

WHADDON QUARTERLY



The Jubilee Beacon at Coddimoor Farm

Autumn 2022

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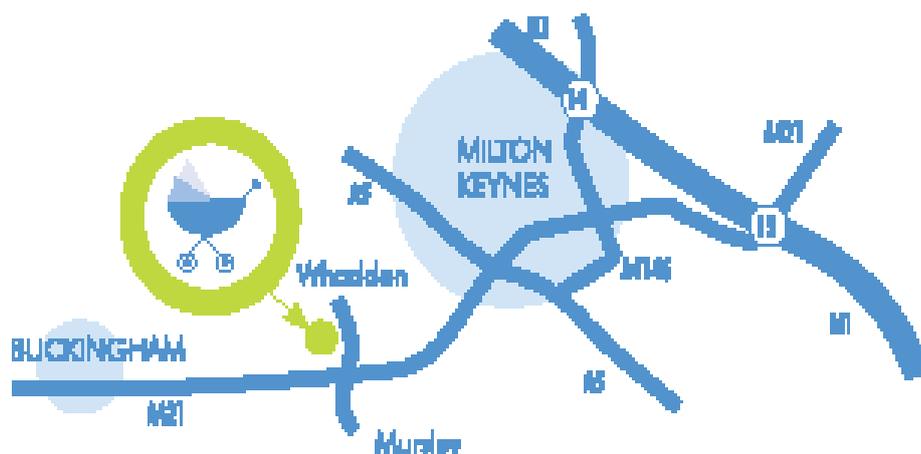
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Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 0LR

0800 594 3052

fax: 01908 505636

email: baby@bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk

web: www.bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk



Welcome to Whaddon Quarterly!

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

For comments, queries, and articles

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Editor's Letter

Welcome to the Autumn edition of The Whaddon Quarterly

What a summer we have had so far! At the time of writing, the schools don't go back for a couple of weeks and temperatures are still well in the mid-20s. I hope that the summer weather will extend into September as sunshine lifts everyone's mood. However, I'm also hoping for some rain to get water supplies back to where they should be, as well as the brown grass in my garden! Perhaps we can arrange for it just to rain at night: wouldn't that be nice?

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations across the country were amazing and will be remembered by many for the rest of their lives. Lots of people in Whaddon worked extremely hard to help create those memories for our villagers. Thank you to all those involved and there are some pages dedicated to those events in this edition of the WQ.

Whaddon village has a lot to look forward to over the coming months; a wealth of fun planned by the Jubilee Village Hall committee; the fabulous Harvest Festival and supper organised by the church; and of course, the second year of the grand Christmas tree lighting ceremony and festive celebrations afterwards.

Whaddon really is an amazing village, full of opportunities to meet up and/or to get involved. We are all very lucky. There is a choir which meets weekly; a table tennis club; a village pub; numerous Village Hall events; church events; allotments; a daytime and an evening WI; a book club and of course the (in)famous Whaddon Entertainers. If you want to get involved in any of these, find the contact person in the articles of this edition. I know they would all welcome new members.

This is my first attempt at putting together the Quarterly as I've now taken over the vacated Editor role. Please let me know if there is anything else that you'd like to see by emailing me at wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk or contacting me via the Whaddon Quarterly Facebook Page.

The deadline for the Winter edition is 25th November with publication planned within 7 days of that date.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer and the transition into Autumn.

Sharon
The Editor



Whaddon Parish Council Chairman's Report

What a summer we are having! Not just the weather but memorable events too. July saw many days of the hottest weather since 1976, culminating in a new record of over 100F and as I write, there is no sign of an end to the drought and our gardens are suffering. Sunny days are always good for the morale though extreme heat can be a problem for the elderly and the very young.

2022 was of course the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Whaddon celebrated happily and successfully over the long weekend, starting with a great beacon party at Coddimoor Farm hosted by the Hickman family with events at the pub and the Jubilee Hall and a joint street party with Nash to conclude. Whaddon School also joined in the Jubilee celebrations as well as welcoming the return of its traditional May Day Fayre. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to the school's head teacher and thank her for all the amazing standards that she has achieved.

We have been able to continue to celebrate, with the amazing victory of the Lionesses not to mention also beating both New Zealand and India at Test match cricket.

Whaddon Parish Council had a long meeting on 14th July to discuss and decide, where possible, on a number of village issues. As always, planning matters loomed large. Current Planning Applications are, of course a priority for discussion and recommendations to Buckinghamshire Council but, undoubtedly, the biggest issue facing the village is the future development of the "Shenley Park" area between Whaddon and Milton Keynes. The Parish Council has started meeting with both Planning and Traffic consultants of the project as well as officers of Buckinghamshire Council to get our opinions across, because Shenley Park is not going away; it will happen in due course and its size and proximity to Whaddon will have a huge impact on us in so many ways which could either enhance or harm our quality of life via the services provided which are the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council not Milton Keynes.

Cllr Billy Stanier Chairman
Whaddon Parish Council

Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

The Clerk's Corner



New Email Address for Whaddon Parish Council.

Your Council is busy planning ahead for the future, and we have upgraded our email address to give us better security, improve our ability to circulate email information to residents, and demonstrate our proper status as a Council. Please note our new address Clerk@Whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk. The old address will continue to work for a while, to facilitate the changeover.

Reporting a Missed Bin Collection.

Buckinghamshire Council has updated their online portal for reporting missed bin collections. If your bin has been missed, you need to report it online. If you're reading this via the digital version, click here: [Report a missed bin collection | Buckinghamshire Council](#). Or go to www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/report-a-missed-bin-collection. You should report the problem within 24hrs of the missed collection.

Sign up to get important information and updates by e-mail!

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

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s):

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take place at 7.00pm on 8th September 2022, 10th November 2022, 12th January 2023, 9th March 2023, at The Chapel, Stock Lane, MK17 0LU. Meetings are generally every other month on 2nd Thursday, but please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. Full details are also on the WPC website www.whaddonbuckspc.org.uk.

All are welcome!

When Cook's game pies were famous

The name of Lowndes emerges not only in the context of The Lowndes Arms but in a 1925 magazine article about Women in sport, as John Mortimer explains.

IT'S amazing how photographs can spark imagination. One in particular, published in the 12th December 1925 issue of The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News shows the 'great and the good' in Whaddon following a morning's 'shoot'; the photograph revealed no less than 30 brace of pheasants and a dozen rabbits – just part of that morning's 'bag'.



The one-page feature is titled Women in Sport (**above**).

Colonel W Selby-Lowndes, former Master of the Whaddon Chase Hounds, is depicted, having organised that day's shoot. The photograph reflects a bygone age: a world of power and wealth which made people omnipotent.

Standing primly near the centre of the Colonel's party, and flanked by much older people, stood Miss Eileen Greenless (**below**).



In 1925, women were beginning to take their place in wider society. Only a year earlier, at the first winter Olympic games in Chamonix, just 11 women competed out of 258 athletes attending; figure skating

the only sport in which they could compete.

Society has come a long way since those games, but women have yet to reach 50% participation.

Six years before, in 1918, Parliament granted the vote to women over 30 "who were householders, the wives of householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of £5, and graduates of British universities".

About 8.4 million women gained the vote.

Sometimes, women chose to accompany a shoot to collect fallen birds; but Miss Eileen doesn't look quite the kind of young lady to soil her hands in that way!

Eileen – a lady of mystery

One wonders how demure Miss Eileen, in shiny, pristinely clean boots, came to be invited to the shoot. Did she feel 'out of place'? In thrall of the power, riches, and privilege by all around her? How did she gain her spark?

And who was Eileen? The mystery surrounding her deepens; her surname does not appear in records. In the 1901 and 1921 censuses (the latter taken on the evening

of Sunday 24th April 1921*) there appears no one with that name. Could it be an error on the part of the magazine's reporter?

In 1901, an Eileen Greenlees, aged 11, appears; but she lived with her parents in Paisley, Renfrewshire. Later, did she move south? In 1921, an Alexandra E. Greenless (aged 23 in 1925) lived in Maidstone, Kent. What does E stand for? Was Miss Eileen Greenless perhaps on holiday on 19th June 1921?*

And was Miss Eileen that December 1925 day someone's mon chou? A good reason why she might feel out of place. Does anyone recognise her?

