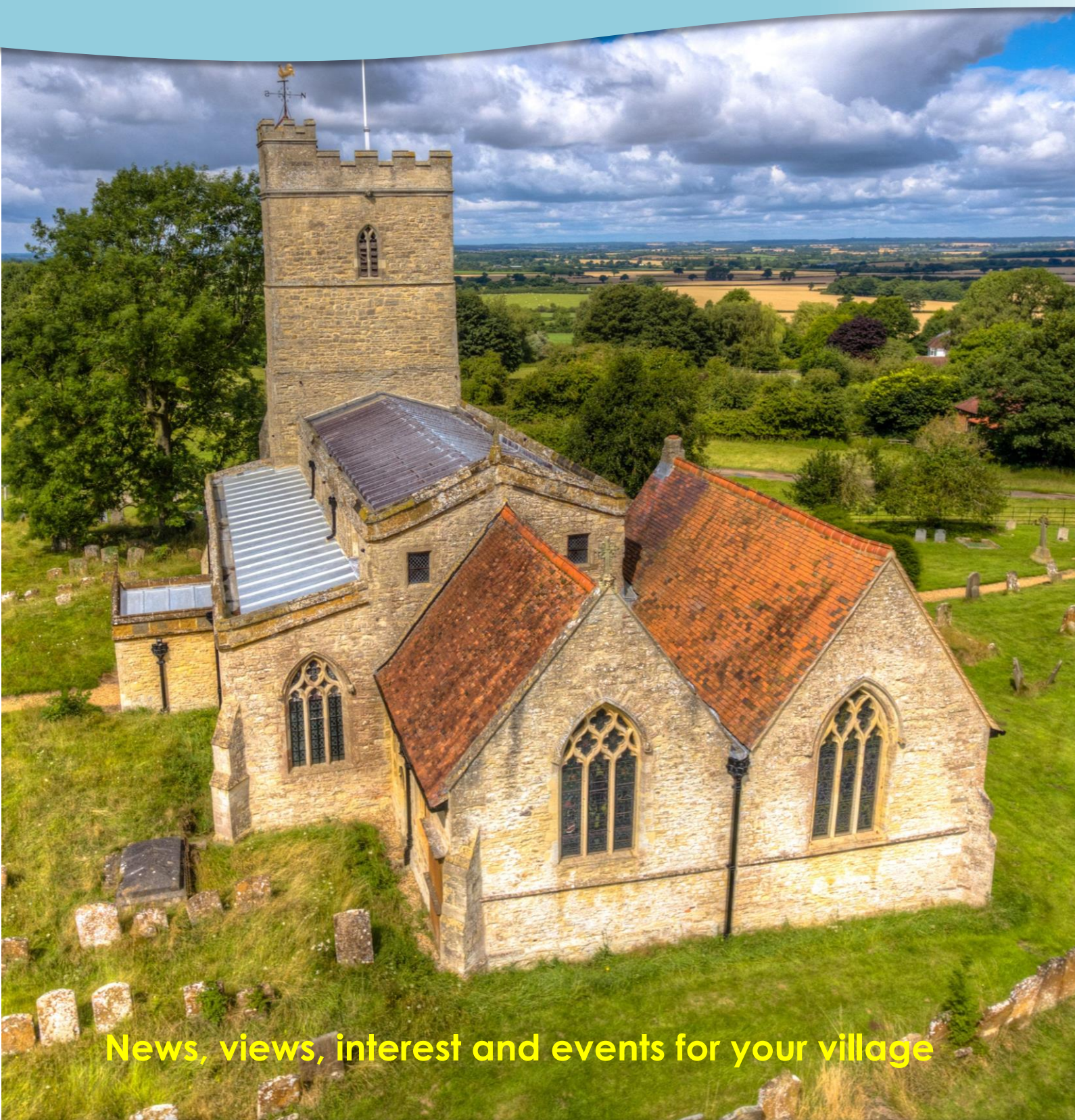


Whaddon Quarterly

November 2017



News, views, interest and events for your village

Tribute: Roger Adams, p. 20

Tribute: Ted Roff, p. 21

The Dormer family, p. 31

A woman with zest, p. 39

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IMPORTANT

You can take full advantage of this digital format by navigating quite easily through the *Whaddon Quarterly*. Simply select an article to read and then click on its title shown above in 'In this issue'. The 'system' will then automatically take you to that page. When you have finished reading the item, click on the heading 'Back to contents' in the bottom left-hand corner of the page and the 'system' will return you to the 'In this issue' page where you can repeat the process. Try it!

Any comments, queries or articles

Please contact the editor, John Mortimer, on
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Advertising rates

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The Parish Clerk will issue an invoice for payment.

Whaddon Jubilee Hall

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

Deadlines for forthcoming issues

19th January 2018; 20th April 2018; 20th July 2018 and 19th October 2018.

Cover picture

An aerial view of St. Mary's Church taken from a drone by Drew Murray.

EDITOR'S NOTE. Cover picture. This aerial view of St Mary's Church is different from that of the print version of the *Whaddon Quarterly* in as much as the colours here are brighter and better suited to this full-colour digital version on the website. Each image offers a quite different rendition and perspective of the village church.

Snippets of village news

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

- **THE DERELICT** garages in Briary View have been demolished.
- **PREPATORY** groundwork began early October for the new house at No 24 Vicarage Road. Construction of the house began 11th October.
- **SHENLEY ROAD** could be open in November, according to a letter from the acting managing director of Taylor Wimpey (See **p. 52**).
- **PLEASE NOTE.** The Post Office has returned to the Village Hall. It is now open on **Tuesdays** from 28th November from **2.00 pm to 4.00 pm**. Please make a note to avoid disappointment. The contact details of Mr Patel at Deanshanger are tel: 01908 564490; mobile: 07943 972020.



- **MEN ON A MISSION.** Their task: to raise as much money as possible for charity, using only vegetable matter and sheer audacity, as Peter Bush (**above**) demonstrates. To find out how, see **p. 30**.
- **OPENREACH'S** manhole cover, with its gaping hole, has posed for some time a dangerous threat to pedestrians, especially late at night. Openreach has now addressed the issue and the work appears to be complete and is no danger.
- **ANYONE** in Stock Lane, for example, who might have peered from their windows between 01.30 and 02.30 on Friday 6th October, could not avoid the majestic harvest moon which turned night into day. Usually occurring before the equinox in September, it rose later this year. For centuries, farmers waited for its arrival to gather in crops and prepare for winter.



night's curry'. The black powdery material is specially processed. William Sawbridge gives it the correct technical term. "Digested sewage cake; it is the most organic form of phosphate," he told this magazine.

- **BEWARE** anyone with a gmail account. This scam has been going the rounds. The grammar alone lets you know it is a scam. Here it is: From Update Account, To mail@mail.co, Gmail Account. Your Gmail account is Been Deactivated And Require Reactivation. To reactivate you are required to reply us with your gmail

- **TWO HEAPS** of manure, amassed in early October (**left**) on Whaddon Bank and Milton Keynes Bank, waited in readiness for the traditional agricultural practice of 'muckspreading'. Truck drivers who brought the material wryly described it as 'last

account email and password with your phone number. Failure to do this at this time would result in loss of your gmail account.

● **HARVESTING** of a rather different kind has been taking place behind Anglian Water sewage facility in the wood known as Glenholme. Planted by the Selby-Lowndes family, trees in the wood have been thinned out and the resulting felled 8ft-long logs stockpiled awaiting transportation. So far, at least three loads have been removed (starting 3rd October), using a 44-tonne articulated truck with its grab crane on the trailer, pictured **right**. ■



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



Parish Council Report

Autumn 2017

THIS has been an extremely quiet period in terms of Parish Council activity, but, at the same time, we have seen the publication of the draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan which lays out the proposals for house building till 2033.

The basic figure of 27,400 new houses by then sounds mind-boggling if you consider that there are currently some 75,000 dwellings in the Vale: an increase of over one third. However, this needs explanation.

Of the proposed total, more than half will be in the Aylesbury Garden Town adjacent to the existing town while Buckingham,

Wendover, Winslow and Salden Chase account for another 7,000 between them. This means that villages are spared major growth. And in Whaddon's case, the proposal for a major development adjacent to Milton Keynes, known as WHA001 has not been included.

To my mind, the biggest problem for us is the current level of traffic, though the VALP proposals in themselves, other than Salden Chase, should not be too much of a factor.

The planned development adjacent to Calverton and eastwards adjacent to the V4 Watling Street will certainly increase the traffic flow through Whaddon. As we all know, the A421 is heavily congested, not just at rush hour, but all day long.

There are plans in the offing for an Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, which will build a new dual carriageway between Bicester and Milton Keynes. However, the route is not yet known, and it is unlikely to involve dualling the A421; instead it will be an entirely new road. It should, in theory, take some pressure off the A421 but it is unfortunately some years off.

So we have to face the nationwide problems of a need for more houses and more jobs which, when achieved, create more cars and more congestion on our roads. Despite these issues, we are fortunate to still be an unspoiled village with beautiful rural areas to the north and west while, to the south and east, Milton Keynes and Bletchley offer first class shopping and entertainment facilities.

So, on that note, from all of us on the Parish Council, a very Happy Christmas. ■

Billy Stanier

November 2017

From the editor's chair

TWO ITEMS hidden from any kind of public gaze for nearly 75 years are revealed for the first time in this issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly*. Both are linked to World War Two. However, their appearance, while tipping the editorial balance of this issue more heavily towards 'looking backwards', can be excused on the basis of their links with Remembrance Day, and a desire to recall those injured or who lost their lives in conflict. In journalistic terms, both items are 'scoops' and demonstrate the amazing depth of information concealed within the boundaries of this small village of Whaddon.

Only sometimes, on the death of a long-lived individual, do deeply-held secrets come to light. Of course, some secrets fortunately do remain secret. And so, with the sad passing of village veteran Ted Roff, has emerged a little book

which holds a mirror up to the heroics and savagery of tank warfare with its blow-by-blow accounts.

This book, carefully nursed over the years and secreted away in a household corner, spawns memories of the day Ted's 20 year-old commander died and, in the same incident, recounts how Ted thankfully survived and was brought safely back to England to a hospital in Leeds, where he began the long road to recovery. Fortunately, teenager Ted, who had cheated death, could recuperate and play an active part in Whaddon life and where to this day he remains fondly remembered. The account of that fateful day in April 1945 starts on **p. 22**.

The second scoop surrounds Joan Selby-Lowndes, another former Whaddon resident, and staunch Womens' Institute member. She is the subject of an article in this issue (starting on **p. 39**). And it is with very grateful thanks to the National Portrait Gallery in London, which has kindly and generously digitised certain images at its expense, that we are able to publish for the first time a portrait of Joan in military uniform – she was in the ATS, or Auxiliary Training Service – almost from the outbreak of war.

Why is this portrait, which appears in the article on Joan Selby-Lowndes, so remarkable? Taken in 1944, the five studio portraits in the form of paper negatives (measuring only 6ins x 4.5ins) have remained 'off limits' ever since. Their presence in this country's foremost portrait gallery suggests Joan returned from active military service in Italy especially to meet the photographer in London on 24th February 1944 for a 'photo shoot'. The results were, in effect, official photographs. They were lodged with the National Portrait Gallery as part of the photographer's estate when he died in 1977.

And the photographer? Far from an up-start, eager to make a name for himself at the start of his career, he was none other than the renowned Leonard Green, who founded Lenare in 1924. Green – the equivalent of David Bailey, CBE (b. 1936), Terence Donovan (1936-1996) and, maybe even in today's world, provocative fashion and portrait photographer Terry Richardson (b. 1965-) – focused his soft lens on the social elite delighting in a gilded lifestyle; glamorous women, society ladies, Lords and generals. Not the hoi polloi. That Joan, or someone close to her, should arrange a sitting with high-class, and no doubt expensive, Lenare is remarkable; a valuable clue to the background of the ATS lady from Whaddon.

Joan Selby-Lowndes became famous, in a somewhat kindlier world than war-ravaged Europe; she found a wider and innocent audience through her children's books. After her experiences in Italy, she no doubt felt the need for readers to find respite from the world's harsh cruelties. Today, it is the urge of many a 'celebrity' or politician (or their agents) to create books for children. In Joan's day, Enid Blyton (1897-1968), Richmal Crompton (1869-1969) and Arthur Ransome (1884-1967) – to name three – headed the children's best sellers' lists. They were *real* authors in their own right, not notables seeking to widen their acclaim.

This issue includes several other accounts of family life in days gone by, including one of the Dormer family requiring extensive research in archives. Meanwhile, in today's world it looks as though the imposition of WHA001 has, for the time being at least, been delayed.

Happy Christmas to all readers, and a peaceful 2018. ■

Clerk's Corner



Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

Reporting Non-Working Street Lights. If you spot a street light that is not working around the village please report it to the clerk; phone 01908 507970 or use the email below. Help spotting the non-functioning lights is greatly appreciated.

No Dogs on the Recreation Ground. Sorry to have to issue a reminder that dogs are NOT allowed on the Recreation Ground. This is because irresponsible dog owners do not clear up after their dogs, and contaminating a play area for children is not acceptable. Please respect this rule for the benefit of the village community. Thank You.

Potholes. At the time of going to Press, various potholes in Church Hill and Vicarage Road have been marked for rectification. The large pothole surrounding fire hydrant ironwork outside Whaddon CoFE School was repaired (**right**) on 3rd October.



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 Whaddon Quarterly by email, and lots of useful notices and information; e.g., refuse collection delays, road closures, planning applications, etc.

Send a short email to ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk 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. The next meeting of Whaddon Parish Council take place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm on 9th November 2017. Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. All Welcome!

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

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The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of Whaddon Parish Council. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the editor does not accept liability for any errors. ■

VALP and the future of Whaddon?

