

A large, ornate stone cross stands in the center of a cemetery. The cross is intricately carved with Celtic knotwork and a central circular medallion. It sits on a multi-tiered stone base. In the background, a stone building with a gabled roof and a window is visible. The ground is dry and grassy, and the sky is clear.

# WHADDON QUARTERLY

November 2018

We WILL remember them

## For comments, queries and articles

Please contact the Editor, John Mortimer, on  
01908 866988 or johnmortimermsc@gmail.com

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Send your advertisement to the Editor as above

## Advertising Rates and Publication Policy – page 49

### Whaddon Jubilee Hall

For bookings: please contact Maria Cole [mariacole1968@sky.com](mailto:mariacole1968@sky.com)

## Final deadlines for forthcoming issues:

19<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

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**Cover: War Memorial, St Mary's churchyard, Whaddon. Photograph by John Mortimer.**

# SNIPPETS

- **SHEEP DIPPING** usually involves the task of erecting temporary pens in fields where sheep graze but, on 21<sup>st</sup> August, a mobile sheep dipping unit did the job in a field down Kennel Lane (**right**).



- **MOST** of the remaining trees felled during coppicing earlier were removed from Kennel Lane in the last week of September.

- **MK COUNCIL**, it appears, has noticed a change in communal living. As a result, MK Council has plans to encourage retirees into city apartments to free up four-bedroom homes for families. Could this idea spread wider?



- **AN ELEMENT** of 'road rage' took place at around 07.40 on 9<sup>th</sup> October when cars and vans travelling from the A421 along Stock Lane encountered the Anglian Water-erected road closure which prevented onward travel along High Street. The abundance of traffic in a confined area caused temporary mayhem as drivers sought alternative routes. The road closure was required in order to reconnect mains to 2a and 2b High Street. The road opened on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October, following work by the 'reinstatement team', whereupon normal traffic resumed. An earlier traffic restriction, planned for 29<sup>th</sup> August 'under traffic lights', failed to take place.

- **TAKE NOTE.** The cost of Royal Mail postage stamps could rise next year in a bid to bolster the company's finances. Stamp prices last rose by 2p in March of this year, taking the cost of a first class stamp to 67p and that of a second class stamp to 58p. Royal Mail was privatized in 2013. Don't forget the Post Office is open on Tuesdays from **2.00 to 4.00 pm**.

- **DISCARDED** waste takes many forms, including bathroom sanitary ware flytipped in gateways and ditches as lazy contractors fail to use correct recycling facilities. Equally objectionable are burnt-out cars and motorcycles, the latter in a field adjacent to Swans Way footpath to Oxley Park.



- **WHY** are wheelie bins being emptied earlier than previously? Good question. According to a crew serving Whaddon, the answer lies with 'new builds'. It seems the increased number of new houses has affected the workload of AVDC recycling crews to such an extent the council brought in a team of consultants to address the issue. Crews operating the recycling and waste disposal rosters now circulate much earlier on Tuesdays, typically around 09.15 instead of around 13.15. Even so, AVDC does advise householders to place wheeliebins out by **06.30**. "At first, when the new rosta was introduced, we had householders rushing after us with their wheeliebins," one driver told *Whaddon Quarterly*.

- **NEW TO THIS ISSUE.** A diary of events in neighbouring Nash village appears on **p. 47**. This is part of an initiative whereby details of events taking place in the two villages are exchanged. A full list of Whaddon's events has been sent for inclusion in the Nash Newsletter. Likewise, diary dates for events in Nash and occurring in November, December and January 2019 are included in this issue. Enjoy. ■



## **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**October 2018**

I HAVE lived in Whaddon for more than half my life, and, during all that time, one particular thing has remained constant: a sense of uncertainty as to our longer-term destiny.

I came to the village before Milton Keynes had been designated, but I remember being told that you need to be aware that there is the concept of a new North Bucks town, and that it might be right on top of Whaddon.

As we know, it wasn't quite, but we have always had to fight to retain our independence.

Some years ago, we successfully demonstrated that the ridge between us and Milton Keynes was a natural planning boundary. Now, we are hoping that the final version of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) does not bring in the area known as Shenley Park, immediately to the east of Whaddon.

At the same time, the emergence of the Oxford to Cambridge corridor as the Government's flagship growth area, not just in road and rail, but in jobs and housing, raises yet more questions which are impossible to answer at this stage.

It is easy to say that Whaddon will be a very different place in 50 years' time to the present day, but one might be very wrong, because, in my humble opinion, it is very much like it was 50 years ago: an independent village with a fantastic community spirit, and a host of activities.

Your Parish Council will continue to fight to keep it that way.

*Billy Stanier*

October 2018

**Nash Community Events – November 2018 to January 2019....p.47**

## FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

THE long hot summer has evaporated – but not without a burst on 10<sup>th</sup> October, when temperatures hit 23.5C in Stock Lane followed by further balmy days. But what is to follow? This has been a year of extremes, with Beast from the East preceding scorching sunshine. Country people think a cold winter could be on the cards. So you have been warned!

October's hot spell coincided with newspaper reports of impending Armageddon. A UN-backed report claims halting climate change, which it regards as essential, will cost the world £1.8 trillion *a year* for two decades. That is nearly £250 yearly for each man, woman and child. New extremes of weather could increase pressure to kick-start some more initiatives.

Over the last 12 issues, *Whaddon Quarterly* has evolved (alongside its full-colour emailed stable mate) while retaining its basic format. The contents could be viewed as a kind of smorgasbord: offerings of Whaddon life, Whaddon events and Whaddon people past and present. The guiding principles have been the desire for excellence, and the importance of informing and entertaining using details not hitherto brought together in this format.

The New Testament declares, of the Holy Spirit, that 'no one knows from whence the wind blows'. And no one knows either how, why, or from where, inspiration and ideas originate; they can emerge in various forms, at different hours of day and night, and from unlikely sources, chance meetings and events.

And so it is with conjuring up the *Quarterly*. Even so, purists may view this issue as a lop-sided smorgasbord with much of the content skewed towards a focus on WW1. If an excuse be needed, it is the unique centenary of 11<sup>th</sup> November; a reminder of huge penalties paid, in the main by young, innocent men, some not many years out of short trousers, yet plucked from their comfort zone to fight their way across a foreign no-man's land.

This year, Whaddon has experienced its share of pain, grief and deep sorrow. But the war memorial in St Mary's churchyard points to bygone losses. By sheer coincidence, three Whaddon men participated in WW1. Two were related; the third was not. But all shared a common surname. One died and two lived; to learn more turn to **p. 28**.

Not only did agricultural workers embark on that intrepid journey across the Channel, Whaddon's 'boy in blue' also played his part as a Coldstream Guard. Not many villages then could boast of having a guardsman as their 'copper'. Local ne'er-do-wells didn't think much to it though. Read more about PC188 Gayler on **p. 39**.

Those who pick up *Metro* on their daily travels possibly noticed a double-page 'advertorial' on 2<sup>nd</sup> October devoted to Milton Keynes. The writer sees MK as 'finally reaching its potential'; a city conceived when a 'young Norman Foster helped design what was envisaged as urban utopia based on a Manhattan-style grid system'. In his keenness to enthrall, the writer omitted to highlight those areas of MK where 21<sup>st</sup> century planners have discarded the 'utopia' plans, creating instead a dense urban jungle.

But talk of utopia throws into focus an urban transport system MK could well have adopted: the tram. Don't laugh; fast trams could easily link Stony Stratford, Cranfield and Buckingham, even Whaddon, with the Hub, helping cut traffic congestion, fumes and CO<sub>2</sub>. Roger Porter has just seen a tram system that would fit MK like a glove. Read his observations on **p. 58**. But, hey! Talking of Whaddon, what's happening in the village? Is there something in the air... or the water? At the last count, 10 houses were for sale with another six sold STC or under offer.

Gussie, surely a lively and approachable vicar, has left Whaddon after six years. She and the Editor have been in conversation; read about this on **p. 26** in another smorgasborg item.

As to Whaddonfield, 3; that will appear next time. Meanwhile, Christmas and New Year seem a long way in the distance. But time moves so quickly these days. *Whaddon Quarterly* wishes readers a Happy Christmas and good health in the New Year. ■



# Clerk's Corner

## Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

**Now the days are getting shorter...** Your help to keep an eye on the motley collection of aging street lights around the village is greatly appreciated. The Parish Council is aware that there are dark areas and poorly-maintained pavements in the village. Please be assured we have looked at ways to improve the lighting in dark spots and we continue to press for repairs and improvements to our pavements. These are not simple tasks; money is extremely tight and red tape ensnares us at every turn.

Regarding street lights, the eco-trend is to switch to LEDs, reduce their brightness and often to switch them off completely. The Parish Council is looking at switching to LEDs shortly. The trend is very much 'less is more'.

We will have to accept that going forward we need to improvise and be resilient; these issues are not going to go away any time soon. To stay safe on dark nights you might consider taking a torch.

To report a faulty street light please contact the Parish Clerk on [parishclerk@whaddonbuckspsc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@whaddonbuckspsc.org.uk) or leave a message on 01908 507970. Please ensure you tell us what the problem is, and advise the location and the reference numbers on the pole, and send a photo to identify the correct light.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

**REMEMBER. NO DOGS ALLOWED!** Please note that our canine friends are ***not permitted*** on the Rec. This because dogs' faeces can contain bacteria and parasites that harm humans, especially children. And there is the dirt, disgusting smells and risk of your dog picking up a disease from less healthy canines. So please leave your fur babies at home.

### **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 this one.

**Date of Next Parish Council Meeting.** The next meeting of Whaddon Parish Council takes place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. All Welcome!

### **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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thank you so much

WE wish to thank everyone for their support at the coffee mornings over the last five or six years. During this time, with your help, we have raised over £4,000 for St Mary's Church.

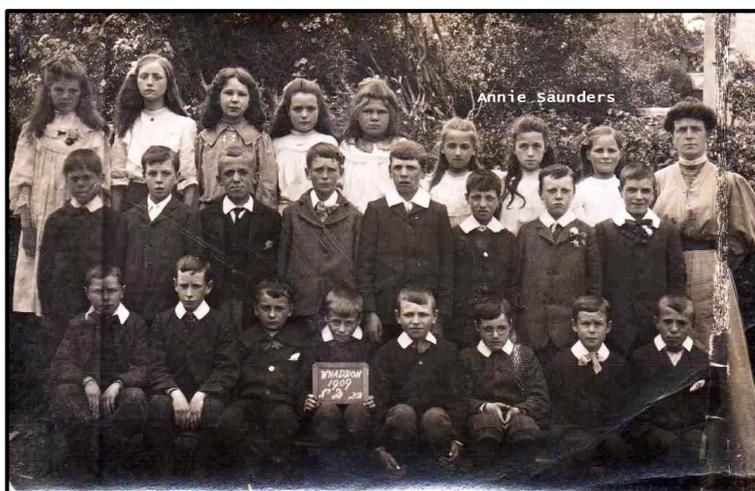
However we have, for the foreseeable future, decided to take break. November will be our last coffee morning. We wish you all the very best for future and thank you for your support and friendship. ■

*Beryl and Hazel*

### Memories from the past

I thought *Whaddon Quarterly* readers might be interested to know my maternal great grandfather, Joseph Saunders, born in 1863, a groom at Whaddon Hunt stables, married Ann Read, a domestic laundry-woman (born 1859). Their five children were: Emily Jane, born 1890; George, born 1891; Elizabeth, 1894; Joseph 1896, and Annie Henrietta (my maternal grandmother) born 1898.

Emily worked with her mum as a domestic laundry woman working from home. George became a butcher, but served and died in WW1. Elizabeth became a domestic servant and Joseph junior, a farm labourer who also served in WW1, married Emma Justice from Aylesbury and they lived together in Whaddon until Joe passed away in 1971.



Annie, my grandmother (third from right back row in the attached school photograph - **left**) went into service at Rugby School, Warwickshire. She married George Hatton (b.1896) from Bethnal Green, although neither I nor my uncle Bill know how nan and grandad met.

In those days, Bill, who was evacuated to Whaddon during WW2,

recalled that "children were to be seen and not heard, so you didn't ask questions." Nan sadly passed away in 1975.

My mum's sister Norah, now 93 years old and living in Harold Hill, also spent some time at Whaddon and as a young girl and worked with my mum at York House School, Stony Stratford. ■

*Graham Bushell*

By email



# Harvest Supper brings forth record yield

**What are the top three ingredients for the best Harvest Supper? Read on...**

**T**HE much-loved Gussie's last Harvest Supper in Whaddon was memorable for many reasons. She can't be called a "retiring" vicar, surely? "Retiring" hardly describes Gussie's enthusiasm; added to which, following the enormous cheer that greeted her as she arrived and before the evening commenced, she encouraged everyone to make the most of Fun, Fellowship and Food.

And so it began. Fun, Fellowship and Food were very much on the agenda in our packed hall, as the volume rose, and everyone tucked into some delicious food.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a certain Mr Pete Bush approach the stage, which was laden with produce. In his hand he held a bottle of red wine and two glasses. This could only mean one thing: the auction was about to begin.