The Colonel's party comprised: Mr. MacRobert, Mr. Richard Selby Lowndes, Captain Musgrave Hall, Miss Eileen Greenless, Colonel and Mrs. W Selby Lowndes, Mr. and Mrs. Norris Watts, and Sir George Abercrombie.

Sir George William Abercromby, (1886–1964) was a Scottish baronet and landowner. He was commissioned as 2nd lieutenant into the Scots Guards in 1906. Three years later he was promoted to lieutenant in the 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders and afterwards served as aide-de-camp to Sir Neville Lyttelton in his capacity as Commander-in- Chief of Ireland.

Was Mr. Norris Watts the self-same Augustus Norris Watts who died in Winslow aged 70 on 21st July 1939? He would be 56 when photographed. Seems plausible. Augustus married Ida Janet Johnstone in Kingston Vale, Surrey, on 16th June 1898 aged 29 years. Ida died in 1972, aged 100!



Working behind the scenes

The photograph here shows some of the guns moving to the second covert. But if the principal photograph gives no hint of Eileen's identity, it also secretes what really happened behind the scenes in Whaddon Hall's kitchen. For within that stately house an army of one kind or another would be assisting cook's preparation for the shoot that day.



Guns move to second covert

The occasion required military precision; one to satisfy the Colonel's exacting demands – often exposing many a frayed nerve in the kitchen's enclaves. For, as soon as breakfast had been cleared at 'the house', kitchen staff would start on luncheon; some preparations even took place the day before.

Cook knew from experience what was expected. The master had told her someone "very important" would be in attendance! She aimed for perfection, as ever; a

demonstration of unflinching willingness and duty to please the master. Others would be only too ready to fill her shoes should she fail.

The custom for country-house parties, like those at Whaddon Hall, during autumn and winter, followed a carefully-choreographed ritual: it brought kitchen staff to the heights of activity as they prepared portable meals for shoot luncheons; events sometimes held over three days – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Cook was pivotal; not only did she cater for the gentlemen – those firing the guns – their ladies, and the gun loaders but, should the head keeper overlook food for his beaters and helpers, then that too would come from the kitchen. The still room provide the bread.

For the gentry, cook offered soup for first course – brown Windsor or broth – followed by one or more of the following: game pies and hams, Irish stew, casserole, curry with rice and beef pudding.

Cook's game pies were famous for miles around. A tour de force of pastry skills, with amazing culinary creations of decorative, patterned pastry containers. The Colonel insisted only game shot on the estate could be served at his shoots. He took pride in his game.

Game pies were hearty and filling

Game pie presented one and all with a hearty and filling dish, ideal for a winter's lunch, with venison, cranberry and red wine pie put on as a further offering. As a delicacy, enjoyed only by those rich enough to own them, by putting venison pie on the menu cook knew she had given the occasion some 'edge'.

Jacket potatoes and Brussels sprouts were essential to complete the menu. And, to top up, cook always selected several jars of her best pickles as well as her own delicacy: blackberry and Madeira sauce.

For third course, she always prepared a clutch of favourites: spotted dick pudding, jam puffs and dumplings. They went down well, as did the final course: plum cake and cheese. The entire meal, a veritable feast, was made complete with the Colonel's port, claret, sloe gin and cherry brandy from the Hall's well-stocked cellar. He made sure too loaders, beaters and helpers also had ample supplies of beer and cider.

For her part, unlike the men, Miss Eileen most likely opted to restrict her beverage intake lest she thought, in German, "Ich brauch das stille Örtchen" – (I need that little, small, quiet place!).

With timing critical, cook meanwhile (she might also be housekeeper) would chivvy staff to 'get a move on' with their 'jobs'; nothing must be late.

Her entourage comprised parlour maids (two), housemaids (three) a kitchen maid, a scullery maid, a lady's maid, gardener, and butler. Each had specific tasks to lighten that day's load. For example, head gardener had instructions to bring hayboxes to the kitchen door to accommodate cooking pans brimming with piping

hot soup. The hayboxes kept the food hot on its long journey to the pristinely laid trestle tables in the barn.

It was head gardener's job to oversee construction of hayboxes: stout wooden boxes (with strong lids) lined first with three or four old newspapers (pinned into place with drawing pins) before being given a six-inch deep bed of sweet hay. Hayboxes were essential for soups and casseroles.

Cook dutifully filled pans with near boiling soup: head gardener or butler always check pan bottoms to guarantee them free of embers. And, with pans safely nestling in hayboxes, another six inches of hay would snuggle on top of the pans. The box lid then provided the final seal, ready for the boxes to be taken to the barn.

Avoiding burnt jacket potatoes

The day before, would cook give instructions to the kitchen maid to peel vegetables; and she would bake any of her particularly large, deep game and venison pies – the final tally depending on number of guests, loaders, and beaters.

In mid-19th century large towns, jacket potatoes were popular; street-sellers would hawk them during autumn and winter months. In London, 10 tons of jacket potatoes (tatties) were sold daily by baked- potato men.

Jacket potatoes presented many a cook with a headache; some being frightened to death at the prospect of baking burnt potatoes. To avoid this, they constantly repositioned them in the oven.

Whaddon Hall's cook though remained 'cool'; she had the matter in hand. And, once baked, at the last minute she would put them in deep pans with tight-fitting lids. She placed them too in hayboxes, surrounded with sweet hay to maintain heat. For large shoots, she skewered them together in sacks.

The shoot (on the day of the photograph) was small; but for large shoots, when there could be 60 beaters, cook's work could treble. Each beater expected his bread sliced from a 4lb loaf, and six slices of cheese. Loaders too could be choosy. Some, disliking casseroles, or stews with their beer, preferred large hot joints and jacket potatoes. Beaters generally liked beer, bread, and cheese.

Dear to the Colonel's heart

Cook meticulously supervised loading of the meal into the pony-drawn gigs at the kitchen door. Head gardener (or butler) knew to be very careful about transporting the beverages to the luncheon tables, where they were carefully arranged for eager guests.

It's not surprising kitchen staff and cook breathed sighs of relief as food and drinks departed on their way. Cook could turn attention to herself having first ensured those in servants' hall had their meals.

Meanwhile, as the Colonel reflected on the scene around him in the barn, his guests talking quietly amongst themselves and enjoying his hospitality, he felt a sense of theatre; orchestrated through his heritage – a decade earlier in 1911, his father William (a 75-year-old widower) of private means lived at 31 Devonshire Place, London.

In 1911 too, no less than 19 souls occupied Whaddon Hall: 4 males and 15 females. There is no obvious list of the occupants of Whaddon Hall in the April/June 1921 census.

Colonel Selby Lowndes's idyll in front of his guests was in sharp contrast to his bitter war experiences in South Africa with the Bucks Yeomanry Cavalry, and the mutilation of comrades in 1914-1918.

A shoot, like a hunt, never failed to engender a tingle of excitement. The Whaddon Chase Hunt was dear to the Colonel's heart. The pack, formerly a family pack, was such that he, his father and his grandfather had all been Masters of Hunt. In 1941, the Colonel became chairman of the Hunt Committee.

Educated at Eton, he enjoyed a distinguished military career. He died aged 80 at his home, Tinker's Corner, Winslow.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Selby-Lowndes of Whaddon Hall (the William Selby-Lowndes responsible for the sale of Winslow Hall in 1897), he married twice with two sons and a daughter by his first wife. One son died.

Colonel Selby-Lowndes' family extended back to the 16th century; Winslow Hall was built by an ancestor with the Whaddon estate passing into family possession in the 18th century.

Derek White recalls Robert Selby-Lowndes building Chase House for the Colonel once he left Whaddon Hall.

Hung in outdoor sheds

Meanwhile, at the end of a day's shoot, after the party had returned with their 'haul', the birds would be sorted: some for the house – just a fraction of the total 'bag'.

The remainder would be hung in outdoor sheds for further sorting. Then, some would go to local fishmongers for sale in the town; the rest, the choicest, were sent to friends. They were not packed in boxes but sent with labels around their necks. It's a tribute to the then post office that they arrived safely at their destination, and in one piece.

The elite pursuit of fox hunting in the area goes back 1770, when a bond between William Lowndes and Thomas Selby led the latter to bequeath William Lowndes the Whaddon Estate. At the time, squires hunted anything that moved in the countryside, but primarily foxes and hares; they also used hunts to pursue poachers and sheep stealers.

