

August 2020

# WHADDON QUARTERLY



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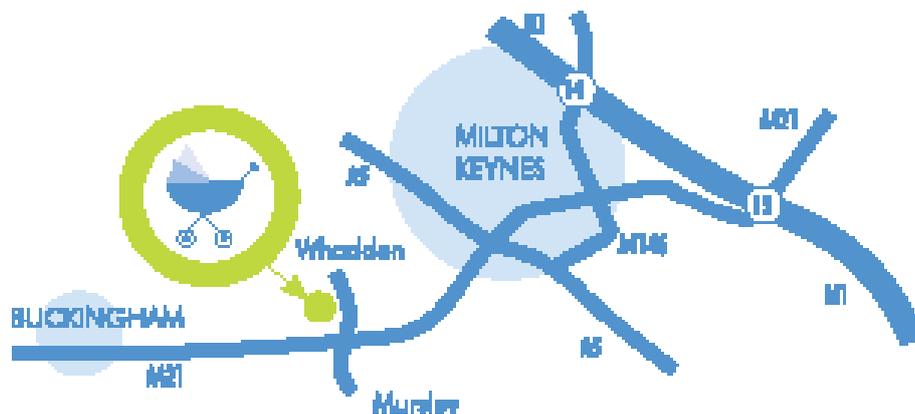
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## **For comments, queries and articles**

Please contact the Editor, John Mortimer, on  
wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

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**Front cover: William Sawbridge's team combining a field behind Kennel Spinney.**

**Back cover: Sheep grazing off Kennel Lane. Photographs by John Mortimer.**



## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT JULY 2020

THREE months ago, when I wrote my last piece for the *Whaddon Quarterly*, we had not long entered lockdown and so the altered way of life was still very strange to us. Now we appear to be starting the long road back to normality with relaxations on most things from opening of pubs to being able to get a haircut.

Along the way more than 40,000 have died in this country, but thankfully only 120 in Buckinghamshire. Let us hope that there are no re-occurring waves of this terrible disease. As expected, the Parish Council was unable to meet face to face in May for its Annual General Meeting; we had to resort to the now, very normal practice of meeting online using the technology of remote meeting known as Zoom.

Obviously, it was impossible to hold elections to the Parish Council, which were due in May, so your seven Councillors continue for another year.

A welcome development has been the re-awakening of interest in the allotments in Vicarage Road, where a co-operative club has been formed under the leadership of Community Ark.

As you can imagine, Covid-19 resulted in us having to close the Recreation Ground. Regrettably, we had visitors to the ground from other parishes in Milton Keynes; this caused some minor damage and left potentially dangerous litter.

I am very grateful to Suzanne Lindsey, our Parish Clerk, and to Frederick Hayward for dealing with the issues.

Further afield, the new Buckinghamshire Council has come into being, albeit unelected. Covid-19 has tested its services to the extreme in the areas of social services for the elderly and the children and it has performed brilliantly in those areas.

It has been a difficult start for some departments, e.g. Licensing, where human contact can be so essential. I think you would agree with me that our bin men have also maintained their usual high standards in these difficult times.

I hope and pray that in another three months when I put pen to paper that we really will be able to say that our lives are again really normal. ■

*Billy Stanier*

July 2020

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● **DIFFICULTY** finding money to pay the **TV licence** (if you are over 75)? Then the Elmer Trust can help you meet this new additional cost. If you are affected, please contact Graham Stewart (01908 501973) or Derek White (01908 501987) ■

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

MANY contributors appear in this issue. For example, next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Whaddon Quarterly*. Who started it and why? Who better than the man himself, Doug Stewart, to reply?

Coronavirus has overarched the past four months and affected all in some way as it expertly, silently strangles the economy. Local MP Greg Smith recounts life in the House of Commons; while Shirley Hall describes how coronavirus has affected a big church, Ely Cathedral.

Photographs too emerge in a double display: Ron Unwin's unveil a lost past, a lost generation; a past frozen in the split second it takes to create a photograph. Likewise, Suzanne Lindsey's postcards open up a bygone Whaddon. Why are photographs important? They light a touch paper in the mind. Writers describe, but photographs trigger elements in the fourth dimension: a rich seam of the unfathomable, the indefinable, the unforgettable. They can create emotions and memories; these can hang long in the ceiling of the mind. Finally, Burt Bacharach's song, *Trains and boats and planes* (lyrics by Hal David) is a bit like the *Quarterly* which has included pictures of boats, planes, cars and a bus. Now, at last there is a train, well a locomotive.

Two dates are important: 15<sup>th</sup> August – VJ Day (75<sup>th</sup>), and 15<sup>th</sup> September – Battle of Britain Day (80<sup>th</sup>). And, while in reflective mode, spare a thought for those who were there: in the Far East and in the UK – and who died in those two theatres.

Some have good reason to recall the Battle of Britain: those who built Spitfire aircraft following demolition by the German air force in 1940 of two Supermarine factories in Southampton. These people come to life in a new book reviewed in these pages.

This issue too throws chinks of light on local people who have navigated their passage through the new 'normal'. Regular features depict the manner in which groups have resolved matters and responded; several have turned to Zoom. How will Zoom fit into future education?

Due to Covid-19, if it is now possible to complete a Harvard University's Master's degree by observing three-hour lectures from a UK home, or a PhD from Wharton University in Philadelphia from Kyoto, Japan, then education could see many changes as new dynamics take hold.

In the new 'normal', might even Master's degree be renamed? The commonplace has become the subject of scrutiny; every facet of life, every word and phrase has edged under the microscope. Estate agents now examine each word of their carefully-curated, highly-buffed property descriptions. Thus has master bedroom become principal bedroom! So how might Master's degree now be retitled? Zooming however sidesteps presence; not being present to share the warmth and habits of others. The joy and laughter, the pain, the anguish, the tears, touching. Zooming for a degree is not *quite* the same as attending university; i.e. being there.

As Covid-19 unfolds, it leaves its own unforgettable footprint on everyone's lives; consequences. The UK stands on the cusp of change: communities, communications, education and employment, especially retail. In other words, how people live, move and have their being.

Covid-19's long-lasting, long drawn out effects on innocent victims have force-fed chill winds through the nation, thwarting plans, disturbing long-held views and traditions. Already there are new habits. Confusion, contradiction and controversy are Covid-19's night-riders as it bubbles beneath the surface. Yet deaths from cancer this year are running at twice those of Covid-19.

How the future plays out has yet to be seen. Let's hope for no second wave. Covid-19's effects could be far-reaching, long-lasting and deep; much could change – even for the better.

The Industrial Revolution brought changes; the same applies to Covid-19. Working from home has become another new norm. For example, print-on-demand machines are the 21<sup>st</sup> century's new sewing machines; industrial products can be made in spare bedrooms or garages; just like the domestic system in Western Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Mini production lines are now possible at home: new revenue earners. These are new horizons; new opportunities.

But back to the future and Spring 2021; then, hopefully, Jubilee Hall's rafters will resonate once more to raucous laughter and applause as The Entertainers deliver their unique humour in the Whaddon Show. All of which is certainly for another day. The future indeed looks bright. **JM**



# Clerk's Corner

## Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

**Recreation Ground Play Equipment Reopening.** WPC is hard at work putting everything in place to enable us to reopen the play equipment. You will have noticed government guidance required us to fence off the play area in late March, and the closure was officially lifted in early July, but subject to implementation of some stringent safety requirements.

WPC is hard at work programming equipment safety checks, sorting out safety posters, and a myriad of other administrative tasks to ensure compliance, and a safe reopening for everyone.

So, watch this space!

**Allotments – Last Chance to Join in the Fun!** We are now close to full on the allotments, with only a few segments left available. There is a new, vibrant and welcoming allotment cooperative in place: Community Food Ark. This welcomes all comers, whether newbies or experienced gardeners, with the offer of support, sharing of resources and knowledge and most important some social events. And best of all, Ark membership is both optional and free. Get in touch quickly to snag one of the remaining plots.

**On-Line Parish Council Meetings.** The Parish Council is now conducting meetings via Zoom in accordance with recommendations and guidance, to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and to keep everyone safe. Notices with Zoom joining details, the agenda and of course minutes, will be on the Parish Council's website and posted on the bus stop noticeboard as usual. Please note the change of time to 7pm.

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

Many residents of Whaddon Parish are not getting up-to-date and timely information about very important issues affecting our Parish. You can also get the Whaddon Quarterly by email, and lots of useful notices and information; e.g., refuse collection delays, road closures, planning information, etc.

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

**Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s).** The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take(s) place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.00pm on 10/9/20, 12/11/20, 14/1/21, 11/3/21. 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 are welcome! ■

### Whaddon Quarterly

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The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of 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.

## Whaddon's super sizzling sausages

**It may be hard to believe that while Whaddon enjoyed fame for its well-known Whaddon Chase Hunt, it had a reputation also for its lesser known, but much-vaunted super sizzling sausages, as Ron Unwin reveals.**

WHADDON'S super sizzlers may come as a surprise to present-day residents, but the village's sausages were the product of one man: George Young. George not only produced fine sausages but he was an acclaimed butcher; a purveyor of fine locally-reared meat.

In May 2020's *Whaddon Quarterly*, there is an article by John Mortimer on page 17 entitled *Whaddonfield not Akenfield*. The article refers to George Henry Young, a butcher with a daughter named Gladys Mary aged 3, (1907-1997), and a son, George William, aged 2, (1908-1972).

George Henry Young (1874-1951) didn't come from Whaddon however; he was born in Great Horwood. But it was in Nash that he started his butchery business, around 1896.

For the purposes of his business, George rented two old cottages as well as a room in the next cottage (one of the old cottages had been lived in previously by another Whaddon resident, Harry James).

George set about converting the two old cottages; he made one into a cart shed and the other cottage became a slaughterhouse. In addition, he used one room in the adjoining cottage as a shop from which he sold his meat.



(Above) Yew Tree Farm, circa 1918. Henry Weatherhead delivered bread from Harwood's bakery in Stratford Road, Nash. The barn has a corrugated iron roof and the cart shed has doors. Next to cart shed is the slaughter house with hooks outside to hold rabbits and game for sale. Behind the young girl, a member of the Cooney family, is the window where George Young's meat would be displayed – not venison. Before the barn was converted there were five cottages.



(Above) George Henry Young with George junior and a young boy. Who could he be, an evacuee perhaps?

name of a previous owner, George clearly acquired it second-hand. Among measures George most likely used would have been gill (quarter of a pint), pint and quart.

It was at this point that George's sausages gained fame: they were reputed to be the best in the district.

Later, around 1924, George took over Yew Tree Farm along with his son George William. Following his father's death, George William continued to run the farm and on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1951 he married Daisy Gwen Peverill. Previously, she lived at Home Farm in Whaddon. The couple had a son, Raymond, who still runs the farm.



George Henry Young's milk churn



George

Henry Young's daughter, Gladys Mary (known as Queenie) married Truman Pitchford (folks called him Pitch for short) in 1937. They lived in Winslow and later moved to Woburn Sands.

Returning briefly to the subject of Harry James; some weekends in summer Harry could be found walking to Nash where he would visit the New Inn. He often stopped for a chat on his arrival in Nash. ■

**EDITOR'S NOTE.** These photographs of George Henry Young, and his son George William, have been kindly provided by Ron Unwin from his archives to accompany his article. One was taken by Ron's father, Percy who, like Ron, worked at Whaddon Hall during WW2. Percy was an electrician. Photography was one of Percy's hobbies. Percy used a plate camera. ■

● **15<sup>th</sup> September 1940** became the official **Battle of Britain Day** as it marked the day that RAF Fighter Command claimed what proved to be a decisive victory over the German Luftwaffe.

● **HOW MANY WORDS?** For those with a mathematical turn of mind, this issue comprises 19,509 words (21,760 normally). The last issue, May, contained 10,000 more, 29,500. ■

# Sausages: World's first convenience food?

**Mention of George Young and his hand-made sausages raises the question: from where did George source his sausage skins? John Mortimer investigates.**

THE sausage is the oldest form of processed meat. The sausage is literally thousands of years old. It might be seen as the world's first "convenience food."

