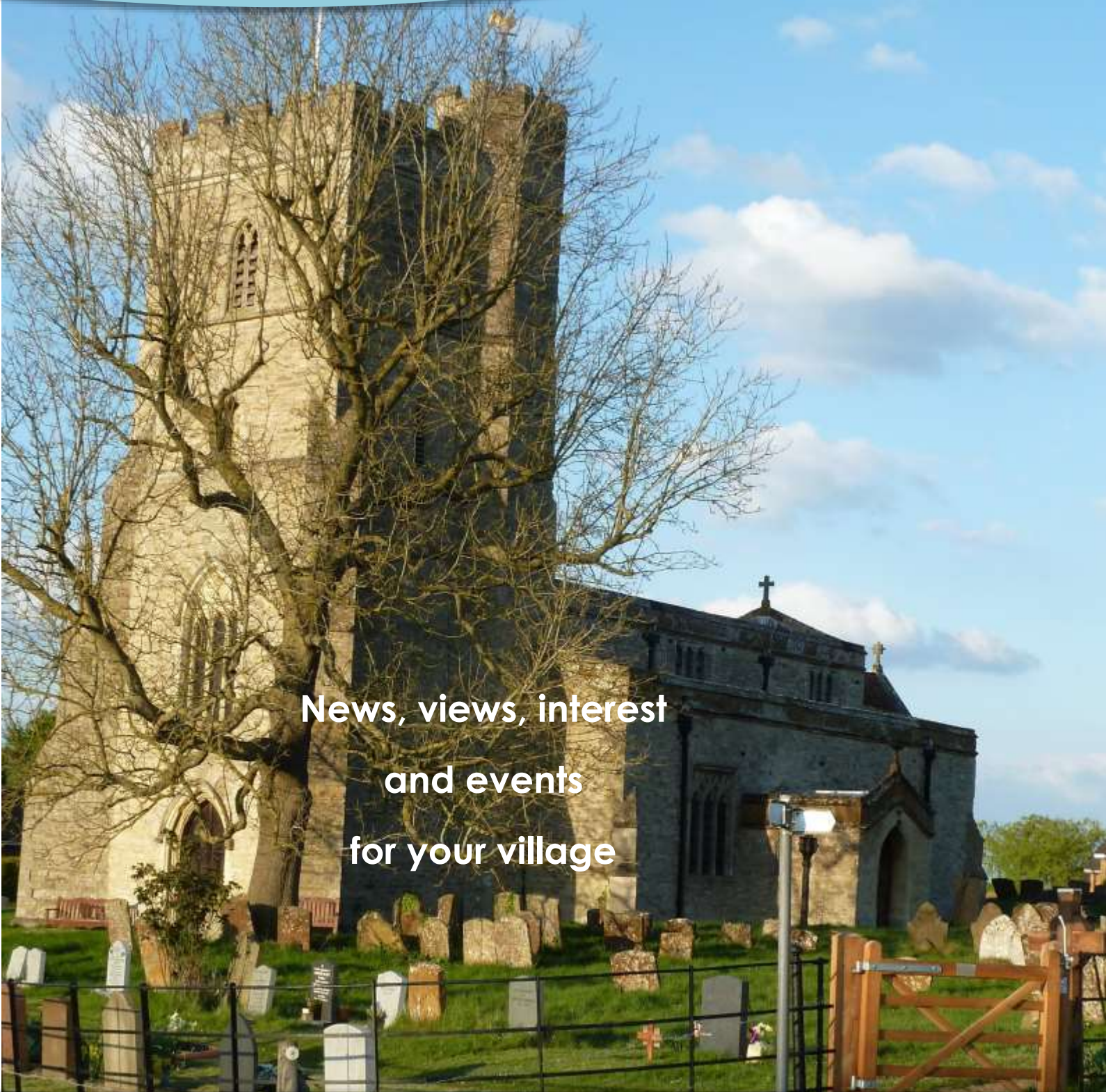


Whaddon Quarterly

May 2017



News, views, interest
and events
for your village

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Whaddon murder, p. 40

Down on the farm, p. 37
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Any comments, queries or articles

Please contact the Editor, John Mortimer, on

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For one year's advertising (four issues): Full page £85 / half page £48.

The Parish Clerk will issue an invoice for payment.

Whaddon Jubilee Hall

For bookings: please contact Maria Cole maria cole1968@sky.com

Deadlines for forthcoming issues:

28th July 2017; 27th October; 26th January 2018; 27th April 2018.