As David Noy reveals in his comprehensive book, "How one man transformed a town" (reviewed in the last WQ), William Selby-Lowndes (1807-86) is credited with founding the Selby-Lowndes or Whaddon Hunt Chase.

However, fox hunting in Buckinghamshire began long before then. England's first fox hunt, in Bilsdale, Yorkshire, was set up in 1668 by the Duke of Buckingham; he may well have started an interest in hunting in north Buckinghamshire. He hunted deer too in the Whaddon Chase. (With help from Susan and Derek White.)

(*NB. Authorities postponed the 1921 from 24th April to 19th June although the paperwork gives an April date; it was argued this allowed for minimum movement of people)

Bell Ringing – Would you like to learn how?

The fine and ancient art of church bell ringing is an emotive and distinctive sound in Whaddon, forming part of the backdrop to rural life, to Sunday mornings, to weddings, and national celebrations.

At its peak in 2004, there were nine ringers at St Mary's, registered with the Oxford and Diocese Guild of Church Bell Ringers, for the church's six bells.

Regularly augmented by members of other bell ringing bands, practice nights often saw ten or twelve people ringing the bells of Whaddon's church.

Whenever ringing was needed, Whaddon supplied its own ringers, and could even offer the luxury of 'loaning' ringers to other towers!



Photo: St. Marys Church, Whaddon
Supplied by John Mortimer

By the time you read this, Whaddon will have only two active ringers registered with it. Ringing in Whaddon now relies upon support from an overstretched supply pool of local ringers, to allow the traditional sound of bell ringing to peal across the village. A recent wedding tested this, and only a significant effort from many people managed to rally the needed band.

The reasons for this malaise in bell ringing recruitment and retention are many: falling church congregations, from whom many ringers were once recruited; the age demographic of ringers; and the fact that bell ringing does not perhaps have a contemporary image in more secular society. More recently, COVID-19 also changed existing and potential ringers' priorities, along with a muted interest from the local community.

Thanks to strong local connections and a pleasant ringing environment, St Mary's Whaddon, tirelessly led by tower captain Derek White, was able to thrive.

Now the band is so reduced that it is no longer able train prospective new ringers.

The conclusion of these pressures is that ringing is becoming sporadic at Whaddon, with the reality of not having the bells for Sunday mornings, weddings, and national celebrations now all but inevitable.

Should anyone reading this feel a call to action and a wish to take up the fine old tradition, please visit www.northbucksbranch.org.uk where you will find key contacts.

The towers at Shenley and Loughton have good bands and are very willing to teach new ringers.

Phillip Starr
Ladymead Close, Whaddon.



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

What a wonderful long weekend we had back in June to celebrate the Queen being the longest reigning sovereign in British history.



The bunting and flags came out, even if the sun wasn't always co-operative, and the village looked lovely. Even the bus shelter swap shop looked patriotic, decked out in Union Flag bunting, courtesy of Ann Bennett.



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Beacon at Coddimoor Farm

Thursday 2nd June 2022



There is a long and unbroken tradition in the UK of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons - on top of mountains, church and cathedral towers, castle battlements, on town and village greens, country estates, parks, and farms, along beaches and on cliff tops. In 1897, beacons were lit to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

In 1977, 2002 and 2012, beacons commemorated the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees of The Queen, and in 2016 Her Majesty's 90th birthday.

On 2nd June 2022, we celebrated another unique milestone in our history: Her Majesty the Queen's 70th year as our Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth - her Platinum Jubilee. It is a feat no previous monarch has achieved.

More than 2,022 beacons were lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories, and one in each of the capital cities of Commonwealth countries in recognition of The Queen's long and selfless service. One of these official beacons was lit in the fields near Coddimoor Farm, co-ordinated by Helen and Chris Hickman and many other volunteers. Many thanks to all who were involved.

The village turned out in force to celebrate in true Whaddon style.



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

BBQ party at Whaddon Jubilee Hall & weekend Nash fun!



Friday 3rd June, Saturday 4th June and Sunday 5th June 2022



Whaddon Jubilee Hall hosted a Barbecue party on Friday 3rd June which was attended by over 100 people. It was lovely to see so many villagers, old and new, in attendance, along with a contingent from our neighbouring village of Nash.

Food was expertly cooked by our team of trusty chefs and served by the dedicated Hall Committee. Food, drink, music and laughter were the perfect ingredients for a wonderful evening.



On Saturday 4th June, Nash village celebrated with a day of music, line-dancing, a talent show featuring Whaddon's own Tilly Garland accompanied by Graham Hain, food, drink and a selfie booth. Photos left of some of the many Whaddon attendees.

On Sunday 5th June, Nash hosted a street party for both villages.

Partygoers decorated their own tables and brought food and drink to share but the 'showstopper' had to be the amazing Platinum Jubilee Pudding created by Alice Hain.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the Jubilee celebrations so successful and memorable. We really do live in an amazing village.



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

A Huge Thank You!

Thank you to all attendees who supported the local events for the Platinum Jubilee.

It was a momentous four consecutive days of parties and gatherings.

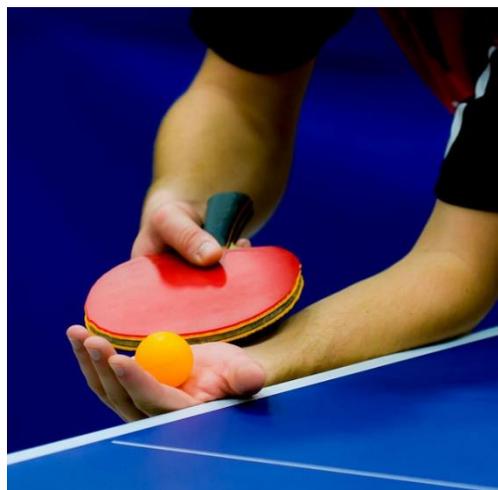


Thanks, in particular go to Helen and Chris Hickman for hosting the Beacon event and to the stewards making sure it was all safe for everyone to enjoy. A collection on the night raised £300 which has been donated to a local Ukrainian family for educational purposes.

Thank you to the Whaddon Jubilee Hall Committee for the wonderful BBQ evening, to Jacqueline Dove and the Church Committee for the moving service of thanksgiving followed by refreshments, to the local pub for events there and to the joining with Nash and Whaddon for an enjoyable 'knees up' few days and 'letting one's hair down' together in the celebrations.

All events were thoroughly enjoyed and long overdue. Let's hope for some follow-ups soon!

Cllr Jane Herriman



**Interested in playing
Table Tennis on Tuesday
evenings?**

Beginners and experts welcome.

**Contact Mark Carter:
magcarter@hotmail.co.uk**

Whaddon Women's Institute

So, what is it that makes Whaddon W.I. so enjoyable? The camaraderie is great, the speakers outstanding, the Jubilee Hall is perfect, and there's always tea and biscuits (and sometimes cake!) and a chance to catch up at the end. We are all guaranteed a good afternoon with excellent company every time.

In May we celebrated Whaddon W.I.'s 86th birthday with a tea party. We were amazed that this little W.I. had survived for so long and we hope that it will survive for many more years to come.

In June we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee with Bucks Fizz at our garden party (the Bucks Fizz might just catch on!!). There we were in all our finery with our posh hats enjoying the sunshine and the strawberry gateaux and many other delights supplied by our members and a great time was had by all!