Much as Whaddon loves a harvest auction, this unique village loves its outgoing (still can't use that word "retiring") vicar even more.

And this was surely demonstrated in the very enthusiastic and touching presentation made to Gussie: a (as we discovered) substantial cheque, a pretty climbing rose, fittingly called "The Pilgrim" and a book, where villagers and friends had written their memories and thoughts about their very own Vicar of Dibley.

Gussie was clearly overwhelmed and touched, and as the presentation came to an end, the thought occurred: how to follow that?

Have no fear. Whaddon's very own answer to (insert comedy duos here) Carter and Bush (Bush and Carter?) took the reins for the rest of the evening.

Notable themes for the auction of produce this year: red potatoes, unusual vegetables (in shape and origin), a giant peanut (no, Pete, that's a butternut squash!) and Hazel Dudley's ubiquitous lemon curd, which always seemed to increase the value of any lot hugely when

**Right. Mark Carter: They don't come bigger than this one.**



added in.

As always, the dynamic duo raised laughs and a shedload of money too as they persuaded, cajoled and downright threatened the audience into upping their bids.

A mark of how effective they were, showed as husbands and wives bid against each other on several occasions. A record £51 was bid for a coffee and walnut cake, and the last battle of the evening, which shall now be known as Marrow Wars, saw Peter Hedges and Mark Carter (**left**) the reluctant owners of a beast of a vegetable for the princely sum of £240!

No-one knows who had to take that monster home, but look out for compostable fly-tipping, or perhaps a new soup kitchen springing up where you least expect it!

At the end of the evening, an amazing £1,080 was raised overall, with the money being split between two charities: the Leonard Cheshire Rehabilitation Centre in Bethlehem, and the Jeel al-Amal boys' home in Palestine.

A group from Buckingham, having visited both these centres recently, were so moved by the work there that the PCC decided to support them with the evening's fundraising efforts.

Fun, Fellowship and Food were there in abundance, in no small part due to the efforts of all the organisers and helpers, who were tireless in their hard work.

And as Gussie stood at the door to say goodbye to everyone as we left, there was also a huge feeling of gratitude, that we are part of such an amazing community here. Whaddon rocks – once again! ■

Words and photographs: *Marianna Beckwith*.

## Meeting: 'Yes' for Teas on Tuesday

**A meeting on 4<sup>th</sup>  
September to organise  
the new Teas on  
Tuesday voted  
overwhelmingly to  
retain this event.**



THE meeting was called as the WI no longer wished to be responsible for Teas on Tuesday. From now on it will be run by the village.

Hazel Hedges kindly chaired the meeting at which 21 people attended with two apologies. Paula, the former post mistress, attended and was very helpful.

The first question put to those attending attendees was: Do we wish ToT to continue? To which the answer was 'Yes'.

Having received a resounding 'yes', the matter of a treasurer was raised. Here the silence was deafening. Barry Dudley kindly offered his services to audit the accounts, and for the moment Margaret Barrie will collect monies each week.

Expenses will be paid in cash until a volunteer treasurer steps forward. However, following the meeting, someone has volunteered, so he and Margaret will work together.

Hazel offered to approach the TSB, and once there is an account, all deposits will be paid through the Post Office. This will help Mr Patel and will be easier than having to visit a bank. Hazel asked what form the ToT meetings should take. Were cakes needed? Paula

pointed out that of the seven villages she visited, Whaddon was the only one making cakes. The other six villages simply served biscuits. Due to the difficulty of finding volunteers to bake cakes it was agreed to try this arrangement. Comments and suggestions on this subject are of course most welcome.

The subject of profits was then discussed. One person suggested that profits should be given to Willen Hospice. When it is known the magnitude of the profits, if any, then a decision will be taken by ALL members. That is, everyone interested in ToT.

Eight people, including Sue and Margaret, offered to help, if only on an occasional basis. We will therefore need to organise a rota system.

Sue and Margaret agreed to organise this. It is worth saying that volunteering is not too onerous. Just turn up between 1.30 and 1.45 to lay out the crockery, etc, and make the tea.

Enjoy the conversation round the table and please help clear away. Keiren and Frederick have offered to clear the tables and chairs. It would help if someone helps with washing up.

So please come and help as often or as little as you wish. The more people involved, the more ideas we will have to make further improvements to ToT.

Keiren is our Press and Publicity Officer. Please contact Margaret Barrie on 01908 502564. Or email to [mbarrie@btinternet.com](mailto:mbarrie@btinternet.com)

Very many thanks. ■

*Margaret Barrie.*

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## A good night enjoyed by all

**In early September, the Jubilee Hall overflowed with an expectant audience, as they awaited an evening's musical entertainment. Alex Aitken explains.**

KAREN AND I both firmly believe that any opportunity for young musicians to perform in a safe environment can only be a positive experience.

So, on 5<sup>th</sup> September, various of our piano and singing students serenaded our audience which consisted not only of their family and friends, but also many from the village who, enticed by the words 'free entry' and 'bar', appeared early to guarantee their place.

Our young students (aged 7-17) performed amazingly. The items ranged from impassioned renditions of songs from musicals, to outings of pieces they had performed in their recent music performance exams, as well as pieces they had learnt especially for the evening. For just over an hour they provided a mature and heart-warming display of talent.

Karen and I are hugely grateful for the support of our students' families, who trust us in the musical edification of their sons and daughters.

### **England through the seasons**

The first half was a huge success, with performance nerves quickly dispelled, turning into smiles as the rapturous applause inevitably followed each rendition.

Congratulations to all who performed; and also to Shirley for her expert and supposedly unseen-in-full-view-of-the-audience hornpipe dance at the bar that accompanied the final number. We hope to put on a similar concert again next year.

For the second half, Karen and I gave a recital with a programme entitled 'England Through the Seasons'. This featuring some of the most beautiful music by English composers; inspired by landscape and countryside. The programme was devised for a recital in London, which we gave the following day at Apothecaries' Hall (the oldest livery building in London, with parts predating the Great Fire in 1666).

Just as our students had put themselves out of their comfort zone to complete the first half, Karen and I duly performed to show that we too are willing to do the same.

Recitals can be tricky things; they need immense planning, tweaking, and often an outing or two before settling into something special, so we were both enormously grateful

for an audience that allowed us to see how the recital would work. And luckily, we think it did!

A huge thanks to all who helped make the evening run smoothly. We raised over £400 for the village hall!

*Alex Aitken and Karen Logan*

## 'Nothing remarkable discovered'

**Work is progressing to establish the archeological footprint of planning location WHA001 adjacent to the Shenley Road. John Mortimer investigates.**

A SOURCE close to the scene of the action in the large field adjoining the Shenley Road (which in planning terms, together with an adjoining field, comprises AVDC planning project WHA001) claims that, so far, 'nothing remarkable' has been found from an archeology standpoint at the site.

The archeological assessment is in the hands of Border Archeology (BA) and by 16<sup>th</sup> August (**below**, digger ready for more action) 42 evaluation trenches had been dug – not by hand but by mechanical digger, pictured. By 1<sup>st</sup> October, that number had reached 120, each trench being 30cm deep, although some have been dug deeper, reaching water level.

It is expected the work will continue until the end of November or early December. By then, a grand total of some 300 trenches is expected to be completed by the end of the 'dig'. This total includes both fields.

The aim of the dig is to determine the characteristics of the site on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The site area stretches almost to the A421, at one time a Roman road to Fenny Stratford. Operatives have noted a 'very large oak tree' in the first site area of working. One added, "We have been very careful not to damage that."

It is understood that both Roman and mediaeval remains have been found. Meanwhile, care has been taken with the use of special membrane material, not to damage ground structure and drainage.

An email on 16<sup>th</sup> August seeking details of the work failed to secure the courtesy of a reply. Likewise, on 1<sup>st</sup> October a further enquiry, in the form of a telephone call directed to the company's local operation at Common Farm, Calverton Road, Milton Keynes, also failed to secure a positive result by the time of going to press.

BA claims to be a 'leading Consultancy and Contractor supplying Archaeological and Built Heritage Services across the UK'.

Established in 1997, BA has 'accrued a wealth of experience delivering viable solutions to Archaeological and Built Heritage issues intrinsic to the planning process.'

The company adds that it has 'a track record of thousands of kilometres of pipeline and a million square metres of development attest to an enviable portfolio of completed Infrastructure, Commercial and Housing projects.'



BA points to its 'pre-planning advice through to the discharge of planning conditions. It says it 'offers a complete range of heritage services to unearth the past and secure future development.'

BA concludes 'A purely heritage focus drives our expertise.'

Is it possible the cloak of beaurocratic secrecy thrown over the work in Shenley Road betrays a certain sensitivity? For example, is the client confidentiality agreement between AVDC and BA shackling the archeology business from making any response?

BA says it has a 'large team' of Archaeological Consultants who have established 'long-term relationships with commercial developers, utilities and public bodies, who rely on us for our forward thinking pragmatic approach.' ■



## Remembering two young lives lost

**Here, Julia Lemangan recalls the sacrifice made in the Great War by great-uncle William Henry Cox – or 'Billy', as he was known to his family; and the man who killed him.**

**BILLY (left)** was born in Derby in 1896, the youngest child of my great-grandparents, George and Georgina Cox. He had five older siblings and was very much the baby of the family.

At the age of 14 he became an apprentice at the Midland Railway works in Derby and looked set for a promising career as a mechanical engineer.

However, fate took a different turn for him in 1914 with the outbreak of war and, as an engineer, he must have been excited at the opportunity to sign up to join the fledgling Royal Flying Corps. He left his home and family in Derby for Gosport, where, after training, he was assigned to 13 Squadron.

Sadly, Billy's role as an Air Mechanic 1<sup>st</sup> Class was short-lived. On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 1915, he was acting as an observer for his Australian pilot, Lt Arthur Browne, on a photographic patrol over enemy lines over Bellenglise, when they were shot down near Bapaume.

### **Lie side-by-side**

Both men were killed, although records say that Billy "put up a spirited fight before his pilot was hit and the plane dived towards the ground, obviously out of control." He was just 19 years old.

Tragically, a few weeks later, Billy's mother received a parcel containing Billy's bloodstained and bullet-riddled uniform. She never recovered from this terrible blow.

The two comrades now lie side-by-side in Achiet-le-Grand cemetery.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their deaths), my sister and I made a pilgrimage to France to honour their memory and were happy to find that their graves are still lovingly tended by the British War Graves Commission.

On researching this article, I found that Billy's plane was actually shot down by a famous WW1 flying ace, Lt Gustav Leffers: it was his first 'kill'. Leffers was only a few months older than Billy; he himself was killed the following year, aged just 21. What a terrible waste of two young lives. ■

**A Nationwide Day of Commemorative Events  
Marking the Centenary of the End of the First World War**



**6.20pm Sunday 11th November 2018**  
Coddimoor Farm, Coddimoor Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LR

**6.50pm Reading by Sir Beville Stanier**

**6.55pm Last Post by Jessica Haig**

**7pm Lighting of the Beacon of Light**

**Free Entry**

**Paid Bar with Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks  
Hot Soup and Sausage Rolls**

**Donations to Army, Navy and RAF Charities**

**Entertainment Provided by Whaddon Chase Choir**

**A WPC Event Kindly Organised and Hosted by Chris and Helen Hickman**



# St. Mary's Church Whaddon

**November 2018**

## REGULAR SERVICES

1st Sunday	10.30 am	Family worship
2nd Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Modern language)
3rd Sunday	10 for 10 30 am	Sunday Special
4th Sunday	8.30 am	Said Holy Communion

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday	2.00 pm	Women's Institute in Jubilee Hall
3rd Wednesday	7.30 pm	Whaddon NightOwlers W I

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday	Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	2-4pm	Annual Christmas Fayre in Jubilee Hall
Sunday	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5.30 pm	Christingle Service with Whaddon School pupils
Sunday	Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols with Chase Choir
Thurs	Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Crib Service. All families & preschool chn. welcome
Sunday	Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8:30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00pm	Candlelit Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Wednesday	Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Christmas Day Birthday Party for Jesus

## HARVEST WEEKEND



IN October, our Open Day was combined with our Harvest Festival weekend. The archives were on display as usual (**left**) and the morning coffee, lunches and cream teas were very popular. Despite the rain, attendance was steady and £600 was raised for the Repair Fund.

The Harvest Festival service was led by Rev'd Gussie. The congregation included a large number of scarecrows and Chris Hickman with his tractor. The Chase Choir led the singing. The church had been beautifully decorated with flowers and produce which were then auctioned after the

Harvest Supper the following evening.

This year was Gussie's last Harvest Supper, because she is retiring and her last service will be in Buckingham church on October 28<sup>th</sup>. She was presented with a rose bush, a yellow flowered climber aptly named "The Pilgrim" and a cheque for £650, which had been given by the villagers. They had also written their personal thoughts and comments on Gussie's ministry in Whaddon into a little book for her to keep. The outpouring of love for her and grateful appreciation of her work among us is evident on every page.

