

Whaddon Quarterly

August 2018



Whaddonfield, not Akenfield – 2

Whaddon weddings p. 20

Whaddon's constable p. 21

Tributes: Mike & Tim p. 29-32

WW1 Remembrance p. 35

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NEXT TIME: Whaddonfield, not Akenfield – 3

IMPORTANT. To find the article you wish to read, click on its title above in 'In this issue'. The 'system' will then take you to that page. To find your next article, click on 'Return to contents' and repeat.

Any comments, queries or articles

Please contact the editor, John Mortimer, on 01908 866988 or johnmortimermsc@gmail.com To advertise in the Whaddon Quarterly Send your ad to the Editor as above

Advertising rates

For one year's advertising (four issues): Full page £85 / half page £48. The Parish Clerk will issue an invoice for payment.

Whaddon Jubilee Hall

For bookings: please contact Maria Cole mariacole1968@sky.com

Deadlines for forthcoming issues

19th October 2018, 19th January 2019, 20th April and 19th July.

Cover picture

Woburn Sands Training Band performed at St Mary's Church Fete in Kings Close in early June 2018. Photograph by John Mortimer.

Centenary of the Suffragettes

Whaddon WI Open Evening – The Suffragettes

A meeting to celebrate the Centenary of The Suffragettes is being planned. It will take the form of a talk and finger buffet. It is hoped to hold the meeting in Whaddon Jubilee Hall in October at 7.30 pm. Tickets will cost £5 and will include a glass of wine. Further details later.

Tickets will be available from jane.porter@live.co.uk

Snippets of village news

Contributions to the Editor are welcome, although it may not always be possible to include them.

- **SINCE** publication of the last issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly* a professionally-produced notice has appeared near the entrance on the drive to Whaddon Hall.

- **DRIVERS** continue to park with impunity on the pavement of Stock Lane, impeding the safe passageway of pedestrians.

- **FANCY** growing your own veggies? If so, turn to **p. 14** where you can read about some plots just waiting for you.

- **DOG POO** continues to be a bone of contention in Whaddon. Some dog owners, a few, have no consideration for others, or their property. If you have a dog, PLEASE collect its poo and deposit your poo bag in the appropriate bin. **DO NOT** throw bags over hedges/fences into gardens, nor leave it on the pavement for grown-ups and children alike to tread in.

- **WINTER BEANS** on Whaddon Bank (**left**) and Milton Keynes Bank, which flowered earlier this year, are destined for the human consumption market in the Middle East. According to William Sawbridge, the beans are soaked in salt water, deep fried and eaten as a source of protein during Ramadan.

- **CHILLING OUT.** Aimee Bush, on the left, and her friend Charlotte, both of Sir Thomas Freemantle School, Winslow, chill out **right** at Willen Lake after participating on 10th June in the annual 10k Race for Life. They raised £950 for Cancer Research UK.

- **DO YOU HAVE** a relative who died as a result of either the Great War of 1914-1918, or the Second World War and who you would like to pay a tribute to in the next issue? If so, please write or email The Editor.

- **SITE WORK** by Morris Homes on land adjacent to Shenley Road and next to Shakespeare Park and which started on 1st May 2018 is gathering pace as the first houses take shape.



- **RAINFALL** in June and July in East Anglia amounted to 25mm. The normal rainfall in this period is 105mm. This makes the two months the driest since 1925.



- **IN ADDITION** to houses 2a and 2b (see **left**), builders are at work on two other properties in Whaddon: No 24 Vicarage Road (**left below**) and No 16 High Street (**below**).



- **FOR SALE.** I am digitising everything to save space. I have a Sankyo dualux 1000 cine projector with manual for Super 8, Single 8 and Regular 8 formats. This comes with a superb Leitz 35mm slide projector and a tripod-mounted screen. What offers for the package? Tel: Roger Porter at 01908 501 709

- **FOR SALE.** Approximately 1,000 old stock bricks and which are surplus to requirements. Buyer to collect. For further details please contact Baird McClellan, 01908 502204 (Whaddon address)

- **WANTED.** Storage accommodation required in Milton Keynes area for motorhome. Under- cover facility if possible; access to power for small trickle-charger would be helpful. Infrequent access required over winter to inspect and air. Please contact Graeme Hurst – graeme.hurst@outlook.com, Tel: 075 6116 4811



Parish Council Report

August 2018

THREE MONTHS ago, in this column, I talked of the longest, coldest and wettest winter that I could recall for many a year. Now the reverse is the truth, as we bask in hot sunshine and drought. Make the most of it! England's climate is notoriously fickle.

I wrote also of the very poor state of Coddimoor Lane, now rectified I am glad to say, probably because of the pressure that you all applied, by Facebook or direct email, to Buckinghamshire County Council. Our County Councillor, John Chilver also pushed our case for pothole repairs.

Whaddon Parish Council held its Annual Meeting in May when Councillors kindly re-elected me as Chairman for the year. I also serve as Aylesbury Vale District Councillor for Whaddon, Nash, Thornborough, Beachampton, Great and Little Horwood. I have the job, currently of Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment at AVDC, so if you ever have any bin problems you can always contact me. I believe we have a fine team of bin collectors of whom I am very proud; they do a great job.

Further afield, we still do not know the Government's decision on whether we are to have one or two Unitary Councils for Buckinghamshire in the future; nor has there been an announcement yet on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway route, but the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan has now reached the stage of Examination in Public.

Parish Council meetings are every other month and the September one is on Thursday 13th at 7.30pm in the Chapel schoolroom. Please do come along and raise any issues that you wish.

Billy Stanier

August 2018

From the Editor's chair

THE following pages, like patchwork quilt, reflect with help from readers' Letters, these changing times. Buckinghamshire's mobile book service has been wound up, yet book sales nationwide are at record levels. Are people reading more books, or buying more books?

Again, the occasions on which Whaddon's church bells will ring out is now fewer, confined each month to the first Friday (7.30pm), second Sunday (10am) and weddings. Bell ringers will try to rally support for special occasions, but this will become more challenging.

Related, but unconnected, the Rev'd Gussie Walsh is retiring in October, after six years as an intrinsic part of Whaddon life. The village offers Gussie huge thanks and warmest good wishes for the future.

On these pages too is a glimpse of Whaddon's police constable – PC57 Constable Sibbald. Bobbies commanded respect, deterred crime and maintained a watchful eye. The bobby even enjoyed a police house on Stock Lane. Today, crimes go undetected, even unrecorded. Criminals have no fear of 'the arm of the law'.

Change is everywhere. Digital technology, good and evil, is tightening its grip on society. Next to Whaddon, super high-speed Wi-Fi is coming to Milton Keynes. In the next 25 years, Milton Keynes will experience other transformations in outline and content as housing, warehousing and industry respond to population growth. But is there a housing crisis or a population crisis? Such growth impacts on countryside. The countryside is being built on at its fastest rate for 25 years; developers try to push through land-hungry schemes when brownfield sites are available.

How will Centre:MK look in 2043; even 2033? High streets are experiencing havoc as shopping habits change. Famous names have, are and will disappear; BHS, House of Fraser and Debenhams – all crippled by competition, online traders, higher rates, debt and failure

to change business model. Chief executives of high street brands no longer have five-year plans. Surviving the next month, or quarter is their target, by whatever means.

Mature businesses can still roll out five- and ten-year plans, but for senior executives of John Lewis (and others in a similar plight) the story is different as a record retail shops close. Are top John Lewis men at this moment mapping out a 10-year plan? Even 2023's plans may be out of reach soon. How long will MK's John Lewis store remain a benchmark?

And how will the MK shopping centre look in 25 years? Retail parks are already under the hammer. Will it even be a shopping centre at all? The structure may enjoy protected status, but what will happen inside? Will it continue to strive for 'footfall experience'? Are there plans for something unique and far reaching that still meet human needs to 'meet and greet'? Or even no plans at all? Many aspects of current high street life could disappear as the digital age expands: banks, estate agents and libraries to name but three. Will Centre:MK be reduced to coffee shops, restaurants, meeting places and a giant hotel?

Rising interest rates, debt and the fear of debt could be one of the biggest drivers of change; in this, as with crime, the UK has much to learn from Japan. Fears in the Church of England (CofE) suggest it may need to sell cathedrals to cover mounting debt. Dread of bankruptcy courts could prompt fire-sale of a cathedral if Church officials cannot pay bills – a subject currently taxing the CofE's General Synod. Serious financial 'fault lines' could exist at Exeter and Peterborough cathedrals. The CofE has 42 cathedrals. Could one or more become a concert venue, conference centre or giant hotel? In the same vein, in seeking to make changes in the law, the CofE might find it easier to close some of its schools.

Even so, there is a changelessness about Whaddon. For example, since the last issue, three weddings have been celebrated. Having chosen a wedding day, the bride-to-be usually keeps her fingers crossed regarding weather on her great day. Not so this year; May, June and July (with its heatwave) have rivalled the record hot summer of 1976. ■

Clerk's Corner



Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

The Saga of the Basket Swing. Many will have seen comments on our Village Facebook Page about issues on our wonderful recreation ground. Sadly, the basket swing has been damaged, we hope not deliberately but it's difficult to understand how else it could have happened. This is the first time we've had a problem and it was a sad moment. To make matters worse, it took three attempts with hazard tape and finally a padlock and chain to prevent the swing

being used in its damaged condition. The cost of replacement will be around £1000; that's around £5 per household in Whaddon. Hopefully our insurance will cover some of it.

NO DOGS ALLOWED! In addition, please note that our canine friends are ***not permitted*** on the Rec. This is because their faeces can contain bacteria and parasites that harm humans, especially children. In addition there is the dirt, disgusting smells and the risk of your dog picking up a disease from less healthy canines. So please leave your fur babies at home.

Planning an Event? Let us Know First Please! Finally, I was very surprised to drive past the Rec., on a recent sunny afternoon and see an event taking place! This turned out to be a birthday party being enjoyed by a group of young children from Whaddon School, which was great and no problem at all. But please note; the Rec is operated and insured by the Parish Council, and if you want to use it for an event you need to let us know, so we can check our insurance covers you, ensure there are no other events planned to clash with yours, and no mowing/hedging or maintenance works are scheduled.

If anyone spots any problems on the Rec., please shout! Vigilance and nipping problems in the bud will keep our Recreation Ground a wonderful place for us all to enjoy.

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

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

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s). The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take(s) place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm, **13th September 2018** and **8th November 2018**. Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. All Welcome! ■

.Editor and desk-top publisher: John Mortimer. **Proofreading:** Marianna Beckwith.

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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. ■

Whaddon planning briefs

ONCE AGAIN, it has been a very quiet quarter for local planning applications; indeed, the two emerging Local Plans that may affect Whaddon (the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan - VALP, and the Plan:MK), continue their laborious and slow progress towards public hearings later this year. Unless there are major changes in the plans – perhaps directed by the Inspectors in their final reports – neither Plan would appear to directly impact, or have any serious impact on Whaddon life, apart from the inevitable increase in village traffic (rat running), which comes as a direct consequence of any major development in the wider area covered by both new plans.

At the last meeting of Whaddon Parish Council on Thursday 12th July, the following local planning applications and decisions were reviewed and considered:

18/00040/ALB: Turrets, 26 High Street, Whaddon

Single storey side extension.

Listed Building refusal

18/00039/APP: Turrets, 26 High Street, Whaddon

Single storey side extension.

Householder refusal, for the following reason:

The proposed extension by reason of its form and location would be an incongruous addition which would detract from the simple and symmetrical form of the pair of gatehouses. Consequently, the development would fail to preserve the special architectural and historical interest of The Turrets or the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and therefore contrary to the provisions of Section 66 & 72 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and contrary to the provisions of the NPPF.

18/00552/APP: 2 Chase Farm Cottages, Whaddon Road (to Mursley)

Two storey side and single storey rear extension to create attached annex.

Householder Approval granted.

18/01163/APP: 4 Chase Farm Cottages, Whaddon Road (to Mursley)

Single storey rear extensions with first floor balcony above.

Householder Approval granted.

17A4616/APP: 16 High Street,

Non Material Amendment relating to alteration of rear facing window of bedroom 1 to a Juliet style opening.

Under consideration, but as no direct overlooking to neighbours occurs, this is considered an acceptable minor amendment by AVDC.

18/01333/APP: Land fronting Stratford Road (almost opposite Whaddon Hall entrance)

This application for a three-year temporary change of use from agriculture to training of animals (dogs) was discussed in detail, as several members of the public were in attendance. It was decided that Whaddon P.C. should maintain its objection to AVDC district planning authority, until such time as the outstanding issues had been fully clarified, as it remained very difficult to make proper considered judgement without all the relevant facts. It was re-iterated however that it would be AVDC that would make the final decision as Whaddon P.C. were just one of several statutory consultees. In the event that approval were forthcoming it was considered important that Whaddon P.C. should request that appropriate safeguarding 'conditions' be imposed which would help control future use, (i.e. no kennels or overnight boarding facilities) and would allow for proper monitoring to occur during any temporary use period, that might be agreed by AVDC.

The outstanding issues requiring clarification included: Details of the retrospective planning application relating to the new replacement building and septic tank. Slight discrepancies on hours of operation, potential noise issues arising from planned activities, potential highway and safety concerns arising from shared access increased parking which must be referred to Bucks County Council for further investigation. ■

Graham Stewart.

Whaddon PC

Letters to the Editor

Robbed of cowslips

I AM writing this note to say how much I have enjoyed the beautiful sight of the spring display of daffodils and cowslips at the top of the hill on the Nash Road (Sugar Lane).

I pass that way twice a week and imagine my horror on Thursday 10th May, when they were gone, mown down.

I was so sad. We could have enjoyed them until they had finished flowering.

Hilda Unwin (Mrs)

Nash, 16th May 2018.

(Read TV gardener Monty Don's comments about cowslips on [p. 37](#) – Ed.)

A short-lived casino

I WAS fascinated to read your article about the failed Whaddon Hall Country Club which reminded me of another aspect of that doomed venture. The owners decided to include a casino.

On occasional Saturdays nights (I think this was around 1970?) and to publicise the arrival of the casino, invitations were sent to every house in the village and elsewhere, offering free champagne and canapés and, I think, a free £5 of gambling chips to play Roulette and Chemin de Fer.

