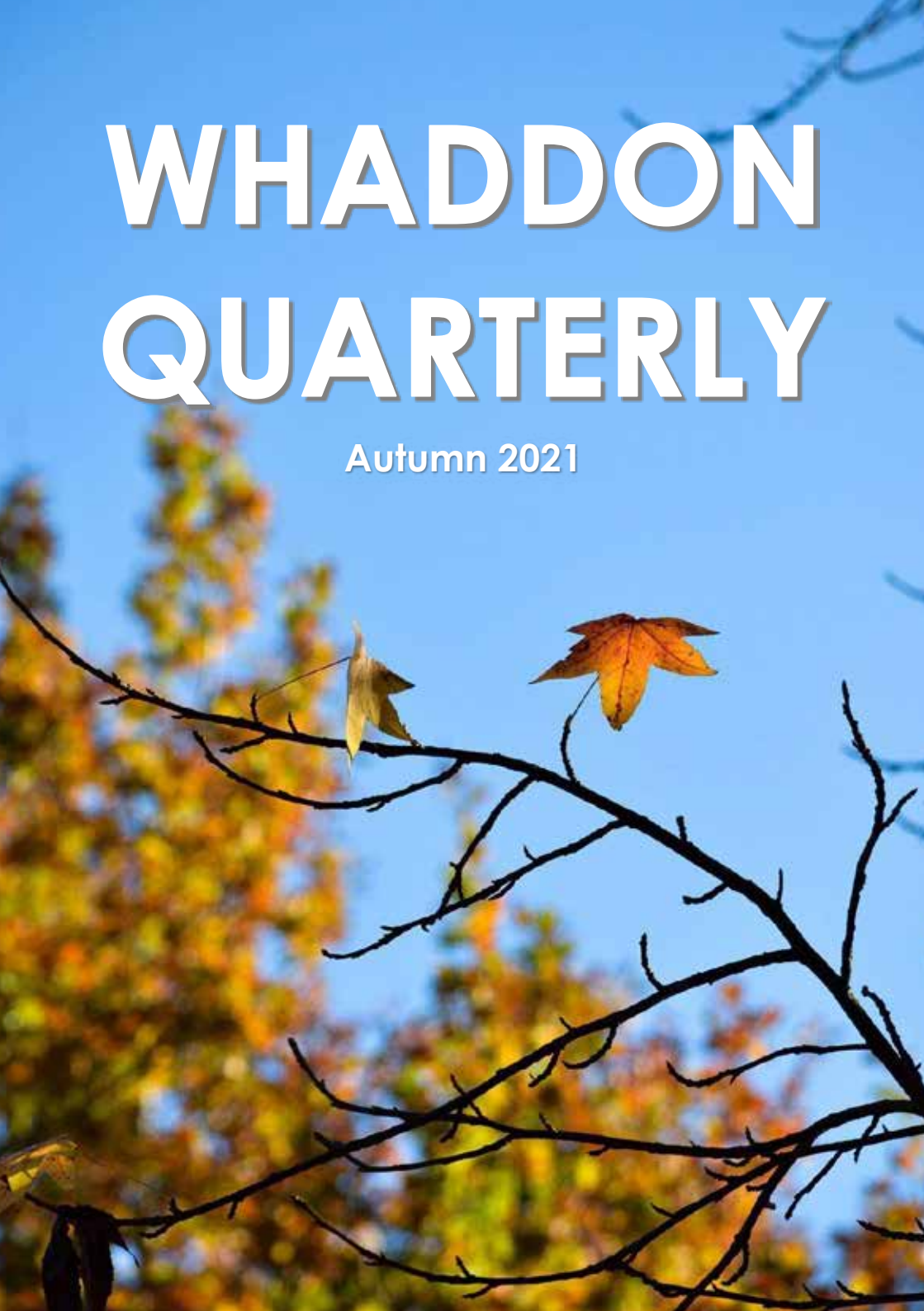


# WHADDON QUARTERLY

Autumn 2021



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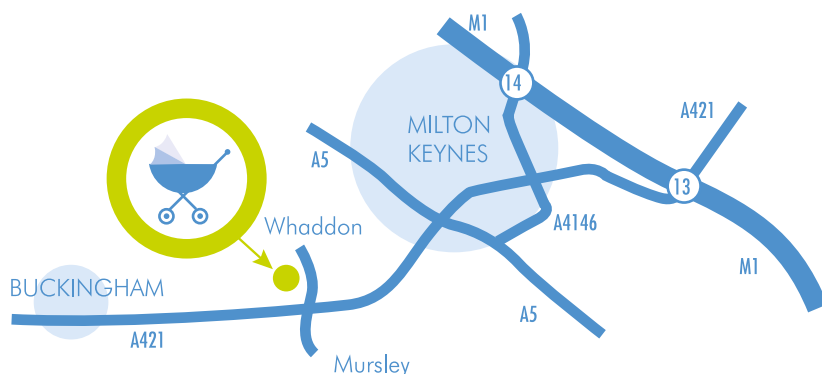
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### **Whaddon Quarterly**

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

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

Please contact the Editors, Charlotte Calder & Gillian Hosier at:  
[wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk)

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Advertising Rates and Publication Policy – page 23

# LETTER

## *From the Editors*



### **Welcome to the autumn issue of Whaddon Quarterly!**

As always, there is the usual range of articles along with plenty of dates for your diaries.

October has been a lively month in Whaddon. It was good to see the return of the Harvest Supper on 4<sup>th</sup> October, with a lively and very funny auction and delicious meal. Thank you to everyone for making this such a success, especially after the absence last year because of the pandemic.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October a challenging and entertaining quiz night took place in the village hall. The hall was packed and it was truly wonderful to see so many people after such a long time. A big thank you to the village hall committee for such a lovely evening.

The inaugural Christmas tree at the village hall, followed by a social evening on 4<sup>th</sup> December promises to be a significant addition to village life this winter. It is thrilling the advent windows will also be repeated this year. As the days get shorter, Whaddon continues to be a beautiful place to live with spectacular winter sunsets and sunrises. We wish you, your families and friends well at this time of year.