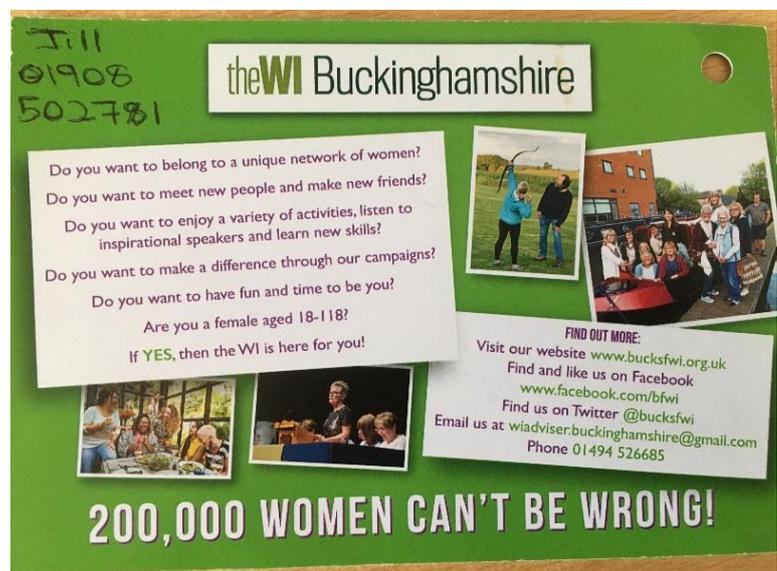
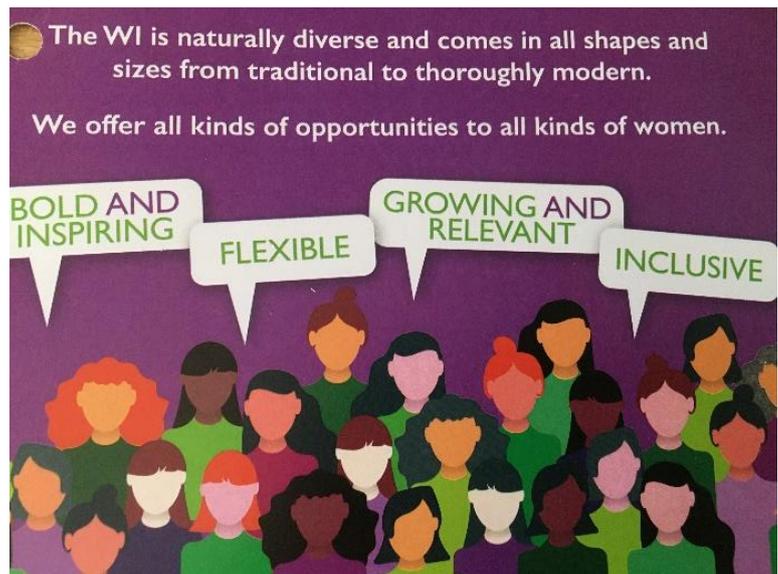
Our members Mary and Sue epitomised the spirit of the W.I. and stepped in at very short notice when our speaker had to cancel in July. They patiently showed us how to make beautiful fabric covered, egg-shaped hanging decorations. Amazing what you can achieve when you are shown how to do things by the experts and my goodness the conversation flowed – we talked about world events and how we thought things should be sorted, and some very strong opinions there were too! Of course, I'm not mentioning any names, but

In August we hope to visit Claydon House – one of two outings we usually have each year.

The programme for the rest of the year is shown below and it looks exciting. Please do come along to any of our meetings that might be of interest to see what we do. We always start with a short meeting at 2.00pm, and then the real fun starts!!

We meet at 2.00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Jubilee Hall. We are a small group and would welcome new members, so please pop in and see us.

You might be interested to know that there are now virtual W.I.s with speakers online created during the pandemic and still proving very popular for those who cannot make the usual meetings.



If you would like any more information on this or anything else, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jill Aitken
Secretary to Whaddon W.I.
(01908 502781)

W.I. Programme 2022



September 7th - Linda's volunteering work at the Elephant sanctuary

October 5th - Everything women ought to know in the 1900s

November 2nd - Annual General Meeting and Social

December 7th - Christmas party with Christmas crafts

The Whaddon W.I. sent a congratulations card to the Queen on the event of her Platinum Jubilee and recently received the card of thanks below.



'Wiggly Road eviction and the Good Samaritan' by Jean Nicholas (née King)

The '**Wiggly Road**' has become the popular Whaddon name for the land containing the farmhouse where I was born. This was the location of Shenley Common Farm, shown right, which my parents, Grace and John King, became tenant farmers of in 1939.



After my brother David took over the farm in 2003, he was given ten weeks' notice and £30,000 compensation to vacate the farm, because developers had purchased the land to build houses. They would "*change the locks in exactly ten weeks*" which they duly did and before we were paid!

Now living in Cornwall, I generally visit Whaddon once a year to tend the graves of my parents and brother David and catch up with Hazel Dudley, Barry and local family.



When given the short ten weeks' notice, my brother David (pictured left in the 1960s) was devastated, and he said, "*I feel like a refugee.*" He moved to Finmere and during the hot July and August months transferred all our family furniture and effects in his 30cwt truck. By then, I had moved to Cornwall.

In 2003, I was told by his wife: "*Last week on his way back from Finmere, David became delirious and pulled up his truck on the verge in Nash Road near Dougie and Sarah Low's farm and laid down in the ditch.*"

"Later that afternoon, a passing driver saw an arm move. He stopped and examined David and realised that he was dehydrated and vaguely recognised him; he gave him some water and mentioned our farm name to which David responded. So, the driver put him back in his truck passenger seat and drove him home."

In 2018, I was visiting Whaddon Church when I was asked, "*Beautiful day! Have you come far?*" explained that I was saying hello to my parents and brother, David King, in the graveyard. "*Wow!*" said the gentleman at the gate. "*I took him home in his truck 15 years ago*"

*"So, you were the **Good Samaritan!**"* This was John Conneely who lives next to the church gate. He invited me in for afternoon tea and wanted to know all about the family and especially why David as a farmer knowing the need to take in plenty of water, was dehydrated in 2003?

I explained about the 'eviction' and how he was run ragged, moving in the hot summer months. John explained that a week after he had taken him home, David had knocked on his door with a bottle of whisky. As a man of few words, it was his way of saying, 'thank you'.

In April 2022, I again met John at Whaddon Church gate and told him that on 3rd February I had celebrated my 80th birthday, so he took the picture right. He said before my history of Whaddon vanished into the ether I should send my story to the Whaddon Quarterly. I hope you enjoy it.



The Jubilee Hall – Whaddon’s Village Hall

News and Upcoming events!



Did you know that you can hire the hall for private events at competitive rates? Our chairs and tables can also be hired if you need some extra furniture for your private gatherings.

For the first time in many years, we are increasing our hire charges. The new rates from October will be £12 per hour for Whaddon residents; £18 per hour for non-residents, plus an additional cleaning charge for one-off bookings.

You will have noticed the redecoration of the small hall. Next month the decorators are booked to do the same in the main hall, so there will be a fresh, new look. In addition, we have installed a system for playing music in one or both halls, included within the hire cost.

Please contact us through the Jubilee Hall Facebook page or e-mail: whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com for more details.

Hire income alone is not enough to fund the annual running costs of the hall, which include heating, lighting, insurance, cleaning, water rates, licences, and general maintenance. Fundraising events are required to bridge the gap. That is why your support at our events is so gratefully received and very much appreciated.

In 2022, as well as normal day to day maintenance, we now need to focus on some much-needed external maintenance. Please help us achieve this by supporting us where you can.

Thank you to the group of volunteers who, although not part of the committee, help from time to time with events, sorting out and general maintenance. If you'd like to be part of this group, please get in touch with Sharon Bessell.

FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR - Please save the dates in your diaries:

Friday 23rd September: Quiz Night – Doors/bar open 7.30pm. Quiz starts 8pm.

Come along to this popular village event and claim the “Brains of the Village” title!

Teams of up to 6 people. £4 per person entry fee. There are limited tables so book yours early to avoid disappointment.

Please contact **Graham Hain** on **07782 265321** or e-mail him on grahamhain@hotmail.com to book your team.



Saturday 8th October: An evening with The Opera Dudes. Doors/Bar open 7pm, show starts 7.30pm



Back by popular demand – **The Opera Dudes**.

If you missed these incredibly talented and funny entertainers on their previous visits to Whaddon, or are new to the village, please come along and give them a try. This really is an evening not to be missed. Musicals, melody, and mirth in equal doses, with a licensed bar and an opportunity to see your friends and neighbours.

Tickets are £15 each and can be reserved now by contacting **Deb Spinks** on **07737 412954** or **Pierre Hibble** on **07903 611643**

Wednesday 2nd November: Jubilee Hall Annual General Meeting. 7pm start.

We would love to see some new faces at our AGM in November. Come along if you would like to find out what the committee does, particularly if you are interested in getting involved, as the committee for the next year will be proposed and confirmed at the meeting. Any contribution, large or small, is welcome and highly appreciated.