The long-awaited Proposed Submission Draft of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, 2013-2033, (VALP) was finally published on 15th September. Graham Stewart outlines the implications for Whaddon.

IT IS with great satisfaction, and pleasure that I am able to confirm that Whaddon – at least for the time being – does not appear to be destined to become a suburb of Milton Keynes, and should remain a ‘stand-alone’ village in the rural northern Vale of Aylesbury.

By the time you read this report (early November) this latest draft will have been considered by various AVDC committees, the last of which is Full Council on 18th October. It is unlikely that any major changes will arise from these meetings, so we can now expect the final Public Consultation stage will proceed between 2nd November and 14th December.

The Draft Plan (without the expected minor amendments) was discussed at the Whaddon P.C. meeting on the 28th September, and it was agreed your Parish Council would submit an appropriate response towards the end of the consultation period,

Importance for Whaddon

The final document, and village reply will be discussed again at the next meeting of the Parish Council on **Thursday 9th November, at 7.30pm in the Chapel**, and all residents are welcome to attend and make their views known before any response is submitted.

Crucially, and most importantly for Whaddon village and its residents, WHA001 (the 1,800-2,000 homes proposed at ‘Shenley Park’ – between Bottlehouse Farm and the A421, on either side of the Shenley Road, running behind the village recreation ground) – is not being proposed as an appropriate strategic allocation within the Plan at this stage.

This will come as a huge relief to Whaddon and its residents. However, it does not mean this is the end of the story; there remains a long way to go before the emerging Plan completes its progress through further various stages, and its final adoption following a Public Examination by a Government appointed Inspector in about 18-24 months’ time.

During this time we can assume, and possibly expect, Crest Strategic Land (the promoters of the WHA001 site) to continue their work on the ongoing Environmental Assessments, and perhaps even mount a planning application at some future date, just in case any of the ‘preferred allocated sites’ run into trouble and are unable to deliver their expected housing numbers during the Plan period.

To emphasise this point, Crest Homes addressed the AVDC Scrutiny committee members on 26th September to further promote their site. Crest Homes argued this site was better than others – especially that at RAF Halton, which has

been included in the plan, now that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has confirmed the site is surplus to requirements, and will close within the next few years.

Crest's unexpected approach

This approach by Crest Homes was unexpected, as developers normally use the proper public consultation periods for this purpose, but it does demonstrate Crest Homes' intention to keep this site in front of the Strategic planners' eyes at AVDC!

In the, hopefully, unlikely scenario that the Council's preferred sites do not deliver the required homes, Crest Homes might then be in a position to put forward Shenley Park as an alternative site for consideration or, as often happens, they may continue to promote the site for any long-term future review of the Plan (i.e. towards or after the 2033 Plan end date). This is especially so as it has been announced that work on the replacement plan (post 2033) will commence almost immediately after the current plan is adopted!

Whaddon is confirmed within the Latest Plan version as a Smaller Village, and as such will be expected to take some small-scale development to help maintain the existing community. These could be in the form of smaller 'windfall' sites that will come forward. No specific housing allocations however have been made within the village.

Finally, in this update, should you visit and read the Plan, the important part for Whaddon is the section under Salden Chase, on pp 120-125, paragraphs 4.110 – 4.113.

This section is reproduced here:

'In determining the housing figure for Aylesbury Vale, a crucial aspect of the Local Plan is to decide the strategic locations where development should be allocated. At the issues and options stages of the Local Plan two strategic allocations were considered on the edge of Milton Keynes/Bletchley.

The Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) v4 (January 2017) confirmed that the two strategic allocations known as Salden Chase (NLV001) and Shenley Park (WHA001) were both suitable or part suitable for housing and or economic development.

As a result of further assessment and taking account of the overall housing requirement for Aylesbury Vale, Salden Chase has been identified as the most appropriate strategic allocation to come forward at this stage.'

The Plan also states under the heading *'Highway Improvements by Section 106 agreement(s)'* that:

'In order to mitigate the potential impact in Whaddon, a financial contribution is required towards road safety improvements on Coddimoor Lane and Stock Lane.'

A possible speed limit

Whilst the Plan does not confirm a specific amount or purpose, your P.C. has successfully made the case for a variable 20mph sign outside the village school

and the laying of proper kerb road edgings between Coddimoor Lane and the Ladymead Close narrowing, which are improvements that can be directly attributed to the development due to the likely increase of traffic the village can expect, once the site is commenced. The Whaddon P.C. response to the public consultation will seek clarification on this specific point.

For further information on the VALP please visit:

<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-valp>

Here you should be able to navigate your way to the whole 300-page draft VALP report.

We hope to see of as many of you as possible at the next Whaddon P.C. meeting. ■

Graham Stewart

Whaddon P.C.

There's no smoke without fire

Graham Stewart offers a cautionary tale as a result of quietly tending his garden bonfire one Sunday evening this summer.

SO, there I was, at about 11.00pm, enjoying a pleasant summer's evening, beer in hand, comfortably sitting close to the garden bonfire, leisurely watching the dying embers. I was about to consider going to bed when my privacy and the evening's peace were scarily shattered by alarm bells, flashing lights and lights from torches searching my area of repose.

For a fleeting moment I thought perhaps Martians had landed; or Police were searching for an escaped inmate from Woodhill Prison, just across the valley.

Fortunately, the disturbance proved to be neither. However, to my surprise and horror, I realised quickly the shouts and flashlight beams stemmed from a Fire Brigade team which had been called out to 'an unattended fire apparently threatening a nearby building'.

Later, I discovered the 'building' concerned was no less than *The Lowndes Arms*. Frankly, this is one of the last buildings in the village I would wish to see burnt down, and one I hope will thrive for many years to come.

To shed light on matters, I omitted to mention in my opening paragraph the partially-cleared gardens of the two High Street houses adjacent. Their gardens have been sadly neglected for 11 years. I had been waiting over six weeks for the perfect opportunity to light a bonfire, to get rid of the large pile of perfectly-dry tree, hedge and other cuttings that had begun to resemble an ancient, overgrown pyramid.

Before the visitation (and indeed during and after) the perfect evening, with not a breath of wind, offered the ideal opportunity for ignition. By 7.00pm, any washing that might have been hanging out would have been withdrawn and, being a Sunday night, the pub was closed; no-one would be enjoying the delights of the pub's garden.

With about two hours or so of daylight remaining it was, all in all, a perfect evening for a 'burn-up', so I took a last-minute decision, whilst drinking a cup of tea on the patio (after a hectic weekend of entertaining guests), to rush inside for the matches.

Every precaution had been duly taken: a long garden hosepipe connected and deployed, and a couple of garden chairs set up to enjoy the delights of a good, old-fashioned bonfire. With the hard work of fuelling and protection over, I could sit down, beer in hand to enjoy the dying embers and pleasures of a near-perfect summer's evening and setting sununtil!

Now, I am sure, or hope, the call to the Fire Brigade was made with the best of intentions, but I fail to understand why the call had not been placed when the fire was at its most fierce. Then the flames reached heavenwards, fighting with cooling ashes fluttering down almost vertically, thanks to the total lack of wind.

The fire must have been clearly visible – the smokestack at least. But I guess that most people were enjoying their evening meal or settled in front of the TV, so didn't notice!

Why would anyone wait until the fire had died down to a beautiful pile of smouldering embers, before making the call? I was alternately enjoying my beer, resting in a garden chair, or damping down the surrounding grass with the hosepipe. I wanted to ensure there was absolutely no chance of any grass burning once I had decided everything was safe when I finally turned in.

Great and understanding

A quick walk up the adjoining lane would have told any concerned resident that the situation – including the bonfire – was totally under control. They could even have joined me for a pleasant night-cap beer, as my wife and 'kids' had by then taken themselves off to other, but less enjoyable, activities!

The Fire Brigade lads – three of them, walkie-talkies in hand – were great and very understanding. One could be heard, some distance away talking presumably to the complainant: "Don't worry. It's all under complete control and attended, he even has his hosepipe out."

Clearly this was not an isolated incident and I had the impression that much of the Brigade's time is wasted on unnecessary 'call outs'. Thankfully, however, neither they, nor their appliance, were required on more urgent and pressing business during the hour or so they were in Whaddon.

They could not have been nicer – so all credit to them and the work they do, whether dangerous or not.

So why am I relating this story, I hear you ask?

Well, two reasons. It set me thinking: what is the law on bonfires? And, secondly, did any good emerge from the Fire Brigade's wasted visit?

Firstly, with thanks to gov.uk, there is:

Garden bonfires: the rules. There are no laws against having a bonfire, but there are laws for the nuisance they can cause.

Burning domestic waste: You **cannot** get rid of household waste if it will cause pollution, or harm people's health. This includes burning it. You can get rid of household or garden waste by composting or recycling it. (if in doubt, contact AVDC to find out about disposing garden waste and recycling in the area)

Danger to traffic by smoke: You could be fined if you light a fire and allow the smoke to drift across the road and become a danger to traffic.

Complain about a neighbour's bonfire: Your council can issue an Abatement Notice, if a neighbour's bonfire is causing a nuisance. A bonfire must happen frequently to be considered a nuisance. Your neighbour can be fined up to £5,000 if they do not adhere to the notice."

And secondly, what good has emerged from the saga?

Essential training exercises

Well, interestingly, it appears that Fire Brigades have great difficulty finding empty houses, especially in rural locations, they can use (subject to safety audits) for important training purposes – and Great Holm station is no exception.

New trainee recruits must learn to safely 'sweep' a property – in pairs, fully laden with fire protection gear and hosepipe; in addition, completely blindfolded (to simulate a smoke filled room) they must ensure there are no individuals, perhaps unconscious and lying on floors or stairways, requiring immediate assistance. Such varied accommodation and layouts afforded by empty buildings are rarely, if ever, available.

Whilst chatting to the lads by the dying embers, I was asked if the two adjacent properties might be made available for such use. To this, I readily agreed, on condition they would not set fire to them! Not much by way of renovation is likely to take place before spring 2018 after which, it is hoped, planning approval will be gained for two small extensions.

Such training has yet to happen, and no dates are set. However, should the training take place and anyone should see fire appliances and personnel entering the properties, do not be alarmed – unless of course real smoke is coursing from doors and windows! ■

Graham Stewart

Chapel: Unchallengeable decision

While the status of the Chapel in Whaddon is not as high as that of a listed building, it is regarded as an important '*Building of Local Note*', writes Graham Stewart.

THE 2007 Whaddon Conservation Area document describes this early 19th century Congregational Chapel, as being '*prominently located at the junction of Stock Lane and Vicarage Road*' and being '*visually distinctive with ornate architectural detailing*'.

Accordingly, the 44 residents who objected to the building of an additional dwelling on the vacant plot of land between the Chapel and Vicarage Road that fronts onto Stock Lane (and I would guess many other residents, who may hold similar views but did not voice them to AVDC planning authority at the time of the two previous planning applications) must be very relieved that Robert Fallon, a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, recently upheld AVDC's decision to REFUSE planning permission for a dwelling on the site.

The planning process, is by its very nature, complex, difficult to understand, often lengthy and made more difficult by changing Government legislation, not to mention the Local Plan system, which interprets such policy and lays down the rules by which local planning decisions are taken.

It is, therefore, reassuring to acknowledge that the system does sometimes deliver decisions that are welcomed by those affected by contentious or unwarranted planning applications.

The Inspector's letter, for those interested, makes very interesting reading and should be seen as the final, and unchallengeable decision – unless planning legislation is dramatically changed or relaxed to provide less protection to important buildings, or designated Conservation Areas.

The full Inspector's decision letter can be read by accessing the following link (sorry it's so long, but that is technology for you!):

https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/files/F8D97F29ACA769B236497511CCE38205/pdf/17_00039_REF-DECISION-1751611.pdf

Although the Inspector's four-page letter examines – in pretty much understandable language – the pros and cons of the crucial planning considerations he examined, his decision ruling ends: *I have concluded that the*



modest benefit of one additional dwelling would not outweigh the harm identified to the conservation area and character of the village.

I also conclude that the benefits of the proposal would not outweigh the harm to the setting of the chapel (a non-designated heritage asset).

Conclusion: I have found that the appeal proposal would provide acceptable living conditions for future occupiers. This does not, however, outweigh the harm that I have found to the character and appearance of the conservation area, the wider village, the setting of a non-designated heritage asset and the living conditions of the occupiers of No 2A Vicarage Road.

The imposition of planning conditions would not overcome this. In view of this and having had regard to all other matters raised, I conclude that the appeal should be dismissed.

Writer's note: *Planning Conditions* are normally attached to planning approvals, where outstanding matters such as landscape, materials, drainage, etc. require much greater detail provided before they can be satisfactorily discharged, and the planning consent implemented. ■

Graham Stewart

Village people born and bred

The recent departure of two notable, long-time Whaddon residents sparked a question in the mind of the editor: how many residents in their 'golden years' were *actually* born in the village?

Roger Adams, whose voice sadly fell forever silent in the middle of September, was born in Whaddon. Roger was possibly unique in that for the whole of his life he lived in the same house.

Ted Roff, who died some weeks earlier, also lived in the village for most of his life; he was not born in Whaddon.

With many thanks to Susan and Derek White, who have put on their thinking caps, here is a list of those of over three score years (one only just!) for whom Whaddon has been their lifetime home. This does not of course discount the very many more residents of younger years who too have lived in Whaddon since birth.

In alphabetical order: Trudy Buckner (née Jaworska), Joy Dietsch (née Faulkner), Ronald Dormer, Frederick Hayward, Gerald Hayward, Evelyn Jaworska (née Dormer), Lillian McGuinness (née Knight), Keith Robinson, Lillian Ross (née Adams) and Derek White.

Huge apologies to anyone we have missed out. ■

Sue and Derek White

Plasterer's mate hard at work

It's unusual to find a young woman working as a plasterer's mate; however, Paige Henderson (right) is just that at No 11 Stock Lane, a house now undergoing major rework. Here Paige tells her story.