Needless to say, there was a huge turnout from the village, and much food and drink was consumed. However, very little was gambled on the tables; that of course had been the whole point of the exercise: in order to make money.

We all looked forward to a repeat performance a month later, but sadly it never happened and the Country Club closed its doors for good.

Billy Stanier

By email

Memories of the FANYs

I FOUND the May edition of the *Whaddon Quarterly* very interesting indeed. Many of those family names I knew: the Rodways, Willetts, Graces, Shouler etc, Some of those names are on the Shenley Church End war memorial.

They all lived nearby, if not in Whaddon, then in the Shenleys. Mrs Willett lived next door to me and Mrs Rodway next to her.

I met at least five of the FANY girls over the years. I worked in Bletchley Park and found out exactly what they did. At Grendon Underwood and Poundon, they were receiving radio messages by Morse Code from agents all over Europe.

One of the FANYs was Monica Maxwell; she was at Grendon Underwood. We corresponded quite a lot until 1998. She and five other girls gave me much information about the Special Operations Executive (SOE). One of the other five gave me their photographs.

My boss was Richard Gambier-Parry who negotiated with the Selby-Lowndes family to take over Whaddon Hall for the duration of the war.

I enjoy everything in the *Whaddon Quarterly* simply because having always lived on the Whaddon Road I knew a lot of people there.

My boss lived in Whaddon Hall during the war; he was then head of MI6 communications. My supervisor, Robert Hornby, lived at No. 1 High Street and also worked at Whaddon Hall.

Incidentally No. 1 was the only house that had an underground air raid shelter installed in WW2. As far as I know, it's still there although I have not been in it for over 20 years, when Mary Whitely lived there.

David White

By email

The future of St Mary's Church

WE HUMANS stand out from other life on Earth with our ability to anticipate future events, but we seem to have a general weakness in our ability to act before things become a crisis.

Whaddon, like most villages in the United Kingdom, has a beautiful old church which may become unviable in future, as Sunday attendances dwindle, and their use beyond their original function becomes an issue.

Here, in Whaddon, we are fortunate to have a small dedicated team who maintain the building, mow the lawns and grave-sites, and generally keep the historic old building and grounds looking loved and in use.

But many of these generous people are in their senior years; they are becoming concerned about what the future holds once they are no longer able to keep up their good work. Finding others to take on these maintenance tasks is just a distraction from the main issue. It is not the solution.

The real question to be asked by the local community is what do the residents living in these villages see as the future for these magnificent and historic old buildings? Can we find ongoing uses for them that can involve the community and generate sufficient interest and funds for their ongoing support and maintenance?

It would be sad to see the churches and grounds become abandoned and deteriorate over time – an unfortunate but possible outcome unless we act before this crisis arrives.

Graeme Hurst

By email

Bell ringing: The end of an era

SILENTLY, without ceremony or acknowledgement, and following a simple conversation, a centuries-old village tradition came to an end in May. Whaddon no longer has a band of regular Church bell ringers.

After decades of tireless work by Derek White, the Tower Captain at St. Mary's Church, the band now consists of only four members; insufficient to carry out practice or to train new recruits.

In many articles in the *Whaddon Quarterly*, both Derek and the Churchwardens of St. Mary's have made it plain that the bells will largely fall silent without new members. The village has voted with its feet; the democracy that we cherish as a nation has sealed the fate of ringing: the village no longer wants ringing.

For years, Whaddon has increasingly relied upon ringers from outside the village to make up the numbers, but with the skill in rapid decline nationwide, that source of support is all but exhausted.

While the four remaining ringers will endeavour to rally support for the second Sunday service, Christmas, weddings and other special occasions, this will become increasingly challenging over the next few years. The endeavour requires a regular connection to ringing.

A group of local ringers from around the area do come to Whaddon on the first Friday of every month for a local practice; they will welcome anyone who wishes to take up this ancient, declining, skill.

Phillip Starr

Ladymead Close, Whaddon.

May Fayre raises just over £3,000

As chairperson of the Friends of Whaddon school I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all those who helped at our May Fayre.

THIS YEAR, the final total for money raised was just over £3,000, which will help the school with new projects in the next school year.

This year, the theme was **The Time Travellers' Ball** and we saw some amazing and creative costumes and beautifully decorated floats.

Thanks to the WI again this year, for putting together a superb float at such short notice. And a thank you to the kids of Whaddon School who decorated their float so beautifully and had some amazing costumes.

And thank you to Miss Padbury who worked hard during the term teaching the children the Maypole dancing. They did brilliantly.

The Winslow Concert Band performed again this year and did a great job of entertaining the masses.

Huge congratulations to all the winners of the Raffle, the winner of the fancy dress, Charley, and the two runners-up: Harriet and Dylan.

A special thank you to Deputy Chair of Governors, Clare Garland, for judging the fancy dress and to Ian Bell for driving the May Queen (Evelyn) and King (Camron) (**right**) in the procession through the village to start off the festivities.



The following list of thanks is by no means exhaustive: The BBQ Maestros; Sid Vincent, David Vallance, Ed Mitchell, Alex Markwick and Guy Birch-Jones.

A huge thank you to all the parents, grandparents and other volunteers who help man the stalls during the afternoon and provided donations for the tombolas as well as the tea and cake stall. We couldn't have such a great day without your help. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the road closure guys, led by Guy Birch-Jones: Graham Hain, John Cunningham, Rich Boateng, Steve Bassington, Paul Harris and Dave Cook.

Also, a massive thank you to the Friends of Whaddon Committee and partners, as well as other families who worked so hard to make the day possible. Thank you to the Mitchells, Harrises, Markwicks, Guy



Birch-Jones, Fiona Jones, Shavaun Enright, Taylors, Abigail Wood, Vallances, Bells, Ambler-Boatengs, Charlotte Calder, Bassingtons and my own family, the Williamsons.

Weeks of work happens in advance of the day and simply would not be possible without this unique team and their families' support.

A big thank you goes to the villagers of Whaddon for all your support, donating cakes, bottles, jam jars, teddies etc to make the day a lot easier to plan, and for coming to the May Fayre to celebrate on the May day with all the children of Whaddon School.

You all make the day very special and we couldn't raise the money for Whaddon School and the kids without you.

Thank you and we hope to see you again next year. ■

Camilla Bach Williamson

Chairperson, The Friends of Whaddon School

Fancy your home-grown veggies?



ALLOTMENTS have been part of Whaddon for many years, and in Vicarage Road since the Enclosure Act of 1800 and 1900, writes Derek White.

THERE are 12 plots; six are in use while the remaining six plots are vacant. These vacant plots (four are visible in the photograph (**above**)) have been worked on by Josh Jaworska to bring them back into order,

ready to be let again. In fact, each plot was hand-dug by Josh, each one taking him an hour! If there is a drawback to these allotments it is lack of piped water. It would cost too much to have this installed; income from rents alone would in no way cover the cost. At present, the income only just covers the cost of hedge cutting and various odd jobs.

Up until the end of WW2, there were two allotment fields on Coddimoor Lane (one large, and one small near Ladymead Close) and one on Stratford Road (Constable's Plot).

The large plot on Coddimoor Lane measured 7 acres and neither plots on the lane enjoyed piped water. Villagers may have relied on a local well for the 7-acre plot (there being numerous underground springs in the vicinity). All plots larger than today's. Rents from the allotments on Constable's Plot were sufficient to pay the wages of the village constable.

In WW2, Whaddon residents used to grow most of their own food. But with vegetables and ready meals delivered to the door today it is hard to visualise those WW2 allotments.

Those who listened to radio knew C H Middleton – the Monty Don of his day. The nation's most famous celebrity gardener, broadcaster, wrote, "Do not think of your allotment as an ordeal or wartime sacrifice. Regard it as your pleasant and profitable recreation."

Gardening even became part of curriculum in nearly all schools, often replacing games one afternoon a week. In one village in Worcestershire, 130 meals a day were cooked using vegetables raised by schoolchildren. In 1943, the House of Commons was told the number of allotments had risen to 1,675,000 and the number of private gardens used for growing vegetables had gone from three million to five million.

If you fancy growing your own veggies contact Whaddon's Parish Clerk, 07891 887826. ■

Jubilee Hall: Your village hall

THE Jubilee Hall was built on land donated by the Selby-Lowndes family and opened in 1935. It has strong historical connections with the village.

The HALL is governed by a committee of trustees. It has charitable status with facilities for many and varied activities for villagers to enjoy. It is also available for private hire. It is in use by the weekly Post Office, preschool, Chase Choir, Whaddon Entertainers, St. Mary's Church, WI afternoon and WI Night Owls as well as fun physical activities such as yoga classes, Pilates and table tennis.

Volunteers from the village take care of administration and maintenance of the Hall. The current committee is given below.

Meanwhile, as mentioned in the last WQ, looking after the Hall can be an expensive task and the committee are constantly working at ways to raise the necessary funds to maintain and protect the hall. The Committee thanks the people of Whaddon for the generous support given at the last two events: the Royal Wedding celebration in May and the Mid-summer Barbecue in June.

The next event is live music on Saturday 6th October. After May's successful gig in Newton Longville, local country rock group Tennessee Line are excited to help fundraise for the Jubilee Hall with another great evening of foot stompin' and toe-tappin' music.

Dance the night away or watch and enjoy – it's up to you! Doors and bar open at 7.30 pm and the band starts at 8.45 pm. Entry will be by pre-paid ticket



only. £6 each. Tickets are limited (health and safety) and are on sale now. Please e-mail Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com or telephone/text 07703 388571 for more details.

We plan to keep you regularly informed through the WQ of future events. Also, look out for flyers nearer the time, or check out our Facebook page.

The current committee comprises: Hazel Hedges, chairperson; Alice Hain, secretary; Peter Hedges, treasurer; and the following members: Frederick Hayward, Deb Spinks, Ralph Spinks, Mark Carter, Lawrence John, Sharon Bessell and Louise Collin. The booking clerk is Maria Cole mariacole1968@sky.com ■

Sharon Bessell

St. Mary's Church Whaddon

Regular services

1st Sunday 10.30am Family Service.

2nd Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
(Common Worship)

3rd Sunday 10.30am Sunday Special-
Contemporary informal gathering. Tea,
coffee & croissants available from 10am

4th Sunday 8.30am Said Holy
Communion (Traditional, in Lady Chapel)

5th Sunday Benefice service-venue to
be notified



Other activities

Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00 pm Post Office in Jubilee Hall

1st Wednesday 2.00 pm Women's Institute in Jubilee Hall

3rd Wednesday 7.30pm Whaddon Night Owls WI in Jubilee Hall

1st Saturday 10 am -12noon April Coffee Shop in Church

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

Dates for Your Diary

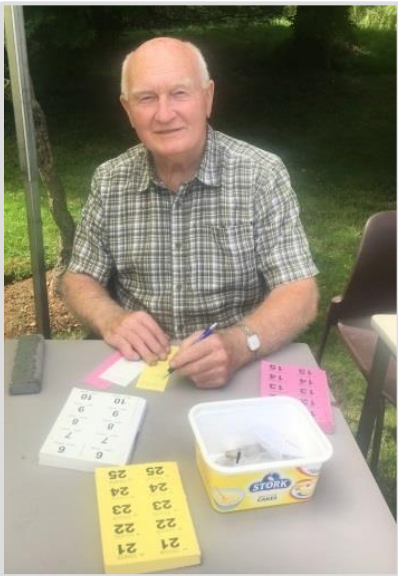
Sat Aug 4th 10 – 12 noon. Florrie's Village Coffee Morning (See below)

Sat Oct 6th 10 am - 4 pm. Annual Open Day, with displays, quizzes ,archives
etc. Morning coffee, soup & cheese lunches and cream teas

Sun Oct 7th 10.30 am Harvest Festival (Gussie's final service in Whaddon)

See Flyer for details of this 'new look' service.

Mon Oct 8th 7.30 pm. Harvest Supper & Auction of Produce in Jubilee Hall
Sat Dec 1st 2 pm. Annual Christmas Fayre in Jubilee Hall



Barry Dudley has your winning ticket.

The Church Fete, held in the garden of Kings Close House (by kind permission of Sir Billy Stanier), was as enjoyable as ever and we were blessed with fine weather. Woburn Sands Band entertained us and there were lots of stalls and sideshows. Teas were served outside in the garden, near the house, with tables on the lawn. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the afternoon although, sadly, attendance was not as high as in previous years. Grateful thanks go to Clare Garland for the organisation and to all those who gave raffle prizes, manned stalls on the day, or helped to set up and clear away. In total, £1,085 was raised; this will be added to church funds for maintenance of the building.

Florrie's Village Coffee Morning, organised by Beryl and Mike Evans, will be held on Saturday 4th August at No 3 Church Lane (courtesy of Barry and Hazel Dudley). Such events are always well supported by the village and give everyone an opportunity to mingle and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and delicious cakes. There will also be a Raffle and a home-made cake stall.

Florrie's Village Coffee Morning is a long-standing village tradition. Previously held in Vicarage Road in the orchard belonging to Mrs Florrie Parrot, the venue was changed after she passed away and her cottage and orchard were sold. However, Florrie's memory lives on in the coffee morning's new title. Please come along and bring your friends with you for a pleasant morning.

The Church Open Day takes place on Saturday 6th October. In addition to coffee and biscuits during the morning, light lunches of soup, bread and cheese, etc. will be available; cream teas and cakes will be served in the afternoon. There will be the usual attractions, including the church archives from Aylesbury Museum, quizzes, games and an opportunity to try your hand at brass rubbing. Please do join us between 10 am and 4 pm and bring your friends for a sit down and chat. A box in the porch is for donations of non-perishable food for the Food Bank. Can you bring something with you to help fill the box?

Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce will take place on Monday 9th October at 7.30 pm in Jubilee Hall. Tickets, £7, are available from Hazel Dudley on 01908 505727. The event is always well attended and

the auction of harvest produce is enjoyed by all. Thanks are due to our two hilarious auctioneers. Funds raised will be sent to Medecins sans Frontiers to support its work in war-torn areas of the world.

Flower and Cleaning Rotas. If you would like to provide simple altar flowers on a rota basis in memory of someone or for an anniversary, please contact Janet Spencer on 01908 502540 or Beryl Evans on 01908 502567. And, if you can help with cleaning the church, either on your own or with a friend, please contact Hazel Dudley on 01908 505727. The cleaning consists of dusting furniture and Hoovering the carpets on one rota and polishing the brass on another rota. You do not have to be on both.