But how would George Young have obtained his sausage casings when he was active in the early 1900s and during WW1?

Most likely he made them himself. The skins would be natural casings produced from a layer of the intestines of animals; they can bear a close resemblance to the original intestine after processing.

Natural sausage casings are made from the sub-mucosa of the small intestine, a layer of the intestine that consists mainly of naturally occurring collagen. In Western European and Chinese cuisine, most casings come from pigs, but elsewhere the intestines of sheep, goats, cattle and sometimes horses are also used.

To prepare the intestines as casings, they must be flushed, scraped and cleaned with water and salt by hand. A messy job. George Young no doubt copied the technique (with a little training) from another local butcher; possibly one in Stony Stratford.

The outer fat and the inner mucosa lining are removed during processing. The cases would be salted to lower the water activity (which inhibits microbial growth) and preserve the casing.

Natural casings have been used in the production of meat specialties for centuries and have remained virtually unchanged in function, appearance, and composition.

Indeed, as long as man has been carnivorous, the intestinal tract of animals has been used for sausage casings. With a large variety of sausages being produced world-wide.

## Is the sausage really 6,000 years old?

It is often assumed sausages were invented by the Sumerians in the region now known as Iraq around 4000 BC. Reference to a cooked meat product stuffed in a goat stomach like a sausage was known in Babylon and described as a recipe in the world's oldest cookbook 3,750 years ago (Yale Babylonian collection, New Haven Connecticut, USA).

The Chinese sausage, Lachang, consists of goat and lamb meat. It was first mentioned in 589 BC. The Greek poet Homer mentioned a kind of blood sausage in his Odyssey (book 20, poem 25); Epicharmus (ca. 550 BC - ca. 460 BC) wrote a comedy entitled "The Sausage". Numerous books report that sausages were already popular among the ancient Greeks and Romans.

It's only during the last thousand years, however, that sausage-making has come into its own as a venerable and highly developed craft.

Practitioners of the sausage trade inevitably fostered a rich tradition – sophisticated and yet personal. George no doubt had his own treasured recipe.

In many cases, families handed down their particular sausage-making art over several generations and across dozens of nations, with each "wurstmacher" contributing his taste and heritage to the art. The art was also influenced by the demand of the marketplace and by the availability of the various ingredients which went into the sausage.

But back in Whaddon, George Young's sausages, with their unique flavour, were much sought after. There were some sad faces in Whaddon when George made his final sausage. ■

● **ST MARY'S** Church clock now keeps excellent time. It gains but 30s weekly whereupon once a month Derek White stops the pendulum and waits two minutes while real time catches up.

● **HOPEFULLY**, through the pages of this magazine over the last 19 issues, readers have gained an insight of their village; aspects of which they were previously unaware. ■

# WQ: A vehicle to connect and inform

The current editor reminds me it will be 40 years in 2021 since the first issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly* was printed and delivered to the village with me as editor.

I HAD arrived with my new love in a double-decker bus five years earlier; we parked in the middle of a field adjacent to the derelict cottage in Nash Road. A somewhat bemused village took some while to accept this odd couple.

Five years on, with the cottage renovated, extended and modernised, a look of respectability had been accomplished.

Then, with three young children, it became apparent to me the village facilities were at risk.

Apart from losing a shop and post office, the village of Whaddon remains fortunate to still have a school, two places of worship, a village hall, a recreation ground and a public house.

At that time however, the village hall needed to attract more income in order to survive and flourish. The hall committee needed a new chairperson, kitchen, and some general refurbishment. I put myself forward as chair; I felt my skills might help the hall to achieve its objectives.

Following my election to the chair, it soon became apparent to me the committee had to engage with the village. To provide that forum for discussion and debate, the *Whaddon Quarterly* became the vehicle to connect the local organisations and inform and to challenge the village people.

I enlisted the help of local lad Patrick Nicholson; he had recently returned to the village from London with architectural and IT skills. He provided early cover pages for the WQ and became involved in the architectural drawings required to update and extend the hall. As the current editor does, we encouraged content including recipes, poetry, short stories and artwork to accompany village information.

The editor of the day did not always get it right; sometimes I suggested some radical changes. These did not always receive enthusiastic responses. However, they did encourage debate! It is great to see that an idea conceived for the common good has survived for almost 40 years. ■

**Footnote:** First registered as a single decker in 1947, 'my' bus was converted in 1953 to a low-line double-decker with an aluminium body. Only 10 were converted for Barton Transport of Nottingham. It now resides in a transport collection in Nottingham and is being renovated. It left the Glebe 10 years ago. The engine started after a 20-year rest; the tyres were still inflated.

*Doug Stewart*



**Doug's former Leyland bus, now awaiting restoration**

# The UK's food chain long before Morrisons

Returning from Morrisons the other day, I remember telling the *Whaddon Quarterly's* editor of my plans to write an article about the village's historic 200-year-plus connection to the foxhound pack that bore its name.

BUT, on reflection, I thought it would be much more interesting to write about why they, or any other pack of hounds, ever existed in the first place.

It was not then to offer the public an opportunity to ride horses across grass fields; it was, literally, a pest control job by the only method then known and effective. It was vital to protect the village's food supplies of sheep and poultry from marauding foxes.

Three hundred years ago, it was only towns like Stony Stratford that had food shops. These you could visit only occasionally by horse and cart. Accordingly, everyone had to raise their own animals to provide meat, eggs and milk (from cow or goat) and grow vegetables.

Foxes are, by nature, aggressive meat eaters and will kill a whole pen of chickens before making off with just one to their underground hole. Such an attack posed disaster for the larders of many poor families in the 1700s; there were no high-powered, accurate rifles in those days to deal with the situation.

## Time to call on the squire

In many instances, the village population called on the services of the squire; he would have sufficient wealth to collect together a pack of hunting dogs, or hounds, and a couple of employees to manage the kennels. Together they could pursue a fox by scent till they killed it. To use an expression: "It saved their bacon".

That was what happened in our village when the Selby-Lowndes family at the Hall formed the Whaddon Chase Hunt.

It wasn't a question of whether it was cruel; it was a necessity to avoid possible starvation in the village.

During a day's hunting, a pack of hounds could cover many miles and track several foxes. Hunt employees on horseback took to wearing red in order to spot one another at a distance.

Quite independently of hunting, country people with their horses had always enjoyed competing across country, jumping fences as they went. They would often travel from one village church steeple to the next, giving rise to the origin of the term Steeple Chase in horse-racing or Point-to-Point.

It is hardly surprising that over the years it became popular for such riding and horse-racing enthusiasts to join the hunt in order to exercise their horses to get them fit for Steeplechasing.

Foxhunting provided a vital service in days gone by to protect the animals and food supply chain of many village people, each of whom had a small agricultural holding.

Even in my own teenage years, I can remember how my father's farm employees had to go home at 4 pm in order to feed their animals and milk their cow. How times have changed.

The vast growth of international air freight and massive commercial road haulage vehicles have enabled us to eat an incredible range of exotic food that our forebears could only dream about.

Lockdown has encouraged many of us to grow a few vegetables, and perhaps keep a few chickens. But beware if you are one of the latter. The fox has not changed its ways! Like Covid-19, it has not gone away. In Whaddon, foxes are closer than you think. ■

*Billy Stanier*

July 2020

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• **NO**, they didn't arrive on the wings of the morning, or through the exigencies of Covid-19. The bats, a bachelor colony, in St Mary's Church belfry and elsewhere, have been here for many years; indeed at least since Derek White was a small boy. Their droppings are very acidic! ■

# Reflections on my Maiden Speech

**With the COVID-19 crisis having dominated life for a number of weeks, it seems like an eternity since I delivered my Maiden Speech in the House of Commons on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, writes Greg Smith.**

WITH the Buckingham constituency covering 335 square miles of stunning countryside, farming is a key element of our local economy.

So, it was important for me to have chosen the Second Reading of the Agriculture Bill as the debate to deliver my maiden speech. That said, I had originally intended to make the speech as part of the Queen's Speech debate on 15<sup>th</sup> January. That plan had to be abandoned in the early hours of the morning, as much more exciting and pressing events took over, with my wife giving birth to our second child, Charlie.

The event allowed a further two weeks to polish the speech, amongst nappy changes and sleepless nights.

## **A nerve-wracking experience**

Standing up to speak in the Chamber is a nerve-wracking experience at the best of times. Technically, this was not the first time on my feet; rules permit MPs to participate in oral questions prior to the delivery of their Maiden. But it would be fair to say this was a big moment: a once-in-a-lifetime event, and I confess to being a little apprehensive.

Importantly for me, my parents were seated in the Special Gallery, along with key figures from the Buckingham Conservative Association: my Agent, Constituency Chairman and Treasurer. With a two-week old baby at home, my wife could not be there in person, but I knew she was watching on TV; I even elected to wear the tie I had previously only ever worn on our wedding day!

The Chamber was relatively crowded, especially on the government benches; these MPs gave a comfort blanket of support around me, as Rosie Winterton, one of the Deputy Speakers, called me to speak. I had deliberately chosen the same seat Margaret Thatcher had selected to deliver her Maiden Speech almost 60 years previously, to the day. And so it began.

By tradition, Maiden Speeches are not intended to be detailed orations on the subject matter of the debate at hand. They are, instead, an opportunity for new MPs to introduce themselves to the House and outline their priorities; usually they will also describe their constituencies, and pay tribute to their predecessor.

With many other MPs wanting to speak in the debate, my prepared text had to be reduced radically, with Mr Speaker imposing a seven-minute limit on backbench speeches. However, I hope I did justice to the constituency I regard myself so lucky and privileged to represent.

After ending with a few words of support for the Bill, including my personal connection to farming and a cheeky joke at the expense of my farmer Father-in-Law, it felt as though time had stood still. But it was done.

Never again would a speech I give in the House of Commons be heard under such an enforced silence: uninterruptible. But for that I am grateful and look forward to standing up for everyone in the Buckingham constituency in the cut and thrust of debate.

The full speech can be watched and/or read on my website at [www.gregsmith.co.uk/maidenspeech](http://www.gregsmith.co.uk/maidenspeech). ■

*Greg Smith*

MP for Buckingham

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● **UK'S ENDING** of ties with Huawei in China will affect Open Reach's telecom engineers. They will be busy working on Whaddon's green WiFi cabinets (and those elsewhere) in the coming months as they install replacement equipment. ■

# **An alternative to Shenley Park emerges**

**Newton Leys West has emerged as a possible alternative to Shenley Park, thanks to a Community Consultation by Pegasus Group, acting for Willis Dawson Ltd, as Graham Stewart explains.**

ON 6<sup>th</sup> July, Willis Dawson Ltd invited Whaddon PC, Whaddon residents and selected other 'key consultees' to participate in an early, and limited, public consultation process.

This is something encouraged by Government, especially when developers are formulating development plans prior to making planning applications, or as part of a site's promotion through the Local Plan process.

Whaddon residents may like to be aware that:

- The Newton Leys West site adjoins that part of Newton Leys (the old brickworks site close to the Stoke Hammond bypass roundabout), which was an extension of the original main site, subsequently won on appeal.
- The site lies within Buckinghamshire (not MKC) and is being promoted as an alternative to Shenley Park. It is therefore of great interest to Whaddon.

This site does not appear to have been promoted at any earlier stage of VALP, so it must be considered as a 'late runner'.

It is highly improbable the site can, or will be considered in the current Local Plan (VALP), so we can assume that its promotion now is so that it will feature, and be considered for inclusion in the new Bucks County Local Plan review, which must be undertaken within five years.

- That said, the timing is interesting. The site is being promoted as an alternative to 'Shenley Park', which might suggest that if the Inspector reopens the VALP 'Hearing Sessions' to properly consider the late introduction of the Whaddon site, then Newton Leys West could possibly be brought into the discussion by those invited by the Inspector to participate.

- The timing coincides with the 'pausing' of the Oxford - Cambridge Expressway. Whilst this decision is under review, (and any construction if approved could be many years away), this site reintroduces the concept of a long-standing aspiration for a South Bletchley Bypass.