The auction was as enjoyable as ever. The auctioneers, Mark Carter and Pete Bush, did an excellent and amusing job and the bidding was fast and furious. The marrow raised £240

towards the amazing total of £1,080. The proceeds are always donated to charity. This year, they go to the Bethlehem Rehabilitation Hospital and the Jeel al-Amal Boys Home, both having been visited by villagers during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Buckingham church.

Our thanks to all of you who faithfully and generously support our events and especially to those who help to organise them, prepare the food and clear up afterwards, ably led by Hazel Dudley. Also to Barry, our very efficient treasurer, who manages the church finances so brilliantly.

The Christmas Fayre is at 2pm on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Tea and cakes will be on offer and also mulled wine. Come along and enjoy the convivial atmosphere of an afternoon with friends and neighbours. There will be a raffle, lots of stalls and a chance for children to meet Father Christmas. Thanks go to Jo Mortimer-Bush and Hazel Dudley for the organisation and to all who give raffle prizes or their time to help on a stall.

The Coffee Shop on November 3<sup>rd</sup> with coffee and cakes served from 10.00am will be the last one hosted and organised by Hazel Dudley and Beryl Evans, who are both retiring for a well-earned rest. During the years since they took it over, they have provided scrumptious home-made cakes and sausage rolls to go with your cup of coffee or tea. They have raised a lot of money with your support (see Beryl's piece on **p. 7**). We thank them for giving their time and talents every month over the years. It is hoped to restart it next February in the chapel schoolroom. As usual, we look forward to seeing you there.

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 services, such as the Nine Lessons and Carols or the Christmas Eve service, I do urge you to come and you can be sure of a warm welcome. The church is beautifully decorated and the candlelight creates a moving and intimate atmosphere. On Christmas morning at 10.00am, there is a birthday party for Jesus around the Christmas tree at the back of the church. This is especially for the children, but is enjoyed by all ages. There is a birthday cake, "Happy Birthday" is sung and there is cake to take home. The service lasts for only 40 minutes and is a wonderful way to start your Christmas Day celebrations.

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

Contact details (in place of Rev Gussie Walsh): email... buckinghamvillages@gmail.com

*Hazel Hedges* (Church Warden)

Tel: 01908 501729 Email: hazel.hedges@gmail.com

### **The Parochial Church Council**

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

# A busy time for the Choir

**This time of year is always a busy one for us. And in case you're thinking that singing Christmas songs is easy, because "you already know the tunes, don't you?" think again!**

SINGING in 4-part harmony takes practice, as any choir member will tell you. And, as we approach our 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, we're getting fussier about our performance. We want to make sure that those years of practice are paying off, and that we sound really good. So, to make that happen, Queen of Picky, aka our much-loved choir leader, Karen, has been cracking the whip since September to get us into shape for two special events. Christmas is important; that goes without saying, but before that, we're very happy to be celebrating the centenary of the end of WW1 with the rest of Whaddon, both at St Mary's and at the lighting of the beacon at Coddimoor Farm.



We were delighted to be involved in Gussie's final Harvest Festival service in October and wish her health and happiness in her retirement. Gussie has always been so supportive of Chase Choir, right from our tentative beginnings, and we can't thank her enough for her encouragement and enthusiasm for what we do.

Singing is so good for you, and more often these days, you'll see that it's recommended as a way to improve your wellbeing. We're always happy to welcome new members, so come and visit us on a Monday in the Jubilee Hall between 7 and 9, and see what goes on.

We're planning to make some "pop-up" appearances in and around Milton Keynes between now and the end of the year, so here's our planned schedule:

**Sunday 11 November at 2.00:** Concert at St Mary's as part of the commemoration of the end of WW1 and beacon lighting at Coddimoor Farm (6.30 approx)

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 12.30:** singing at Waterstones (Middleton Place branch).

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm:** Carols at Marks and Spencer, Central Milton Keynes.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm:** 9 Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Church.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm:** Chase Choir Christmas concert at Jubilee Hall.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 5pm:** Carols at MK Central Station.

We'd be delighted to see familiar faces at any of these events, and do bring your friends along too. For more details about events, or how to join, please contact Karen Logan (01908 501922) or Marianna Beckwith (01908 503194) ■

*Marianna Beckwith*

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## Florrie's coffee morning

MANY thanks to all who came to the August coffee morning held in Hazel and Barry's garden. It really did feel like a special morning; the sun shone and friends old and new came to enjoy time together.

The sum of £470 was raised and Santander kindly will match this amount, so we think we can say the morning was a great success.

Thank you to all who helped and, of course, for your support. ■

*Beryl and Hazel*



# **Centenary Triple Bill for Whaddon Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**11am** - Remembrance Ceremony around War Memorial. Parade of Sea Cadets. Planting of crosses by Whaddon's children to create a 'WWI' cemetery. Last Post and Reveille. Followed by Service in Church.

**Afternoon** - Concert with the Chase Choir joined by the School Choir to celebrate the Centenary of the end of WW1.

**Evening** - Lighting of the Beacon at Coddimoor Farm, one of 1,000 such beacons being the Nation's tribute to all those who served in WW1. BBQ and fireside songs with the choir.

Also being considered is a talk for school children in Key Stages 2 and 3 about WW1, its start and completion and life in the trenches with appropriate slides - if there is enough interest. **Please let either David Spencer ([dhs12@btinternet.com](mailto:dhs12@btinternet.com)) or Denise McClellan ([baird.mcclellan@googlemail.com](mailto:baird.mcclellan@googlemail.com)) know of your interest.** Note that Key Stage 1 children will be have their own school session.



**Fancy your own delicious  
HOME GROWN VEGGIES?  
Allotments Available!  
Contact The Parish Clerk  
for full information  
contact**

**[Parishclerk@whaddonbuckspsc.or.uk](mailto:Parishclerk@whaddonbuckspsc.or.uk)**



**Tel. 07891 887826**

# A Tribute to Tim Joint

1<sup>st</sup> August 1965 – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018

AS many of you know, on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018, we were devastated when Tim died so suddenly and unexpectedly, aged only 52. Whaddon has been an amazing support and I am so thankful for the love we have been shown. Rev'd Gussie Walsh lead a wonderfully moving service in St. Mary's Church for him, for which we are so extremely grateful. It was a great comfort to us that so many people joined us to say goodbye. Tim was buried in a beautiful spot and August 6<sup>th</sup> was one of the most incredible sunsets I have ever seen. As a family, we wrote a tribute to him which Gussie read. I'd like to share it with you here.

*Angie Joint*

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## Our memories of Tim. Our memories of Dad.

**T**im was born in Almondsbury Hospital and grew up in Severn Beach and Thornbury, near Bristol. He went to St Mary's Primary School and Castle School in Thornbury where he particularly loved maths, football and music - but not handwriting!

His brother Chris was born at home when Tim was two. His mum, Val and dad, Roger remember him saying 'What's that in there?' Once he'd worked it out the two of them were always together. They once 'ran away' from home, Chris taking his teddy and Tim his radio! Roger found them in the local market. Tim was always the leader, had an amazing imagination and loved playing in the garden along with the other children in the street.

When Tim and Chris were young, the family were joined by a Springer Spaniel named Judy. Tim had a great relationship with Judy, and his family have grown up with stories of the three of them. He had a wonderful childhood and often recalled camping trips to Ireland, Wales, Brittany and Cornwall.

As a child, Tim was interested in everything. Football, cricket, snooker, chess, sub-aqua, sailing, windsurfing and cars. He got his competitive streak from Nanny Packer!

His love of music started early and he joined Thornbury Band, aged eight, as a percussionist. Chris joined him a few years later playing the baritone. This became the family's busy way of life for a long time, with rehearsals, concerts and competitions.

At 14, he auditioned, and was the youngest member to play for, the Sun Life Stanshawe Brass Band. This was a proud time for his family; seeing him play at the Albert Hall, they stood high above looking down at his tiny figure in a band jacket four sizes too big, playing Blitz, composed by Derek Bourgeois and probably one of the most difficult pieces for a percussionist. His nickname by the older band members was 'Tiny Tim'. The Last Night of the Proms in the Colston Hall, Bristol was also a huge highlight. Sun Life had wonderful



**On the Helford River, Helford Passage, Cornwall - July 2015**



**New Year cliff-top walk in Bude, Cornwall - January 2013**

concerts with Don Lusher, Roy Castle and Kenny Ball. Roger remembers a coach journey when Derek Bourgeois had bought him an advanced Rubix Cube and said, 'Master this then', and he did!

He also played with County of Avon Schools Orchestra (CASO), and they toured The Gulf States when Tim was eighteen.

After his A-levels he left Thornbury to study Electronic Engineering at Hatfield Poly (University of Hertfordshire). He met some wonderful friends throughout his late teens and early twenties who have remained great friends to this day.

His music continued at University, where he played with the Hatfield Symphony Orchestra, playing in a memorable concert with John Lill in St Albans Abbey. His first job was as Electronic Design Engineer for Crosfield in Hemel Hempstead then in Milton Keynes.

In 1990, he met Sheila and Ray's beautiful, warm, fun-loving daughter, Angie. Val and Roger's future daughter-in-law. From that moment on, Angie was part of the family. Later to give them, and share with them, two amazing grandchildren, Amy and Alex, now aged 22 and 19. They are such a credit to them both and Tim was such a loving, caring and proud dad.

In 1994 Tim and Angie married and immediately moved to Toronto, Canada, for two years while Tim worked for Fuji Film. A wonderful experience, visiting various parts of Canada with lots of visitors. Returning in 1996, when Angie was pregnant with Amy, they were lucky enough to stumble upon Whaddon as a place to live. With the most incredible community spirit that Whaddon and the surrounding villages offer, they have made some great friends here. Renting 'Freshfields' temporarily (for 7 years!), they settled here and built a life together, eventually moving into Old Manor Close in 2003. Amy and Alex have thrived in Whaddon's environment and have spread their wings as young adults to new, exciting places, which made Tim so proud.

### **Surrounded by loving family**

Angie and Tim enjoyed a wonderful life, surrounded by loving family and friends. Early in their life together they windsurfed most weekends, thinking nothing of driving 3 hours to Weymouth, windsurfing all day in Portland Harbour and driving home again. Mountain biking was also a passion; running and the occasional skiing holiday; but football has been his most constant sport, playing for the Monday night Crosfield team for over 30 years (missing very few Monday nights). Also playing for a Wednesday night Gawcott team, Alex joined him to play together on both teams. It was all quite competitive!

Tim worked for Aculab and then Ipsos Retail Performance as Head of Sales and Marketing, putting as much into his career as his family life. He was loved by everyone for his calm nature, caring ways and the time he had for everyone. His endless knowledge and advice about so many things earned him the title of 'walking Google'. He researched everything thoroughly. He also had the ability to work hard, often travelling overseas on business, but switch off and be the most attentive and caring dad the moment he walked through the door. His love and support was never-ending: coaching teams in rugby, linesman for football matches, taking a safety boat course to help with Alex's rowing, taking Amy horse riding, cycling as a family and endless advice with homework.

Tim was a hugely loved son, brother, nephew, uncle, husband and dad. As a family, they enjoyed many camping trips with friends and holidays to Canada, California and their beloved Cornwall, particularly Helford Passage, which is a very special place to us. Closer to

home, he always talked of Brean Down: he'd travel the world and still find somewhere that 'looked like Brean Down'.

Sidmouth became a family favourite for Easter holidays and an annual highlight is the yearly trip with the 'New Year Crew' where 20 to 30 friends find a big house to rent for a week. It usually involves a lavish New Year's Eve fancy dress party. For a quiet man, he put his all into his fancy dress!

Angie, Amy and Alex all share Tim's love of music and theatre and usually have a trip to



a show or concert planned. Spurred on by a reunion concert for Sun Life Band in 2010, he bought an electronic drum kit and had started playing again for the Whaddon Show and the village band called Selby. It's been a great passion of his for a few years now and he could often be found in the bath listening to new tracks to play. He also drummed on tables or any surface available! He made a fantastic barman and helped out at many village hall events.

### **Puncture repairs in Old Manor Close - August 2004**

Tim loved watching the Grand Prix with Alex. He also followed rugby, football, Wimbledon and the Tour de France, discussing details and tactics

thoroughly. Last Night of the Proms... so many things interested him. He enjoyed comedy, both live and on TV, and we would hear him laughing loudly from upstairs.

He was so, so proud that Amy had just graduated a few days before he died, and started her first job in publishing in Oxford, and that Alex had completed a successful first year at university. He was an inspiration to them.

He cared so much about his family, always putting us first. He did so much for us. He was modest, loving, kind, funny (sometimes not!), helpful to others and friendly; people liked his calm, quiet nature.

### **Friends also very important**

As well as his family (and extended family - a Joint family reunion is a large and special occasion), his friends were also very important to him. This has been reflected in the overwhelming amount of love and support Angie, Amy and Alex have been shown over the past few months, while coming to terms with losing a husband and dad so soon. We thank everyone for giving us so much comfort while we work on how best to go forward in a way we didn't expect, but we'll make him proud. Our future has changed, but he will always be a part of it. He's laid some good foundations.