IT ALL started when I didn't have a job. My mum was starting to get on at me about it. A lot!

Then one night in the local, a friend's dad said that he knew a plasterer looking for a labourer for a few days. To begin with I wasn't sure about it but I thought I would give it a go just to get my mum off my back for a bit.

No one thought I would last two weeks! Yet here I am still going strong a year and a half later. It's such a rewarding job. Seeing the smiles on children's faces when they see their new ceiling, or the joy of how we can turn a destroyed wall into something paintable! We work on everything from a newly-built extension to a house that's been there for hundreds of years.

It can be funny seeing people's reactions when I turn up with the boss. Some aren't too bothered by it and others don't quite know how to take me.

If we're working on site for a few weeks some of the men working on the site begin offering me help with the heavy lifting, watching what they say and the jokes they make.

After a while they get used to me and start to see the fact that I can do the same things as them. A lot of people also forget that during the war this was normal work for women. The men were out fighting and someone had to do the plastering!

Even though we're not in those times now, women can still do what they did back then; nothing has changed, other than the fact we're not in a world war.

When I first started the job with AM Plastering of Bicester **(left)** I would be asked to get something from the van.

All I could do was look at them with a blank expression as I had no idea what they were talking about! Now, however, I tend to know what we need before my boss has thought about it. That's a big bonus as it means fewer trips to the van!



One thing I will never need to do in this job is join a gym as I'm always running around cleaning tools, making mixes and answering phone calls. This is also the sort of job where the only way you can go is up. The more you can do and the more you learn the more you can earn, no matter who is doing the job.

The job I do is perfect for learning. There isn't a day that goes by when I don't learn something new. Whether it's another way of cleaning something or a new technique to plaster a wall! It's a job that comes with endless opportunities to learn something new. My favourite places to work are old houses; they have so much character and history to them.

Now the only thing my mum moans at me for is the amount of dust around the house! ■

Letter to the editor

Advancing forwards, from the back!

Sir – First of all, I congratulate you on your consistently interesting and well-produced Quarterlies. It is evident that a lot of thought and hard work goes into each edition. Peter and I always enjoy reading the magazine.

Secondly, thank you so much for the last issue (August), with its surprise ending. My parents always said I was not backwards in coming forwards; however, they were wrong. I am an inveterate reader from the end, and do instinctively turn to the back page of a magazine first, and advance forwards from there! Imagine my delight on finding not just the Joan Selby-Lowndes 'Tailpiece' but three more articles before arriving at the advertising pages.

To me the back pages are by no means a graveyard and I thank you for 'doffing the cap'.

Daphne Willis

My family and Coddimoor Farm

The history of Coddimoor Farm can be traced back to Snelshall Priory and the black monks. Here, Joy Dietsch outlines her own family's links with the farm.

MY great grandparents, Richard and Jane Tofield, moved from New Cross in the East End of London to Coddimoor Farm (see photograph **top, next page**) in 1909.

Richard Tofield, who worked in the gas works in New Cross, became ill with asthma and was advised to move to the countryside. Relatives of my great grandmother, the Randalls, who lived in Stewkley, owned Coddimoor Farm and so the family were able to move into the farm from London.

There were seven children in the family: William (14), George (12), Emily (11) – who was my grandmother, Nellie (9), Joseph (7), Elizabeth (4) and Anne (2).

I can only imagine just how different life must have been there on the farm compared with today.

However, my great grandfather, Richard, lived at the farm for only two years; his death left Jane with her seven children to support. They managed to survive only by farming the land until eventually five of the children married and left home.



Another photograph **(below)** shows my grandmother Emily's wedding in 1923. It was taken outside the farmhouse. My great grandmother Jane is on the right and all the brothers and sisters are present. Emily married Harold Ward; his parents were farming at



Park Hill Farm on the A421, opposite the left turn to Little Horwood.

At the time of the photograph **(below)**, Harold was serving in the Royal Navy; he had been in the First World War. He is seated on the right.

My grandparents, Emily and Harold, married

in Whaddon Chapel and set up home opposite to Coddimoor Farm where Chris and Helen Hickman now live.

My grandfather Harold bought the house and land in about 1925 for £500 and named it Beech Tree Farm.

My mother Muriel was born at Beech Tree Farm in 1924, while Jane and the rest of the family continued to live at Coddimoor Farm until the late 1950s. My mother lived at Beech Tree Farm, even when she was working at Bletchley Park in WW2 as a Hollerith operator in what was then known as Block C.

Hollerith machines **(see over)** formed an important part in processing intelligence information gathered for code breaking and my mother had to sign the Official Secrets Act. She never spoke to me about her work.

Muriel and my father, Reginald Falkner, married in 1948. They made their home in Whaddon, where my father farmed Parks Farm. Accordingly, they moved to the High Street from 11 Stock



Lane, a house they rented from Merchant Venturers, large landowners in and around Whaddon.

The Parks Farm farmhouse is in the High Street; the associated land is behind it. I was brought up there after being born in Aylesbury.

History of Hollerith machines

During the early 1940s, electronics had yet to become the main device for solving intricate engineering, business and office data processing problems. So electro-mechanical solutions were the main method by which problems were resolved; in time, the techniques became well developed.

Such solutions used the punched-card machine technology invented by Herman Hollerith in the 1880s and who, by 1896, had formed a small business in the United States to manufacture and market his machines. In 1902, Robert Porter obtained rights from the Tabulating Machine Company (TMC) in the US to sell Herman Hollerith's machines; he formed the Tabulator Limited. Tabulator Limited later became British Tabulating Machine Co Limited, or BTM.

Some inventive minds in BTM quickly applied the technology to WW2 methods of German code breaking, with speed of implementation being a strong attribute. The first *Turing Bombe* was delivered to Bletchley Park in March 1940, only a matter of months after the declaration of war.

About 210 *Turing Bombes* were produced at Letchworth between 1940 and 1945; at the Letchworth factory they were known as 6/6502 or Cantab machines. By early 1945 the *Bombe* programme was being wound down rapidly. ■

Choir's December calendar

AFTER our summer break, with a fantastic barbeque to celebrate the end of our year, Chase Choir is now back and rehearsing on our usual Monday night.

And it didn't take our esteemed choir leader, Karen, long (in fact, it was the first rehearsal in September, I believe) to mention that word beginning with C!

And before we knew where we were, we were singing carols in September! But there's method in our madness. Or in the madness of Karen, to be more precise.

Chase Choir now has a substantial Christmas repertoire, and we're in the happy position of being able to pick and choose our favourites to polish up for the festive season. And a very busy season it's turning out to be, so here are some dates for your diaries:

2nd December: Performing at Woburn Abbey's Antiques Centre at a Christmas Fair in aid of MacIntyre, a wonderful local charity supporting adults with learning disabilities. The fair runs from 10.00am to 3.00pm and there will be a wide variety of stalls selling



Christmassy items, all set in Woburn's delightful Victorian cobbled shopping street. We will be performing between 11.00 and 12.00.

9th December: Carol singing in Marks and Spencer. We're known as the Cashmere Choir for this gig, as that's where we usually stand! Look out for us during the morning around 11.00, and drop some coins into our collection bucket! Collecting for Thames Valley Air Ambulance here, as M&S is supporting Willen Hospice with their own bucket.

15th December: The highlight of our year: our Christmas Concert. Doors open at 7.00pm for an 8.00pm start. Please come and support us, and our chosen charities: Willen Hospice and Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

17th December: We will be supporting the congregation and performing a couple of pieces at the Nine Lessons and Carols service at St Mary's Church, Whaddon.

21st December: Carol singing in the foyer at MK Central station at 5.00-7.00pm. This is a new venue for us, and we're excited to be performing here, and hoping for some heavy buckets too, as it's close to the big day! Again, we're supporting Willen Hospice and Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

And after all of that, we'll be resting our weary larynxes, and making sure they are well lubricated for 2018. Cheers, everyone!

If you fancy joining us in the New Year, we can thoroughly recommend singing as a great mood-lifter during the dark January and February months. Feel free to get in touch with Karen Logan on 01908 501922 or Marianna Beckwith on 01908 503194. ■

Obituary: Roger Henry Adams

In Memory of 'Our lovely dad' (1939-2017)

ON Wednesday 13th September 2017, we unexpectedly, and very sadly, lost our dad (right), Roger Henry Adams, who died in hospital.

For those that knew our dad, and I'm sure there are many who stopped and chatted whilst he was gardening, both Charlotte and I want to say "thank you" to everyone who has spoken so kindly about him. It has helped considerably with our grief to hear what a lovely man he was and it's fair to say we agree!

Dad was a 'Whaddoner' all his life and lived at the same address, 15 Stock Lane, since he was born in 1939.



Dad had a real fascination for local history and nature; this was inspired by his parents' (Henry and Betty) relationship with the land. His father's family had been smallholders and his mother led nature walks for the children of Whaddon First School.



**Roger, days before his death,
doing what he liked most –
trimming his Scottish lavenders**

Throughout Dad's teenage years he wrote weather reports which were sent to the Meteorological Society. Who knows: these may now be filed with the Mass Observation project! He later began to record his observations in a diary which he continued to do for the rest of his life.

Dad left education in his teens and worked as an apprentice painter and decorator in Stony Stratford where he became highly skilled. Some of you may have experienced first-hand just how much of a perfectionist Dad was as he decorated a few houses in the village.

He later went on to work for British Rail, and you may remember the bright yellow truck parked outside the house, which as kids we loved playing in! After his heart attack in 2000 he took early retirement and focused on his love of the great outdoors for both himself and others.

Dad was the best. He was devoted to our late mum Susan, to all his family, and he enjoyed a well-known love for his dog, Ellie, especially after mum passed away: really they were the best of friends.

Dad was buried with Mum at St Mary's, Whaddon on Friday 29th September 2017. Whether you were a member of the village community or a neighbour and friend, your presence on that morning at the graveside service is testimony to the lives he touched with his love, loyalty and friendship. From both Charlotte & I, a heartfelt thank you.

Finally, we owe a very special thank you to Rev'd Gussie who got us through one of the saddest days of our lives. ■

Donna & Charlotte x

Obituary: Edward Charles Roff

TNovember 1925. Like his brothers, as he grew up, Ted attended the village school at Slapton. Life would have been hard for the family and the boys as they grew up in the 1930s. In the depression, farming was hit especially hard, land values were extremely low and there were no subsidies until around 1934. Lots of food was imported and so farming was very depressed.

Great Britain declared war in September 1939 and in 1942 the young Ted Roff was conscripted into the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and joined the Tank Regiment. Towards the end of the war, in early 1945, as his squadron advanced towards Bassum, in the district of Diepholz in Lower Saxony and some 250 miles west of Berlin, his Crusader tank



(right) took a hit by from an enemy shell, killing the 20 year-old tank commander. Ted was badly wounded and invalided to England (see also **p. 22** – Ed).

After the war, the Roff family sold Whaddon Farm. When Ted had recovered from his injuries he went to work as a painter at the Wagon and Carriage Works at Wolverton for British Rail until he retired. Ted met Phyllis Varney from Whaddon and they were married in the spring of 1949 at the Congregational Chapel in Whaddon, which Phyllis and her family regularly attended.

Ted and Phyllis moved into Stock Lane following their marriage and in the fullness of time Barry and Christine were born. The family took their place in the Whaddon community with Barry and Christine both attending the village school. Ted and Phyllis had four grandchildren; sadly Phyllis died in 1999 and the in October 2010 Ted lost Christine.

Phyllis's father, Harry Varney, was a woodsman and a highly skilled hurdle maker. He worked from one of the brick sheds on the top of Church Hill. Ted, and Barry when he was old enough, would also give their help, cutting small ash trees in College Wood.

A standard bearer

In leisure time, Ted served as the standard bearer for the Whaddon and Nash Royal British Legion for a number of years. Ted was a valued member of the Whaddon community for many years; many and varied were his skills. For example, he played cricket for Whaddon for many years and, being a keen gardener – especially when it came to vegetables – he helped to start the flower and produce show at a time when people were busy growing their own vegetables.

Ted was a real countryman who loved all country sport, including hunting, shooting and point-to-point horse racing. He particularly enjoyed football – he was a great fan of Hatters (Luton Town F.C.), as Graham Stewart remembers. "Ted rarely missed the live match commentary on Three Counties Radio on a Saturday afternoon. We spent many happy conversations exchanging gossip and views on results, players, and so on," he commented.

Ted possessed other skills too, as Helen Hickman recalls. "Ted ran the bar at Chris's 21st and our 40th birthday parties; he was adept at pulling a pint, as well as delivering them. We also remember being at a shoot lunch at the Wetherby's house, with Ted doing 'butler' duties. He delivered milk to us for many years and one day, when my father-in-law was trying to herd some sheep into the pens in the yard, the language 'floating' across the fields was uncharacteristically 'fruity'. Ted merely smiled and said, "Hmm, someone is having a bad day".

He will be remembered with great fondness.

JK/JM

Shielding a military secret proudly

This is the story of the secret that Ted kept tightly closeted in his house. The graphic details of 8th April 1945 reveal how closely Ted came to losing his life.

ED ROFF didn't speak much about the war, as did many like him who returned from the Front. Many others did not return at all; like Peter Wallworth, T commander of Ted's Crusader tank. For 60 years and more, Ted nursed a secret; a secret he never revealed until a few years before his death in August; the secret of that fateful day in April 1945 only came to light for a wider audience following his death.

The secret, a small 36-page case-bound book, brought Ted mixed emotions. Its contents encapsulated the bravery and gallantry of his tank commander, Peter, and his men, of which Ted was one.

The booklet's contents also triggered vivid memory flashbacks of the savagery of tank warfare for the man who once delivered milk in Whaddon; in particular flashbacks to 8th April 1945 – just one month before the end of the war.

