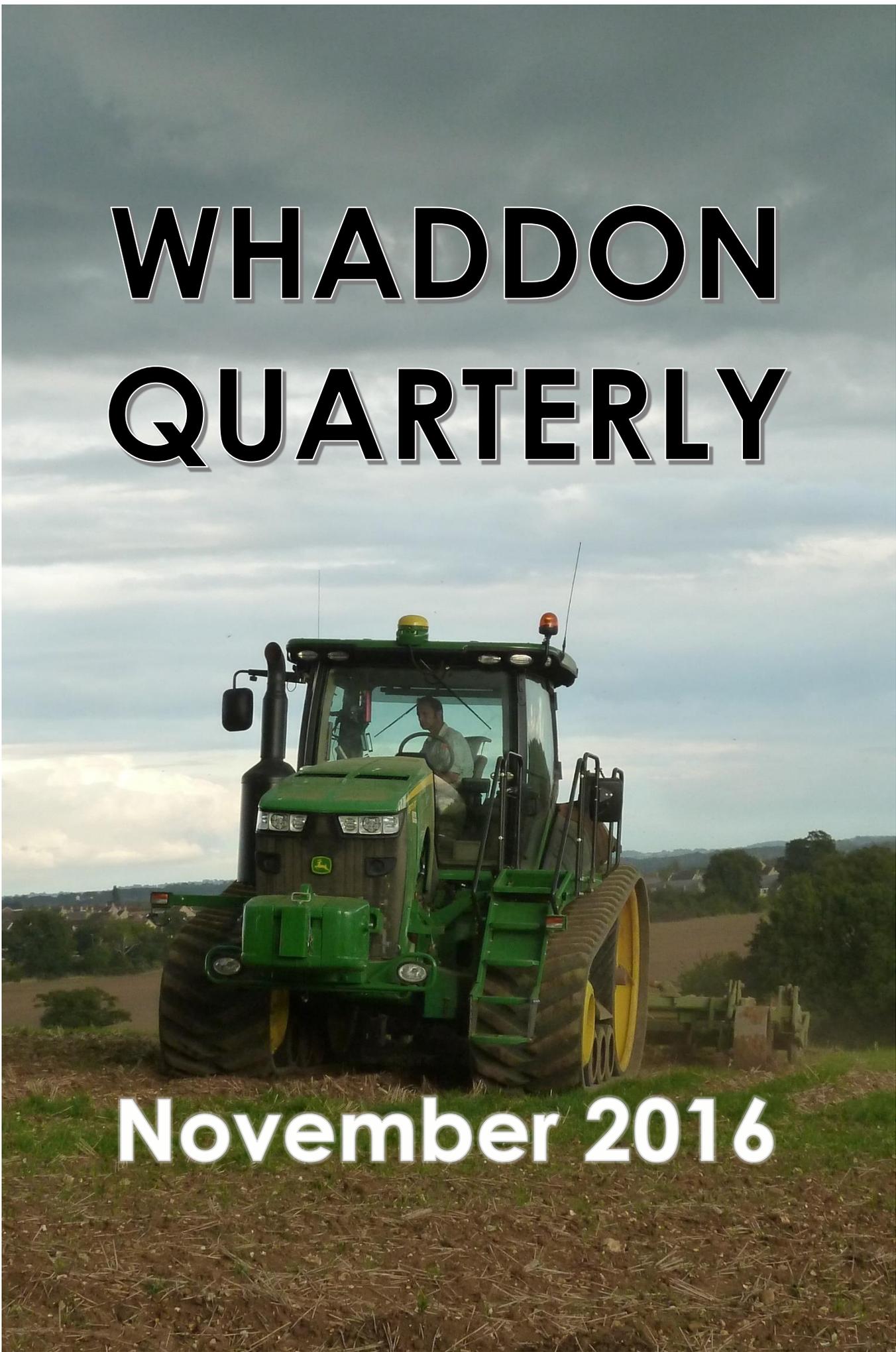


# WHADDON QUARTERLY

A green John Deere tractor with a front loader is parked on a field of harvested crops. The tractor is the central focus, with a driver visible in the cab. The background shows a rural landscape with trees and a cloudy sky. The text "WHADDON QUARTERLY" is overlaid at the top, and "November 2016" is overlaid at the bottom.

November 2016

## **Any comments, queries or articles**

Please contact the Editor, John Mortimer, on  
01908 866988 or [johnmortimermsc@gmail.com](mailto:johnmortimermsc@gmail.com)

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### **Deadlines for forthcoming issues:**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017; 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017; 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017; 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

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**Cover: Wheat from Whaddon. Full story, see pages 42-43. Photograph, John Mortimer.**

# SNIPPETS OF VILLAGE NEWS

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



- **SEVERAL PUMPKINS** could be observed in the village around Halloween. One, in Vicarage Road, is pictured left. No prizes for guessing – a VW camper van.

- **WHADDON ENTERTAINERS** are planning their next show set for 7<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017. For details contact Sharon on 07703 388571 or [sharon.bessell@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon.bessell@btinternet.com).

- **DOUG STEWART**, in an email, writes: Quarterly looks really good. It's come a long way since Patrick and I started it way back in 1980/81. I never thought I would be reading it on my mobile phone 37 years later from the middle of a remote field in Northamptonshire!

- **WITH WINTER** approaching, thoughts inevitably turn to chimneys and the need for them to be swept. The *Whaddon Quarterly* has a new advertiser in the form of Vale Chimneys (see p. 47). New advertisers this year also are Country Funerals (p. 51) and The Crooked Billet (p. 62).

- **PAULA KINGSLEY** has retired after 15 years as village post lady every Tuesday (see p. 16). Paula used to help in the Post Office in Swanbourne, run by her sister Maria and husband, before their retirement. The shop was 'crammed with goods'. No P.O. was held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November.

- **HAZEL HEDGES** informs that in the matter of the Church Fete, the new owners of Whaddon House have said they will be happy to host the Fete once they are in residence. Meanwhile Billy Stanier has kindly agreed to host the Fete at Kings Close on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

- **MANY THANKS** to Robin Starr for raising and lowering the Church flag when needed and any maintenance to the bells. Thanks are due also to Derek White for looking after the Church clock, including oiling, and for keeping the time right.

- **A BUILDER**, one of several engaged in refurbishing No. 11 Stock Lane, remarked early in October: "I have been working here for six weeks and I am completely surprised how much traffic passes through the village during the day. Not only that, but drivers are going too fast and they don't care who else is on the road. Someday, a child is going to be injured."

- **BEWARE OF TAXIS** in Milton Keynes. Taxi Licensing officers and Thames Valley Police carried out spot checks on taxi drivers late on 28<sup>th</sup> October. Of 15 vehicles stopped, 11 had suspected/confirmed defects. They were suspended. All 11 vehicles were then thoroughly inspected; 10 failed with a variety of faults: bald tyres, defective lights and worn brakes.

- **THE TRAIN** arriving at Winslow appears to be 'one stop' nearer following the purchase of land by Buckinghamshire County Council for a railway station on the outskirts of the town. The County Council paid £900,000 for the 2.5 acre site, which will accommodate a station building, passengers' car park and public transport hub. It will all happen when track is laid on the much-campaigned-for East West Rail linking Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Oxford and Bedford. By the time the station opens, Winslow will have been without a railway connection for 50 years. At a recent ceremony to mark the occasion, an official said: "This is about opening up Buckinghamshire's public transport cul-de-sac to make travel easier to major centres across Britain. It holds the promise to support planned growth of 100,000 new jobs and 120,000 new homes along the East West Rail corridor." John Chilver reports further (see p. 12). ♦



## **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

### **Autumn 2016**

THE past three months have undoubtedly been the most challenging that I can recall, for not only the Parish Council, but for all our residents as well.

By far the biggest issue for Whaddon is the emerging Vale of Aylesbury Plan which is looking for sites for up to 30,000 new houses, and which has identified a site known as WHA001 on our border with Milton Keynes between Shenley Road and the A421 road for 2,000 of them. If you put our current 200 houses alongside, you will understand that "Whaddon" would become totally unrecognisable, should this site be ratified. Not unexpectedly, Milton Keynes has misgivings about a plan for houses that would use the services of Milton Keynes but would pay its Council Tax to Aylesbury Vale. We shall continue to oppose robustly.

Another big issue is the question of Local Government reform. Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) proposes one Unitary Council, with so-called "Local Hubs".

Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) prefers the idea of two Unitary Councils, north and south, an idea which I prefer, as the south of Buckinghamshire is such a very different place to that up here in the north.

The issue that is perplexing all of us at the moment, is access to Milton Keynes along Shenley Road, and the closure of that road for up to 18 months. Apart from the inconvenience for all of us, there are serious problems in relation to school and playgroup pupils emanating from Milton Keynes, quite apart from medical emergencies. We are concerned about increased traffic on Coddimoor Lane, which sadly has a history of fatalities.

The Parish Council looks very carefully at all Planning Applications, and where necessary comments, and in the case of contentious ones, will attend the Council to have our say, and we have one or two of those current at the moment.

It is excellent news that our pub should be open again soon. I would like to extend a big welcome to the new owners. In the

meantime, Whaddon, in its usual way, has rallied round with a series of Pop-Up Pubs in the Jubilee Hall.

A piece of really good news is the completion of the Whaddon Parish Council website, which has links to other village organisations and to current Planning Applications in the village, from AVDC. Councillor Peter Lemagnen has set this up and I thank him on your behalf for doing this, and providing us with such a useful resource. I think the website perfectly complements the Whaddon Facebook page which Lauren Scott has so successfully set up.

Finally, I congratulate Abbey Sycamore on starting a Fitness Bootcamp which I hope is very successful.

Most of these issues will be debated at the next Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at the Chapel School Room. I am sure I shall see some of you there. ◇

*Billy Stanier*

October 2016

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## Whaddon website: Alive and up and running

The Parish Council website is now live and can be viewed at [www.whaddonbuckspc.org.uk](http://www.whaddonbuckspc.org.uk). As a Parish Council (PC) we have to conform to latest government requirements, which means making available online all Parish Council documents. This has given rise to the website. In building the website, we wanted to also be able to highlight for the benefit of our community and for any visitors to the village, the different village groups and activities that exist in the village. Thus, the site attempts to link to all of the different events that go on in the village.

There are three sets of email alert tools on the site. These are:

**Planning Tracker** – this tracks any planning application relevant to the village published by Aylesbury Vale.

**News** – we will publish news items relevant to the village (two examples are up).

**Events** – All village events (for example Whaddon Fayre, Village Fete etc) will be published here.

In addition to these tools, there are seven other areas on the website, six of which have drop downs with more information on each topic.

1. **About Us:** general information, history and location of Whaddon
2. **Parish Council:** Meeting dates, details of councilors, minutes, financial records, other documents and Graham Stewart's Planning updates
3. **Village Facilities:** Details and links (to websites if available) to main village facilities
4. **Village Groups:** Contact details and links to any village groups, with meeting location and times
5. **Village Magazine:** Downloadable versions of the Whaddon Quarterly
6. **Other Facilities/Groups:** Details of other facilities available to residents
7. **Whaddon Calendar:** Link to a Google calendar listing details of all activities in the village

If we have missed anything, please let me know and I will update. If you are organising any events taking place in the village, drop me a note and I will add it.

Feel free to contact me at [peter@lemagnen.com](mailto:peter@lemagnen.com) or leave me a voice mail on 07941 138763.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

So, what have we in this issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly*? The combination of the welcome arrival of the Whaddon website and the ever-present Facebook inevitably raises challenges for a quarterly publication. Added to which, for the first time, the entire world has access to Whaddon (through the website) and to the *Quarterly*.

With a three-monthly frequency such a publication cannot hope to be 'newsy'. The challenge is to find items 'different', yet eclectic to those which appear on the website and Facebook, while, at the same time, are not repetitive. And what is 'news' anyhow? What is 'news' to one person may be 'old hat' to another. So the aim is to have a slightly different perspective on village life

Against this backdrop, I have had to get my creative juices running, and attempt some detective work in an attempt to strike a balance between what is socially relevant and what hopefully might be called 'of interest'. Once more, I have tried to strike a balance between the 'old' and the 'new'.



What cannot be avoided, however, are the unfortunate actions of the midnight thieves with nothing but church roof lead firmly fixed in their minds. Their brazen actions, see pages 10-11, will not make the world a better place.

Looking at the remaining concoction of articles, we have The Great Oaks of Whaddon – no, not a reference to the 'old' folks of the village, but to a time not so long ago, when there were many oak trees in the vicinity.

Still with a country flavour is an article about farming today and how Whaddon's wheat

gives a boost to the nation's breadbasket in a direction perhaps least expected.

Inevitably, the village is impacted by the closure of Shenley Road for what seems like an eternity. **March 2018** seems an awfully long distance away in time. Perhaps there will be a miracle and whatever construction activity – is Taylor Wimpey driving a road tunnel to Westcroft? – is due to happen, time will suddenly evaporate and bring relief for all in the village. There is an irony here: the closure of the Shenley Road and, at the same time, the impending and welcome re-opening of the Lowndes Arms at a date as yet unknown.

And then we have reference to the almshouses that once occupied a place at the top of Church Lane. There is still much to be revealed about, but this article (on pages 24-26) marks a start. Maybe it will trigger a memory and provoke further discussion. As an adjunct, there is a feature about the mysterious happenings to a straw rick!

In Milton Keynes, driverless pods arrived (see p. 40). A portent for the future or a huge waste of resources!

To add to the mix, there is the last in Evelyn's trilogy of recollections of days gone by. To these I have also added a smattering of odds and ends of information. And there are the regular items.