You left too soon Tim. xxx



**Beryl Hall**

**1930 – 2018**

BERYL GAYLER was born in Naphill Police House, but she spent her childhood at Whaddon Police House, where she made good friendships that lasted a lifetime.

That period included the War years, during which time her father George accordingly delayed his retirement from the police, in order to continue looking after the area.

However, when War ended, the Gaylers immediately had to look for a new home and, on a personal recommendation, headed for "Hellfire Corner": Folkestone in Kent.



For Beryl, it was not a good time to move as she was studying for her O-Levels and found her new school followed entirely different courses. At the same time, the home the family planned to rent sustained significant bomb damage and all the family's possessions had to go into storage!

Following school, Beryl found employment in bookkeeping at the office of a local garage. Here, she met John Hall, whom she married just before her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. They set up home in a large Victorian semi they shared with Beryl's parents; this arrangement continued until their deaths. Beryl cared for her mother Elsie, until she herself reached 55.

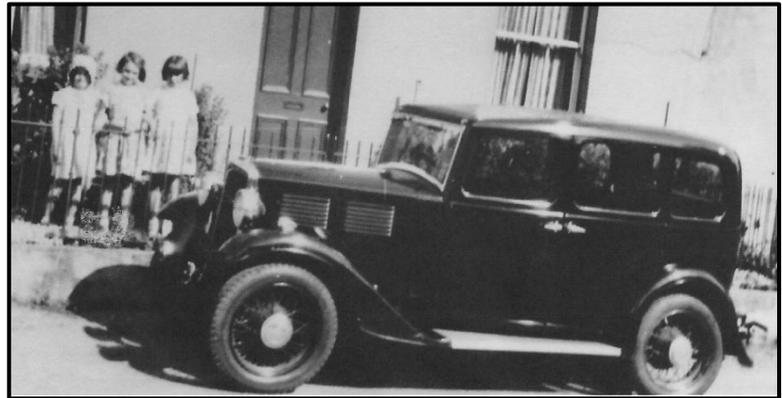
Beryl and John raised four children – Shirley, Deryck, Trevor and Kevin – and when the eldest two left home for higher education, Beryl embarked on a tradition of weekly family letter-writing which lasted over 40 years.

For the family, there are many special memories, especially of holidays, which were always used to explore new places of interest. In the early days, this included visits to

Whaddon where the Jaworski family generously allowed their home to be taken over by the invaders!

Later Beryl and John ventured further afield, returning with stories of life behind the Iron Curtain, white-water rafting and sliding down salt mines on sledges!

Those holidays also provided the stimulus for a large collection of souvenir teddy bears; these always intrigued



visitors to the house! Beryl lost John after 57 years of marriage and, sadly, not long afterwards, her only grandson died from a heart condition.

Beryl was seriously ill for the last three years of her life, bearing everything, as usual, with patience and without complaint. She is much missed by all her family.



**Captions. Left:** Together in Whaddon School in 2003; Beryl and Evelyn. **Top:** Beryl showing off the Whaddon mug Evelyn had sent her. This was a precious possession; no one was allowed to use it in case it became damaged. The bear is an Italian souvenir; his name is Pav, short for Pavarotti! Pav had the habit of appearing in all

photographs of Beryl for over 25 years! **Above right:** Beryl (on the left) outside the Police House in Stock Lane, Whaddon, with friends Vera Boffy (née Varney) and Joan Cox (née Hopkins). The car belonged to Beryl's father, PC188 George Gayler. ■

## *Shirley Hall*

**Editor's note.** Evelyn Jaworska, who kindly supplied the photographs, was one of Beryl's long-term friends from their school days together in Whaddon. The two friends were in frequent contact by telephone and with visits. ■

## Jubilee Hall is your village hall

**The Jubilee Hall was built on land donated by the Selby-Lowndes family and opened in 1935.**

DURING WW2, it was used as a mess by those working in Whaddon Hall and who received radio messages from three receiving stations. They would



deliver them by motorcycle to Bletchley Park for decoding. A plaque outside the Hall, unveiled in May 2016, commemorates the village's significant wartime role.

Now it is used regularly by the Post Office, the preschool, Chase Choir, Whaddon Entertainers, St. Mary's Church, the WI's afternoon meetings and WI NightOwlers; as well as for fun physical activities such as yoga, Pilates and table tennis. The hall is also available for private hire.

Looking after the Hall is an expensive task and the committee is constantly working hard to raise the necessary funds to maintain and protect the hall. A series of events have taken place in 2018 and the committee thank the people of Whaddon for their generous support.

The most recent fundraiser took the form of a highly successful live music event on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Almost 100 people attended the evening of toe-tappin' and foot-stompin' music provided by local country rock group Tennessee Line. More events are in the pipeline and will be advertised in due course.

For those on Facebook, there is a page dedicated to the hall. Search "Whaddon Jubilee Hall", like the page and you will be kept up-to-date with what is happening.

A group of volunteers from the village takes care of the administration and maintenance of the hall and the current committee will be standing down at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. A new committee will be elected at the meeting and all are welcome to attend. The AGM starts at 8.30pm and will be held in the hall.

If you are interested in getting involved, new members with fresh ideas are always welcome, please attend the meeting. If you would like to find out more about what being a committee member involves, please contact any of the current committee members who are:

The current committee comprises: Hazel Hedges, chairperson; Alice Hain, secretary; Peter Hedges, treasurer; and the following members: Frederick Hayward, Deb Spinks, Ralph Spinks, Mark Carter, Lawrence John, Sharon Bessell and Louise Collin. The booking clerk is Maria Cole [mariacole1968@sky.com](mailto:mariacole1968@sky.com)

*Sharon Bessell*

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# 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> Wednesday each month of term...3.00 pm - 4.00 pm**

### **Autumn term**

#### Story

#### Theme

September. Jacob. & Esau (Trickery/Angel – but God had a plan!)

October. Jacob & Laban (Isaac's dream Laban's Trickery – but God still had a plan!)

November. Jacob & Esau (Forgiveness/ New name Israel/ Relationship restored)

#### Some Craft ideas

##### **September**

1. Make pots out of quick drying clay/ decorate (stew)
2. Paint a figure and then folded it over to make a twin copy.

#### Science experiment

Bottle / vinegar/ bicarbonate / red balloon with face

##### **October**

1. Ladder with angels

2. Decorate Hands up for Jesus stones/ surely God was in this place and I did not know it verse

#### Science experiment

Coin/Hand wikipediawiki.com How to Roll a Coin on Your Knuckles

(Up and down a ladder)

##### **November**

1. Champion of God medal ( with Genesis 32 v 28)

2. Brothers making up craft? Use the idea below but change to suit the story? Maybe add to heads and the arms give a hug as illustrated. Different verse as well.

#### Science experiment

Egg / glass of water / 3 tablespoons of salt.

Egg sinks in water, but when we say sorry and are right with God, we become like salt and are lifted up/ lift others up. ■

*Gussie 01280 821616*

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**SOME PEOPLE**, says Margaret Barrie, might view the WI as a stuffy stick-in-the-mud organisation. However, she reports, the WI is actually very 'with it' and among the first to use 100% compostable wrappers for its *WI Life* magazine. The WI has switched from polythene wrapping to a potato-starch alternative which can be added to a well-maintained compost heap, put in the garden waste bin and used to line the food waste caddy. Other organisations which have recently swung over to compostable wrappers are the Institute of Advanced Motorists and the National Trust. ■



# WHADDON BOOK CLUB

Glorious summer evenings are now behind us, our gardens are tidied, so members are looking forward to settling down with the book of the month and the prospect of a good read.

We now approach our 11th year with 120 volumes under our collective belts. Some months, not everyone has completed the book, but we can generate enough information in format and plot to maintain a lively discussion.

We continue to tackle different categories of books. We all enjoyed Michael Frayn's *Spies*, a clever but dated novel. The story is told through the eyes of a young boy living in the suburban Home Counties during WWII. The events of his childhood remain with him and affect him for the rest of his life, as the reader discovers in the telling of his story as a mature man.

In August, we read *The Crossing Places* by Ellie Griffith, a modern crime novel, which was an easy read.

This month we will read *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris.

If you wish to join us to discuss this, or our next book, *A Far Cry* from Kensington, by Muriel Sparke, we meet the evening of the last Wednesday of the month. Please contact Jane Porter.

[janeporter@live.co.uk](mailto:janeporter@live.co.uk)

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## Cypher machine: 'impossible to crack'

**The Rockex cipher machine (right) was used only by the British Government, and at the highest level, to communicate with Canada and the US President via our embassies in Washington and New York during World War II.**

It was deemed to be impossible to crack. It was in use continuously until 1970. It was invented by a Canadian: Professor Benjamin DeForest Bailey, who was working for the British Security Coordination in the United Kingdom's offices in the Rockefeller Center in New York.

The machines were built at the most secret and out-of-the-way site: Hanslope Park. They were used by Canada and Britain only, principally in all British embassies throughout the world.

David White says he was allowed to donate two of these machines to Bletchley Park after his retirement. David adds "As I used the machines, I was able to demonstrate them briefly. They are still in Bletchley Park's archives."

It appears that only Churchill only came to Bletchley Park, but Gambier Parry did not. Eisenhower and other VIPs were taken to Hanslope Park, as that was a major intercept station and the only place in the country where the secret rockex cipher machine was built.

The only important happening at Whaddon Hall was immediately after World War II, when the large convoy of captured communications equipment arrived there for evaluation.

I do not recall PC Gayler (p. 39), but I do remember the police house in Stock Lane being in use up to the 1970s with the Morris panda car parked outside, which, if memory serves me correctly, was light green. Prior to that, the policeman who lived there had a police bicycle which was black, had an enclosed chain guard, dynamo lighting with a battery



backup fixed to the saddle downtube and had a sturmy archer 3-speed gear which made a ticking sound as he went along.

I worked at Hanslope Park from 1959, with all the Whaddon Hall staff when they were all transferred to there. Richard Gambier-Parry became OIC and I was recruited by him. ■

*David White*



## TODDLER CHURCH

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

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon.

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you.

**The final Toddler Church before the Christmas break will be on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

**Toddler Church will restart on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

*Sally Green (01908 526033)*



Homeowners please check your gardens for sharp objects such as broken glass or barbed wire. Several pets in the village have been injured causing distress to the pets and expensive vet's bills for their owners!!

*Thank you*



## THANK YOU ...

A massive big thank you to all who supported the Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September. You raised the staggering sum of £426 – amazing!

*Thank you all on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Care.*

*(Sally Green 01908 526033)*



# A huge 'thank you' to everyone in Whaddon

**Rev Gussie Walsh (left at Harvest Festival with a Harvest scarecrow) has retired as Whaddon's priest. Here she is in conversation with John Mortimer just prior to leaving.**

## **Gussie, how would you like to be remembered?**

How would I like to be remembered? Simply as someone who shared the love and joy of Christ with others.

## **What have been the highs and lows?**

I am glad you put the highs before the lows in your question as there have been so many more positive memories in my ministry here, than negative ones.

To start with, I have loved going into the School for Assemblies, as well as being part of the team with Pam, Beryl and Abbey for 'Hands up for Jesus' (we had 23 this term!).

Also watching the little ones join in the singing, craft and stories at Sally Green's Toddler Church on a Wednesday afternoon. The children's enthusiasm, energy and willingness to learn is both infectious and a blessing.

Then, as every vicar knows, there is the gift of being available for the occasional offices: weddings, funerals and baptisms. Each offers a bridge into people's lives and the opportunity to accompany them on life's journey for awhile.

## **And what about those lows?**

There have been some, of course; the Church roof, the deaths of someone loved by the village, and the challenges of having five rural churches and communities to look after. I am aware that I have not been 'visible' enough in a particular parish from time to time.

## **So what would you say was the focus of your particular ministry?**

Hmm. As I said before, firstly to have fun in sharing share the joy of knowing Jesus.

Secondly I suppose it is about telling 'the God story' in a relevant and accessible way; using simple illustrations or verbal stories to open the door to a deeper spiritual truth (*just as Jesus did in his use of parables*).

For, once the door is open, the Holy Spirit can begin to engage with listener and meet them where they are at- but he will never force his way in.

## **Would you say you have a deep faith?**

Do I have a deep faith? Honestly? Yes and No. I have been blessed in so many ways in my life through having a personal relationship with Christ. But all faith can be shaken, especially when you wonder just where God is in all of this mess and tragedy.

Interestingly, many people with a faith say the times they grew most were in the deep, dark times, rather than when they were at the pinnacle of celebration.

Jesus, when he was on earth, suffered, so it would be surprising if we did not suffer too. Unlike him, when all his friends deserted him at the end, we are never on our own. He has promised to walk with us through the dark valleys of life and death if we metaphorically reach a hand out to him.

## **So how do you see the future for St Mary's?**

Good, but there are undoubtedly challenges ahead: the restructuring of the Benefice is one. Another will be how to keep the church alive and relevant to the needs of today.

For in today's multi-layered, multi-faceted life, Sunday is no longer the 'day of rest'; instead many activities compete for attention and time. Sunday trading has opened up family

shopping, sport, entertainment, personal fitness, issues of fragmented families and split parenting, long weekends away, homes and gardens, mental health and physical well-being are only some of the issues that can crowd out time to reflect on God and our spiritual health.