The booklet had been sent to Ted by the parents of his commander, Peter Wallworth, of the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, the Royal Armoured Corps. Peter's family produced less than a handful; they are unique.

Ted's 'boss' in the tank was no ordinary young man. One can imagine he made a deep impression on the Bedfordshire teenager; perhaps Ted might even have revered Peter. They were a close-knit team, heavily reliant on one another.

Glowing start in life

Peter entered Harrow County School for Boys in 1935 and, after passing London School Certificate Examinations in 1940, went on to join Lloyd's Bank. Following an urge to 'join the fighting services' he volunteered for the Royal Armoured Corps as a trooper in October 1942.

In April 1943, he went to Pre-OCTU at Blackdown before proceeding to Sandhurst Military Training College on 9th July 1943. On 1st January 1944 he passed out in the Sandhurst tradition to a commission in the 22nd Dragoons.

It was not long before Peter, just 20, became a tank veteran. He went to Normandy on 3rd August 1944 and was with the famous 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats) during the decisive fighting in the Caen area. After the allied breakthrough, he took part in the advance through France and Belgium to Holland.

At s'Hertogenbosch Peter saw action with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. It is recorded that in this engagement he lost two tanks by enemy action within the space of 24 hours on 23rd/24th October; nonetheless Peter remained undaunted in the call to duty.

About this time, his transfer to the 5th R.I.D.S. became established and as the commander of a Troop in 'A' Squadron he was engaged in action in the Arnhem area and in clearing the enemy pocket between the Roer and Maas rivers.

Following refitting and retraining, 'the great day' arrived when the Regiment crossed the Rhine near Xanten to begin the thrust into the heart of Germany. By 30th March 1944, the regiment had been in the lead for four days and had advanced more than 50 miles. Between 3rd and 5th April, very strong enemy opposition was encountered by Peter's squadron in the Ibbenburen area. Records show fighting to have been extremely hard.

The Regiment continued to advance 62 miles on 6th April to a point near Diepholz some 50 miles NE of Osnabruck.

A grim, fateful day

The day is 8th April 1945, a Sunday; nevertheless a grim, fateful day for Peter and his four troopers (including Ted) in their Crusader battle tank.

In this day and age, it is hard to visualise the scene. Cocooned in an armoured steel Crusader battle tank, five young men had sole charge of a 20-ton fighting machine rampaging through Nazi Germany. On that fateful Sunday morning, Peter and his squadron received orders via Sulingen to capture Bassum some 60 miles to the north.

One report says: "It was at first light on 8th April that the squadron moved to the attack on Bassum. The squadron was working along the road to the west of the town, when it encountered an anti-tank screen. Some of the guns were firing down the road and others were operating from the left flank, which Peter and his crew were covering.

"The leading tank was fired on by one of the guns on the road; the shot missed the tank but ricocheted off the road and eventually landed on the turret of Peter's tank where it skidded into the cupola, sending pieces of metal into his (Peter's) head and causing flaking inside the turret and which wounded the gunner (Ted) and the operator."

The driver and the co-driver then took the tank back to Apelstadt where Peter was buried. Peter was 20; Ted was 19. Peter's body was moved in October 1946 for burial in Soltau British Cemetery, seven miles south south east of Soltau.

Major Creagh Gibson of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards sent Peter's parents the names and addresses of his crew (trooper Robinson, co-driver; trooper Wilson, driver; trooper Lomas of Manchester and trooper Roff of Great Billington, Bedfordshire.)

Gallant young men

Peter's parents sent Ted's parents the compendium of correspondence they had amassed surrounding their son's death and his crew's injuries. Letters from commanding officers speak of "gallant young men who proved to the world the spirit of England still lives." While a letter from King George VI and the Queen to Peter's parents offers their 'heartfelt sympathy'.

From the correspondence too, one can imagine the awe in which Ted held his commander. One tribute spoke of "his example and leadership as being one of the greatest value" and he was "the type of man who lived for the service of mankind and of which there are too few."

Unlike Peter, Ted survived, albeit taken to Leeds General Infirmary where he spent some time recovering from the events of 8th April 1945.

JM

An excellent soldier

SIX days after the dramatic events of the 8th April, Ted's parents received their own correspondence from Major Wilson. In his letter, the Major wrote:

I very much regret to inform you that your son was wounded in action on 8th April when the tank on which he was travelling was hit by an 88mm gun.

I am glad, however, to be able to assure you that I am told his injuries are not serious and were sustained in his neck and shoulder.

He was acting as gunner in the Troop leader's tank. He was selected for this job on account of his skill and the report he received after the completion of a course which took place here after Xmas. He is an excellent soldier and we shall miss him very much.

I sincerely hope and trust it will not be long before he is fit and well.

Please accept, and give him as well my sympathy, and that of his many friends in the Squadron. ■



ON Saturday, 9th September, Whaddon's Jubilee Hall became heated, thanks to a brand new Chloe's Cool Cooking Classes!

A total of 10 golden children hit it big as they prepared their very own homemade chicken nuggets and, for guilty indulgence, iced ring apple doughnuts!

To break the ice, giggles galore broke out during the 'knife and fork chocolate game'. Children were permitted to gobble up only as much chocolate as possible only **IF** anyone rolled a lucky number 6 on the mega dice **AND** happened to be wearing the correct clothing, which included a hat, scarf and gloves! Then the real work began!

Carefully, each child followed their own recipe sheet; this involved mixing, baking, tasting, dunking, chopping, sprinkling, beating and licking (to name a few!). They all worked ever so warmly and well together whilst at the same time enjoying themselves and having a good old laugh!

Overall, the class was an absolute success and for those who missed out, not to worry; why not join in on Chloe's next class?

Chloe's Cool Christmas Cooking Class will be taking place on Saturday 9th December at Whaddon Jubilee Hall from 11.00 – 13.00. The children will be making two of Chloe's all-time favourite Christmas dishes.

Parents are more than welcome to remain with their children if they wish. For more information, please check out Chloe's Cool Cooking Classes Facebook page or contact 07824 358 404. The more the merrier, be there or be square! ■

St. Mary's Church Whaddon

Regular services

November and December 2017

1st Sunday 10.30 am Family

Service

2nd Sunday 10.30 am Holy

Communion (Common Worship)

3rd Sunday 10.30 am Sunday

Special - Contemporary informal gathering.

Tea, coffee and croissants available from 10 am

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

5th Sunday Benefice service at one of the churches - venue to be notified



Other activities

Monday 2.30 - 4.30 pm Post Office in Jubilee Hall

Tuesday 2.00 pm Tea on Tuesday in Jubilee Hall

Tuesday 7.30 pm Bellringing practice – new recruits welcome

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

3rd Wednesday 7:30 pm Whaddon Night Owls WI in Jubilee Hall

1st Saturday 10 am - 12 noon Coffee Shop in church

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

Dates for your Diary

Dates for Your Diary.

Saturday, 25th November 2.00 pm Annual Christmas Fayre in Jubilee Hall.

Sunday 26th November 5.30 pm Christingle Service.

Wednesday 13th December 1.30 pm A Christmas Experience for Whaddon School Year 2.

Sunday 17th December 6.00 pm Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols with Chase Choir

Tuesday 19th December 2.00 pm Whaddon School Carol Service. Everyone welcome

Sunday 24th December 10:00 pm Candlelit Christmas Eve Communion (New time)

Monday 25th December 10.00-10.45 am Christmas Day Birthday Party for Jesus

LATE NEWS

Note – No coffee mornings in December and January. To be held in chapel schoolroom in February and March

Thursday 14th December 10.00 am Pre-school Crib Service at Whaddon. All children, parents, grandparents & friends are warmly invited

Sunday 31st January 08.30 am Benefice Holy Communion BCP at
Thornborough church.

4.00 pm Benefice Compline at Nash church

Please check your Christmas Flyer for any service date or time changes.

IN OCTOBER, our Open Day was again part of our Harvest Festival weekend, with the archives from Aylesbury Museum on display. Our earliest records date from the beginning of the 1500s, in the reign of Elizabeth I and are well worth looking at. They are complete from then until the present day. The morning coffee stall offered toasted teacakes for those missing breakfast, and soup, bread and cheese lunches were very popular, as were the cream teas. Open Day donations went into the Repair Fund towards the cost of maintaining our Grade I Listed church building.

The Harvest Festival service on the Sunday was led by Rev'd Michael Greig, a retired priest from Buckingham and, being a more informal service, did not include Holy Communion. This year, the school Harvest service followed on the Monday and the children's gifts of tinned and packet foods went to the local food bank. The church had been beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables, which were auctioned after the Harvest Supper the following evening.

This event was as enjoyable as ever and around 60 villagers and friends sat down to eat. The highlight of the evening is always the Auction of Produce. The auctioneers, Mark Carter and Pete Bush, did an excellent and amusing job to the entertainment of the assembled company. Including donations, nearly £700 was raised for "Médecins Sans Frontières"; a charity which sends doctors and nurses abroad as well as is usually one of the first to arrive in disaster areas worldwide. Our thanks go to all who faithfully and generously support our events, and especially to those who help to organise them and clear up afterwards. This year the record bid for the marrow was £85.

Annual Christmas Fayre in Jubilee Hall

The Annual Christmas Fayre is on Saturday November 25th 2.00 – 4.00 pm with our usual range of stalls, games and raffle. This year Father Christmas will again be paying a special visit with gifts for the children. Tea and cakes will be on offer and also mulled wine and mince pies. Thanks go to Beryl Evans for the organisation of this event, and to all who have given their time to help on a stall or offered raffle prizes. We hope you will all support us and come out for an enjoyable afternoon's shopping for Christmas and a chat over tea in the Jubilee Hall.

Christmas is one of the major festivals in the church year and is a time of great joy and celebration. If you have not yet attended any of our special Christmas candlelit services such as the Nine Lessons and Carols (when the Chase Choir will be joining us again) or the Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service, I do urge you to come. The church is always beautifully decorated and the candlelight creates a moving and intimate atmosphere.

On Christmas morning, at 10.00 am, there is a Birthday Party for Jesus around the Christmas tree at the back of the church, with the music group accompanying. This is specially for the children, but is enjoyed by all ages and is

usually well attended, so come early for a seat. There is a birthday cake, goody bags and cake for the children to take home; for good measure, "Happy Birthday" is sung. The service lasts for only 40 minutes and is a wonderful way to start your Christmas Day celebrations.

St Mary's PCC looks forward to welcoming you at any of our services but especially at Christmas, the time of peace and goodwill to everyone. We wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Please note – No coffee mornings in December and January. They will be held in the chapel schoolroom in February and March.

Please check your Christmas Flyer for any service date or time changes. A service on 1st January 2018 is to be confirmed.

Our Associate priest Rev'd Gussie Walsh can be contacted on 01280 821616 or am@buckinghambenefice.org.uk to arrange special services.

Hazel Hedges

(Church Warden) 01908 501729 hazel.hedges@gmail.com

Tel: 01908 501729 hazel.hedges@gmail.com

CALLING ALL EASTER EGG DECORATORS!

There are several beautifully decorated acrylic Easter Eggs from the Good Friday Messy Church fun morning. They have been in one of the windows at St Mary's Church and have looked beautiful with the sun shining through them. I shall have them at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th November if you would like to come and collect from the craft stall the one you decorated.

Sally Green

The Parochial Church Council

Hazel Hedges
Churchwarden.
Tel. 01908 501729

Jo Mortimer-Bush
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 01908 503194

Barry Dudley
Hon. Treasurer
Tel: 01908 505727

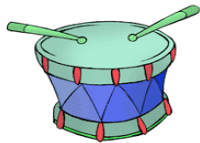
Frederick Hayward
Jubilee Hall Rep
Tel: 01908 506083

Hazel Dudley
Tel: 01908 505727

Clare Garland
Tel: 1908 501732

Rev'd Gussie Walsh
Tel. 01280 821616

Toddler church



TODDLER CHURCH



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

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon.

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you.

Toddler Church finishes for the Christmas Holidays on

Wednesday 13th December 2017

Spring Term starts again on Wednesday 10th January 2018

Sally Green (01908 526033)

MacMillan coffee morning



A huge thank you to those who supported this event; you raised an amazing £431.35!

You have all personally helped support people living with cancer.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH

On behalf of Macmillan Cancer care

(Sally Green 01908 526033)

Hands up for Jesus

HANDS UP FOR JESUS

St Mary's, Whaddon

After-School Club with Rev Gussie and team
Songs, Story Telling, Craft, Games, Food & loads of FUN!

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

We've just had held our first Hands up for Jesus this term with 18 children joining us. Our theme for this term is *Looking at how God cares for us in all circumstances*.

Our memory verse is: 'Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares for you' (1 Peter 5 v7); we are making these into fridge magnets.

In **September**, we learnt about five friends. One of them was sick so the remaining four brought him to see Jesus. Unfortunately, as there were so many people who had come to hear Jesus speak that day, the four friends could not get into the house.



Determined and undaunted, the four friends carried him up onto the flat roof - and then, making a hole in the roof, lowered their sick friend on a stretcher down into the room where Jesus was seated.

After Jesus had talked to the sick man for a while, he told the man to 'sin no more, get up, pick up his mat and walk'. And guess what? He did!



In our discussions afterwards, we thought there must have been a lot of dust everywhere, and that someone would have had to clear up the mess, as well as mend the roof.

"I should think a lot of hair washing would be needed," said one of the children.

But we also came to the conclusion that the sick man's friends were really special and we wondered what we might do for our friends if they were having a difficult time. Everyone went home with a craft, put together by Beryl Evans, to remind them of the story.

In **October** we looked at the healing of 10 Lepers and how only one came back to say, "Thank you".

In **November**, we are learning about a man called Jairus, a ruler of a Galilee synagogue who had a very sick daughter, as well as about a lady who touched Jesus' cloak.