And oh, there is a small item about the presence of Roman soldiers and a haul of coins found in 1849. Not quite as mad as you might think! I will say no more

So there it is for this issue. And for this year too, as Donald Trump is elected the next President of the USA. Enjoy reading. And Happy Christmas and a peaceful and safe New Year. ♦





# Clerk's Corner

## Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

**Launch of our New Parish Website:** Thanks to the hard work of Cllr Peter Lemagnen we now have a fantastic new parish website. Go to [www.whaddonbucks.org.uk](http://www.whaddonbucks.org.uk) for loads on useful information including details of Parish Council meetings and minutes.

**Street Lights Not Working?** Unlike many parishes, Whaddon owns and maintains its own street lights. If you spot one that's not working and in need of repair, please let me know on 07891 887826 or [parishclerk@whaddonbucks.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@whaddonbucks.org.uk).

**Reporting Fly Tipping.** Sadly, this continues apace on our rural roads. To report it go to AVDC's website and complete the e-form on line. Alternatively, call 01296 585858.

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

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

**SO SIGN UP NOW!**

**BE SURE OF STAYING INFORMED!**

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

**Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s).** The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Next year's meetings will be available shortly. Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change at short notice. All Welcome! ♦

Whaddon Quarterly

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

## LOCAL PLANNING MATTERS

THE Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) consultation has closed, so what's next?

Firstly, your Parish Council must thank everyone who contributed to the recent Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan debate, whether they came to the special meeting in the Village Hall on 8 August, attended the subsequent Extraordinary Parish Meeting on 18 August, or tried to complete the online response form to AVDC before the closing deadline (many tried, but failed, but some actually succeeded: well done, it was not an easy process!).

At least our objective of making sure every resident knew about the emerging new Vale of Aylesbury Plan was achieved, and hopefully nobody can now complain and say "we didn't know about that, why didn't we do anything about it?" The emerging plan certainly got everybody talking and I know there were many interesting debates and discussions - some quite heated, especially on the subject of the possible 2,000 new homes sited at WHA001 along the Shenley Road!!

However, the process is far from over, nothing is yet agreed and there is still an important consultation stage to go through early next year, so read on.

Consultation on the draft local plan for Aylesbury Vale closed on 5th September, after over eight weeks of AVDC officers and staff manning exhibitions throughout the district, holding special briefings and handling hundreds of web, email and telephone queries.

Over 1,600 people submitted their comments during the consultation period: more than double the previous VALP Issues and Options consultation last year, including 46% of parishes in Aylesbury Vale. Attention focused on the amount of new housing proposed and the suggested locations for new housing and infrastructure. Whaddon Parish Council was one of those whose response was submitted on time.

So, what happens next?

Informed by the analysis of the responses and finalisation of evidence, the local plan team at AVDC will draft the final version of the local plan. Discussions with neighbouring authorities on their unmet need are continuing, with further coordinated work on infrastructure taking place.

The final plan will be considered by councillors at VALP Scrutiny Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> December, VALP Pre-Submission Cabinet meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> December, and Full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

All of these meetings are open to the public and will be held at the AVDC offices on Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, starting at 6.30 pm.

Your Parish Council will be sure to attend one or more of the meetings and will report back to the village any significant changes/additions at the earliest possible date, probably using the WPC website and village email list.

Subject to approval by councillors at the Council meeting in January, a further statutory six-week public consultation period will take place. Anyone who has taken part in any consultation throughout the local plan's development, (and left their contact details), will be notified automatically when this takes place.

The plan should then be submitted to the government's planning inspector in March 2017.

AVDC anticipates that a public examination will be held on the plan soon after that, with adoption of the plan taking place in mid-2017. However after submission, the timetable will be in the hands of the Government's planning inspector.

To find out more go to [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/valp](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/valp)

*During the consultation period there were:*

- 1,628 returned consultation responses, most of which contained multiple comments
- 56% of responses were from residents living in Aylesbury Vale
- 48% of parishes in Aylesbury Vale submitted responses
- Four neighbouring parishes also responded.

*Graham Stewart,*

Whaddon Parish Council

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## WHADDON PLANNING BRIEFS

### **16/01298/AOP Land to the rear of 2a and 2b High Street, Whaddon - Outline Planning Application, with access to be considered and all other matters reserved for the erection of one five bedroomed detached dwelling .**

WHEN writing this (at the end October), the AVDC have just made a recommendation to approve the application; it will be considered formally at the AVDC Development Management meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. But, as Council is still awaiting details and plans on how to protect the root system of the TPO walnut tree, the Officer is asking to defer and delegate the decision to recommend approval until later, after all outstanding issues have been resolved.

This means, in effect, if the plans are acceptable and the committee agree the recommendation, then it will be formally approved by the officer once the satisfactory documentation has been agreed, without it having to go back to committee. Interestingly the officer requested the applicants to change their red line on the plans thereby omitting the timber garages from the application. This could possibly lead to additional parking problems on High Street, and AVDC were happy to accept conditions on important drainage issues, despite the BCC Drainage division suggesting that consent should be withheld even on an 'outline' application, until these issues were resolved.

The planners have however suggested a future planning condition that any new dwelling should not exceed one and a half storey in height – which is welcomed. This does not overcome the main objections of 'precedent' and building in a back-land location on an edge-of-village site adjoining a Local Landscape Area, and behind the recognised 'linear village' character. This means, that once approved, the applicants will need to apply again at a later 'reserved matters' stage for a specific dwelling – perhaps smaller – that overcomes the Inspector's concerns, and matches more closely his recommendations on his earlier appeal decision that upheld AVDC's refusal for two houses on the previous planning application.

For full details, decision and to inspect all the correspondence visit the Whaddon P.C. website and look under the 'Planning Tracker' heading.

### **16/03270/APP Whitegates House, Stock Lane, Whaddon - Addition of second floor to existing two-storey dwelling to form a three-storey dwelling.**

This application (see page 10 for front elevation before and after) is still pending at AVDC. There is no decision at present.

As this is considered to be an important Village application, it will be discussed at the 10<sup>th</sup> November Whaddon Parish Council Meeting and, as with all Parish Council meetings, this meeting is open to the public. The date for making comments to AVDC has been extended until 20<sup>th</sup> November to coincide with that of the Parish Council deadline.



**16/01513/APP 33a Stock Lane, Whaddon – Removal of conservatory and erection of 2 storey side and single-storey rear extension.**

Householder Approval Granted – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2016

**16/03796/APP I Stratford Road, Whaddon - New access to field from Stratford Road.**

A decision is pending, but the applicant is engaged in pre-application discussions with both Whaddon Parish Council and AVDC – who in turn discussed the matter with Bucks County Council highways. A decision is expected before 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Please Remember.** You can view these and other planning application simply by visiting the Whaddon Parish Council Website, select 'Planning Tracker' scroll down and open the link you require to view all details and submitted documents. ◇

## Thieves strike at church roof – again

**Thieves stole some 100 square metres of lead from St. Mary's Church roofs. The Churchwarden explains the implications and the ramifications.**

**A**S some of you will have heard, our beautiful Grade 1 Listed church was targeted by lead thieves on the night of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October. I was telephoned at 8.30 am on Tuesday by David Sutton, who habitually walks his dog through the churchyard, and had noticed the double gates were open; there were tyre marks on the grass leading to the west door.

A crowbar had been left on the path, the porch security lights had been disabled and the inside porch light was lying by a gravestone. The cast-iron drainpipe on the south porch was also damaged. I telephoned Barry Dudley and asked him to meet me at the church.....

The grass was very trampled near the porch and on first inspection we thought only the south porch roof was missing. It was only when we obtained a ladder to put a tarpaulin over it that Barry saw that the roof of the south aisle was also missing.



Later, when putting a tarpaulin on that roof, it was noticed that much of the lead on the north aisle had also been taken. In total, 100 square metres of lead has been stolen. The police suggest that there must have been a gang of at least 10 men and two vans involved.

Following the previous theft of lead eight years ago, the whole roof was treated with 'Smartwater' – an indelible stain with a

registered code number for our church. This is intended to make lead disposal impossible as any scrap dealer would know it had been stolen. This was supposed to act as a deterrent!

While I contacted the police, Barry, the PCC Treasurer, approached the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company to notify them. Their assessor came out to inspect the church, and said that they will pay £7,000 towards the roof replacement and the whole cost of repairing the electrics and replacing damaged lights.

Meanwhile, I spoke to our church architect and surveyor, who has done our Quinquennial Survey for over 30 years. He made various suggestions for alternative coverings: Terne Stainless Steel or a new rubberised covering, if we could not afford to replace with lead.

However, our hands are tied because, being a Grade 1 Listed Building, the decision will be taken in consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and English Heritage. Fortunately, because the parapets along the roof edges make it impossible to see it from the ground, we may be allowed to use an alternative covering. At the moment we are obtaining quotations for various roof coverings.

By virtue of its position, the church is a beacon in the village and is known to most of you, either because you worship there, or have attended other services on family occasions, or festivals, open days or coffee mornings. We do have some money in our Repair Fund, thanks to your generosity in supporting our fundraising events, but this, even with the additional £7,000 from the insurers, will not cover the cost which is estimated to be around £25,000 plus £5,000 for an alarm system.

The alarm system means that the insurers will cover the total replacement roof cost should there be any thefts in the future. No church with this system has been targeted because the alarm is directly connected to a call centre. Therefore, we are looking at a total cost of £30,000.

We will apply for grants from Buckinghamshire's Historic Churches Trust and English Heritage to add to our Repair Fund. But our hope is that there will be many of you who would like to help. So, if you or your family would like to make a donation, please make your cheque payable to St Mary, Whaddon PCC and send it to Barry Dudley at 3 Church Lane, Whaddon MK17 0LX. Thank you, from St. Mary's PCC.

The weather has been kind so far, but with winter weather fast approaching, the situation is urgent. ◇

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## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

### **Whaddon: Invisible to Bucks C. C.**

The Shenley Road closure was rescheduled to commence from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> October, thus happily coinciding with the start of half-term. I chose today, the 31<sup>st</sup> October, to stroll up to Briary View to see what was 'going down' at 7:30 am.

With conditions foggy and visibility down to less than 100 yards, I counted in total 311 cars and light commercial vehicles, eight HGVs, one articulated 16-wheeler, three coaches, one double-decker bus, two motorcycles, and five cyclists. All in the space of one hour. I would guess that two-thirds of vehicles had come off the A421 to drive up Coddimoor Lane. (Note that five days later, in Coddimoor Lane on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November, in broad daylight and dry conditions, a blue VW Golf and its occupants ended upside down in the ditch while heading towards Whaddon. Fortunately the occupants, released by locals, were uninjured – Ed) Also, four vehicles were driving without lights, three vehicles turned around in Briary View to retrace their journey, and a British Gas service van did not 'get it' and drove down Shenley Road and back again.



Presuming that I represented the ‘authorities’, one driver gave me the American middle finger salute, three others gave me a British V-sign, and a fifth gave me the demotic Greek curse of an upturned hand with all fingers extended – I may not see Christmas.

All stats aside, I was mightily relieved to see good driving behaviour. I had envisaged mayhem at this junction, but I would guess that 30 per cent of drivers were unprepared for the diversion and hesitated, but drove on. Fortunately, the sharp bend into Stock Lane forces drivers to slow down. I imagine that the High Street was a little more exciting this morning. It is

disappointing that Milton Keynes Council have so far ignored appeals to honour their commitment to minimise disruption to the residents of Whaddon; disruption by diverting additional traffic through our village and disruption by forcing us to make long detours to reach Westcroft, the station and north Milton Keynes.

It seems that we are invisible to Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council, as all attempts to secure their backing for our cause have been ignored. Even if we retain our sanity over the next 18 months, we have the nightmare of ‘the Local Plan’ to dump 2,000 houses on our doorstep. Is now the time to declare UDI? Are we up for a Whexit?

*Roger Porter, Whaddon.*

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## **East-West Rail line: progress report**

Councillor John Chilver reports, in the Buckinghamshire CC newsletter, *MyBucks*, that the planning application for the new Winslow Station has been made to Aylesbury Vale District Council, including a number of plans and designs for the new station building.

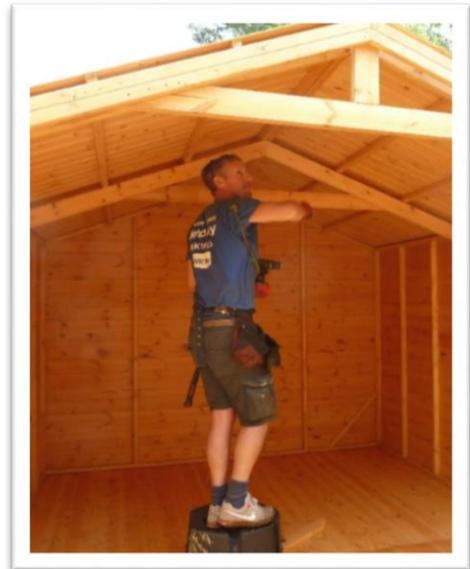
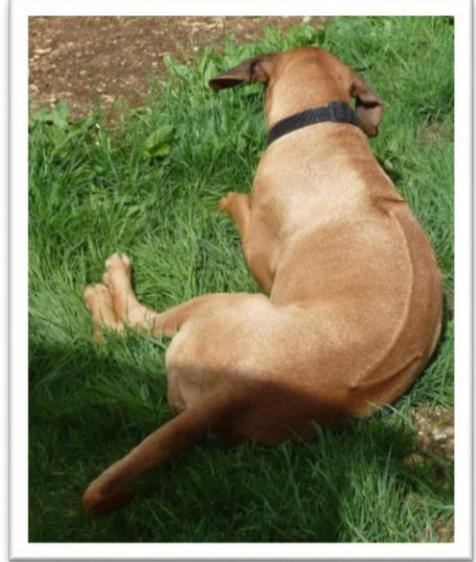
At a presentation to the Winslow Local Area Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> September officials present confirmed that construction of the station would begin in 2019. They said there will be four services in each direction per hour on the line between Bletchley and Oxford, and one freight train an hour. There will be a public consultation on the plans in January 2017 which will include a public exhibition in Winslow. There is a new sign for the new Station and car park site, which has been acquired by the County Council, on the Buckingham road north of the railway bridge. The car park will be run by the County Council and I hope this will generate a net income which can be used to meet our financial challenges.