If you would like to find out more about the committee before the AGM evening, please contact any of the existing members through the Jubilee Hall Facebook page or e-mail: whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com.



Saturday 5th November: Winter Craft Fayre. Event runs from 2pm to 4pm

Come and enjoy Whaddon Jubilee Hall's Winter Craft Fayre. Browse the local craft stalls and meet up with your friends and neighbours for cakes and a cuppa! Event runs from 2pm until 4pm.

Friday 11th November: Quiz Night – Doors/bar open 7pm. Quiz starts 8pm.



Put this in your diary to join the battle of the brains in Whaddon village.

Teams of up to 6 people. £4 per person entry fee.

It's always a popular event and tables are limited, so book yours early to avoid disappointment.

Please e-mail Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com to book your team.

Saturday 3rd December: Christmas tree lighting-up ceremony followed by a festive village social evening.

After the success of this event in 2021, we are doing it all again!

Times to be confirmed in the Winter edition of the Quarterly and on the Jubilee Hall noticeboard nearer the time. A festive social event for all the family.

Please come along and bring your friends too. For those new to the village, it is a great opportunity to meet the many lovely people living in our wonderfully inclusive and friendly community. And you'll be helping to raise funds whilst having fun and catching up with friends and neighbours!



Saturday 4th February 2023: Social evening with food.

Please save the date and more details will follow in the next edition of the Whaddon Quarterly.

Please keep an eye on the Jubilee Hall noticeboard for more details and updates. If you are on Facebook, please like our page "Whaddon Jubilee Hall".

The Whaddon Entertainers

The Whaddon Entertainers is a group of enthusiastic villagers and friends of the village who like to have fun! Shows have been taking place for 24 years and many of you will have seen, or taken part, in one or more of them.

And they are planning their next show!

If you'd like to be involved or would like to find out more about what the Entertainers do, please come along to the kick-off meeting at **7.30pm** on **Wednesday 5th October** in the Village Hall.

There are lots of ways that you can be involved.

If you want to be in the cast: singing, dancing, acting, non-speaking parts, walk-on roles or even just being a lampshade, there will be something for you!

But you don't have to go on stage. There are roles in the technical side of the show, lights and sound, backstage crew and front of house as well as helping with the administration and marketing of the show itself.

If you wish to be involved or would like to find out more but can't make it to the meeting, please contact Sharon Bessell (e-mail Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com) or message the Whaddon Entertainers Facebook page.



Whaddon Welcomes Akari

July was a special month for Lynne and Clive Herbert of Stock Lane. The whole month was devoted to the return to Whaddon, from Tokyo, of their daughter Lianne with her husband Hiroshi, bringing home with them their lovely 2-year-old grand-daughter Akari, for her chance to see her grandparents for the first time ever following the recent pandemic.



Lianne and Hiroshi's wedding ceremony at St Mary's in July 2018 has often been referred to by friends and neighbours, as a grand occasion with a memorable service in church accompanied by Chase Choir, followed by Japanese-influenced song and dance entertainment in the Hall.



'Then and Now' pics of that lovely day outside St Mary's and their latest changed circumstances are seen left and right. Clive and Lynne want to thank all their friends and neighbours for their good wishes and being able to share their visit with copious amounts of tea and biscuits at Highview.



Lianne and her family have sadly returned to Japan now, but plan for a move to a new house in Tokyo in October. Clive and Lynne look forward to making a trip over when the 'gates' are opened.

FUN FACT!

8th September is:
National Star Trek Day.

A celebration of the legendary Sci-Fi TV series which promoted tolerance and unity between all the peoples of Earth.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Did you know that in 2021, over £15 million was lost to courier fraud in the UK, affecting over 3,600 victims?

In the midst of the cost-of-living crisis, there has never been a greater need to protect vulnerable people from fraud and scams. The charity Crimestoppers is working with the City of London Police and Action Fraud to raise awareness of what courier fraud is, and how we can prevent it. Fraudsters create a false sense of urgency, Courier fraud is a scam where criminals pretend to be the police or the victim's bank, where victims are tricked into providing banking details, withdrawing cash, foreign currency, purchasing gold, watches, or other expensive items.

These items, as well as bank cards, are handed over to strangers (known as couriers) who can turn up at your home in a false 'race against time' and pose as police or bank workers, claiming they urgently need to collect these items from the victim to protect their savings or property.

Sadly, in many cases, the victims oblige and are unable to claw back what they lose. Victims are often vulnerable or older people. Around 60% of victims are over 70, and whilst the average loss per person is around £5,000, the highest single loss last year was £640,000.

One victim was a woman in her 80s who was conned out of more than £30,000 after handing over her debit card and her driver's licence.

For the vulnerable victims of this sophisticated scam, the emotional and financial impacts can be devastating. For the criminal gangs behind it, the profits fund wider serious crime that impacts communities across the country.

Crimestoppers, which is independent from the police, offers individuals a way to speak up with information on those involved in courier fraud. Stay 100% anonymous by using our unique service.

Call freephone 0800 555 111 at any time or complete a safe and secure anonymous online form at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org), 24/7, 365 days a year.

If you are a victim, then all courier scams must be reported to Action Fraud, which is run by City of London Police and remains the single reporting process for this type of offence across England and Wales.

However, if a crime is in progress, then we advise victims or witnesses to call 999.

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

Thames Valley NW have provided some tips on how to stay safe by protecting our property and ourselves especially as we spend more time in our gardens/ spaces.

Preventing Burglary

Look at your house as a burglar would - if you were locked out how would you get back in? This will help you identify any weak spots where you will need to improve your home security.

- Keep external doors locked even when you are at home.
- If you open a window, always close, and lock it when you go out or leave the room.
- Keep all keys out of sight and reach of letter boxes, cat flaps, and downstairs doors and windows. Never leave a key hidden outside!
- Make your home look occupied once darkness falls by using a time switch that turns on a light, so it looks as though someone is in.
- If you have an alarm system, use it.
- Mark your property so it could be identified There are various options: a UV permanent pen using your postcode i.e. MK17 ---, or SmartWater which is a traceable liquid. Register your property for free at www.immobilise.com.

Preventing Vehicle Crime

- Before you get out of your vehicle check your door pockets and that you have not left anything lying around in sight, and wipe away any round sticky marks on the window that may show you have a holder for mobiles or sat nav.
- Check you have closed windows and locked all doors. If your car has an automatic locking system, still check that they are locked. Criminals nearby can use jamming devices to block the remote signal especially if you forget to lock your car.
- It is important when you are parking your car especially if you will be away for the day and not return until the evening to make sure you park in a secure parking area where there are lights and possibly use cameras or has a security firm in attendance.

Preventing Personal Robbery

- Plan before you go out. Know exactly where you are going, and how you will get there and back. Inform family or a friend, to say where you are going with an approximate time of return. Always be prepared for a change of plan.
- Keep your purse and wallet close and secure. Only take out essential items you need.
- When you are out, always keep to well-lit streets and never take shortcuts.
- Be aware of your surroundings and do not use your mobile phone to text or listen to music as this will distract you and advertise to any criminals that you have a mobile phone.
- If you do not feel safe, then change your route.
- If going out with friends, try to stay together on route home. Try to avoid walking home alone at night.

Having said all that, enjoy the sunshine and the holidays whether you are going abroad or staying home.

Neighbourhood Watch.

News from Whaddon C of E School...

Whaddon Bids Farewell to a Much-Loved and Highly Respected Head Teacher

With great sadness, pupils at Whaddon's C of E Primary School bade farewell to Mrs Davies, their Head Teacher in July.

Mrs Davies joined the school in 2015, taking on the leadership of a small First School dating back to 1811 that has played a key role in the education of Whaddon's youngsters for over 200 years.



Mrs Davies arrived with bags of new ideas and energy and introduced lots of new opportunities for new ways of teaching and learning, like outdoor activities, teamwork and focus on environmental interests. Her priority was on child-led learning which encompassed the needs of the whole child, not just the 'Three Rs' that many senior Whaddon residents will remember, some maybe without much fondness!

Before much time had passed, Whaddon's school started to become a very sought-after school in the local area; roll numbers recovered, and the 'Forest School' was a huge draw for new pupils. Whaddon's 'little school' went from strength to strength. But the future of the school remained threatened by the lack of provision for older pupils.