In 2022, there will be a slight change to the dates of publication. We plan to produce the Spring issue in March with a February deadline; the Summer issue in June with a May deadline; the Autumn issue in September with August deadline and then the Winter issue in December, with a November deadline.

Best wishes

*Gilli and Charlotte*

Your Editors

Congratulations to **Joe Fensome** for the amazing autumn image captured!.

**Want your photo on the front cover?**

Then send your entry for the **Winter** addition to:  
wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk



## Parish Council Chairman's Report

"The times, they are a-changing"

Bob Dylan wrote this song in 1964 and the fact that it is almost universally remembered over 50 years later is perhaps surprising, considering it only reached No.9 in the charts! How true it was then, is now and applies to Whaddon most particularly in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

I first visited the village in 1961, staying a weekend at Thrift Lodge, the little cottage which is on the A421 between Thrift Wood and Thrift Farm. On Sunday morning, it was possible to stroll along the deserted road towards Coddimoor Farm without seeing a car. How different the A421 is today.

Four years later, I moved to Whaddon, despite being told that there was a concept for a North Bucks new town whose centre could be right on top of Whaddon. As we later heard, the centre of Milton Keynes was placed a few miles to the east of us and our village has, so far, been able to retain its identity. Limited developments in the shape of Old Manor Close and Ladymead Close have been successfully integrated, together with the conversion of outbuildings at Whaddon Hall. Though we have lost both our shop and our Post Office, the village institutions remain; that is to say, the village hall, the school and the church. Likewise our pub, The Lowndes Arms.

So, as of now, you could perhaps say that maybe not that much has altered in half a century, but there is one thing that most definitely has changed as I said at the beginning of this article and that is the traffic through the village and outside it and the problems that that brings, whether speeding, potholes or parking and on the A421 the sheer volume of vehicles. In years to come, the Shenley Park development of 1500 new houses, adjacent to Whaddon will add even more to the traffic situation and I wonder how the A421 will cope. And you can add to the joining traffic from the Salden Chase development by Newton Longville. So, all this means that the Parish Council is having to be a lot more proactive than perhaps it has been in the past on a variety of issues, principally Planning and Highways.

A study of the electoral rolls shows that in the past 30 years the population has changed by 90%, so our village consists of people who came here knowing what the challenges are. I am confident that they will resolve these challenges in the "the times, they that are changing."

**Billy Stanier**

# Clerk's Corner

## Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council



### Whaddon Quarterly Distribution

As you know because you're reading this (!) Whaddon Quarterly is available by paper copy and by email and to download via the village Facebook page. We encourage those with IT facilities to receive an electronic copy as it saves pennies, around £1.50 a copy, and you can squirrel your copy away electronically and reduce the clutter if you want to. If you would like to change your delivery preference, please email me.

### What does WPC actually do?!?!?

Or more to the point, what does WPC NOT do? Yes! It is confusing!! WPC has a remit to provide street lighting, mowing, hedging and weed spraying, and dog waste bins for the village, and we operate the recreation ground and the allotments. We also own and maintain the bus stop currently the 'Swap Shop'. We are local statutory consultees on planning matters and that is a huge part of our work, and we flag up issues to Buckinghamshire Council, Highways Dept and the Police to secure help with problems and things that need fixing like potholes and fly-tipping. What we DON'T do is deal with any enforcement issues ourselves, and what we CAN'T do is be everywhere all the time and know everything! By everyone taking the initiative if something needs doing, and everyone doing their bit, it will ensure our village stays a wonderful place to live.

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

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 Council and/or Police matters.

### Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take place at 7.00pm on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, at The Chapel, Stock Lane, MK17 0LU. Please check the village notice board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. Full details are also on the WPC website [www.whaddonbuckspsc.org.uk](http://www.whaddonbuckspsc.org.uk).

All Welcome!

## History Half Hour

**I spy with my little eye, something beginning with...S. John Mortimer looks at an intriguing word beginning with S to discover its links with Whaddon.**

In winter 1942, we played 'I spy' in a Ford Pilot on long car journeys from Manchester to Ashby de la Zouch. In that sentence, 'spy' is a verb. But spy can be a noun – a person or organisation employed by government or others to secretly obtain information about enemies or competitors. Mention of spies and spying conjures up Hanslope Park and Whaddon Hall; the former being especially focused on surveillance.

### The Buckinghamshire spy

Certainly, a spy did land in Buckinghamshire, as Geoffrey Pidgeon recorded in *The Secret Wireless War*. He wrote; "On 6<sup>th</sup> September, a lone German aircraft crossed the East Anglian coastline, heading inland. Shortly afterwards, a parachute floated to earth near Aylesbury. A spy landed in a field; he was temporarily knocked unconscious by the radio transmitter that followed him down. Soon caught, he agreed to work for the British; he received the cover name Summer." How very English.

"When the British required, Summer operated his radio transmitter; nearby, a radio amateur ensured the German sent the correct British message.

"It had taken a few days, with the help of the amateur radio operator's expertise, for Summer to contact his German control centre; after which Summer effectively became a double agent."

"The amateur radio 'ham' belonged to the secret Radio Security Service (RSS); it 'employed' at least 1,500 amateurs. They were Volunteer Interceptors (VIs) who had developed skills in radio communication."

Who was Summer? What was his real name? Did he remain in the UK after WW2; or return to Germany? Did he marry, have family?



### Detecting the radio 'pirates'

Before the war, there was another organisation in Britain engaged in 'spying', or snooping; namely the GPO: General Post Office. The GPO had several radio detector vans (RDVs) and it was a 1926 photograph on Google of such a van, illustrated **left**, that set me on the road of 'spying'. The detector's size can be judged against the GPO operator alongside. These Postman Pat-like vehicles were uncovering evaders who refused to pay their radio licence: pirates. The annual radio licence fee then cost 10 shillings (£31 today) and was introduced under the Wireless

Telegraphy Act of November 1923. Then, south of England labourers earned £2 12s a week.

By the end of 1923, there were 200,000 licences; by 1928, there were 2.5 million. The first combined radio and TV licence, cost £2; it appeared in June 1946. Returning to the subject of spies and spying, I wanted to know if, through their surveillance work, these RDVs played a part in the run-up to WW2 in detecting spies. And, did Whaddon Hall have any role in detecting spies in Britain.

