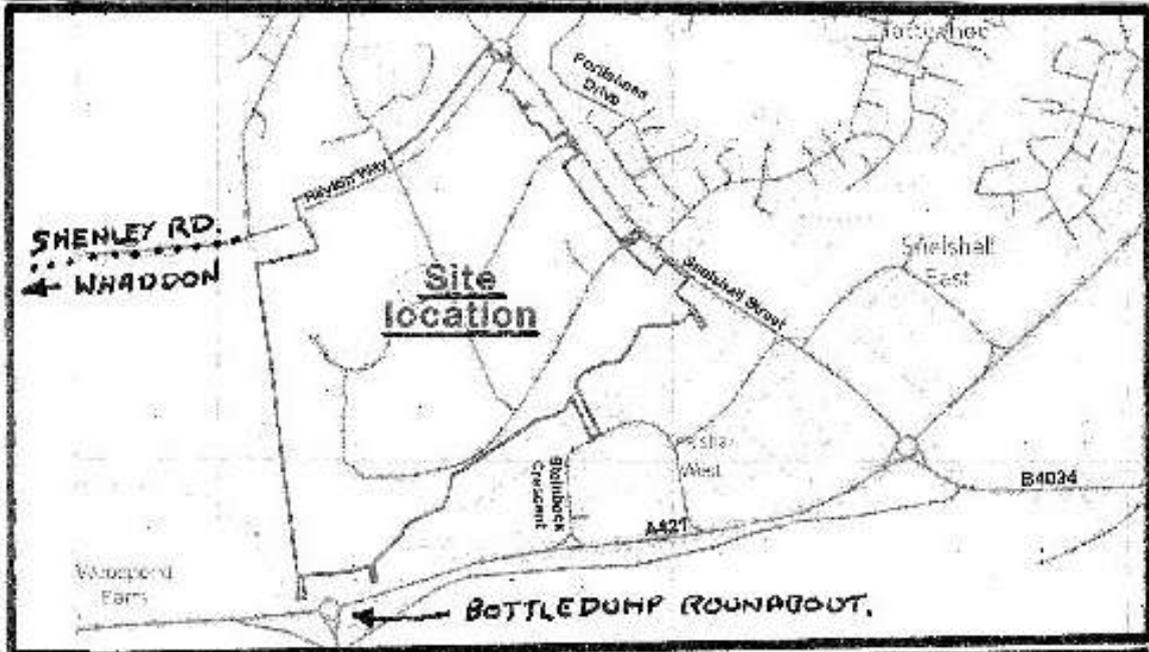
Your PC was keen to see how the new plans might fit in with the proposed 2,500 new homes for the Shenley Park site to be centred around Bottlehouse Farm on the Shenley Road in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). It should be noted that this 'plan' is still only a proposal!

Interestingly, the new design remains virtually unchanged, adjoining as it does the open countryside and remaining Whaddon Local Landscape Area to the West.

The agents informed WPC that they had held no discussions with AVDC, although it is quite likely that some discussions have been held at senior management level, between MKC and AVDC!

Whilst your PC had little comment on the development principle, internal layout and general detail, they were concerned – as they always are - about all major developments that might impact negatively on Whaddon, its residents and the ongoing traffic issues. Two major issues raised were:

1. As the site currently adjoins open countryside, it was felt that the transition between Milton Keynes' built area and the Whaddon Local Landscape Area beyond (to the West), had not been given sufficient consideration. This should be improved through the introduction of additional landscaping and a strengthening and widening of the existing North Bucks Way hedgerows. This would improve the separation of the nearest homes, which themselves should ensure (at the detailed application stage) that designs and materials were incorporated to complement their 'edge of City/countryside' setting.
2. It was also made absolutely clear that Whaddon PC would wish to be involved in the drafting of the Construction Environment Management Plan at the appropriate stage, to ensure satisfactory legal safeguards are put in place and incorporated within the approved planning conditions. This will ensure that all construction traffic is banned from using rural roads running through Whaddon, and that appropriate construction traffic routes are designated along main routes and MK grid roads; such roads were designed to accept heavy/wide loads. These safeguards should remain in place for the duration of the development period, which is expected to commence in about one-and-a-half years' time and continue for about six to eight years. ◇



## Whaddon planning briefs

### **6/01298/APP. Land to the rear of 2a & 2b High Street, Whaddon.**

Outline planning approval was finally granted on 3 January, for a one and a half storey dwelling, not exceeding 7m in height. Detailed plans must be submitted within three years discharging the various planning conditions which include Site Layout, Scale, External Appearance, Landscaping, Enclosure, etc.

### **16/04423/APP. Plot alongside 2a Vicarage Road.**

The original planning application for one detached house was recently refused. The applicants recently applied for a much smaller one-bedroom bungalow, on the same site. Although the agents addressed some of the size/design issues on the original refusal decision, your Parish Council maintained their **objection** to the fundamental 'principle' of building anything on this valuable open corner site, that is considered to be very important to the special character of the area adjoining the Stock Lane Conservation Area, is contrary to Local and National Planning Policy and impacts negatively on the setting of the Whaddon Chapel together with the amenity and privacy of neighbours. A final decision is awaited from AVDC, as this edition goes to press.

### **16/04506/APP. Erection of a detached three-bedroom dwelling - Land Adj. To 26 Vicarage Road.**

Pre application discussions were held with both AVDC and Whaddon PC. The 'principle' of development on this site is accepted, and the architects designed a property which sought to overcome the site constraints, which mainly relate to the impact the new house will have on the setting of adjacent and nearby properties and the amenity/privacy enjoyed by those residents. A final decision is awaited from AVDC, as this edition goes to press.

### **16/00502/INTN. Mast at New Bare Farm, Shenley Road, Whaddon.**

Installation of 2 no. antenna on new support poles, and 1 no. cabinet on existing base, and associated development. WPC understands that this is simply an update notice from Telecoms for works that have already been agreed in 2016. As the application falls within the 'General Permitted Development' orders, it is believed that planning consent is not required.

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

By logging onto the 'Planning Tracker' link of the Whaddon PC website as follows <https://www.hugofox.com/community/whaddon-bucks-12792/planning-tracker/> you will be able to follow the progress of all current Whaddon planning applications submitted to AVDC and residents can make their views known either to Whaddon PC, or direct to AVDC via the web link or at [devcon@aylesburyvaledc.gov](mailto:devcon@aylesburyvaledc.gov).

All planning applications are discussed at WPC meetings, and the next one is on **Thursday 9 March, in the Village Chapel**. Details of any applications to be discussed will be displayed on the WPC Notice board (opposite the Chapel) a few days prior to the meeting, so if you are interested please come along and make your views known.

#### **LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS**

The latest position on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, and Plan:MK, can also be followed on the same Whaddon P.C. website. Click on Parish Council, then planning in the drop-down box. ♦

## One Council for Buckinghamshire, or two?

IN recent years, a number of counties in England have changed from the traditional system of a County Council supported by a number of District Councils, to one where a single Council undertakes all the services and is known as a Unitary Council.

In Buckinghamshire, we still have a County Council supported by four District Councils, of which ours is Aylesbury Vale, covering the north of Buckinghamshire, while Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks cover the south. Milton Keynes became a separate Unitary Council some years ago.

As you will be aware, among their responsibilities, County Councils look after the roads, our schools and social services, while the District Councils deal with waste collections and planning.

There has been considerable debate in the last 12 months within the Buckinghamshire Councils, as to what we should do, and it quickly became clear that all the various Councils felt that change had to come about in order to modernise and simplify services, while saving considerable sums of money.

Buckinghamshire County Council wants to have just one Unitary Council for the whole of Buckinghamshire (excluding Milton Keynes) while the Districts favour two: one for the northern half of the county, i.e. the present Aylesbury Vale territory, while the other three Districts would amalgamate to become a South Bucks Unitary.

Both County and the Districts have produced their rival plans, having first commissioned financial surveys by accountants of projections of the considerable expected savings by each model; both were in excess of £50 million a year, with a slightly higher figure claimed by the County Council.

Both plans have been put to the Secretary of State for Local Government, the Rt.Hon.Sajid Javid MP, who is expected to say which way he is minded to decide by March. Either way, the District Council is likely to disappear in 2019 when its current period of office ends. This year's County Council elections will be for two years instead of four, so that the new form of local government can start in 2019.

My own opinion is that we would be better served by a North Bucks Unitary Council as the northern half of our long, thin County has very different interests to those in the south in such places as Beaconsfield and Marlow.

Our future lies in cooperating with the economies of Milton Keynes and Central Bedfordshire, including Leighton Buzzard, while cooperating with South Northamptonshire in the economic development of Silverstone and the expansion of Buckingham as a University town. I also feel that Aylesbury Vale is a long way ahead of the County in developing a much-needed more commercial approach to running its affairs.

We shall not get a vote on this. Sajid Javid will, in due course tell us which way we are to be governed at local level. ♦

*Billy Stanier*

February 2017

## Time to revisit vehicle speeding?

**Having now regularly recorded traffic volumes and vehicle speeds through the village since its introduction, we now have over two years of, hopefully, reliable data from the Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign, or MVAS.**

As a result, we are considering compiling a spreadsheet that might help the village negotiate further safety measures in the future.

Residents will recall this flashing MVAS 30 mile/h sign was installed at the same time as the Whaddon traffic-calming scheme just over three years ago. Both were paid for primarily by the Government's Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Western Expansion Area developers, with a contribution from Bucks CC.

Unlike the traffic-calming scheme, which forms part of the public highway and is maintained by Bucks CC, the MVAS with its ground screws and operating batteries are owned, maintained and operated by the village. Annual maintenance and insurance costs are funded by Whaddon PC from the village precept.

Following not insubstantial initial teething problems and having mastered (well some people have!) the intricacies of the original technology (now improved free of charge to Bluetooth by the manufacturers) we now have tangible results.

### Learning process

The learning process occupied the best part of a year; it included the moving/turning operations between the four location stations. However, with all the data we now possess, we are in a position where spreadsheets might hopefully help the village negotiate further safety measures as and when needed – always assuming the money can be found to pay for improvements – which like our traffic is becoming more and more difficult 'year on year'!

One of the original thoughts was that with this evidence, it might help persuade the police to visit the village more frequently with speed cameras, especially if there are areas where persistent speeding is occurring and where, perhaps, there is a pattern of specific offence times evident.

This theory has yet to be tested, but the equipment is really owned by you; so if groups of residents wanted to try a more hands-on approach and perhaps obtain more police speed checks in their area, please ask to see the information that is available and perhaps a suitable approach to the police can be formulated.

Perhaps in further issues we can start to print some speed findings, but in the meantime I wish to thank, on your behalf, the small band of helpers who keep the system moving and functioning, in particular, your Parish Clerk, Suzanne Lindsey, who is the lap-top expert, and Andrew Bennett: engineer expert, who greases the nuts and bolts - literally! Both turn out regularly in all weathers on or around every first of the month to record data, charge the batteries and turn/move the signs at their various locations. This happens even when I am away!

So thank you! Everybody's help is greatly appreciated!

*Graham Stewart.* Whaddon P.C. ◇

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### THAMES VALLEY POLICE TO TARGET RURAL CRIME

THAMES VALLEY POLICE alert that from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February it is working with its partners on a campaign to target rural crime that affects businesses and farms in this region. TVP needs your support. Free tack marking, discounted property marking and a roaming police station distributing advice are just a few of the events taking place. These will all be advertised by local officers, so make sure to keep an eye on your Thames Valley or Country Watch alerts, your local @TVP Twitter account, and for posters and leaflets in the area. If you can't make it along to any of the events, join a web chat at 6.30 pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February on this link: <http://thamesvp.coverpage.coveritlive.com/> TVP is also publishing its first Country Watch Spring Edition. Full of information, advice, and interesting items, it is available from: <http://releasd.com/0904>



## No longer fit for safety matches

**Changes are taking place in woodlands around Whaddon as poplars, once used for safety matches now have other uses. Read on to discover the background.**

YOU may have noticed forestry activity in the estate of Bottlehouse Farm on the Stratford Road (**shown left**); the work is intended to bring the woods on that estate back into management.