This bypass could be in the form of a South-West link road, thus providing a by-pass to Newton Longville. It would relieve the obvious congestion and road safety problems that are inevitable from rat-running and through traffic should the Salden Chase and Shenley Park developments eventually be delivered.

However, funding for this road is probably a major stumbling block, without Government or Local Authority intervention and support. Whilst Newton Leys West may facilitate the small southern section, there is no requirement (as yet) for Salden Chase to fund the northern section (although a route through this site has been reserved) and the much longer central connecting section of the road is totally unfunded.

● Willis Dawson has, because of Covid-19, created a special [www.newtonleys.co.uk](http://www.newtonleys.co.uk) website, which contains all the details.

The closing date for comment is 7<sup>th</sup> August, but late comments may be accepted due to the difficulty of communication at this time.

● WPC declined an invitation to meet and consult with Crest Homes when it first promoted Shenley Park; at that time the site was considered as being 'hostile'.

The site was not supported by the community or AVDC (at that time) and did not appear in the emerging VALP. It was agreed to review this decision should Shenley Park ever be allocated within any future adopted plan.

### **In conclusion**

In conclusion, WPC has considered an appropriate response, suggesting that much depends on the outcome of the Salden Chase appeal; but, in principle, WPC might consider lending support to the Newton Leys West proposal as a replacement for Shenley Park, but only if the southern Bletchley Link Road can be delivered and as long as the Newton Longville community (which, like Whaddon's, suffers from rat-running traffic) is supportive. ■

## **The gardener's reflections...**

**"The garden is ripe and rich like a plum ready to be plucked from the tree," writes Monty Don.**

**W**ELL, summer of a sort is finally with us, with late June and early July seeing the weather swing from near blistering heat to torrential rain.

The alternating warm and wet weather we have experienced in recent weeks has provided excellent growing conditions – for weeds as well as plants. It only takes a few days of neglect for the vegetable patch to be all but over-run with weeds, so keep that hoe handy!



Of course, we have also had the pleasure of seeing colour appear across the borders with perennials and annuals bursting out. Fuchsias are a riot of colour, and cannas and dahlias are promising more to follow. Just this week, the first scarlet crocosmia flowers have appeared and the pinky-orange day-lilies are looking splendid.

Then there is the joy of harvesting our first vegetables.

At home, we are over-run with lettuce – Karen is complaining that we will both turn into rabbits! Rocket, spring onions, radishes, kale and chard are all surging ahead, so there's no shortage of green-stuff at *Greengages* which, by the way, is certainly living up to its name – the eponymous greengage tree has not been so laden with fruit for years!

In the greenhouse, the first tomato fruits have appeared, and although I was a bit late with my sweet peppers and chilli peppers, they are getting going now.

On the allotment, carrots have finally germinated, runner and French beans are climbing their canes and flowering well; onions and shallots too are all coming along nicely. The first courgettes have set and the squashes are extending their long tendrils across the ground. This week, I dug up my first early potatoes, which tasted wonderful. In contrast, my two packets of parsnip seeds totally failed to germinate.

### **August, the peak harvesting time**

The allotment project being run by Food Ark is finally achieving results; several people have taken on new plots and they are really looking great!

It is fantastic to see things other than weeds growing on most of the ground. So, congratulations are certainly due to all who are involved. It may be hard work when you begin, but you will soon see the results of your labours.

If you have grown sweetcorn, do not forget to protect them from deer with a strong net or a similar barrier as soon as the ears appear. I was a few days late last year and lost the lot to the nocturnal munchers! Of course, you could always sit out there all night!

Back in the garden, redcurrants are ready for picking while blackcurrants are nearly there. Even the rhubarb is enjoying a second round of growth, thanks to the rain.

The coming weeks of August are the peak harvesting time – chard, sweetcorn, beans, courgettes, tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers will all be jostling for their place in the sun. In late August, there is nothing better than a plate of ratatouille made from your own onions, garlic, courgettes, tomatoes, French beans and chilli!

But there are always jobs to do, and August can be a busy month for sowing in preparation for winter and next spring. Lettuce, rocket, spring cabbages, parsley and winter onions can all be started in the greenhouse, conservatory or a sunny windowsill. This way they get well established before the low light of winter shuts down their growth.

So do enjoy your gardens, vegetable plots and even the allotment if you have one (there are still some available) – or just a few pots on the patio – but most importantly of all – keep an eye on those weeds!

Finally, don't forget that harvest festival night is approaching – Covid-19 of course permitting.

Keep well and stay safe. ■

*Paul Logan*

**Look out for Paul's regular gardening column in the *Whaddon Quarterly*.**

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## **Whaddon's blatant, defiant speedsters**

**At least one in four vehicles passing through Whaddon in June exceeded the national speed limit for built-up areas. And one in ten was travelling at more than 40mile/h.**

**G**IVEN that, it seems surprising that there has been no obvious presence of a Thames Valley Police mobile speed radar van in the village to apprehend and fine drivers. Police vehicles are seen at other vantage points in the nearby region, but not in Whaddon.

The figures quoted here are not based on anecdotal points of view; they are hard facts.

The latest statistics come (at the time of writing) from the MVAS unit which is routinely positioned at five points in the village: Whaddon Hall, Old Manor Close, the Chapel, Ladymead Close and the Recreation Ground

The facts are revealing: out of 19,547 vehicles moving through Whaddon in June 2020, no less than 5,551 travelled at more than 30 mile/h. Of these 5,056 were exceeding 40 mile/h.



Unbelievably, no less than 11 exceeded 50 mile/h with one, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7am reaching 55 mile/h. The busiest time of day is 4-5pm with 1,716 vehicles; at this critical time, one-fifth were 'speeding', namely, travelling at more than 30mile/h.

Many offenders in this 'speeding' category are out and about before 7 am. Indeed, in the hour to 7 am, more than half were exceeding 30 mile/h.

Any observer out and about even earlier, at circa 6.00-6.30am, cannot fail but notice one particular driver who routinely and blatantly drives down Stock Lane as if there is no tomorrow.

### **A speedy Mr Toad**

elderly, seeking to cross the road; anxious mothers of toddlers complain about the high speeds of Whaddon's traffic and danger to innocents in both Stock Lane and the High Street.

Inevitably, fears multiply as vehicle speeds increase, while the close proximity of the school to Stock Lane itself should, in itself, be an automatic trigger for an acute for extreme awareness by any passing motorist.

The sight of a straight, 'open' road however stimulates the brains of speeding miscreants to squeeze the accelerator even harder. Mr Toad is still alive in Whaddon.

Thames Valley Police declares that its speed cameras operate in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Its objective is to "provide protection for drivers, other road users and pedestrians, through the use of 291 fixed speed cameras, 21 red light and 249 mobile enforcement cameras locations."

Why might Mursley, Swanbourne, Great Horwood and Whitchurch seemingly receive preferential treatment in the location of such speed awareness cameras?

As one mum noted recently: "I have asked myself over the years when I see one locally, why I've never seen one in Whaddon!"

According to the RAC, the majority of those found speeding will be classed as committing a 'minor offence' and still receive a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of a £100 fine and three points on their licence.

**JM**

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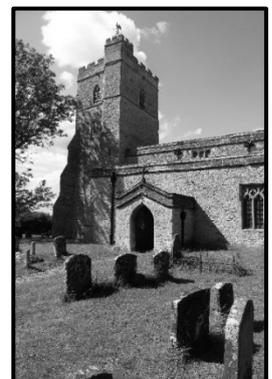
## **St. Mary's Church Whaddon**

**T**HE Good News. The church is now open for private prayer on Sunday between 10 am and 4 pm, and I am in discussion with John King to arrange a Benefice Service in Whaddon, provisionally 9<sup>th</sup> August.

Beachampton and Nash have already held theirs. Whaddon's will be advertised on Facebook and through our Parish email list.

We will need to observe strict social distancing requirements; hand sanitisers will be available on entry. We may not be able to sing hymns. If you are designated as vulnerable and shielding, then it is your choice whether or not to attend.

There will be no Praise in the Playground in August, but it is hoped to restart Toddler Church once schools return in September, subject again to the current guidelines.



At the end of the month our new Rector, Rev Jacqueline Dove and her family, will be moving into the Rectory in Thornborough. Her licensng has been provisionally arranged for September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm at a venue to be decided.

I'm sure I speak for all when I say her arrival has been long awaited and we wish her well in her new ministry.

If you need a priest, please contact Rev John King until the end of the month on 01908 501860. After that, use my number below and I will be able to direct you.

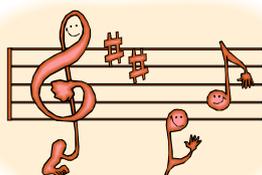
Please take care of yourselves and stay safe. God Bless you all. ■

*Hazel Hedges*

Churchwarden. 01908 50172

### Your Parochial Church Council

Hazel Hedges	Churchwarden.	Tel. 01908 501729
Linda MacIver	Hon. Secretary.	Tel: 01908 330964
Barry Dudley	Hon. Treasurer	Tel: 01908 505727
	Electoral Roll Officer.	
Frederick Hayward	Jubilee Hall Repr'ive	Tel: 01908 506083
Hazel Dudley	.	Tel:01908 505727
Clare Garland		Tel: 01908 501732



## TODDLER CHURCH

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

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon.

**FIRST Wednesday of every month** (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.

**PLEASE NOTE: We will not start until after half-term;**

**hopefully Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

*Sally Green (01908 526033)*

### Winslow Community Bus Coronavirus Update, July 2020

DESPITE the government easing some lockdown restrictions recently, it is with regret that we inform you that all Winslow and District Community Bus services remain suspended until further notice.

We have taken this decision due to the fact that it would be difficult to enforce adequate social distancing within the bus and as a result ensure the safety of our passengers and volunteer drivers.

Please do all you can to keep yourself safe in these challenging times.

Best Regards,  
*Lynne King*

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...



**HOPEFULLY ...**

**FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 9.15 – 12**

***Chapel School Room. Whaddon***

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

*(Sally Green 01908526033)*

## **Yearning to become a team leader?**

**A leader is required to support six visitors who help clergy widows with pastoral support and financial help.**

THE Archdeacon of Buckingham's Clergy Charity is a small unit providing financial support to clergy and their widows in times of need.

While clergy's needs are generally well known to the Archdeacon, 27 clergy widows are visited personally by lay staff to resolve their pastoral and financial requirements.

The visitors, in different locations of Buckinghamshire, have received voluntary support for a decade by a visitor co-ordinator who now wishes to relinquish the role, though will continue to visit a few clergy widows.

The charity's trustees, in seeking this replacement, want someone to continue this valuable work. This entails responsibility for ensuring continued visiting of those who require it by the pool of visitors, and to provide feed-back of any instances of any financial needs the charity can support.

The co-ordinator's role includes:

- Ensuring there are enough lay visitors so that each widow receives a visit once every three months.
- Collating visitors' information, provide a trustees' report and advise of any specific financial needs during their meetings three times a year.
- Co-ordinating the widows' and visitors' annual June luncheon at the Bishop of Buckingham's home, or another venue within the Archdeaconry.
- Taking on the visiting of a small number of widows.

The new incumbent will be sympathetic to the concerns of widows and will be able to empathise with their current situation, which can vary from financial security and/or physical independence, to the possibility of being housebound, in a care home and/or financially in need.

You will require use of a car; the charity offers mileage reimbursement. An honorarium will be paid. You will have a telephone and enough IT expertise to send/receive emails and produce written reports for the Archdeacon and trustees.

The role's details can be seen at: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/visitor-co-ordinator-for-the-archdeacon-of-buckingham-clergy-charity-2/>

For an informal discussion please contact the Archdeacon of Buckingham. Telephone: 01865 208266 or email [archdeacon.buckingham@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:archdeacon.buckingham@oxford.anglican.org) ■

# WHADDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

THESE uncertain times continue; as a result, we have had to change our programme around.

In May, a quiz was e-mailed around and the winner, Marion, won an M & S voucher for £10.