Linked to the new station is the new cycle and footpath from Winslow to Buckingham which is already taking shape along the A413. The work is progressing well and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Many thanks in particular to the residents of Padbury who are accommodating the construction compound at the entrance to Springfields.

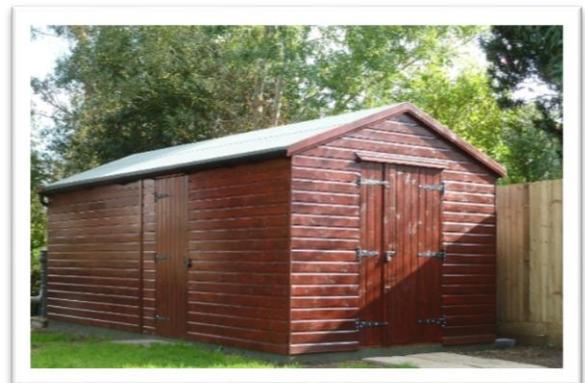
“I am delighted that also in Padbury the road resurfacing of Church Lane, Old End, Station Road and Westfurlong is taking place this year. I will be discussing next year’s road resurfacing programme later this year, but it will certainly include High Street and Buckingham Road, Winslow,” adds John Chilver.

Significantly, John Chilver declared: “In my response to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan which was out for consultation over the summer I stressed the importance of preserving the unspoilt rural, agricultural heart of the Vale and I shall continue to oppose all inappropriate proposals for new housing or infrastructure development in our beautiful countryside.” ♦

# The churchyard receives a new shed



On 26<sup>th</sup> August, Becky, John (of *Sheds from stock*) and Barry gathered in the churchyard to erect a new shed, with Rooster the Ridgeback adding his support. First the sides were erected, then came roof trusses and finally the roof itself. Once roofing felt had been added the only task left to do was to give the structure a protective treatment of Sadolin. The enlarged shed, replacing one that was falling to bits, is necessary for additional storage.





# St. Mary's Church Whaddon

## REGULAR SERVICES August 2016

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

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	2.00 pm	Tea on Tuesday in Jubilee Hall.
Tuesday	7.30 pm	Bell ringing practice – new recruits welcome.
Wednesday	1.45 - 2.45	Toddler Church, School terms only.
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	2.00 pm	Women's Institute in Jubilee Hall.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	7:30 pm	Whaddon Night Owlers WI in Jubilee Hall.
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	10.00 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

Sat	Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	No coffee shop in Dec & Jan. Feb & March in chapel schoolroom.	
Sunday	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	'Music & Mince Pies' with Emily Haig & Karen Logan.
Sunday	Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Christingle Service & School Nativity.
Thursday	Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Crib service. All preschool children welcome.
		1.30 pm	A Christmas Experience for Whaddon Year 2 class.
Sunday	Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols with Chase Choir.
Tuesday	Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Whaddon School Carol Service .Everyone Welcome.
Saturday	Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 pm	Candlelit Christmas Eve Holy Communion.
Sunday	Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - 10.40 am	Christmas Day Birthday Party for Jesus.

In October, our **Open Day** was again combined with our Harvest Festival Weekend.

There were the usual archives and displays, and the morning coffee, cake stall, cream teas, and soup, bread and cheese lunches were very popular. The Open Day donations went to the Repair Fund to help towards the cost of maintaining our Grade I Listed church building.

The **Harvest Festival** celebration service on the Sunday was led by Rev'd Gussie and, being a more informal service, did not include Holy Communion. The church had been beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables which were then auctioned after the Harvest Supper the following evening in the Jubilee Hall.

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.

The auction raised nearly £800 for Médecins Sans Frontières: this is a charity which sends doctors and nurses to third-world countries; it is usually one of the first to arrive in disaster areas worldwide. Recently, their hospital in Syria was badly damaged in an air strike and will need rebuilding. Our thanks go to all of you who faithfully and generously support our events and especially to those who help to organise them and clear up afterwards. This year the record £250 bid for the marrow was shared between two bidders, each of whom paid £125.

The Annual **Christmas Fayre** is at 2.00 pm on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November with our usual range of stalls, games and raffle. This year, Father Christmas will again pay a special visit with gifts for the children. Tea and cakes will be on offer as well as mulled wine and mince pies. Thanks go to Beryl Evans for the organisation and to all who have given their time to help on a stall or offered raffle prizes. We hope you will all come out for an enjoyable afternoon to the Jubilee Hall and support us.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a special treat – ‘Music & Mince Pies’. At 4.00 pm Emily Haig and Karen Logan will perform a medley of favourite songs in church.

Refreshments will be served in the interval for which donations are asked and the afternoon will finish at 6.00 pm. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. Tickets available from Karen Logan.

You may have noticed that the church shed, which was very old and beginning to rot, has been replaced. This work was organised by Barry Dudley and his son Mark with help from Chris Hickman. It was financed from church funds and a grant from the benefice. The surrounding area will be reseeded and some trees will be trimmed to remove low branches which cause a hazard to the mowing team. Thanks go to all who were involved.

**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 candle-lit services such as the Nine Lessons and Carols or the Christmas Eve service, I do urge you to come. The church is beautifully decorated and 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. This is especially for children, but is enjoyed by all ages. There is a birthday cake and Happy Birthday is sung, with goody bags for the children. The service lasts 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 all.

We wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

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

*Hazel Hedges*

Churchwarden

01908 501729

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

## The Parochial Church Council

Hazel Hedges	Churchwarden.	Tel. 01908 501729
Jo Mortimer-Bush	Hon. Secretary.	Tel: 01908 503194
Barry Dudley	Hon. Treasurer.	Tel: 01908 505727
David Spencer	Electoral Roll Officer.	Tel: 01908 502540
Frederick Hayward	Jubilee Hall Rep.	Tel: 01908 506083
Hazel Dudley	.	Tel:01908 505727
Clare Garland		Tel: 01908 501732
Rev'd Gussie Walsh		Tel. 01280 821616

## Whaddon WI bids farewell to Paula

OVER two dozen friends turned up on Tuesday (25<sup>th</sup> October) to bid a fond farewell to post lady Paula Kingsley, who has been the village's part-time postmistress in the Jubilee Hall for the past 15 years.

Up until 1998, Whaddon had a full-time post office in the High Street run by Mrs Kate Vaughan. Thereafter, a part-time service was initiated by the Post Office, and Paula started work in Whaddon in 2000. She also administered the service for several other nearby villages.

In 2012, Whaddon Women's Institute joined Paula in the Jubilee Hall and has provided tea and cakes every Tuesday afternoon. As this has proved to be a mutually beneficial arrangement, the Whaddon WI decided to mark the occasion of Paula's retirement.

Sue White, as president of Whaddon WI, expressed gratitude on behalf of the WI for Paula's sterling efforts and presented her with a *Hobbycraft* voucher. Margaret Barrie presented Paula with a bouquet of flowers and Paula's favourite cake. On behalf of the Parish Council, Derek White gave Paula a vote of thanks.



Left to right. Margaret Barrie, Sue and Derek White, and Paula.

Although Paula has retired, Whaddon WI will continue to provide tea and cake for the community in the Jubilee Hall on Tuesday afternoons from 1:45 to 3:45pm. However, the day of Paula's retirement coincided with half term; normally there are 18 or so mums and children who pop in for tea and cake after school.

Those present to say 'Goodbye' to Paula were: Sue White, Margaret Barrie, Val Bond and grandchild Peyton, Nikki Bloomer, Clare Garland and Tilly and Zack, Brenda Green, Evelyn Jaworska and her daughter Trudie, Noddy Dormer, Sally Jaworska and grandchild, Alexis Mitchell and Sophia, Harriet and George, Jane Porter, Jane Waight, and Alice Hain. For the men there were: Barry Dudley, Kieren Beasley, Frederick Hayward, Paul Logan, Derek White and the Editor, with camera. ♦



MUSIC AND  
MINCE PIES

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 4.00PM

St Mary's Church,  
Whaddon MK17 0LZ



*An afternoon concert of music and fun  
to kick-start the festive season with  
Emily Haig and Karen Logan*

*Tickets: £10 adults / children free*

*Karen 07742 129890 / Emily 07540 689153*

*Pat 07771 702136*

*Interval refreshments  
on a donation basis*



# HANDS UP FOR JESUS



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

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

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

On January 20<sup>th</sup> we started our **Hands up for Jesus** after-school club in Whaddon School and the adventure continues...

This term, we have been thinking about stories Jesus told and we have had up to 17 children come along to hear them. We have included the story of The Lost Sheep, The Lost Pearl and The Lost coin. One theme has been consistent throughout – the key learning point – that God cares for each and everyone one of us and longs for us to know him.

Apart from the story, we have games (such as find the coin in a sweetie jar filled with spaghetti - yuk!) to help us think about the theme of the story, action songs, I wonder and prayer time, plus amazing creative crafts to take home. Oh yes, and the chance to eat some scrumptious chocolate cake!

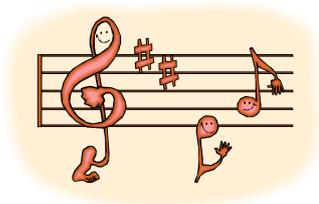
We have only one after-school club left this term – November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3.00 to 4.00 pm.

**The themes for next term, the first in the New Year of 2017, will be The Fox's Tale, The Magpie's Tale and The Mouse's Tale.**

**Next Hands up for Jesus 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

## FUND RAISING

St. Mary's Church Gift Day, including coffee morning, ploughman's lunch and cream teas, raised a staggering £1,373.63, including donations. The total proceeds from the Harvest Supper reached an incredible £862, of which £736 was generated as a result of the Auction (see p. 00). Both events raised a grand total of £2,235.63 compared with £1,780 in 2015. Well done everyone. And a huge 'Thank you' to all involved,



## TODDLER CHURCH

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

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon.

Every Wednesday (term time from 1.45pm - 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.

The final Toddler Church before the Christmas break will be

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Toddler Church will start again on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

*Sally Green (01908 526033)*



## THANK YOU ...

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. We raised the staggering sum of £377! Wonderful.

*Thank you all, Sally Green*

# The Great Oaks of Whaddon

**Joan Selby-Lowndes wrote an article in the 1950s for the *Chilterns Magazine*. Here it is in its entirety. Photographs by John Mortimer.**

From time immemorial the rolling hills of North Bucks have been clothed with forests; forests of sturdy, long-lived oaks, deep-rooted in the stiff clay that gives them life.

Round these trees have grown many stories and legends, traditional stories handed down by the generations of sturdy Buckinghamshire folk who lived in the scattered villages won from out of the forest.



Up on a hill in the heart of North Bucks, the Anglo-Saxons scratched a clearing to plant their crops and huddle their cottages. They called the place Whaed Don (Wheat Hill) or Whaddon, as it is known today. The Normans arrived and Whaddon became a Royal Chase, for deep in the woods ran the wild red deer providing royal sport for the hunt-loving Kings and Queens of England.

If we peer through the mists of time we may catch a first picture of a long cavalcade of horsemen moving down on to a knoll of land in the park. Here, under the dappled shade of a great oak, they gather, a brilliant, colourful throng. The village men, working in the fields, straighten their bent backs and shade their eyes to watch as the leashed hounds are led into the cover of the woods below.

The sudden music of the hound and horn rings out as a red deer crashes away. The waiting group shifts, parts; a splendid figure on a great horse breaks clear and leads at a thundering gallop down the hill. The hunt is away. This was a sight vividly remembered by the village folk who saw it. They told their

children and grandchildren about it.

"It was over there," they might say, "under that big oak. That was where King Harry always started his day's hunting, God bless him."

That was 400 years ago, but their descendants today can still show their visitors that same knoll of ground overlooking the park. All that remains of the proud oak that by the village once spread its branches over King Henry V111 of England is a hollow stump. The name that was given to it by the village that knew their King Harry, still clings. It is known as "Sober Oak".

## **The woman with red hair**

The end of the story lies in Mursley, four miles away. The remains of another tree bears witness to the spot where King Harry used frequently to end his day's sport with a gargantuan picnic spread out under its branches. Knowing villagers called this tree "Drunken Elm".

The picture fades and changes. This time we see the figure of a woman. A woman with red hair and a fine white ruff framing her face. Her dress is magnificent. She is standing on the branch of a tree, a bow and arrow in her hand. Royal Elizabeth has inherited all her Tudor father's love of hunting, and the village folk may see the Queen of England perched in a tree taking aim at the red deer as they are driven past.

The tree stands less than a mile from "Sober Oak". The weight of years has split and cracked its stem so that it is bound up in chains, but it still proudly bears its name "Queen Elizabeth's Oak".

About the same time, another quite, unspectacular sight was to be seen. Passing village folk might notice a quiet figure, in dark doublet and hose sitting under another tree near the Hall. Probably he had a quill in his hand and paper. Perhaps he would look up from his writing and his gaze would wander over the hazy, blue of park and woodland, stretching away into the distance.

If the curious passers-by bothered to notice this quiet figure at all, they might nudge each other and say: "There's Lord Grey's secretary," and wonder why he spent so much time out there. "A queer young man" they would think.