After exploring all the options, the brave decision was made to add provision for extra years and expand the school to become a Primary School. The plan was to grow from the original 20 children to accommodate around 60 pupils. Funding was secured for the expansion, including substantial donations from the Oxford Diocese Board of Education. Whaddon School now has two brand-new state-of-the-art classrooms and many new assets such as a minibus, all made possible by the larger number of pupils accommodated.

On top of the hard work being done on the expansion plans, the school was going from strength to strength in terms of the quality of education and the academic standards achieved, and it quickly received the highest accolades with both an 'Outstanding' designation from Ofsted and SIAMS (the Statutory Inspectors for Anglican and Methodist Schools).

Mrs Davies also placed high value on links with the community and other local schools. Pupils benefitted from the local farming community and learning about the environment, contacts with other local schools such as Sir Thomas Fremantle's A level students teaching dance; from regular contact with St Mary's Church and spiritual guidance; and a flow of student teachers bringing their new ideas and enthusiasm to the school. Mrs Davies and the school became the 'go-to' place as a model of how things should be done in a successful school for the Local Education Authority.

Then, just as things were going so well, the pandemic struck! Holding things together during those unprecedented times was a tough call. Mrs Davies is rightly proud of her and her team's achievement of getting her school through the Covid pandemic intact, with the astonishing achievement of current academic results being back on a par with pre-Covid levels.

Today, as a visitor to the school, one is struck by the happy atmosphere, the buzz of hard work in progress; the excitement, variety, and relevance of what is being taught; the amazing opportunities children have these days and the professionalism and dedication of the staff.

Whaddon School is hugely lucky to benefit from the hard work, dedication, and support of the Friends of Whaddon School, who provide valuable financial support, and a dedicated team of school governors who oversee the management and provide help and support to the staff and management team on a day-to-day basis.

Mrs Davies says: "The absolute best part of my job is to see the progress children have made and continue to make. Every day sees children take new steps forward, grasp new ideas and achieve new things. That puts a huge smile on my face."

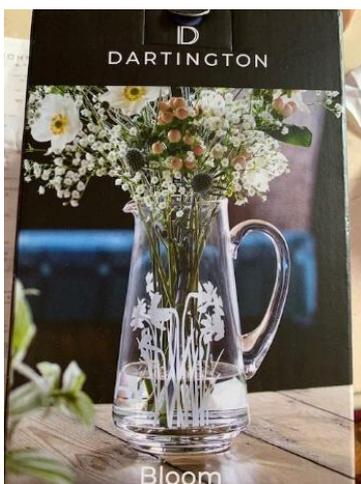
Whaddon wishes Mrs Davies safe travels and every success in her future plans and endeavours.



Selina Davies leaves an Outstanding legacy behind in Whaddon.

Whaddon Parish Council presented headteacher Mrs Selina Davies with a Dartington crystal vase as a token of appreciation for all the great work she and her team at Whaddon C of E School have done over recent years to provide an outstanding education to the young people in and around the village.

It is with great sadness for us all that she is moving onto pastures new, to support a family member initially, but we hope in the fullness of time that she will continue to give other young people opportunities and encourage their aspirations so that they too can achieve their very best.



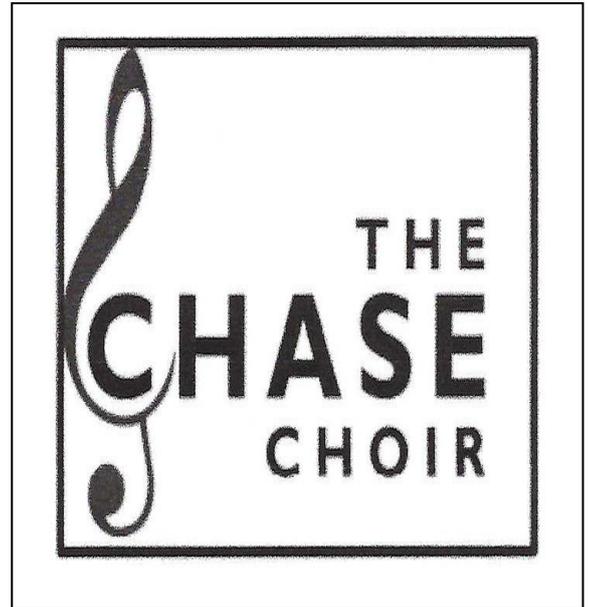
We wish her well in her new ventures and hope that the daffodils on the jug vase will remind her of our lovely village in spring times especially.

Cllr Jane Herriman

News from Whaddon's Chase Choir

Our last performance was, would you believe it, July 2021, at a garden party where we said “farewell” to Karen and Paul Logan as they moved to Cumbria for the next chapter in their lives. Before that, our last concert with an invited audience was way back in December 2019! So, it was surely about time that Chase Choir, under the new Musical Directorship of Craig McLeish, popped up again to sing in public!

We decided on an informal approach, with café-style tables, which made for a great ambience, and an airing of some brand-new material, much of which was arranged by Craig himself, along with a few old favourites. Our special guests, flute quintet Champagne Flutes, provided a refreshing, bubbly interlude in both halves too.



A big thank you to everyone who came along to support us that evening. I think from the feedback we received, that a good time was had by all who came. We deliberately kept quiet about the proposed audience participation (Craig's idea) in case it put people off, but apparently, you're all just itching to perform in true Whaddon style, and very good it sounded too! And we made a great big £400 for our two charities, Keech Hospice and Thames Valley Air Ambulance, so thank you for your generosity.

If the idea of singing solo on stage terrifies you (it does me), then how about trying out singing with a large-ish group? Worried about singing the wrong notes? It doesn't matter. You won't stand out! Does the idea of having to audition to join a choir seem daunting? No worries: we don't ask you to do that either. Come along and have a trial session for just £5, and see how you like it, with no strings attached.

And did you know that singing is good for your physical and mental wellbeing? All that controlled breathing, mixed with a giant dose of community spirit, laughter, making music with others, concentration without distractions, I could go on, but there are so many advantages to joining a choir, it's pretty much a no-brainer! Take the first step and contact **Marianna on 01908 503194**. We meet on a Monday evening in the Jubilee Hall from 7.45 – 9.30pm. We'd love to welcome you to a great way to make Mondays fun!

Marianna Beckwith
Chase Choir

News from St Mary's Church

Hello everyone, in Whaddon, or further afield,

Church is cool! This is true in more ways than one, but it certainly has been a haven of blessed peace and coolness during this latest period of excessive heat and sultriness. It seems strange, I know, to want to get out of the sun, when it's a joy to have good weather, but I do hope some of you have been able to go in there during the day and enjoy some cool



time, away from the steamy heat of outside, and safe from sunburn! St Mary's continues to be open during the day, every day. We are making sure that water will always be available, and we now have a brand-new Visitors' Book on the table as you go in ... please be sure to leave your autograph therein: it will be a pleasure to know who has stayed a while in our lovely church.

It was wonderful to be able to hold a 'proper' Florrie's Coffee Morning in July. It was a great success, and we offer grateful thanks to Hazel and Barry Dudley for holding it in their lovely garden. Thanks, too, to everyone else involved: those who organised it all, those who made yummy cakes or provided biscuits and other delights, (raffle prizes included), the strong arm gang who moved the furniture from the Chapel up into the Dudley's garden, the servers and washers-up ... and of course everyone who came, enjoyed the cakes, the chat and the friendship, and who contributed so generously to the marvellous total of £562 for church funds. Thank you all, it was a super morning. And speaking of coffee

Coffee mornings on the first Saturday of the month will begin again in September, from 10.30 am on 3rd with tea, coffee and cake in the church: see you there!

There is something new for a Sunday afternoon. On the first Sunday of the month, Jacqueline will be running Forest Church. Meetings will be outside, exploring our deep spiritual connection to nature. Forest Church is for all faiths (and none) as we learn what it might mean to connect to the deepest part of ourselves: what we might call our soul or spirit.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be at 10.30 on Sunday 16th October, with the Harvest Supper to follow on Monday 17th October. Please put the dates in your diaries – the giant marrow auction is one not to be missed!

Church is cool – come and see. You will receive a very warm welcome.