### **So how is the church hoping to address some of these issues?**

They already have begun. For example,

#### **Services**

We have realised that there are differing needs in the village, so we have a programme of services for Toddlers (Wednesdays), Families (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday per month 10.30am), a Sunday Special morning where people can talk about topical subjects over a cup of coffee and a croissant (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10.30am), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday has a Holy Communion service for those who like a more traditional service.

Of course, maybe another time or day would be better – if so why not have a chat about it on the village Facebook page?

#### **Communication**

One of the areas we are looking at is improved communication and greater use of social media and websites. We want to highlight church and village news, as well as forthcoming events.

Charlotte Calder and Lauren Bennett are spearheading this. Watch this space!

### **Is there anything else you would like to say to Whaddon as you leave us?**

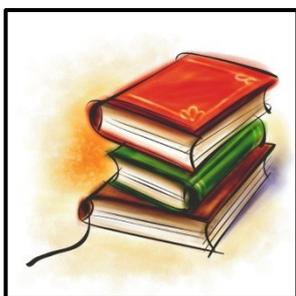
Absolutely – I want to say a huge 'thank you' to Hazel Hedges as Churchwarden, Hazel & Barry Dudley and the PCC, and others who have supported me in my ministry – not forgetting the Whaddon community for all they have taught me and shared with me. It has been so special.

For anyone who was at the Harvest Supper, or been on Facebook, you will know that I was overwhelmed with the generous gifts and book of thoughts that were given to me- as well as raising money for the orphanage in Bethany, and Rehab centre in Bethlehem.

Thank you Whaddon from the bottom of my heart for the community you are; I have discovered more about the love of Christ through you and I will miss you!

POSTSCRIPT. And Gussie's husband, Mark? One resident of Thornborough (she probably echoes others in that village) speaks of Mark's valuable contribution. Besides helping to keep church and village very tidy, he is engaged in much else. There's more than a suspicion Gussie could not have done her job without the support of Mark who, Gussie freely admits "has always been there for me through the ups and downs of ministry."

**JM**



## **NEW BOOKS**

### **Differentiating fact from fiction**

**VICARS can sometimes be seen as quirky, as author Fergus Butler-Gould discovered when he unearthed traits of Church of England clergy down the years. The problem he leaves in the mind is difficult to fathom: what is truth and what is fiction?**

AS a curate, he knows well the ground he tills. For, while some clergy are driven by a rock-solid faith in God and a boundless commitment to spread the gospel of Christ crucified, others have questionable characteristics, as with any calling.

If this book is to be believed, no one would want to join this institution. However, similarly eye-popping books could just as easily be written about judges, barristers, chief constables, chief execs and newspaper editors and would not inhibit new entrants from joining the fold.

Notwithstanding that, the author throws up way-out examples of debauchery, lunacy and depravity as he gathers a smorgasbord of peculiar parsons. He casts his net far and wide, dividing his catch: eccentrics, nutty professors, *bon viveurs*, prodigal sons and rogues.

And he ranges from the ancient to the modern. For example, when it came to going forth and multiplying, he found one cleric difficult to eclipse. The Rev Sabine Baring-Gould, author of the hymn Onward Christian soldiers, sired 15 children.

Another hyphenated rector, closer to Whaddon, the Rev Ian Graham-Orlebar of Barton-le-Clay in Bedfordshire who died in 2016, called his horse Ministry. Thus, when senior ecclesiastical figures telephoned the rectory to check his whereabouts, staff could truthfully declare the rector tending his Ministry. A later horse he called Sabbatical.

When it came to eccentrics, there was stiff competition in a crowded field. Perhaps the most forgetful rector, Rev George Harvest, topped the crop. Dubbed the most forgetful man in 18th century England, George forgot to turn up at his own wedding - twice (they were different brides). The author remarks: He remained a bachelor.

Perhaps he even forgot to turn up to his own funeral. JM

***A field guide to the English clergy*** by the Rev Fergus Butler-Gallie (192 pp) is published by Oneworld at £12.99 ■

## Had Napoleon plans to invade Whaddon?

A NEW book just out takes another look at Napoleon, an unkempt Corsican who was able to charm and bludgeon his way to the domination of France and (almost) Europe, as a series of bloody wars unfolded around the cusp of the 19th century.

In this context, it is hard to imagine the tiny hamlet of Whaddon, tucked away in agrarian Buckinghamshire, having any possible connection with the French emperor, but it happened. In 1805 his vast army was stationed in Boulogne ready to invade Britain. Unable to break the Royal Navy's blockade, he marched his Grande Armée east, to confront Austria.

But with so much sabre-rattling taking place in France in the late 1790s, it is hardly surprising that the British government did not take action on the 'home front' to prepare for any infringement of its borders.

And so the question was raised: Well, how many able-bodied men do we have to call to arms should we need to? You will not be astonished to learn that there is in existence, an official document of 1798 which lists those Whaddon men, aged 16 – 60, who were neither apprentices nor in the army, the yeomanry, the militia or the Royal Navy, and who therefore were liable for militia service. Of the 118 men, exactly half (59) were labourers or servants. So there we have it – on record.

Which does make one wonder: If Napoleon had successfully invaded Britain and reached Whaddon, might the spoken language today have been French. There again, if he had, the language might have been German! JM

***Napoleon*** by Adam Zamoyski is published by William Collins at £30 ■



## WHADDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

IN August, members visited Thrift Farm where we were given an insight into the work carried out there, after which we had a tour of the farm itself, seeing some of the rare breeds being cared for.

We used Harvest as the theme for our September meeting; we discussed the different methods of preserving fruit and vegetables.

At our open meeting in October (**right, top**), we welcomed visitors and members from neighbouring institutes to hear our guest speaker, Mr Colin Oaks, talk about the Suffragette Movement; this is its

centenary year.

The Movement began in the Victorian era and gradually gathered pace until, in 1918, Parliament passed an Act granting the vote to women over 30 who were householders, wives of householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of £5 and graduates of British universities. Ten years later, Parliament extended women's voting age to 28.

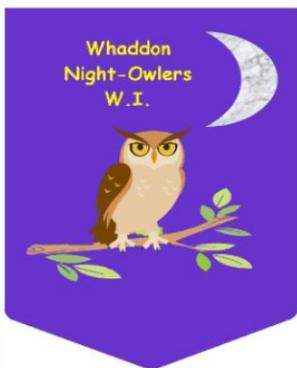
Following some discussion on the subject, everyone enjoyed a cream tea.

In November we have a talk by Mr Chris Wood entitled "101 things you didn't know about birds", while in December our Annual Meeting will take place. In addition, members are also planning to enjoy a Christmas meal at the Prince George.

We are all looking forward to another full year in 2019.

Meanwhile, everyone is very welcome to come to any of our meetings. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Jubilee Hall. For more information please telephone Jane Waight on 01908 387449 or Jane Porter on 01908 501709. A very happy Christmas to everyone. ■

Words: *Sue White*. October 2018. Photograph: *Jane Porter*.



## Whaddon NightOwlers WI

### What a crafty bunch we are...

IN the past couple of months, we have been working hard to develop new and exciting skills. We have made necklaces, bracelets and earrings and a scarecrow. We are looking forward to making Christmas wreaths and flowers

out of paper to adorn our houses this winter.

In September, we asked a previous speaker to come back and work with us on a longer session of jewellery making. We had a day-long workshop and were all very pleased with the outcomes. Christmas presents were made and purchased and it was a lovely day. And it was a great opportunity to spend some time with friends and learn some new skills too.



A sub-group came together at the end of September to organise the scarecrow for Gussie's last service; we are all very proud of our newest member (**above**) – Miss Calendar

Girl 2018. She is sure to be an asset to the group with her clear sense of fashion and colour. Gussie has spoken to our group on a couple of occasions in the past few years; when she joins us, each has always been an evening of much laughter. We wish her all the very best in her new ventures!

If you would like to join us for any of our sessions, please contact Daphne on 01908 502088 or come along to Jubilee Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm to see what we are up to. ■

*Alison Cross*

## Whaddon's Saunders of WW1...

**It is invidious to single out one family when it comes to Great War memorials. Each name is a powerful reminder to families left bereft by loss of a loved one. Even so, three Whaddon Saunders men participated in the conflict, as John Mortimer discovered.**

MANY men with the name George Saunders fought, and died, for King and country in the Great War of 1914-1918, but ironically there were also two Whaddon-born soldiers who played their parts in the conflict.

Before the outbreak of the First World War, Joseph Saunders, 48, and his wife Ann, 51, brought up five children at their house on 'The Common, Whaddon, Bletchley'.

Ann, a laundrywoman, had given birth to Emily, 20, also laundrywoman, and George, 19, a butcher, Elizabeth, 17, a domestic servant, Joseph, 15, a farm labourer, and Annie, 13, a scholar. George Saunders, as head of the household, earned a living as a groom at the hunt stables.



Among the 11 names on the WW1 memorial in St Mary's churchyard is that of George Saunders. His gravestone, on the east side of the churchyard, declares T/391992 Driver G Saunders Royal Army Service Corps.

George began his army service with the 15th Bedfordshire regiment but later joined the 662nd HT Coy – a designation for Horse Transport Company.

Although the British Army was the most mechanised of all in the Great War, it still relied

### **Members of the RASC's Horse Transport Company**

largely on horse power for the transportation of supplies, guns, ammunition and men. The ASC Horse Transport Companies were of different types but it seems the 662nd Company, a base depot, was formed in 1916 and based at Park Royal, London.

The ASC Horse Transport Depot Companies filled a variety of administrative, recruitment, induction, training and re-supply roles. The Base Depots were based in the United Kingdom or at the port of entry to a theatre of war. Advanced Depots were located further up the lines of communication.

In addition to depots at Aldershot, Bradford, Catterick, Southport and Woolwich, there were others in Egypt, France, Gallipoli and Salonika - all formed in 1915. The following year depots were established I Park Royal (London) - units 661-664, and Blackheath (units 665-668). In 1917, the ASC set up a depot in Italy. And it was at the Reserve Depot at Park Royal from which George's ASC Horse Transport Company operated.

How, when and where George Saunders came to suffer injuries from which he died is not clear. It is said that George passed away 'at home'.

**Below: George's memorial (bottom) in St. Mary's churchyard.**



Certificate of Death, dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 1918, clearly states he died at King



**The 'death coin' George's parents would have received.**

Edward's Memorial Hospital in Mattock Lane, Ealing. London. Founded in 1869, the hospital closed in 1979.

And the causes of death? Medics at the King Edward could not find traces of battle wounds or gas poisoning.

Instead, they noted the condition of driver George Saunders, No 391992 of the Army Service Corps, in three simple words: pleurisy, insomnia, exhaustion. But the greatest of those three was exhaustion. In other words, George had become just too exhausted to live.

**Memorial wall plaque**

Following his son's death, Joseph was authorised to receive just £3 16s 6d plus a further £4 5s 0d on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1919.

No doubt George's mother and father attended the simple, but moving funeral in St Mary's Church; one repeated across the land in the wake of selfless duty and sacrifice.

But for Joseph and Ann the churchyard's committal failed to engulf one shared feeling: two hearts heavy with grief. ■



## And then came Joseph Saunders...

**Joseph and Ann Saunders knew the pain of death when the Great War ended. But amidst their anguish, there remained at least one shining light, as John Mortimer discovered.**

BEFORE the outbreak of the First World War, Joseph Saunders and his wife, Ann, lived on The Common, now Vicarage Road.

A groom at the Whaddon Hall Hunt stables, Joseph had much on his mind three years before the outbreak of war, and his family complete with 'children': Emily, 20, George, 19, Elizabeth, 17, Joseph, 15, and Annie, 13.

When son George committed himself for military service, Joseph would have been 18, old enough to know the implications of his elder brother's action.

War in France seemed a long way off. News, when it came through was grim. This impacted on every family with a son or father away on active service.

Joseph must have experienced both an inner and an outer pressure to conform; so he too joined up. His military service, however, is sketchy at best and invisible at worst. Seemingly, all that is known\* is his regimental number – 94175 – and his regiment as the 5<sup>th</sup> RB. But was this the Rifle Brigade or the Royal Buckinghamshire?



Three quite independent attempts to unearth Joseph's records have failed to yield even a slither of information\*.

**Left: Brothers in arms: Pte.94175 Joseph Saunders; right: George Saunders.**

Even so, there must have been one heartfelt blessing for Joseph and Ann Saunders as they stood bowed beside the grave that day for their son George's committal in St Mary's churchyard: they could take comfort that at least their other son Joseph had been spared. Joseph had survived.

And a decade later, George and Ann Saunders could rejoice in the marriage of their son Joseph to Emma Lydia Justice; both were 32 at the time. The wedding took place at St Andrews Church, Islington on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1928. Joseph's older sister, Elizabeth, acted as witness, together with Herbert Frederick Justice from the bride's side.

At the time, Joseph, a farm labourer, lived in Vicarage Road, Whaddon; his wife-to-be at No. 8 Bemerton Street, Islington, London. One questions: How

did Joe and Emma meet?