Years later though, after Lord Grey and his secretary had left Whaddon Hall, the rumour came back that the quiet young man had become quite famous. He had written a long poem and, what is more the Queen herself had heard it



and thought well of it. "That must have been what he had been writing when he sat under the tree looking across the park," the village folk told each other. The legend remained, and today the village people may still point to the tree in the garden and tell you proudly: "That is where Spenser\* wrote part of his 'Faerie Queene.'"

### **A furtive figure in the dark**

The mists roll up again over the years that follow. Stories and events are blotted out in forgetfulness. For a moment the mists clear a little and we see a furtive figure running through the darkness. There are pursuing footsteps, and clamouring dogs. There is fear in the man's eyes as he runs. He is hard pressed, he knows he can't go much further, his heart is pounding. Surely the trees will hide him. There, before him, is a big oak, he must climb it to safety, out of the reach of those hot, deadly jaws.

His feet scrape desperately on the trunk, the pursuing babel draws nearer. They are on him. The hunted man is caught, for the load of guilt he carried has weighed him down. He had killed and the tree under which he was caught is known as "Murderer's Oak."

The mists lift again on a gayer scene, a Victorian comedy. A portly old gentleman in sporting costume is being hoisted into the lower branches of a tree in the park. The men hand him up

his gun. Like Queen Elizabeth with her bow and arrow 300 years before, the old Squire and his gun enjoy an excellent day's sport shooting the driven deer.

When it is over he calls for his men to help him down. No one hears. He looks round, there is no one in sight. He looks at the ground. Much too far to land on gouty feet. So there he is, this elderly Victorian stuck up his own tree in his own park, forgotten and deserted, left, perhaps to die of exposure? The hours go by. Up in the Hall the family are coming down to dinner.

"Where is Uncle Charles?" someone asks; the train of enquiry is alight. A discreet Victorian curtain is drawn over the scene when an apologetic household re-unites the old gentleman with the ground, but the story went round, and the tree in the park is affectionately known as "Uncle Charles' Oak."

### **The squire of Whaddon rides back**

Last scene is about 50 years ago. The Squire of Whaddon is riding back from a long day's hunting. He is tired, a pull at his flask revives him. Suddenly he checks, and quickly pushes the flask back into its case. He must be overdoing this for he thought he saw a tree move. He rubs his eyes.

The tree has moved again. This time it seems to be more than one tree. He hastily swears never to touch another drop, but now the horse is looking too. There it is again, plainly visible over the top of the hedge. A tree slowly moving.



It is a large oak, the huge span of its bare, winter, branches brushes the top of the hedges. The horse shows signs of fright as this eerie, silent thing moves remorselessly towards them. There are others following, a whole line of them. The squire just has time to turn his terrified horse off the road. From a safe distance he watches the strange procession go by. A sweating, labouring team of six horses are slowly hauling a huge timber wagon.

On it, supported by massive iron frames, rests a fully grown oak dug up complete with its roots. More teams of horses and wagons each bearing a tree follow on. Then the Squire remembers, these are his trees: the oaks of Whaddon are going to their new home. They are to furnish the

park of the Rothschild's new Manor. This digging up of the 50-year-old oak trees, loading them on to wagons and transporting them behind teams of horses to the other end of Bucks is a triumph of skill and strength. The trees all survived and are still living.

### **The valuable oaks of Whaddon**

They were valuable things, those oaks of Whaddon, living or dead. A hundred years ago when the Royal Chase was enclosed and the deer herded into the park, farms were made by clearing acres of forest. The trees cut down on this clearing were sold to the Government for shipbuilding to the value of 80,000 Victorian pounds. Today as one walks among the thinned out remnants of these great woods it is curious to realise that the sturdy oaks of North Bucks have probably



carried the Royal Ensign all over the world, and one wonders how much of the massive, seasoned timber that once grew here, still survives in old ships.

Every year the tide of the trees recedes before the spreading farmland (and today, houses – Ed). The red deer have all vanished, and only the red fox slinks through the coverts till the voices of hound and huntsman drive him out. Then for a few short hours the music of horn, hounds and galloping hooves, re-awaken echoes of centuries and Whaddon becomes once more, a Chase. ♦

\**The Faerie Queene* is an incomplete English epic poem by Edmund Spenser. The first half was published in 1590 and a second

installment in 1596. *The Faerie Queene* is notable for its form: it is one of the longest poems in the English language and the origin of a verse form that came to be known as Spenserian stanza. ♦

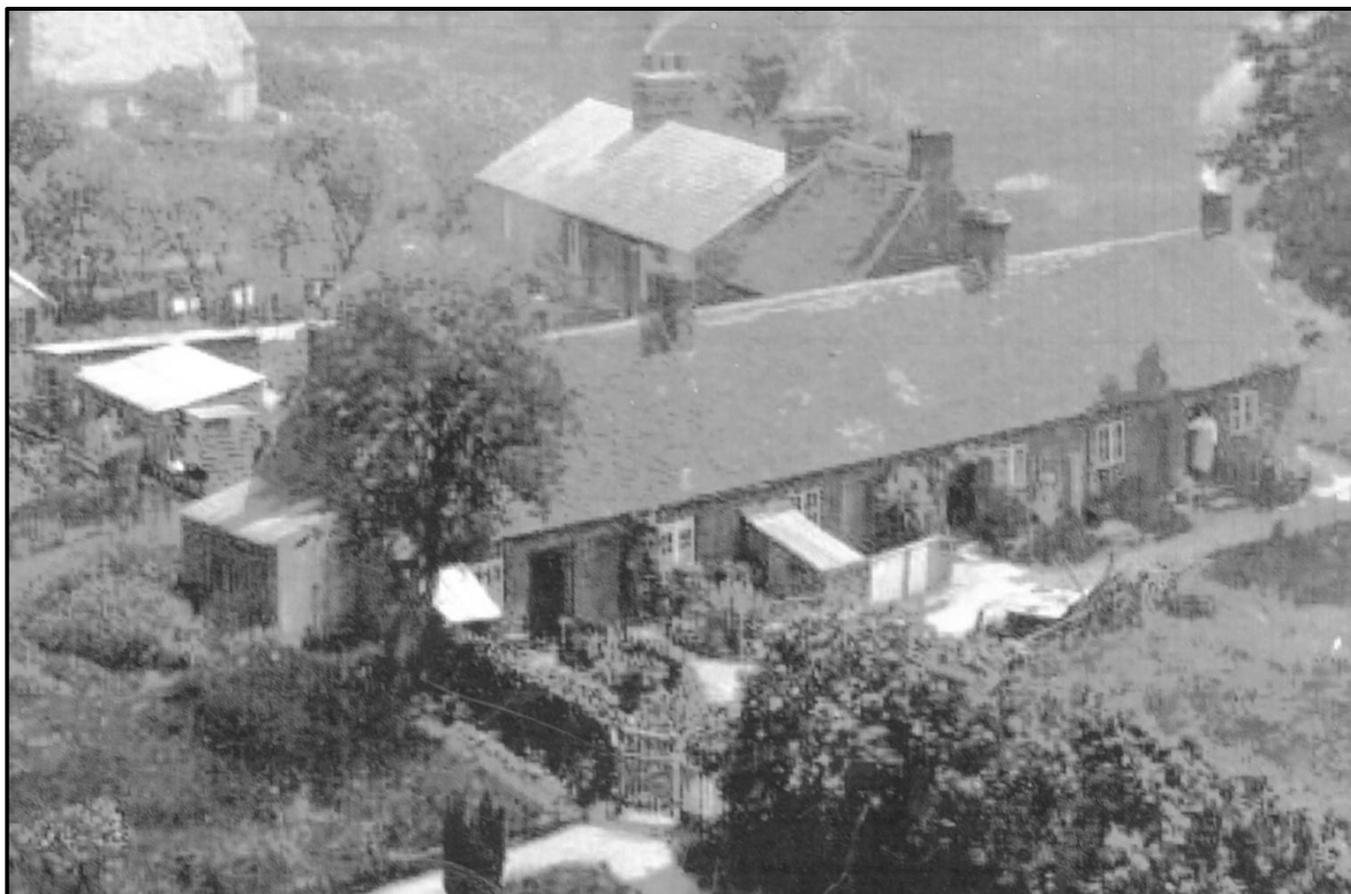
**Joan Selby-Lowndes** was born in Whaddon just 100 years ago in September 1916, the only child of the Rev Edward Selby-Lowndes, for 25 years vicar of Whaddon. She died in 1997, aged 81. Her ashes are in St. Mary's churchyard.

Joan would have been 23 at the outbreak of the Second World War yet little is known about her beyond the fact that she became a well-known author. Perhaps best known as a children's author, she wrote about horses, the circus, and the ballet, as well as several books for children about religion.

Her book titles include *Mail Coach* (1945), *On Stage Please* (1952), *Circus Train* (1956), and *The Blue Train* (1958), the last being a biographical work about the dancer Anton Dolin. She also wrote: *Your Book of the English Church*, *Your Book of the English Bible*, *Your Book about Confirmation*, as well as *How the Circus Works*, *The First Circus*, *Sally Dances*, *Night Hawk*, *New Girl* and *Canterbury Gallop*. Books illustrated by the author included *Mail Coach*, *Tudor Star* and *Royal Chase*. Joan Selby-Lowndes also translated *Trois Filles et un Secret*, the title of which became *Three Girls and a Secret*; the latter work being hardly surprising as she had a French mother.

Two people at least in the village do have recollections of Joan: Billy Stanier and Evelyn Jaworska. Ron Unwin, of nearby Nash, also once had the pleasure of meeting Joan. It is just possible Joan may have worked at Bletchley Park, because of her knowledge of France and the French language. Joan went to school in France and she, with her mother, Martha, conversed in French. There is talk too that Joan completed all the necessary 'procedures' for going to France in the war, maybe as a 'spy'. However, she did not go. She did however work at the Foreign Office in London, "pushing bits of paper around". Attempts to elicit reference to her at Bletchley Park have so far failed. Perhaps the truth about this fine and talented lady will one day emerge into the sunlight for further inspection and discussion.

Meanwhile, one year Martha and her husband took the Whaddon Sunday School to Wicksteed Park, travelling in the blue and gold liveried bus of the British Legion. ♦



## What a difference a day makes ... 1

**“One day they were there, and the next they had gone. Or so it seemed that way.” Evelyn was referring to the almshouses (alms-houses) that once occupied land at the top of Church Lane. By John Mortimer.**

The almshouses are no longer there; nor did the Millennium issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly* appear to devote any reference to them.

So what about these almshouses illustrated here in a photograph kindly provided by Barry Dudley? Who built them, who lived there and why were they demolished? There is the added question: who demolished them and on what authority?

The 1881 Ordnance Survey map of Whaddon provides a clue to their origins. The map annotates them as Coare’s Almshouses and for further information we need to examine [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk) where we find the following under ‘Charities’:

‘Thomas Coare by his will, date unknown, directed that a sufficient sum should be invested to provide £10 a year towards the support of a school for educating twenty poor boys. The legacy is represented by £353 14s. 1d. consols, with the official trustees, producing £8 16s. 4d. a year.’

'In 1790 Thomas Coare also erected six tenements on land supposed to have been purchased by subscriptions, to be used as almshouses. They were never endowed, and were used as parish houses.'

On that basis, the houses were built for the poor of Whaddon village and by the time of the survey for the OS map they would be nearly 100 years old.

The houses as such were very basic – a kitchen/living room and a bedroom. As to who lived in them Evelyn, who was a youngster at the time, can recall several of the occupants and the fact that the houses shared a communal toilet.

"It was not a flush toilet," said Evelyn. "They didn't happen until much later."

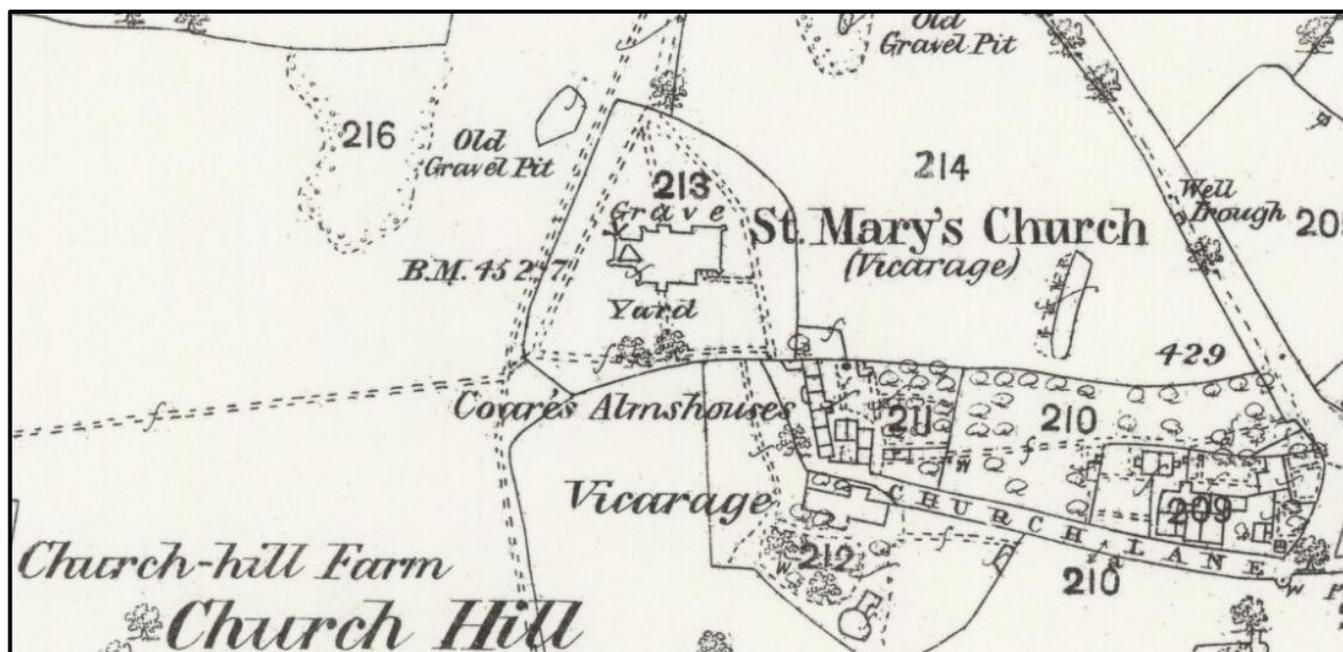
The occupants included: Mrs Harriet Watts, Mrs Higgs and Mrs Chapman.