Games, songs, prayer, craft and stories are all part of the hour – as well as squash and a biscuit

Is there anyone who would like to join us for an hour a month and/or like to do some preparation for the craft slot? If so I would love to hear from you.

Gussie (01280 821616).

How to make £600+ in 90 minutes

In words and pictures, Marianna Beckwith describes this year's Harvest supper in the Jubilee Hall

THE STANDARD was set last year. Most paid for a marrow this side of EU. Significant celebration celebrated. Much money raised for Médecins Sans Frontières.

So how could we top that this year? Simple. Another significant celebration: congratulations to Lauren Scott and Trevor Bennett, who announced their engagement. So far, so much champagne. And as for the marrow...well you'll have to wait to find out about that.

What we can say, is that there was food aplenty, much of it homemade. And good friends from one end of the table to the other.



And good cheer, and sharing of libations. And After Eights.

What we can also say is that Pete Bush and Mark Carter's abilities to name fruit and vegetables correctly don't get any better! But their abilities to help raise a grand total of £614 at the auction has to be greatly admired and applauded.

As a double act, these two are as impressive (almost) as Shirley's enormous pear, and the now legendary, lemon curd made in Hazel Dudley's kitchen, which has become such a collector's item, that it is guaranteed to double the bidding for any lot to which it is added.

If Powers of Persuasion was a degree course, these two would undoubtedly both have a PhD, and be instructing to packed lecture halls. Whoever would have thought of flogging a cyclamen (now forever called a "sickly plant"), pomelo and jar of lemon curd together, and getting £35 for them?



Clearly the same minds that got £40 for an unseen "mystery" box (which contained apples!) and £85 for a marrow.

No, you're right, the marrow didn't fetch as much as it did last year, but we are in the middle of Brexit negotiations, you know. Not even the Dynamic Duo could legislate for that! ■



Marking the passage of time

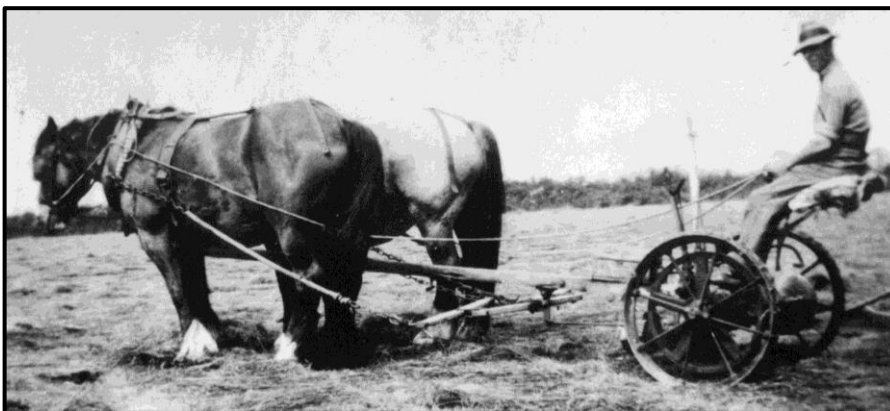
Two photographs, spanning 85 years, highlight the transformation in pastoral life. One in particular sparks insight into the Dormer family, as John Mortimer found while researching a family tree.

ONE photograph (**on page 33**) shows Ashley, employed by William Sawbridge (J A J Sawbridge and Sons Ltd) of Castlethorpe, Bucks. He was shortly to be working for William Sawbridge and Sons Ltd, as would Johnathan and all other employees, and that is who the machinery would belong to. Here, in the photograph, Ashley drives a John Deere tractor with 215 horsepower under the bonnet, yet the vehicle remains under one operator's control.

In the other photograph, (**below**) taken in the early 1930s, farm worker Fred Dormer controlled just a couple of horses – Captain and Lightfoot.

And, as Evelyn Jaworski has pointed out: "At the time, Fred explained that you can talk to a horse, but you can't talk to a tractor." As a result, Fred never did learn to drive a tractor.

Over 175 years ago, in 1841, Fred's great grandfather Joseph Dormer, born in Waddesdon, worked as a gamekeeper in Westbury, Buckinghamshire, a village in Aylesbury Vale about 2.5 miles east of Brackley and 5 miles west of



Left: Fred Dormer with his 'team- mates' – Captain and Lightfoot.

Buckingham. Westbury is close to the Oxfordshire border.

Sharing the house with Joseph (35) were his wife Sarah (34) and their six children: Sarah

(10), Joseph (10), Hannah (7), Edwin (5), Martha (3) and John (12 weeks).

The couple lived just outside the village at Black Pitt. Next door, Red Ditches housed a fellow gamekeeper, James Newman (29) and his wife Eliza (32), a lace maker, together with agricultural worker James Varney (25) and his wife Eliza (23). The Newmans had one child and the Varneys, two.

Ten years later, in 1851, the Dormer family had moved across the county border to Silverstone, Northamptonshire, where Joseph senior and Joseph junior (19) both found work as woodsmen. Sarah, by then aged 21, no doubt had become a skilled seamstress.



Ploughing on Milton Keynes Bank on 25th October

Respectable occupation

The two most common type of occupation in the nineteenth century for middle-class women were as governess and seamstress. As not all women were able to reach the academic heights expected of a governess, becoming a seamstress offered the next most respectable employment option.

7-furrow ploughpain through exploitation by their employers; often young Victorian girls entered this strenuous line of work to financially support their families.

For Sarah Dormer, living 'out in the countryside' and working in her own garret as a seamstress would be safer and preferable to walking to her employment. However, while working in their own homes gave better safety, seamstresses could still endure agonising labour; it remained extremely punishing mentally, physically and emotionally.



Captain and Lightfoot could not achieve the results of today's tractor and seven-furrow plough

As for the rest of the Dormer family, teenager Edwin, 14, worked as a labourer while young Martha, only 13, served as a lace maker. In one sense, the reason for all this 'industrial' activity by the Dormer's juniors – Joseph, Sarah, Edwin and Martha – is clear; by then Joseph and Sarah Dormer's tally of children had risen to nine, as a further four followed after John. They were: Albert, Drucilla, Sarah Ann and Mary Ann. In 1851 they were aged 9, 7, 4 and four months

respectively.

The Dormer family was probably no different to many others; those members who could pull their weight to 'earn a crust' and bring in extra money did so, and most likely had no option.

Before long, however, 'young' Joseph Dormer had found himself a girlfriend and on 23rd September 1853, aged 21, he and Harriet Burborough (22) married in the parish church in Kiddington, Oxfordshire. Joseph gave his trade as that of 'sawyer' – someone who saws wood – whereas Harriet seemingly did not work.

However, by 1861, Joseph had become a gamekeeper like his father, and Harriet, a lace maker. By that time, they had five children: Henry (6), Ann Maria (5), Elizabeth (4), Joseph (2) and James (five months).

Burgeoning building trade

However, well before the arrival of baby Henry, the family had moved to Thornton in Buckinghamshire, and within 10 years, Joseph and Harriet Dormer's family had risen to nine – as the couple took a leaf out of Joseph and Sarah Ann's book! Following on from James, Harriet gave birth to four more infants. By 1871, Mary Jane was 7, John 6, Sarah Ann 4 and Alice just six months.

By this time (1871) the five eldest children were fully employed: Henry (16) was an agricultural worker, while Ann Maria (15) and Elizabeth (13) were lace makers. Both Joseph (12) and James (10) were agricultural labourers.

Ten years further on, in 1881, the family had moved to Bridge Street, Thornborough, where Joseph (then 49) worked as gamekeeper like his father. Even so, Elizabeth, James, John, Sarah, Alice and new addition Emma (8) were all living at home.

By the time he was 21, James Dormer had found a sweetheart in the same village, namely Mary Jane Goodger (25). They married in summer 1882. Big changes were afoot for James and Mary Dormer. For, not long after their wedding, James and Mary decided to forge a new life in south-west London.

In Victorian times, with the capital ever-hungry for extra hands in the burgeoning building trade, perhaps James believed London wages would be more attractive than those paid in agriculture. And so the couple moved into No. 29, a terraced house in Smeaton Road, Wandsworth. Children William, Catherine, Matilda and Sarah – then 8, 6, 4 and 2 respectively – were all born in Wandsworth.

Then, something strange happened. Mary Jane Dormer suddenly died in the summer of 1894. Joseph, with four children on his hands, quickly sought a new wife – as did many men then in a similar predicament. He met local girl Lillian Pittock, 12 years younger than himself. The couple married on 11th August 1895, just a year following Mary Jane's death, at St Anne's Church in Wandsworth. James (34) and Lillian (22) were then both living at 6 Lennel Street, Wandsworth.



On their marriage certificate, James describes himself as a 'widower' and gives his occupation as that of 'sculptor'. Six years later, on the 1901 census return, he reverted to bricklayer's labourer as his occupation. His wife Lillian looked after children.

The newly-weds named their first child, born in 1896, Frederick. Ethel, their second infant, arrived in 1901. The couple still had care of two further children from Joseph's first marriage: Sarah (11) and Nelly (8). By this time the family had moved to No. 54 Palmerston Road, Wandsworth as James Dormer continued to work as a brick layer's labourer.

Frederick (Fred) went to school in London and, one day when coming out of school to be met by his mother, he was knocked down by a cart horse. Frederick suffered permanent damage. The horse trod on the little finger of Frederick's left hand causing it to be permanently crooked.

However, by 1911, for some reason, James (50) and Lillian (38) Dormer returned to Buckinghamshire where they took up residence in Church Lane, Whaddon. By that time, Frederick, or Fred, aged 14, worked as a farm labourer like his father. Fred had three younger sisters: Ethel (10), Grace (3) and Eva (2).

In the 1930s Fred worked at Powell's farm at Tattenhoe Bare however, during the war, tragedy struck the Dormer family. Fred's mother, Lilly, sadly died in December 1943, aged 69, following a road accident in Stony Stratford. Then, seven years later, in June 1950, Fred's father, James passed away.

Fred and his wife Ada Edith had three children: Evelyn Lillian, Ronald Frederick and Douglas John. And so it was that Fred, being among the last to harness animal power in Whaddon, brought to an end a labour-intensive era, now overtaken by mechanization, as the photograph of Ashley during this year's harvesting shows. ■

Bearing the standard high

TED ROFF (p. 20) was not the only Whaddoner to proudly bear the standard of the Royal British Legion.

Photographs provided by Ron Unwin of Nash from his collection highlight the part played by Evelyn Jaworski.

July 1959 turned out to be an exceptionally hot month. One day in particular proved to be very hot. Indeed, it is said that 5th July was the hottest day of the year with the temperature reaching 90 degrees. This was perhaps an unfortunate occurrence for a group of people who that day had to wear uniforms.

Evelyn recalls the day well. She was in charge of the new standard which on that day was being dedicated in a ceremony outside St Mary's Church (**above**).

The banner belonged to the Women's branch of the Royal British Legion. Evelyn had been appointed as the standard bearer. She heard one man among





the Newton Longville branch of the Royal British Legion say to his partner: "I hope you are not going to faint."

One of the founders of the Whaddon-with-Nash branch of the Legion, Mrs de Silva, lived at the Old Rectory, Little Horwood.

As part of the tradition, according to Evelyn, the standard had to be raised and lowered with the heavy banner being held in one hand.

"It was very heavy," said Evelyn, who was 28 at the time. She had two young daughters, Helen and Trudy; son Roger would be born some six years' later. "I found it very difficult to control with all that weight," she added.

One day, the standard was being paraded in Nash church.

"Be careful of that overhead light," Harry Varney told Evelyn, who was walking with the standard raised.

Too late. The banner hit the light.

The Whaddon-with-Nash branch of the Women's Royal British Legion did not last many years; quite a few of its members moved out of the village. ■

Post office has new opening time

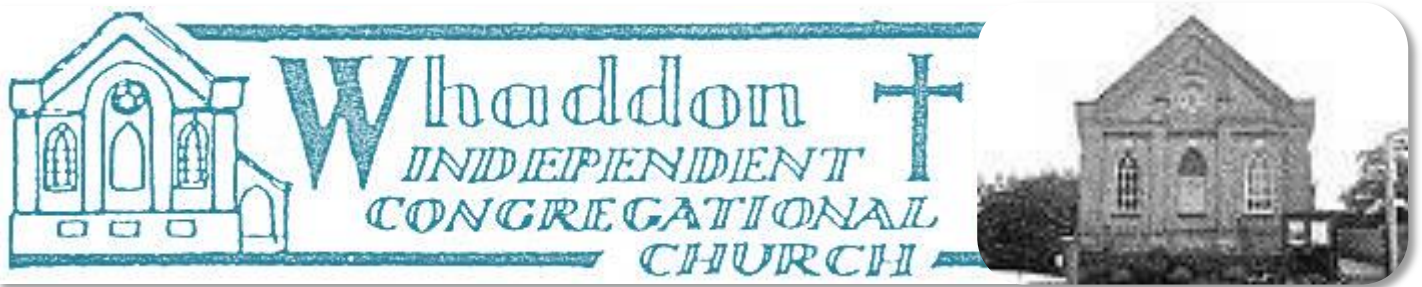
THE NEW Post Office in the Jubilee Hall is available for a full range of services, plus some added new ones. **The trading day is Monday from 2.30 to 4.30 pm, but on Tuesday from 28th November. Opening times will be 2.00 - 4.00 pm.**

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

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

All these extra services will be available, as well as the regular services of money orders, stamps, letters and parcels; and he will have greetings cards for various occasions. However, neither the Postmaster nor the Jubilee Hall is being paid to provide this service to the village. Whether it stays or goes will depend entirely on how much it is used. If it is not well supported and Mr Patel considers it not worth his while to continue, he will have no option but to close it. Please support this important and valuable village facility whenever you can. ■





Whaddon Chapel

November 2017

What's your perspective on Christmas?