### Hit by a thunderbolt

This was easier said than done. The most obvious first step: search Google. Zilch. Then, it hit me like a thunderbolt. These RDVs detected operators *receiving* radio signals not *transmitting* them. I needed help to understand detecting transmitters. I turned to the GPO. A spokesman for BT Heritage Archives replied: "Most policy records relating to radio regulation left us in 1969 when those responsibilities passed from the Post Office to the new Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. They ended up in National Archives. Hence, I don't have much to go on but



I found in a 1934 issue of the Post Office magazine a caption to a photograph showing the inside of a detector van during a raid on radio pirates. The word "pirate" was commonly used (within the Post Office) for licence fee evaders, so I'm pretty sure this is what inter-war Post Office detector vans were about. That said, 1925 is early for that activity as at that point the Post Office was still mulling how the radio licence would work."

Not what I was looking for. So, my next step, helpful David White. He informed: "The activity started in 1939 as IWIO (illicit wireless intercept organisation) but changed to the Radio Security Service (RSS). They recruited hundreds of radio amateurs to monitor German transmissions. RSS established its headquarters in Wormwood Scrubs prison. By 1940, it was deemed to be so important, RSS was moved to more secure premises at Arkley in Barnet. "At Arkley, RSS became a very large organisation. Many spies were captured in the UK. Then, in 1941, MI6 took over and set up a huge intercept station at Hanslope Park; MI6 then acquired Whaddon Hall from the Selby-Lowndes family."

As to spies, I recalled Geoffrey Pidgeon's words: "Some have the idea that in WW2, Whaddon Hall served as a spy training school. That was not the case. "So far as catching spies was concerned – this was in the orbit of Richard Gambier-Parry as SIS Controller of Communications, usually referred to as MI6 (Section VIII). RSS came under his control lock, stock and barrel in 1941. It was known thereafter as SCU3 under his deputy, Ted Maltby. Maltby lived near us in High Street, Stony Stratford. (See Chapter 15, 34 & 35 of *The Secret Wireless War*).

"However, it was not connected with operations in or near Whaddon Village. Whaddon Hall had no part either in decoding; that happened at Bletchley Park. However, ULTRA output *was* disseminated to Army Commanders in the field using morse from Windy Ridge by Whaddon Church. Whaddon Village was very important in World War II." Still undimmed in my determined to learn more, there remained another potential source of information: author Tony Percy, well known for his personal website, *Coldspur*.

Emailing me from the US where he has lived since 1980, Tony informed: "I know radio licences were required for receivers after 1923. My radio adviser (Dr Brian Austin) told me that, starting in the mid-1920s, even before the BBC was established, detection vans were sent out to find users who had not paid the licence fee." Tony, in Southport, North Carolina, told me: "Apparently, a more advanced set (with an oscillator) came to be adopted. Detection vans could pick up such oscillations, pinpoint the source, and check the address against a list of persons who had paid the licence fee. It surprises me a comprehensive account of all this is not easily found on the web!"

Tony added: "When I was writing about radio detection and location-finding, I struggled to find much information about mobile vans, apart from some budgetary figures. That is why I plucked out that old photograph of a 1920s GPO van. You are probably familiar with Geoffrey Pidgeon's *The Secret Wireless War*; it has much information about Whaddon Hall, but is thin on detection vans." Tony added: "Since then, David Abrutat has written a history of the RSS titled *Radio War*. It has some good information about how RSS commissioned new vehicles after MI6 took over; they gradually replaced the GPO equipment." Tony concluded: "I have the impression the practice of following up with mobile vans fell into a state of disrepair when Gambier-Parry and others decided the domestic threat was nil."

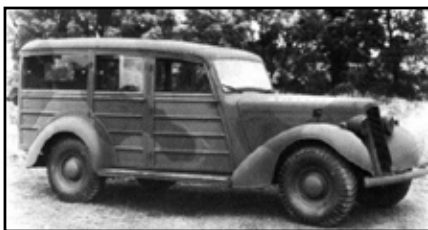
I turned to David Abrutat's book *Radio Wars*. In this he wrote: "In the first few months of the war, the RSS's VI radio interceptors sent their intercept logs to PO Box 385, Howick Place, London; in fact, the RSS had taken over some cells in Wormwood Scrubs." "The service maintained a



number of mobile units dotted around the country, typically, Ford Shooting Brakes. Each had four personnel: two drivers and two GPO operators.

"In August 1940, vehicles were allocated to London, Edinburgh, Leeds and Bristol: five Ford Shooting Brakes and five RI vans."

"After some months, the Fords became obsolete when RSS ordered a fleet of Humber Snipes with wooden bodies (**pictured**). Of standard Army design, these could be built in six weeks of ordering.



"The GPO set up 57 vans in 21 towns, while the RSS ordered 100 'snifters' from the GPO at the end of 1939. Snifters were pocket DF receivers designed by the radio branch at Dollis Hill. These carried headphones and output indicators. They could locate transmitters at local levels. The RSS also ordered 80 'ferret' receivers designed for interference locations.

"Vans typically carried HRO DF receivers, Hallicrafter H17 receivers and two snifters. In February 1940, RSS requested GPO investigate the possibility of using cathode ray DF in these mobile units.

"The RSS created a national network based around clusters of VIs who, in turn, sent their signals to Wormwood Scrubs. The VIs seemingly failed to pick up transmissions from any German agents; however, they could monitor weak signals from Occupied Europe – German Intelligence wireless transmissions.

"Increasingly, Wormwood Scrubs received numerous direct hits from enemy bombs, so MI5 moved its prison unit to Blenheim Palace. The RSS also moved to new headquarters in Arkley, near Barnet.

"The VI's success in picking up German intelligence called for a full-time listening post, with Hanslope Park being hand-picked as the ideal location.

"By 1941, Hanslope Park had been requisitioned – at the same time as Bletchley Park – by the Ministry of Defence. RSS took over the site in August 1941, with intercept work handled for the first four months from corn bins in The Granary. Later, teams moved into The Lodge half a mile away, while a new central receiver station was built."