To arrange weddings, baptisms, funeral services and special services, please contact our assistant minister, Rev. Gussie Walsh, tel: 01280 821616, or email am@buckinghambenefice.org.uk

We look forward to meeting you soon at any and all of our services and social events when you will receive a warm welcome. Thank you to all who support our village church. ■

Hazel Hedges (Church Warden) Tel: 01908 501729 Email: 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

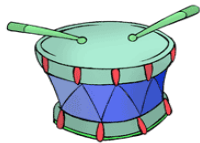
Frederick Hayward
Jubilee Hall Rep
Tel: 01908 506083

Hazel Dudley
Tel: 01908 505727

Clare Garland
Tel: 1908 501732

Rev'd Gussie Walsh
Tel. 01280 821616

Macmillan and Toddler Church



TODDLER CHURCH



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

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon.

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you.

Toddler Church finished for the Summer Holidays on

Wednesday 18th July 2018.

Autumn starts on Wednesday 5th September 2018

Sally Green (01908 526033)

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...



FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 9.15 – 12

Chapel School Room. Whaddon

**Come and help us make sure that no one faces
cancer alone.**

(Sally Green 01908 526033)

Three Whaddon weddings

Three weddings took place at St Mary's church, Whaddon in June and July. Here, the couples described their special day in their own words.

IT WAS a beautifully sunny June day when Simon and I were married at St Mary's Church. A day that we will remember and cherish for the rest of our lives.

Proceedings began at 4pm whilst the church bells rang out across the village for all to hear. The Church looked stunning, decorated with locally-grown, seasonal flowers in shades of greens and white. Rev'd Gussie Walsh led an unforgettable, funny and personal wedding service. We were so happy to be married in front of all our close family and friends

The reception was held at my Grandpa's farm near Little Horwood where we enjoyed an evening of good food and drink, and danced the night away.

Whilst the wedding was a real family affair, it would not have been the same without the hard work and kindness of Whaddon villagers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped and supported Simon and me, and the rest of the Hickman family in making our wedding such a success and happy occasion.

Susannah & Simon Irving, 2nd June.



WE HAD the most amazing day, full joy and happiness surrounded by the best family and friends in the world. We couldn't have asked for a better wedding day; we feel incredibly blessed to have been married in our gorgeous church and have a quintessential, English summer garden wedding in glorious sunshine.

As you can appreciate, lots of planning, gardening, cleaning, baking, organising and more had taken place over the last few months, weeks, days and even hours leading up to the day! And, everything could not have been more perfect. The marquee was dressed beautifully, the flowers were wonderful and everyone looked gorgeous. There was an air of joyful relaxation and we will cherish the memories for as long as we can. With warmest wishes,

Lauren & Trevor Bennett, 30th June.

HIROSHI AND I were proud and privileged to return from Tokyo to have our Wedding Blessing here in our Village church, St Mary's, an iconic part of our village since 12th century Norman times and a part of my own childhood upbringing since our family moved here in the 1980s.

In a flower bedecked church, the Rev'd Gussie Walsh provided the glue that bound together family and guests from all parts of the globe, guiding and conducting a wonderful ceremony with an international flavour and musical support from the Chase Choir with organist Pam King.

With a blur of photos and with bells ringing to cheer us on we walked down to the Jubilee Hall to gather and partake in afternoon tea to the accompaniment of leading Shamisen entertainer Hibiki Ichikawa, culminating in an evening of fun and dancing to local performers The Band Isabelle. Our thanks to all for making this a special day.

Lianne & Hiroshi Takeda, 28th July.



PC57 who patrolled Whaddon

Not many villages could boast of a police constable with a father born in Quebec, Canada, but Whaddon could, as Mick Shaw recalls.

WHADDON'S police constable, Henry Augustus Sibbald, (**right**) grew up in Ticehurst, East Sussex, one of seven children born to his mother, Elizabeth, a washerwoman. However, Henry could trace his somewhat chequered lifestyle back to that of his father Joseph Josiah, in 1861, a 17 year-old bugler in the 2nd Staffordshire Malitia.

At that time, Henry's grandfather, Sergeant Francis Sibbald, was in the same 2nd Staffordshire Malitia. However, before arriving in Stafford, Francis had travelled widely with the Malitia, with eldest son Joseph himself born in Quebec, Canada.

Joseph Sibbald was one of eight children; four were born in Ireland, and one each in Chester, Ashton under Lyme and Stafford. In 1871, at the age of 25, Joseph married Elizabeth Rose (Lewis), also 25, on 25th March. They lived with Elizabeth's brother, John, and his wife Mary in St. Catherine Street, Gloucester, with Joseph describing himself as an unemployed porter.



Within 10 years, something quite dramatic must have happened. By 1881, Joseph had decided to obtain a 'serious' job; he became an attendant at Ticehurst House Hospital, an early private psychiatric hospital, opened in 1792.

Many years before Joseph's arrival, Ticehurst was already one of the more lavish private asylums with 40 acres of lush grounds for patients' use. More than that, the asylum, situated alongside the road from Tunbridge Wells to Hastings, was surrounded by landscaped park and pleasure grounds, containing many ornamental garden buildings.

By 1891, the Sibbalds' household comprised seven children: Francis, 17; Henry, 14; Mimmie, 10; William, 8; Eliza, 6; Elsie, 4 and Alice, 9 months.

As a teenager, Henry would be aware of parental table-talk of the asylum's daily events. As years passed, he might have developed feelings about public service and duty.

This, coupled with his father's regimental life in the Staffordshire Militia, may have impacted on Henry, perhaps with some gentle pushing from his father (who then described himself as a musician, possibly working within the hospital unit as an entertainer as well as an attendant) on the importance of 'getting a proper job'.

The Colonel employs a houseboy

And so it was, at the age of 14, Henry Sibbald found himself some miles away from Ticehurst, employed as a houseboy by Colonel Meeking of Richings Park in Colnbrook, a long-established English country house in Buckinghamshire demolished in 1946.

Henry's duties as a houseboy were varied; they would have included chopping and carrying fire wood, polishing door knobs, sweeping floors and as well as fetching and carrying for other servants. He would also have cleaned and polished the family's shoes; and be at the bottom of the ladder of domestic servants, the apprentice of the domestic servant 'trade'.

Henry's next step in his chosen 'trade' was as a footman. He was proud of his appearance and, as soon as able, sported a moustache which he waxed every morning; manners and smartness were essential requirements in his job.

Henry's duties would include being up very early every morning to trim lamps, polish knives and forks, brush his master's clothing and prepare the family's breakfast table. He would also assist the butler and housemaid and pass instructions to the new houseboy.

Before the family came down for breakfast, Henry would have changed into his best livery.

Throughout the day, Henry would have assisted the butler by laying table, answering the door to callers, delivering messages, posting letters and other duties - under the instruction of the butler.

Domestic servants were not allowed to marry; this could explain Henry's decision to leave Richings Park and move away.

Police Constable 57 Sibbald.

And so on 20th February 1900, Henry joined the Buckinghamshire Constabulary as a 3rd Class Constable. He was 24, and engaged to be married to Mary, 27, from Burwash, Sussex. Henry was described as 5ft 10 inches tall, of proportionate build, with brown hair and hazel eyes.



Henry was posted to the South Eastern Division at Slough on the 9th May. This turned out to be temporary as, on 16th July, he was moved again – to the Northern Division at Stony Stratford. In the summer of the same year, he married Mary and they moved into their police house at No. 36 York Road, Stony Stratford.

A couple of years down the road, on 28th October 1902, now a second class constable, Henry was posted just a few miles further away, to Wolverton, where, the following year, on 30th July, he was awarded a commendation by the Chief Constable Otway Mayne.

The commendation read: 'Police Constable 57 Henry Sibbald is commended for intelligence displayed in tracing five men who were afterwards arrested in Bedford, for Burglary at Wolverton'. This was Henry's one and only commendation.

It is also worth noting too, he did not receive any disciplines during his service as at this time a very strict discipline regime existed and it was not unusual for police officers to be disciplined for minor infringements.

During 1907, his daughter Violet Elizabeth was born. Henry, now a merit class constable, was earning 26s 3d a week.

The family remained in Wolverton until 14th February 1911 when they found themselves posted to Whaddon, near Bletchley, still on the Northern Division, moving into a police house on The Common, now Vicarage Road. Henry's wage was now 28s 6d a week.

The same year Henry Sibbald was awarded the George V Coronation Medal (**see photograph on p.21**). Illustrated here (**above**) Henry can be seen with PC5 William Chilvers, taken sometime during early 1912.

It can be noted from this photograph that they are wearing different tunics. Henry's tunic is the more modern of the two and was in general use from around 1902.

During that same year, 1912, Henry's former employer from Richings Park, Colnbrook, Colonel Meekings, died.

Henry remained on the Northern Division until 19th October 1915, when he and his family were moved to Naphill in the South Western Division.

The photograph (**right**) was taken at High Wycombe, around May 1920, to commemorate the retirement of Superintendent William Charles Trevener, the officer in the flat cap and medal sitting in the front row. Henry is standing on the back row,



fourth from the left. Strangely, he is wearing a tunic with the collar number 94. This number belonged to Aaron George, seated on the front row second from the left. Henry must have borrowed the tunic for the photograph.

Henry remained at Naphill until his retirement on the 21st May 1928 on a pension of £165 4s 8d granted by the Standing Joint Committee.

He continued to live in High Wycombe with his wife and daughter Violet, who never married. Violet died at the relatively young age of 56 years at Wycombe hospital on Valentine's Day, 14th February 1959.

That must have been a sad time for Henry; just nine days later his wife Mary died at their home at 46 Dashwood Avenue aged 86.

Henry lived on his own for a further 10 years until his death in 1969 aged 93.

Although Henry placed obituaries for both his wife and daughter in the local newspaper; unfortunately no one remained to do that for him. ■

Next time: A constable's patrol in early twentieth century Buckinghamshire.

Footnote: Henry's story has been put together from his Bucks Constabulary record of service, on-line research and research at Aylesbury Records Office. In areas of the story a certain amount of minor, but obvious, assumptions and interpretations from the researched documents and information had to be made to help complete the full picture of his life. Some additional research by John Mortimer.

Mick Shaw, a retired Thames Valley Police Officer, has researched the Buckinghamshire Constabulary for over 25 years and is the curator of a small Police Museum at CMK Police station.

Countryside that is lost for ever

ON AVERAGE, 170 square km of greenfield land were built on every year from 2013 to 2016 following the government's 2012 relaxed planning rules to ease the housing shortage.

The rate of development is more than two-and-a-half times the 25-year average and five times higher than the rate between 2006 and 2011.

Greenfield land — not to be confused with green belt — refers to 'previously undeveloped land' that includes farmland, gardens, forests and 'grassed areas' in towns and cities.

If construction of new homes, shops and infrastructure continues at the present pace, an area the size of Greater London will have been built on by 2028.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England said government figures were "startling". "To use land more sustainably, we must start using it more efficiently. This rate of loss cannot be endured without losing huge swathes of our countryside. It is a non-renewable resource. Once built on, it is lost forever," said Graeme Willis, head of rural campaigns. ■

Harvest Festival Challenge

At St Mary's Church on Sunday October 7th

The 'gardening club' scarecrow seen right

Calling the Whaddon Village community

*WIs , THE CHASE CHOIR, THE LOWNDES ARMS PUB, TABLE-TENNIS CLUB,
WHADDON PRE-SCHOOL, WHADDON FIRST SCHOOL, VILLAGE HALL
COMMITTEE, FAMILIES & CREATIVE VILLAGERS.....*



**Can you make a scarecrow for the church
HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE which is representative
of your club, your school ,your business or your family?**

Scarecrows to be delivered to the church on

Saturday 6th October from 10.00am



ALSO TRACTOR
DRIVERS/OWNERS
PLEASE BRING YOUR TRACTOR
TO THE CHURCH ON OCTOBER 7th
at 10.30am

COME AND JOIN US AT THE NASH HOLIDAY CLUB

... we will have fun, craft, games, songs and stories.

Thursday 2nd August 10am – 12 noon at the village hall,

Friday 3rd August 2pm – 4pm at the village hall,

**Children are welcome from all the benefice villages,
so please spread the news, target age 4 – 11 years.**

To book your place, please ring

Pam King 01908 501860 or Vicky Southby on 01908 501812

or e mail pam@kingsfold100.co.uk,

replies by 27th July would be appreciated for planning.



■■■ NASH HARVEST PRODUCE SHOW ■■■

Saturday 22nd September

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!

3rd Wednesday each month of term...3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Hands Up for Jesus Summer term

This summer term, we have welcomed Abbey Vallance (Harrison's mum) to the team. She joins the wonderful Pam King and Beryl Evans who tell stories, organise crafts, games and serve refreshments.



We have continued to have a great time learning about what happens when people chat to Jesus (Prayer).

April – Key message: *God answers our prayers in ways we often don't expect!*

We heard a story about a time when Peter was put in prison and his friends were praying for him. One night, an angel came and released Peter from his chains, opened the prison doors, and made him invisible to the guards. This allowed Peter to escape! His friends couldn't believe it when he turned up on their doorstep, even though they were praying for his release!

We made door hangers with Ask, Seek, Knock on them - for the children to take home.

May – Key message: *Sometimes we have to trust God that he will answer our prayers even when our circumstances look bleak.*

The story was about a widow who owed some money to her husband's business partner. He was turning up that day either to collect his debt, or take her two sons to be his slaves. The widow approached the prophet Elisha to tell him of her predicament.

'What do you have in your house?' he asked.

'Only a small jar of olive oil,' she replied.

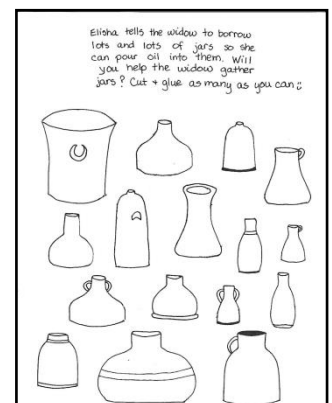
Elisha answered,

'Tell your sons to go and ask your neighbours for all their empty jars and start pouring your small amount of olive oil into them.'