Lockhart Garratt Ltd of Corby, Northamptonshire, an environmental consultancy specialising in forestry and woodland management, has been working with the owner of the estate and a plan of operations has been agreed with the Forestry Commission.

The approved 20-year Woodland Management Plan recommends that mature poplar plantations on the estate should be

'restructured' as they are reaching maturity.

Poplar is a quick-growing species which does not grow well past maturity, being prone to wind damage and windblow. Such characteristics naturally raise concern regarding the stability of these areas.

It may be recalled that swathes of poplar were planted across the country to meet demand for safety match production, but when the market collapsed in the late 1970s this left a large resource of little use to the conventional timber trade.

### Questions raised

Lockhart Garratt has now identified a market for this timber and is planning to harvest the plantation. As the trees were grown on quite a wide spacing, a vigorous understory has developed under the trees and this will benefit substantially from the removal of the overhead canopy.

Around the woodland fringe, a screen of younger, broadleaf trees has also grown up. These will be retained to soften the effect of the felling in the landscape and on the approach to the village along the Stratford Road.

In areas where natural regeneration has not proceeded, supplementary planting and maintenance will take place to ensure woodland cover in the future.

The idea is to intervene now in a controlled manner, rather than to risk the woodland structure being damaged by high winds or pest outbreaks.

Besides the obvious economic rationale of harvesting the timber, the work offers secondary benefits. For example, it will reduce the risk of trees falling onto Stratford Road, making it safer for road users.

The work will also restore a more diverse woodland structure with more native species across the estate, so improving the habitat for invertebrates and birds. Finally, work will bring on a replacement mixture of tree species less susceptible to pest or disease outbreaks.

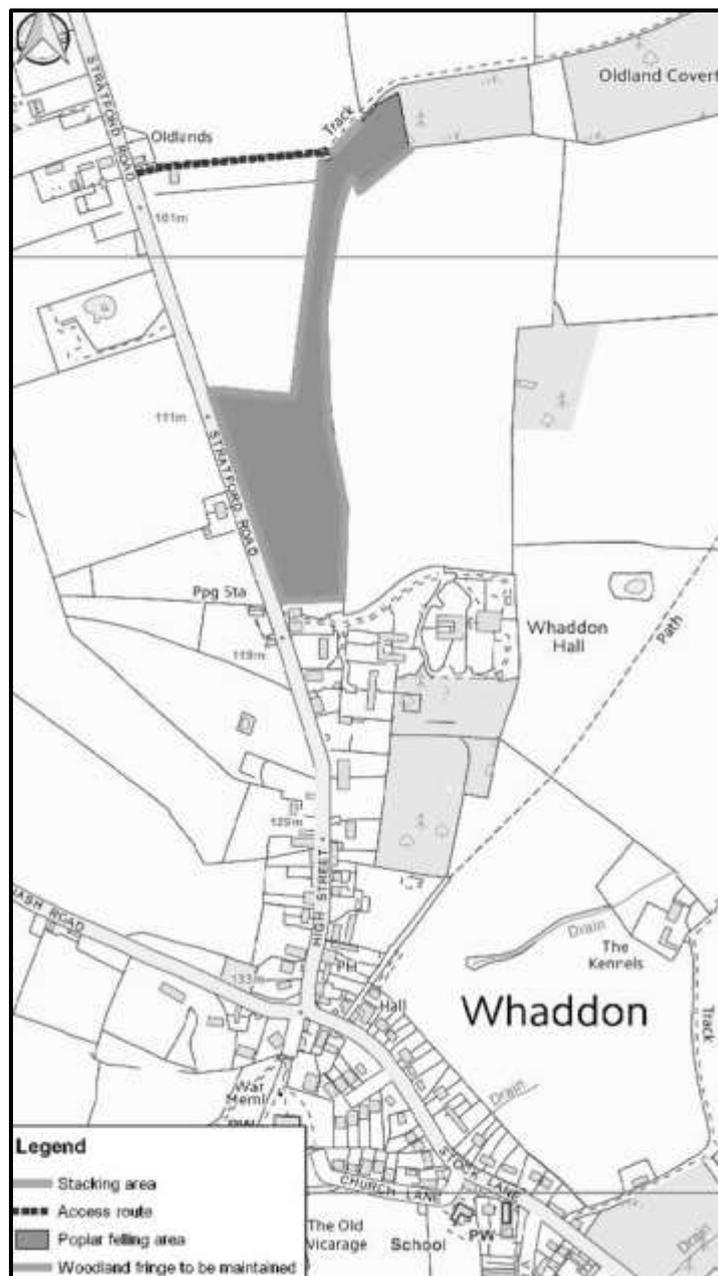
Smoke rising occasionally from the woodland, confirms that the works have already begun, and Lockhart Garratt hopes that plans to start the work early this year, with all the work completed by the time birds start nesting in late March.

In view of all the impending activity it was only natural and proper, that Whaddon Parish Council raised a number of pertinent issues with Lockhart Garratt and Graham Stewart's immediate responses from Rob Stockley (dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016) were: "Firstly, what concerns me is that for three months Whaddon will be subjected to what sounds like some very frequent and possibly large traffic movements, during winter months, and all this while an already awkward road closure is impacting on Coddimoor Lane highway safety."

"Secondly, Lockhart Garratt should be asked, what does the work entail and is the three-month period realistic? Also, how much and what type of traffic will be generated? What are the approved haul routes and will they actually be going through the village? And is Lockhart Garratt aware of the current road closure arrangements and will they be placing appropriate road safety notices? Will appropriate wheel cleaning facilities be in place to ensure mud is not taken onto the road in winter months?"

"When we have these answers I believe that we should do a note on the village email list, because I suspect that the works might entail more than we think in terms of further traffic movements/disruption, and we need to tell everybody that the works are in order and that extra care should be taken on the roads during the period of the works," concluded Graham.

Accordingly, a series of questions were posed by the Parish Council. The questions and the responses from Robert Stockley, Assistant Forestry Consultant at Lockhart Garratt, are given



Map showing woodland area adjacent to Stratford Road

here. Robert Stockley will be supervising the work which he says will use skilled forestry contractors to fell and extract the timber.

**Question 1.** Could we have additional details about what the work entails?

Using as little technical jargon as possible: the large poplar trees in the woodland will be felled, leaving the young trees growing underneath. Logs will be cut from the felled trees; a machine will carry the logs to a roadside stacking area by the Dutch barn on the Stratford Road, and an HGV will then collect the logs.

**Question 2.** Is the three-month period a pessimistic, realistic or optimistic estimate of the time span?

This depends on ground conditions – at present it is realistic, but if we have prolonged wet weather I will stand the contractor down to prevent damage to the ground in the wood. This would extend the working window, but I would like to avoid working in bird nesting season (from end March) as this will require additional surveys.

**Question 3.** How much and what type of traffic will be generated?

I estimate some 400 tonnes of timber will be produced. This will be removed by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) in 25-tonne loads, so I would expect around 16 collections. This does depend on what timber quality we find as felling progresses – if many trees are rotten or split, the volume removed would decrease.

**Question 4.** Please update us with your approved haulage routes? If you are planning to route the extracted trees through the village, can your larger vehicles negotiate the traffic calming chicanes safely?

The haulier has confirmed that collections will take place from the north along Stratford Road, so will not affect the village.

**Question 5.** Please confirm you have taken into consideration our current traffic situation with its long-term road closure. Currently, Shenley Road is shut for 18 months, and we have additional diverted traffic using Coddimoor Lane. This is to the great detriment of road safety and road surface conditions. This route also contains a dangerous area where the road narrows and there is adverse camber; there have been two fatal accidents and many other incidents in recent years and this section is particularly deadly in snow and ice. Large numbers of large vehicles can only add to the risks. Your reassurance on this would be appreciated.

**Question 6.** Please note Shenley Road, which is closed, is the only route in and of out the village without a steep-ish hill which could be an issue in snowy and icy conditions.

**Question 7.** What are the arrangements for placing road safety notices and alerts?

As the visibility is very good from the collection gateway, no additional road information is envisaged. The trucks collecting timber stand above the hedgerows and so drivers will both see and be seen clearly.

**Question 8.** Will you have wheel-washing facilities in place to ensure mud is kept off the road during the winter months?

Road-going vehicles and forestry machinery will be segregated to avoid transferring mud onto the road.

Note, there were no answers to questions 5 & 6. The proposed haul route is northwards along Stratford Road and so the questions did not apply. ◇

# St. Mary's Church Whaddon



## REGULAR SERVICES February 2017

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	10.30 am	Family Service.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10.00 am for 10.30 am	Sunday Special.
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	8.30 am	Said Holy Communion (Traditional).
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Benefice Service at one of the benefice churches - venue TBA.	

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	2.00 pm	Tea on Tuesday in Jubilee Hall.
Tuesday	7.30 pm	Bell ringing practice – new recruits welcome.
Wednesday	1.45 - 2.45 pm	Toddler Church, School terms only.
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	2.00 pm	Women's Institute in Jubilee Hall.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	7:30 pm	Whaddon Night Owls WI in Jubilee Hall.
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	10.00 am – 12 noon	March Coffee shop will be held in the Chapel.

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone who may wish to attend any of these activities.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 am	Palm Sunday
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Maundy Thursday (Venue & time TBC)	
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> April	11.30 am	Good Friday Meditation (coffee 11-11.20)
	10.00 am	Messy Church in Jubilee Hall.
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 am	Easter Day Family Communion

NOTE Please check times and services with the Easter flier or Church notice board. At the time of going to press, they have not been confirmed and could be altered.

**Lenten Evensongs** at 6pm will be held as usual during Lent

Check Church noticeboard for venues or phone David Spencer 01908 502540.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> April 7:45 for 8 pm in Church.

Churchwardens, PCC members and sidespeople will be elected and

Annual Reports will be presented.

**SUMMER FETE** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2pm at Kings Close House, by kind permission of Sir Billy Stanier.

At Christmas the Church was beautifully decorated by our willing volunteers. Thanks go to them and to Pauline Winward who made the door wreaths. The Chase Choir again took part in the service of Nine Lessons and Carols and the added volume of the singing was tremendous. Michaela Vincent began the service by singing the first verse of Once

in Royal David's City, and the full choir sang two additional carols as solos. Aimee Mortimer Bush also sang a delightful solo, Silver Bells. A big thank you to the Choir for giving their time to enhance the service and giving pleasure to all. Jesus' Birthday Party on Christmas Morning attracted a large congregation who joined in the songs led by the Music Group. Our thanks to all who were involved, especially to Sally Green, Beryl Evans and Hazel Dudley.

Our Associate priest Rev'd Gussie Walsh can be contacted on 01280 821616 or [am@buckinghambenefice.org.uk](mailto:am@buckinghambenefice.org.uk) to arrange special services. ♦

*Hazel Hedges*

Churchwarden

01908 501729

[hazel.hedges@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.hedges@gmail.com)

## The Parochial Church Council

Hazel Hedges  
Churchwarden.  
Tel. 01908 501729

Jo Mortimer-Bush  
Hon. Secretary  
Tel: 01908 503194

Barry Dudley  
Hon. Treasurer  
Tel: 01908 505727

David Spencer  
Electoral Roll Officer  
Tel: 01908 502540

Frederick Hayward  
Jubilee Hall Rep  
Tel: 01908 506083

Hazel Dudley  
Tel: 01908 505727

Clare Garland  
Tel: 1908 501732

Rev'd Gussie Walsh  
Tel. 01280 821616



### WHADDON'S BELLS - OR LACK OF THEM

Did you notice that the bells at St Mary's did not ring on Christmas morning, or on New Year's Day.