We were unable to hold our garden party in June because of the Coronavirus situation, so those of us who could joined a virtual meeting via Zoom; all who took part enjoyed it.

Our committee has so far also managed to have two virtual meetings via Zoom; so we are still in touch and our plans continue as best they can. We have been checking on each other as well to make sure that we are all ok during these challenging times.

We were unable to visit the Curly Tails pig sanctuary in July because of the restrictions; so we decided as the

Coronavirus restrictions had been lifted slightly that we would hold a socially- distanced garden party in two separate sessions. In this way so we could keep the numbers low in each case.

Members brought their own food and drink and thoroughly enjoyed the time to catch up and share their stories of how they were managing. It was of course summer and we were looking forward to sunny skies, but did they appear? Unfortunately not, but we are the W.I. and nothing can stop us enjoying ourselves!



We are delighted that we have now re-arranged our visit to the pig sanctuary for August; we are looking forward to meeting Dudley and co.

In September, if we can all meet up then we will see the return of Linda; she will tell us all about her time volunteering in an elephant sanctuary in Thailand.

We have been putting together our ideas for our 2021 programme and it is looking interesting (more about this at a later date).

Finally, we are really proud of our members, like Sue, who made bags for scrubs, and Mala for delivering them to help out our NHS.

In normal circumstances we meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm in the Jubilee village hall. We are a small and friendly group. Please do contact me if you would like a copy of our programme or any further information. ■

*Jill Aitken* (01908) 502781

## Teas on Tuesdays: in your hands!

I HOPE you have all survived lockdown happily and are all ready to return to normal.

I spoke with Mr. Patel, our postmaster, today. He has re-opened in a couple of villages and will return to Whaddon when we have agreed a date for that. So now we must negotiate with the Jubilee Hall Committee using the latest guidelines from the government.

When we have a definite date for re-opening, we will put it on the village website – so watch that website.

For Sue and myself, lockdown has been a welcome rest. We have been on duty every Tuesday afternoon for several years. This means we are several years older than we were. And several years less fit, and more tired.

Could you take over?

It's not too difficult to help Frederick put out the tables and chairs, make the tea, find the crockery and the biscuits.

Ring me on 01908 502564 or email me at [mbarrie@btinternet.com](mailto:mbarrie@btinternet.com) ■

*Margaret Barrie*

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## WHADDDON BOOK CLUB

WE have continued to meet monthly on the last Tuesday at 7.30pm.

We last met in February, before lockdown, and then wondered what to do; we had a lot of time on our hands to read and we were unable to meet and discuss our books.

But along came Zoom and, after a hitch at the first meeting, we are now in full swing. We find it, in many ways, better than everyone sitting in one room, there being distracted, and talking to person next to the them. One member talking at a time is the new routine: everybody can hear (adjust their own volume), impress (or not) with their choice of setting, and drink according to personal preferences.

And we have been able to extend our forum to Leighton Buzzard. We hope we will attract new members locally or even further afield, especially as shielding for some may make conventional meetings impossible for some time to come.

In the last quarter we read *The Brendon Voyage* by Tim Severin; this received general acclaim. This story of a successful attempt to reach the New World in a boat made of leather, ash and oak to replicate a voyage by St Brendon and crew from County Cork in Ireland in the 6th Century, was an unlikely good read. Other books have included those by authors Daphne du Maurier and Ellie Griffith.

We miss so much the Library service for the loan of books and an opportunity to browse.

As a 'bonus' for joining us, as we are now 'experts', we can offer advice on how to Zoom! Do think about coming to join us. Our next book is Alan Hollinghurst's *The Stranger's Child*.

In August we will be deciding our reading for the year ahead.

The Book Club's contact is Margaret Barrie. ([mbarrie@btinternet.com](mailto:mbarrie@btinternet.com)) ■

*Jane Porter.*

● **BEWARE** of false prophets: scammers posing to be from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) offering refunds, or from similar organisations. **DO NOT** pick up international calls unless you know the person. Likewise, other callers you **DO NOT** recognise. Scammers' sales pitches are convincing; they are well trained in their unworthy employment. It is easy to become sucked into their vicious vortex. **BEWARE** of scammers. ■



**T**HE last time Parliament ordered Ely Cathedral to be closed, there was looting of stone, glass and furnishings from the building, people built shacks on the East Lawn and the dung heap there grew to such a size that it cost the equivalent of three years' wages to clear it away.... Oh, and the lockdown lasted 13 years....

No, not Coronavirus that time of course, Oliver Cromwell was the guilty party, but now we are going through only the second lockdown in the Cathedral's history and this time it is a lockdown so tight that nobody has even been able to get in to change the clock in the Cathedral tower to British Summer Time!

Ely Cathedral has many different faces, first and foremost, of course, it is a place of worship, with its own regular congregation as well as being the focus for major Diocesan services, but it is also a visitor attraction and an arts and music venue. It runs daily with over thirty paid staff and several hundreds of volunteers, but its community extends to some 250,000 people, and it costs £1,400,000 a year to maintain the medieval fabric and all the different activities that take place in the building. You can see from these figures that the Cathedral will suffer from the effects of lockdown just as much as any other institution.

### **So what happened at Ely?**

Worship moved to You Tube, with the Cathedral clergy broadcasting communion services from their own homes on Sundays and festivals, and offering people the opportunity to join in with weekday services on Zoom. If it was known that congregation members could not access the technology service, they were posted out to them.

Of course, there were hiccups (one service was entirely sideways) but numbers were strong, and regular viewers were attracted from throughout the world.

With many of the congregation, and people in Ely, on total lockdown due to age, the Cathedral's Social Responsibility Minister organised volunteers to shop, phone, and otherwise assist, those who asked for help. Activities which could still be carried out, such as helping at the Foodbank and the Saturday morning litter-picking, went on as usual.

The Cathedral diary is still full of the unhappy word "Cancelled". The popular "Crowns and Gowns" exhibition had just moved out of the Lady Chapel and an exhibition of paintings set up when the doors were closed. Having had the wonderful art installation of the moon in the Cathedral last year, we should now be enjoying the earth installation, but that is postponed, as are all the concerts, lectures, book launches....

For the guiding community, just revving up for a full summer of British and foreign visitors, there is the worry of whether we can remember everything once we start guiding again!



However, we have been busy writing material for virtual tours to go on the cathedral website and discussing (online of course) how we can manage once the Cathedral reopens – nobody is keen to talk in depth to visitors from behind a mask – but we shall get there!

The 'big day' took place on 3<sup>th</sup> July when the Cathedral reopened (Wednesdays – Saturdays) for private prayer on a part-time basis. The first Sunday morning service with congregation took place on 12<sup>th</sup> July (with participants needing to book a place).

Just before that, on 30<sup>th</sup> June, the vergers were at last able to reset the clock to BST!

The matter of changing the time of the clock was one about which most local people raised questions; the chimes can be heard all over the centre of Ely. One person can change the clock, usually the vergers, but the individual has to climb the tower to achieve this. Of course, before that the vergers would be unable to enter the building, other than for ground level checks.

We have to take the same precautions as everyone else: limited numbers in the building at a time; in at the West Door and out of the South Door; only the Nave and the South West Transept open; few chairs; keep sanitising; deep clean weekly.

Members of the volunteers have rallied round to become official "Cathedral Hosts" in order to keep visitors safe. And clergy are back in the building to broadcast the Sunday service once again – although it will be some time before everything gets back to normal.

So how was lockdown at Ely Cathedral? Just the same as it was for everyone else!

*Shirley Hall*

**NOW BACK IN ACTION.** ELY cathedral is now open on weekdays from Wednesday to Saturday for three hours (just the nave and south-west transept), using a one-way system. In the 90-minute shift I covered on Saturday morning (10<sup>th</sup> July) 92 people came through – the highest number at any one time being 17. For the Sunday service, entrance was by advance tickets only with 30 pairs of seats available. As there were about 10 singles (who had to have two seats) the congregation amounted to about 50. There were no hymns but we had a cantor for items like the Gloria, which was quite beautiful. When it came to the Communion, the congregation remained seated; the clergy donned visors and gloves and came up to individuals. The service finished with a wonderful piece on the organ; it received a round of applause! The service continues to be broadcast live on the cathedral's YouTube channel; it will continue like that for the foreseeable future. However, while many of the congregation are still isolating the broadcasts do now enjoy an international following! Perhaps *Whaddon Quarterly* readers might like to follow it. A meeting will be held to discuss when and how we will resume guiding, and when more of the building will be opened up to the public. Sadly, the national instruction remains that there is no singing in services, so no choir. (We have three choirs: lay clerks, boys and girls – usually two of the three would sing at a service, and would total about 25 – but it is impossible to be socially distanced in the choir stalls.) **SH**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Internet links to Whaddon Hall

Dear Editor – I am not sure if you are aware, but I have recently been in contact with John Mortimer re the *Whaddon Quarterly*. He suggested I send some internet links concerning Whaddon Hall which you may be interested in. They are:

<https://www.iflscience.com/editors-blog/anonymous-source-reveals-wwii-footage-of-topsecret-british-code-breakers/>

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/secret-wartime-footage-of-british-spies-uncovered-after-75-years/ar-BB1270wn>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=whaddon+hall&&view=detail&mid=9B600C9CA7F58DC25EBB9B600C9CA7F58DC25EBB&&FORM=VRD GAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dwhaddon%2Bhall%26FORM%3DHDRSC3>

You may well have prior knowledge of these links but I thought you might be interested for the record.

Since being in contact with John, I have come across another article in a computer magazine; it mentions a book called *The Secret Wireless War* by Geoffrey Pidgeon – another internet link being [www.snipca.com/34879](http://www.snipca.com/34879) Again, you are probably already aware of this publication.

Since my wife and I visited Whaddon on holiday, I feel we have come to know the village even better than we know our own town!

Best of luck with the Editor's post and I hope all goes well. ■

*John Holton*

Ramsgate, Kent

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● **IN A PRESS RELEASE** dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020, leaders of all 10 Hertfordshire District and Borough Councils stated their opposition to a proposal from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to abolish their Local Authorities in favour of a single Unitary Council which would serve the county's 1.2m residents. Clearly, some Hertfordshire residents view HCC's proposals as counter to the spirit of the Localism Act, introduced in 2011 to "disperse power more widely in Britain today" given that "central government has for too long hoarded and concentrated power." ■

## Visits by two Queens

**JUST 130 YEARS ago, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1890, Queen Victoria visited Buckinghamshire. A perfectly blue sky and a chilly wind greeted Her Majesty's arrival at 11 am in Aylesbury by train from Windsor.**

Continuing by horse-drawn carriage, a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm greeted the procession as it made its way to Waddesdon Manor, according to the *Bucks Herald*.

After a lengthy luncheon, the Queen retired to the State Apartments. The afternoon's activities included a tour of the grounds before the custom of planting a tree. The rest of the day was successful after which the train headed for London.

Some 300 years earlier, Lord Grey of Whaddon was honoured in 1568 with a visit by Queen Elizabeth I then on her "Buckinghamshire progress". ■



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - WHADDON

### Is parking on Whaddon's footpaths illegal?

THIS is a subject which, understandably, is close to many hearts and so upsets many residents, especially those with mobility problems, the partially-sighted or those who need to manoeuvre prams, pushchairs etc.

It is a problem made worse in Whaddon due to the high level of rat-running traffic, including frequent HGVs, and larger agricultural vehicles. These do not mix well with pedestrians who are sometimes forced to venture into road space, due to the inconsiderate parking practices of some drivers.

Everyone should be able to walk on pavements safely without worrying about vehicles blocking their way and, additionally, pavement surfaces generally are not designed to carry the weight of vehicles.

To exacerbate this, the added maintenance costs of repairing cracked and damaged paving and displaced kerb stones only adds an unnecessary financial burden to our already cash-strapped council.

#### **The definitive answer**

Parking on pavements is not illegal outside of London. You can, however, still receive a fine for doing so in some instances, which makes this quite a grey area.

Since 1974, the Highway Code rule 244 has stated that drivers "MUST NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement in London and should not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it."