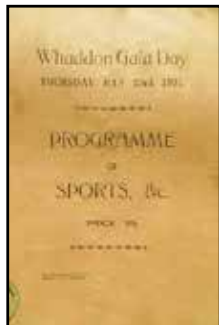
Looking back, I mused: no one today gives a second thought to sending texts or emails, but 90 years ago life was much different. Then, young and old alike, and those in between, were mesmerised by the new gizmo: radio. These could transmit *and* receive messages. In Europe in the mid-1930s, radio communication and eavesdropping began when UK government relied largely on communications from its Foreign Office outposts. Various countries, like the USSR and Germany however, eavesdropped with impunity on other nations' radio transmissions. Germany, as early as 1936, the Abwehr (German Military Intelligence) set up a Secret Wireless Reporting service to collect intelligence from neighbouring countries. Also, before WW2, it had clandestine radio station networks in Czechoslovakia, Poland and France, leaving Britain behind the times.

♦ Tony Percy's DPhil degree from University of Buckingham is titled *Security and Intelligence Studies*. It covers Soviet infiltration under the Nazi-Soviet pact, and it spawned his book *Misdefending the Realm*, published by University of Buckingham Press in 2017.

## When silver held pride of place

To offer a glimpse of Whaddon's halcyon days of 1931, John Mortimer unfolds a programme which has just come to light.

A wonderful window on Whaddon's winsome ways of yesteryear emerges from a 1931 programme entitled: *Whaddon Gala Day*. It suggests a genteel way of life in a quintessential English village; even a prosperous village. Garnered from Ebay, the programme sets out the jollities of country life on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1931.



The programme (**left**), costing 2d and entitled 'Programme of Sports &c', reveals activities planned between 2.45 and 6.40pm. The last event, a Tug of War, and the highlight of the Inter-Village Competition, offered a fitting finale before participants, and others no doubt, retired to local pubs. No mention is made of which other village participated but, at this range, it is assumed Whaddon tugged against Nash. It is assumed (by me also) that it was a lovely summer's day, for it would have been impossible to stage the events in the Village Hall, then a tin hut in Nash Road.

### Interspersed with Afternoon Tea

The day's proceedings were, as happens in any village shindig, interspersed with a Tea Interval, scheduled from 4pm to 5pm. That would no doubt be much welcomed by participants and onlookers alike. The most illuminating aspect of the programme, at least to me, is the then cost of living; namely, the cost of participating; and the value of the prizes, with silver trophies uppermost. One hundred pounds then would, today, be worth a staggering £6,987.66. Let's call it £7,000. So, in 1931, £100 would go two-thirds of the way towards a new Austin 7 costing around £150. And, as £1 then would be worth £70 today, and as there were 20 shillings in £1, one shilling in 1931 would be worth £3.50 today. Following on, as there were 12 pennies to one shilling, that looks like one penny would be worth near enough 30p today. Right, so the programme would cost 60p today. Armed with these conversions, it is possible to view events on Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1931 in slightly different light. Afternoon tea was shown to cost 2/- and 1/- respectively (£7.20 and £3.60); children were allowed to creep in for 6d (£1.20).



### A rather genteel village

The overall impression is of Whaddon enjoying the appearance of a rather genteel, prosperous village. After all, it was home to the prestigious Whaddon Chase Hunt. There was, preceding the Tug of War, a Dog Show. Every village has to have a dog show. In this case, Mrs H L Cochrane, no doubt an upstanding lady of good character, had been lined up to present prizes to the 'owner of best conditioned Dog in the Parish of Whaddon'. Was she a doggy-loving lady? Presumably so.

The first prize was 5/- no less (or £18 today). Second prize winner would take home 2/6 (£9) while the winner of third prize could walk off and have afternoon tea with his/her winnings of 1/- But the highlight of the day surely occurred when demure and diminutive Paris-born Martha, the vicar's wife, emerged from beneath her parasol to present the winners' cup – 'The Cup' – for having scored most points in the Inter-Village Competition, which ran from 6 to 6.40pm. Presenting The Cup would be one of the more joyous aspects of being a vicar's wife. No doubt observing the ceremony would be husband, the Rev Edward Selby-Lowndes (vicar of Whaddon for 25 years), and daughter, Joan. Born in 1916, Joan would be 15 and, as the Gala took place during summer 'hols', the statuesque schoolgirl (she took after her tall father, not her mother) would have been much in evidence. Joan was a bright girl; her education echoed the financial

status of the wider Selby-Lowndes family. First attending Wycombe Abbey and St Stephen's College in Folkestone, Joan studied French, taking her Licence-en-Lettres at the Institut Francais in Lille, in France. She later translated several French works, including some by René Guilloit. During WW2, Joan served as a major in the ATS, and was mentioned in dispatches. After WW2, she wrote several books about her experiences: she spent some years teaching at the Italia Conti Stage School, while most of her fictional works involve performances in some way: ballet, film and the circus. Joan loved horses. Her book *Home with a horse* recounts life on holiday with a friend and her pony, *Moonshine*, which hauled her own caravan. Joan remained single.

Meanwhile, back to the Gala and the five events of the Inter-Village Competition. Some races are easy to comprehend: the one-mile race for teams of four (1/4 mile each); the obstacle races, with teams of three; and the 100-yard relay for teams of four. But some are less so. Some less so. For example, the Boat Race at 6.30pm. Just how a 'Crew of 6 and a Cox' could manage this is a puzzle, to me. Unless some 90 years ago climate change endowed Whaddon with its own river!

Whatever else happened on that summer day, it was well worth participating: there was a prize for each event. The Boat Race prize for example amounted to one Guinea or 21/- (£75), split between seven. Just over a tenner each! The prize for the winner of the Tug of War was not to be sniffed at either: 32/- shared between eight. Today: £14 each.