This was due to a lack of ringers and the first time it has happened for many years. We have to rely on ringers from other towers and they were booked at their own towers.

Unfortunately, with the age of some of our ringers, this situation can only get worse: something I have been saying for quite a number of years! ♦

*Derek White.*

Tower Captain.

## Church roof repair fund reaches £4,000 – so far

AFTER taking advice from our architect, who has done our Quinquennial surveys for the last 30 or so years, and making enquiries of other churches whose lead had been stolen, the PCC decided not to replace the lead roof.

The recommended covering is Terne coated stainless steel which is likely to be less attractive to thieves and can be laid to look like lead. Terne coated steel is dull grey in appearance and a slightly cheaper option. It is also as long-lasting as lead.

When I wrote last, insurers claimed they would cover 100 per cent of any future replacement provided we reroofed with lead and fitted an alarm system.

Alas, not so – as is often the case when one studies the detail. It is another reason for deciding not to recover the roof with lead. This decision means we require planning permission both from AVDC and Historic England. We also require permission of the Diocesan Advisory Committee about any alteration to the church fabric.

Our beautiful church is a Grade 1 listed building of historic importance and the PCC decision not to replace the lead was not easily taken. We are anxious to retain the integrity of the church, but since none of the church roof is visible from the ground, thanks to a stone parapet at the edges of the side aisle roofs, common sense prevailed.

Talking of cost, the PCC has been overwhelmed by the many generous donations we have received, some even from people outside the village. Donations now total nearly £4,000, enhanced by around £750 of Gift Aid. This means we have a shortfall of around £4,650.

The PCC is so grateful and encouraged by this support from the community. We are especially grateful to Clive Herbert who, having read the November *Whaddon Quarterly*, decided to design a flyer which was delivered to you all.

As well as suggesting donations, Clive commented on the hard work of the PCC which often goes unrecognised. So thank you, Clive, for taking this initiative and rallying support.

However, if you have not yet made a donation, you can send your cheque made out to St Mary's, Whaddon PCC and send it to Barry Dudley at 3 Church Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LX. ♦

THANK YOU FROM YOUR PCC



## Village Poppy Collection raises £638.64

A very big thank you from The Royal British Legion to everyone in the village for their contribution to the Poppy collection. I particularly want to congratulate our collectors Kieren Beasley, Val Bond, Frederick Hayward and Janet Spencer who have been out with their collecting boxes for many a year. Thanks, too, to St Mary's Church for their collection on Remembrance Sunday.

For the first year in many, no serviceman was lost on active service but welfare for those servicemen and their families involved in Afghanistan and Iraq is ongoing, and has again been at the forefront of the Royal British Legion's work this year. We work closely with other servicemen's charities, in particular to fund the running of the establishments which Help the Heroes, through their generous work, have built. ♦

*David Spencer*

Chairman Whaddon with Nash Branch, RBL



## HANDS UP FOR JESUS



St Mary's, Whaddon  
After-School Club with  
Rev Gussie and team

Songs, Story Telling, Craft, Games, Food & loads of FUN!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays per month of term...3.00 pm-4.00 pm**

We had a great start to the New Year with the story of a very small man called Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to do a bit of celebrity spotting.

For he had heard about a man called Jesus who was doing and teaching AMAZING things. He was so excited that Jesus was coming to his village.

However it was bit of a shock when Jesus stopped and, looking up into the branches, said "Come on down Zaccy, for I'm coming to your house for tea."

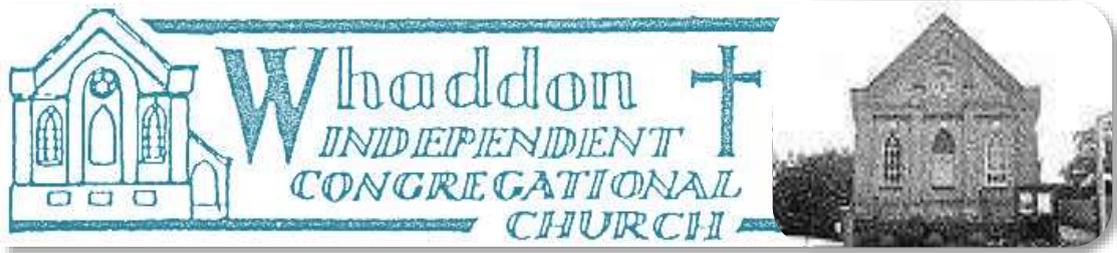
Much to his surprise, it seemed that Jesus had come to find Zach and wanted to spend some time with him. And this is what we made to remember the story.



On **22<sup>nd</sup> February** we are going to have another story – about a mouse who was very seasick when he found himself on a boat with Jesus in the middle of a great storm.

And the following month, on **15<sup>th</sup> March**, we will hear about a blind man who got his sight back.

**As always, there will be games, crafts, singing, + some 'I wonder time' and food.**



## Spring 2017

Each week brings news with the potential to change our world – Presidents are inaugurated; rulers deposed; wars and rumour of wars abound; disease strikes. But these events are nothing compared to what happened around 2000 years ago.

In the first century AD, a young man died. His earthy background was unremarkable. To many of those looking on, his was just one more crucifixion among thousands; or was it? A centurion (men not known for compassion or thoughtfulness) at the foot of this cross was shaken to the core. "Surely *this man was the Son of God*," he exclaimed. What he saw that day changed him forever. But it was not just his testimony. Many authors conclude that Jesus fulfilled every prophecy of the messiah (promised saviour) promised by God. As had happened at his birth, women, men, rulers and angels all testified to the world-changing resurrection of this Man, Jesus.

The rulers of our day come and go; their mark fades quickly over time. 2000 years on, we see that Jesus' life, death and resurrection genuinely and indelibly changed the world – forever. No other event in human history has been so transformative. And Jesus power is at work today: He continues to bring new life where death once ruled. He alone can transform you – not just for a time, but for eternity.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

*1 Peter 1 v3-5*

**This is what Easter is all about.  
Why not join us to find out more?**

### **Easter Services**

- Good Friday – check the chapel noticeboard for details
- Easter Sunday 4 pm - 5 pm.

### **Regular meetings**

Every Sunday at 4 pm-5 pm, Whaddon Chapel

## Make a date with 2018

**Do you recall the fun time that many of us had at the beacon lighting event at Coddimoor Farm in 2016 to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday?**

WELL, guess what, beacon lighting is going to happen again.....but in 2018. So mark the date in your advance planning diary now while you are thinking about it.

However, this next occasion will be recalling a more sombre event, but nonetheless just as important. This time we will be remembering the nation's tribute to 100 years of remembrance which will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Yes, I know it seems a long way off but already plans are being made across the nation to mark the occasion. So we also need to assemble plans to make sure that it is an even better and more memorable occasion than that of 2016.

Already some 160 beacon locations have been confirmed for this unique commemoration, according to pageantmaster Bruno Peek who is coordinating this special tribute.

He tells me that new organisations are registering at the rate of 10 a week, and the aim is to reach a target of 1,000 beacons – that is 100 for each decade since the end of World War 1. Beacons will be lit at 7pm on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 as part of what will be an historic tribute to the many millions who were killed or who returned home dreadfully wounded during the war.

It is often said that the toll of dead and injured was so great that almost every family knew of a relative or close friend who suffered from the conflict.

The tribute also will be an excellent opportunity to remember the huge army of men and women on the home front who, often in dangerous and exhausting conditions, underpinned the war effort by keeping the wheels of industry turning, bringing home the harvests and ensuring the nation did not starve.

The arrangements will be similar to those for Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Beacons in April last year.

As before, we plan to make the Battle's Over beacon event a major public occasion and it would be just wonderful if we could make contact with someone who served their country in WW1. We would then be able to invite them to light the beacon. Do you know anyone who would be appropriate as a candidate to light the beacon? Please let us know.

Perhaps someone in the village knows a relative or friend who would like to participate in this marvellous occasion. ♦

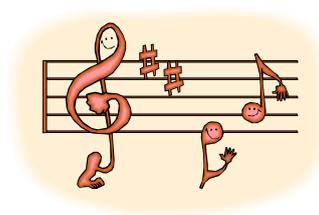
For more details contact me on 01908 501816 or [helencclarehickman@gmail.com](mailto:helencclarehickman@gmail.com)



## Football nets arrive!

Helen Hickman reports arrival of new football nets in the recreational ground off the Shenley Road. Graham Hain organised the refurbishment of the football posts with the proceeds from the Queen's Beacon evening. ♦





## TODDLER CHURCH

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

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon.

Every Wednesday (term time only from 1.45-2.45 pm)

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

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

Toddler Church finishes for the Easter Holidays on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Summer Term starts again on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April

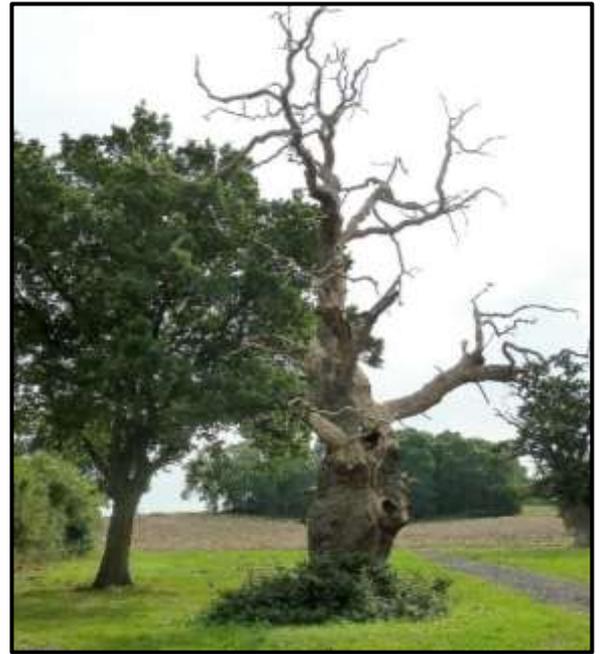
Sally Green (01908 526033)

**Whaddon's bells and clock.** Anthony Chandler of Buckinghamshire, born about 1550, trained as a blacksmith (perhaps apprenticed to the Buckingham bell-founder A P Powell) and started a family bell-foundry at Drayton Parslow. In 1580 Anthony married in Buckingham. Some of the bells made in the 1600s by Anthony's descendants, labelled CHANDLER MADE ME, survive today and at least one 350-year-old Chandler bell was rung to celebrate the arrival of the new Millennium. It is not surprising, bearing in mind Chandler's blacksmith's expertise, that he could so skilfully 'engineer' and fabricate such a simple but elegant clock which for so long informed villagers of Whaddon of the time. An inscription notes: Anthony Chandler made me in 1673. ♦

## Two villages united by a Fairy Queen

The Great Oaks of Whaddon article in the last *Whaddon Quarterly* prompted a response from Julia Lemagnen, who writes here to reveal her family's links with the village and Ireland.

It's funny the way life works out sometimes. When we moved to Whaddon in 1997, I'd never heard of the place. Indeed, why should I? Even though now, as a long-term Whaddonite, I believe the village lies in the centre of the known universe. However, I have to be realistic and acknowledge that it's actually a tiny, little-known community tucked away in rural Buckinghamshire, in the shadow of the much mightier Milton Keynes.



When first we glimpsed the village in May 1997, I'd like to think I was drawn to it inexorably, via some kind of primeval magnetic force. In fact, initially, it was much more prosaic than that – I needed to go to the loo!

As we drove through the village that Bank Holiday Monday, we spotted some kind of pagan ritual being enacted at the village school (an event that we now know to be the annual May Fayre).