The key feature to note here are the words *must not* and *should not*.

In London, you *must not* park on the pavement; the *must* indicating there is legislation behind this rule and you could receive a fine for breaking it.

However, outside the capital or "elsewhere", the Highway Code states drivers *should not* park on the pavement, meaning it is advisory and not, therefore, backed up by any legislation. Rule 242 is where it gets a little less clear. It states: "You MUST NOT leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road."

This is a *must not*, again, meaning if your car is reported or seen by a police officer and judged to be either in a dangerous position or causing an unnecessary obstruction of the road, you could receive a Fixed Penalty Notice.

#### **What the RAC says**

*Outside of London, we advise people to use common sense when faced with no other option but to park on the pavement.*

*If you are parking along a narrow road, where parking wholly on the road would stop other cars, and particularly emergency vehicles, from getting through, then it is a sensible option park partially on a pavement, providing there are no parking restrictions and providing you are not blocking a wheelchair user or pram from using the pavement.*

*If there are restrictions, or your parking would cause wheelchair users or*



*people with prams to have to walk into the road, then you should find somewhere else to park.*

**So, whilst the answer is not cut and dried, it seems the message for all drivers in Whaddon is: PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE and HAVE CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS if you are tempted to park 'off road'.** ■

**YOUR LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS**

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

# MK2050, VALP and Salden Chase updates

**Despite the onset of coronavirus, updates have emerged of major developments affecting Whaddon: namely, MK2050, VALP, Salden Chase and Calverton Lane, as Graham Stewart reports.**

**MKFutures2050.** WPC's formal response to this 'Engagement draft' was submitted on 19<sup>th</sup> May and, since then MKC has – due to the Covid-19 virus – extended the deadline further.

In the process, it has raised an additional four questions. These relate to the likely impact of the pandemic.

Truthfully councillors, at their 9<sup>th</sup> July Zoom meeting, had little idea as to how they might respond to these latest four questions raised by MKC. It was decided to let others, with perhaps a better 'crystal ball', to make suggestions..... especially as the deadline for comments was extended only eight days to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July!

MK Council states that it hopes to provide a Revised Strategy by the Autumn of this year, but councillors did not think that a five-week extension was a sufficient time gap to "re-evaluate the impacts and effects of both the 'Oxford to Cambridge Expressway pausing' and this hugely damaging epidemic over the short, medium and long term" Both points were emphasised in our formal response, especially when considering many of us have no idea as to how events will unfold in the next 12 -24 months, with Covid-19 hovering in the background.

It should be noted that the new leader for Buckinghamshire Council (BC) replied to MKC on 22<sup>nd</sup> May stating "We are not supportive of the proposals set out in this strategy due to our significant concerns on the strategy content and the engagement process undertaken by MKC" and "We urge MKC to withdraw this document and plan for any future expansion within its own borders".

This statement yet again highlights the apparent lack of Government required, meaningful 'cross boundary' cooperation between MKC and AVDC/BC.

## **To be picked up by the inspector?**

This is a serious point. Hopefully it will be picked up by the VALP Inspector, when it comes to the selection of Shenley Park as a future major development location, as opposed to the other sites promoted.

**VALP - Progress report.** The following statement was made on 13<sup>th</sup> March by AVDC:

*"We had intended to send the representations and the Council's responses to the issues raised in them to the Inspector in mid-April. However the Council has prioritised its response to the current Covid-19 crisis and as a result some Council Officers involved in preparing the responses to the representations have now been seconded to Covid-19 work. It is therefore not possible to give a definitive answer at this stage, as to when we will be in a position to send the information to the Inspector, but we will continue to focus on achieving this as soon as possible and more information will be put on the website when it is available."*

The Bucks Council Planning Growth and Sustainability team's response is still evolving and with no new time-line available as yet – and Bucks C unable to speculate when this might happen – they are still in the process of finalising technical highway data etc.

The approval of the Main Modifications' response to the Inspector is an officer 'delegated decision'. But first this has to be approved by Warren Whyte, the new Cabinet Leader for planning and growth, before it can be sent to the Inspector.

Your P.C. has asked if the Covid-19 virus is likely to impact on the work already done – bearing in mind the likely economic downturn, likely change in working habits, and so on. Perhaps, for example, VALP could be merged with the new plan for Bucks.

## **VALP will proceed to adoption**

However, Martin Tett, the new Council Leader, was adamant that VALP would proceed to formal adoption, albeit later than anticipated, possibly in late spring 2021.

Your P.C. still remains hopeful that the Inspector will reopen the Inquiry Hearing Sessions later this year in order to properly consider the late introduction of Shenley Park. But this is his decision alone, once he has considered all the responses.

Whatever the outcome, it must be very doubtful that the Inspector's final report will be made before early 2021.

**Salden Chase, Newton Longville.** Some residents may have an interest in this site. It fronts onto the A421, just beyond the Bottledump Roundabout; it then runs southwards towards Newton Longville.

You may recall it is a major mixed-use development scheme. It stands within AVDC (now Bucks Council [BC]) and is set for some 1,900 new houses.

MKC members decided (against Officer recommendations) to refuse the access part of the application because of A421 highway capacity concerns. The A421 is in MK, as opposed to the actual whole development site which lies in BC.

The consortium developing the site has launched an enquiry against MKC's refusal. This is likely to be heard in October with a final decision late this year.

BC has already resolved to grant approval, but is undertaking a fresh round of public consultations, in order that the details of the new Traffic Impact Assessment, and other updated documents, can be scrutinised.

### **Monitoring the situation carefully**

Your Parish Council is monitoring this site carefully. The outcome will impact not only on the emerging VALP, but probably on the progress of the site at Shenley Park, with its minimum of 1,150 proposed new houses. It brings a possible £22,000 financial contribution (from Salden Chase) towards further road safety measures in Whaddon village.

**Calverton Lane Road closure.** Hopefully, by the middle of August, phase 1 of the new Calverton Lane, leading to the single improved roundabout on V4 junction with H3 Monks Way, will be open and fully functioning.

The road opening will prove to be a huge relief to many who have had to endure lengthy and costly diversions for many months.

The road was due to open at the end of July. However, if the road remains closed, we are informed by MKC Highways that it is due to a number of unauthorised site entrances (break-ins to you and I) that have resulted in vandalism and considerable theft of construction plant and materials.

Whilst there are bound to be some minor road closures over the next few years – as work on the MK Western Expansion Area continues – the next major closure (when Calverton Lane will be severed to join the new City Street running through new residential districts) should not be for another four to five years' time! ■

## **Nash News**

### **NHS Banners**

Nash has been proudly displaying giant 'Thank You NHS and Key Workers' banners all around the village. A number of households proudly hosted the banners.

### **Nash for the NHS Fundraising**

A Just Giving fundraising page was started to raise funds for the NHS, and a number of events have taken place which have led, at the last count, to £1,251 - over double the amount originally hoped to be raised - Well Done Nash!

### **VE Day Celebrations**

Village Decorated for VE Day

The village was dressed up in red white and blue to celebrate VE Day; there were banners, flags and bunting decking every street - making Nash more beautiful than usual.

### **Virtual Street Party**

We also had a virtual street party hosted by for villagers to drop in throughout one weekend, on an open zoom call.

### **VE Day Nash Stickers**

The Nash Support Group delivered stickers with the messages of 'Happy Nash VE Day' and 'Stay Safe, Stay Home' on a union Jack background to every household in the village.

### **VE Day Community Cafe Packages**

The Cafe Team for May, Gi baked cakes for VE Day. Packages of VE Day cakes were made up for each of the days of the three-day weekend and distributed to our extra-care households. Each package was decorated in red, white and blue and with Nash VE Day stickers.

### **VE Day Camping**

There was also a VE Day Camping night with any funds raised to go the 'Nash for the NHS' fundraising website.

### **VE Day Weekend Treasure Hunt**

A 'Know Your Village' Treasure Hunt was organised; any donations again were made to the 'Nash for the NHS' fundraising page.

### **Nash Past & Present Photo Montage**

A group of villagers, both past and present, worked on a Facebook photo montage of Nash pictures, past and present.

### **Nash Closed Gardens**

Nash Closed Gardens had a total of 20 gardens that were 'opened' virtually. Entrants and viewers were encouraged to contribute to the 'Nash for the NHS' fundraising page and prizes were awarded – gold, silver gilt, silver and bronze.

### **Cake-away**

Taking due consideration of all social distancing guidelines, the Café Team put on the first Nash Community Cake Away café on 19<sup>th</sup> June. This proved to be a very successful return of a take-away/cake-away café with lots of cake bought and enjoyed. ■

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## **Percy Unwin and plate cameras**

**It is clear from an article by Ron Unwin in this issue that Ron's father, Percy, took the matter of photography very seriously indeed.**

PERCY took the photograph of George Henry Young, his son George and their butcher's dog (**see p. 8** of this issue) using a plate camera (**see facing page**).

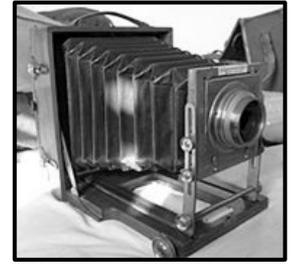
Percy's plate, or image camera, is a far-distant memory with mobile phone cameras now achieving dominance – even digital cameras are disappearing.

The camera used by Percy probably dates to around 1900. It carries no maker's name but one of five lenses in Ron's possession carries the name J. Lancaster & Son.

Another lens has the name Emil Busch AG Rathenow Rapid Aplanat. Emil Busch, of Rathenow, began making cameras in 1852. His optics were masterpieces in German lens-making in the early 1900s. They were expensive and much sought-after, and remain so today offering a well-connected image – more so than the lens developed by Professor Joseph Pretzval in 1840. The Pretzval became the first photographic portrait objective lens, however Busch made Rathenow a centre of Germany's optical industry.

Judging by Percy's equipment, photography was indeed one of his primary hobbies as the lens is the critical item in a plate camera: it can make or break a picture. The bellows, shutter and cable release of Percy's camera remain in fine order.

J. Lancaster & Son, a photographic company based in Irving Street, Birmingham, began trading in 1835 when James Lancaster started an optical firm for the manufacture of glasses, microscopes, and telescopes. Lancaster became one of the world's major camera makers producing wooden view cameras (**right**), among them several cameras for smaller plate formats. Lancaster made its own lenses and had patents for shutters, magic lanterns and enlargers.



In 1870, Lancaster's son, William James, took over and in 1871 the company name became J. Lancaster & Son. William James refocused the company to include photographic products and popularising them with the public.

In 1879, the business offered the Lancaster Pocket Camera, which took 4¼ inch × 3¼ inch plates and a Gem camera, taking multiple images called the Lancaster Carte Camera. More models followed: Le Merveilleux, Le Meritoire and the Instantograph in 1882, and the pocket watch camera in 1886. In 1898, it claimed to be the world's largest camera manufacturer having sold over 200,000 cameras.

It became a limited company in 1905, becoming J. Lancaster & Son Ltd and this is recorded on subsequent camera labels. W. J. Lancaster died in 1925 and the firm ceased trading in 1955.

Images here show how far photographic technology has moved in the last 100+ years. ■

**(Words: John Mortimer; photographs below: Ron Unwin)**



● **AUCTIONEERS'** catalogues sometimes have their own tale to tell. Just at the end of WW1, something serious (tragic?) must have happened at Oaks Farm, just outside Whaddon. An auction catalogue reveals a decision by the owner to 'sell up'. Stafford, Rogers & A. W. Merry offered for sale by auction on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1919: "The live and dead farming stock, viz: 371 Oxford Down sheep & lambs, 2 cart mares and a foal, 23 head of cattle, farm implements and 270 acres of grass keeping." The farm's fields enjoyed such names as: Burnt Oaks, Home Field and Mill Field.

● **COVID-19** took a side-swipe at a series of exhibitions, concerts and artistic reappraisals to mark the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. Some were held in January and February; but March brought a halt. However, the pandemic spawned levels of creativity as organisers extended Beethoven's celebrations into 2021 to be formally marked with a concert conducted by Daniel Barenboim in Bonn opera house on 17<sup>th</sup> December – Beethoven's birth date in 1770.