Following Matins the following Sunday, might Martha's husband report a somewhat swollen collection, had the Whaddon team won? Assuming that is the home side did not spend its entire winnings at either *The Lowndes Arms* or *The Fox and Hounds* (now *Laburnum Cottage*). According to Kelly's Directory of 1935, Whaddon's 'living' provided Rev Selby-Lowndes with an annual income of £395; today that is £27,601. The average UK salary now is £26,266. Today, other competitions too seem strange. Take, for example, the 'Mixed Needle & Thread Race (Mounted)' at 3.25pm, for which again, prize-wise, organisers had everything sewn up! For the Lady's Prize there was: One Vanity Case. For Gents: A Silver Mounted Malacca Case. Again, not to be sniffed at. How did the Needle & Thread Race work in practice? Well, first and third riders of each team are mounted and stood behind the start line, carrying a thread. The second and fourth riders, of each team, also mounted (carrying a thread) stand behind a line opposite. On the start signal, the first rider on each team rides to the bending pole; threads the needle and gallops on, crossing finish line. The second, third and fourth riders of each team similarly complete the course, up and down the arena in succession. The winning team is that in which the fourth rider is first to cross the finish line (mounted) and whose team has successfully threaded the needle four times. There's a bit more to it, but I'll leave it at that for now.

Another horsey race followed shortly after, at 3.45pm, but not before the Ladies' Race of a mere 60 yards, for which the prize was a Lady's Umbrella. Then the Novices Musical Chairs (Mounted); organisers offered as the prize: '2 Small Silver Candlesticks'. Note again: silver. In fact, silver accounted for no less than half of events' prizes preceding the Tea Interval. Similar numbers of events were 'mounted'. Event number three at 3.05 was especially intriguing: 'Bending Competition (Mounted)'. The prize: Pair Silver Flower Vases. There was definitely a 'horsey' feel about Whaddon: of 11 competitions before the Dog Show, no less than six called for entrants to be 'mounted'. That surely reflects on the village's close affinity with the Chase, and all the implications attached thereto. What else was going on that day? Well, there was a one-mile race in the Inter-Village Competition. Four teams were allowed. So, there must have been one or two good runners in Nash and Whaddon. One has to imagine that a good time was had by all.

**For an insight of the lives of that much-travelled Selby-Lowndes family see the *Whaddon Quarterly* of November 2017 and February 2018.**

# Reflections from the Rectory

I find that the Christmas season sneaks up on me unawares every year. To be honest, there are things about Christmas I do not like. I particularly don't like the pressure to buy presents and for me there is a lot of pressure because I want to match the right present to the right person. I also don't want to harm the planet in the process. The whole present-buying aspect of Christmas hangs around like an ominous cloud from mid-November onwards.

I also find it rather heart-breaking that people are often sadder at Christmas than any other time. This is why churches increasingly offer a 'Blue Christmas' service. People who are bereaved notice the absence of their loved one all the more, people longing to have children feel the absence of children more keenly, people living in a care home are reminded of happier times surrounded by family in their own homes, and the impact of divorce on children can feel more pressing.

This is because Christmas has become a largely secular event, revolving around happy families and fabulous food. Don't get me wrong; there is a lot to celebrate about family and food, and I'm one of the fortunate ones who has a great family and I can afford to eat delicious Christmas meal. I also do take great pleasure decorating the Christmas tree, as each ornament has a precious memory to recall. I enjoy mince pies and mulled wine and roasting chestnuts on the fire and all the chocolate. I still smile remembering the excitement of the children on Christmas day when they were little and thrilled with their new toys.

But I'm saddened that the incredible story at the heart of Christmas gets easily obliterated by all the consumerism. For Christmas is when we celebrate the incredible extraordinary fact that God chose to take on human form to be with us. Jesus came to show that God is with us in both the random tragedy and horror of life on earth, as well as the myriad daily gifts of being alive.

Jesus teaches us what really matters in life and how to live our lives so that they really matter. Jesus is the greatest gift of all and so his birthday is worth celebrating with family, friends, food and booze. However, his life suggests that Jesus is most concerned about those who are particularly sad at this time of year. Jesus revealed that God particularly wants those feeling excluded from all the merriment, to know the peace and joy of Christmas.

May we all play our part to make sure they do.

**Rev. Jacqueline Dove**

**The Rectory, Chapel Lane, Thornborough, MK182DJ, 01280 817828**

## **December Church Services**

12<sup>th</sup> December - 3pm Christingle

20th December - 10am Toddler Church Crib Service

24th December – 10pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion

## MK Chorale Crier

It is my pleasure to be writing the first of a regular paragraph or two about the Milton Keynes choral society: MK Chorale. I hope you find these updates entertaining and you will enjoy following our adventures as we progress towards our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2024.

MK Chorale is a friendly and quite large choir. Membership is in the 90s and for those of you wondering, as I was when I looked into joining, the average age isn't! It's a vibrant choir, run by an experienced musical director, Oxfordshire-based Mark Jordan, and a young, talented assistant musical director, none other than Whaddon's own Alex Aitken.

As the sound of reindeer bells fast approaches, we are madly rehearsing for the season's concerts, one of which, it is hoped, will raise money for Willen Hospice, an organisation with which MK Chorale has a special relationship, a relationship that has developed over the years and which reflects the high regard the members and trustees of MK Chorale hold for the work the Hospice does.

We will be performing Handel's much-loved and uplifting oratorio, Messiah, joined by soloists from the Royal Academy of Music and a group of young singers from MK Youth Choir. We are all starting to feel the excitement that performing with a live orchestra brings and hope that the 4 volunteers we have invited from Willen Hospice will enjoy the performance. At the end there will be a collection and we hope the audience will have had such a good time they will dig deep into their pockets so the volunteers go back with full collection tins!

At the time of writing, there are still some tickets left so if you are free at 5pm on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>, please do join us for the performance. It's at The Venue MK (Walton High School), which is an excellent auditorium with tiered rows ensuring great visibility from all seats. Tickets (£15 for adults, £5 for children) are available online here: <https://www.thevenuemk.com/event/handels-messiah/>.