"Bit strange," we thought, as we witnessed dozens of toga-clad villagers dressed as Roman gods, dancing to the not-so Roman music of a band called the Whaddon Tops on the school field. No matter – there were TOILETS, which were the key thing.

At that stage, all Whaddon meant to us was the location of house number 46 of the 60 properties we were viewing in the two weeks we were over from the Netherlands hunting for a UK home. But then we turned into the drive of Whaddon Hall ... and everything changed. I felt a compelling, almost overwhelming, urge to live in this particular, this exact, location.



"We have to have this house", I told the estate agent. Luckily, the owners of Marron House turned out to be the loveliest people in the world (Pat and Alistair Haig) and so the whole transaction went smoothly and we had moved in by August.

And then something strange happened. My maiden name is Cox, a commonplace and popular surname. But one of my ancient aunts had always insisted that our particular branch of the Cox family was directly descended from Dr Richard Cox (**left**), Dean of Westminster, Bishop of Ely and tutor to Edward VI, who was apparently a pretty important guy in Tudor times.

So, out of curiosity one day a few years back, I typed his name into Google and was gobsmacked to

read the first sentence of the Wikipedia article: "Cox was born of obscure parentage at Whaddon, Buckinghamshire, in 1499 or 1500."

Of all of the villages, in all of the counties .... what were the chances that I would end up living in exactly the same village as my esteemed ancestor?! Suddenly, the strange and overriding compulsion that had led me to make a home in this particular village – as opposed to the scores of other locations we'd looked at – made complete sense. I had obviously been drawn here by a pull from the past!

I started then to do a little digging around. I discovered that Richard Cox had been born here in Whaddon and educated at the nearby Benedictine priory of St Leonard, Snelshall. He rose in royal favour and became Chaplain to Henry VIII in 1542 and Almoner to the King's son, Prince Edward (later Edward VI), in whose education he took an active part.

Richard Cox received other rewards from the King: Canon of Windsor, Rector of Harrow (another slightly spooky link as we lived in Harrow for a number of years when we were first married – seems like I was following Dr Cox around the country!) and finally became Dean of Westminster in 1549.

When Mary I acceded to the throne, Cox was out of favour and briefly imprisoned before escaping to Frankfurt in 1554. However, the accession of Elizabeth I meant it was safe for him to return to England, and he was elected Bishop of Ely in 1559, a role he held for 21 years before falling out of favour with the Queen in 1580, at the grand old age of 80, and being forced to resign his bishopric.

Further research into Cox's family led me to understand that his descendants then moved to south-west Ireland. I was then able to trace my own branch of the family to the village of Doneraile, just north of Cork, and discovered that my great-great-grandfather was gamekeeper to Viscount St Leger at Doneraile Court in the 1840s and 1850s.

But then another slightly weird link to Whaddon popped up. Since moving to Whaddon, I became aware of the story that Elizabethan poet, Edmund Spenser (**below**), had written his most famous work, the epic poem in praise of Elizabeth I, *The Faerie Queene*, whilst sitting under an oak tree in the grounds of Whaddon Hall (see The Great Oaks of Whaddon on p. 21 of the *Whaddon Quarterly*, Nov 2016). This claim seemed plausible, as Spenser had served as secretary to Lord Gray, who, in turn, owned Whaddon Hall in the late 16th century.

However, according to Wikipedia, in 1580 Spenser followed Lord Grey to Ireland, where he had recently been appointed Lord Deputy. When Grey was recalled to England, Spenser remained in Ireland, where he acquired an estate at Kilcolman, near Doneraile. A short distance away grew a tree, locally known as "Spenser's Oak". I laughed when I read the words: "local legend has it that he penned some of *The Faerie Queene* under this tree."

Somehow the links between these two tiny villages – Whaddon with its population of around 450 and Doneraile not much bigger – had come full circle. They are linked by their connections to both Cox and Spenser (who are in turn linked by their strong connections to Queen Elizabeth I).

But which oak tree and which view inspired Spenser to write this famous work? Or did he begin the poem in Whaddon and seek out a similar tree in Ireland to complete it? I guess we will never know – but I do know that Whaddon is a special place and moving here 20 years ago felt like coming home. ♦



## DRINKING IN HISTORY

*Few things are more pleasant than a village graced with a good church, a good priest, and a good pub* - English travel writer and naturalist John Hillaby

**The potential of a re-opened *The Lowndes Arms* pub has prompted Dave Richards to look at the history of Whaddon's historic inns.**

THE Millenium Edition of the *Whaddon Quarterly* (was it really 17 years ago?) contained an interesting article entitled '*The Vanishing Inns of Whaddon*' which is reproduced below:

Few village institutions have changed as much during the past one hundred years as the pub. Rising prices, coupled with television and other leisure pursuits, have deprived many small communities of what once was a vital part of village life.

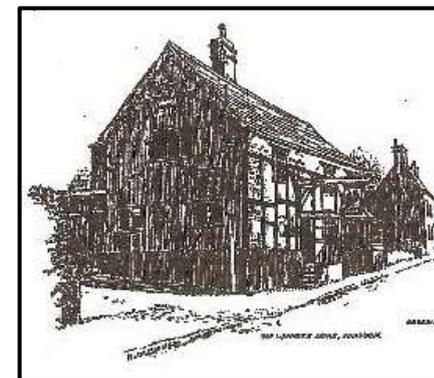
Whaddon has escaped that fate, though not without its casualties. In the second half of the nineteenth century, when its population was smaller and poorer, it had three public houses within a few hundred yards of one another. Now it has only one, and even that depends a great deal on its restaurant trade and car-borne customers from outside the village.

The survivor, of course, is *The Lowndes Arms* (**above**) in the High Street. The two that have vanished, or rather have been turned into private dwellings, are the *Robin Hood* and the *Fox and Hounds*. The first of these, at the bottom of Vicarage Road, operated as a village shop during much of the last century. The second was at the bottom of Church Hill.

*The Lowndes Arms* used to be called the *Haunch of Venison*, but was renamed many years ago as a mark of respect to the Selby-Lowndes family. Dating from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, and now with a Grade II listing, it is a timber-framed building with brick and plaster infill, and has been extended at the rear. In the second half of the last century it was managed for many years by John Mony, who turned the old stables into a motel. After he moved on, it changed hands twice. The present landlord is Chris Hunt.

From available records it is hard to determine the period when all three of these establishments were active at the same time. According to the 1854 Kelly's Directory, there then were only two: the *Haunch of Venison* with Stephen Inns as its landlord, and the *Fox and Hounds* with Edward Underwood senior.

Three decades later, Robert Meadows had taken over the Haunch of Venison, Cumbers Meakins (who also traded as a wheelwright) was in charge of the *Fox and Hounds*, and the *Robin Hood* remained open with Alfred Hedges as its landlord. By the time the 1903 *Kelly's Directory* appeared, the *Fox and Hounds*, at which sheep drovers used to stay the night while on their way to London's markets, had apparently closed. *The Lowndes Arms* had Thomas Barnett in charge, and the *Robin Hood* had David Dell.



**A sketch of the *Fox and Hounds* pub transcribed from 1858 Deeds. Photographed from her notebook by Janet Wyatt (see also p. 33).**

The 1939 *Kelly's Directory* listed only *The Lowndes Arms*, then managed by Frederick Turner. No doubt it was poverty, as much as social changes that killed off the others. Describing the life of the village in the decade before the war, one elderly resident said: "There said: 'There wasn't much drinking then



**Laburnham Cottage, Stock Lane, was formerly the *Fox and Hounds* public house.**

Alfred Hedges in 1877, the *Robin Hood* public house is clearly shown on a map dating from 1800 (interestingly, on an 1885 map of the village this pub is shown as the *Robin Hood and Little John* (perhaps an early example of adding brand value); the last recorded landlord for this pub was David Dee in 1903.

The 1851 Whaddon census named Edward Underwood as innkeeper of the *Fox and Hounds*, and this pub remained open for at least another 40 years.

The earliest record of a landlord at the *Haunch of Venison* is Stephen Inns in 1854. It seems therefore, that from at least 1854 to around the beginning of the 20th century, the thirsty villagers of Whaddon could support three local pubs. They provided a haven of rest and conviviality; a meeting point and a focal to slake the thirst or just to pass the time.

At one point, Edward Underwood ran the *Fox and Hounds* while his son, Thomas Underwood, was landlord of the much larger *Haunch of Venison*. The last recorded landlord of the *Fox and Hounds* appears to be Alfred Lee (from the 1891 census; the pub is not listed in the 1903 *Kelly's Directory*).

The National Newspaper Archives has reference in the *Advertiser* of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1878 to the Sale of the Fox and Hounds appeared by agents in Maidmoreton, Bucks. Another reference, dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 1946, refers to the 'Sale of Contents' of Laburnham Cottage for the late Mrs Mary Ann Hopkins. It is a wonderful insight into the furnishings which include some antiques, a tapestry three-piece suite, an HMV oak gramophone and records, an antique lace bobbin winder, an oil-fed cooker and an electric fire. ♦

because people just couldn't afford it. A few men went to the pub to play dominoes and pick up *the* latest gossip, but for most of the time it was nearly empty'.

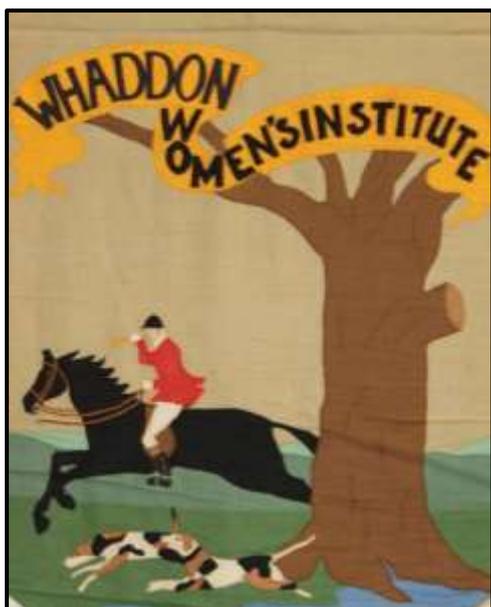
It is a depressing fact that the slow decline in fortunes of Whaddon's pubs described in the article has continued, culminating in the recent closure of *The Lowndes Arms*, the last remaining pub in the village.

Given the current universal difficulties faced by all village pubs, one could hardly imagine that Whaddon was ever large and prosperous enough to support more than one, but from records it appears there was indeed a time when all three pubs mentioned in the Millenium article of the *Whaddon Quarterly* were open together.

Although its earliest recorded landlord is

The beginning of this 50-year period must have been one of the most prosperous in Whaddon's history, but towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the agricultural industry began to suffer from a worldwide price and economic recession which was particularly severe in Western Europe. Wheat acreage in the UK nearly halved between 1870 and 1900, and must have affected Whaddon (Wheat Hill). The fall in family incomes probably led to the closure of the two smaller pubs.

If, as we hope, *The Lowndes Arms* does re-open, perhaps we should take heed of the results of a recent study by Oxford University, which found that people who drank regularly at their local were happier and more satisfied with their lives. Instead of a dry January, we should all resolve to spend more time in the pub. Cheers! ♦



## WHADDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We ended 2016 in December with our Annual Meeting when we welcomed Thelma Sackman, a WI Adviser, to guide us through the meeting. We are starting 2017 under 'new management' as, after numerous years, I have decided to stand down as President and from the committee in order to let 'new blood' in.

Our new President is Jane Waight, previously our Secretary. I wish Jane and her new committee well for the coming year.

Following our meeting, 10 members enjoyed a Christmas meal at the *Prince George* in Tattenhoe.

At the January meeting the various resolutions were discussed and voted upon, after which we had a social afternoon with all the members taking part.

We have a varied programme arranged for the coming year, including a visit to an artisan chocolate-making company in Brackley, yoga for beginners, sugar craft and hand bells.