Added Evelyn: "One of the occupants of the almshouses was Sylvia Higgs. She lived there with her grandmother, but when the army took over the houses the two of them moved into one of the bungalows (which were built between the two world wars) in Stock Lane. Sylvia Formella now lives in Briary View.'

Also, Mrs Chapman's son, Joe Chapman, was a chimney sweep. Evelyn can remember that Joe suffered from fits. And whenever Evelyn's father walked past the house Joe would call out: "Morning, Freddie;" Freddie being Evelyn's father, Frederick James Dormer.

During the Second World War, the military commandeered the almshouses for use by signalmen working on Windy Ridge radio station. They were responsible for receiving and transmitting coded secret messages into occupied France.

Because of the secret nature of the soldiers' work during the war, a sentry could always be found on duty at the gate marking the entrance to Windy Ridge.



The 1881 Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1880) shows six almshouses, off Church Lane, close to St Mary's church, as well as three cottages behind the almshouses.

Behind the almshouses, at the top of Church Lane could be found three cottages that became what is now called Butterfly Cottage. These cottages –

visible in the photograph – were occupied by Mr & Mrs Illing; Sid Meacham (head gardener at Whaddon Hall where at one time there were no less than six gardeners – eventually reduced to two); Ada Meacham and her brother, George; and Henry Hawkins and his wife, Jesse. Their daughter, Maureen Hawkins, married one of Frederick Hayward’s cousins, Cyril Hayward.



It is only relatively recently that Butterfly Cottage has been named as such.

Shown (left) on a section of the same 1881 OS map, is that part of Vicarage Road known as Pink's End. Why Pink's End? The clue is in

the apostrophe! The vicar of Whaddon lived in the vicarage at one end of Vicarage Road; his curate lived at the other. And the curate's name? Mr Pink!

As to when the almshouses were demolished: that is a debatable point. Someone may have precise information. Derek White, who has lived in the village all his life and used to play in them when in the Boy Scouts, thinks it could have been in the early 1950s. And the reason for their demolition? More than likely they were simply no longer 'fit for purpose' in the post-war era. In other words, they were probably condemned, requiring considerable expense to bring them up to habitable condition. It is understood that following demolition, Mrs 'Betty' Elizabeth Brown (her father was Sid Meacham) purchased the land which became part of Butterfly Cottage. But who sanctioned their demolition is a mystery for future generations to unravel. ♦

## Breaking news: Beppo found in Whaddon

**YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE** that in Bletchley, the year 1914 unfurled as an idyllic vista of a water colour drawing of 'The Ousel at Fenny Stratford' took pride of place as the front piece of the St Martin's Church calendar.

Of far more concern to locals however was whereabouts of 'Beppo,' a large sable and white collie dog who, possessed of such talents as shutting the door, 'playing' the piano, and cricket, had slipped its collar at Bletchley station on 7<sup>th</sup> July. The story soon gripped local imagination and, offering a £1 reward, the dog's owner, a Miss Kerr of Coventry, even travelled to Victoria Docks to investigate a sighting.

With the reward increased to £5, hundreds of illustrated notices were printed for distribution to nearly every town in the country, but sadly on the last Sunday in July came the tragic news that Beppo had been found, dead, in the fields between Whaddon and Calverton. ♦

## What a difference a day makes...2



**One day it was there, and the next day it had gone. Well, to be precise, it was still there, but as a smouldering mess, with flames licking the embers.**

In the middle of August, the wheat stood erect in the field, just ready for combining. Next day, the work of combining began and within a day or so the straw was baled carefully stacked.

These days, with modern farming equipment, each bale is so large (they are known as quadrants or four by fours) that forklifts are required to stack it onto a trailer. Each bale can weigh up to one tonne.

And so it was, on 12<sup>th</sup> August the straw in the field adjoining Whaddon Hall had been combined, the straw baled and stacked into rick. The 100 or so bales

together stood taller than many a house.



Against a backdrop of a deep blue sky the golden-coloured rick made an imposing sight. But, in the middle of the night, the rick was ablaze and

The following morning an appliance attended the blaze

next morning, an appliance from Great Holm fire station was still standing by, its crew carefully monitoring developments.

Pauline Winward told the *Whaddon Quarterly*: "I called the fire brigade (Great Holm) at 1.30 am and then I had to get in my car to guide them to the gates across from Cowley's. They could not get to the fire from (the) Kennel Lane entrance as the gates to the field were locked. So the fire brigade had to get the code from Philip Sawbridge to unlock the other gate. The firemen did a great job over about three days."

By the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> August an appliance still remained alongside, making preparations to turn over the straw to accelerate the rate of burn and eventually extinguish the blaze.

Straw *can* self-combust, in the same way that a compost heap can self-combust, according to a fireman at Milton Keynes' Great Holm station.

"We have an open mind how the fire started," added the fireman. "It could be due to self-combustion, but we are not saying how!"

Interestingly, some young people had been seen in the vicinity prior to the fire.

Interestingly also, a very 'large' wooden ladder (right), previously lodged against a nearby tree in an adjacent wood some 150m distant, had been moved and placed upright against the straw rick! It too became a casualty of the fire. ◇



**Words and pictures: John Mortimer.**

## Days gone by – piston rings

The article 'The Great Oaks of Whaddon' by Joan Selby-Lowndes, is taken from the *Chilterns Magazine* of Summer 1950, price 1/6d (equivalent today of just 7.5 pence!).

On the back page is an advertisement from Cords Piston Rings Ltd which reads: "Whether idling through the leafy winding lanes of the Chiltern country, or driving at 70 to Monday's business appointment in town, you expect smooth quiet efficiency from your car – 'peak' performance in fact. It's the spirit of our times, even in our lovely English countryside, where the tractor and its three-furrow plough has replaced the old horse-drawn implement."

This is all reminiscent of an idyllic bygone age. No one even gives a thought to replacing piston rings these days, but Cords Ltd is still in business (founded in 1937). It has moved from the Harrow Road, London NW10 to Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales. As for the three-furrow plough: well there are not many of those in use – it is much more likely to be a seven- or nine-furrow job today. Such is progress and change is everywhere. ◇

## **The 'Terrible Twins' bring forth record riches**

**The annual Harvest Supper once again proved a huge success, thanks in part to the efforts of the 'Terrible Twins', as Marianna Beckwith reports.**

ONCE AGAIN, this year's Harvest Supper was a demonstration of what makes Whaddon such a great village to be a part of. A hall filled with neighbours and friends, sharing food, fun and this year even a birthday: Amiee Bush's 13<sup>th</sup>, celebrated with cake, candle and Happy Birthday sung by over 60 people.

The Harvest Supper has been going for as long as I've been in the village, and I'm sure those of you who've lived here even longer will be able to say who, how and when it started, and will have memories of how it's evolved over the years. The vision and mission is always the same though: to give thanks for the harvest and those who make it possible, and to raise some money for a great cause, which brings me to, well, words don't often fail me, but they do here!



They've been called many things in their time, I'm sure, and "The Terrible Twins" (thanks Paul Moss) is one of the more polite epithets. The evening concluded with what some would view as the highlight: the auction of produce.

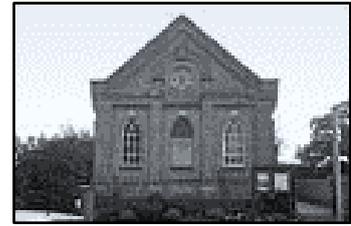
How Pete Bush (left) and Mark Carter, the auctioneers, pull off this hilarious double act year after year, is beyond me. Actually, it's probably beyond them too, to be honest! Let's just say that, thanks to Mr Pinot and

Mr Noir, the jokes kept on coming, mystery bags of fruit and veg were sold at quite incredible prices and that £736 was raised for Médecins Sans Frontières.

They are clearly masters of their trade, sensitive to their buying audience, teasing, tempting, cajoling and quite frankly bullying everyone until the best price for each item was raised. Let us always remember the final marrow: I shall say only, "How much????!!!"

All that's left for these two now is for Pete to attend a training course on naming fruit, vegetables and plants correctly, and Mark to name his mystery phone bidder. On the other hand guys, don't change a thing; it's much more fun your way!

Credit must also go to the great team who set this all up. A meal for 60-odd doesn't just organise itself. Thank you, one and all, for yet another evening which makes me appreciate that there's nowhere else I'd rather live. ♦



## Whaddon Chapel

December 2016

*In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.' John 1v1-18 [abridged]*

Many people agonise over questions such as "Is there a God?" or "If God exists, how can I know what he's like?" The simple answer to both (and many more!) is "CHRISTMAS".

Christmas tells us an incredible amount about God. It does away with the need to invent Him, or guess his characteristics. He chose to show us who he is, in the person of Jesus Christ. We don't have space to cover everything that Jesus reveals about God, but here are a few things to get us started:

- God is real and he is not silent – Jesus' advent was unmissable! What other birth has been announced by choirs of angels, shepherds, wise men?
- God is personal - he wants a personal relationship with us, his creation, his people: so, he came.
- God is light – Jesus' coming to earth brings illumination: he reveals the wonderful nature of God and the true horror of our sinfulness!
- God is love – only love of the highest magnitude could provide the motivation to leave heaven, to live on earth and to die a cruel death for his people's sin. God cares enough to meet our greatest need.

Christmas doesn't just address those with questions; it challenges people who have none! God didn't leave His existence in our lives as an optional extra: Christmas leaves us in no doubt that God exists and who he is. The only question that remains is "What's the consequence for me?"

Why not join us to find out more? You'll be very welcome.

### **Regular meetings:**

- Every Sunday at 4 pm-5 pm, Whaddon Chapel.
- Bible Study and Prayer 7:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month (at 3 Briary View)

### **Special services:**

- Chapel's 109<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (4 pm)
- Christmas Tea & Carols, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (4 pm-5 pm)



## WHADDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

IN August, members visited Clophill Eco Centre where we received a welcome from Kylie, a warden there. Following coffee, we were given an insight into the work of the centre and its plans for the future. The site contains several eco chalets where people can stay. After a picnic lunch we visited the redundant church where some members (not me, I hasten to add) climbed the tower to admire the view, and which members declared was well worth the climb.

During August, four members went on an outing to Cirencester, which was arranged by the county.

Our meeting in September took the form of an informal meeting and, after business was concluded, members tested their knowledge by completing a quiz on the British coastline.

Keith Jansz, the well-known local mouth and foot artist came to talk to us in October about his work. Then, thinking about the Christmas season, we have for our November meeting the theme of The Tradition of the Pantomime, which brings us into December and our Annual Meeting and the end of a busy and successful year.

My thanks once again to all who support us on a Tuesday afternoon.

Why not come along and join us, not only to use the Post Office, which needs your support (a case of use it or lose it), but to enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of home-made cake, and to meet people and have a chat. Once again, very many thanks to our cake makers.



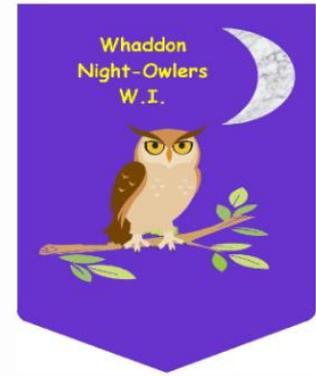
Keith Jansz, well-known mouth and foot artist, at work

*Susan White*

President

October 2016

# Whaddon Night Owlers WI



Wondering what to do with your Wednesday evenings now that Bake Off is over?

Well, on the third Wednesday of each month the Whaddon Night Owlers WI meet in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30 pm and you would be most welcome.

We have a packed programme planned for the coming year, including a good old fashioned family party for Christmas, talks from local experts on a wide range of subjects and outings too.

Each meeting is made up of three sections:

- a formal meeting to discuss WI business such as which resolution to support
- refreshments – a chance to catch up with friends and make new ones too over a cup of tea or a glass of wine
- Talk or activity.

In recent months we have Zumba'd, created a watercolour masterpiece, barbecued, played golf and hosted a variety of speakers – the most recent being "The adventures of a beginner bee-keeper" which gave us a fascinating insight into how to care for bees – and some tips on what not to do too!

Ladies – you would be most welcome to visit us and see if you would be interested in joining us – contact Daphne on 01908 502088 or just pop in to see us on the third Wednesday of each month; you are sure of a warm welcome.

Next meetings:

16 <sup>th</sup> November	AGM
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas party
18 <sup>th</sup> January	TBC

We look forward to seeing you!

*Alison Cross*



# Evelyn Remembers...3

**In this, the final of three articles, Evelyn, who was eight when World War 2 started, describes some of her wartime experiences to Margaret Barrie and John Mortimer.**

An uncommonly large number of ambulances could be seen driving through the village during wartime. They were not ordinary ambulances, as Evelyn later discovered. And there were Packard cars too which used to ferry senior officers to London and about the country.

"The ambulances would come through here quite a bit," said Evelyn. "They were filled with wireless equipment before being sent off to the desert in Africa and other places. It was only after the war that we were told how important they were. We also had a lot of despatch riders going through the village."