Until next time,

**Sarah Dyer, Alto Section, MK Chorale**

## Happening in your village.....

### Whaddon Jubilee Hall

**The Jubilee Hall – Whaddon's Village Hall – bringing back the fun!**

2021 AGM, committee elected as follows:

- Chairperson: *Graham Hain*
- Treasurer: *Pierre Hibble*
- Secretary/Bookings Clerk: *Marianna Beckwith*
- Caretaker: *Frederick Hayward*
- Other Committee members: *Hazel Hedges, Sharon Bessell, Deb Spinks, Ralph Spinks, Trevor Bennett, Louise Collin, Anne Tolfree*



Please contact us through the Jubilee Hall Facebook page or by e-mailing:

[whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com)

## Village Hall Events Calendar:

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas Craft Fair

Come and enjoy Whaddon's Christmas Craft Fair.

Browse the local craft stalls, get Christmas present ideas from local craft stalls and see your friends and neighbours for cakes and a cuppa!

Event runs from 2pm until 4pm.



### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas tree lighting-up ceremony followed by a festive village social evening.

6pm - Tree lighting up with carols around the tree. Mulled wine and mince pies available to purchase to get you in the Christmas mood while you sing along with The Chase Choir. Followed by a social event for all the family in the hall.

Licensed bar and music. Under 18's welcome for the earlier part of the evening. Hall doors and bar open at 6.30pm until 11pm.

Please come along and bring your friends too. For those new to the village, it is a great opportunity to meet the

many lovely people living in our wonderfully inclusive and friendly community. And you'll be helping to raise funds whilst having fun and catching up with friends and neighbours.

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 : Quiz Night

Doors/bar open 7pm. Quiz starts 8pm.



After an extremely successful quiz night in October with "Les Quizerables" taking the village egghead crown in a very close contest, we are now holding another quiz so that the rest of you can fight back and steal the "Brains of the village" title!

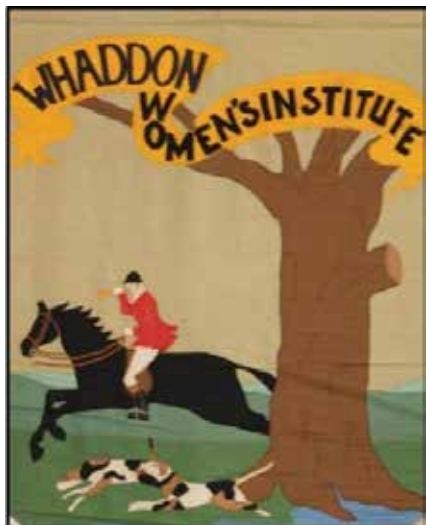


Teams of up to 6 people. £3 per person entry fee. There are limited tables so book yours early to avoid disappointment.

Please e-mail [Sharon.Bessell@btinternet.com](mailto:Sharon.Bessell@btinternet.com) to book your team.

## The Jubilee Hall Committee





## Whaddon Women's Institute

Now that the autumn colours are here, it seems that our sunflower competition was a long time ago. Sue White won our competition and managed to grow an 8'4" sunflower. Sue was awarded with a certificate and a sunflower plate to keep until this time next year when it will be passed on to the next winner. Or will it??? Sue will be hard to beat!!

In August we had the chance to learn how to improve our computer skills with the WI's very own Digital Team Leader and Chair of the Buckinghamshire Federation, Joycelyn Cull, when we met for the first time in the Jubilee Hall. Joycelyn patiently answered our queries and covered many questions that we submitted before the meeting. We all came away with more confidence and new ideas to try out at home.

In September, we had the pleasure of seeing some remarkable photos and hearing about the incredible history of South West Turkey. We were particularly amazed by photographs of two nuthatches trying to defend their young in the nest from a large snake. The snake did eventually give up, but that was only because a snake-eating eagle was hovering nearby!

In October, we were lucky to learn how to make gift boxes with Mary-Jane, one of our members and we now have plenty of time to perfect this before Christmas gift time.

It was our Annual meeting in November when our committee stands down and a new one is appointed. We were delighted that Mala was re-elected President by a show of hands and I remain as secretary. Our little WI is safe for another year. During the meeting, we asked our members how long they had been members of the WI and would you believe that 1 member had joined over 50 years ago and another 2 members joined over 40 years ago. I think that means that they like it!!

At our December Christmas meeting, we will be learning glass painting under the guidance of Sue, one of our members. We are going to have a Christmas party as well with members bringing a variety of food for us to enjoy. There will be a secret Santa too and a quiz if there's time. Should be a lot of fun!!!

Next year's programme is taking shape and we hope to enjoy some of the things that we had to miss during the pandemic. Amongst other things we are looking forward to Bollywood dancing (that should burn off the Christmas pudding), some croquet, learning some intricate card making skills, having a visit from Hearing Dogs, an outing or two and of course the summer garden party – come rain or shine!!

We are a small, friendly group and we meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any more information, or better still, why not pop along to see what we do?

**Jill Aitken (Secretary) 01908 502781**



## Whaddon Book Club

We continue to choose a wide variety of books, fiction and non-fiction. We have decided to choose a Classic every quarter, with agreement of the title 3 months in advance giving us more time to complete the task, and a task it was to read Anthony Trollope, *The Way We Live Now*. A brilliant novel which was his last and probably longest work. Many of the themes and dilemmas affecting Victorian society are replicated today.

Our other books were not so memorable. The Mysterious Affair at Styles: Agatha Christie's first Poirot novel and which was not immediately accepted by a publisher. The Bell Jar, by Sylvia Plath, is a beautifully crafted novel which leads the reader to discover her poetry. Each of our 3 Authors' lives have been as interesting as their written work and provoked a great deal of discussion.

We are currently reading *Queen of the Tambourine*, a novel by Jane Gardam. chosen from the Bletchley Library reading list. Discussion in the afternoon of the last Tuesday of this month will reveal members' opinions of her writing. We will then read something short for the December meeting and return to a classic in January.

New members are always welcome; a liking for cake is especially helpful! For further information please contact Jane Porter: Jane Porter [jane.porter@live.co.uk](mailto:jane.porter@live.co.uk)



**The Chase Choir has a new Musical Director!** We bid a sad farewell to Karen Logan, who set up our choir almost 10 years ago, as she left Whaddon for pastures new, and we certainly all wondered how we were going to replace her. Karen always said that she knew there was someone out there who would be willing to step up to the conductor's podium, and she was right! Since September, we have been working with the awesome Craig McLeish (Google him, he's actually quite well known!) and have already benefited hugely from his expertise and talent.