Amazingly, the olive oil kept on pouring and pouring until there were no empty jars left.

Then Elisha said,

'Go and sell the olive oil so you can pay off the debt when the ex-business partner arrives.' And she did!' (2 Kings 4 v1-7)



June – Key message: *How to be 'soaked through with prayer'.*

The thought of the month was contained in 1 Thessalonians 5 v16-18

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

On this occasion we made bead bracelets with our names on them. Each colour helped us to remember to pray for something special.

Red = our families. Blue = our friends, Green = to thank God for something. Yellow = for those who are ill. White = for ourselves.

Afterwards we watched a paper flower open up to reveal the verse when it was put **in a bowl of water**.

July – Key message: The work of Jesus is all around us.

Jesus said 'I will always be with you, even until the end of the world'.

To remind us of this we made a person holding a child out of pipe cleaners. And then we heard a story about how a prince shared his birthday party with a kitchen maid! And we had fun with buckets of water simply because it's the weather to do it....



We thought too about windmills and prayers. We can't see the wind, but we know it's there when the windmill turns. This is like the Holy Spirit. It is with us. While we may not see Jesus, we can see His handiwork all around us.

The last scheduled **Hands Up for Jesus** took place in July and with it we can say it has been a year of such

encouragement to all who have come. We have shared some God stories, laughter, singing, prayers and refreshments together.

While I will be leaving at the end of October, the team hopes to carry on; but they would like another person to join them. So if anyone would like to give up an hour a month I would love to hear from them.

Thank you to all who have prayed for Hands Up for Jesus over the last two years. Your prayers have certainly been answered!

God bless,

Gussie

P.S. Thank you to all the parents who have come this term and joined in the Wednesday School Assemblies. You are real sports!

Gussie 01280 821616



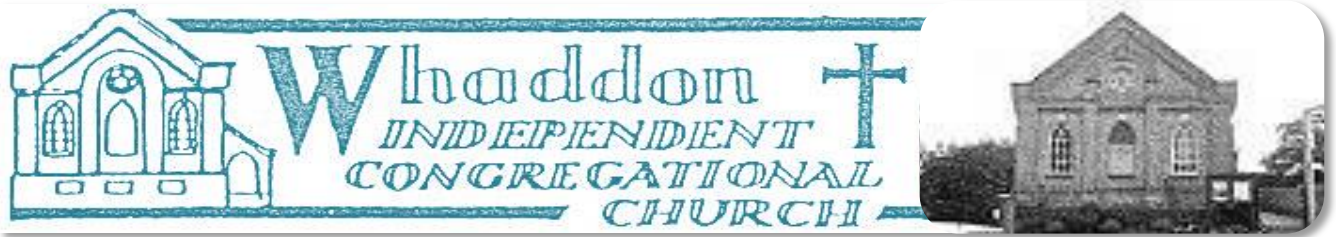
The Post Office is open for business

THE NEW Post Office in the Jubilee Hall is available for a full range of services, plus some added new ones. **The trading day of the village-based Post Office is Tuesday from 2.00 to 4.00 pm.**

The postmaster, Mr Jigar Patel, runs the Post Office in Deanshanger. His shop can be contacted on 01908 564490. Please save this telephone number for future reference when placing orders. Deanshanger Post Office has a shop and off-licence attached. Mr Patel informs that he is prepared to bring items with him from the shop on Monday, provided that orders are telephoned through in advance and collected on Mondays.

Customers can withdraw cash, including dollars & euros on demand. Other currencies will need ordering the previous week or by telephoning Deanshanger PO by Thursday for collection at Whaddon the following Monday.





Whaddon Chapel

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set **eternity** in the human heart...*

Ecclesiastes 3v11, The Bible.

THERE WAS a man who spent decades writing one word on the pavements of Sydney, Australia. The word: 'Eternity'. The man: Arthur Stace. So important to the people of that city did this word become that on the eve of the millennium, the word 'Eternity' was spelled out in pyrotechnics across Sydney Harbour Bridge. Arthur Stace undertook his mission in secret for many years; he had not desired to draw attention to himself, but to Someone else.

But long before Arthur Stace inscribed 'Eternity' on pavements, the Bible tells us that God had set 'Eternity' in the hearts of all men and women.

Arthur knew this, and he wanted people to be reminded of it. We were never created to live simply for the here and now; we were made for eternity. It's undeniable. Even if we're not conscious of the idea, it is visible in our actions. All people long for lasting meaning, remembrance and permanence.

With God, eternity is reality. We can spend it with Him or without Him. God longs for us to spend it with Him. The choice is ours.

Why not join us one Sunday to find out more?

Regular services & Meetings

- Every Sunday at 4pm, Whaddon Chapel
- Bible Study & Prayer: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, 7:30-9 pm at 3 Briary View.

Harvest service: 14th October 2018, 4 pm. The service will be led by Andrew Cotton, with refreshments afterwards.

Chapel Anniversary: 18th November 2018, 4 pm. The service will be led by Roger Clarke, with refreshments afterwards.

Tributes: Michael Hadida

Michael Roland Hadida

8th May 1932 - 10th May 2018

The man who made me laugh

It was a great comfort to our family that so many friends joined us to say goodbye to Michael on the 22nd May at St. Mary's Church, Whaddon. The service conducted by the Rev'd Gussie Walsh reflected well his character and personality.

AT ANY gathering, he was the well-dressed man with a full head of silver hair, quietly sitting in the background. Gradually, where he was, would be the source of laughter and sometimes shock at the quips he would make about the general proceedings. I always liked to be in earshot, as he made me laugh more than anyone else I have ever met. As Richard, his son said "his wit was dry, sharp and bold, without an ounce of political correctness."

Michael was the son of the late Percy Henry Hadida and Moira Standish Hadida; close brother of the late Douglas M. Hadida; beloved husband of Clare, and a special father of Richard, Anti and the late Emma, Proud papou of James, Will, Magdalene, Evie and Clara. He was also father-in-law to Nikos and Jenny, and brother-in-law to David, Charlie and Thomas.

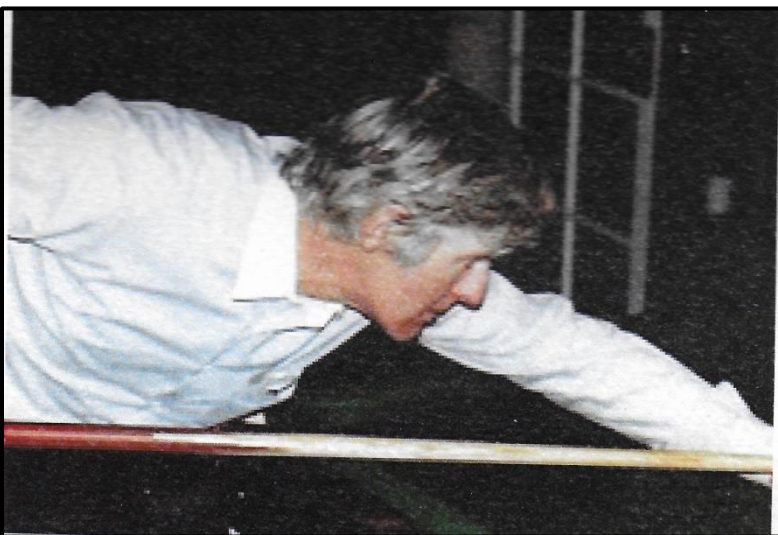
Watching with fascination

Mike's father disappeared to Chile when he was very young, while his mother felt children should take care of themselves. This left Mike unsupervised to roam around Mayfair. London's W1 was his playground. He played in the bomb sites after the WW2 air raids, and scrambled around the ruins of department stores and other London landmarks, a small boy free to roam around a big city.

He told the story of how as a young seven year old boy, (circa 1939/40) he would scamper over the rooftops of Dover Street (as he did) when he heard what sounded like a Valkyrie screaming from above. He looked up to see a Stuka dive bomber.

The Stuka was a German war aircraft with one large bomb strapped to its underbelly. It would commence a dive from on high and aim at one specific target, release and pull up. It would begin to dive from a great height and aim at a specific target before releasing and pulling up. The Stuka had a siren that would make a terrifying scream (known as the Jericho trumpet) as it plunged towards its target. The noise was designed by the Nazis to bring fear to those beneath.

However, Michael watched with fascination as it plunged towards him and then dropped its payload; a bomb intended for Browns Hotel in Albermarle Street. Hitler had found out someone was staying in the hotel and wanted him



Mike at full stretch at the billiard table.

eliminated. The dive bomber missed the hotel – and Michael; the bomb blew up buildings in a couple of streets away. His mother was probably out socialising with her friends.

Michael was expelled from school at the tender age of 14. When accused of drilling holes in a rowing boat on the lake, the Headmaster released Michael who would not split on his friend who had done the deed. Having spent fifty years with Michael, I can assure you he was incapable of drilling or doing any DIY.

He had many jobs as a teenager and would admit he was not much use to anyone. But then it was time for the army. He entered the army as an overweight young boy, but he left two years later as a disciplined, driven, fit and healthy young man – the army really sorted him out. He was ready now to work hard and make a success of his life. He went to night school and studied textiles.

In the 1950s, Mike met his best friend Grahame Tomlinson. They inspired each other, and shared a passion for business and fabric design. Grahame was an amazing salesman, and Michael had a flair for colour and design.

The era of co-ordination

The two men decided to exhibit in the 1963 Textile Show at the Berners Hotel in London. Mike had to rush Colonel Burgess, the printer, to have the fabric ready in time for the show. There was great panic when the Colonel told them that the fabric had smudged. There was no time to reprint.

Mike asked "Does the mistake repeat?" Colonel Burgess replied "Yes. The whole job is smudged." Mike decided to take a gamble and launch the fabric. It worked! They sold over one million yards of that design.

During this time Michael was running a small business, selling shower curtains to the London stores. He kept stock in his garage, and sent orders out in the evenings after work.

In time, shower curtains became more popular and in the late seventies, we bought what was referred by the estate agent as a "derelict" building in Islip on the River Nene. It was in fact a clapped-out Queen Anne house with outbuildings which could be used as a small factory workshop to make shower curtains. It had no electricity or water.

We moved in with two camp beds and a determination to turn the place into a home *and* a factory. Gradually, the business grew and eventually, we were in the era of co-ordination. Everything matched, even in the bathroom.

And so Michael was soon manufacturing shower curtains in Milton Keynes, towels in Scotland, and eventually ceramics in Stoke on Trent. He also had concessions in stores and shops in Cheltenham and The Metro Centre in Newcastle.

It was when the Development Corporation approached Michael to manufacture in Milton Keynes, that we began looking for a house in the area. It took two years before we came across The Old Vicarage in Whaddon. It was auctioned in Buckingham. We loved the setting and seeing St. Mary's Church from the kitchen window has given us such pleasure over the years.

Michael loved climbing, running (he would run to Nash and back along the Buckingham Road before he went to work in the morning), cricket, Nelson, history, music, playing billiards with his friends, bread and cheese and a bottle of red wine, in no particular order. He enjoyed good company, especially his family's, and showed a genuine interest in anyone he met.

He always had a yearning to return to his much loved London. However, on the 22nd May, on what felt like a perfect summer's day, I know he would have been content to observe the beauty of the surrounding countryside, the Church, his family and friends sad to say goodbye, but nevertheless at ease in his garden.

My favourite love quote is from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

"When he shall die take him and cut him out into stars and he shall make the face of heaven so fine that all the world will be in love with night and pay no worship to the garish sun."

I am so grateful that I had fifty years with the best and funniest man I have ever met. ■

Clare Hadida

A frisky breeze that said goodbye?

I WAS saddened to hear from Clare that Mike had passed away two days after his 86th birthday.

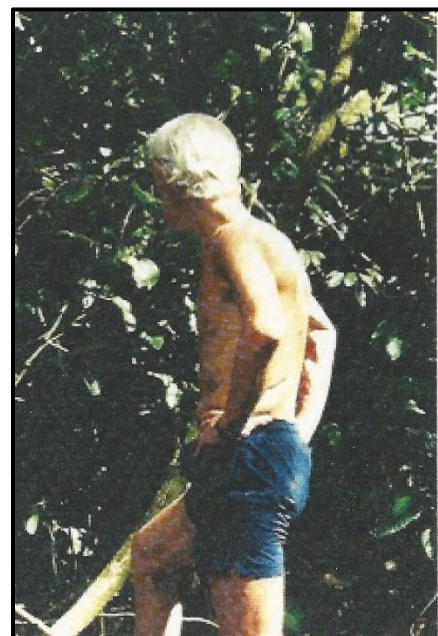
I don't pretend to have known him very well over the past 30-odd years, but I think he was intrigued by my various scribbles in the Press whenever we met.

It was one very cold winter, some years ago while walking up Church Lane, I realised a surface water drain had indeed become blocked and was overflowing down the lane to form a sheet of ice, perilous to both pedestrians and vehicles.

I contacted 'my friends' at County Hall, who, to their credit, sent out a gang to clear the blockage and put some grit on the ice. A couple of days later, Mike appeared at my door with a bottle of very good champagne by way of thanks, and I have never forgotten that sweet gesture.

Clare arranged a wonderful send-off for Mike. Gussie conducted the formalities, after which we repaired to The Old Vicarage gardens. It was a beautiful summer's day, the fruits of the earth were plentiful, and there was a little frisky breeze, or was that Mike saying goodbye?

Roger Porter

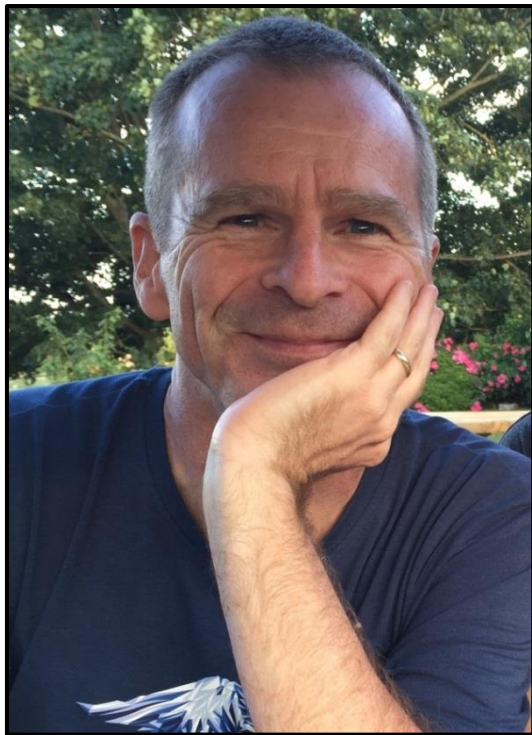


■ **Mike: Ever climbing to new heights.**

Tribute: Tim Joint

Tim Joint

1st August 1965 – 19th July 2018



THIS ISSUE of the *Whaddon Quarterly* closed for printing, the devastating news came through that Tim Joint (**left**) had died, very suddenly and unexpectedly at home, on the morning of Thursday 19th July.