● **THOSE** who enjoy Beethoven's works may also be interested to read a book just out about the great man: *Beethoven: A life in nine pieces* by Laura Tunbridge. (Viking. £16.99. 288 pages.) Tunbridge, an eminent professor of music at Oxford University, has taken nine pieces of the master's music to illustrate key themes of his life. Around these, she fills in the story of his family, his friends, the history of the time and the technicalities associated with making musical instruments. Beethoven, who did not marry, was tragically deaf by the time of his life's end. At the premier of *Ode to Joy* he had to be turned to witness the wildly applauding audience. ■

## NEW BOOKS

# “The best thing we ever did...wonderful”

**When two factories making Spitfire fighter aircraft were demolished by German air attacks in WW2, local people came to the rescue to restore production. Their work helped win the Battle of Britain.**



THOSE who were there will never forget. The memories are seared into their subconscious: noise, heat, smoke, smell of burning, rubble and death. Overarching these: unbridled fear; the aftermath.

Four months changed their lives: the Battle of Britain. It was not hundreds of miles away, but on doorsteps. Britain's darkest days.

In the middle of those days, two vital factories were crushed. They built Supermarine Spitfires, Britain's weapon in the Battle of Britain.

A way had to be found to restore production, and fast.

*Secret Spitfires* unfolds a story of rekindling; how people without any experience of aircraft manufacture – two-thirds women – merged to create fighter planes for young heroes to fly.

\* \* \* \*

Just as Whaddon Hall served as a dispersal point for MI6 and lofty Church Hill the isolated location for radio transmission and receipt of secret WW2 information, so towns and villages within a radius of 50-miles of Southampton became dispersal points to make Spitfire parts.

Eighty years ago: 10<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> October 1940 is etched into the brain: The Battle of Britain. Then, every conceivable Spitfire and Hurricane aircraft became vital.

The nation's future: freedom from Nazi Germany, depended on them; every machine vital to repel the Luftwaffe's merciless missions to crush British towns, cities and strategic facilities.

In the midst of that aerial bombardment, two vital factories near Southampton were crushed, ending Spitfire production.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September, 37 Heinkel bombers targeted the Supermarine Aviation Works in Southampton, unleashing their bombload on the home of the Spitfire: 110 people died.

Two days later, they returned. Seventy tons of bombs fell on Woolston and Itchen factories, ending their part in Spitfire manufacture.

Miraculously, equipment required for production survived. Equally, Supermarine's design office with blueprints of current and future aircraft remained intact.

Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft Production, believed Spitfires crucial to Britain's survival. He conceived a plan: to resurrect the production using a strategy of dispersal: switching manufacture to the most unlikely sites within a 50-mile radius.

From car dealerships to bus depots (Wilts & Dorset); from garages (Vincent's Garage) to warehouses; from cowsheds to laundries. It mattered not. In fact, any facility with a half-decent floor area was sequestered to make aircraft components (wings, tail fins, fuselages, etc); they became part of an inventory of secret locations.

In total, 65 buildings were commandeered (including three new production sites at Salisbury, Trowbridge and Reading). Together, they made 10,000 Spitfires; half of all built in the war.

### **Unforgiving work environments**

Even more breath-taking than removing manufacture from sight of overhead bombardment, came the idea of who would work in those unlikely and often unforgiving work environments.

Step forward an army of women; not Land Army girls culled from the farms and combine harvesters, but a taskforce: hairdressers, typists and domestic workers.

It mattered not what these would-be manufacturing virgins were doing previously; any female from 18 to 60 had to register for war-work. From that deep pool could be plucked Spitfire's

'new' workforce.

Betty Potter recalls: "We volunteered for the WRAF. They said they'd let us know. They never did. We were just 19 and had to go into the factory. Best thing we ever did. It was wonderful." Betty had known only domestic service in a large house; factory work with other women transformed her life. A baptism of fire; working 12-hour shifts.

There were others. Their lives were changed; like the crack team of 200 women pilots who flew completed Spitfires to military airfields for combat. One admitted: "I often went up and played with the clouds. I did enjoy it!"



**Joy Lofthouse (top row, second from left) flew Spitfire aircraft to the front line.**

Another was Joy Lofthouse. Did Joy discover something better than sex?

Joy found flying Spitfires a glorious release from boring work at Lloyds Bank. She recalls: "You practically breathed on the controls. It did what you wanted. It was the nearest thing to having wings."

This book reflects British character: determination, bravado, joy and pain. Many contributed to it: ordinary people standing up to be counted; modest people without 'show' or 'side'. They put their shoulders to the wheel to conquer the enemy; joining forces to overwhelm the carnage left behind

in the enemy's wake.

That same magnificent effort is required now and in the future as Britain faces a different 'enemy': one that affects every facet of life with far-reaching human and economic implications.

*Secret Spitfires* has a message for everyone in 2020.

**JM**

*Secret Spitfires* by Howman & Cetintas with Gavin Clarke. Published by The History Press. £20.

## **A world without work?**

**THE publisher of this book presumably had no insight in early January into the horrors ahead: Covid-19 and its consequences, change of habits. Given that, the book probes a very deep subject: one to be swallowed in small 'bites' to absorb and comprehend its messages and implications.**

IS a world without work desirable, or impossible? Certainly, during the pandemic costs have risen for many, while vistas have been raised. But will the future create more or less work? Will the inevitability of unfurling automation offer work for idle hands, or make hands idle? The book *Secret Spitfire*, reviewed here, demonstrates how war created work for some who never before considered factory employment.

Some argue that future workers will be replaced by machines, creating a dystopian world in which robots toss workers onto a bone-heap, dooming them to empty lives of poverty and despair. Is the threat real, or are we on the verge of a new era, in which artificial intelligence (AI) and other 'new' machines emerge with new ideas (and jobs?) to program themselves, as author Daniel Susskind, a Fellow in economics at Balliol College, Oxford University, argues?

Will a revolution in work and leisure come to pass? Will everyone have to don crampons to scale new heights to survive? Work, or no work is certainly a subject fit for a U3A discussion group, or even a debating society. There are certainly more questions than answers!

It remains to be seen if a world without work does become a reality, or merely a present-day professor's hypothesis.

*A World Without Work: Technology, automation and how we should respond* is published by Allen Lane (RRP £20). ■

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**Dave Taylor**  
Handyman

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## We'll be ready, willing and very able

**I**F SOMEONE should ask you to list all the dangerous hobbies/pastimes you could think of, I imagine you'd come up with the usual suspects: hang-gliding, sky-diving, tightrope-walking at height, freediving or some such.

But singing with a group of like-minded music-lovers in Whaddon's village hall? Maybe that wouldn't have featured.

Well, let me enlighten you, singing in a choir is currently a very risky pastime. It's the breathing you know. That in and out thing we all do, usually without even thinking about it.

And so it came to be that standing side by side, exhaling in a confined space is likely to be one of the very last activities to be released from its lockdown, due to the pandemic.

And everyone in Chase Choir is very sorry about that, although we completely understand the necessity for being cautious and we will, of course, adhere to guidelines. (This is not the forum for mentioning city crowds, crammed together on pavements outside pubs or hordes of beach enthusiasts thronging the coastlines, so I'll say nothing).

Not to be discouraged, though, we are still singing. If you happen to be taking your daily constitutional through the village, and some surrounding areas, at about 7pm on a Monday evening, you may just be able to discern the faint strains of a Queen medley, a Les Miserables tune, All That Jazz or Fields of Gold, amongst others, drifting tunefully (oh yes!) through the air. Ahh! Music to your ears!

The Chase Choir, each member singing in isolation, at home, on Zoom, led by the irrepressible Karen Logan, will not be silenced!

Thanks to the modern technology available to us, seeing each other online and maintaining



our vocal chords in tip-top condition has been popular and will ensure that as soon as it's safe to do so, we'll be ready, willing and able to meet up again with the minimum of catching-up required.

We'd love to start planning concerts and fundraising for our two local charities, Keech Hospice Care and Thames Valley Air Ambulance, but for the moment, we'll settle for raising the roof at home.

If you'd like to join the choir, do get in touch with Karen on 01908 501922 or Marianna 01908 503194 for details. ■

## A longing to be buried at sea?

**For many people, the prospect of a sea burial has attractions: the sea's vastness, its loneliness. Rachael MacIntyre looks at the implications.**

DID you know you can be buried at sea? To do so, your executors will first need to clear some bureaucratic hurdles, and cross the palms of the Marine Management Organisation with some pieces-of-eight (£50) for a licence.

However, there are only three designated sites where this can take place. Alternatively, you can upgrade (for £175) and you can then be deposited elsewhere at sea. There is guidance at this web address: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-get-a-licence-for-a-burial-at-sea-in-england> .

The documents needed when your executors apply for a licence are:

- a death certificate – it is always good to make sure first;
- a certificate of freedom from fever and infection – let's keep our oceans healthy;
- a notice to the coroner of intention to remove a body out of England.

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It is important to note that the funeral director should be informed that the body should not be embalmed. If the body is embalmed then a burial at sea would not be allowed.

The funeral director should also be informed that a specially-constructed coffin would be required; this should be made of non-toxic biodegradable material. The specifications can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/burial-at-sea-further-information>. ■

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

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## WHADDON PLANNING BRIEFS

**The following planning matters were discussed virtually (via Zoom) at the Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

**20/01938/APP: BEACHAMPTON - Grove Farm, Stratford Road, Whaddon.  
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and annex with associated landscaping.**

I confess to having thought that this farm stood within Whaddon parish – but I was mistaken. The farm house itself is just within Beachampton parish. It is only the access road (also serving The Oaks farm house and buildings) which sits within Whaddon.

The existing brick and stone farm house is in a 1.75-acre site. It is not listed, and the proposal seeks to replace a six-reception room/five-bedroom house with a five-bedroom house (including an annex) on three storeys; the third storey is within the roof space. Because of its isolated location, the futuristic design, with eco-friendly materials will have very limited impact on public views. The exception is for those using footpath BCH/18/1, which runs tight to the western corner of the site.

But, as the strategic access officer at BC comments, *'An attractive and uniquely designed building is likely to enhance a walker's experience of the countryside'*. As it is a replacement dwelling with 5 bedrooms the highway and access situation is unlikely to have a greater impact on Stratford Road than at present.

Your Parish Council had no objection to the application, but a formal decision from BC has yet to be issued.

**CM/0033/20: Park Hill Farm, Bletchley Road, Great Horwood.  
Recontouring of agricultural land using inert clays and soils.**

This new application, made by agents SB Rice on behalf of Churchill Waste Management Ltd, is very similar to the one that was refused back in July 2019.

Whilst agents have tried to mitigate the access and highway safety reasons for refusal, it would appear that the principle of whether or not the development should proceed remains the fundamental question. This is based on land use, environmental and landscape issues, waste and mineral considerations etc.

Interested residents should read the agents Executive Summary (pages 4-5) and the Introduction (pages 6-11) of the 45 page 'Planning Statement' that can be found by following the link below and entering the application no CM/0033/20:

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

The previous refusal notice issued by BCC on the earlier, and similar application, together with the previous 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018 WPC response on the application, can also be viewed at the same web page by opening the relevant correspondence after entering application no :- CM/0068/18

Your Parish Council stands by its earlier objection to the application, as it appears that the BC original reasons for refusal have not been fully overcome or satisfied.

### **20/02056/APP: Land at the Oaks, Stratford Road, Whaddon. New Agricultural Grain store.**

The case for a new grain store is made because there is no facility for the storage of grain from this 535-acre farm on the site. Storage of grain in recent years was at Shenley Dens Farm, but following the sale of this farm, and the subsequent demolition of the old grain store buildings, grain has been transported some 11 miles to Castlethorpe. For reasons stated in the agent's planning statement, this is not viable.

The new 24m-long, 18m-wide and 6m-high steel framed portal building, beneath corrugated sheet roofing, would be located behind the hedge where the concrete access road separates The Oaks and Grove farm houses.