Christmas is usually a busy time for us as a choir, and this year, with an eye to Covid safety, we've taken the decision to pare down our performances a little. On 4th December, you may see some of us participating in the carol singing for the inaugural switch-on of the Christmas tree lights at the village hall. We're also delighted to be joining the congregation at St Mary's Church, Whaddon for the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service on 19th December and we will also be cheering up the weary commuters at MK Central train station on 17th December, as they disembark, and collecting for our charities: Keech Hospice Care and MKUH Cancer Centre, which were voted in as our charities, just as the pandemic hit. We haven't forgotten them and will be raising money for them during the next 12 months.

As ever, we'd be delighted to welcome new members to the choir (no audition necessary). Come and join in on a session to see how you like it, for just £5.

To find out more, contact Marianna on 01908 504194.



Love foraging? Turn your wild blackberries into a homemade cordial with our autumnal blackberry fizz cocktail recipe - just add bubbles...

## Ingredients

---

1kg blackberries, washed, a sharp type is best

---

200g caster sugar

---

juice of 1 lemon

---

chilled Prosecco, to serve

---

1. Tip the blackberries into a large saucepan with 1 litre of water.
2. Bring to the boil, then reduce to a simmer and cook gently for 10-15 minutes, until the berries start to break down.
3. Line a fine sieve with muslin or kitchen paper and set it over a large bowl.
4. Strain the juice, holding the blackberries back at first. Once most of the juice has filtered through, tip the blackberries into the lined sieve and let the rest of the juice drip through slowly (don't press the berries, as this will make the cordial cloudy). Leave for at least 1 hour, or simply leave to strain overnight in the fridge.
5. Pour the strained juice back into the pan (discard the blackberries), and add the sugar and lemon juice. Heat, stirring, until the sugar has completely dissolved. Bring to the boil, then remove from the heat and leave to cool.
6. To serve, pour 2 tablespoons of blackberry cordial into a coupe glass or flute and top up with Prosecco.

## Information for our village....

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December dates:

17<sup>th</sup> – Xmas Quiz

Open Times December:

21<sup>st</sup> – 4pm-10pm

22<sup>nd</sup> – 3pm-10pm

23<sup>rd</sup> 3pm – 11pm

24<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 12:30am

New Year's Eve – 1pm – 1am

**The Lowndes Arms**






## Leave those leaves!



It's really tempting to be tidy and remove all the fallen autumn leaves, but you'll be robbing a hedgehog of a cosy nest. Hedgehogs prefer to use dry, medium sized deciduous leaves for their nests. Oak, hazel and beech are great choices as well as leaves from fruit trees like apple and cherry! Rake the leaves into piles and try to keep them dry with a shelter, for example by propping a piece of wood against a fence. You can also leave some straw near potential nest sites or houses to help out!

## Bin Days

Waste Bin:	Recycling Bin:	Food Waste Bin:
		
	Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans and tins	Non-recyclable or compostable
	Tuesday 7 December	Tuesday 7 December
Tuesday 14 December		Tuesday 14 December
	Tuesday 21 December	Tuesday 21 December
Thursday 30 December		Thursday 30 December
	Friday 7 January	Friday 7 January
Thursday 13 January		Thursday 13 January
	Wednesday 19 January	Wednesday 19 January
Tuesday 25 January		Tuesday 25 January
	Tuesday 1 February	Tuesday 1 February
Tuesday 8 February		Tuesday 8 February
	Tuesday 15 February	Tuesday 15 February

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

### Wednesday Winslow Market Service Timetable 54a (B1713) 54b (B1715) 54c (B1716)

#### Route 54a & 54b - Swanbourne, Mursley, Lt Horwood

<u>Stops</u>	<u>Outward</u>	<u>Return</u>
Winslow, High Street	n/a	11:30
Winslow, Magpie Way	09.25	11.35
Swanbourne, Village Hall	09.35	11.45
Mursley, War Memorial	09.40	11.50
Whaddon School	09.50	12.00
Nash, opposite the Church	10.00	12.10
Little Horwood	10.05	12.20
Gt Horwood Church	10:10	12:25
Winslow, High Street	10:20	12:20

# Development Updates

## A SELECTION OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### **Parking and Traffic Issues - Buckinghamshire Council (BC) Response.**

Outstanding works in the village include the cleaning and repairs to the three Entry Gateways; clearance of the weeds and collected debris at three road narrowings; refreshing of white lining in High Street and Stock Lane; and the 'proper' repair of dislodged granite setts in High Street. WPC are informed that these works will be undertaken before the end of the current financial year.

### **20 mph debate**

Councillors agreed to support an initiative launched by one specific Buckinghamshire Councillor to try and introduce 20mph zones in all Parishes, and to support this option if it were ever made available to villages. Buckinghamshire Council's official position is that *"while we can support the 'twenty is plenty' campaign to encourage safe driving through villages the speed limit will not be enforced by the police so it is advisory rather than compulsory."* Although WPC expects many parishes will support this initiative, it is unlikely to go much further but it is considered that Whaddon should be seen and heard to support all such opportunities whenever available, to reduce speeds through Whaddon, in the hope that one day this objective may be reached.

### **Salden Chase (SWMK) - 20/01656/CONS**

This very long-running planning application for 1855 new homes close to Newton Longville is expected to gain outline planning approval this month subject to completion of complex legal agreements. A detailed planning application will follow, and once building commences on the completion of 100 dwellings (in about 4-5 years' time) the sum of £22,000 will be paid to BC, to enable improvements to the existing Whaddon Traffic Calming Scheme by implementing variable 20mph speed signs either side of the village school, and to install new kerbing along part of Stock Lane.