Angie, Amy and Alex (**below right** with Tim) have been overwhelmed with the kindness and support they received from family, friends and Whaddoners alike.

You may have seen Tim in his pivotal role as drummer in the Whaddon-based band Selby, and during recent Whaddon Show performances accompanying the house band.

He was usually to be found also helping behind the bar at village hall events, and organising the installation of Towcester Mill Brewery Ales for these events, for which many discerning Whaddon beer drinkers were extremely grateful! Tim was a keen footballer,

playing for a couple of local sides for "fun". Rugby and F1 were also on his long list of interests.

Tim was the nicest man you could hope to meet, much loved and will be very sadly missed. You jumped the queue, Tim. ■



Remembering forgotten heroes

AS the last issue's Whaddon Quarterly recalled, it is 100 years since the end of the First World War, an event to be celebrated by Whaddon with the nationwide Battle's Over beacon-lighting ceremony on 11th November. John Mortimer recalls one soldier.

A COUSIN of my father, Private William Mortimer, No. 40148, of the 15th West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), died of wounds on 26th November 1916. He was 25. William was the eldest son of William and Sarah (Richmond) Mortimer who lived at No. 27 Nippet Place, Burmonstofts,

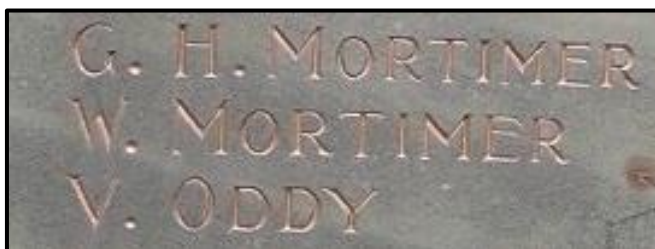


Leeds. My father's parents, James and Mary Mortimer, also lived in Nippet Place during the early years of their marriage.

William is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France, Grave No.VIII D.185. He had two brothers: Ernest, who died on 15th January 1947, aged 51, and Albert, who died on 6th February 1901, aged 2. He is recorded on Brunswick Methodist Church war

memorial in the gardens of Yorkshire Bank, Leeds. William was the fifth child of parents William Mortimer and his wife Hannah (Drury). They had 10 children.

William, aged 19, had found work as a grocery shop assistant; his younger brother, Ernest, 14, was then a clothiers' assistant's errand boy. William was born at No. 33, Cherry Row, Newtown, Leeds on 13th May, 1891 and baptised four months later at Lincoln Fields Chapel, Newtown, on 13th September 1891; Lincoln Fields being the football team to which my father belonged. ■



Chase Choir: Recharging batteries

Chase Choir is about to take a short summer break in August. It will give us a chance to recharge our batteries for what looks like a busy autumn and winter schedule.

SINCE the last issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly*, we have performed at Thornborough Church's Songs of Praise service, the Northampton Eisteddfod and Lianne Herbert's wedding, which was held in St Mary's Church.

Lianne now lives in Japan with her new husband, but her parents still live in Whaddon. It's always lovely to be able to support local residents, so thank you Lianne, for asking us to be part of your special day.

Once we're back rehearsing in September, our first priority will be giving our attention to a selection of WW1 songs for a special service at St Mary's Church on 11th November, celebrating 100 years since the end of the war. It's going to be a busy day for us, as later, we'll be singing again at Coddimoor Farm, where one of the many beacons positioned all over the UK will be lit to commemorate that date.

And our glorious leader, as we like to call her, Karen Logan, will be cracking the whip as early as October, to make sure we're thoroughly rehearsed for the (dare we mention it in August?) event that occurs in December.



We will be performing in a variety of locations during December, raising money for our two chosen charities: Hula Animal Rescue and The Bus Shelter MK, a project which offers assistance to homeless people. We'd love to see you at any of these events, so check out our website: www.chasechoir.com for more information. Even better, if you feel that your tonsils need a workout, why not come and join us? We rehearse every Monday evening 7-9pm in the Jubilee Hall. Contact Karen 01908 501922 or Marianna 01908 503194 for more details. ■

Marianna Beckwith



Toddlers tackle Thrift's tractor

SEVEN members of Toddler Church and their mums again visited Thrift Farm for their outing this year. It gave a lovely opportunity for the children to get close to and feed some of the animals. Amazingly, last year's tiny piglets magically had grown into full-size pigs! This year, some very young guinea pigs were all snuggled up to their mum. After exploring the play area we ended up in the cafe for tea and cake. ■

End of the road for library service

As one door opens with the blossoming of WiFi, so another one shuts firmly with some services attached to books and reading.

Following the recent public consultation, Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) decided (on 20th April) to end its Mobile Library service. The final visits were made on 31st May 2018.

Over past weeks BCC has emailed mobile library customers to inform them of the cessation of the service and given information about alternative ways to continue to access library services. BCC posted letters to those customers without email. Residents interested in becoming Home Library Service volunteers should contact: <https://www.bucksccl.gov.uk/services/libraries/community/home-library-service/>

David Jones, Head of Community Focus at BCC, apologises for the inconvenience caused to residents on the many occasions recently where BCC has been unable to visit due to vehicle breakdowns or driver sickness. BCC has extended outstanding loans to avoid anyone incurring overdue charges as a result and it will extend also any mobile loans still outstanding to allow people time to make decisions about future library use. For queries please contact library@bucksccl.gov.uk ■

Centenary triple bill for Whaddon



Centenary Triple Bill for Whaddon Sunday 11th November

11am - Remembrance Ceremony around War Memorial. Parade of Sea Cadets. Planting of crosses by Whaddon's children to create a 'WWI' cemetery. Last Post and Reveille. Followed by Service in Church.

Afternoon - Concert with Whaddon Chase Choir joined by the School Choir to celebrate the Centenary of the End of WW1.

Evening - Lighting of the Beacon at Coddimoor Farm, one of 1000 such beacons being the Nation's tribute to all those who served in WW1. BBQ and fireside songs with the choir.

Also being considered is a talk for school children in key stages 2 and 3 about WW1, its start and completion and life in the trenches with appropriate slides - if there is enough interest. **Please let either David Spencer (dhs12@btinternet.com) or Denise McClellan (baird.mcclellan@googlemail.com) know of your interest.** Note that key stage 1 children will be spoken to at the school.

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies presents:

Great War Buckinghamshire Showcase

Date:

Saturday 13
October 2018
10am to 3pm

Venue:

The Church of Christ the
Cornerstone, 300 Saxon Gate,
Milton Keynes MK9 2ES

A day celebrating the lives of the men and women from
Buckinghamshire who participated in the First World War.

- Local history exhibitions
- WWI family history tips
- Family craft activities
- Music and poetry readings
- Art displays
- Refreshments



FREE
ENTRY

For more details:



@CenBucksStudies

Email: archives@buckscc.gov.uk





Home owners. Please check your gardens for sharp objects such as broken glass or barbed wire. Several pets in the village have been injured, causing distress to the pets and expensive vet's bills for their owners!!
Thank you

Whaddon's not-so-blue lagoons

There is a dark side to Whaddon! Those with an eye for such matters – the movements of heavy trucks through Whaddon – may have noticed on 3/4/5/6th July a large number of road tankers entering and leaving the village.

AND the destination of these trucks? Anglian Water Sewage Treatment Works, at one time fully manned during the day. The entrance to the plant is Kennel Lane.

And the reason for these behemoths? Two lagoons below the sewage treatment plant have been gradually filling up with sludge as part of the treatment process.

Every four or five years Anglian Water mounts an operation to drain the lagoons, carting the material away on 16-tonne 6x2 tanker trucks. All told, with some five deliveries a day, that amounted to at least 20 truckloads.

The sludge is later treated in a large centrifuge to extract water, leaving behind 'cake' which is then sold to farmers to apply to the land as fertilizer. ■



Too short, too soon spoils growth

Monty Don and the Good Verge Guide, have a word or two to say about cowslips (right), and the correct time to cut them.

WHEN push comes to shove, TV gardener Monty Don struggles to name his favourite flower.

"I am often asked: 'What is my favourite flower?' The truth is, that it depends on the season, the situation, on what I am doing and even who I am doing it with.

But whenever I am forced to stump up one floral treasure above all others, I always go for the common, humble primrose. No other plant so perfectly celebrates the coming of spring, or does it with such gentle charm and beauty.

"Primroses are woodland flowers, loving cool, damp banks and glades, and thriving in the lee of a hedgerow or in coppice woodland," he notes.



Don adds, "The cowslip, *primula veris*, is a primula whose coronet of small flowers is borne on a single long stem. Superficially, it is similar to the primrose, but it is very different in its preferred habitat. It is a plant of open down-land, but can easily be grown in the garden if you have a sunny patch of well-drained grass that can be left uncut long enough for the flowers to set seed, which effectively means the beginning of July."

The Good Verge Guide likewise has a word to say about the management of verges.

It notes "The primary aim of our Road Verge Campaign is to bring good management to as much of the rural road network as possible. We want to maximise flowering of plant diversity on our verges, recognising that nearly 45% of our native flora grows on road verges; maximise subsequent benefits for invertebrates and other wildlife through provision of food plant resources, including nectar and pollen."

JM

What will £40m buy these days?

An F22 Raptor fighter plane costs about £37.5m. It would also get you upwards of five schools. But, asks Roger Porter, what else will it buy?

IN Milton Keynes, it buys you FTTP, or Gigabit-capable, full-fibre broadband, fibre-to-the-premises programme. Phew!!

What is it all about? Milton Keynes Council (MKC) has teamed up with Vodaphone and CityFibre to provide all residents with extremely fast broadband services in a four-year project capable of Gigabit speeds, or 1,000 mbps.

I have just checked our internet speed and my download was 11 mbps and upload 7 mbps.

A Gigabit speed is unbelievably fast. Forget the jargon. The hospital will be able to download a 2 gigabyte CT scan in 17 seconds instead of 11 minutes over standard broadband. That's the difference it makes.

The exciting thing is that Milton Keynes is the first town (city) to adopt this new technology, and it is certain to have a profound effect on employment and levels of productivity.

Work has already started on the new network. I saw men and machines hard at work in the Great Linford area recently.

This advanced technology will also spin-off high-capacity connections needed for 5G by 2020.

Maybe I will be writing about the Internet of Things then. In the meantime, I wonder whether Whaddon PC could be persuaded to approach MKC to see whether we could jump on the bandwagon. It is only a hop, skip and a jump to Westcroft! So near and yet so far!

■

Lighting residents' way forward

WHADDON Parish Council is investigating renewing street lighting in the village, based on one unified system – LED or light emitting diodes.

The main benefits of LED lanterns are these: improved lighting effect, reduced maintenance and lower running costs. Approximately 70% of repairs are due to lamp (bulb) failure. As there are no lamps in an LED lantern there should be 70% fewer visits required to maintain the lights and so this cost saving can be absorbed into the Parish Council's quarterly maintenance charges.

The energy consumption of a 35W SOX lantern is approximately 48W, with a 20W LED the consumption is approximately 20W. From this there should be a reduction in unmetered supply charges if the lanterns are changed the LED. ■

Legal: Tenants and 'right to rent'

IT IS becoming more common to buy property to rent out as extra income. However, many new landlords are not familiar with their duties and, in particular, the tenant's right to rent. Rachael MacIntyre explains.

THE law relating to the right to rent came into force on **1st February 2016**. This legislation required private landlords in England to carry out 'right to rent' checks on prospective tenants, and other authorised occupiers, when granting a tenancy.

The Immigration Act 2014 prohibits private landlords of residential property from allowing certain people to occupy such properties. The prohibition is based on the immigration status of the occupiers.

Landlords and agents must now check the nationalities and immigration status of prospective tenants, and other authorised occupiers, before granting a tenancy. Landlords must

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Contact **Rachael MacIntyre**: tel: 01908 410844
or email: rachael@macintyrelaw.co.uk

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www.macintyrelaw.co.uk



also ensure that someone's right to occupy the premises does not lapse.

So what do you do?

Before the start of a tenancy, you must conduct checks for tenants aged 18 or over, even if they are not named on the tenancy agreement. This also applies, if there is no tenancy agreement or the tenancy agreement is not in writing.

So, if you have a person aged 18 or over living in your property, you must carry out 'right to rent' checks. If your tenant is only allowed to stay in the UK for a limited period of time, you must make sure you conduct the correct checks during the 28 days before the start of tenancy.

How to make the check:

1. Check which adults will live at your property as their only or main home, and ask the person you are entering into the tenancy agreement with to declare who will be living at your property;
2. Request to see the original documents that allow the person to live in the UK;
3. Check that the documents are genuine and belong to the person;
4. Make and keep copies of the documents and record the date you made the check.

You should make a further check on all of your tenants before either (whichever is earlier):

- a) the expiry date of your tenant's right to stay in the UK; or
- b) 12 months after the previous check.

So, think before you let your property; make sure you have carried out all that you are legally obliged to do. If in doubt, seek advice or ask your letting agent. ■

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

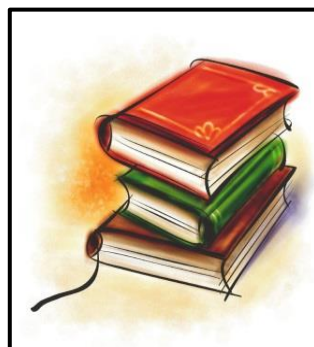
Words of faith written in blood

Lin Xi, in her biography, *Blood Letters*, lifts the lid on events surrounding life and faith in God of a protestor who has become a nemesis of the Chinese state.