HERE ARE the perspectives of three people who shared one realisation: Christmas is about the Christ, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah: *'Then Isaiah said, "...Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**.'" (Isaiah 7:13-15)*

Joseph: *"Joseph, Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20)*

John: *'In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.'* (John 1)

Immanuel, Jesus, the Word – three different perspectives, three different names, but one person – Jesus Christ. These perspectives don't just inform us who came at Christmas, but why he came. The name Jesus means *Saviour* – he came to save us from our sins. Immanuel means *God with us*: God in human form walking the earth and demonstrating his love, authority and power to save. His title 'the Word' demonstrates he is God himself, communicating God's light, glory, grace and truth directly with his creation.

Christmas reminds us: Jesus was God's own Son, who humbled himself to come in human form, to save us from the consequences of our sins. He willingly took the full punishment of God's wrath, dying in our place to open the way to eternal life for all who trust in him. I hope the wonder of this enlarges your perspective of Christmas not just this year, but eternally.

Join us for one of our services to find out more.

Christmas Service

- Carols and festive tea: Sunday 17th December 4-5pm in the Chapel schoolroom. All ages welcome!

Regular Services/Meetings

- Every Sunday at 4pm-5pm, Whaddon Chapel (no meeting on 24th & 31st December). ■

Whaddon's Women's Institute

FOR our August meeting we had a yoga session with the husband of one of our members, who showed us some easy yoga exercises to help us relax and aid our fitness. Later in the month, members and husbands visited Aylesbury Crown Court, arranged by His Honour Judge Sheriden who met us and gave a tour, and a brief history of the Court.

This has been a Court House since the 16th Century but is due to close and the Crown Court will be moved to the Magistrates Court in Aylesbury. Later in the morning, we were able to sit in the body of the Court for the morning session, and witness at first hand the working of the Court and how the various cases were heard and dealt with.

Harvest time was the theme for our September meeting, with jam- and pickle-making. Christmas came early in October, with Christmas cake decorating. Members tried their hands at making Father Christmases and roses from icing under the instruction of one of our members.

Bells will be ringing for us in November when the U3A hand bell ringers will be entertaining us, and then December will bring us to the end of our year. We will hold our Annual Meeting and will be looking forward to 2018.

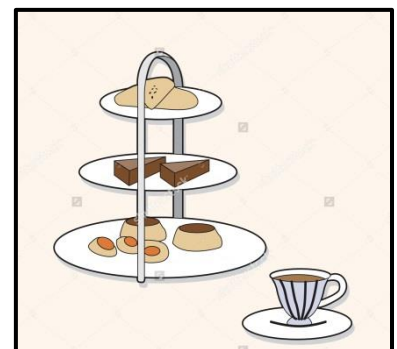
Everyone is very welcome to come to any of our meetings; many thanks to the people who support Teas on Tuesday and especially the cake makers and tea ladies.

For more information: contact Jane Waight (01908 387449) or Susan White (01908 501987).

Susan White, October 2017.

There seems to be some confusion about the times of the Post Office and Teas on Tuesday. The **Post Office is open on Mondays from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. BUT on 28th November it will be open on Tuesdays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm.** Please support the Post Office. We do not want to lose it. **Teas on Tuesday is open as usual** (the WI cannot change their day) and will be open throughout the summer. So bring the children, or come and buy a takeaway for tea. Everyone is welcome.

Margaret Barrie



Whaddon Night Owlers W.I.



THIS MONTH we have been getting crafty. One of our members, Ann, is an expert crafter; she can turn her hand to a variety of different activities. On this occasion Ann taught us how to make beautiful flower brooches.

We were provided with a kit containing material: a button and a brooch back, and we had a choice of finishes so they could be personalised. Ann then took us through the process and the mysteries of turning a flat piece of fabric into a three-dimensional flower. Very clever! And the kit included templates for making more, so look out for some lovely hand-crafted presents in the future. (I won't mention the "C" word that is rapidly approaching!)

The evening turned out to be a great opportunity

to
chat,

share skills and have something to show at the end of it; it proved to be very satisfying. Research shows that making something and doing something with your hands, is good for your mental health; it certainly made us feel good.

Next month is the AGM; there we sort out all our business and ensure we are all happy in our roles.



December, of course, is that "C" word again and we are looking forward to a Christmas (there, I said it!) dinner at the local pub. We will be working off all the calories in January with a Circle Dancing session.

If you would like to know more about our group, please come along to meet us on the third Wednesday of the month in the Jubilee Hall. Or call

Daphne on 01908 502088 to find out more. ■

Alison Cross

A woman with zest for life

Who might be Whaddon's most famous and charismatic woman? In this cameo, John Mortimer researches the life and background of Joan Selby-Lowndes (left and bottom).

WHICH two individuals from the tiny hamlet of Whaddon might, in the 1920s, have travelled to faraway Chile; or, even closer to home, to La Rochelle, nestling midway between Nantes and Bordeaux on France's west coast?

The answer to the question of Chile is lost in the mists of time; most likely the two people concerned disembarked at La Rochelle. For, as we shall discover, both had a zest for travel and excitement.

Even before her birth, the parents of Joan Selby-Lowndes developed the 'travel bug'. Her father, the Rev'd Edward Selby-Lowndes (born in Kensington, west London), knew the real meaning of travel. He spent some time in then far-away Australia where, between 1903 and 1908, he served as a Church of England vicar in two different locations in Queensland – Brisbane and Milton, Toowong. To add to the mix, Joan had a French mother.

A Hebrew scholar with an MA from Exeter College Oxford, Edward then held an assistant master's post at prestigious Dulwich College in south-east London. Elizabethan actor, Edward Alleyn, founded Dulwich three centuries earlier, in 1619, to educate 12 poor scholars as the foundation of 'God's Gift'. The independent college now schools 1,500 boys, of whom 120 are boarders.

Edward and Paris-born Martha Welleda Gobin (goodness, how did they meet?) married by licence on 10th August 1914 at St Patrick's Church in Soho according to the 'Rights and Ceremonies' of the Roman Catholic Church. Prior to their marriage, just before the outbreak of war, the couple lived at 67 Torrington Square, Bloomsbury, London.

An up-market draper's shop

Licenses were popular, especially amongst the gentry; they were an open show that couples were not only 'well off'; they could marry at their own convenience. Tradespeople, too, used these them to accommodate their hours of work; likewise those of different faiths, as well as those who, with a tiny bundle on the way, desired or needed to wed!

When repeating her wedding vows, if it hadn't already dawned on her, Martha knew she had married into a prominent, somewhat aristocratic English family. She would discover gradually the Selby-Lowndes' family's multitudinous and far-reaching branches. Martha's father, Ernest, in contrast was a humble retired civil servant.



London had been Martha's home for several years. In 1911 she rented a one-bedroom apartment at 16 Albany Street, London while gaining valuable experience working, aged 17, at the up-market Hyam & Company of 134-140 Oxford Street, London; a firm of "Gentlemen's, Boys', Ladies', and Girls' Tailors" founded in 1900. Today, she might be described as a counter assistant; however, at the time, Martha enjoyed the more grand description of 'assisting in business'.

To broadcast its society clientele, Hyam & Co. boasted two 'By Royal Appointment' accolades: HRH The Duchess of Connaught, and HRH The Duchess of Sparta. Hyams would give Martha good grooming in English social manners.

Just 18 months after their wedding, Edward's father, William Seymour Selby-Lowndes, a former captain in the 6th Warwickshire Regiment, passed away. He died on 22nd January 1916, in Dulwich, aged 77.

Eight months later, after sadness came joy: Edward and Martha's daughter, Joan Monica, arrived. The cataclysmic World War 1 was well under way and gathering momentum, consuming everything in its path.

On 29th September 1916 Martha gave birth at 26 Cheyne Court, Chelsea, SW London. Joan became the couple's only child, the focus of all their attention. Today, a three-bedroomed apartment in Cheyne Court sells for £3 million.

Martha, a slight, demure and diminutive French lady, in contrast to her much taller husband, was once alleged to be heard saying, laughingly: "I am so little yet I had an elephant for a daughter!"

The family continued living in Chelsea for some years before moving to Sutton Cottage, near Guildford, Surrey.

Then followed further disruption; the family relocated to a vicarage in Whaddon. According to 1935 *Kelly's Directory*: "the living was in the gift of Lt-Col William Selby-Lowndes and held since 1925 by Edward Arthur Selby-Lowndes, MA, of Exeter College, Oxford". Edward also had the title of 'perpetual curate of Tattenhoe'. The Whaddon 'living' amounted to £395 a year with *Kelly's* describing Lt-Col William Selby-Lowndes as "Lord of the manor and principle landowner".

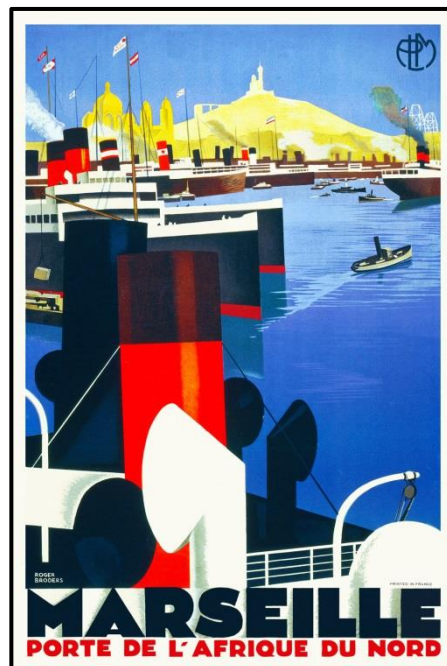
And with that relocation, Mrs Selby-Lowndes became the vicar's wife. However, that did not prevent Martha and Joan, on 23rd July 1925, from heading to Liverpool to board *RMS Oroya*, a liner bound for Valperiso in Chile on South America's west coast. The two-mast, single-funnelled vessel belonged to the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and offered accommodation for 124 'first saloon' passengers and 95 in 'second saloon'.

Enjoying the pleasures of France

Records confirm Joan, eight, and Martha 33, lived at The Vicarage, Whaddon, Bletchley, with Valparaso, Chile declared as their destination port. The duo travelled both ways in the 'second saloon'.

Did they really reach Chile? No, they disembarked at La Pallice, the commercial port situated 6km west of the historic fortress port of La Rochelle, France.

Following their stay, mother and daughter returned to England aboard Peninsular & Oriental Steam





Luxury liner *RMS Mooltan* – ship of a thousand dreams

Navigation Company's (P&O) *RMS Orita*; it docked in Liverpool a month later, on 5th September 1925. Three years later, writer Ernest Hemingway used the *RMS Orita* to sail from La Rochelle to Havana, Cuba.

Perhaps at the time Martha considered Joan should be exposed to

the pleasures of La Belle France, or maybe meet members of her family and experience French domestic life. It is also possible Martha may not have seen her wider family since the end of WW1. So perhaps this and subsequent visits, coupled with Martha's French extraction, gave Joan a taste and a love for France. Many years later, at the outbreak of WW2, Joan would retrace the footsteps of the army captain and her grandfather, William Seymour Selby-Lowndes.

In December of that year, the Rev'd Selby-Lowndes experienced the fragility of life. Weighed down with a feeling of great sadness, on 18th December, a week before Christmas, he conducted a family burial service for two year-old William Selby-Lowndes, a relative within the vast Selby-Lowndes family.

The following summer, Martha and Joan set off again on their travels, as France one more beckoned. They departed on 26th July 1926 from the Port of London aboard P&O's *RMS Maloja*, another ocean-going liner. This time, travelling first class with Mars (Marseilles) as their destination, Mrs Selby-Lowndes gave The Vicarage, Whaddon as their address. In the mid-1920s money must have become more plentiful. On that journey mother and daughter enjoyed some grandeur.

Unlike *RMS Oroya*, the *RMS Maloja's* public rooms were lofty, luxurious and completely well decorated; all first- and second-class cabins enjoyed the luxury of portholes – today's cruise liners boast balcony cabins. The dining saloon seated 330 and enjoyed neo-Georgian style panelling finished in ivory white. Doors and architraves were made from polished mahogany. Mother and daughter were traveling in style.

The following year, on 29th July 1927, again during school holidays, mother and daughter made a similar trip; this time they travelled on P&O's *RMS Naldera*. The charm and culture of France continued to be an irresistible magnet, together with the country's scenery, sounds and smells.

After their sojourn in France, the duo arrived back at the Port of London on 9th September, aboard P&O's *RMS Mooltan* (**above**) from Marseilles; the liner began its long journey in Sydney, NSW, Australia. P&O described *RMS Mooltan* as "The Magnificent Mooltan: the ship of a thousand dreams...". It could accommodate 327 first- and 329 second-class passengers, and had a crew of 433.

Martha described her occupation as "home duties" and Joan's as "student"; back in Whaddon however, Martha knew that local women were, in fact, doing all her cleaning and housework at The Vicarage.

As for Joan's education, it proved inevitably a mix of English and French. The publisher's preamble for Joan's first book, *Mail Coach*, describes the author as "educated at Wycombe Abbey and St. Stephen's College, Folkestone". Joan later studied for a French degree, taking her Licence-et-Lettres at Lille University; she followed this with a study of German in Heidelberg.

Family holidays in Germany

Joan's close study of French later became laced with German as the family travelled to Germany. This is hardly surprising, given the family's yearning for holidays abroad. The *Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press* of Saturday 29th August 1936, reported: "the beautiful scenery of the Rhineland and the friendliness of the people towards English tourists have impressed the Rev and Mrs E A Selby-Lowndes of Whaddon Vicarage who have recently returned from a holiday in that part of Germany. They made the tour from Bonn to Heidelberg partly by cycle and partly by boat on the Rhine, a pastime which is greatly encouraged. Miss Joan Selby-Lowndes is still staying at Heidelberg, where she has been for some time now, studying the language."