There is no sign yet of the Post Office returning, but teas continue to be served as usual. So we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday afternoons. Everyone is welcome to come to any of our meetings.

Best wishes to you all in 2017.

Further details from Jane Waight on 01908 989851 or me on 01908 501987. ◆

*Susan White*

January 2017

**The children of Whaddon CofE School invite you to their**

# May Fayre

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

**Procession starts at 12.30 pm from Whaddon Hall**

**Fayre at Whaddon School opens at 1pm**

Stalls / Games / Raffle / Bar / BBQ / Cakes  
Ice Creams / Plants / Maypole Dancing & more

Donations of plants, cakes, books, toys, raffle prizes, bottles of anything, filled jam jars, stuffed animals for teddy tombola please email [friendsofwhaddon@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwhaddon@gmail.com)

or call **07966 962 419** for donations to be collected.

## Whaddon Night Owlers WI

**W**E START this year with a great plan for our meetings that cover a huge range of topics. As always in the WI, we do not shy away from big issues and have already voted this year to support a national resolution on ensuring that women get appropriate support for their mental health needs throughout pregnancy and birth. Mental health is much in the news at the moment, as people start to realise how much it can affect anyone, and how little help there is for those struggling.

On a lighter note, we have plans for some fascinating speakers this year. We start with a pantomime dame, to give us some backstage secrets and carry on through a guide from Milton Keynes Museum, a gardener from Stowe and a visit to a Sikh Temple. There are also plans afoot for a summertime outing somewhere nice!

If you are wandering what goes on at a WI meeting, come and see us – we are very friendly! We start with a drink – I was welcomed to my first meeting with, “what would you like, tea, coffee, red or white?” I just knew it was the group for me! This gives us a chance to catch up and catch our breath as many of us have come from work and families, so have been busy all day. We then have our formal meeting which is kept short and to the point but is a good opportunity to find out what other local groups are up to and what is happening nationally.

After a chance to refresh our drinks, we move on to our speaker or activity for the main part of the evening. We finish with a raffle so if you are lucky you might win a nice bottle of wine or some chocolates or a pretty plant to take home.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 for 7.30 pm and would love to include new people, so please do come and join us. For more information, contact Daphne on 01908 502088 or pop along to one of our meetings.

*Alison Cross*



## Willen Hospice

A big thank you to all who supported Willen Hospice and a big thank you also goes to those who went around the village with collection tins. The money raised was £190.00.

Thank you, Whaddon.

*Hazel Dudley.*



# Whaddon Book Club



DELIGHTFUL, original, its crisp, short sentences kept the narrative moving at a brisk pace. These were some of the positive comments from the members of the Book Club about our most recent book, though some thought that the author was occasionally rather repetitive.

*Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*, by Winifred Watson, is a charming story, set in London in the 1930s.

The action spans a day in the life of 40-year old Miss Guinevere Pettigrew: a down-at-heel, down-at-heart governess, whose life as an unmarried woman of little means, toiling away at a job she loathes, is drab, uneventful and without any hope of a change for the better.

Then something remarkable happens when she is sent for an interview by her Job Agency. Unknown to her, the Agency has muddled up the jobs, and so starts her fairy tale adventure into a new life of joyful

surprise, friendship and fun.

Winifred Watson wrote the story in the 1930s, hence the often wonderful, now outdated conversational language between the characters, which is an extra treat for the reader.

As well as being well-written, we found it reflected quite powerfully the lives of many well-educated but distressed single gentlewomen of that era.

For its time, the book must have been thought of as quite racy. It included references to cocaine use, sex outside marriage and women daring to believe that life could be fun rather than endless toil and hardship.

Although her name is not well known by many today, we discovered that Watson had written several popular novels in the 1930s.

*My Name is Leon* by Kit de Vaal is the book that preceded the above as our Book Club choice.

Kit de Vaal's background is in Communal and Family Law. She also sits on adoption panels, so has plenty of inside knowledge and experience of fostered children, which is the subject of this moving, warm and informative first novel.

The story is told through the eyes of eight year old Leon, who becomes a foster child, together with his baby brother Jake, because his own mother, a single parent, has such intense needs of her own she is unable to parent her children.

We follow the children's fortunes as they journey through foster care, the eventual splitting up of the two brothers, and Leon's determination to be reunited with Jake.

The story ends on a hopeful note but the reader is left keenly aware of the pain, insecurity and powerlessness experienced by many children in the fostering system.

The book received unanimous approval by the Book Club members. ◇

## *Sue Norbury*

Nikki Bloomer is organising – at WaterstonesMK – events that could interest Whaddon residents. Historian, author and TV presenter Simon Sebag Montefiore (on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 6 pm) will discuss his best-selling book 'The Romanovs'. Tickets, £5, entitle the holder to £2 off a signed book. On 24<sup>th</sup> February, 6 pm, Rory Clements (*Sunday Times* best-selling author) discusses his new historical thriller 'Corpus', set in 1936. Rory authors John Shakespeare series of novels, currently in development for TV by the team behind 'Poldark' and 'Endeavour'. Tickets, £3, entitle the holder to £2 off the book, should they purchase. Tickets available in store or by calling 01908 395384 during opening hours. ◇

**Which recently (clue!) famous person uttered these motivational words, and when? "If you don't believe in yourself, no one else will."** For the answer? See p. 50. ◇

## Sheila Warrington 1934 - 2016

**S**HEILA was born in 1934 and spent her childhood on a smallholding in Burton-on-Trent. Always a plentiful supply of garden produce, not to mention hens and ducks which could be bartered for various items they needed.

She and her sister Mollie did get into trouble one day, when they dug out a big hole and filled it with water to create a duck pond. However, they forgot that the chickens were free range and couldn't swim. The whole batch was lost!



She married Bernard (seen **left** with Sheila) when she was 19 in 1954 and moved into a house in Burton where the couple had two children, Bernard and Julie.

After a number of moves, they settled in the early 1980s in a brand new house in Stock Lane, Whaddon, which they named Trent House. Bernard was an engineering director at Blowmocan Polysystems, a plastics company in Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes, while Sheila spent many years at Dickens & Jones, a high-class department store with a branch in Milton Keynes.

Whaddon was a much livelier village then with its own thriving shop run by Bette and Jack Coe, a separate post office and a popular pub, *The Lowndes Arms*, which attracted custom from miles around and was known for its excellent steaks.

Once on a cold icy morning, Sheila became frustrated that other cars were going so slowly down the Whaddon straight that she decided to overtake them all. Unfortunately, she spun on black ice and ended upside down in the ditch. When rescued she was still determined to get into work but the car was written off and the tool box was never found!

Sheila and Bernard had wonderful holidays abroad, making fabulous memories; eventually they settled down to retirement and enjoyed the company of their new friend, a cavalier King Charles spaniel called Mr Darcy. They could all be seen regularly taking walks throughout the village.

They were looking forward to many more happy years together when Bernard's health deteriorated and he died suddenly in 2003. Bernard's death broke Sheila's heart.

Sheila remained in the house for another six years but after Mr Darcy died the house became too big.

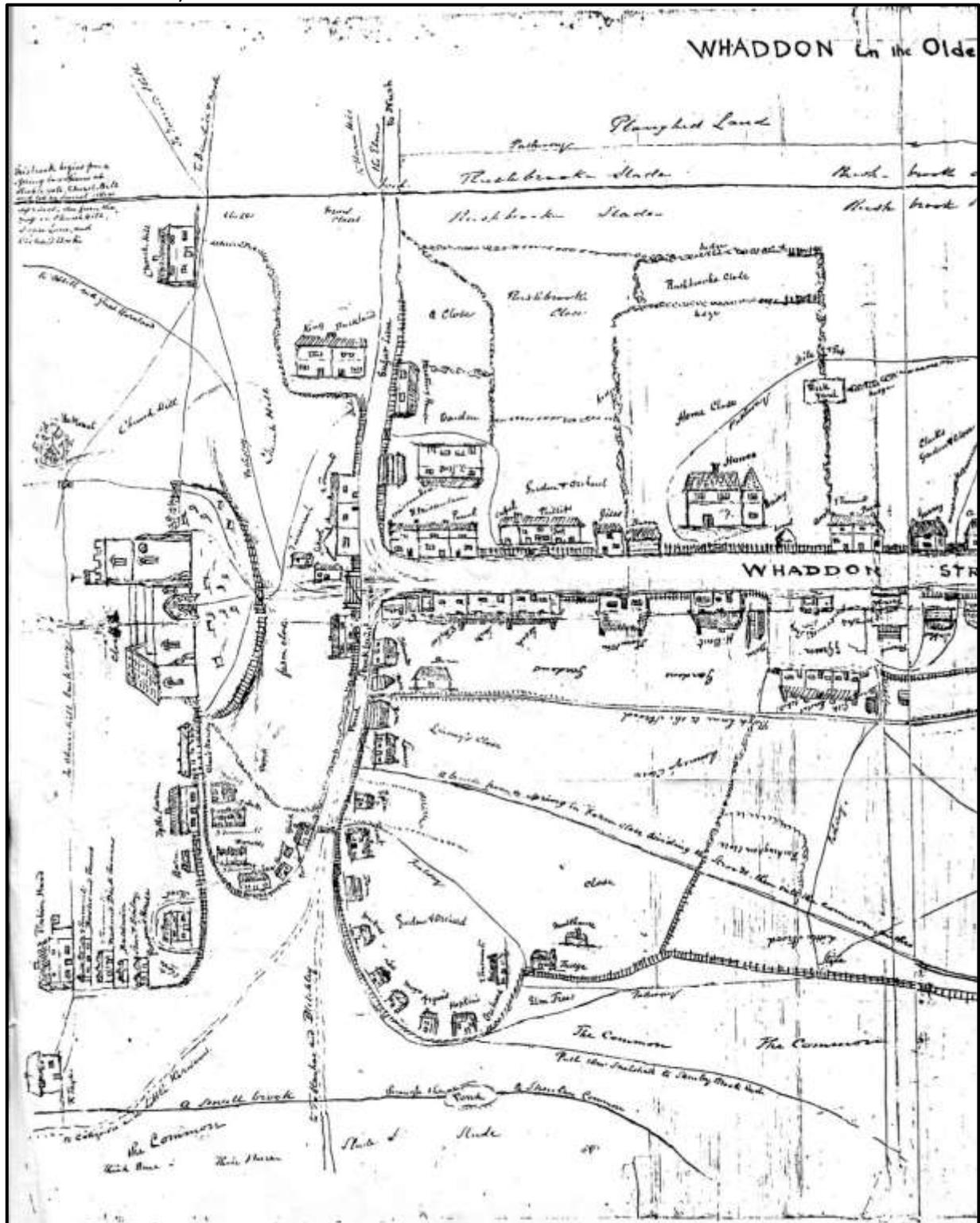
Also, Whaddon had lost its shop and become very quiet, and she moved to Stony Stratford where she lived in a lovely cottage in Market Square. Following Mr Darcy's death, Sheila took in Missie (**right**).

Sheila passed away on Christmas Day at Willen Hospice following a short illness. She will be missed by all her family and friends. ♦



## WHADDON in the Olden Time, by Thomas Phillips 1800

"This map (which here is split into halves – Ed) was made by a local surveyor in 1800, who was interested enough to draw each house. As the representations differ, they can be taken as an accurate drawing of the house at the time. This copy is taken from an old photograph of the original, taken several years ago by an elderly gentleman, who supplied me with a Photostat. Although the writing is reasonably clear, it is very small and I have therefore translated it, as it is clear. The names of the householders







## My Whaddon families

Just before Christmas, Janet Wyatt, a keen researcher, contacted Whaddon's website searching information about her family, which has lived in Whaddon from the 16th to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly even earlier. Janet, who lives in a

**Cotswold cottage in Gloucestershire, has conducted family research for over 20 years and has consequently amassed wills for every generation. One member of her distant family ran the *Fox and Hounds* public house in Whaddon. Here is Janet's story...**

I had always assumed that my Underwood family had lived in the Chilterns, but while researching my ancestry I discovered a record that came as a complete surprise. John Underwood, a grocer who married a Hephzibah Priest in Wendover on Boxing Day 1860, had been born in Whaddon. Both of their fathers were farmers but more significantly his father, also John, farmed in Whaddon.