IT IS JUST 50 years since a firing squad shot dead a 35-year-old Chinese woman for her refusal to remain silent in the face of Chairman Mao's inhumane regime. Instead, she spoke out against what she considered an evil tyrant. Mao's action depicted man's inhumanity to man, or in this case, woman.

The morning following the execution, officials arrived at her mother's door to deliver the news, and to demand a five-cent 'bullet fee' as her daughter had wasted a people's bullet.

Lin Zhao's 'crime' in the eyes of Mao remains an ongoing story; it still cannot be told in full. All Lin's interrogation records documenting the hours of questioning, probably conducted under torture, remain filed away as part of the 'criminal evidence' in her case.



Only now are the facts of her subjugation, determination, resolve and faith emerging. As too, the manner in which she communicated to the world from prison.

Authorities arrested Lin in 1960 for her contribution to an underground magazine, in which she called Mao's regime "the fascist rule of a centralised state"; she ridiculed his Great Leap Forward as a Great Leap Backward.

With no public trial or defence lawyer, she received a 20-year prison sentence. She refused to confess despite cajoling and torture, even to the point of having her arms pinned behind her back for six months with double handcuffs. Instead, her cheerful spirit remained uncrushed.

Lin, an inveterate protester and letter writer, wrote to her mother. Confiscated at the time these letters were later returned to the family. They were written not in ink – she had been deprived of that as part of her punishment – instead, they were written in blood.

Having grasped the evils of Mao's regime but refusing to remain silent, she pricked her thumbs, allowing blood to drip into a tiny plastic spoon. Using only a bamboo pick or a hair clip, she wrote on a strip of bedsheet in place of paper.

Compounding this, from October 1967 she wrote every day one blood-inked protest to prison authorities. As retribution, the Military Control Committee authorised a death sentence, proclaiming Lin a 'diehard unrepentant counter-revolutionary'.

Lin's Christian faith kept her going to the end. She wrote, echoing Jesus's words "Let me turn over all my pains, hopes and dreams to my Lord."

JM

Blood Letters by Lin Xi is published by Basic Books.

■

A journey down memory lane

WHAT significance might a child of eight or nine attach to XK120?

A CAR number plate? A news flash on BBC1 about a new comet in space? A destination code on an express coach heading north on the M1?

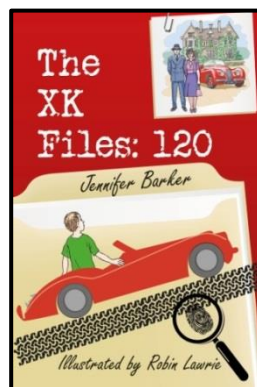
For nine-year-old Bill and his sister Alice, eight, it meant much more. Hidden under a sheet in the back of a garage on a holiday cottage in Cornwall rented by their parents and Grandma and Grandpa, the youngsters discovered a dusty old car that could talk. Not only that, it could take them on adventures.

Jennifer Barker's first book, ideal for rainy-day holiday reading or as a Christmas present, is a time-travelling adventure taking place in the context of the post-war years and celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953. It culminates with youngsters and grown-ups alike arriving back at the cottage in the present day.

Bill doesn't like history at school but, thanks to the Jaguar XK120, he discovers history is about people – including some from his own family.

The XK Files: 120 by Jennifer Barker has 14 chapters and is attractively illustrated. Published by Porter Press International Ltd. price £6.99.

JM



Whaddon Book Club

WE FOUND it necessary to transfer from *The Lowndes Arms* during the World Cup. We had no wish to be distracted by the thrilling matches before England reached the Semi Finals.

Books in the last quarter have been more varied. We were saddened by Martin Sixsmith's account of a mother's search for her son who was given up for adoption from Ireland to the USA. *Philomena* is a moving story; the main character in the book is her son who died before she was able to make contact with him.

We moved from that to another challenging family story in *The Battle Hymn of a Tiger Mother* by Amy Chua: a cautionary tale on how the Chinese choose to educate their children.

We followed that up with *A Secret Life of Cows* by Rosalind Young. This organic farmer has the blessing of the Prince of Wales. She believes that all her animals have an ability to do what is best for themselves, if they are given the chance. Her farm is run accordingly.

Her book was published as a diary of her observations of life on the farm. It has received widespread acclaim and has been discussed in national newspapers. We plan a visit to her farm in Gloucestershire.

This month, we have moved on to crime fiction. We have a long list of books to read but we are always open to suggestions.

We continue to meet monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30. We are reviewing our venue, so if you wish to join us please contact Jane Porter: Janeporster@live.co.uk ■

Jane Porter

Sincere apologies to Jane Porter for re-using her February article in the last issue in place of her May contribution – Ed.



Whaddon Women's Institute

IN MAY, members celebrated their eighty-second birthday with a visit to the Old Gaol at Buckingham, followed by afternoon tea at the Looby Loo Tea Shop.

June saw us practising Shiatsu with various exercises demonstrated by Joan Cooper. As our speaker was unable to come to our July meeting, we were able to have Christine Capstick, a Community Support Officer, who is based at Wolverton. She gave us an interesting talk on her role in the local community. This month, August, we will be making a visit to Thrift Farm, while in October we are



planning to have an open meeting, when the speaker will give a talk on the Suffragettes.

At our July meeting, the majority of members decided unfortunately not to restart Tuesday Teas, which I think is a great shame and a loss to the village.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Jubilee Hall. All are welcome. For details ring Jayne Waight on 01908 989851 or Jane Porter on 01908 501709. ■

Susan White, July 2018

Winslow Community Bus

wdcbenquires@btconnect.com

www.winslowbus.com

01296 715786

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



VERY Wednesday morning – Winslow Market Day bus* –

Pickups Claydons, Horwoods, Swanbourne, Mursley, Nash, Whaddon £3.00 return, free with bus pass. Ring for details.

EVERY Friday & Saturday morning – Aylesbury Market Bus* 2 hours in Aylesbury. – Pickups Winslow, Horwoods, Mursley Swanbourne Weedon (Sat only) £4.50 return, free with bus pass.

May and June timetable

Horwoods, Mursley Swanbourne Weedon (Sat only) £4.50 return, free with bus pass.

Tuesday 8th May – Visit Coton Manor House – Beautiful 5-acre bluebell wood, and a lovely 10-acre garden with Water garden to explore. £15.00 includes entrance.

Thursday May 10th – Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pickups. Ring to book.

EVERY Friday and Saturday – Aylesbury Bus. Departs Winslow 9.15am, village pickups, free with bus or just £4.50 return from Winslow. Ring for details.

Tuesday 15th May – Cotswold Lunch & drive, with pub lunch in Stow-on-the-Wold. £8.00 travel.

Thursday 17th May – Cotswold Lunch & drive – lunch at Fox Inn Broadwell. £8.00 travel.

Thursday May 24th – Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pickups. Ring to book.

Tuesday May 29th – Visit Frosts Garden Centre – (OAP lunch only £7.95 for 2 courses!) £5.00 (replaces advertised trip to Thame).

Thursday May 31st – Stratford-upon-Avon – shopping or a day by the river, £7.00

Tuesday 5th June Buckingham Bus – 1 hour town, 1 hour Tesco. Door to door, bus pass accepted, otherwise only £4.50 return.

Monday June 11th – Asda in MK1 Shopping, also M&S, H&M, Primark etc £4.00

Thursday June 14th - - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.

Tuesday 26th June – Hidcote Manor & Kiftsgate Gardens – 2 amazing Arts & Crafts Gardens in the Cotswolds. Travel £10.00. Entrance: Hidcote: £12.70 NT members free, Kiftsgate £8.50. This trip is also being run from Buckingham Garden Centre on Monday 9th July, to be booked through Winslow Bus.

Thursday 28th June - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.

Milton Keynes THEATRE

All prices are for tickets in Band A price range (Circle or stalls) and travel.

Performances start 2.30 pm unless otherwise stated. Door to door service!

Wed 16th May –Summer Holiday – all Cliff's hits – 'Travelling Light', 'Bachelor Boy', 'Move It', 'Living Doll', 'The Young Ones', etc etc! Circle H £24.50 22/2/18

Wed 26th September War Horse – Circle D £50.00 (sold out)

LIVE STREAMING FROM COVENT GARDEN

These MUST be booked well in advance. They average about 3hrs running time with intervals. Start time: 6.30pm, 7pm or 7.15pm.

Per show: Adults: £28.00 Seniors: £26.00 door to door service.

Programme

- **Thursday 3rd May** –Royal Ballet – **Manon** Kenneth MacMillan's powerful telling of Manon and Des Grieux's tragic love is a masterpiece of modern ballet, set to music by Massenet.
- **Thurs 10 May** – **National Theatre Live - Macbeth** Shakespeare's most intense and terrifying tragedy, directed by Rufus Norris (The Threepenny Opera, London Road), will see Rory Kinnear (Young Marx, Othello) and Anne-Marie Duff (Oil, Suffragette) return to the National Theatre.
- **Wed 16th May** –**An American In Paris** -from London's West End this breathtakingly beautiful Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, inspired by the Oscar winning MGM film, tells the impassioned story of discovering love in the 'City of Light'.
- **Tuesday 5th June** - Oscar Wilde's **An Ideal Husband** -A new production of the Rolls-Royce of English comedies will be broadcast live to cinemas from the Vaudeville Theatre in London's West End.
- **Tuesday 12th June** – **Swan Lake** The Royal Ballet presents a new production of Tchaikovsky's magnificent classical ballet, with additional choreography by Liam Scarlett and designs by John Macfarlane.
- **Tuesday 9th October** - Oscar Wilde's **The Importance of Being Earnest**, A new production of one of the funniest plays in English, will be broadcast live to cinemas from the Vaudeville Theatre in London's West End.

These live screening have had a fantastic response so far from those who have been to see them. Book now as shows sell out quickly. Book one, some or all! Why not give it a go! Book now as shows sell out quickly. Trips may be cancelled if not enough interest. Book one, some or all!

Telephone Sue for information leaflet about the shows.



Neighbourhood Watch - Whaddon



Don't make it easy for opportunist burglars

With warmer weather there often comes more opportunities for criminals. So, please take a moment to review your own security and reduce the chances of becoming a victim of burglary.

- Double check that doors and windows are shut and locked when you go out or when you go to bed.
- If, in warmer weather, you choose to leave some window open overnight, make sure that they aren't accessible. If you have ladders, make sure they are locked away and can't be used.
- Make sure that you don't leave a window open in a part of your home that is out of your view – it only takes a moment for someone to get in and steal anything readily accessible.
- Keep car keys out of sight and don't leave door keys in the lock.
- If you're going away think about what sensitive information you might be sharing on social media.
- Report anyone acting suspiciously to the police, either on 101 or 999 if a crime is happening. Call at the time that you see it and try to get a description of them, or the vehicle they may be using. ■

Cyber scams wait to strike your computer

Cyber predators can strike when least expected. John Mortimer reports.

BE VERY, very aware. Cyber fraud can strike when least expected; an unguarded moment. Your computer is an open window through which crooks can strike.

Fraud is only a phone call away. A persistent international caller who, if acknowledged, can lead on to a computer technician with the key to enable him to rummage around in your computer and take what he fancies. It could even be someone posing as a BT engineer.

In version one, the victim, having agreed that yes their computer is running slow, is directed to go to their computer and then given step by step instructions on how to 'fix' the problem. In fact, the process they follow allows the caller to take complete control of the computer. This lets the criminal have a good hunt around the victim's computer to find personal data and install spyware to collect more data.

In the second version it's your money they want, and instantly. The criminal tells the victim he can fix the problem but for a fee and instructs the victim to use a money transfer service such as Western Union to pay. This technique is used by several businesses which prey on victims' telephones. They have 'worldwide resources' and offer support for anti-virus, networking, browsers, printers and emails. In fact, every kind of 'support' you might need for home and small office computers.

But they are no more than a modern-day Trojan horse, bringing legions of chaos to your machine. When approaching a victim, such callers, and others like it, often female, offer a 'technician' – sounds convincing, doesn't it – to quickly diagnose any drivers etc. that may be slowing down your computer. Such 'technicians' warn of 'third party' software and claim to eradicate Trojan viruses and other cyber-ware which can send details of your bank accounts, passwords and so on in a process that can take '6 to 10 hours'.

Before you know it, they can take control of your machine, later requiring payment via a local Western Union point (they will even tell you the four or five nearest points to take your money) from where it is sent to a foreign country (Colombia) to install 'software' to correct the faults.

Should you encounter cyber-crime fraudsters, alert National Fraud Intelligence Bureau through www.actionfraud.police.uk, or call 0300 123 2040. Give as many details (facts) as possible. If you have much information, ask the official to call back; that will save money on your telephone bill. ■

YOUR LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS

Graham Stewart: 2 High Street. Tel. 01908 501973
Peter Beckwith: 6, Old Manor Close. Tel. 01908 503194
Sally Green: Bellsbrook, Church Lane. Tel: ex-dir'y
David McIntyre: 2a, Vicarage Road. Tel. 01908 867836
Howard Jones: 8, Ladymead. Tel. 01908 501871
Sally Telford: 4a, Stock Lane. Tel. 01908 336960
Pauline Winward: 1 Whaddon Hall Tel. 01908 502559

Whaddon WI Night Owls

WE HAVE been out visiting! Last month we went to Milton Keynes Museum for an evening tour and it was truly eye-opening.

Many of us have driven past the museum and some of us visited many, many years ago. All of us were amazed, however, at how many fascinating artefacts they have there.



It all started last year when

Bill Griffiths came to talk to us about the new building project they were just finishing. We all wanted to get a look at it and so a visit was arranged. Bill took us round the Victorian Garden, the music rooms, the school room, the kitchen and the village shops. We then moved on to the agricultural section,

where there were many life-changing bits of machinery – funny to realise how different life was before cattle could be kept alive through the winter.

There is also a technology section with old telephones, switch boards and phone boxes – all from living memory of course!

The best bit was next – the cake! The Granary Tea Room was opened specially by a fellow WI member who is also a cake-maker extraordinaire. Delicious!

The evening culminated in a tour of the new building; this is empty at the moment but Bill and his team have wonderful plans for it – a real treat to see it before it is filled up.

A huge thank you to Bill for a fascinating tour – we highly recommend that you get your family together and go for a visit; it is amazing!