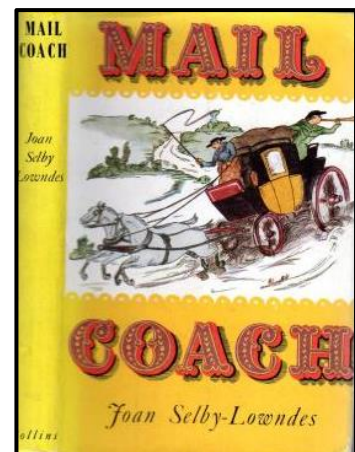
French and German were almost certainly Joan's second and third languages, an asset and bedrock that would prove valuable in a few years' time. Joan, who lived in Chertsey in 1938, also taught at stage school; a subject featured in some of her books and another attribute that would come to the fore later in life.

Indeed, so proficient were Joan's language skills, that she translated books from French into English, especially those of René Guillot, a French writer of children's texts who lived, worked and travelled in French West Africa; his contribution as a children's writer earned him the 1964 Hans Christian Andersen Medal.

While the Whaddon vicarage living is one indicator of Joan's father's income, her education suggests the family benefited from other financial resources and family background. The impression is that Joan enjoyed a privileged upbringing; comfortably off and well able to afford first-class travel on ocean-going liners, not to mention a good education to boot. Did Joan also develop a preference at the time for *Quelques Fleurs*, an in-perfume created by chic Parisian perfume house Houbigant in 1912 and in-vogue among the well-to-do? ■

Next time, Joan goes to war and then unwinds writing books.

Farms at risk. Parts of Britain's farmland could be just 30 to 40 years' away from becoming barren wastelands, according to Environment Secretary Michael Gove. Intensive farming, chemical sprays and use of heavy machinery are leading to 'fundamental eradication of soil fertility', he claims. "We have encouraged a type of farming which has damaged the earth," he said, speaking at the launch in late October of Sustainable noble Soils Alliance (SSA).

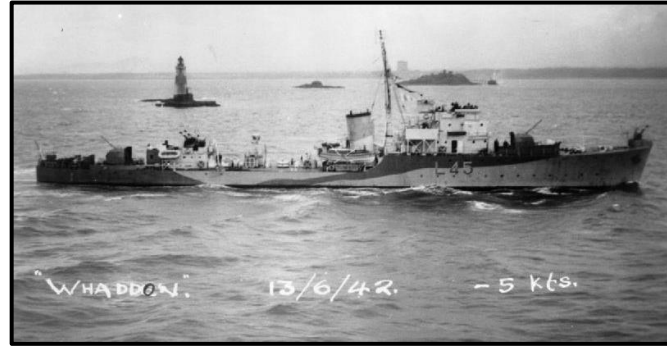


Joan's first book of 1945

How Whaddon came to go to sea

***HMS Whaddon* was a Royal Navy Hunt-class escort destroyer, one of 86 vessels with names derived from British fox hunts. David Spencer explains the Hunt-class's background.**

The supply of armaments and food from America became a crisis during World War One because many supply ships were being sunk. To counter this, the Royal Navy were forced to introduced a system of escorted convoys. Escorting warships surrounded the vessels in the convoy giving protection from submarines as well as surface craft. At the outset of World War Two many more warships were required for this convoy escort duty and so 'Hunt-class' destroyers were hastily commissioned.



These ships were needed to be available for service without an inordinate delay and had to be armed to deal with the submarine, surface and air threat. They were originally designed to carry three twin 4in gun mountings capable of dealing with these threats. For anti-submarine attacks the design called for 60 depth charges with two throwers and two sets of rails. Speed specification was for between 28 and 30 knots. The first vessels were ordered early in 1939.

The new ships were designed to displace 1,380 tons when fully loaded but, before the first ships were completed, several design problems arose and construction was halted. In particular investigations showed the design to have poor stability so it was decided to reduce top-weight by fitting only two twin 4in mountings in the first 20 ships that were already under construction. These became known as the Type I.

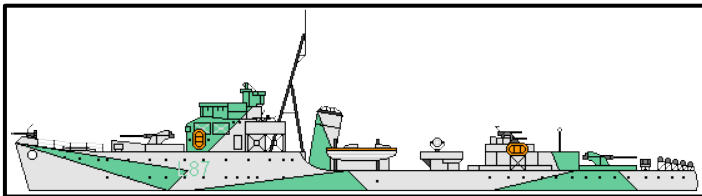
HMS Whaddon was one of these first Hunt-class destroyers and was named after the Whaddon Chase Hunt. Type II, III and IV ships were built to cater for the design shortcomings and new equipment such as a torpedo-launch capability. Overall, 86 Hunt-class destroyers were completed, 72 commissioned into the Royal Navy and the remaining 14 to allied navies.

The Hunt-class played a vital part in sea operations. Their 4in armament with a dual-purpose anti-aircraft and surface capability as well as their anti-submarine depth charge system made them effective escort vessels. All Types did however have the disadvantage that they required frequent re-fuelling on long voyages, as when escorting Russian convoys.

They were not comfortable ships and their accommodation was cramped. Nevertheless, they participated in the sinking of 21 submarines and many actions in defence of coastal shipping. At the end of hostilities, 19 ships were transferred to foreign navies, two were retained for special trials and the remainder were placed in reserve and eventually scrapped.

War service: Convoy escort and patrol duties North Sea and Mediterranean. Close support of military operations ashore in North Africa, Sicily and Adriatic.

- *HMS Whaddon* together with *HMS Eggesford* and *HMS Douglas* rescue 3.000 troops from RMS *Windsor Castle* sunk by aerial torpedo.
- Blockade of Cape Bon, Tunisia in operation to prevent Axis forces escaping North Africa.
- Support cover for British landings on Pantellaria, off Sicily and subsequently on Sicily itself.
- Escort to landings in S of France (operation Dragoon).
- Operations in Adriatic and Aegean in support of re-occupation of Islands.
- Engaged 3 ex-Italian torpedo boats in Straits of Otranto (Adriatic).



HMS Whaddon (Pennant no L45)
Type 1 destroyer of 1000 tons displacement
Built by Alexander Stephen at Govan, Clyde
Commissioned 1940
Full Complement 146

Armament :

2 x 2 x 4" guns *
1 x 4 x 2pdr (40mm) pom-pom AA
2 x 1 x 20mm Oerlikon AA
1 x 1 x 2pdr "bow-chaser"

Anti-submarine :

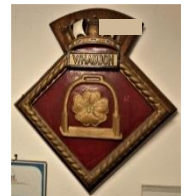
2 x Depth Charge mortars
1 x Depth Charge rack for 40 DC's

Propulsion: 2 shaft Parsons single-geared steam turbines;
19,000 shaft horsepower. 2 Admiralty 3 drum boilers
Max speed: 25.5 knots
Range: 3600 n/miles at 14 knots
Length: 280 ft. Beam: 31.6 ft. Draught: 8.25 ft.

* Note: HMS Whaddon was due to have 3 turrets of 4" guns but her early design was too unstable for the heavy extra turret. The bow-chaser was added to compensate. Later Hunt class ships were adjusted to allow the extra turret and further depth charge racks.

Scrapped 1959

SHIP'S CREST (Right) The stirrup was the emblem of the Hunt-class destroyers and the Primrose is representative of the Whaddon Chase countryside which has many of these flowers.



(Above) RMS *Windsor Castle* carrying troops for North Africa landings sinking after Luftwaffe action, attended by HMS *Whaddon*.

(Below) HMS Whaddon - the ship's company, Grand Harbour, Valetta, Malta.



Tunnelling under London

Those who travel on London's Underground: the Tube, seldom, if ever, give a moment's thought to how tunnels are driven through the city's clay. Here Roger Porter writes about his contribution to one line, the Victoria.

Next year marks two milestones in London Underground's history: in December, the central section and a large portion of the new Crossrail (to be named the Elizabeth Line) is due to open; while September marks 50 years since the first section of the Victoria Line (Walthamstow Central to Highbury & Islington) opened. The final leg to Pimlico was completed in 1972). The Victoria, a deep-level line, was London's first new Underground line for 50 years.

If asked to simplify the geology of central London, I would say it was London Blue Clay overlain by water-bearing ballast. I use the term ballast to describe a well-graded mix of sand and gravel used for, er, ballasting ships. The horizon between these two quite different materials is rarely regular and can catch out the unwary.

I was site civil engineer on the construction of the Victoria Line underground in the early 1960s, on the section between Victoria and Oxford Circus. Despite the crude appearance of a 12ft-diameter hand-drive in the photograph, London Underground permitted a maximum of 1" (one inch!) deviation from the theoretical line and level, and we guided the miners to one eightieth of an inch, with the aid of astronomical tables and 10-figure logarithms – no calculators or computers!

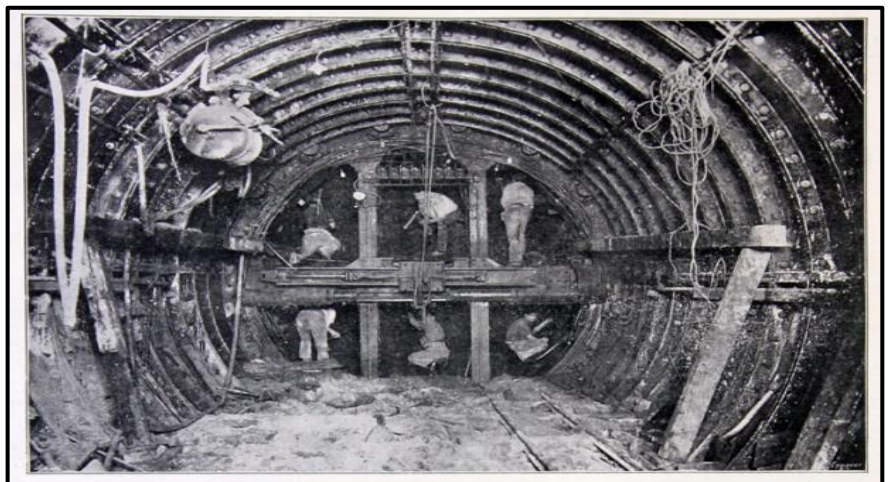
We planned the launch of a drum digger drive from a ventilation shaft in Green Park, closely adjacent to The Ritz, Piccadilly. Drum diggers have rotating cutting heads at the face.

Men running for their lives

The train-running tunnel diameter was 12ft 8in and all would be well providing there was a diameter of good clay above the machine.

We had built the station tunnels at Green Park, and we launched the digger to drive in the direction of Victoria. I was at the launch, which went well. The miners were erecting the cast iron tunnel linings like fury.

Suddenly, there was a tremendous noise like an express steam train derailing. Men were running for their lives. Some were seen to climb over each other up the ladders in the shaft in their panic. When calm had descended, it was



A tunneller's life underground at the working face is not a happy one

clear that thousands of tons of water and ballast had run into the station tunnel from the digger face. The consulting engineers had put down boreholes along the north- and south-bound tunnels to prove good clay cover at 50ft intervals.

The point where we lost the tunnel face was between two boreholes and had not been picked up, of course. It was a buried channel into the clay scoured out by melting glaciers from the Ice Age and it was full of ballast and water.

A huge cavern had been created above the tunnel face, and the only sign of the incident was a hole the size of a dinner plate within a few feet of the Green Park bandstand. Mercifully, and apart from a few bruises, nobody was hurt.

We had to surround the digger with a sheet-piled cofferdam in order to extricate it, and backfill the hole with fly ash and weak concrete. We also had to change our method of working to continue the drive by hand well clear of the buried channel before resuming a mechanised drive.

Besides natural hazards, we had to manoeuvre past Home Office tunnels around Whitehall, the escape tunnels from Buckingham Palace and deal with missing piles from Stag Place office blocks, but those are other stories! ■

Roger adds: I find just writing about these events in my life to be quite cathartic. After the cacophony of the tunnel, we would adjourn for a quiet pint or four to a pub in Ecclestone Square. The miners would be there too. We would still have our site clothes on, overalls covered in hydraulic oil and grout, boots covered in clay and heaven knows what. The miners, on piecework, could earn up to £200 per week. They were young Irish men wanting to buy their own farms back home, and desperate to get their money together before their arms got varicosed from holding up a pneumatic clay spader for hours at a time. The engineers were probably on around £1,200 pa, The miners were happy to buy us beer, and the landlord equally happy to have our money and put up with the inconvenience of having his 'lav' drains regularly cleaned of the clay off our boots. The Band of Brothers!

CROSSRAIL. At £14.8 billion, the Crossrail programme to build the Elizabeth Line is currently Europe's largest infrastructure project. The team building Crossrail have used tunnel boring machines, or TBMs, to carve out the tunnels.

During construction, eight 150 metre-long TBMs (working in pairs) dug 21km of tube routes. Each machine cost £10 million and operated for 24 hours a day; each requires a team of 20 workers to function.

One TBM covers only 100 metres a week, a small distance for such a large machine. Crossrail held a competition to suggest names for the TBMs. One was christened Elizabeth, and 'she', like the other seven machines, weighs 1,000 tonnes.

Neighbourhood watch: Whaddon

WARNING OF TOOL THEFTS

Thames Valley Police is warning local van owners to be vigilant after a recent increase in tool theft from vans across Aylesbury.

Over the last four weeks, 80 vehicles have been targeted across the Aylesbury local policing area (27 September – 24 October).

PC Dean Kingham from Aylesbury Police Station said: “We have recently seen a spike in vans being targeted by thieves across the area for their tools. In response we have increased patrols around Wendover, Aston Clinton and Weston Turville. As well as targeting key areas, we are educating the public with crime prevention advice and targeting those intending on committing these offences within our community.

“Vehicle criminals are opportunists, and you can help to prevent vehicle-related crime by taking simple security measures.