In 1851, John senior lived in Stock Lane (now Nash Road), with his wife Mary and their three children: John, George and Martha. Martha would remain in the village and marry into the Mackerness family which lived nearby.

I then discovered wills for generations of my direct farming ancestors! The Whaddon 'journey' took me to Robert Underwood's will dated 16th December 1558. He became churchwarden two years earlier.

Robert's short Tudor will gives little clue to his social status however it does reflect the religious nature of the times.

In it he declares 'I bequeath my soul unto almighty God.....and unto Lady Saint Maria and unto all the holy Company of heaven'.

The will then mentions more earthly bequests in his desire 'to be buried in Whaddon churchyard'. There was also the bequest of his 'biggest pot' to his son, Thomas.

Robert also instructed Thomas and his brother, William 'to oversee the house'.

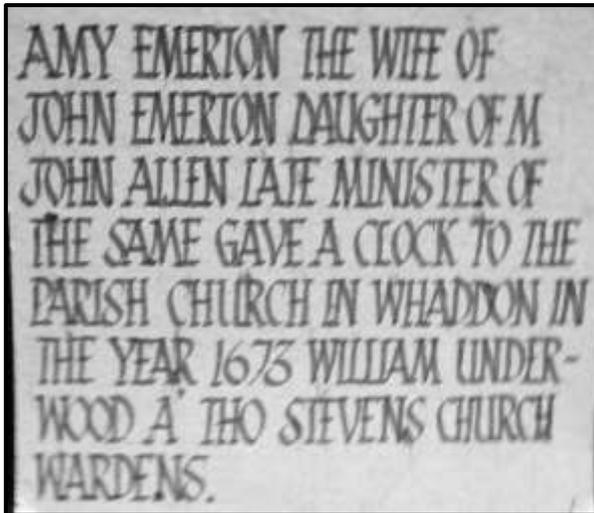
In an indenture, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1552, Robert Underwood and his colleague Thomas Cook, both churchwardens, had the task of making a list for Edward VI's commissioners of the 'goodes pertaining to the paryshe of Whaddon'. Edward VI was the son of Henry VIII.

Notably, this included 'one chalyce of sylver' as well as velvet vestments, crosses and many other valuables. Also listed were 'iij great belles and a little sans bell'. (N.B. The church of St. Giles the Abbot in Farnborough, Kent has a record to the effect that in 1552 there is a "record of three bells in the tower (Item iij bells suited of brass in the steple)."

The items were 'solde by the consente of the parysche for glasyng and reparracion of the chyrche'.

Two of the wills I discovered were those of Alise and Mary, made after the death of their husbands.

Alise and her husband, Thomas, made wills during the risky and troubled times of the English Civil War. Although Whaddon remained neutral, Shenley turned Royalist but Calverton favoured Parliament.



A notice alongside Chandler's original 1673 beautifully-crafted clock in Whaddon church highlights the Underwood link.

Alise's bequests reflect her great status and comfort in the couple's two-storey house with its hall. Features include 'the joynd beedsted over the hall and my Great bible', 'a little tablecloathe and three napkinges and my ring.'

The Will of Thomas, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1707, continues to show a well-furnished hall house of several rooms. Also among my collection of wills is that of William Gardus, a watchmaker of Whaddon, who married an Underwood.

The Underwood families continued to make wills as well as appearing in parish records, including the Churchwardens' Accounts, Elmer Charity and the installation of the church clock.

Whaddon's original church clock dates from 1673 and was made at Drayton Parslow by Anthony Chandler. William Underwood and

Thomas Stern, both churchwardens at the time, helped with the clock's installation.

Two Underwood graves can be found in Whaddon churchyard (see **previous page**). They are those of Ann Underwood (the right-hand monument) and her daughter Charlotte Underwood. Edward, with his wife Ann, ran the *Fox and Hounds* public house both as cooper and publican; a cooper served as a maker of barrels. The pub was situated in Principal Street. Edward died on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1872. His wife Ann then made a will (yet another woman!), with William Gardus again acting as a witness. Ann died in 1878, aged 79.

Edward and Ann's daughter, Charlotte never married. Charlotte died on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1886 (with another female Underwood making a will). The *Fox and Hounds* pub had already changed hands but both Charlotte and her brother Thomas were familiar with the life of a public house. Indeed, Thomas later ran various public houses, including *The King's Head* in Buckingham.

Interestingly, a wonderful naïve map of Whaddon dated 1800, and created by a village resident, Thomas Phillips, shows (**right**) a John Underwood living behind Whaddon Street, located by Clark's garden and close to Wheeler yard. The house, like many others of the time, was thatched.

John, a dairyman by trade, and son of William and Mary on (née Cooper), was buried on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1808.

Having no issue himself, (he could possibly be the same John who was mentioned on the *Posse Comitatus* as 'deformed'), he left his estate to his brother, George's son,



This small section of the 1800 'map of Whaddon shows the Underwood house, sited just off the curiously named Whaddon Street.

John who himself made a will in 1831. He left his estate to his son, John (yes, there are a great many Johns in the Underwood family; this can be confusing).

John was allocated just over three acres after the enclosure of village fields in the 1840s although he remained a farmer until his death on 16th May 1873. He was predeceased by his son John, who left the village to become a grocer. John, the grocer, had a son called Harry, who likewise became a grocer. He was my great-grandfather.

In later years, John retired and went to live at St Leonard's, Buckinghamshire, where he owned a herd of dairy cattle from which he supplied milk to the neighbourhood and became a churchwarden. ◇

**Planning application would give 'incongruous feature' – AVDC**  
 PERMISSION for the erection of one dwelling on land adjacent to 2A Vicarage Road, Whaddon has been refused on the basis that the design, plot size and prominent location would result in an incongruous feature, out of character with the immediate surrounding area, resulting in a cramped and alien form of development, with limited private amenity space for future occupiers, failing to promote and reinforce the local distinctiveness of the village, causing harm to the character and appearance of the street scene and the character and appearance of the adjoining conservation area. Also, the limited benefits arising from the proposal would be significantly and demonstrably outweighed by the negative adverse impacts identified. Further, by virtue of its proximity to 2a Vicarage Road & its corner location, it would result in an unacceptable loss of amenity for the occupants of 2a Vicarage Road and the future occupants of the proposed dwelling. ◇

## No pub? No problem!

WHADDON may be a small village, but there's always something going on; places for people to meet and connect; to share an interest or to find a new one; to belong. In all these groups there is a driving force: an organiser/committee/group that makes sure it happens monthly, weekly, regularly. Since *The Lowndes Arms* closed last year, one particular group of jolly fine fellows decided that Whaddon simply couldn't do without its pub, so they did something about it and the Pop Up Pub was born. Here's a regular event that brings the whole village together, every month. Here's somewhere you can just walk into, knowing that you'll be welcome, see friendly faces and catch up with folk you might not get to see otherwise. Here's a forum for connecting, sharing, planning and having a laugh. It's Whaddon at its best. Thank you so much to Alice Hain, Angie and Tim Joint, Deb and Ralph Spinks, Maria Cole and Frederick Hayward who make this event possible every month. Cheers everyone. *Marianna Beckwith*

## Men in Sheds Buckingham

Men in Sheds provides a place where men of all ages can come along and take part in activities similar to what they would do in their own garden shed but with the bonus of other like-minded men providing good company.

Samantha Hardy, Community Impact Bucks

01844 348831 / 07990 756742 - email: [samantha@communityimpactbucks.org.uk](mailto:samantha@communityimpactbucks.org.uk)

## Sea Cadets – TS Whaddon

This is your chance do all this....or any of it:

If you're between 10 and 18 years old, why not join us in 2016?



Left and below Kayaking or Rowing at Emberton Park, Olney

Bottom left: Colours Parade, Kiln Farm - 7pm Tuesdays

Bottom: TS Royalist in The Solent



+



For information: telephone David Spencer 01908 502540  
or contact Jamie Spink, 11, Ladymead



## Neighbourhood Watch Whaddon

*What a sad world we live in!*

### Payment diversion alert

Fraudsters are emailing members of the public who are expecting to make a payment for property repairs. The fraudsters will purport to be a tradesman who has recently completed work at the property and use a similar email address to that of the genuine tradesman. They will ask for funds to be transferred via bank transfer. Once payment is made the victims of the scam soon realise they have been deceived when the genuine tradesman requests payment for their services.

#### Protect yourself

- Always check the email address is exactly the same as previous correspondence with the genuine contact.
- For any request of payment via email verify the validity of the request with a phone call to the person who carried out the work.
- Check the email for spelling and grammar as these signs can indicate that the email is not genuine.
- Payments via bank transfer offer no financial protection; consider using alternative methods such as a credit card or PayPal which offer protection and an avenue for recompense.

#### Scam Alert

Also, be wary nowadays of communications from any financial institutions you deal with – email, letter or phone call. If you receive an email from your bank, building society, etc. asking you to click on a link you don't recognise, or a letter possibly saying they need you to ring a specific number to confirm your security details, or a phone call that just doesn't sound right - **DO NOT RUSH TO DO ANYTHING!**

**Stop and think first** – and if at all unsure, telephone your bank/building society (or whatever) on the telephone number you normally use, to check that this is a genuine request. They will not mind at all, and will be pleased that you are sensible enough to check things out. ◇

**If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone 0300 123 2040**

## Your local coordinators

Graham Stewart  
2, High Street.  
Tel. 01908 501973

Sally Green  
Bellsbrook, Church Lane.  
Tel: Ex-directory

Howard Jones  
8, Ladymead.  
Tel: 01908 501871

Pauline Winward  
1, Whaddon Hall.  
Tel: 01908 502559

Peter Beckwith  
6, Old Manor Close.  
Tel: 01908 503194

David McIntyre  
2a, Vicarage Road.  
Tel: 01908 867836

Sally Telford  
4a, Stock Lane.  
Tel: 01908 336960

### Table Tennis

Singles and Doubles      Admission only £1  
All equipment provided  
2 Tables available      Rules explained  
Coaching given      School pupils welcome from age 8  
Beginners or experts welcome  
**Contact Mark Carter: [magcarter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:magcarter@hotmail.co.uk)**  
or just turn up



## The Whaddon Show

For more details of this marvellous upcoming event that must not be missed and will be held in the Village Hall...