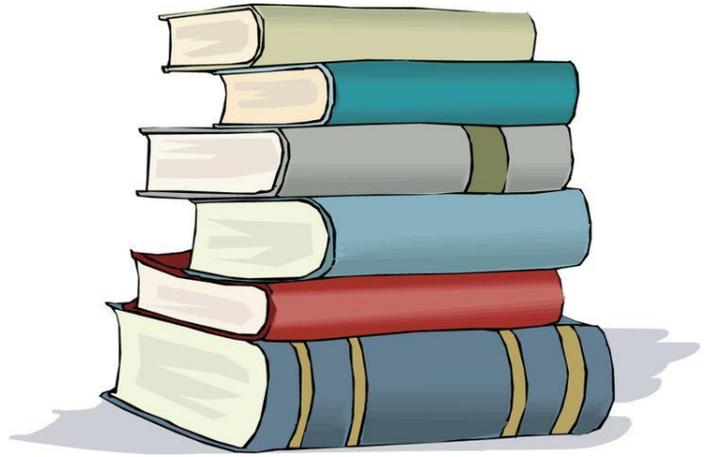
With very best wishes

Daphne Willis
Church Warden, St Mary's, Whaddon

Whaddon Book Club

Lockdown and Zoom remain as mere memories with beneficial results. We now meet in the afternoon on the last Monday of the month, at the home of one of the members. We have new members, but always welcome more.

Having completed our last list of books some months ago, we agreed to ask members to propose 3 books: fiction, nonfiction and a classic. We now have a good list for the next year!



Recently, we completed the book *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*, by Lynn Truss, and now find punctuation even more complicated! We are currently reading *Emma* by Jane Austen and are thoroughly enjoying the story and the prose.

We plan to read *Sully* by Chelsey Sullenberger, *Hello Darkness My Old Friend* by Sanford D Greenberg and *Klara* by Kazuo Iskiguro, in the coming months.

We always welcome new members and although we have decided to continue meeting in the afternoons, we attempt to be flexible about the exact time and day of the week.

Contact for further information

Jane Porter 01908 501709

News from Whaddon's Night Owlers W.I.

We continue to have a wide-ranging programme of meetings, varying from a wine and cheese- tasting, to an RNLI talk, to a visit to Great Linford Parks Trust project which, while fascinating, got cut short due to torrential rain. We are hoping to go back and find out more about the cascading ponds later on... (Interestingly, when driving back towards Whaddon, we realised that there had been no rain here at all!)

Our green credentials continued with a demonstration from a lady who recycles and reuses items to craft completely new and useful items which was inspiring.

Looking forward to the autumn, we are going bowling, hearing about the life of an outreach worker (not the BT version), and starting on some *whispers* Christmas crafting... apologies if mention of that 'c' word upsets anyone this early in the year (I am writing this in the middle of a heatwave, looking forward to it being cold again.)

Maybe you would be interested in joining us? Come and see us on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall. Contact **Daphne** for more info: **01908 502088**. We would love to see you!

Alison Cross

Whaddon Night Owlers W.I.

News from The Allotments

Tips and Hints from Whaddon's Gaya Gopal

Every year we are faced with different challenges and this year has been a long drought in the peak of summer. Now is the time to really enjoy your allotment, with routine maintenance, and of course plenty of harvesting. As allotment growers, we need to think about next season as well. Fruits and vegetables are ripening wherever you look, and it's time to start thinking about winter sowings.

So, what can do at the allotment now?

- Start collecting seeds and label them carefully; store them in a cool dry place.
- Deadhead perennials to allow for continuous blooms.
- Stay on top of watering as high temperatures will dry out soil and compost very quickly. Water in the evening to minimise evaporation loss.
- Keep the brassicas and other crops covered to avoid pests.
- On your veg plot, keep harvesting beans, carrots, courgettes, potatoes, onions, spinach, and fruits. Check on your pumpkins and squash, see if they need covering.
- Plant out Kale and winter cabbage seedlings, sow chard and winter hardy spring onions and spinach.
- Continue to weed your plots and mow/clip grass paths regularly.



Gaya Gopal

Whaddon Allotments

WHADDON PLANNING SNIPPETS

The following planning applications remain undetermined at the time of going to press. Full details of these can be viewed on the Buckinghamshire Council planning web page at:

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Just follow the instructions and enter the appropriate planning application number.

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

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

Nothing has appeared on the BC planning website since 26 May when the presence of Great Crested Newts was reported, requiring further investigation and mitigation. Earlier, on 11th May the highways officer reported that because the Planning Officer had now advised that there is no permitted development fall-back position, the Highway Authority wishes to raise an objection on the grounds of transport unsustainability, a point which generally reflected WPC's concerns. WPC understands that although the dealing officer has now left the council, the case has been delegated to a new officer who is awaiting further information from the applicant's agents regarding the concerns raised by AVDC, and WPC.

No final decision has been made yet.

22/01293/APP - Erection of two semi-detached cottages - Land R/O The Lowndes Arms Public House, 4 High Street, Whaddon.

Nothing has appeared on the BC planning website since 13th July. On the 17th May, the highways officer stated that he "would also like the applicant to clarify whether any parking spaces for the pub will be lost as a result of this new development and for the applicant to submit a new parking layout for the pub". Heritage responded with comments on 30th June.

A decision is awaited from BC.

22/00864/APP - Chase Lodge, Whaddon/Mursley Road, Whaddon. - Change of use from agricultural land to a horse manege.

Nothing has appeared on the planning website since 11th April. WPC raised 'No Objection'.

A decision is awaited from BC.

21/04686/APP - BEACHAMPTON - Grove Farm, Stratford Road, Whaddon.

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and annexe with associated landscaping.

Planning permission with conditions, was finally granted on 29th July.

SHENLEY PARK - DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Finally, and at Whaddon Parish Council's (WPC) request, a meeting was held on 1st August, to discuss the emerging Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which Buckinghamshire Council (BC) requires to be adopted by the Council before Crest Nicholson (CN), the developers can submit a detailed planning application. The purpose of the meeting was to explore and discuss the now adopted VALP policy requirements of this allocated '**at least 1150 new homes**' site, together with the constraints and opportunities that arise from its development. The 2-hour WPC- hosted village meeting was attended by three senior planners and designers from David Lock Associates (DLA), a senior transport planner from ITP and two senior planners from BC. Main issues arising from this important first meeting included:

1. The consultancy appointment by BC of DLA and ITP - two companies with vast MK knowledge including extensive input into the MK2050 Growth Study - now adopted by MKC - is particularly noteworthy, because it hopefully signals (to WPC at least!) a new and improved relationship between MKC and BC, even though Cross Boundary Cooperation has now effectively been abandoned by Government. Like it or not - SP, will be seen as an extension of MK, which along with Salden Chase (SC), the 1855 new home site in Newton Longville Parish, could possibly in time, form the early building blocks of the now MK2050 growth aspirations, including the visionary future Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) routes, one of which is shown to run through Shenley Park and onto the new railway station at Winslow. It is worth mentioning that ITP in the August 2020 Review of the MK2050 Strategy, wrote: *the aspiration to deliver an MRT network should remain, and all opportunities should be seized to establish road space for future MRT services.*
2. Whilst welcomed, these appointments raised concerns of possible vested interests, but WPC were assured that both companies were working solely for BC, without any developer involvement and were starting with a totally clean sheet of paper, with an independent, landscape-led, and robust analysis of the site, together with its constraints and opportunities. This work was progressing, and the detailed land use design and illustrative master plan would emerge following completion of this process, which would be shared with WPC at the appropriate time.
3. BC had recently met with CN, but this was only to confirm that the developers would be responsible for all BC costs in relation to preparing the SPD. There had been no agreement on timescales for planning application submission etc.

4. Although a transport planner from ITP was present and was very keen to learn WPC's traffic and highway concerns it was agreed that it was too early in the process to comment on possible solutions due to the work yet to be undertaken, but all attendees acknowledged receipt of the Whaddon '7 point traffic wish-list', which had been circulated to all attendees before the meeting and welcomed. This letter outlining WPC's main traffic concerns would receive careful consideration in due course as further transport investigations continued. Some discussion took place on the A421 situation, (where an independent BC study is now underway), the future of Shenley Road and Coddimoor Lane and the design/route/purpose of the SP link road from the A421 to Childs Way (H6) and/or Chaffron Way (H7). Although it is still too early in the process, ITP agreed to investigate these issues in detail, especially the expected traffic disbursement along the new SP link road and how this might bring about the BC claim that it could help resolve the existing rat-running problems through Whaddon village.