There was an old, much smaller, red brick grain store located at The Oaks, but this historic red brick farm building has recently been given planning approval to be converted into a single new residential dwelling.

Between this building and the old Oaks Farmhouse, which is to be demolished and rebuilt (both properties have been 'sold away' from the main farm holding), is a further steel-framed portal agricultural storage building (approx. half the size of that proposed), which is the subject of a current appeal (see elsewhere in this report) for conversion into four residential units following a recent planning refusal under ref. no: 19/02345/COUAR.

WPC recorded a 'No Objection' decision to the new grain storage building, - but suggested that a condition might be appropriate requiring the demolition and removal of the existing 4 bay storage building, if the appeal to convert to 4 dwellings is lost and the Inspector upholds AVDC's refusal decision. Otherwise, one must question what the long-term future of this building - sitting between two large non-agricultural dwellings might be?

## **NEW PLANNING APPEAL**

**Case Reference: 19/02345/COUAR. Appeal Reference: 20/00026/REF  
The Oaks, Stratford Road, Whaddon.**

### **Conversion of agricultural barn into four dwelling houses.**

Readers may recall that AVDC refused the original planning application on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019, and this appeal results following that decision.

WPC were unanimously opposed to the original application and made a full and detailed response to AVDC (now Bucks Council) on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

WPC's initial objection response will automatically be sent to the planning inspectorate by BC/AVDC, so apart from updating our earlier response following the grant of approval on both 19/02291/COUAR (red brick barn) and 19/02309/APP (replacement Oaks Farmhouse), and the new undetermined application at Grove Farm there is little more to add.

However, your councillors believe that the ongoing concerns relating to the Covid-19 virus could be a further material reason for the Inspector to uphold the AVDC refusal and decline the appeal, especially as the economy, travel modes and employment trends are bound to have an impact on the need or otherwise for new homes, and those located in remote settings that cannot possibly achieve or respond satisfactorily to sustainable objectives.

It is unlikely that the appeal will be heard and a decision made much before the year end.

## **UPDATES ON CURRENT UNDETERMINED PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**20/01459/APP: Land at Coddimoor Lane - Formation of a vehicular access.**

This application was approved by BC on 8<sup>th</sup> July, despite various concerns over the safety aspects of the location of the new access and the lack of visibility around the Stock Lane corner, being raised in the WPC No Objection in Principle response. BC highways accepted the agent's traffic data analysis, and agreed appropriate vision splays.

**20/01398/APP: 5 Old Manor Close - Part single storey and part two storey side extension.**

The BC planning and Heritage officers expressed concerns over the design detail (roof level and design together with the proposed first floor side window), but it is expected that negotiated revised plans will overcome these issues, leading to a planning approval in due course. WPC had no objections.

**19/02309/APP: The Oaks, Stratford Road - Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement new dwelling, timber framed garage and associated works.**

This application was formally approved on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, with conditions which included the removal of 'permitted development rights'. The decision was very much in line with the WPC response, although it is slightly disappointing that the WPC's suggestion of erecting advance warning signs at this crossroads junction along a fast section of road, was considered technically unnecessary, due to the fact that it was simply a replacement dwelling; albeit unoccupied for some 30 years!

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

No decision yet. Discussions continue between applicant and Council over treatment to boundary, the walnut TPO and removal of condition.

**18/01333/APP: Field, Stratford Road. - Change of Use from agricultural use to animal training (dogs) - (Retrospective).**

This application was finally refused on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

The Refusal reasons and full officer report can be viewed at:

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications//search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

The detailed 24-page Officer Report covers every aspect of this complex application.

It would appear the main reason for refusal comes down to access and highway safety, together with the unacceptable impact that access improvement works would have on the rural area and the Conservation area that stands immediately opposite.

In their simple summary, BC officers found that the temporary change-of-use to dog training could have been accepted, subject to appropriate conditions, as it was an acceptable use of the land in the countryside, and a viable enterprise.

Additionally, the times and hours of operation and the keeping/kennelling of dogs outside any permitted hours (both points of concern by WPC on behalf of residents living in the vicinity) would have been controlled by special conditions, had the officers' recommendation been one of approval.

WPC understands that the applicants are still able to operate their dog training classes under the normal permitted development laws, which both control and limit use.

**18/02929/APP: Field, Stratford Road. Appeal (ref 19/00082/REF) against retention of re-constructed barns and installed Klargester bio-treatment plant (Retrospective).**

This appeal was DISMISSED by the Inspector on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

The Inspector's appeal decision (don't forget to click 'appeal' and enter app no: 19/00082/REF) can be read at the same web page as mentioned above.

In summary, the Inspector decided the development undertaken was not required for agriculture. Overall, the adverse impacts of the development significantly, and demonstrably, outweighed the benefits when assessed against policies in the framework when taken as a whole. Therefore, the development did not represent a sustainable development.

### **20/00723/APP: 25 Stock Lane. - Proposed single storey ground floor extension and floor plan redesign.**

The original 24<sup>th</sup> April date for determination was extended until 26<sup>th</sup> May. Although this new time period has passed, no new details have been posted on the planning website.

WPC has already responded with No Objection, but we still await a formal decision.

### **20/00728/APP: 25 Stock Lane. - Proposed additional residential unit on ground floor, with first floor side extension and all associated works.**

WPC discussed this application at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March; it was unanimously agreed to submit a formal objection to the proposal.

Whilst recognising a need for smaller homes within the village, this was not an appropriate site for a stand-alone maisonette. Additionally, parking considerations had not been addressed. However, it was accepted that there is sufficient side garden space to accommodate a well-designed modest extension.

The original date for determination was extended until 12<sup>th</sup> June. Although this new time period has passed, no new details have been posted on the planning website.

A formal decision is still awaited. ■

## **Whaddon Refuse Collection Dates**

**Food waste:** Every Tuesday

**Recycling:** Tuesdays: 21<sup>st</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Sept.; 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Waste refuse:** Tuesdays: 28<sup>th</sup> July; 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August; 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.; 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Garden waste:** 28<sup>th</sup> July; 11<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August; 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October.

If AVDC misses a collection; report within 48 hours by phone to AVDC (01296 585858) or via the website. [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/find-your-bin-day](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/find-your-bin-day)

● **COVID-19** and its impact by postcode can be found at the official government ONS site of: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/articles/deathsinvolvingcovid19interactivemap/2020-06-12>

● **AS NASH'S** Victorian church was not built until around 1862, it became commonplace for village residents to be buried in Whaddon, explaining why so many from that village can be found in the churchyard. Coffins from Nash were taken along Church Path using the Victorian bier, now in St Mary's. One of two small diamond-shaped windows (**right**) in the west door at St Mary's offered the vicar of the day a view of the bier as it made its journey across neighbouring fields. To transport such a heavy burden for two miles or so required four strong men. The west door was last opened 36 years ago on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1984 for the wedding of Peter Stoddart's daughter, Fiona. Stoddart followed Dorian Williams, the TV's show-jumping commentator, as Master of Fox Hounds for Whaddon Chase Hunt. He was captain for a time of Bucks County Cricket Club. ■



# Jubilee Hall is your village hall

**At the moment, the committee is deciding how and when we can reopen the Hall to full use.**

WE hope to restart the Post Office in August, providing the necessary provisions and safety requirements can be organised by then. We also need to discuss this with Mr Patel, the Postmaster, who will make the final decision.

We will advertise reopening details on Facebook and with flyers in the village.

In our post in the last WQ, all keyholders were asked to return their keys by posting them through the hall letterbox in an envelope with their name and Club/Activity written on it. If you have been a regular hirer, please would you now return your keys.

If you were a regular hirer you can now re-book provisional dates with Marianna. Please email your details to [whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com), or telephone 01908 503194.

The Hall will also now be available for hire during weekdays, since the Playschool has closed.

Thank you all for your patience and cooperation during this difficult time. ■

*The Jubilee Hall Committee*



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## An MP in pandemic lockdown

**Asked by your Editor to provide an overview of life as a Member of Parliament during lockdown, I must first say a big thank you to everyone who has made such huge sacrifices during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**W**HETHER by staying at home, not seeing family or being unable to hug a grandchild, this has been a difficult time. In too many cases, my heart goes out to those who have faced the worst possible circumstances in losing a relative or friend to this virus.

We have also seen the pandemic bring out the very best of our community spirit, where across the whole constituency people have looked out for each other with such passion and care.

From the neighbourhood Facebook and WhatsApp groups which ensure everyone isolating or shielding is able to get supplies, to major new initiatives to stock up our foodbanks, sew facemasks and adapt businesses to support the community, I am hugely proud of all our volunteers and community leaders for all they have done during this crisis.

Turning to the question at hand, lockdown has made for the toughest working weeks of my adult life. I am not complaining; far from it.

The ability to help constituents in a time of need is one of the most rewarding parts of my job. But the sheer volume essentially led to months of one long help-and-advice surgery.

From making the case to the Treasury for more support for certain sectors that have fallen through the cracks of the £330 billion support package of measures to protect jobs and businesses, to supporting people with very specific individual needs; these were my absolute priority.

And I am pleased to say that in many areas we had success. I was very much among the MPs arguing in the early days that the Job Retention Scheme for PAYE employees needed to be replicated for the self-employed and we got that.

Likewise, I was part of a very small number of MPs working closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to negotiate a hardship fund for dairy farmers who, due to cafes, restaurants and other leisure providers being closed, experienced a catastrophic drop-off in demand for milk.

## Making the case for those without support

I continue to make the case for those who are still without support, such as owner/directors of limited companies who, perfectly legitimately, pay themselves through dividends; as well as for special attention to be given to a number of industries, such as coach companies and the performing arts which, as the economy begins to open, continue to be closed or unviable in their operations with social distancing in place.

Working from home to do all this has been no significant issue for me. Having worked for myself for 15 years prior to the 2019 General Election, I was still well geared up for it.

And I am happy to say that I have had zero requirement to dip into the controversial £10,000 budget that was made available by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for MPs to use for home working.

In some ways, without the many events, meetings and commitments that make up a "normal" Parliamentary day, I would say productivity at home has been high.

However, the virtual Parliament simply did not work and I am pleased we were able to return in person at the start of June. It is all very well MPs being beamed into the Chamber on a video screen, but the reality proved to be that, instead of debate, we simply had a succession of what I branded "streams of consciousness".

Parliament works when MPs are physically present: both in the Chamber being able to properly debate with each other, as well as around the estate where we are able to bounce ideas off each other, or directly grab a Minister in the corridor or division lobby to get a matter sorted out.

So, whilst media images of queues of MPs waiting to vote may look a little silly, the actuality of being there enables us to represent all our constituents so much better.

I sincerely hope we are through the worst of this horrendous virus, and truly on the path back to normality. But in the meantime, thank you for sticking with the government advice and remaining patient with those parts of our lives that remain closed.

I remain available to help anyone in the constituency who needs my assistance. Things will get better. We will bounce back. ■

**Greg Smith MP**

Member of Parliament for Buckingham

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA [www.gregsmith.co.uk](http://www.gregsmith.co.uk)

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## If only walls had ears and could speak...

**A question a future *Whaddon Quarterly* editor might wish to address is: Who *first* sparked the idea that Whaddon Hall should be selected for a key role MI6?**

A contributor, to *Whaddon Quarterly* in February 2019, Alan Biggins, holds the view that the Whaddon Chase Hunt acted as the fulcrum.

As one of the prime hunts immediately north of London, when fox hunting was in its prime, the hunt comprised, like most packs, of a mix of gentry, local farmers and landowners.

The Whaddon Chase had among its members Captain Hubert Faulkner, a local builder. He headed a syndicate which purchased Bletchley Park in 1937 from its then owner, Herbert Leon, another member of the Whaddon Chase Hunt.

Wheels within wheels. The hunt met outside his house on Boxing Days in the early 1930s.

Another member of the Whaddon Chase Hunt, Brigadier Sir Richard Gambier-Parry, KCMG, was a British military officer. He served in the army and the air force during World War I.