See page 49



## Winslow Community Bus

[wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com](mailto:wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com)

[www.winslowbus.com](http://www.winslowbus.com)

**01296 715786**

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

**Please ring Sue for more information.**

**\*Denotes bus pass accepted.**

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Visit Welford Park, My favourite snowdrop place! £14 incl. entrance.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Buckingham bus.* Town and Tesco, or just Tesco. 'Phone to book.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M, etc.
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Lunch at The Bell Inn, Beachampton. £3.50 travel.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop, B&M etc.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Asda Bletchley, M&S, New Look, Next, Primark. £4.00.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Enjoy a carvery for only 4.69 at The Peartree Bridge Inn, MK. Inn is situated by the canal. £4.00 travel.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Buckingham bus.* An hour in town, an hour at Tesco. Telephone to book. Door-to-door.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop, B&M etc. Picks up at Winslow, Horwoods, Nash, Whaddon. Telephone to book.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Join us for Lunch at The Red Lion, Wendlebury. 2 courses, £11.95. 3 course £14.95. Travel £5.00.
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Frosts Garden Centre – Spring is coming. Travel £4.00.
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop, B&M etc.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Asda Bletchley, M&S, New Look, Next, Primark. £4.00.
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Buckingham Bus.* An hour in town at Tesco. Telephone to book
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Yarnton Nurseries. There is something for everyone. £5.00
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Lunch at Boycott Farm. Butchery & tearoom. Near Stowe. £4.50.
Fridays and Saturdays	<p><b>OUR BUS SERVICES.</b> * Bus passes accepted. All ages welcome! Make shopping easier.</p> <p><b>Don't forget.</b></p> <p><b>Aylesbury Market Bus.</b> We go to Aylesbury every Friday and Saturday morning. We pick up in Winslow, The Horwoods, Mursley and Swanbourne. (£4.00 return.) Bus passes accepted.</p> <p><b>Wednesday Market Bus.</b> We also pick up at The Horwoods, Mursley, Swanbourne and The Claydons to bring you into Winslow for Market Day and where you have about 1½ hours shopping. (£3.00)*.</p> <p>Added to these two there is the <b>Westcroft Bus</b> and the <b>Buckingham Bus.</b></p> <p><b>For more information telephone Sue on 01296 715786</b></p>

## Milton Keynes Theatre

**Please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment**

*All prices are for tickets in Band A price range (Circle or Stalls) and travel.  
Performances start 2.30pm, unless otherwise stated. Door-to-door service.*

Wed'day 1 <sup>st</sup> February	<i>Not Dead Enough</i> . Thrilling new stage play. Circle A & B. £62.00.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>The Red Shoes</i> . Matthew Bourne's magical new adaptation. Upper Circle B & D £23.00.
Wed'day 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<i>La Strada</i> – New musical adaptation of 1957 film. Circle C. £41.00.
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<i>Funny Girl</i> – 'Exhilarating, phenomenal' musical. Circle F&G. £33.50.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>The Play That Went Wrong</i> – Smash hit comedy. Circle D & E. £23.50. <b>Book by 6<sup>th</sup> February.</b>
Wed'day 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>7.15pm.</b> <i>La Boheme</i> . Stalls Row P. £50.50. <b>Book by 13<sup>th</sup> February.</b>
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>Shirley Valentine</i> – Willy Russell's heart-warming masterpiece. £22.50. <b>Book by 20<sup>th</sup> February.</b>
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>2.30pm.</b> <i>Lord of the Dance – Dangerous Games</i> . Directed by Michael Flatley. Stalls Row N. £45.00. <b>Book by 20<sup>th</sup> February.</b>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Casanova</i> – Northern Ballet. Circle J. £21.50. <b>Book by 20<sup>th</sup> March.</b>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Mamma Mia!</i> Abba-solutely fantastic. Circle A & B. £49.00. <b>Book by 20<sup>th</sup> March.</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Evita</i> – A classic reborn – stunning musical. Stalls P/Q. £37.00. <b>Book by 17<sup>th</sup> April.</b>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June.	<i>Billy Elliot</i> – The musical – funny, uplifting, spectacular. Circle M & N. £34.00. <b>Book by 27 March.</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> June.	<i>Billy Elliot</i> – The musical – funny, uplifting, spectacular. Circle Row C. £48.00. <b>Book by 27 March.</b>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July.	<i>Jane Eyre</i> – 'Theatre at its most imaginative'. A collaboration between National Theatre & Bristol Old Vic. Stalls Row G. £24.50. <b>Book by 27<sup>th</sup> February.</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July.	<i>Wonderland</i> – Enchanting musical adaptation of Alice. Circle C & D. £34.50 <b>Book by 22<sup>nd</sup> May.</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July.	<i>Judgement in stone</i> – Roy Marsden, Sophie Ward, Shirley Ann Field. New thriller - Ruth Rendell. Circle KK. £24.50 <b>Book by 5<sup>th</sup> June.</b>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> August.	<i>La Cage aux Folles</i> – New production of award-winning musical. Stalls JJ/KK/MM. £37.00. <b>Book by 12<sup>th</sup> July.</b>

# WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

## Whaddon Quarterly

### Advertising Rates and Publication Policy

January 2107 Advertising Rates

#### General and Commercial Advertisers

	Year
Full Page – four editions	£85
Half Page – four editions	£48

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

#### Non-Commercial Local Advertisers

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

#### Small Advertisements

One line 'For Sale' and 'Wanted' ads submitted by Whaddon residents – FOC. Subject to availability of space.

#### Format and Submission

Full page – A5 size

Copy to be submitted in high resolution .jpg format.

Email content to the Editor, John Mortimer at [johnmortimermsc@gmail.com](mailto:johnmortimermsc@gmail.com)

#### Publication Dates and Copy Deadlines

Publication is four times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

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

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

#### Content Policy and Copyright

Whaddon Parish Council requires all material for publication in Whaddon Quarterly to be appropriate and suitable; and it may not contain any content that could be deemed offensive, discriminatory or derogatory.

**Any submissions deemed not to meet this standard will be subject to edit or exclusion by the Editor. The Editor's decision is final in this regard.**

**Content of Whaddon Quarterly is subject to Copyright, and may not be used or reproduced without the Editor's permission.**

# Creative Coach:

## *Thoughts from my comfy chair*



We're all advised to give our cars the once-over a little more often in the winter; check tyres for wear, because the roads are a little more treacherous, make sure the screen wash is topped up, because windscreens get dirtier at this time of year, check the lights are working properly because it's still dark/darkish between 4.30pm and 8.30am. We're all rightly concerned for the wellbeing of our cars, because a breakdown, or worse, an accident, is not what we want.

As Spring approaches, what could you do **for you** that's the caring human equivalent to your car's "health check"? Here's some ideas to encourage you to perk up your 5 senses...

### **See**

Just for a week, take a photo each day of something that makes you go "Wow!" You don't need a flashy camera, just use your phone. When you start looking out for interesting, amazing, cute, hilarious sights, believe me, they do actually appear. The more you search, the more you find. Store them. Look at them from time to time if you feel you need a little lift. If you enjoy this challenge, do it for longer than a week.

### **Hear**

Try a bit of music while you work (or rest, or read, or garden, or anything else). Make a playlist of favourites, or find something you haven't listened to in ages. You could even just treat yourself to 5 minutes of just sitting and listening – bliss!

### **Feel/Touch**

Try a little mindful walking. Humour me here; there's method in the madness! Walk barefoot, slowly on a variety of surfaces, and pay close attention to exactly how each surface feels under your feet. Sitting-still meditation is not for everyone, so mindfulness can be practised on the move too. It helps train your brain to focus, lowers blood pressure and cortisol (stress hormone). This is also fun in summer when you can go outside, on the grass. I guess you could try it in the snow/frost if you feel so inclined...

### **Taste**

Challenge yourself to a taste challenge once a week, or more often, if you feel inspired. Try something you've never eaten before. Visit one of the supermarket aisles you don't always explore, or a different supermarket for ideas, or, if you prefer, find an interesting, new recipe to try out with familiar ingredients. This could be an opportunity to add something super-healthy into your regular diet.

### **Smell**

Very personal this one (no innuendo intended)! Scented tealights/candles/oils aren't just for special occasions; you can use them to lift your mood any time. For those of you who prefer something more subtle, try some drops of essential oil on a handkerchief for an instant mood-boost. Here are some suggestions I found: peppermint to boost concentration/refresh, lavender to de-stress, citrus to enhance your mood and chase away the January gloom, rosemary for focus and I'm sure you will have your own favourites too. Health and safety advice to be followed at all times, people! Just enjoy whatever the smell brings to you. Have fun exercising your senses!



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## School days

# The 'Big Bang Theory' exposed at last!

**Mulling over school days during the Christmas break with a journalist friend of some 50 years' standing, he told me of one 'exciting' episode as he explains here:**

Chemistry was never my strong subject at school, though I did reasonably well in exams, probably because I was quite good at making the equations balance: the number of atoms of each element having to be the same on both sides of the equation. But lab experiments, with retorts, pipettes and Bunsen burners, I found a bit of a bore.

That boredom was relieved on one occasion however when our master at Harrow County School for Boys announced that we were to learn chemistry in practical terms, about synthesis of water – that is combining its constituent parts of hydrogen and oxygen.

Mr Devonald, a gangling six-footer who we sometimes referred to as 'the wild Welshman', told us that the synthesis process which could be undertaken in the lab, involved some risk and that, consequently, he would be carrying out the procedure at the front of the class, while us 14-year-olds kept our distance behind our benches.

We brightened. Some excitement was in prospect, as indeed it proved. Sixty-five years on I cannot remember the exact sequence of events, except that it culminated in a resounding explosion. When the smoke – or it might have been steam – cleared, we observed Mr Devonald looking even more dishevelled than usual, amid a tangle of apparatus.

Memory is intermingled with an element of wishful thinking, but I could almost swear he emerged from the wreckage with a blackened face and singed eyebrows.

Whether we boys managed to suppress our hilarity, I cannot recall. But Mr Devonald, who must have endeavoured to make light of the drama, would certainly have been in no hurry to repeat the experiment for subsequent school classes.

Have you an amusing recollection of your schooldays you would like to share with others? If so, please email your contribution to the Editor for the next issue. Thank you.

And, I am reliably informed by an erstwhile school chum of mine who was in another chemistry class, where the same synthesis experiment was scheduled, that news of the incident led their master, Mr Butler to develop cold feet. He decided the undertaking was too risky!

*Alan Bunting,*  
Harpenden.



*Not to be tried at home*



# Yoga & Wellness with Lauren

*Yoga teaches us to become present, to quieten the mind - it's the union of the mind & the body.*

*Yoga isn't about contorting the body in to impossible shapes; it is about listening to the body and respecting its limitations, abilities & graces: embracing where we are at that moment.*

*Most of all, yoga is something to enjoy. So, come along and give it a try - like me, you just might think it's the best decision you ever make!*

## Weekly classes

**Thursday 7.30pm – 8.30pm Hatha Yoga** open level drop-in (£5 per drop in and you can buy multiples of 5 classes)

## Other workshops/events

**Rest in Awareness Monthly Yoga Nidra** the last Friday of the Month (£5)

The sessions will last approximately one hour, during which you'll be invited to rest in savasana, the pose considered to be the most receptive for rest and healing, whilst exploring mindfulness-based guided relaxation and awareness.

**Sweet Sunday Surrender** please see facebook/thelollipopway for dates (from £15)

The sessions last approximately 2.5hours and invite you to completely surrender to relaxation, through exploring restorative yoga and yoga nidra – finishing off with tea and cake.

**Private one-to-one sessions** at £30 per hour (\*\*first session offer is £15 per person; \*\*please quote 'Quarterly') We will discuss a theme or focus beforehand, so that I can prepare a bespoke session just for you!

Two-to-one sessions, or small groups are also available from £40 per hour.

**NEW TO YOGA?** If you are new to yoga and/or nervous about joining a drop-in class then why don't you pop along and observe a class free of charge and then book a private one to one to learn the basics before joining in? Alternatively, please do come along to a Yoga Nidra or Sweet Sunday Surrender as they are open to beginners!

**Whatever your interest please contact me for more information, to arrange an observation or private session.**

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All classes are held at Whaddon Jubilee Hall MK17 0LS



Love, light + peace Lauren xxx

# The UK's energy conundrum

**As a £1.3 billion, 320MW tidal lagoon is proposed for Swansea – enough for 155,000 homes – a question mark hangs over Britain's nuclear electricity power generation capability yet there remains a drift to more widespread development and use of electric cars that require grid electricity. Gerald Simonds asks: Could even more be done to boost renewable energy in the face of more new houses being built?**

**B**ACK in the dark ages, long before anyone had thought about the evils of fossil fuel use, my school geography master (yes, that's what they were called back then) taught us that Britain was sitting on practically limitless reserves of coal. Britain's thriving mining industry was the world's most advanced, and so far as anyone knew our coal would keep us going for ever, feeding our electrical power stations, our iron and steel and other heavy industries, our town gasworks and our homes. Oh, and London's famous pea soup fogs too.