If you would like to join us for any of our sessions, please contact Daphne on 01908 502088 or come along to Jubilee Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm to see what we are up to. ■

Alison Cross



Creative Coach:

Thoughts from my comfy chair



I heard a song on the radio the other day, from the 1980s, a “music Marmite” decade, in my view, but that’s another discussion for another day. The song was “My Favourite Waste of Time” by Owen Paul (ever heard of him since? No, me neither!) It did get me wondering, though, about my own, and your, favourite ways of wasting time. Is this a piece about self-sabotage or procrastination? Well, yes and no.

Procrastination as self-sabotage

Admit it: you do it, don’t you? It’s sometimes so much easier to tackle the jobs you know are quick and easy, than to roll up your sleeves and go for that big old job that will need concentration, application and perspiration. It’s a matter of pain avoidance: self-preservation at its most creative! We procrastinate largely through fear of something. So how do you tackle it?

Firstly, recognise an excuse for what it is. We can all make up very justifiable reasons for **not** doing stuff. Ask yourself what your real reasons are for avoiding whatever it is. They may be buried deeper than you first realise, and you may wriggle and squirm just a bit when you hit that realisation! Once you’ve got to the bottom of it though, you’re on the way to finding a solution. Ask yourself...

- Am I perhaps afraid of failure, or even of success? Is this a battle with the negative troll inside my head? What positive ideas could I use to replace that troll?
- Have I given myself too many options over the task? Could it be simplified?
- Do I allow other people, or distractions (phone, email, social media) to monopolise my time when I need to just get on and do it?
- Do I find it hard to take responsibility for this particular task?

- Do I genuinely need more resources to do this task (or is *that* just an excuse to procrastinate further)?
- Do I set myself standards that are just unachievable?
- Do I really, really want, or need to do, this in the first place?

Some thoughts...

- Try setting yourself a timer for 20 minutes, and focus completely on your task, turning off all other distractions. If you manage just 20 minutes, you'll have made a start, and it will be easier to go back to later.
- If you can, move yourself physically somewhere else, away from distractions, to get on. A change of workplace scenery can also encourage creativity. If that's just not possible, you could always try what a colleague of mine used to do, put a not-so-subtle "Do not disturb" sign up on their PC! When I worked in a busy, open-plan office, I used to put on my headphones with some inspiring music to block out conversations I felt drawn to, or to filter out some of the more irritating noise. This was a "Do not disturb" sign in itself.
- If you're held back, by being a perfectionist, try a little "8 out of 10 is good enough" psychology on yourself.
- Promise yourself a reward at the end of it. Imagine how great you'll feel when you've made a start, or even finished it.

And when you've finished, you can procrastinate all you like, by doing something that really *is* your favourite waste of time!

Until next time, stay mindful...

Marianna Beckwith

Whaddonfield, not Akenfield - 2



Remember Roland Blythe's classic *Akenfield*? Well, here is Whaddonfield, Whaddon as it was 100 years ago. In this, the second part of his essay, John Mortimer takes a look at some of the 'strangers' who came to live in the hamlet, including the vicar, the headmaster and a watchmaker from London.

THE VICAR, the headmaster and the policeman invariably formed the triumvirate: absolutists who upheld standards in many villages in 19th century England. If not rigidly controlling life, they were seen by all and sundry as upright society members, setting standards and earning respect.

To enjoy such status, these individuals required education (a rector would often have earned an MA) and or the backing of authority. All three, when joining a village community would, more than likely, be viewed initially as 'strangers', outsiders.

However, there were other key members of Whaddon life, including butcher and baker. There were others, like grooms and gamekeepers, as well as those who, quite literally, kept the wheels turning, like clockmakers and blacksmiths; these we will meet.

In the first part of this look at Whaddonfield (*Whaddon Quarterly*, May 2018) we came across one of the triumvirate, vicar William Railton, while elsewhere in this issue we will engage with another of the 'gang of three' – the village 'bobby', Constable Henry Sibbald (**right**); see also [p. 21](#).

He too, like the vicar and headmaster Alfred Marshall, would be classed as a 'stranger'; Constable Sibbald hailed from East Sussex.

Elementary school head teacher Alfred, 44, hailed from Aston Ingham in Herefordshire, seven miles east of Ross-on-Wye. He lived in Whaddon with Kate, 31, his wife of seven years, 31; a local girl from Singleborough, near Great Horwood. The family occupied Pear Tree Farm. Alfred worked for the County Council. Their boys Alfred, 6, and Eric, 5, were born in Whaddon. Ten years previously, Alfred had occupied a house on The Common (now Vicarage Road) with sister Clara, 31, a governess born in Linton, Herefordshire. Both worked at the National School.

Another key section of Whaddon 'society' in those days were the grooms who cared for the horses which made up the Chase Hunt. Grooms formed part of Whaddon life long before 1911. Take George Capel for example. He had been a groom in 1881 when he was 21. He then boarded with Frederick and Martha Smyth in Pinks End Road.

Born in Whaddon in 1860, George went on from Whaddon to greater heights; he became a groom in Tring, Hertfordshire. But, while still boarding with the Smyths, George met Whaddon-born Alice Quick and the couple married in 1882. Before leaving Whaddon, George and Alice had four daughters: Lizzie, Edith, Ethel and Nellie.

George himself was the youngest of five born to William and Jane Capel. The family lived in Principal Street; the entire family was born in Whaddon. Aunt Elizabeth Hancock, 63, also born in Whaddon, lodged with the Smyths.

A nineteenth century toy boy

There may have been 'toy boys' in Whaddon in 1911: if so they remained elusive. Not so half a century earlier when a 'stranger' became part of Whaddon's fabric.

'Stranger' William Gardus, a watch and clockmaker from Chelsea, then in Middlesex, embraced Whaddon life through his wife, Charlotte.



Charlotte was the eldest daughter of Thomas and Ann (nee Baccus) Underwood – Underwood was then a popular Whaddon surname. The Underwoods had three other children: John, Ann and Edward.

The Underwoods' trio arrived within a span of 13 years; Charlotte's baptism took place on 19th April 1778 and Edward's in 1791. Mother Ann had a tough time; as did many women. Eight years later, on 8th February 1799, her husband died.

It was some 10 years after her father's death that Charlotte, 31, married George Judge, born in 1775 and three years older. They joined hands in St Mary's church, Whaddon on 20th September 1809.

George, a brewer by trade, was an equal partner with William Bower. They were tenants at Badger's Yard, St John's Square, close to Brewers' Hall, the home of the Brewers' Company.

George and Charlotte lived at 7 Berkley Court, Clerkenwell, Middlesex; Clerkenwell then being well known for brewing and watchmaking. Even more intriguing, it was near Watchmakers' Court!

It is not known when George died, but he was buried, aged 52, on 8th December 1827 in St John's Baptist church, in Islington not far from where Charlotte would later remarry.

When George died, Charlotte inherited a considerable amount of money. George left everything to her in a will drawn up days before he died. She remained in London and at this point William Gardus appeared on the scene.

How they met is left to imagination as William, a Freemason, lived in Chelsea, Middlesex. His father, William, a shoemaker, and his mother, Martha, lived in Caroline Place, Chelsea. How would their paths have crossed? Did George and Charlotte attend the same church or meeting house as William Gardus?

Or could it be that Charlotte visited a sister, or a wealthy friend in London where, on Charlotte's arrival, the house clocks were being 'serviced' by William Gardus? Did eyes meet and, in less than the tick of a clock, Charlotte and William instantly 'clicked'?

William, a watch and clock maker by trade, did not belong to the Clockmakers' Company; living in Middlesex he would be outside the City of London. More likely William developed his watchmaking skills in Clerkenwell. From a poor background, William would be unable to afford the 'premium' to enter an expensive apprenticeship. Nevertheless, he was possibly good enough as a watch/clock maker to earn a living.

Possibly too Charlotte may have had no wish to remain a widow; or maybe William found Charlotte's wealth enticing, even welcome if his modest income proved insufficient to keep her in the manner to which she was accustomed. Whatever, they wed at St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, Hackney, a church well known for society weddings.

Intriguingly, Charlotte and William married on 11th February 1828 – just two months after George's burial. The expected (in those days) mourning period had hardly started, suggesting the couple knew one another while George was alive. Even lovers?

Not a 'time lord'

With William some 21 years Charlotte's junior, the watchmaker might be seen as a nineteenth century 'toy boy'. Certainly their return to Whaddon to take up

residence alongside Charlotte's family, might have set a few local tongues wagging.

Buckinghamshire was an agricultural county. As farmers became more prosperous, they sought to own timepieces, just like the local gentry (at Whaddon Hall). Indeed, farmers preferred local products while the gentry had access to London.

William faced competition from William Davison of Newton Blossomville, and the economics of the business made life tough. William possibly travelled some distance to repair clocks in churches and mansions. However, backed by Charlotte's wealth, William had no need to stretch himself to provide for them both.

Even so, William's stature increased; he became one of North Buckinghamshire's noted watchmakers, but he did not become a 'time lord' on the scale of John Stone of Aylesbury, William Rose and Miles Abraham of Newport Pagnell. Records of county clockmakers also suggest William made little impact. But is there still a Gardus watch somewhere? And did he have a hand in maintaining Whaddon's church clock? If he did, there are no records of his work. Perhaps he left that task to the local blacksmith. More than likely.

When Charlotte Gardus died, William could bask in considerable wealth. And he cemented too his connections with the Underwood family; this explains William's witness to the wills of Ann and Edward Underwood, innkeeper at *The Fox & Hounds*.

William continued to reside in Church Lane; nephew John Underwood, 28, shared his house in 1861. The census described John as a 'gentleman', a sign of how family wealth travelled down the line from Charlotte to nephews and nieces.

When William Gardus died on 26th February 1877, records show he left £4,000; that's close to £500,000 in today's money! William did not accumulate this by 'tinkering' with watches and clocks, but through Charlotte. Of this wealth he left money to his sister and his housekeeper, and £550 to each of Ann and Edward Underwood's children.

Indeed, the extent to which he had become an established Whaddon villager, and no longer a 'stranger', emerges when farmer George King acted as William's sole executor, suggesting William and George were friends. More than that, William trusted George.

The village blacksmith

Another William, Whaddonfield blacksmith William Goodway, 55, and his wife of 24 years Emily, 55, relied heavily on Whaddon's Chase Hunt stables for income, as well as local farmers. Bill lived at The Common where he handled shoeing and general blacksmith work. Bill, from Nash and his wife from Tattenhoe, had four children; all were Whaddon born.

Son Harry, 24, worked as a hunt stables groom; brother Percy, 18, described himself as a farm labourer while sister Minnie, 16, had yet to find work. Wilfred, 11, remained at school.

Among other villagers relying on Whaddon Hall was gamekeeper Edwin Rumbold, 46. He lived at Snelshill Lodge with wife of 14 years Rose Emily, 38, and their three children Edwin, 12, Gilbert, 7, and Edith, 5.

Any gamekeeper seeking promotion would need to make frequent moves around the country as head gamekeepers remained in their posts as long as their health permitted. Perhaps not surprisingly therefore, Edwin came from Durrington, Wiltshire; his wife Ann from near Andover, Hampshire; while all their children were born in Wigston, Northamptonshire.

By 1911, there were over 17,000 gamekeepers in England and Wales. The job entailed long working hours and often ran in families; fathers would teach sons from an early age. A gamekeeper's knowledge and skills could mean the difference between a good day's shoot and a poor one. Besides caring and feeding game came the dangerous task of protecting game from poachers. Gamekeepers also needed good communication and 'people skills'. ■

Next time: The butcher and the baker.

How to keep kids busy in summer

FAMILY favourite Play in the Park returned to Aylesbury on Wednesday 1st August. Now in its 12th year it offered kids much fun.

In the future and much closer to home is Play Around the Parishes in Whaddon on Monday 20th August 2018 from 2pm to 4pm.

And, if you want additional activities, all is not lost! There are plenty of smaller-scale play sessions happening throughout the school holidays.

Organised by AVDC in partnership with parish councils, there are other Play Around the Parishes events. Each consists of 38 free sessions taking place in the Vale between 24th July and 24th August.

Places hosting the sessions include Buckingham, Stewkley and Winslow. Arts & crafts, giant games, soft play, circus skills (and other fun stuff) are all on offer. Visit the AVDC website for more information on these free sessions, including a list of the scheduled dates and times. ■



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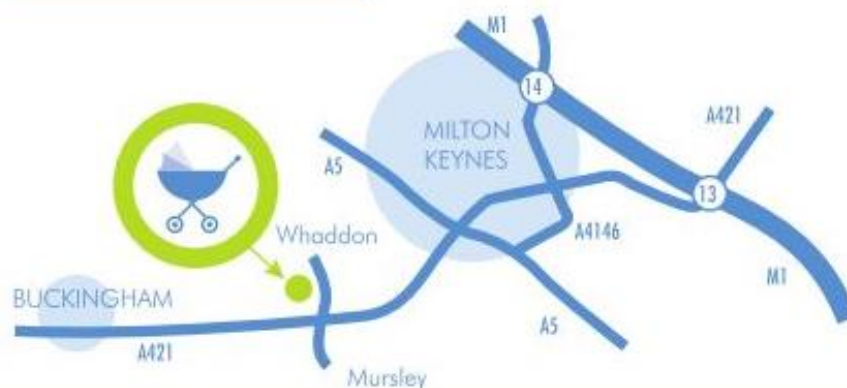
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‘My hands tremble at the thought’

The *Daily Mail* Roger Porter unearthed in a piano stool heralded the society wedding of Mrs Gilbert Greenall. The manner in which her late husband died, however, attracted worldwide headlines. John Mortimer investigates.

WITH benefit of hindsight, it is possible, metaphorically speaking, to raise a newspaper item to the light to reveal hidden secrets.

Take the 1933 *Daily Mail*'s clip of the forthcoming marriage of widowed Mrs Gilbert Greenall, which Roger Porter unearthed from his music stool (see *Whaddon Quarterly*, May 2018).

The diary item concealed a long-forgotten and tragic car crash 90 years ago last month; so tragic that the events in Windsor Great Park of the death of Lieutenant Gilbert Greenall provoked worldwide headlines, from Nottingham, through Ireland to New York.

Lieutenant Greenall was Lord Daresbury's great uncle; former Whaddon resident, Clare Weatherby, is married to Lord Daresbury.