### **Shenley Park. Whaddon (SP)**

BC have confirmed that they are committed to consult with WPC and residents on a Shenley Park SPD at the earliest opportunity, but when this will happen is anyone's guess.....but we will keep the village informed! BC have agreed that the development of SP will need to consider matters beyond site and Council boundaries to resolve site-specific issues such as interaction with MK, transport links, highways impacts and road safety, landscape and so forth, and the detail of how this will happen will become clearer as work on the SPD progresses. Councillors discussed whether *"WPC should be proactive and start engaging with residents on issues of concern or do we wait and see what happens with BC?"* Some suggestions have been forthcoming from the article in the last edition of the WQ, mainly on traffic issues etc (including 20mph zone, road humps/raised tables, changed junction priorities, HGV limit, etc), but it is clear that neither WPC nor the village has the expert knowledge on complex traffic issues (unless someone can tell us differently) and so it was agreed that it would be sensible to appoint an independent specialist highway consultant to help with what are bound to be difficult and complex discussions with both Bucks Council and Crest Homes at the appropriate time. Following research, it is hoped that WPC will appoint the person who advised WPC (in consultation with AVDC) on our original Traffic Calming Scheme some 10 years ago, to see how it might be extended and improved now that the village is faced with a minimum of 1150 new homes etc, as well as some 1855 expected at Salden Chase. Highway improvement works along the recently reopened Shenley Road demonstrate that MKC still construct raised tables (not humps) as traffic calming measures to try to reduce traffic speeds to 20mph and deter rat-

running, so perhaps (although Whaddon is in a different local authority area), similar additional calming measures such as these could be considered further, perhaps even to complement the possible new 20mph signs outside the school, or elsewhere in the village, in the fullness of time?

## **NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **21/04140/APP - 25 Stock Lane Whaddon Buckinghamshire MK17 0LS - Householder application for two storey side and part two storey / single storey rear extensions. Part single storey front extension and dropped kerb.**

This is a very recent application, and residents may recall that an application (20/00728/APP) for a proposed additional residential unit, first floor side extension and all associated works, was refused back in Dec 2020. The main differences with the current application are scale, separation from the council bungalows, (allowing glimpsed views of MK beyond), proper parking and access provisions, and a single household application (as opposed to an additional flat dwelling). The application still involves two storey side and part rear extensions (to create four bedrooms and en-suite shower room), and an integral garage, but generally, it is more modest in scale (especially from the main front elevation), better designed and more complementary to the existing house. It was agreed to make no objection, but to suggest minor alterations.

### **21/03922/APP - 2a Vicarage Road, Whaddon, MK17 0LU. - Single storey side extension, Erection of chimney and porch.**

The new extension replaces an existing conservatory, and although twice as wide it is the same depth and backs onto a single storey modern extension at the rear of the Chapel. No Objection was raised.

## **ONGOING PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **21/03014/APP - 7 Vicarage Road. - Single storey side and rear extension, extended dormer and creation of driveway.**

Householder Approval was granted for all elements of this application on Sept. 15th, **despite objections from both local residents and WPC**. Approval was granted because earlier extension consents existed (not commenced) and the relaxation of Permitted Development rules on dormer windows and new driveways made these elements permissible. There is nothing we can do about the extension and dormer window, but the approval of a new driveway and 3 car parking spaces onto Vicarage Road, resulted in a local petition being created by residents, which was forwarded to BC by WPC, primarily to highlight safety and parking concerns along Vicarage Road. It appears that consent may still be needed from Buckinghamshire Highways, although no highway conditions were attached to the approval notice. WPC are making further inquiries of both BC planning and highway departments, but it is unlikely that anything further can be done.

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

### **21/01219/APP - BEACHAMPTON - Grove Farm Stratford Road Whaddon Buckinghamshire MK17 0NF - Two storey rear extension.**

**Please Note:** - The original house at Grove Farm has recently been demolished (it was not listed). New foundations can be viewed within the fenced-off site. BC have made contact with the agent and received photos confirming works are underway to build a new dwelling. They do not have planning permission for this development; therefore, the

planning officer has referred this to the Council's Planning Enforcement team who will proceed to act. The existing applications will be withdrawn, as the applications for a two-storey rear extension or a futuristic modern new home can no longer be assessed.

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

Decision is still awaited.

**18/01333/APP - Field, Stratford Road (opp. Whaddon Hall entrance).**

This application was refused on highway grounds back in June 2020.

WPC understands that the enforcement case that relates to the planning application 17/00359/CON3, is still ongoing.

**21/01059/ACL - Land off Stratford Road, Whaddon. Application for a lawful Development Certificate for an existing Equestrian/Paddock land retention of re-built stable building** See - 18/01333/APP above, which relates.

Decision still awaited, and nothing has been added to the council's planning website since April 2021. WPC has not commented on the application itself but has maintained its objection, and has asked BC for clarification on what action, if any, will be taken to monitor the dog-training use that is allowed by permitted development for 28 days each year (i.e. parking, noise, operation hours).

**21/01445/APP - Turrets 26 High Street, Whaddon. - Garage conversion to create home gym**

A decision has still not been posted on the BC planning website, but as WPC, Highways and listed building Dept raised no objections, it is likely that this application will be approved in due course.

**21/01444/ALB - Turrets, 26 High Street, Whaddon. - Insertion of lantern roof light into existing flat roof and removal of internal wall.**

No decision has been posted on the BC planning website as yet. WPC raised no objections, but Heritage Dept has requested additional drawings to ensure that the roof lantern is not visible above the parapet wall.

**21/01368/APP - 2 Chase Farm Barns, Whaddon Road, Whaddon. - Erection of a single storey oak framed rear extension.**

No Decision yet. WPC raised No Objection.

**21/01334/APP - 8 Vicarage Road, Whaddon. - Single storey rear extension.**

Householder application **APPROVED** on 18 Sept. with standard time, materials and parking conditions attached.

**21/02510/APP - 4 Briary View Whaddon, MK17 0LP. - Two storey side and single storey rear extensions.**

Householder application **APPROVED** on 15 Sept with standard time, materials and parking conditions attached.

**20/03539/APP - SGN Gas Depot, Bletchley Road, Newton Longville.**

Although approaching 1500 objections were received this application is likely to be approved shortly, but with many conditions mainly on safety and highway grounds.

**APPEAL - APP/PO 430/W/21/3269545. - Park Hill Farm, A421 (Opp Horwood turn) Recontouring of Agricultural Land using inert Clays and Soils.**

Appeal **Allowed**.



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**Whaddon Quarterly**  
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