Added Evelyn: "I can remember Mrs Sutton, our teacher, telling us at the time: 'After the war, you'll be told how important Whaddon has been in this war.'"

"Well, we didn't know anything about that. I was married and had a family before I knew anything at all about events at Whaddon," said Evelyn.

"We saw all these motor-cyclists going off somewhere – we knew they went to Bletchley, but not where exactly. They were despatch riders taking messages to Bletchley Park and other

wireless stations, but we had no idea at the time."

During the war, the Village Hall formed part of the army barracks.

"The army had a canteen at the back of the public house where they also used to put on films, such as those starring Charlie Chaplin and George Formby," said Evelyn. "They also held dances there. Some of the village women would dance with the soldiers."

"Later on, towards the end of the war when there were not so many soldiers there, the

barracks were used to house German prisoners of war," said Evelyn. "During the war they were allowed to walk about the village, but they had to have a guard with them. After the war, it was different; they could walk about on their own."

Whaddon Hall and Windy Ridge were all occupied by the military. There would be guards on duty at the entrance to Whaddon Hall where there was also a sign which said: 'Government Department. Positively no admittance'.

## **The village policeman**

Evelyn has reason to be grateful for the village policeman for, before the war, on one occasion she was out picking primroses together with the policeman's daughter in the woods at Coddimoor Farm.

"Suddenly the gamekeeper arrived. We were scared stiff," said Evelyn. "We thought we would be reported to the colonel. This was just before the war when Colonel Selby-Lowndes lived there and we were not supposed to be in his woods!"

"I think you have picked enough," said the gamekeeper. "It is time to leave now."

"It was lucky to be with the policeman's daughter, otherwise I think we would have been reported," declared Evelyn.



**Dodge 'red cross' ambulance of the type frequently seen passing through Whaddon in WW2. Seen here with Geoffrey Pidgeon these vehicles carried important radio equipment.**

The village policeman, Mr Gaylor, left the village at the end of the war. His daughter Beryl lives in Folkestone. Mr Gaylor lived in the police house, then situated opposite the Chapel. That police house is no longer there – it was replaced by another house, set further back from the road.

Also before war, water came to the village.

"We had water laid on in 1940 but we had to wait until the 1970s to have the sewer," she said. "They started to lay the water before the war and put in most of the pipework. They just managed to finish as war started. Before the water came, we had to fetch water from the pump.

There were several in the village: one on the common, now called Vicarage Road, one in Stock Lane and one down Post Office Row. Electricity came in 1935, but before that it was oil lamps and the command 'Don't knock the table or you'll upset the oil lamp'."

A number of men in the village went off to fight in the war. George Justice was one of them, but he was the only one to be posted to Singapore where, almost immediately he was captured by the Japanese. He was 'employed' by the Japanese on the infamous Burma railway and was fortunate to be able to come home.

"He never did talk about his experiences," said Evelyn, "only that the sleepers were ..... heavy!"

In 1945, on leaving school aged 14, Evelyn found employment at a clothing factory called W. O. Peake.

"I had to cycle back and forth to work in Bletchley," said Evelyn.

W. O. Peake made coats but it also made army clothing, uniforms and so on. Later it became known as Rodex and produced expensive items of clothing, including coats for officers made out of 'beautiful materials'. Some of the coats then cost over £100.

"I worked there from 1945," said Evelyn.

### **Polish soldiers arrive in Whaddon**

After Poland had been overrun by the Germans in 1939, a government-in-exile (headquartered in Britain) was established. It had armed forces and an intelligence service; both created outside Poland. These organizations contributed to the Allied effort throughout the Second World War. For example, Polish pilots played a valuable role in the 'Battle of Britain' in 1940. In addition, the Polish Army was recreated in the West.

Throughout the war, Poles provided crucial help to the Allies, fighting on land, sea and air. In Eastern Europe, Polish forces fought alongside the Red army and, under Soviet command, took part in the Soviet offensives across Belarus and Ukraine into Poland, across the Vistula and towards the Oder and then into Berlin.



Almost 90 years ago. The arch outside the Village Hall on Coronation Day, 1937. The children are: Leslie Tofield, Theo Robinson, and Vera Boffy (Varney) with Pram. Beryl Gaylor is on the other side with pram.

Talking about her husband-to-be, Evelyn explained how Jozef had become stranded, having become separated from his unit. He had fallen down asleep while marching. He then decided to try rejoining the Polish army in Britain.

Explained Evelyn: "He moved at night, walking mile after mile. There were times when, for days on end, he did not sleep at all and consequently was very tired. At times he did not know where he was. He finished up in a barn suffering from malaria. A farmer's wife nursed him back to health."

Evelyn added: "He told the farmer's wife he had to find his regiment. He eventually found himself in France where he fought with the French underground movement."

"Eventually he joined up with American soldiers and, once free, expressed his wish to join up with the Polish army in Britain at their headquarters in Scotland," said Evelyn.

"And so it was that on his way to joining up with the Polish army he happened to pass through Whaddon," said Evelyn.

"By the time I saw him, Josef had put on some weight," said Evelyn, talking about her first sighting of the man she would later marry. "He told me: 'If you had seen me when I first found my way to France and stood behind a broom handle, you would not have seen me.'"

### **Walking down Winslow Road**

She added: "I went to a dance in the canteen. I liked the look of one and later we married."

Evelyn readily recalls, as if it was yesterday, the day she and Josef were out walking (before they were married) along the Winslow Road (now known as Coddimoor Lane) when they were approached by a man on a bicycle. The two men recognised one another; Josef's friend had cycled from Slough just to seek his advice as to whether he should return to Poland.

The man had received a letter from his parents, who ran a bakery in Poland, to return home. Josef told him to ignore the letter as someone could be standing over them, telling them what to write. It was then frowned upon to leave Poland, at that time under Russian control.

However, the man eventually returned to Poland but sent Josef a letter with instructions not to return until 'I tell you it's alright.' Josef did not receive that follow-up letter.

"I knew he would have written if he was there," Josef told Evelyn, adding that if his friend was not there then he might well have been sent to the salt mines.

Returning to the subject of her time at Rodex, where they were still making army coats when she started work.

"They were beautiful coats. They also made Tommy coats for the men. But gradually the company got back into civilian work," she explained. "We had only a very small part of the factory to do our job in the Ladies' side, as they called it and where they made ladies' coats. Later, we had to move into Brooklands Road to Wyco Electrical Company. The firm later merged with British sparking plug maker, Pacy Ltd., to become Wyco-Pacy; it moved to Buckingham."

Evelyn added; "They occupied the rest of our factory and when our machines stopped you could hear the sound of machines going clonk, clonk, clonk as they made rivets and what-not. When they moved out they needed completely new flooring because of all the oil and grease."

### **Thoughts turn to marriage**

Following the ending of the war, three young women from the village married Polish soldiers.

"I married at 21 in 1952 and we stayed with Mum for a few weeks until we managed to get a little house in Post Office Row, by the Post Office," Evelyn told us. "We stayed there for about five years. Our two girls were born there. We then moved to a cottage in Vicarage Road which had an extra bedroom."

Evelyn and her family remained in Vicarage Road until she had Roger in 1963.

"By that time, we needed three bedrooms and we moved to No. 30 Vicarage Road.

For Evelyn, this marked a return to the road where she had been born – Evelyn was in the cottage next door to where Florrie lived (18 Vicarage Road).

"Of course, there were three cottages then, but two were made into one," said Evelyn.

Evelyn did help out in the local shop in Vicarage Road, even though, as she had told us, there were three things "I would never do".

"These were to look after someone else's child, serve in a shop and drive a car – the latter because I would not have the confidence," she said.

But in fact, Evelyn did help in the shop – and she drove a car. The car was a Wolseley which her husband bought for the family.

"It was a very nice car," said Evelyn, who still has a very early copy of the Highway Code. ♦



## WHADDON BOOK CLUB

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Sue Norbury*

# SEA CADETS – TS WHADDON

This is your chance do all this....or any of it:  
If you're between 10 and 18 years old, why not join us in 2016?



**Left and below:**  
Kayaking or Rowing at Emberton Park,  
Olney

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

**Bottom:** TS Royalist in The  
Solent



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



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - WHADDON

**What a sad world we live in! Below are three recent warnings sent via Thames Alert on behalf of ActionFraud and of which you should be aware.**

### **Taxi compliance operation – Aylesbury Vale & Bletchley**

On Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, officers from Thames Valley Police, and Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) conducted an operation in Aylesbury Vale and Bletchley areas.

The aim of the operation was to conduct checks on private hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles and drivers. The Road Safety Officer for Bucks also stopped Private Hire vehicles around Wendover, Stoke Mandeville, Buckingham and Bletchley.

The vehicles were checked for defects by the Road Safety Officer and to establish correct driving licence and insurance details. The licensing officers from AVDC checked the condition of the vehicles met the standards set by the Council and drivers held the correct licensing documentation.

Private hire vehicle drivers in Aylesbury Vale are required to display exterior signage which includes, a rear licensing plate which must be fixed to the outside rear of the vehicle, a front licensing plate in their windscreen and side door stickers stating "ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY".

Private hire drivers are required to wear their driver ID badge and for it to be visible to passengers. They are required by law to wear their seatbelts when they do not have a fare on board. They are not allowed to smoke in their vehicles at any time.

In total, 25 private hire vehicles were stopped. One vehicle was not taxed or SORN and the driver was reported to the DVLA. Another driver had two tyres devoid of tread with the chord exposed. Both drivers had their private hire vehicle licences suspended until they could show the problems had been rectified.

AVDC dealt with 19 drivers for licensing offences, which included drivers not wearing ID badges, not displaying correct vehicle signage and failing to have a first aid kit and/or fire extinguisher.

They were given Taxi enforcement penalty points and given 14 days in which to rectify the defect or face further action. Licensed drivers can only have 12 points on their licence before they run the risk of losing their private hire or Hackney carriage license.

PC Liz Johnson, the Road Safety Officer, said: "The operation was a success, we checked a good number of private hire vehicles to ensure the public are safe when using them in the future." ◇

### **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

# Table Tennis

## Join us in the Jubilee Hall

Singles and Doubles Admission only £1

All equipment provided

2 Tables available Rules explained

Coaching given School pupils welcome from age 8

Beginners or experts welcome

Contact Mark Carter: [magcarter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:magcarter@hotmail.co.uk) or just turn up



## Winslow Community Bus



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

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

**01296 715786**

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

Please ring Sue for more information.

\*Denotes bus pass accepted.

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Buckingham bus.* 1 hr in Town and 1 hr in Tesco.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Afternoon tea at Lakers. £5.00. Travel £2.50.
Thurs. 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M, etc.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Asda shopping. £4.00.
Thurs. 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Lunch at The Swan Inn. Milton Keynes Village. £4.00 travel.
Tues. 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	MK shopping. Start your Christmas shopping. £4.00.
Thurs. 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop, B&M etc.
Tues. 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Buckingham bus.* Town and Tesco. Telephone to book.
Thurs. 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop, B&M etc.
Thurs. 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Join us for a Christmas Lunch at the The Old Thatched Inn, Adstock. £3.00 travel.
Tues. 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Stock up at Asda, Bletchley. Last-minute shopping, gifts! £4.00.
Thurs. 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop, B&M etc.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Buckingham bus.* Town or Tesco, or just Tesco. Telephone to book.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop, B&M etc.
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Visit: Yarnton Nurseries and Shopping Village. There is something for everyone, including indoor and outdoor plants, clothing, pets, speciality foods, cards and gifts. £5.00.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop, B&M etc.
Fridays and Saturdays	<b>OUR BUS SERVICES.</b> * Bus passes accepted. All ages welcome! Make shopping easier. <b>Don't forget.</b>

	<p><b>Aylesbury Market Bus.</b> We go to Aylesbury every Friday and Saturday morning. We pick up in Winslow, The Horwoods, Mursley and Swanbourne. (£4.00 return.) Bus passes accepted.</p> <p><b>Wednesday Market Bus.</b> We also pick up at The Horwoods, Mursley, Swanbourne and The Claydons to bring you into Winslow for Market Day and where you have about 1½ hours shopping. (£3.00)*.</p> <p>Added to these two there is the <b>Westcroft Bus</b> and the <b>Buckingham Bus.</b></p> <p><b>For more information telephone Sue on 01296 715786</b></p>
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**Milton Keynes Theatre. Please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment**

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

*Performances start 2.30pm, unless otherwise stated. Door-to-door service.*

Wed'day. 9 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>7.15pm</b> <i>Madame Butterfly</i> – Glyndebourne. Circle C & D. £62.00.
Wed'day 16 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Relatively Speaking.</i> Robert Powell & Liza Goddard. Beautifully crafted, wonderfully funny. Circle Row A & B. £19.50.
Sat'day 26 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Nutcracker</i> – Exquisite dancing, beautiful sets. Circle G & H. £41.00.
Wed'day 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i> – Winner of 6 Tonys including Best Musical. A brilliantly funny & entertaining show. Circle F. £33.50.
Wed'day 1 <sup>st</sup> February	<i>Not Dead Enough</i> – Thrilling new stage play – Circle A & B. £22.00.
Thurs. 16 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>The Red Shoes</i> – Matthew Bourne's magical new adaptation. Upper Circle B & D. £23.00
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<i>Funny Girl.</i> Exhilarating, 'phenomenal' musical. Circle F & G. £33.50
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>7.15pm.</b> <i>La Boheme.</i> Stalls Row P. £50.50
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>2.30pm.</b> <i>Lord of the Dance Dangerous Games.</i> Directed by Michael Flatley. Stalls Row N. £46.00
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Mamma Mia!</i> Abba-solutely fantastic. Circle A & B. £49.00
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>2.00pm.</b> <i>Jane Eyre.</i> 'Theatre at its most imaginative'. A collaboration between the National Theatre & Bristol Old Vic. £24.50

## Self-driving in Milton Keynes

In October, a self-driving vehicle hit the headlines when it appeared in public for the first time in the UK, with Milton Keynes as the focal point. The autonomous self-driving technology has been under development for the past 18 months. Demonstrations took place on pavements around the Milton Keynes railway station and business district. In the future, vehicles like those shown in Milton Keynes could be used for local transportation in urban areas.