Fast forward to the early 1980s. The UK is shutting down its coal production because the deep mines are no longer economically viable; good coal can be shipped in at lower cost from Poland and even Australia. Besides, as we all knew, nuclear power stations were the future for keeping us supplied with clean, safe and affordable electricity.

Fast forward again a few years and the almost complete wind-down of our coal industry has become a mainly political issue. North Sea oil and gas are providing the nation with a cheap and abundant source of domestically-produced energy, a huge and prosperous industry prospecting for the stuff then producing it and providing a welcome dividend to the nation's tax coffers.

Over the following decades, however, as demand continued to grow the reserves began to dwindle, and it became clear that we needed to look elsewhere for the means of fuelling our cars, trucks and aircraft, even if the lights could be kept on and industry kept running by the growing number of nice safe clean nuclear generating facilities.

We knew that nuclear had had its glitches, but those of us old enough to remember Three Mile Island and Chernobyl had probably set aside our anxieties with the passage of time. We were of course aware that in some countries, and most conspicuously in Germany where "Atomkraft – nein danke" (*nuclear power – no thanks*) was graffitied and stickered in every public place, there was growing disquiet about nuclear generation. The Green Party prevailed and Germany had committed to a nuclear-free future long before the horror of the Fukushima Daichi nuclear accident played out.

Other environmentally-caring nations, though, like Sweden and Finland remain committed to the nuclear solution, but even today the French nuclear system being installed in Finland is taking a long time to reach completion

## Climate changes

Meanwhile the awful concept of global warming began to be seriously studied and the realization dawned that the burning of fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas - was a major contributor. The burning of these substances began to be suspected of causing climatic changes as well as affecting the acidity and temperature of the oceans, triggering a string of intertwined environmental horrors. Slowly and haltingly most of the world's nations, with certain notable huge exceptions, have accepted the need to stop belching CO<sub>2</sub> and the other greenhouse gases into our ever more vulnerable atmosphere.

Back now to my school geography master. Coal was not the only energy source, even in those days, for he told us that hydro-electric power was already a reality in areas like the highlands of Scotland where there were fast flowing rivers. This was the original 'renewable' power source set to play an important part in the local economy.

The problem was that the amount of power it could produce was tiny in relation to the nation's needs, never mind the world's total power requirement. Nonetheless it made, and continues to make, an important contribution, especially in remote areas where miniature hydropower generators provide energy for homes and farms.

Today, the race is on to minimize our reliance on fossil fuels, and nuclear too, by producing as

much of our power as possible from renewable resources. The forces of nature can provide truly monstrous amounts of energy – if only we can harness it.

And there's the rub: it's the harnessing that's the challenge. Literally unlimited and constant energy can be had from the seas if only we can find a reliable and affordable way to harvest power from the waves. Hence the proposed lagoon at Swansea.

Tidal flows can produce power on a huge scale and the UK has some ambitious projects, especially in the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary, but environmental concerns have so far limited their development in this country, though in France tidal power is well exploited. But tidal energy schemes have faltered, like the DeltaStream project off the west coast of Wales.

On an altogether more colossal scale, it is conceivable that solar power could be harvested in the Sahara desert sufficient to power not only Africa but Europe as well.

### Renewable resources

The renewable resources that contribute most to our available energy today are the wind and sunshine. Wind energy is inevitably controversial as the turbines are quite simply not good neighbours. No-one wants them close to home for reasons of noise, and siting them in remote rural areas is unpopular amongst those of us who value the beauty of our environment. Nonetheless they are proliferating across the UK, both on and off shore, delivering significant amounts of power when the wind blows – and batting birds out of the sky.

Solar power is well developed too, and continues to attract investment albeit on a lesser scale following reduced government subsidies. This is a truly, scalable form of generation that can be installed either as a few solar PV (photo voltaic) panels on a domestic roof at one extreme and on multi-hectare sites in open countryside (e.g. Beachampton) at the other.

Other renewable energy sources include biomass, i.e. the burning of vegetable matter such as wood; and heat generated from waste recycling plants. Neither of these is a major contributor yet, at least in the UK.

Other than issues of environmental acceptability there is just one major problem that compromises both wind and solar power. They simply cannot be depended upon to provide power consistently when it is needed. Power demands fluctuate with the needs of industry and commerce; with the seasons and the weather; and even according to what's on television. ♦

**NEXT TIME. Gerald Simonds will explore energy storage (batteries) as a means of coping with fluctuating power demand.**

#### **You may have noticed in local tv news items recently reference to a Big Battery in Leighton Buzzard.**

The Big Battery (**right**) stores energy when demand is low and releases it at peak times. Trials of the largest grid-scale battery in Britain have proved it can 'potentially transform the energy grid' and play a major role in the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

The only one of its kind currently operating on the energy network, it has proved for the first time that energy storage has the potential to be both technically- and commercially-viable.

The two-year trialled 6MW/10MWh Big Battery is the size of three tennis courts and can store enough electricity to power 6,000 homes for 1.5 hours at peak times. ♦

**Below. Amber Rudd, then Energy Minister but now Home Secretary, visits the Big Battery.**



## Chase Choir: Raising money for charities

**I**T seems like a long time ago that we were performing our Christmas concert, but thank you so much to everyone who came along and helped us raise £712.90 for our two charities: Parkinson's UK and Supershoes. We loved performing for you and if you enjoyed the experience, look out for the date for our summer concert, which will be towards the end of July, in the next edition of the *Whaddon Quarterly*.

Chase Choir will be performing this year at the MK Festival of Music and Drama in March and at the Northampton Music Festival in May, and we're rehearsing hard for those at the moment, and looking forward to more performances in and around Whaddon.

In the meantime, we'd love to see some new members. We're a very friendly bunch and meet every Monday evening from 7pm – 9pm at the village hall. Come and have a go, and if you're in any doubt, here are five good reasons to join us:

1. Singing improves mental alertness, by increasing oxygen in the bloodstream, which then travels to the brain and perks it up!
2. Singing relieves stress by releasing muscle tension, and decreasing cortisol, a stress hormone, in your bloodstream.
3. Singing can help you sleep better, by strengthening throat and palate muscles, making you less prone to snoring. Current choir members who snore may need to practise more!
4. Singing is a great workout for your lungs, which will in turn, improve your circulation.
5. Singing is a mood-booster. It releases endorphins, feel-good hormones, which make you feel uplifted.

There are many more reasons to join, of course, so come along and find out what else singing can do for you! For more information, contact Karen Logan: 01908 501922, or Marianna Beckwith: 019T08 503194. ◇

---

## New houses? No need to ruin the countryside

THE Government appears to be making an attempt to preserve the countryside with plans announced on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The Secretary of State for Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, writing about the new White Paper, wrote that building many more houses did not necessarily mean "tearing up our precious countryside to do so."

He added that the country as a whole is not making best use of the space that is available, claiming that London is 'much less densely populated than Paris, Berlin and Rome'. He also cited Madrid.

"But increasing density does not mean filling our towns and cities with huge, ugly tower blocks packed with tiny, one-bed rabbit hutches," he added.

He pointed to the need to re-examine under-used or derelict land that 'would be perfect' for housing. Also warehouses that could be better situated elsewhere, or car parks that could be moved underground.

He further claimed that creating more homes in the hearts of towns and cities would revitalise high streets.

"Getting more people to live in town centres, within walking distance of shops, pubs, and cafes, won't just create lively new communities – it will provide a much-needed boost for local businesses," he said. "Add in serious support for new infrastructure – from GP surgeries to playgrounds – and it is clear our built-up areas are home to huge untapped potential. The plans we publish in the White Paper show how we can make them home to thousands of ordinary working people too." ◇

# The Whaddon Show

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017

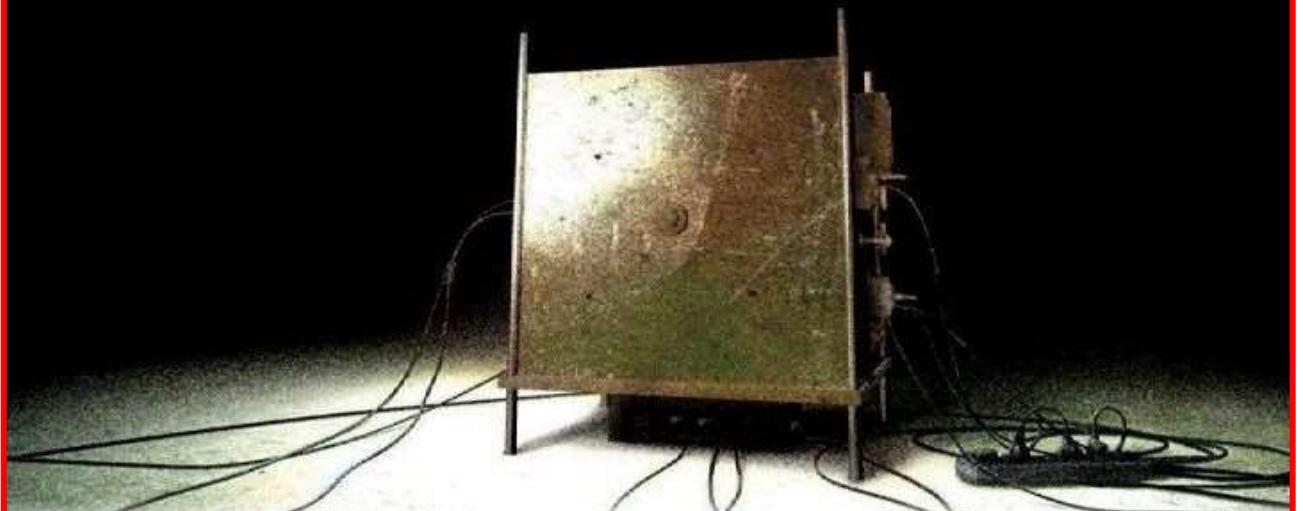
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**As ever, we have a lot of exciting news and variety to pass on!**

### Upcoming Events & Specials Nights

#### Tuesday 14th February - Valentine's Day

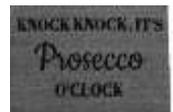
Our Chefs have come up with a sumptuous menu to celebrate with that special person. £45 per person including a glass of Prosecco - book to avoid disappointment.



**Thursdays are our Steak Night** - We offer a choice of steaks and a bottle of wine of the week from £40 per couple (price depends on steak chosen) (of course, other á la carte dishes are also available)



**Fridays are all about Fish and Prosecco** - Friday Nights, bottle of Prosecco for £15 at the bar and/or Fish Dish of the Day & a glass of Prosecco for £15pp (of course, other á la carte dishes are also available)



**Exciting News – From the middle of February a complete replacement of our thatch will begin. Come down to watch how the experts do it... we wish to emphasise that throughout, we shall be open as normal**

#### **Our new winter opening hours until the end of February are:**

Monday & Tuesday	CLOSED ALL DAY/EVENING (except Valentine's evening)
Wednesday to Friday	12PM - 3PM & 5PM - LATE
Saturday	12PM - LATE
Sunday	12PM - 8PM

We hope to see you all very soon

*David & Alan*

***To avoid disappointment – if you plan to eat with us on any Friday/Saturday night, Sunday lunch or on one of our special nights, we do advise you to book in advance.***

**Answer: Donald J. Trump. 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013**



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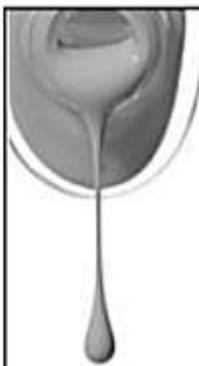
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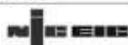
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