5. The meeting then explored the VALP requirements of policy WHA001 and WPC's concerns. A brief resume of some of WPC's questions follow with answers:

Q. 'Why is there no Illustrative land use master plan, because without one, it is incredibly difficult for residents to grasp the size, scope, and implications of this major development site especially on the known traffic concerns and likely solutions?

A. *Such a plan will emerge, and WPC's already known concerns would be integral to this process. Once completed, the SPD will be the subject of a full public consultation hopefully later this year or early next.*

Q. Crucially, what separation distances and 'green gap' treatment will avoid coalescence between rural Buckinghamshire (Briary View/recreation ground) and the new Urban Development at the edge of MK, and what will happen to this land?

A. (No firm opinions were expressed, but this is likely to be a point where opinions will differ, and compromise may be sought). *DLA made the point that no obvious landscape feature exists in what is essentially an open field, the village in the main was well screened by existing trees and original MK villages had been well integrated into the new city. WPC made it clear that whilst integration was welcomed with cycleways, footpaths, redways and parkland links - (but not extra traffic), the original CN promotional plans showed an approx. 300 - 400m gap, residents would not accept site-cramming that might influence or significantly reduce the width of the gap and clearly, Whaddon remains outside MK, in a separate council district and has a completely different historical and landscape character that must be protected to safely achieve and guarantee the individual character and setting of the village. WPC strongly supports entrusting the 'green gap' to*

the MK Parks Trust with an appropriate endowment for its long-term future management and care. Alternatively, WPC would prefer to take the land rather than it going to a private or developer owned management company where the land's future would always be a concern and its protection, in perpetuity, could not be guaranteed due to any further possible development encroachment pressure.

Q. WPC and village residents would like to understand the purpose of the new link road proposed through the site, how it will connect to H6 and/or H7 and how in BC's view, this road will help solve the ongoing and worsening rat-running issue through Whaddon village. In particular, WPC must be assured that this new road will operate, as BC claim, in that at least 35% of A421 traffic, destined for the V1 Snelshall Street, will divert along this new road, therefore presumably preventing further 'backing up' down the A421 towards the Whaddon roundabout, the junction at which the rat running starts, from both incoming A421 traffic and that from Mursley Road.

A. *ITP were unaware of the data presented to the Salden Chase Inquiry (following MK's planning refusal on highway safety and access grounds), and its outcome, but would investigate and consider this when looking at the highway issues in detail.*

Q. Whaddon PC area will grow tenfold - approx. 120 homes to at least 1300 before 2033, or shortly thereafter if the VALP housing predictions are to be met. This has huge implications for the existing village and its community. Perhaps one concern is that whilst fully in Whaddon Parish, the site will ultimately be recognised as part of MK, especially as 'Shenley' is a name already associated with several MK districts. Why not reconsider naming the site 'Whaddon Chase' or 'Chase View', thereby making an association with its historical Buckinghamshire background? Whilst virtually all new residents of SP will look to MK for shopping, entertainment and social needs, there is bound to be pressure on the few existing facilities within the village such as Church (no water supply), School, Public House, Recreation Ground etc and, what about public transport from Whaddon to places like Winslow, Buckingham and Aylesbury as opposed to CMK and Bletchley which are specifically mentioned in the VALP policy requirements?

Also, whilst understanding that development should not solve existing highway problems, it should not make it worse or lead to any material impact or unnecessary harm to local residents.

A. *DLA had similar thoughts already, especially on the name and integration problems, and all issues would be investigated during the SPD development stages.*

Q. What does 'at least 1150 new homes' really mean, and how will a 'long term defensible boundary to the western edge of MK' be achieved and established without extending the site further westwards, which would enable

the existing blocks of woodland to be joined up with additional tree planting, thereby fulfilling the specific VALP policy requiring a 'landscape-led and green infrastructure approach', and achieving the shared BC/MKC vision of a true 'defensible' and long-term boundary? Residents will not accept shoe-horned development just to achieve VALP housing numbers within a limited Local Plan time period (currently to 2033 - but looking to be extended to 2040), especially on a site that is, in WPC's opinion, bound to see pressure to be enlarged in the very near future and WPC well remembers Peter Williams' advice (lead officer on the VALP) that 'long-term' only means until the review of the next local plan!

A. The 'at least' came from the Inspector in his Local Plan report, and the site will bring forward the housing numbers (and other requirements) that are required for this Local Plan in the period up to 2033. The Local Plan Review, which is already underway, will look at the period to 2040, and what is then required to meet the housing and economic development needs of Buckinghamshire.

Useful discussion continued, mainly on the likely constraints and opportunities provided by the site, and DLA shared with meeting the early Site Review and Analysis plans covering aerial imagery, location photographs, contour and gradient and flood zone plans, tree cover, public open space, ecology, archaeology, noise, utilities, active travel and amenity plans etc, but interestingly, these were all preliminary and they had yet to commence the detailed work on preparing the land use plans, which would ultimately show the proposed locations of all the housing and other physical elements required within the site policy requirements.

Overall, it was a helpful and hopefully productive meeting, where personal contacts were established, and it now remains to be seen as to how the WPC concerns will be dealt with in the emerging SPD document, which once produced will be the subject of a six week (?) public consultation period, during which time, all residents and any other interested parties will be invited to comment on the proposals which should lay the foundations for a detailed planning application to be submitted by the developers, probably during 2023.

Cllr Graham Stewart

A421 - HIGHWAY STUDY

Since this study was mentioned in the last edition of the Whaddon Quarterly, several residents have inquired further as to what exactly is happening. This is a question being asked by many of the affected parishes and towns along its route. In answer to a specific question - at a recent July BC Cabinet meeting from a Buckingham Councillor, - the Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor Steven Broadbent responded as follows: -

"..... In reference to the A421 corridor itself, you and other local ward members along the route have been involved in discussions with the Council's Transport Strategy team who are preparing to undertake a technical study to assess the A421 corridor and its links into the neighbouring areas (especially towards Milton Keynes, Bicester, Silverstone Enterprise Zone, and the new station planned for Winslow). This would naturally include the A421/A413 roundabout.

This study aims to assess and appraise the efficiency of the road corridor for all modes of travel (cycling, buses as well as cars and freight) and then subsequently identify costed measures that will ensure that the route is robust enough to support future growth and expected increase in traffic. The study is due to commence in Autumn 2022. The Transport Strategy team will report back on the recommendations made to the Buckingham Town Council, and other parish councils along the route, when the study is completed (expected early 2023). We will include the Town Council's views when determining next steps for this work.

This is a relatively high-level strategic study and as such there are no specific scheme proposals upon which to consult local residents. It is important that the timing of public consultation is appropriate to the situation and so when any measures identified by this study are taken forward into design and feasibility, there will be a public consultation exercise with the views of local residents taken into account at this stage".

The Chairman of WPC, and the locally elected member for our Ward, Cllr Billy Stanier attended the first meeting of those affected parishes along the route, and made the case for Whaddon, the volume of traffic currently using the A421, the amount of locally planned development (some 3,000 new homes at Shenley Park and Salden Chase) and the

current short-cutting problems through the village. It remains to be seen whether the A421 study will report in time to impact on these major new developments - or indeed whether any proposed improvements will impact Whaddon, but residents should be aware that WPC is on the case!

Cllr. Graham Stewart.

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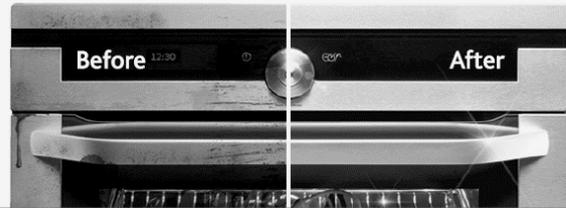
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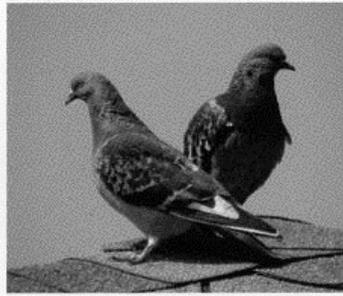
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