Gambier-Parry remained in military service after the war, but then entered civilian life for more than a decade, first with the BBC and then with radio business, Philco.

It is said that in 1938, he became instrumental in Whaddon Hall being used for intelligence work. But who *first* sowed the seeds of the idea?



**Duke of Kent**

The purchase of Bletchley Park proved to be just the start of intelligence gathering and processing within a short radius.

To Bletchley Park flowed radio intercepts from various 'Y' Stations. As well as monitoring UK intelligence traffic, 'Y' Stations could intercept messages from the Nazi Germany.

### **Mrs Wallis Simpson**

The 'Y' stations could pick up anything transmitted by radio: the Nazi Gestapo ordering the liquidation of a Krakow ghetto; a U-boat skipper revealing his grid position, BX384, having just sunk a tanker and a freighter; traffic control ordering a trainload of stores destined for the Russian front; the Luftwaffe ordering aircraft for dispatch for a parachute invasion of Crete; or ordering invasion barges to be withdrawn following the Battle of Britain. All are real examples. There were dozens of enigma circuits used by the Germans and Italians.

On the flip side, transmissions from the British, worldwide, were handled by 'Q Central', a hidden facility in Leighton Buzzard. It used a Type 21 teleprinter based on Enigma. It employed seven wheels and not four. The Germans did not crack that.

But, can the decision to use Leighton Buzzard for 'Q Central' likewise be traced to the Whaddon Chase Hunt? The hunt's elite would decamp for the night to appropriately-named The Hunt Lodge in Linslade.

### **Secret talks by firelight**

Who knows what discussions flowed as they supped vintage port? Seated around the blazing fire, its logs crackling and sparking, they knew only of looming black war clouds which were enough to sharpened the intensity of their clandestine plan-making. The day's hunt was long forgotten.

The Hunt Lodge (**right**) at that time already enjoyed its own claim to fame. Built around 1850, it garnered huge popularity amongst the hunting fraternity in the heady 1930s. For example, it is reputed Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson stayed there whilst hunting with the Whaddon Chase Hunt. Today, the Grade 2 listed building is privately owned; it offers family-run bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

But, overlooking tranquil parkland in private grounds on the Bedfordshire/Buckinghamshire borders, it is easy for imaginations to run wild at what might have taken place in those heady, late 1930s pre-war days in that quiet secluded spot, close to a fine example of an early Victorian Church.

As Bletchley Park grew in stature, so it spawned other activities and locations, including of course Whaddon Hall, radio posts and such a network of country houses, listening posts and, machine rooms and broadcasting stations of a size and shape new in mankind's story.

Bletchley Park also spawned computers and networks which now span the world; not only that, they have transformed the way people think and communicate – and the manner in which data are communicated for their protection and well-being, even to the point today of Apps able to track down Covid-19. The flip side of that, of course, can be found in the dark and evil elements of social media conducted through such devices.

But Bletchley Park's birth was 80 years ago; if only walls of The Hunt Lodge had ears and spell out conversations of those talking in low tones of plans for Whaddon Hall.

● Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, previously the home of a wealthy stockbroker-turned-squire, was a notable, ugly Victorian architectural structure surrounded by 55-acres of trees and grassland some 50 miles from London. It was purchased in 1938 at a cost of £7,500 by the head of MI6, Admiral Sir Hugh Sinclair, to house the Government Code and Cipher School (GC&CS) at a safe distance from German bombs.



**JM**

# Baptised in Whaddon, but born in Nash

**Nash did not have a church until 1862, so marriages, baptisms and funerals were held in Whaddon, like the baptism of railwayman Robert King Hall, as John Pullin explains.**

**V**ICTORIAN railway builders never reached Whaddon or Nash; but while Nash had a railwayman living in the village, Whaddon did not. Even so, the railways affected lives everywhere in the 19th century, not least as important employers of men.

Robert King Hall, born in Nash in October 1829 and baptised at Whaddon's St Mary's Church the following August, became a locomotive driver with the London & North Western Railway (LNWR), the biggest and most prestigious railway of Victorian times.

Engine-driving was seen as a glamorous job; however, Robert was probably at the more work-a-day end of the profession, being based in his working life at Bletchley locomotive shed. A wooden and galvanised iron building housing 12 engines, it blew down in a gale in the 1870s.

## Thundering through Bletchley

Although express trains thundered through Bletchley, as they do now, the daily work of the shed was to provide motive power to more menial passenger trains on branches to Bedford and Oxford; as well as to intermediate stations on the mainline, plus numerous pottering trains that shunted wagons at virtually every station, delivering coal and picking up farm produce.

Robert's family had moved to Newton Longville by the 1841 census where his father Thomas had a 60-acre farm: quite big by Victorian standards.

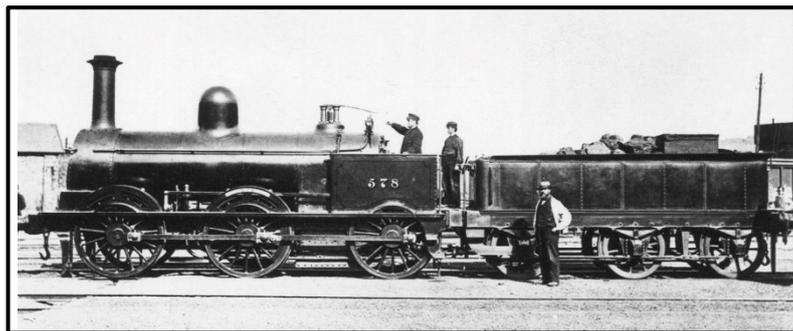
On the same page of that census was lace-maker Amos Warner; Robert married Amos' daughter Harriet in 1856. They lived their whole married lives at Napier Street, Fenny Stratford in a terraced cottage that still stands today.

Childless, they took in Harriet's sister's daughter, Sarah Ann, as a teenager before 1871 and she stayed with them, operating as a dressmaker but also, probably, as domestic help.

Robert died in 1895 and Harriet in 1899; Sarah Ann was the executor to Harriet's will, which left £967. No other member of Robert's immediate family pursued a career on the railways. Older brother Thomas – who perhaps had a different mother – took over the family farm and was also innkeeper at the *Red Lion* in Newton Longville.

The next brother, Benjamin, also remained in Newton Longville and lodged at various addresses before finally settling down to marry in his late 40s: he was described as a 'dealer'.

Only the youngest brother, George, born in 1843, aimed for a railway job. In 1861, he was in lodgings in Leighton Buzzard and employed as an engine cleaner, usually the first step to a career as a driver.



**Is Robert King Hall one of these railwaymen?**

Nash: but it is difficult to identify which specific family she came from, as in the 1851 census, of 92 households in Nash, six were headed by those with the surname King; the most common village name. There were Kings too in Whaddon.

Another later King from Nash, William, born in 1854, also became an LNWR engine-driver and was based at Willesden and at Rugby, and may well have driven express trains.

But how he was related to Robert King Hall, if at all, needs further investigation. Something for another day, perhaps? ■



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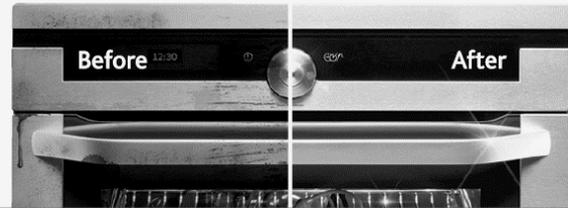
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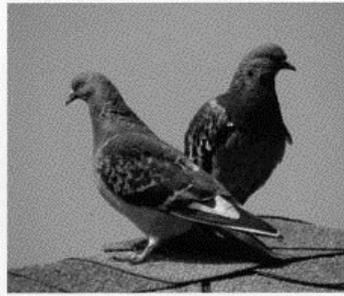
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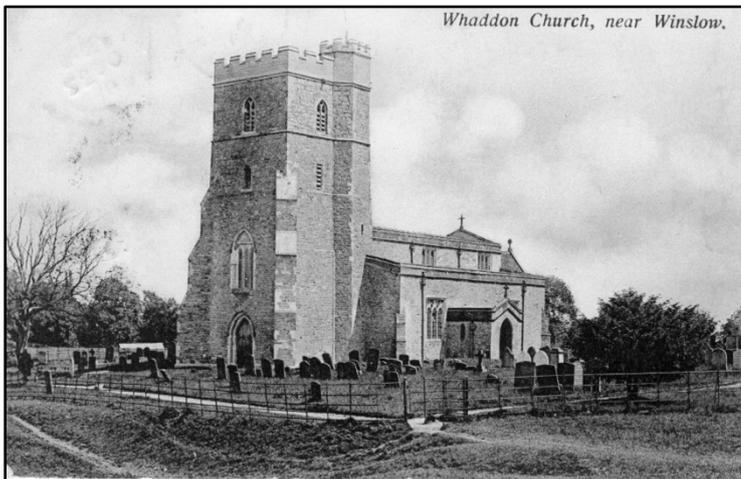
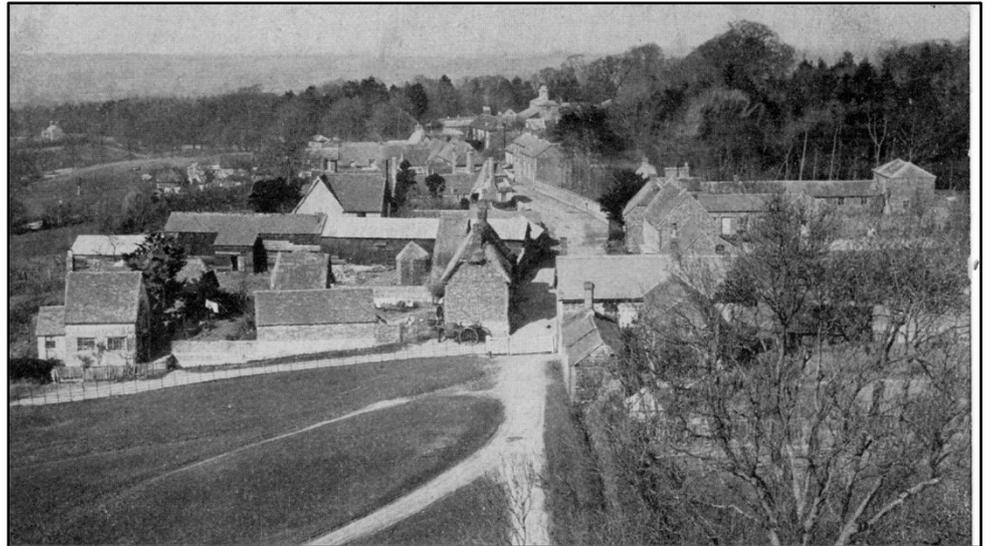
# Postcard images of Whaddon

Courtesy of Suzanne Lindsey

**Right:** High Street

**Below far right:** *The Lowndes Arms* and High Street

**Below:** St Mary's Church



**Above:** Towards Nash

**Far right:** Stratford Road

**Right:** Stock Lane





THE *Whaddon Quarterly* has been dropping through village letterboxes and into email inboxes for nearly 40 years.

Our current editor is now stepping down for good, and we need to find his successor.

Would you be prepared to step up to help keep the *Whaddon Quarterly*

going and be our new editor?

Are you IT-savvy, with an eye for detail and a curiosity to seek out articles of interest to readers; a desire to contribute to our village community?

As editor, you would have the help of the *Whaddon Quarterly's* current proof-reader, who will continue to check all articles for spelling, grammar and punctuation.

The *Whaddon Quarterly* is now in template format. It is easy to manipulate with a very obliging local printer who can also assist with configuring.

A small team of villagers helps deliver paper copies to some 130 houses in the village. The Parish Clerk distributes the completed digital version.

Tasks involve co-ordinating timely submission of articles, ensuring appropriate and interesting content, writing the occasional article (the amount of this would depend on your own preference) and liaising with the printer to produce and deliver four issues (digital and hard copy) a year to the village.

If interested, contact Suzanne Lindsey as soon as possible at: [ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk](mailto:ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk)

**Please don't let this issue be the very last  
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