Joe died, aged 75, in 1971, having lived a full life. He knew in his heart that, while he had lost his only brother George, he too had volunteered for military service and returned home unscathed to tell the tale and resume 'normal service'.

\* The majority of British WW1 soldiers' army service records went up in smoke when the War Office warehouse (the Army Records Centre) where they were stored was hit by a German incendiary bomb in an air raid in 1940. It is less well known that many other records were also destroyed. For researchers of the Great War, it was catastrophic.

There are two collections at The National Archives WO363, The Burnt Records, and WO364 The Unburnt Records.

Ironically, as Joseph survived that in itself was a cause of minimum documentation; it is the casualties who are well documented. ■

## And finally there was another George

**Among three Whaddon men with the surname Saunders and participants in the First World War, is another with George as a Christian name. John Mortimer tries to unpick his origin.**

THERE were at least six Australian men with the name George William Saunders who served and died amidst WW1's senseless slaughter, including one who died in Belgium in 1917.

But there was another George William Saunders. He too engaged in the war. Except George, a labourer from Westwood in Queensland, told anyone who listened that he came from Whaddon, England.

Whaddon, England? George's origin might never have surfaced but for WW1; on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1917, he signed up for the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). On completing his

official Attestation Paper for Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad, George startled recruiting officers by giving his birth town as 'Whaddon, Buckinghamshire, England'. He firmly stated his birth date as 4<sup>th</sup> March 1878.



Later that day in Rockhampton, Queensland, after passing various medicals, the commanding officer assigned George (**left**) to the rifle range, 25<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement of the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Whaddon is not the most obvious location a recruit might offer as his birth town, unless he actually lived there. Otherwise, George could just as easily have selected Battyeford in Yorkshire. But he didn't.

How did George arrive in Australia? Did his Whaddon parents emigrate before he reached his third birthday, having made sacrifices to begin a new life on a Queensland sheep or cattle farm? Was he among the early Barnardo's boys later to be 'boarded out' with his 'new' parents who later sailed to Australia?

Was he perhaps a baby stolen by a wealthy childless Whaddon couple who, their crime discovered, immediately fled to Australia? Was he the result of an illicit relationship when a Whaddon Hall chamber maid relinquished her new-born for adoption by a desperate childless Saunders couple who later emigrated to Australia?

Or did a disillusioned George, rejected by the British army, scrimp and save for a one-way steerage ticket to Australia to kick-start his life?

### Census records draw a blank

So who was this Whaddoner? One thing is for sure, he knew his birth date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 1878. Or did he?

For, adding to the mystery is one simple fact: according to church records on display annually in Whaddon, no infant with the given name of George William Saunders was baptised in St Mary's Church in 1878! The only Saunders' baptism in 1878 – Ellen, the daughter of Hannah and William Saunders – occurred on Christmas Day!

However, might one of the three Saunders couple who then lived in Pinks End have produced a son not formerly welcomed into the Church of England?

As a first rule of thumb, his name might be expected to appear in the England & Wales census of 1881, 1891, 1901 or 1911. Not so. No men born in Whaddon are listed, save George Saunders of the right age in New Bradwell and another in Iver, both in Buckinghamshire, in 1881.

So George's origin is difficult to unpick. Perhaps George William Saunders was not his name at all.

Whatever, George, a single man with dark complexion, dark hair and light brown eyes, informed A.I.F. officers his religious denomination was Church of England. He gave his age as 39 years and five months, his height as 5ft 5in and his weight as 130lb. And he declared himself a natural born British citizen.

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**  
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 4761 Name (Surname) SAUNDERS  
in full (Christian Name) George William  
Unit 28th. Reinf. 18th. Battn.  
Joined on 8. 5. 17

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.  
You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a willfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.

1. What is your Name? ... George William Saunders
2. In or near what Town were you born? ... In or near the Town of Whaddon  
In the State or Country of Buckinghamshire & England
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... a. Natural Born
4. What is your Age? (Date of birth to be stated) ... 39 years & 5 months  
4<sup>th</sup> March 1878
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... Labourer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married, single, or widower? ... Single
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) ... friend Mr. Charles Clay  
Westwood

### Part of Graham's Enlist Form showing Whaddon, Buckinghamshire as place of birth.

Questioned as to whether he had ever 'been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service', George confessed he had. He admitted to a 'deformed thumb'!

In further question, when asked for next of kin, George offered a 'friend', Miss Maria Clay of Westwood, Queensland. Who was Maria Clay? Was she imaginary, like George's birth town? Or had she too emigrated from England? Was she more than a friend – next door neighbour or lover?

At the time of George's enlistment, conscription was a dirty word in Australia. Men yearning to join the army did so by volunteering. For George, however, a trip to Blighty and prospects of France's battlefields might have been viewed as an adventure of a lifetime not to be missed.

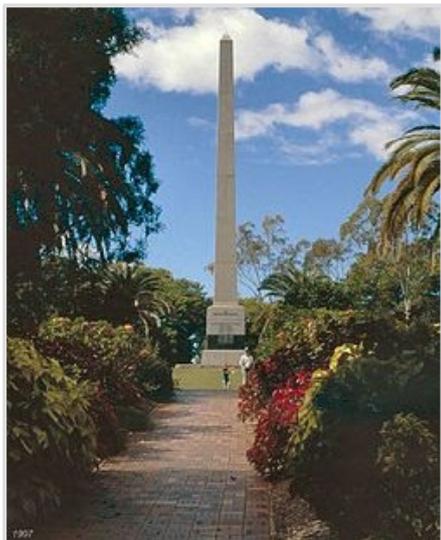
He might have experienced at his age, coming up to 40, a sense of delayed duty to King and Country. As it was, by the end of 1917, questions were being asked as how much longer the 'world' war in Europe would last. So George possibly anticipated a short-lived absence; a chance to see the world.

Whatever his reasons for enlisting, George received Service Number 7761. Adding up the numbers, did George consider 3 or 21 as lucky numbers?

And so it proved. George emerged unscathed from the Great War's battlefields, free to return to Australia, his 'home country'.

### **The long journey in France**

George's wartime adventures began in Sydney on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1917; two months later he arrived on Boxing Day in Devonport, England. There followed several months' training at Codford on Salisbury Plain before heading for Dover. From Dover, on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1918, George arrived later that day in Calais, after which he and his colleagues began a long route march to their unit. They arrived on 17<sup>th</sup> March.



George's service record offers no clue as to what, if any, military action he encountered during their stay. However, with Armistice signed, George and his unit remained in France then travelled to Germany. Did they find those months enlightening, to say the least?

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 1919, the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion left Frankfurt and travelled to France and then England. Months later, after a long voyage, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1919 in Brisbane, Australia, the A.I.F. discharged George, whereupon he returned to Westwood. Did he and Maria Clay marry?

And Westwood's claim to fame? The Capricorn Highway passes through Westwood; the intersection with the Leichhardt Highway is but a few miles to the southwest.

Westwood, 30 miles southwest of Rockhampton, today comprises a handful of houses, a hotel, and a police station.

The major industry is cattle grazing. The population in 2011 reached 240, down from 253 in 2006. Many years earlier it was only 174 – smaller than Whaddon even. It can be assumed it has never enjoyed a big community.

One hundred years ago, in 1867, the Great Northern Railway (now known as the Central Western Line) reached the area; Westwood became the railhead. The first load of wool was railed from the town on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1867.

Intended as the railhead for only a short time, bureaucracy and financial state difficulties meant otherwise. The line's next section did not commence construction until 1873. Westwood's significance dwindled once the railhead moved further west.

Just after WW1, in 1919, a 64-bed sanatorium opened in Westwood to treat miners suffering lung disease from working in dusty conditions. Later, it treated patients with tuberculosis. Perhaps it helped WW1 veterans returning to Australia.

On the face of it, George had an uneventful war; his Casualty Form for Active Service suggests no wounds or other injuries, although on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1918, he was 'taken off strength' and by 16<sup>th</sup> October 1918 he rejoined his unit in France. However, an accompanying Casualty List attached to George's records, names 15 men, including three Englishmen, who suffered injuries.

Perhaps for George it was indeed an adventure of a lifetime not to be missed.

### **Postscript**

Ironically, George's brief fling with WW1 didn't end there. A memorandum received at Victoria Barracks Brisbane on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1934 read as follows: *Sir, I would be obliged if you could furnish me with the name of the owner of Returned Soldier's Discharge Badge No. 134930. This badge was passed to me & same is now at the Police Station Marmor. By doing so you will greatly oblige. Yours faithfully, J. Rafter, Constable.*

Three days later, a reply to Constable J. Rafter of Marmor, Queensland, read: *I have to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1934, and to advise you that Returned Soldier's Badge No. 134930 was issued to ex No. 7761 Private George William SAUNDERS, 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F. He was discharged at Brisbane on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1919, but his present whereabouts is not known at this office. If you are unable to return the badge to the owner, I shall be glad if you will kindly forward it to this office for safe-keeping. Officer i/c Base Records. Australian Imperial Force, Canberra.*

**N.B.** If anyone knows George William Saunders' true identity, please inform the Editor. ■

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## **HS2 and East-West rail link**

**WHEN governments announce the capital cost of major projects, as sure as day follows night, you can be certain the final tally will double, or even treble.**

AND so it is. Look at HS2. Esther McVey, the Work and Pensions Secretary, has prepared the ground for what is to come. She predicted last month that HS2 could double in cost to £104 billion. That means it will. Who knows, it could treble. Think how much more beneficially that sum might be spent. How profitably will those who travel by HS2 employ the extra minutes they have gained?

Meanwhile, East West Railway Company strategy director Will Gallagher has vowed to have trains running on the line by 2023.

Gallagher said last month that works are well underway on the first section of the line between Oxford and Bicester Village, claiming that there is an "unprecedented" level of government support for the project.

Announcing an open date of 2023 at the England's Economic Heartland (EEH) conference, Gallagher added that everything was being done to bring that open date forwards. We will see. ■

## **Tree of Light commemorations offer comfort at Christmas**

THE Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Tree of Light commemorations are open to anyone in our community who wishes to spend some time quietly remembering friends and family members who have died.

The ceremonies are open to all, regardless of religion or spirituality, and it doesn't matter whether your loved ones were cared for by Florence Nightingale Hospice or died at home or in hospital.

The Tree of Light events are designed to give people a space where a part of the season is set aside to commemorate loved ones," says Ann Kenny, the new Bereavement Support Team Lead at the Hospice. "Christmas can often be a time of conflicting emotions, or it can be so busy that those who are grieving can't find

a time to process feelings of sadness which may come to the fore at this time of year.”

There are a number of different ways to commemorate loved ones through the Hospice’s Tree of Light events. Sponsor a light in memory of them and write a dedication which will appear in the Books of Honour which can be viewed at the Hospice in December and early January, and at the two Tree of Light events. Or come along to one or both Tree of Light services which will take place at the Head Office of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity at Walton Lodge, Walton Street, Aylesbury, at 5pm on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and at St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Buckingham at 4pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

To sponsor a light in memory of someone, please call our Fundraising Team on 01296 429 975 to request a Tree of Light Form or find out more at

[www.fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light](http://www.fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light)

*Kirsty Shanahan*

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## Tribute to bells and bellringers

**A poem by Susan Hatton of Deanshanger and submitted by Enid.  
Enid's late husband Hugh was for many years involved with bell  
ringing at Whaddon.**

There's a special place in Heaven  
for campanologists;  
generations of bellringers  
have called us to worship  
each Sunday:  
mornings and evenings.

Ordinary men and women  
like my grandfather,  
a man of little learning  
yet, who mastered  
the intricacies  
and mathematical nuances  
of change ringing.

Bells peal out joyfully  
at weddings,  
or to tell us danger has passed.  
A muffled peal is rung  
for funerals,  
a peal first half muffled,  
then joyfully  
to welcome in the New Year  
across sky, fields, villages, towns  
and cities.

Bellringers are special people.  
Quiet, unassuming,  
who ask for neither thanks or praise  
but quietly go about Sunday duty  
and weekly practice.

In tower and steeple  
Grandsire rings out,  
or Steadman doubles.  
Perhaps recorded on a plaque  
in the ringing chamber,  
or perhaps not.

But the sad day finally dawns,  
and the bellringer leaves untied his  
Sally.  
He no longer hears the changes  
called  
as the clapper on the bell is silent.

And so the final peal rings down,  
as the celestial belfry opens wide.  
The Great Captain of the bell is  
there;  
faithful ringer, step inside.

**Mobile:** 07754 790557

**Email:**  
davetaylorhandyman@gmail.com

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Chumley Cottage, 36 Vicarage Road  
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Email: davetaylorhandyman@gmail.com

**Dave Taylor**  
Handyman



## Country Funerals

01327 351500

24 hours

Independent Funeral Directors

1, Sponne House Centre, Watling Street West  
Towcester, Northants NN12 6BY

Shaun, and Melanie, who has strong links with Whaddon, have over 30 years' experience in the local funeral business, providing a service that will meet all your needs and expectations, with care, compassion and professional knowledge.