The software running the vehicle, called Selenium, was developed by Oxford University's Oxford Robotics Institute, and integrated by Oxford University spinout company, Oxbotica, into an electric vehicle. The two-seater pods were designed and manufactured by Coventry-based automotive innovation firm Oxbotica.

It is said Selenium can work in pedestrianised environments, roads and motorways. It is not reliant on the Global Positioning System to operate – so it can transition between indoor and outdoor settings, over ground or underground. The system can be applied to cars, self-driving pods (e.g. for campuses and airports), and warehouse truck fleets. Selenium uses data from cameras and LIDAR systems to navigate its way around the environment. Transport Systems Catapult claims it is helping ensure the UK remains at the forefront of this "exciting new field of technology".



# Please: Do a Spot of Weeding for Whaddon!



Bucks Highways Department says it no longer has a budget available for spraying out weeds along the roads and pavements.

The Parish Council says that the look of our village would be greatly enhanced by spending a few moments removing the weeds along the various boundaries and pavements outside our properties.

Next time you are gardening, please take a moment to pull a few weeds and with us all doing our bit our village will look really nice.

## Puzzle Time

Easy Sudoku (left) and Medium Sudoku (right)

7	3			5				
	4			6				
		1		9		5		
5				1		9	2	
				4	7	5	8	
3				7	2			
6	9					2		
			6	3		4		

	8			7				6
				6				3
2				9				5
7								
5								8
	2	4	5					
	5	8	3					2
4		9						7
				5				9

## COMPETITION – THE RESULT

I am a touch disappointed not to have received a single entry for the competition in the last issue. A box of chox or a bottle of red wine clearly proved an insufficient prize inducement. Yet a prize of £100k would have stretched Parish Council coffers to breaking point! For those who *are* interested, the answer can be found on p. 30 of the May issue where Evelyn speaks of “. . . going on the school bus one morning through Nash and the Chantry.” The word ‘Chantry’ should of course have been Beachampton. Literally, a last-minute error I failed to spot. As Evelyn asked me later: “Where’s Chantry?” Ed.

## Keith Jansz

There will be an exhibition of original paintings by mouth and foot artist Keith Vansz at Buckingham Old Gaol, Market Hill, Buckingham, MK18 1JX (Tel: 01280 823020) on Thursday 17, Friday 18 and Saturday 19 November 2016.

Opening hours 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

15% of all sales to Buckingham Old Gaol Trust.

# Whaddon's wheat needed to raise Warburtons bread



FARMING TODAY is changing. Every advancing year brings improvements. How soon before driverless tractors appear in fields around Whaddon? Already these machines are being assessed in America - and what happens in America today could happen in Britain tomorrow.

Well, not exactly tomorrow but maybe before long. Already today tractors and their associated equipment are guided by automated controls based on information fed into an on-board computer using GPS (global positioning system) and field boundary mapping.

In the last few weeks, the 40 hectare field behind Whaddon's Stock Lane is being readied for planting spring wheat with one such tractor. In October, the *Whaddon Quarterly* caught up with Jonathan driving a green, 400 horsepower John Deere four-wheel-drive 8370 RT with a continuously variable transmission on the land.

Jonathan (pictured below) was subsoiling land which had just yielded a crop of winter wheat. His colleague, Dave, working in the nearby 36 hectare field backing onto Oxley Park, was rolling winter wheat that had already been drilled. In early November, the wheat already showed healthy signs. Grain from both fields will be used for Warburtons bread throughout central and southern England.



The 40 hectare field (illustrated right through the cab windscreen) will now be over-wintered before drilling begins early next year.

Jonathan and colleague Dave work for William Sawbridge of Lodge Farm, Castlethorpe. The Sawbridge family have farmed land around Castlethorpe and Hanslope for 350 years and, after being asked by various grain merchants to increase production, ventured into Whaddon and so have been farming around the village for 10 years.

Dave and Jonathan receive help from William. Ten years ago, six men would be required to work the same land that 10 years before would have needed 10.



Jonathan has two displays (left) in the tractor cab. One screen depicts the field and the route the tractor is following. The system automatically accounts for different implements and widths and can plot the most efficient path to take. When first 'mapping' a field Jonathan will drive round the perimeter using a headland of some 9 to 20 metres, depending on implement.

The other display gives the tractor's performance. For example, it can tell the number of hectares worked per hour, diesel consumption in litres per hour and the number of

litres remaining in the fuel tank. Working a seven-furrow plough (the John Deere *can* pull a nine-furrow implement) the tractor consumes some 50 litres of fuel an hour. With a 758-litre fuel tank the tractor can, in theory, operate for 15 hours at this consumption.

The tractor is not a wheeled machine in the conventional sense; however, unlike a 'crawler', which has steel caterpillar tracks, the John Deere has rubber belt tracks. These can last six years or so with most heavy wear experienced when the tractor travels along tarmac roads. Tractors these days typically work for 1,000 hours a year. The Editor

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# Polished Brass

## PLAUDITS FOR ALEX'S PRODUCTION

HAVING seen the announcement in the August issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly*, we bought tickets to see the National Youth Music Theatre's (NYMT) production in Hackney of the musical *Brass* conducted by Alex Aitken.

It proved to be a magical evening. Brass tells the story of a Yorkshire brass band the members of which volunteered to join the Army at the outbreak of the First World War. Using very clever staging, we followed the story of the mothers and sisters, a feisty lot and most of whom worked in a munitions factory. Both stage cast and orchestra were under 23 years of age, some only 16. They were much the same age as the lads who went to war.

It was very moving, but the horrors of war were relieved by the music and the sheer exuberance of youth. As Jane said: 'I was weeping one minute and crying with laughter the next'.

At the end of the performance the entire audience rose to its feet in a well-deserved standing ovation. And when the cast finally left, the orchestra played on. As I looked into the (very untidy) orchestra pit there was a wide grin in every face. Their enjoyment was infectious.

This was a highly professional performance, enhanced by the energy of a very young cast. The NYMT is 40 years old this year and worth every penny. We will definitely be back. ◇

*Jane Waight and Margaret Barrie*

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## The 10 most common nouns

The 10 most common nouns in 2006, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, were: 1, Time. 2, Person. 3, Year. 4, Way. 5, Day. 6, Thing. 7, Man. 8, World. 9, Life. 10, Hand.

By way of a space filler, one possible sentence that includes all 10 nouns in order might be: "It is time the person who declared Shenley Road should be closed for a year and five months should make way this day for another individual; what with one thing and another, a new man-of-the world should take charge, someone with understanding of the real needs of life - a man with his hand on the levers of power."

We'd love to publish your creative versions. Shorter sentences (less than 60 words) containing the most common words in their correct order, as shown above, "on a postcard" please, or by email to the editor. Submissions will appear in the next issue. ◇

# Roman coins found in Whaddon?

**Well, some Iron Age coins *were* found in 1849, and one implication of the article in the August issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly*, "Treasure under Whaddon CofE School", *could* become significant in the months ahead.**

WRITING about the long-running history of the countryside surrounding Whaddon's CofE School, which is about to undergo a revamp, I asked: "Did a Roman soldier drop a silver denarii on Viatores Road? Can you almost hear the tramp of marching Roman soldiers?"

Well, we shall see what unfolds. But clearly the Romans *were* in this area and more than likely at least one of them could have dropped something; or inadvertently left something behind. Perhaps Kennel Lane should really have been called Romans' Way.

Many aspects of life we owe to the Romans since Britain enjoyed diplomatic and trading links with them in the century following Caesar's expeditions in 55 and 54 BC. Indeed, Roman economic and cultural influence was a significant part of the British late pre-Roman Iron Age, especially in the south.

But by the early 40s AD the political situation in Britain was in ferment and in 43 AD Emperor Claudius mounted an invasion force to regain control. Aulus Plautius, a distinguished senator, had overall charge of four legions, totalling about 20,000 men and the same number of auxiliaries. Thus effectively began the 'new' Roman conquest of Britain which took many years to complete as armies moved west and north to reach the border with Scotland by 84 AD. In the process, the Romans had cause to build over 5,600 miles (9,000 km) of roads, including some through this region.

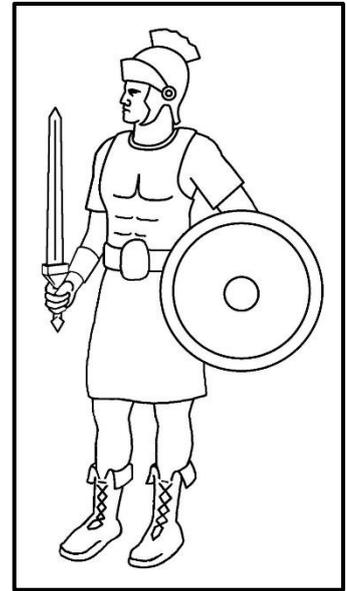
## The gold coins of 1849

The Numismatic Chronicle (see [http://www.bucksas.org.uk/rob/rob\\_1\\_1\\_15.pdf](http://www.bucksas.org.uk/rob/rob_1_1_15.pdf)) has an article about ANCIENT BRITISH GOLD COINS FOUND IN WHADDON CHASE. The article states: "The coins were discovered in February 1849, by a tenant of Mr Lowndes, whilst ploughing a portion of Whaddon Chase, which had been recently cleared and enclosed. The discovery attracted many persons to the spot, some of whom contrived to get possession of nearly one hundred specimens, which have been dispersed. About 320 reached the hands of Mr Lowndes."

The article goes on to say: "Though these coins are extremely interesting to the numismatist, it is greatly to be regretted that not a single example of an inscribed coin occurs amongst them. About one-fourth consists of pieces of a type already well known, stamped on one side only with the rude figure of a horse, the head grotesquely shaped and resembling the bill of a fowl and the limbs disjointed."

The article further tell us: "A person residing in the village of Whaddon showed us a coin similar to those of the first seven specimens, which was found by a labourer in a part of the Chase about five years ago but he could give us no particulars as to the precise spot where it was picked up. As before observed, it is all but hopeless to attempt an illustration of pieces which bear no traces of inscription, nor any very satisfactory indication of what may have been the prototype, for we must regard them as belonging to the class of degenerate British coins. All that can be done, therefore, is to chronicle their finding, and patiently wait the chance of future discoveries. Any conjectures as to the accident which led to the deposit of these coins in such a place."

The author of the article concludes: "Whether they were the produce of plunder, or the buried hoard of a British chieftain, or the spoil of some Roman soldier located in the adjacent camp, are questions which may amuse, but can elicit nothing of value to the antiquary. The average weight of these coins is just under 90 grains Troy; a very few only exceeding that



weight by half a grain. Though so truly adjusted, their fineness varies considerably. They may be estimated at about 12s. each, being inferior to our gold standard, and alloyed with silver."

Another website has a slightly different take on the matter. Take a look at the following ([buckscc.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=TBC312](http://buckscc.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=TBC312)) and you will read: "In 1849 a large hoard of late Iron Age coins was found south of the village in Whaddon Chase which may indicate the presence of a more unusual site. There is a great deal of Roman activity in the parish, not surprising given that two Roman roads are said to pass through it, one from Magiovinium (Fenny Stratford) to a temple complex at Thornborough. Roman pottery has been found near Fernfield Farm, near Chase Farm, north of Newton Common, near the church and near Snelshall Priory. Some pottery found near Coddimore Farm was accompanied by some building material, suggesting the site of a Roman house.

So will further coins be unearthed? We will have to wait and see.

The Editor

### **Do's and don'ts of financial fraud protection**

The campaign Financial Fraud Action UK has issued do's and don'ts for people to bear in mind.