Research into the 1928 crash lifts a veil on an inquest at Ascot Police Station of the death of Lieutenant Greenall. While offering its own vignette, the inquest concealed a vital fact: the make of Gilbert's car.

Why is the car's maker important? Aristotle's famous quote can be updated: Show me the car and I'll show you the man.

Certainly, the suave society soldier's untimely death intrigued newspaper editors. *The New York Times* of 29th July 1928 ran the headline: Lord Daresbury's Son; Death of the Hon. Gilbert Greenall is Climax to a Series of Family Accidents. Note American use of capitals.

A day earlier, the *Newark Advocate and American Tribune* went further: 'Lieutenant the Honourable Gilbert Greenall, son and heir of Lord Daresbury was killed last night when an automobile in which he was riding collided head-on with a truck. The chauffeur was slightly injured.'

In England, *The Nottingham Journal* of Monday 30th July 1928 published a grainy front page photograph of the carnage. Its caption read: 'Lord Daresbury's son and heir was killed instantly when his car broadsided into a van in Windsor Great Park. A close-up of the driver's seat showed the back portion had telescoped onto the steering wheel. Both Lord Daresbury and Mr Greenall were prominent figures at the recent Royal Show at Nottingham.'

Illuminating illustration

A week later, 4th August 1928, *London Illustrated News* published an illuminating illustration (see **above**).



Pictures depicted miscellaneous accidents, but one stood out: the remnants of Greenall's car. The caption informed: 'The Hon. Gilbert Greenall, the elder son of Lord Daresbury, was killed in a motor car accident on 27th July. He was driving a 45-hp saloon from Ascot to Windsor, and just after entering a gate into Windsor Great Park, collided with a motor furniture van. The off-side of his car was torn off, and he was pinned in the wreckage. His chauffeur beside him escaped almost unhurt.'

While newspapers made no mention of the car's make, they reported the presence of Lord and Lady Daresbury 'quickly on the scene'. They arrived at noon in Windsor the day following and visited the home in Windsor Great Park of Colonel the Hon Claude Willoughby (a deputy ranger at Windsor Park); their son's body had been taken there following the accident.

A motorist passing the accident, Dr C Wingfield, medical superintendent at Brompton Hospital Sanatorium, Frimley, Surrey, found the soldier slumped behind the steering wheel.

Lieutenant Greenall, born in 1901, joined the Life Guards in 1924; in 1925 he married Betty Isobel, daughter of Mrs Crawford of Thorpe Satchwell Hall, Melton Mowbray. Significantly, Betty's grandfather William, a master baker of ships' biscuits, founded Crawford's in Leith, Scotland, famous later for its digestive biscuits.

The inquest into Gilbert's death opened on Monday 30th July. Julia Graves of the Coroner's Office in Reading, Berkshire, told the *Whaddon Quarterly*: "I'm afraid 1928 inquests for Windsor have not survived." A fact historians might find maddening.

However, next day's *The Scotsman* carried a full report.

Loyalty of a chauffeur

Colonel Monckton Arundell, officer commanding Life Guards at Combermere Barracks, replying to the Coroner, said: "The Forest Gate was wide enough and easy enough to get through, but there was a curve in the road which presented difficulties. The position of the lodge prevented drivers from the direction of Ascot seeing anything coming through the gates. This construction of the road rather inclined every car automatically to hang to the crown. The road was greasy after the heavy rain of the previous day."

The witness stated in reply to Mr J. B. Kelley, Deputy-Clerk to Berkshire County Council, that Mr Greenall was familiar with this road. The blind corner was well known to him and he knew the lodge gate was there.

Charles John Munns, Mr Greenall's chauffeur, said "I was sitting in the car – a 45-hp saloon – at the left-hand side of my master, who was driving."

"We were coming," he continued, "from Ascot and making towards Windsor about 7.30 or 7.45, and as we came round the bend in the road we found ourselves on top of a lorry coming in the opposite direction out of the gate as we were trying to go in. There was not room for us, and there was not time to do anything."

Mr Munns, 28, of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, the youngest son of railway foreman porter James Munns and his wife Ann Kezia, remained loyal to his employer. He informed the Coroner they were not driving fast; they had slowed



up to enter the gate – about 25 to 30 miles an hour. The lorry struck the car near the driver's seat. The car was badly damaged and the windscreen smashed.

For a split second, Mr Munns could hear only a deafening silence before springing to his master's aid, seemingly retaining an air of calm, dismissive composure in the face of startling circumstances: a 2-ton car hitting a furniture van.

"I was not much hurt," ventured Mr Munns, who had a bandage round his head. "I bumped my head, and I was a bit shaken, but I scrambled out of the car to see what I could do for Mr Greenall. He was still sitting in the driver's seat holding two pieces of the broken wheel (**see p. 59**) in his hands. Mr Greenall was a good, experienced driver. I sat by him with confidence as I always did." Mr Munns found the driver beyond help.

Replying to Mr P. Rutland, appearing for Mr John Perring, a house furnisher of Staines, Middlesex and the lorry's owner, Mr Munns said the lorry was on the left-hand side of the car.

Mr Rutland: "And you were on the crown of the road, were you not?"

"We had to be to go into the gates."

Mr William Loomes, driver of the lorry, his right arm fractured by the collision, received assistance into Court from police officers. With head swathed in bandages and his injured arm in splints, Mr Loomes rested his arm on a pillow on the Coroner's table as he gave evidence.

Mr Loomes, from Englefield Green, Surrey, like teenager Leslie Stanley Otterwell (15) who travelled with him, had been taken to King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor following the accident.

"When I first saw the car," Mr Loomes said, "I was riding upon the near side of the road as far as I could go without getting on the grass. The car was dead in the centre of the road. I swerved right over on to the grass, and if the car had gone straight on, there would have been no accident. The driver of the car applied his brake and skidded into me broadside. It swung my lorry right round."

There appears to have been no police presence at the scene.

Summing up, the Coroner said: "I don't think there is any doubt it was a very considerable speed at which the motor car approached this comparatively narrow gate and curve. I think we can come to the conclusion it was too great under the circumstances. The car, too, must have been well in the middle of the road."

The Coroner then instructed the jury to make suggestions about the scene of the accident while having "no control in the Royal Demesne".

The jury reached a verdict of accidental death and recommended placing special warning notices inside and outside the park at Forest Gate. They regarded the lorry driver as entirely blameless.

The Scotsman added: "The funeral of Lieutenant Greenall takes place at St John's Church, Walton, today. The body was taken to Warrington by road last night, and borne into the church by employees of the Walton estate. A detachment of Life Guards will travel from Windsor and act as bearers and escort today."

No suicidal tendencies

Despite the Coroner's probing, no mention emerged of the car's make.

Three years later the first clue appeared, but with facts inconsistent with those of the inquest. In *Motor Sport* magazine of March 1975 the editor interviewed Tug Wilson, Renault's employee in England of 55 years, about how 'these great Renault 45s began to arrive in this country.'

The magazine reported: 'There is a story that he (Henry Segrave) sold this car to a Guardsman, who was warned that it was dangerous and who was subsequently killed in it.' (Sir Henry Segrave (1896-1930), was a British land- and water-speed record pioneer. Ed.)

'Tug says this isn't true, as Segrave didn't sell his 45 to a Guardsman, nor does he think these cars had any suicidal tendencies, if they were properly serviced.

'He wonders whether the rumoured accident has been confused with that in which the Hon. Edward Greenhall (*Motor Sport* misspelt Greenall's name – Ed) of the

brewery family was killed while he was serving in the Guards. His 45 ran into a gate-post coming out of Windsor Great Park and he was thrown onto the control cluster in the centre of the steering wheel, which pierced his skull.

'That was in his open 45 (**above**). But he also had a 45 saloon (**below**), in which two beds could be made up, in the spacious back compartment. He was a friend of the Prince of Wales when HRH was a brother Officer, and used his closed Renault for late-night parties.

'Tug recalls a very frightening ride with Greenhall. The young Officer had brought the car to the works, complaining he couldn't get the speedometer to exceed 90 mile/h. Tug checked the car over and returned it to Windsor.

'Greenhall had to get to Olympia in a hurry, as his wife was riding in a horse-show there. He offered Tug a lift; they made it in just under 30 minutes. Tug says his hands still tremble whenever he thinks of it!'

So there it is. Lieutenant Gilbert Greenall's car *was* a stylish Renault 45. Renault in France told the *Whaddon Quarterly* the 45 was 'the largest production automobile until the introduction of the Italian Ettore

Bugatti's Type 41, La Royale. A Model 45 could achieve nearly 100 mile/h. Four-wheel servo-assisted brakes were used.' Like the Mercedes-Benz 630S of the same era, these hugely imodest vehicles offered grandeur and panache. Today, an equivalent would be extra-long wheelbase Bentley Mulsanne costing £275,000.



And so this expensive, fast and large car offered a lifestyle game-changer; for Gilbert, piling into a Renault 45 would be like heaven on Earth. But, as the Coroner said, 'the vehicle was travelling at a very considerable speed'.

Five years after Gilbert's untimely death, Roger Porter's unearthed 1933 *Daily Mail* reveals the engagement of Gilbert's widow, Betty, to Mr Reginald Arthur Farquhar.

Grief and love, old and new, entwine like roses and never die. Life does go on. ■

According to www.carfolio.com the Renault 45 hp had a front-mounted engine to power the rear wheels through a three-speed manual gearbox. The naturally-aspirated, side-valve six-cylinder 9.123-litre engine developed 140 bhp at 2,700 rev/min. The Renault Price List of 15th November 1926 gives a forecourt figure of £1,250.00. In 2017 this would be £72,000

The Renault 45's wheelbase measured 12ft 5 in. The car could exceed 95 mile/h – fast for its day. The chassis weighed nearly 2 tons.

The 45 had the same engine and chassis as the Renault 40 CV NM which set a world speed record of 100 mile/h for 24 hours on 9th July 1926. That same year the president of France gave one to the president of Bolivia.

Today, a comparable extra-long wheelbase Bentley Mulsanne has a one-foot shorter wheelbase of 11ft 6in and a top speed of 184 mile/h. The 6.75-litre engine develops 505 bhp. Its price: £275,000. ■

Is enough being done for social housing?

A GOVERNMENT announcement in June of more money for social housing will 'barely scratch the surface' and is unlikely to impact on the affordable housing crisis in rural areas, according to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire, said government will be investing £1.67 billion to support a 'new generation of council housing'. There are over 170,000 families on council waiting lists in rural areas, but CPRE claims there are no signs that those families would see much of the new money. Last year, only 990 social rented homes were completed in rural areas, said CPRE. At the current rate of building it would take 180 years just to meet the backlog in the countryside alone. Lois Lane, Research and Policy Advisor at the Campaign to Protect Rural England, said "While we welcome any investment to help ease pressures, rural communities are in danger of being left even further behind. For those struggling to find a home that they can afford to live in, this new fund is simply not enough. The scale of the challenge is enormous and will provide only 23,000 new 'affordable' homes, of which just 12,500 will be for social rent." ■

30,000 stores under threat with High Street crisis

MORE THAN 30,000 store chains are in financial trouble as crisis deepens in the High Street, according to research by consultants Begbies Traynor.

The number suffering in towns and cities is 4% up on a year ago. More than 61,000 shops have shut in the five years to 2017, with 50,000 jobs lost in the retail trade this year as retail chains try to save money and come up with new ideas. ■

Whaddon Quarterly

Advertising Rates and Publication Policy

January 2017 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

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.

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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.

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www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering

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Although we need foster carers for all children, we're specifically looking for foster carers for teenagers, sibling groups and children from minority ethnic groups.

Whaddon Business Directory

THIS is a Facebook page where anyone can advertise their (local) business. It was set up so that the Whaddon Village Facebook page didn't end up with lots of advertisers clogging the news feed. It's a great place to find local tradespeople and some interesting business ventures too. You simply request to join and you'll be added, just like any other Facebook page. You don't have to be a business to join up; joining gives you access to view what's being advertised. It's not a networking group as such, but you can chat to other businesses, so it could become an online one. ■

● **THIS IS SERIOUS.** Last Year, £121 million was removed from customers' accounts by criminals who had gained unauthorized access. See **p. 45** for more details about you can take precautions. Above all, be wary when answering any telephone. ■

● **WEATHER CRAZY.** Santon Downham, Suffolk, recorded 36C on Thursday 26th July 2018; UK's hottest? Last year it was UK's wettest; 49.8mm of rain fell on 27th June 2017. ■



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Local Beekeepers Need Your HELP! Honey Bee Swarms Are Very Important

Following the long winter of 2017-2018 and the late Spring, colonies of honeybees are under tremendous stress. In the wild the survival chance of a honeybee swarm is about 20%. Collected, and housed in a hive by a beekeeper, the survival rate triples. The MBBKA needs the help of everyone in the area to ensure we collect as many swarms this year as possible. If you see a swarm of bees please contact the MBKA on the swarm-line number below. We will send a beekeeper to collect the swarm and provide it with a new home.

Honey Bee Swarms: Swarms such as the ones pictured are merely Colonies that are in transition. Normally these Swarms are found hanging from tree branch, fence post or any place where the swarm can gather around the Queen while scouts are sent out to look for a more permanent home. A swarm left alone will only be in place from just a few minutes to a few hours and occasionally a few days. Generally, these swarms are very docile and the swarming Bees usually will not sting. Before Honey Bees swarm they gorge themselves with honey before leaving the hive. This makes it very hard for them to double over and sting.



What Causes Honey Bees to Swarm: Honey Bees have a natural instinct to create new colonies by swarming. They may also swarm through overcrowding or because an old queen is thought to be failing and they wish to raise a new one. Honey Bees usually swarm in early spring just as the colony is building up numbers in anticipation of the upcoming honey flow but swarming can happen through to late summer

It is difficult to predict if weather conditions will lead to a large number of swarms in a particular year. MBBKA members attended nearly 100 calls to swarms last year and are on standby to collect throughout our area in 2018

If You See a Swarm: The collection of swarms an important part of the work of bee keepers. You should never interfere with a swarm and pest control companies will not kill a swarm unless absolutely necessary.

Please contact:

MBBKA Swarm Hotline 07770370132

Brian Bush – Mid Bucks Beekeepers and BBKA Swarm Officer

BBKA British Bee Keepers Association website

<http://www.bbka.org.uk>



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