“We urge people to take note and share our advice to stop more people becoming victim to this crime.”

Thames Valley Police advice to help secure your van and its contents:

- Make sure you lock the doors and shut the windows whenever you leave your van unattended
- Never leave any valuables visible – keep all possessions out of sight. Even if you know that there is nothing valuable in your jacket pocket or file left on the seat, a thief may try their luck
- Remove tools from your van when left overnight
- If removal of tools is not possible, fit a tool safe and ensure it is fully secure
- Consider parking your van close to a hedge or wall in order to restrict access for anyone trying to get inside. Always park your van in well-lit areas
- Engrave or mark tools and their box with your details. This can be done with a UV pen or permanent marker
- Fit additional external locks to van doors
- Keep a list of tools, together with serial numbers and any identifying marks. You can do this at www.immobilise.com. This will help to trace them back to you if they are recovered
- If you see any suspicious behaviour, call 101

Tools are extremely valuable possessions and when stolen, can impact hugely on small businesses. Van owners are reminded to remove their tools from the vehicle when it is left unattended for long periods of time and overnight.

If you have any information or have witnessed any such incidents, call Thames Valley Police’s non-emergency number on 101, quoting reference ‘URN 366/06/10/17’.

Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

ONLINE SAFETY

Fraudsters regularly hack into personal online accounts to obtain details which will allow them to defraud you. To prevent fraudsters, it’s very important to use strong passwords when setting up and accessing online accounts and online banking.

Passwords should be memorable enough not to have to write them down and long enough to be unique and hard to guess, which will ensure they are less vulnerable to being stolen. If it is not possible to remember passwords a password manager could be used to store them securely.

Protect yourself:

- Make sure passwords are memorable so that you don't have to write them down. Make sure they are unique.
- Think about how you could change the letters in your normal passwords to make them more difficult to guess!
 - Use long, non-dictionary words and use different ones for each of your personal accounts and online banking. Make sure you change them regularly.
 - Make sure passwords are not stored on devices that have shared access by other people, for example in internet cafes and when using other public Wi-Fi.

If you believe you have become a victim of account hacking, change your passwords immediately and report to Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud

YOUR LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS

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

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



Timetable: November & December 2017; and January 2018

Thursday 2nd November – Woodland run with pub lunch & an hour at World's End Nurseries.
£6.00 travel

Tuesday 7th November – Buckingham Bus* – 1 hour in town 1 hour in Tesco

Thursday 9th November - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Tuesday November 14th – Lunch at The Bell Beachampton £4.00 travel.

Thursday 16th November– Banbury Shopping -£5.00

Thursday 23rd November - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Tuesday 21st November – Asda in Bletchley, M&S, H&M, Primark - £4.00 return

Thursday 23rd November - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Tuesday November 28th – MK Shopping £4.00

Thursday 30th November – Bicester Garden Centre £5.00

Tuesday 5th December - Buckingham Bus* – 1 hour in town 1 hour in Tesco

Tuesday 12th December – Thame Market Shopping £5.00

Thursday 14th December - - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Thursday 21st December – Winslow Bus Annual Christmas Lunch at The Old Thatched Inn Adstock. Come and join us! £21.95 for 3 courses £16.95 for 2 and free transport available.

Thursday 28th December Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Tuesday 2nd January 2018 - Buckingham Bus* – 1 hour in town 1 hour in Tesco

Thursday 11th January - - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Thursday 25th January - - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

NEW Milton Keynes THEATRE PROGRAMME OUT – Book now!

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

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

Wed 1st November Cabaret –landmark musical - Stalls L,M £38.00

Wed 29th November Sunset Boulevard - Love and obsession in the Golden Age of Hollywood Circle D £29.50

Shows in 2018 (nothing like planning ahead!!) PLEASE BOOK NOW

Wed 18th July 2018– Flashdance based on the film –Circle D £29.50

Thursday 20th September 2018– Warhorse – the unforgettable theatre event -Circle C £50.00

Wed 26th September 2018!_War Horse –Circle D £50.00

JOIN THE CINEMA CLUB!

We are running the bus to some live streaming performances at Aylesbury or MK Odeon. These MUST be booked well in advance. They average about 3hrs running time with intervals. Start time: 7.15pm.

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

Programme

Tuesday 5th December - Royal Ballet The Nutcracker

Tues 16th January 2018 ROH Rigoletto

Wed 7th February – ROH –Tosca

Wed 28th February – Royal Ballet –The Winter's Tale

Tues 6th March – ROH Carmen(6.45pm)

Wed 4th April – ROH Macbeth

Thursday 3rd May –Royal Ballet – Manon

Tuesday 12th June – Swan Lake

Book now as shows sell out quickly. Trips may be cancelled if not enough interest.

Ring Sue for information leaflet about the shows.

Sea Cadets – TS Whaddon

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

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



Left and below Kayaking or Rowing at Emberton Park, Olney

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

Bottom: TS Royalist in The Solent



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

Creative Coach:



Thoughts from my comfy chair

If you feel that life is getting just a tad hectic and you need more time to do everything, I have news: the solution is with you! The trick is to recognise and pay attention to the important stuff, and also to what is merely faffing, procrastination and a waste of your valuable effort.

Make your life easier

What could you choose to do regularly, which would save it turning into a much bigger job if you just left it? A bit like servicing your boiler/car, I guess. A false economy to let it drift, as regular servicing detects faults before they become expensive, and keeps everything ticking along nicely, albeit at a small, regular cost. But leaving it until something goes wrong can often "cost" you more. Come on, admit it to yourself: where do you currently procrastinate or cut corners, hoping to save time, money, aggravation or simply because you can't be bothered, only to find you get a proverbial bite on the bum at a most inconvenient moment? What could you do to change that?

Banned words

I've almost given up with the word beginning with C that is creeping up on us next month, much as I dislike the hype and the adverts that pervade, panic and push us ever earlier in the year to spend, spend, spend. (Ok, rant over!) There are other words that are more damaging, though, in my view:

- **Should:** who says? Whose voice is it? Is it your negative voice, or the voice of someone else who looks at the world through very different eyes? Try substituting "need" and see if you still feel the same way about doing whatever you thought you "should". The words "ought" and "must" are close relatives of "should", too, so watch out for those!
- **Just:** minimises whatever it follows, and encourages other minimising words to creep in: for example, "I **just** run a **small** business", or "I'll **just** send you an invoice" or "I **just** thought I'd get in touch, as you're a valued customer". Don't apologise, people! Be proud, confident and sure of what you do, and how you choose to do it. Delete "just" and see how much more positive you sound.
- **But:** negates what comes before. Try swapping it for "and", and see how different it sounds and feels to you.

I'm sure you'll come across some other toxic words that you use, in spite of yourself. Send them to me, and I'll shred them on your behalf!

Let's get physical

How long since you last got up from that chair, rested your eyes from the screen, and recalibrated your spine, shoulders, neck? Yes, it's another nag to get moving, and switch off from the darn technology for just a moment. If, on the other hand, you've been rushing around like a mad thing, you can still do this (thanks to the lovely Jenny Wong, our fab local Pilates teacher for this):

- Stand with your feet hip distance apart
- Feel each toe make contact with the ground, then the sole of your foot, then your heel
- Tilt your pelvis gently forward and back until it's level.

- Relax your shoulders
- Lengthen your neck gently, so the crown of your head extends towards the ceiling, as if you're attached by a thread.
- Close your eyes. Take three deep breaths. Be present.

Until next time...



Shenley Road re-opening update

READERS can draw their own conclusion regarding the opening date of the Shenley Road from the contents of a letter by Taylor Wimpey to Councillor Edith Bald.

Edith Bald is the elected member of Milton Keynes Council's Tattenhoe Ward, which covers Tattenhoe, Kingsmead, Westcott and Oxley Park. She is also the Leader of the MK Conservative Party. Note the use in the letter below of the words 'forecast date'.

An extract from letter, Gareth Jacob, acting managing director of Taylor Wimpey, notes: "Dear Cllr Bald, Having taken the opportunity to now review the situation, it appears that the previous information supplied to you by my colleagues remains correct and that November is our current forecast date in terms of the reopening the road..... Be assured that I will personally maintain maximum pressure on the site team to deliver this road opening sooner rather than later."



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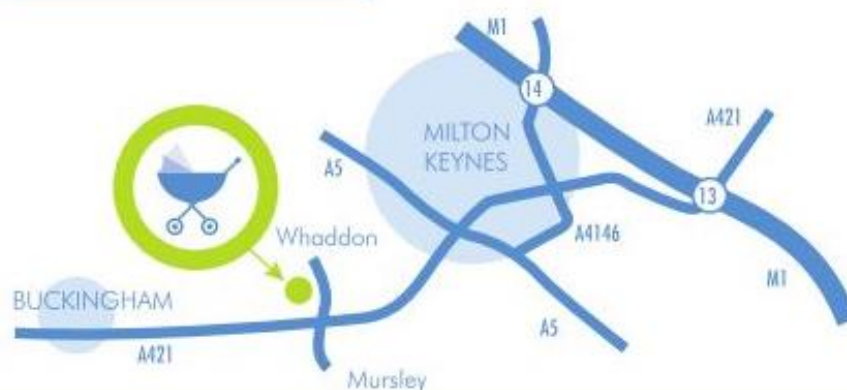
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WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Whaddon Quarterly Advertising Rates and Publication Policy

January 2017 Advertising Rates
General and Commercial Advertisers

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

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

Non-Commercial Local Advertisers

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

Small Advertisements

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

Format and Submission

Full page – A5 size

Copy to be submitted in high resolution .jpg format.

Email content to the editor, John Mortimer at johnmortimermsc@gmail.com

Publication Dates and Copy Deadlines

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

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

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

Content Policy and Copyright

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

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

Content of Whaddon Quarterly is subject to Copyright, and may not be used or reproduced.

Men in Sheds Buckingham

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

Samantha Hardy, Community Impact Bucks

01844 348831 / 07990 756742 - email: samantha@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

Drone magic: Aerial photography

THE FRONT cover of this digital version of the *Whaddon Quarterly* carries an image of a photograph of St Mary's Church, Whaddon, taken by Drew Murray.

The photograph was taken with a DJI Phantom 4 drone, Far from the toy drones one might sometimes see or hear buzzing about this past summer, this particular drone is a serious bit of photo/video kit, explained Drew Murray to the *Whaddon Quarterly* on 26th October.

It is capable of shooting 4K video as well as capturing 12MP still images. It has a flight time of 28 minutes, a top speed of 45 mile/h and a range of 7 miles on a good day. This is far in excess of what is legally allowed!

Drew revealed that he received the drone as a Christmas present from his wife and he enjoys using it to take photographs around the Milton Keynes area.

"I do my best not to upset any residents while doing so," he told the *Whaddon Quarterly*. ■



Tim Jenkins

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Tailpiece: Growing up in Whaddon

I WAS born in Whaddon in 1956. My mum and dad moved into No. 6 Shenley Road in 1948. Living in the village and not leaving it, very much meant that we knew everyone who lived in Whaddon. This gave us a real sense of being part of a real community.

I attended the village school until I reached age 11. Then I went to Radcliffe School in Wolverton, Milton Keynes. It had become a comprehensive school; previously it had been a grammar school but by then they had abolished the 11+ exam, and for me it meant a move to a large comprehensive. The school demanded a huge adjustment, as I had been used to a small village school. The children of Whaddon CofE School are pictured **right** in 1968.



I was happy at primary school. Every day, we had freshly-cooked meals, cooked on the premises in the village hall. Each Monday, we took dinner money to the post office in the High Street. The general store/post office was at the front of the building. Later, the general store closed, and the post office was located round the side of the building.

My dad grew all our vegetables in our back garden; we could eat the vegetables straight from the garden. He grew all sorts of vegetables including potatoes and cauliflowers. He also grew sweet peas to exhibition standard, and he had an allotment in the field next to Ladymead Close in Stock Lane.

My dad was employed as a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) driver for the London Brick Company in Newton Longville. My mum had various jobs that fitted in with looking after the family: jobs that required travelling by local transport as most women did not, or could not, drive.

My dad had a car, and when I left school aged 17, I had to learn to drive to be able to get to and from work. There has never been a regular bus service in Whaddon, so no change there! If we had to attend the dentist it had to be on a Thursday when the bus came through!

Christmas parties in the vicarage

I had a happy childhood with lots of things being held in the village hall. My family attended church. We had Christmas parties in the vicarage across from the paddock next to the church. Later, I learned to ring the church bells.

Mr Varney (who is now deceased) made hurdles by hand in a small hay barn building in the field next to the church. These hurdles were used in horseracing. Oh, the

smell of the wood was good. There was a cricket pavilion in the field next to Bottle House Farm (along Shenley Road) as well as a football pitch.

A firework display was organised in the recreation ground and my dad used our record player to provide the music. The food was prepared by different people and a bonfire was built. We played games in the village, in the local woods and in fields nearby, always having a good time and being able to return home nearby. At the junction of Vicarage Road and Stock Lane there used to be a spinney where we played on our bikes and climbed trees. A pond in the corner was next to a house which served as the police house.

There used to be a shop in Vicarage Road; it had a fuel pump for selling petrol. We went to a smallish supermarket, Fine Fare, in Queensway, Bletchley once a week. Also we had the butcher, baker, milkman and other deliveries to the village, not forgetting the coalman. Coal was very important, as we did not have central heating then.

There were some houses in the village that did not have a bathroom; they used a tin bath in front of the fire. Of course as our house was new we *did* have a bathroom!

When Old Manor Close was being excavated in preparation for houses being built, foundations of an old manor were discovered; this caused the building work to be delayed. Those houses cost under £9,000. The builder also constructed White Gates House: he built that to live in himself!

Happy Days! My best wishes to people who know me. As you can see life evolves. ■
Sandra Green



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