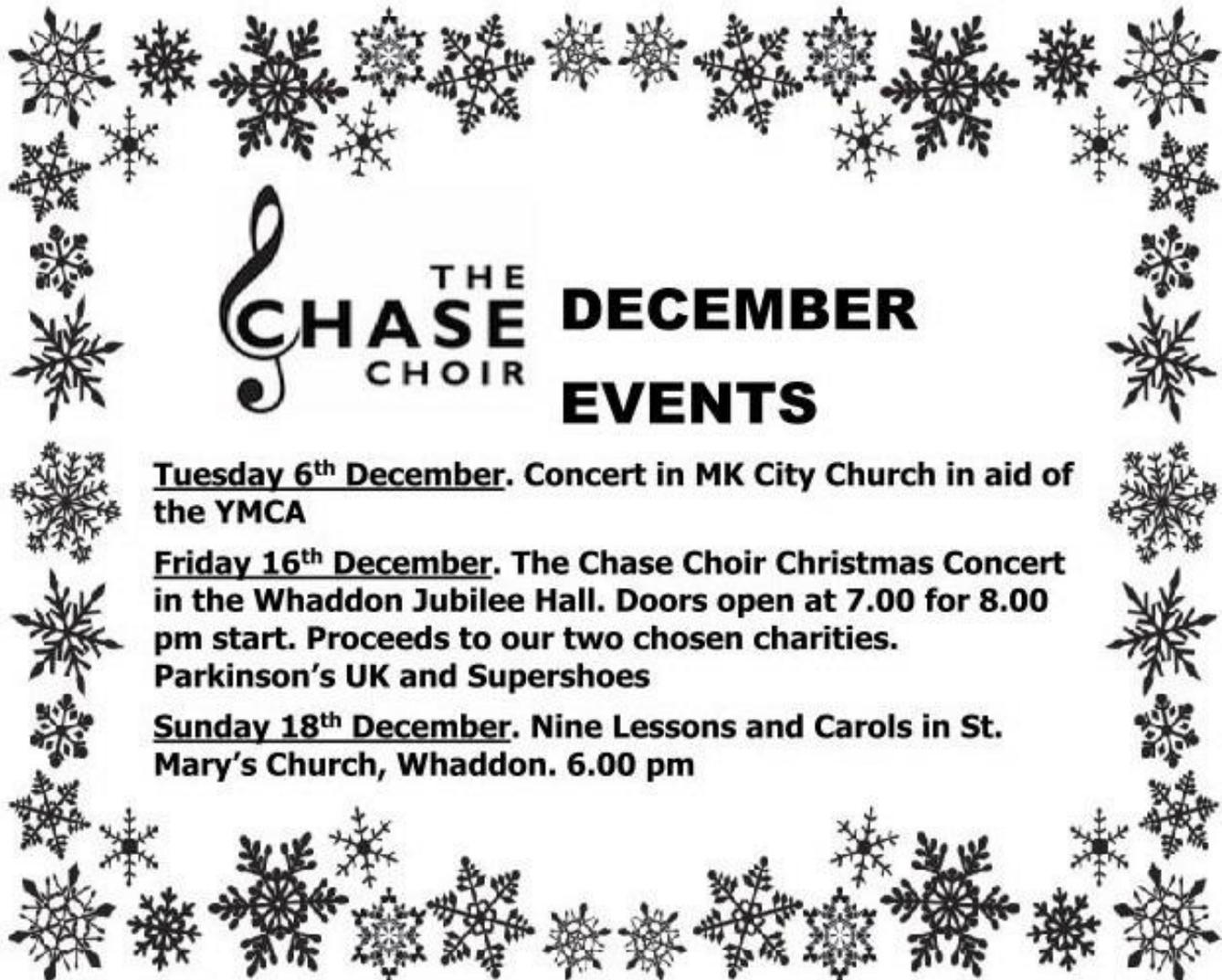
**YES.** Do stop and think before you act – a genuine organisation will not mind waiting

**YES.** Trust your instincts – you know if something does not feel right.

**YES.** Do stay in control. Do not panic or you might make a decision you will regret.

**NO.** Do not tell anyone your PIN number, or full password. A bank will never ask for it.

**NO.** Do not assume an email, text message or phone call is authentic, even if they seem to know your details.



 **THE CHASE CHOIR** **DECEMBER EVENTS**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Concert in MK City Church in aid of the YMCA**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The Chase Choir Christmas Concert in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Doors open at 7.00 for 8.00 pm start. Proceeds to our two chosen charities. Parkinson's UK and Supershoes**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Nine Lessons and Carols in St. Mary's Church, Whaddon. 6.00 pm**



## *Creative Coach: Thoughts from my comfy chair*

People-watching is fun, isn't it? On a train, bus, in a restaurant, coffee bar, pub: watching folk and imagining what brought them together, whether they're getting along well, or if it's a tricky conversation they're having.

Who do you just love spending time with? Who makes you smile, inspires you, makes you feel good about yourself? Who do you seek out when you need a bit of a lift? It would be great to bottle the skill of making other people feel good, at ease, uplifted, wouldn't it? For this post, I thought it would be useful to focus on a little of what it takes to build rapport and connection with others. Your own bottle of happiness, if you like. You're probably quite good at this stuff already; it's just helpful to bring it back to the top of your awareness every once in a while, and think about how you relate to others.

### **Finding common ground**

Whether it's a shared interest in sport, music, travel or a mutual (business or life) challenge, it's thought-provoking and rewarding to connect with others in a common interest. Finding it is sometimes easy and other times it can take time, so be prepared to talk to others **and listen** over a period of time to discover your connection. There will be one somewhere, and you may discover it in an unlikely place! You'll find this a useful exercise if you need to build a relationship with someone you find a little challenging. Asking questions about their interests can often turn up some unexpected connections.

### **Showing empathy**

In conversations, use your listening skills carefully. Too often, when we listen, we're getting our own reply ready, and thinking about how what the other person says relates to our own experiences. "Oh, yes, that happened to me... I did that last week... My experience of this was... When I tried that, I..." If you're thinking about what you're going to say next, you won't be able to listen properly. The point of empathy is to try to put yourself in their shoes. Try asking more questions instead of making comparisons with your own experience; the other person will appreciate the attention to their feelings, thoughts and ideas.

### **For interest...**

Next time you're able to watch a group of people, notice how they unconsciously match, or even mis-match each other's body language. It will give you a clue as to how connected they are. When you're having a telephone conversation, pay attention to how the other person sounds, and match their tone, to build rapport, or if it's a difficult conversation, try choosing and using a different (mis-matched) tone and pitch to manoeuvre the conversation round to generate a more helpful discussion.

**We all need to be connected with others, and being a good listener is key. As a wise person once said: "The greatest gift you can give another is the purity of your attention."** ◇



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# WHADDON WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB

Walking Football (was first played in 2011 but now there are some 800 UK clubs) is played by teams of five to seven players, mainly by men aged 50 - 75. Portliness is not a disqualification. Fitness is not essential. However, players become fitter than lazy men who merely watch or scoff. Please wear trainers if you lack boots.



For further information on the subject consult:

1. [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37631122](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37631122)
2. [www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/rules-c1th6](http://www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/rules-c1th6)
3. [www.theguardian.com/society/2015/feb/10/walking-football-wins-over-older-men-to-new-form-of-the-beautiful-game](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/feb/10/walking-football-wins-over-older-men-to-new-form-of-the-beautiful-game)
4. [www.theguardian.com/football/shortcuts/2016/oct/12/walking-football-rules-what-you-need-to-know-fa](http://www.theguardian.com/football/shortcuts/2016/oct/12/walking-football-rules-what-you-need-to-know-fa)
5. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC0gzBA3QpI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC0gzBA3QpI)

Buckinghamshire boasts 12 Walking Football clubs. Will Whaddon Walking Football Club (WWFC) become the 13<sup>th</sup>? [www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/buckinghamshire](http://www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/buckinghamshire). Our goal is to play a match *versus* Nash in the Recreation Ground. Who will step forward as a volunteer to referee?

For details please email this form to [kieren.beasley@gmail.com](mailto:kieren.beasley@gmail.com)

Forename	Surname	Telephone	Email

*Candidate members for the Whaddon Women's Walking Football Club (WWWFC) may email me until a secretary is appointed.*

# WHADDON WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB



# Yoga & Wellness with Lauren

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

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

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

## Weekly classes

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

## Other workshops/events

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

the sessions will last approximately one hour during which you'll be invited to rest in savasana, the pose considered to be the most receptive for wellbeing, rest and healing! The yoga nidra itself is a guided meditation that welcomes you to explore the inner landscapes of the physical, energy and mind bodies bringing you home to the self leading to deep relaxation and restoration

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

the sessions last approximately 2.5hours and invites you to completely surrender to relaxation through exploring restorative yoga and yoga nidra – finishing off with tea and cake

**Private one to one sessions** at £30 per hour

we will discuss a theme or focus beforehand so that I can prepare a bespoke session just for you! Two to one sessions or small groups are also available from £40 per hour

[www.thelollipopway.co.uk](http://www.thelollipopway.co.uk)

[lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk](mailto:lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk)

01908 867940

07764 485921

All classes are held at Whaddon Jubilee Hall MK17 0LS

*Namaste - the divine in me honours the divine in you. I honour the place in you where the entire Universe dwells. I honour the light, beauty, truth, love & peace within you because it is also within me and in sharing these things we are united - we are one*



Love, light + peace Lauren xxx

• Bucks Vision, a charity for Blind and visually impaired people in Buckinghamshire, is running free workshops which aim to give blind and partially sighted people an introduction to tablets and Smart phones, and showing how they can assist in your everyday living. <http://www.bucksvision.co.uk/our-services/practical-courses/online-today>

# The Crooked Billet

2 Westbrook End, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes, MK17 0DF

<http://www.thecrookedbilletmiltonkeynes.co.uk>

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## November 2016 - Latest News from our Team

We have lots of interesting news and “tasty” events to bring you this month. Please click on the links below or check out more details on any subject at our website.

### Star Performance

We celebrated our Head Chef Jack, being asked to guest at BBC Three Counties radio on Nick Coffey's Weekend Kitchen programme on 23rd October <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p049v2f9> click the link to listen. Jack explained how he teases out all the flavours in some of his favourite dishes including French Onion soup and Moules Marinieres. He has been invited to return to the show in a few weeks and Nick Coffey will be visiting us so that he can taste more of Jack's dishes.

### New Bar Menu just launched – available Monday - Saturday

Some great new items freshly prepared by our talented chef team including traditional favourites like Beef and Ale Pie and beer battered Fish & Chips and interesting dishes like Seafood Linguine and Vegetarian Stuffed Aubergine. <http://www.thecrookedbilletmiltonkeynes.co.uk/bar-menu>

### From 1<sup>st</sup> November Diamond+ Launch

We launch our Diamond years set menu for our 60+ guests, some freshly prepared classic favourites served up at a great price. Monday to Friday Midday - 3pm

\*\*\*\*\*TWO COURSES £12 OR THREE COURSES £14\*\*\*\*\*

### Thursday 24th November – Bring Your Own Wine Night - Thanks Giving U.S. Style

We provide the food, you can bring your own wine and pay no corkage. To make sure you “Have a nice Day” on 24<sup>th</sup> November, call 01908 373936 to book a table



**Sunday 27th November Quiz Night** 7pm for 7:30pm Start. £10 per team of up to 6 people

**Pudding Club** - a new dessert menu every Thursday. Choose between full size portions or smaller portions so you can try more dishes.



<http://www.thecrookedbilletmiltonkeynes.co.uk/#!/pudding-club/ete1w>

### Christmas 2016 - Come and celebrate the easy way at the Billet



Are you the person in the office or the family member who is trusted with organising a Christmas meal. Some key dates are already booking up, so contact us today? We have a lunch menu option, an evening meal option and Christmas Day and New Year's Eve menus.

Visit our website or click <http://www.thecrookedbilletmiltonkeynes.co.uk/christmas>

**Sunday 18th December Annual Christmas Carols** starting at 7pm

**Tuesday 27th December Special Christmas Quiz Night** in aid of Willen Hospice 7pm for 7.30pm start Our **Festive hours** are already on our website. On **New Year's Eve**, we welcome back **Luke Ford** for our evening **Live Music**, and Alan is taking over the DJ duties for this year! Come and join in the fun.

**Next Summer Work/Social gatherings** – come and discuss a work summer party, social gathering or a special family celebration, with bespoke packages utilising the garden, BBQ and Marquee.

*David & Alan*

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

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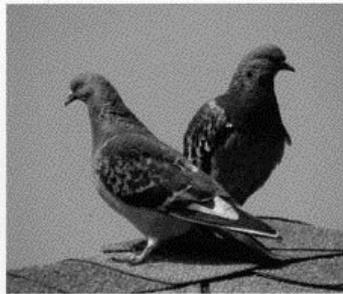
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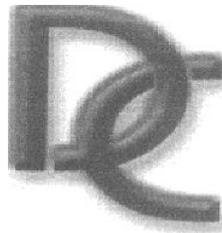
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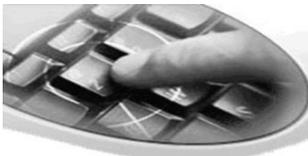
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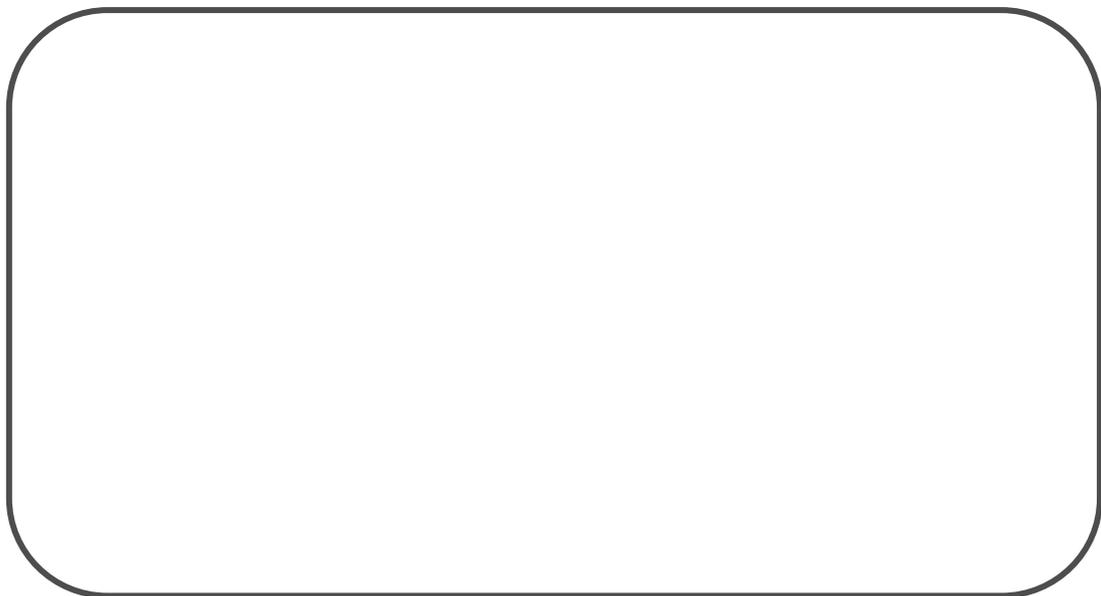


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