To celebrate the life of a loved one, we can tailor-make all arrangements alongside your own wishes. We offer modern facilities in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, as well as a Remembrance Room, disabled facilities and there is parking close by.

Please feel free to view the facilities before or at time of need; alternatively, make arrangements in the comfort of your own home. Complete cremation funeral including local fees, start from £2787.00.

For your peace of mind, funeral plans are available. See also [www.countryfunerals.uk](http://www.countryfunerals.uk)

[enquiries@countryfunerals.uk](mailto:enquiries@countryfunerals.uk)



## Whaddon Chapel

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life...."*

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
John 3:16 & Isaiah 9:6*

HAVE YOU ever wondered what REAL love *looks* like? Christmas is a celebration of real love, ultimate love – God's love.

It's impossible to think of love without also thinking of someone. When God wanted to show his love towards all the people he had made, he did it personally. You see, Jesus was the embodiment of God's love. Only he could convey the greatness of God's love to us, as only he is fully God and fully human. All God's fullness was in Jesus. Isaiah's words (above) are simply the start of trying to describe someone so amazing.

And he came to us: Jesus, born as a baby for us. He lived for us. He died for us. His disciple John also wrote: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

That's what Jesus did. And this is why he did it: real love for you.

"Love came down at Christmas", the carol by Christina Rossetti states. You need look no further than Jesus to see what real love looks like.

Now you've seen real love, what will you do about it?

Join us to find out more. ■

### **Chapel Services & Meetings:**

- Carol service and Christmas tea – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm (chapel schoolroom).
- Every Sunday, 4pm, Whaddon Chapel.
- Bible Study and Prayer meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month, 7:30pm at No. 3 Briary View.

**(Note: there will not be a chapel service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> December)**

# Did PC188 Gayler meet Churchill?

**Local criminals gave PC188 a wide berth and youths were scared to 'mix it' with an ex-Coldstream Guards soldier. John Mortimer examines the life of PC188, Whaddon's police constable.**

**G**EORGE GAYLER stood over 6 feet in height. With steel-grey eyes and light brown hair, he commanded respect. Upright, imposing, polished, immaculate, distinctive even. His presence radiated gravitas, his demeanour honed to perfection by the police force and the army parade ground. No one mixed it with George.

George, born 12<sup>th</sup> October 1890, joined the police force in 1914, aged 23, having been employed as a gardener by Dr William Blandall Williams, a medical practitioner in Much Hadham, near Ware, Hertfordshire, the village of George's birth.

Dr Williams' Welsh name belied the fact that he originated in the Straits Settlement in Singapore; his wife, Henrietta Amelia, came from Darjeeling, India. An international couple.

By that time, George's father Arthur, a labourer, had already passed away (on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1906 aged 60) as well as his sister Julia (in January 1913 aged 35).

Three years later, in March 1917 with WW1 in mid-stream, George's employer agreed to release him from service to join the army. However, the Short Service Attestation Form reveals No. 22273 George Gayler had actually enlisted on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1916.

Three months later, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1917, the chief constable's office in Aylesbury caught up with matters. It made special note to the effect: "By order of the Home Office, P.C. 188 George Gayler will be released from the Force for Military Service. He will bring in his clothing and equipment on Saturday next, and will be paid up to that date inclusive."

Subsequently, George signed into the Coldstream Guards on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1917 at Caterham, aged 27.

At the same time, George had personal issues to resolve. He had fallen in love with Elsie Shipp, his first cousin once removed; however, the couple did not meet until adulthood, and only then at a family wedding. And so, with George likely to be heading for the battlefield before too long, he wanted his true love to be well catered for.

The couple, both 26, married on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1917 at the parish church in Much Hadham. The Rev. Edwin Langley MA officiated. The Certificate shows George described as soldier and William, Elsie's father, as labourer. Elsie's younger sister Florence Maud Shipp signed as one of the witnesses.

There followed nine months of hard training before George headed for France, where he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of Guards Division.

## **In the thick of conflict**

And so it was, before long, George found himself in the thick of conflict, when he participated in the attack on Alette (where there is a British cemetery). The following month, he took part in further attacks on Cambrai, Solesmes, Longueville and Maubeuge. After which, in November 1918, George joined the march to Germany, arriving in Cologne in December 1918.

By that time, George's war, like everyone else's, was over. He had escaped death or injury and left free to return to England. This he did on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1919 where he rejoined the police force.

Two months later, the same chief constable's office in Aylesbury, on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1919, recorded that: "Police Constable George Gayler, having been discharged from the Army, rejoins the Force from this date inclusive, at a rate of pay of 44s per week, Signed Otway Mayne Major, Chief Constable."

In 1928 George lost his mother Dinah (Brace). She passed away aged 77; at the time she lived in Amersham. Three years later, while living in St Albans, George's brother Arthur also died, aged only 54.

Then, as war threatened once again, on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1937 records show that: "PC 188 G. Gayler passed an examination in Anti-Gas measures held at Bletchley on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, Signed T.R.P. Warren Colonel, Chief Constable."

Shortly after the outbreak of WW2 George, who by that time was nearing 50, must have undergone a medical, as the then current police force was keen to retain his services.

For, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1939, PC188's notes carried the following: "At a meeting of the Standing Joint Committee held today, the pension of Police Constable 188 George Gayler, age 49, approved service 25 years was guaranteed, he having been certified by the Police Surgeon as to his fitness to continue to serve, Signed T.R.P. Warren Colonel, Chief Constable."

### **Employed for the duration**

Shortly after, the powers that be were careful to note that: "while PC 188 George Gayler was officially due to retire at that time, he was kept on for the duration."

A note on George's record dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1940 (by which time he had been posted to Whaddon) observed that: "Police Constable 188 George Gayler (Whaddon), who will complete the necessary service in the Force to entitle him to retire on maximum pension under the Police Pensions Act, 1921, on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1940, and who is permitted to continue to serve under the provisions of the Police and Firemen (war service) Act 1939, will be granted a non-pensionable allowance of 12 1/2 % plus 5% of his pay as from the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1940 inclusive, Signed T.R.P. Warren Colonel, Chief Constable."

With the end of hostilities in sight, on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1944, George received notification of his retirement from the police force. A note on his records declares: "Retirement (upon certificate of Police Surgeon). Police Constable 188 George Gayler (Whaddon) 1<sup>st</sup> January 1945. Pension of £205.4.9d, Signed T.R.P. Warren Colonel, Chief Constable."

With war over, George returned to 'civvy street' and rejoined the police force. George was not a man with whom to pick a quarrel, or argue over the facts of the matter. He lived in an age when most photographs were in black and white; George dealt with life in black and white: right and wrong, good and bad, no ifs, no buts. How did the world get it so wrong?

### **A trusty cycle**

In the 1920s, George would have been found with his trusty bicycle (**left**), which he used for transport, to take him to the scene of the crime. This was long before the days of the black Morris 1000, the Ford Sierra and the Ford Focus.

Time obscures any thoughts that ran through George's head, as he posed patiently for the photographer to do his work. Whatever George's thoughts, he had witnessed much more of life than the photographer standing in front of him: uncomfortable life, painful life, and painful death.

Whaddon's tranquil lanes were a million miles from the endless slaughter of the battlefields of WW1 northern France from which George had escaped. Outwardly unscathed, save for indelible imprints embedded in the crevices of his mind, George was ready for action.

On the battlefields, men and animals bled to death, side by side. In contrast, Whaddon's lanes and mini conurbation appeared surreal, calm, tranquil, benign, almost near silent compared with the clatter and deafening explosions of warfare, human screams, death and destruction. Against this background, thugs, robbers and sneak thieves held no threat. George had seen it all.



The only sounds George picked up in lanes in and around Whaddon were those of birds twittering in hedgerows, or a distant, noisy International or Caterpillar tractor hauling a plough through heavy clay. Sometimes, he heard clatter as a crawler tractor emerged from a field, nosing its way gently along the road, leaving in its wake tell-tale scuffs on the road.

### **Bagging an erring rabbit**

George knew first-hand about human misery, of gruesome, twisted bodies punctured by bullets; if there were any gunshots as he cycled down Buckinghamshire lanes it could only be from poachers bagging an erring rabbit for lunch, or a pheasant struggling to gather momentum and gain height as it left a field of wheat.

George understood about the land from his father Arthur, an agricultural labourer when the family lived in in Perry Green. The family always spelt Gayler with an 'e', but sometimes officials spelt it with an 'o' (Gaylor) without first checking the spelling.

George came from a family in which his brothers too were in the police force: his older brothers Arthur and William were in the Hertfordshire and Welsh Police respectively.

Meanwhile, for their part, George and his wife Elsie went on to have two children, Robert and Beryl. Sadly, Robert lived only a few hours; Beryl discovered this only when she was an adult, and then by accident.

Coincident with the outbreak of WW2, PC 188 George Gayler was due to retire but he was kept on for the duration. In 1945, once officially retired, the family moved to Folkestone in Kent.

And so it was that Whaddon became George's last placement; it included Whaddon Hall, then an outpost of Bletchley Park. It has been said by one of George's relatives (Shirley Hall, a granddaughter of George) that the front room of Whaddon police house (in Stock Lane) was used on several occasions for meetings of police and 'top brass' army officers.

Shirley Hall adds "I have no evidence for my grandmother's claim that once this included Winston Churchill!"

She adds "The story about Churchill is one of my grandmother's myths! It is based only on the fact that sometimes visitors to Whaddon Hall would meet in the Police House. She remained convinced one was Churchill because one time she had to clear up a lot of cigar butts."

### **Run along to your home**

Evelyn Jaworska tells the story of the day she and Beryl (who were great school friends in Whaddon) went to Coddimoor Woods to pick primroses. After a while, they were spotted by the gamekeeper, Joe Ivins.

He said "I think you've got quite enough. Now run along home." Mr Ivins knew that Beryl was the policeman's daughter.

Beryl Gayler and Evelyn were great friends at school in Whaddon, and communicated regularly up to Beryl's death. Beryl lived in Folkestone. She had married and had four children (see also **p. 20** – Ed).

Meanwhile, there is someone else with recollections of PC 188. *Whaddon Quarterly* correspondent David White can recall PC George Gayler, or, more particularly, his bicycle!

"I do not recall PC Gayler," he emails, "but I do remember the police house being in use up to the 1970s with the Morris panda car parked outside. If memory serves me correctly it was light green."

He adds, "Prior to that, the policeman (PC 188) who lived there had a police bicycle, which was black. It had an enclosed chain-guard and dynamo lighting, with battery-backup fixed to the saddle down-tube. The bicycle also had a Sturmey-Archer three-speed gear which made a ticking sound as he went along!"

And did Sir Winston Churchill ever step foot in Whaddon? Again, David White has a view. "Churchill came only to Bletchley Park," emails David. "However, Richard Gambier-Parry did arrange for Lord Gort, General Eisenhower and other high-ups to be taken to

Hanslope Park. That was a major intercept station and the only place in the country where the secret Rockex cipher machine was built.” (See p. 24 – Ed.)

“The only important happening at Whaddon Hall immediately after World War Two occurred when a large convoy of captured communications equipment arrived for evaluation,” David added. ■



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - WHADDON

### Burglary Prevention During Winter

To ensure your home is not targeted this winter, here are some top community safety tips from AVDC to follow as the dark and cold

evenings approach:

- 1) **Lock your doors and windows regardless of if you are in the property or not.**

The point of entry more than 75% of the time is through a door or window.

- 2) **Lock your UPVC doors with the key.**

Flipping the handle is not enough to secure your door.

- 3) **Keep valuable items out of view.**

Leaving a laptop on view is an open invitation for a thief. Even less valuable items can be used to gain entry and is the most common way to force entry.

- 4) **Property mark your valuables with ultra-violet marking kits or Smartwater**

(contact Rachel Robinson at [rrobinson@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:rrobinson@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) to receive a free UV pen). When goods are marked it enables recovered property to be returned and improves the chance of conviction.

- 5) **The security of the rear of the home is integral.**

Many burglaries are carried out via entry of a back door or window so make sure your back doors and windows are locked and invest in some prickly plants for your fence boundaries. If you have a side gate leading to your garden make sure it is locked.

- 6) **Make sure your shed/garage is locked and secure.**

Don't give thieves the tools to enter your home.

- 7) **User timer switches.**

In the winter months when it's dark and nobody is at home a timer switch can be set to activate a lamp on the landing or hallway giving the impression that someone is at home. Timer switches are also ideal for when you're on holiday. You can buy these for under £3 from hardware stores. ■

#### 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



## Winslow Community Bus

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www.winslowbus.com

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**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.**

**EVERY Wednesday morning – Winslow Market Day bus\*** – 1 ¼ hours in Winslow. Pickups Claydons, Horwoods, Swanbourne, Mursley, Nash, Whaddon £3.00 return, free with bus pass. Ring for details.

**EVERY Friday & Saturday morning – Aylesbury Market Bus\*** 2 hours in Aylesbury. – Pickups Winslow, Horwoods, Mursley Swanbourne Weedon (Sat only) £4.50 return, free with bus pass.

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Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour town, 1 hour Tesco or 2 hours Tesco! Door to door, bus pass accepted, otherwise only £4.50 return.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November - **Westcroft Shopping\*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November - **Lunch at The Bell Beachampton** – lovely food in a lovely pub £4.00 travel

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November – **Waddesdon Manor Christmas Fair** - Soak up the sights, smells and sounds of Christmas with 86 hand-selected exhibitors all housed in charming wooden chalets with an exciting variety of high-quality, unique gifts, decorations, crafts and festive foods. Entrance FREE to NT members, £10.50 per adult, (only £7.50 if we have a group of 15+) £4.50 travel.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - **Westcroft Shopping\*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November - **Asda in Bletchley Shopping**, M&S, Primark, etc £4.00

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November – **Afternoon tea** at Lakers Garden Centre in Winslow. £10.00 includes tea and travel.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November – **MK Shopping** – Yes, Christmas is soon here – 4+ hours shopping in Milton Keynes, get it over and done with! £4.50

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour town, 1 hour Tesco or 2 hours Tesco! Door to door, bus pass accepted, otherwise only £4.50 return.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – **Frosts Garden Centre**. Ideal for last minute gifts and food shopping. £4.00 travel.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December - **Westcroft Shopping\*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December - **Christmas Lunch** at The Old Thatch Adstock.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December **Westcroft Shopping\*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour town, 1 hour Tesco or 2 hours Tesco! Door to door, bus pass accepted, otherwise only £4.50 return.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January - **Westcroft Shopping\*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Lunch Italian style! **Canaletto's in Westcott**. £4.00 travel.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January - **Asda in Bletchley Shopping**, M&S, Primark, etc £4.00

### **Make shopping easy! Reduce your carbon footprint!**

You can jump on the Community Bus in Winslow **any Friday or Saturday morning** around 9.15am to get to Aylesbury for just after 10 o'clock – dropping off by Sainsbury's or the bus station, then return 12.15pm depart from bus station (High St pick up too on a Friday) – **FREE** with a bus pass, otherwise only £4.50 return.

WE can pick up near to your home – just ring Sue to discuss.

**If you are aged between 25 and 70 years of age, and have some spare time,** please consider becoming a driver for your local community bus. You can do as much or as little as you like, from shorter local runs to some of our longer day trips. We visit all kinds of places, garden centres, stately homes, shopping centres, countryside drives as well as our regular bus services, and the people who use the bus are a very friendly crowd! We offer certificated training to MIDAS standard, and pay out-of-pocket expenses.

Ring Sue for more details **01296 715786** ■



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

### **Shoulda, Woulda, Coulda**

YES, I've stolen my title from a Beverley Knight song (and made amends by crediting her here)!

What makes you feel guilty? What do you do when that little niggly negative and potentially destructive inner voice says to you, "You should have....." or "You shouldn't have...." or "You ought to...." ? Here are five suggestions, tried and tested:

**1.** Carry out a quick inner check on why you are feeling guilty. Have you genuinely hurt someone, or done something wrong? If so, then apologise, make amends and move on. What's done is done. We've all, often unintentionally, hurt someone. Feeling guilty can be your opportunity to learn what led you to make the mistake and how not to repeat that behaviour. Apologising costs nothing, and goes a long way to repairing relationships. Word of warning: you have to mean it when apologising, otherwise it becomes counter-productive!

**2.** Examine your feelings carefully. You feel guilty because you *think* you did something wrong. Did you *actually* do something? Or is this guilty feeling just your perspective on a situation? Can you see or feel evidence of harm? If so, then refer to tip no. 1. If not, maybe you can consign that feeling to the bin right now, or refer to tip no. 5.

**3.** Do something to change the feeling. If you feel guilty about something you feel you have left undone, then sort it out. If it's something you're putting off, that's procrastination, rather than guilt that you're feeling! Attack the task, with the help of a friend or colleague if you can; support can be very valuable, and you can repay the favour at some point too.

**4.** Write it down. Writing the issue down, and reading it back to yourself often helps you to make more sense of why you feel the way you do. This applies not just to guilty feelings, but other negative feelings, and positive ones too! Read what you've written. Decide what you want to do and take action.

**5.** Decide what you want. It's ok to give yourself permission to feel this way. If you can choose to feel your guilty feeling, to listen to that negative inner voice for 10 minutes, it follows that you can also choose to stop, and decide to feel differently. Acknowledge your feelings, accept them, then move on by doing something else: make a movement, a sound, create a visual image, real or imagined. In NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), we call this breaking state. It works.

Just talking it over with someone is a great first step. Start by following some great advice someone once gave to me: don't "should" on yourself. ■

*Marianna Beckwith*

# Take care with those electronic signatures

**We are all using the internet more and more because it is easier and quicker. But is it too quick? Do we understand what we are doing?**

MANY companies now invite you to sign documents and contracts online, rather than send you a paper copy to read at your convenience. But when we are asked to sign online do we understand that we could be making legally-binding contracts? Are electronic signatures valid?

Contract Law in the UK is flexible, but some people are still unsure if electronic signatures would satisfy legal requirements. The Law Commission has confirmed that electronic signatures can be used to sign formal legal contracts under English law. This will essentially allow businesses to speed up transactions.

However, this should not detract from the basic law which determines a legal contract and it certainly does not replace it.

Technology is constantly evolving, so the Law Commission is considering whether the law should go even further to facilitate the electronic execution of deeds. As such, could witnesses be allowed to use a real-time, shared online platform to witness documents from different locations? The Law Commission is now seeking views to take further steps to improve the law in this area. It is considering whether:

- Webcam or video links could be used to witness documents instead of signing before a physical witness;
- Moving away from traditional witnessing in person to:
  - A signing platform alone, where the signatory and witness are logged onto the same program from different locations; or
  - The ability of a person to “acknowledge” that they applied an electronic signature to a witness after the event.

So the position relating to electronic signatures is not completely clear, but developments are being considered to bring the execution of documents into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

So be cautious when being asked to e-sign a document online or via an email link! ■

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

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## **Nash Events – November 2018 to January 2019**

### **November 2018**

- Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm to 9pm  
Fashion Show in the Village Hall – beautiful clothes from Rock Those Frocks, modelled by lovely Nash Villagers that can then be purchased after the show
- Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 6.30pm to 10.30pm  
Nash PUMP – Pop Up Micro Pub – popular monthly event serving ales, prosecco, wines & spirits as well as great Nash spirit!
- Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am to 5pm  
Nash Community Café – drinks and cakes, light lunches, co-working space
- Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am -12noon  
Coffee morning in Nash Village Hall to support the work of Dr Shirley Heywood in Nepal
- Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 7pm to 9pm  
Christmas Wreath Making - fun Christmas activity for all

### **December 2018**

- Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 6.30pm to 10.30pm  
Nash PUMP – Pop Up Micro Pub – popular monthly event serving ales, prosecco, wines & spirits as well as great Nash spirit!
- Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm  
Benefice Advent Carol Service at St Mary's Thornborough
- Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 10.30am to 5pm  
Nash Community Café – drinks and cakes, light lunches, co-working space, Santa's Grotto – Santa is coming to Nash! Come and see him and his elves from 4pm
- Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 11am All Saints Nash Children's Christmas Activity (target age around 3-11yrs)

### **January 2019**

- Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> - 10.30am to 5pm  
Nash Community Café – drinks and cakes, light lunches, co-working space
- Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 6pm-8pm  
Beetle Drive – a fun evening for all ages

For information on the Coffee Morning, Christmas Wreath Making, Carol Service Children's Christmas Activity and Beetle Drive, contact Pam King 01908 501860 or [pam@kingsfold100.co.uk](mailto:pam@kingsfold100.co.uk)

For all other events please contact [infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com)



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# WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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One line 'For Sale' and 'Wanted' ads submitted by Whaddon residents – FOC.  
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Full page – A5 size. Copy to be submitted in high resolution .jpg format.  
Email content to John Mortimer – Editor at [johnmortimermsc@gmail.com](mailto:johnmortimermsc@gmail.com)

### **Publication Dates and Copy Deadlines**

Publication is four times per year in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

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

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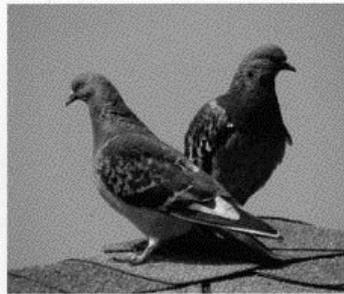
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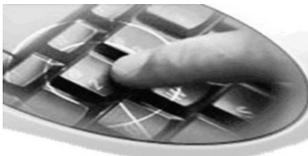
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**TAILPIECE - Concluded from p. 58)** The trams are equipped with pantographs, to pick-up power from overhead wires in the suburbs. At 2018 prices, a tram set costs about £2.2 million. For this you get a tram set consisting of seven cars weighing 55 tonnes and 44 metres in overall length.

The tram set is equipped with three motors and can carry 345 passengers (70 sitting) at <60km/h. The trams have very low floor height to facilitate access for all. "Station" platforms are only about 25cm above ground level.

The population of Bordeaux in 2015 was 250,000. The population of Milton Keynes in 2011 was 230,000. You can see which way I am thinking. ■

Words and photographs: *Roger Porter.*

## WHADDON PLANNING BRIEFS

### **12/03477/APP - 9 STOCK LANE, WHADDON.**

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS, INCLUDING 2 STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR, NEW PORCH TO FRONT ENTRANCE AND EXTERNAL LANDSCAPING WORKS.

This application was registered 4 October. The proposed works will approximately double the footprint area of the existing property, similar to that recently undertaken at the next door property No 11 Stock Lane. The new rear extension will house an open plan kitchen/breakfast area and snug on the ground floor, with two additional bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor – each with Velux style roof windows in the side roof slopes. A new front porch is planned behind a replanted road-side hedge.

### **18/01333/APP - LAND OFF STRATFORD ROAD.** (Almost apposite Whaddon Hall access).

CHANGE OF USE FROM AGRICULTURAL LAND TO ANIMAL TRAINING (DOGS).

This application was first registered by AVDC on 16 April, some 6 months ago, yet nothing has appeared on the AVDC planning website since 30 July. Readers will recall that updates have appeared in recent editions of the Whaddon Quarterly. Your Parish Council, have been regularly chasing AVDC – due to the pending enforcement issues, and the fact that two officers dealing with the application have left the authority – and have very recently been informed by their Parish Liason Officer that :-

*“This application has now been re-allocated to a new planning officer and I will be having a ‘catch up’ with them so that they can be brought up to speed on things. The enforcement case for this site has been placed ‘on hold’, as two planning applications have now been submitted. One being the application referred to above, and another yet to be validated (referring to the septic tank). However more information is required before the second application can be validated. This second application is a retrospective one and standard consultation will be provided once we have received further information from the applicants agent”*

There is no mention within this response about the second enforcement issue regarding the larger reconstruction of part of the original stable building. It remains to be seen whether this forms part of the new retrospective application, or whether the applicants intend to deal with this separately, and perhaps at a later date.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

As with all planning applications, interested residents are able to inspect plans and certain correspondence together with statutory consultation responses by going ‘on-line’ to the AVDC planning website by googling AVDC simple search, and following instructions, or by logging onto the ‘Planning Tracker’ link of the Whaddon P.C. website as follows :-

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/whaddon-bucks-12792/planning-tracker/>

where you can follow the progress of all current Whaddon planning applications submitted to AVDC. Residents can also make their views known either to Whaddon P.C. or direct to AVDC via web link or at <devcon@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk>

All planning applications are discussed at WPC meetings, and the next one is on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November, at 7.30pm in the Village Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.** ■

# Now here's food for thought...

**At first sight there's no obvious connection: Bordeaux and Milton Keynes. Both have a similar population. One has a tram system, the other doesn't. Roger Porter mulls the idea.**



BORDEAUX was settled by the Celts around 500 BC. The Romans took a fancy to the settlement in 100 BC and the city succumbed to Roman rule in 60 BC.

Bordeaux fell into obscurity after being sacked by the Vandals, the Visigoths and the Franks from 250 to 500.

The city rose in importance again following the marriage between Duchess Eléonore of Aquitaine and Count Henri Plantagenet, who, within months, became King Henry II of England. It became the capital of an independent state under Edward, the Black Prince, but the French recognising the importance of the wine trade finally annexed the city to the Kingdom of France in 1653, when Louis XIV's army entered the city.

## Stephenson's influence spreads

My wife and I first holidayed in the city about 14 years ago. We returned again this year. My word, what a change!

The city has installed a tram system (**above**)! Presently, there are three tram lines criss-crossing the city.

The tramway track gauge is the Stephenson gauge of 1,435mm (4ft 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in) and follows the existing road infrastructure.

The trams are excellent vehicles, comfortable, frequent and cheap to travellers.



I began to wonder how easy it would be to install a similar system in Milton Keynes. The obvious target would be grid roads consisting of two dual carriageways and a central reservation.

I was puzzled at first by the apparent absence of a traction power system in the city centre. The French have cracked it by installing a 750V DC third rail (**above**) with only the rail directly under the tram electrically live, thus preventing electrocution of pedestrians and animals. (Cont'd on **p. 57.**)

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