Cover picture

All in the April evening – St Mary's Church and Dylan's Gate, 2017. Photograph: John Mortimer.

Snippets of village news

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



- **ALL PART** of life's rich tapestry... vital jetting of 200 metres of sewer in Stock Lane, Whaddon on 18th April. This task, usually completed once a year, is "to ensure there are no problems".

- **HAZEL HEDGES** reports that the Post Office has returned to the Village Hall. It is now held on Mondays. See **p. 28** for report.

- **DAVE THE POSTMAN** has concluded, after taking numerous soundings around the village, this year's Whaddon Show was the 'best show ever'. See **p. 36** for Julia Lemagnen's report.

- **A DEATHLY SILENCE** hung over Whaddon's Stock Lane on the morning of 5th April as workmen closed Coddimoor Lane to 'repair' highway potholes.

- **AS FOLKS** wended their way to the Whaddon Show on 7th April, the bells of St Mary's could be heard in the still evening air. See also **p. 17** for what was happening in the bell tower.

- **WORK** resurfacing part of Shenley Road which passes Shakespeare Park began on 27th April.

- **A QUARTER PEAL** of bells was rung at St Mary's Church, Whaddon on the morning of 29th April in celebration of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Susan and Derek White.

- **TWO ELECTRICITY** poles behind the Village Hall were replaced early in April. The reason? According to the engineers, the old ones had been attacked by woodpeckers and become weakened. The 60-year-old transformer was replaced at the same time.

- **SOWING** of spring wheat on Whaddon Bank (at the back of Whaddon Hall) took place in early April. Combining is likely to be under way following harvesting of winter wheat opposite on Milton Keynes Bank.

- **THE EXTENSIONS** to Whaddon Church of England School are now being used.

- **A SERVICE** to mark the 30th anniversary of the disaster of the Herald of Free Enterprise was held on 6th March at St Mary's the Virgin Church, Cannon Street, Dover. One of the 193 names read out at the service of those who lost their lives at Zeebrugge in 1987 was that of Martin



Spooner, 31, son of Pamela and Peter Spooner who for many years lived in Whaddon and passed away in 2012 and 2008 respectively. It will be recalled with affection that for many years Peter edited the *Whaddon Quarterly*.

- **TAILPIECE.** The general election is on Thursday 8th June. (Picture and caption from the August 2016 *Whaddon Quarterly* following last year's UK referendum (**above**) hinted at another possible election before too long.

STOP PRESS – 1. WINSLOW RAILWAY STATION

Network Rail has submitted a planning application to AVDC (16/03132/ADP on the AVDC planning application website) based on construction in 2018 followed by 'mothballing' until opening in 2022/4. Winslow Town Council considers the plans totally inappropriate (see their objections on-line) since they contain insufficient provision for parking/taxis/drop off space, cyclists etc. based on likely demand when it eventually opens, drawing in customers from a 15km radius. Log on and have your say soon, especially if you are a likely 'future user' of this important service. For more details see also **p. 30**. ◇

STOP PRESS – 2. PAT HAIG writes that Karen Wilson and Emily Haig have promised they would organise a church fund-raiser with profits going to St Mary's Church roof appeal. It has been set for Sunday afternoon 18th June, opening at 4.00 pm with a Pimms or soft drinks reception. The concert is due to start at 4.30 pm. So hopefully the sun will shine and it will be a lovely afternoon! There is a poster and please email/phone me or contact Karen for tickets. Support it if you are able. ◇



Parish Council Report

Spring 2017

MOST FORMS of government move slowly when confronted by major decisions and while consultation is essential in a democracy, undue delays can cause frustration. Three months ago, I had to report that we were really no further on in respect of the big issues affecting North Bucks. I have to say the same again.

Decision on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) had to be postponed in order to take into account the Government's new White Paper on Housing, but I am glad to say that it should now go through both Cabinet and Council at AVDC in July. It will still only be a Draft Plan at that point and WHA 001 remains in the Plan as currently written.

The Secretary of State for Local Government, Sajid Javed, had said he would give a "minded to" decision on the form of the new Unitary Government for Buckinghamshire but didn't do so in practice. That means everything now has to wait until after the new Buckinghamshire County Council is elected on 4th May. (We are in the Winslow division and our current Councillor, John Chilver, is standing for re-election.)

The Parish Council is part of what is known as the Kingsmead Liaison Group. It meets at intervals to discuss the ongoing traffic issues caused by the current development following the closure of Shenley Road.

Closer at hand, it has been a period of good news. First, the Lowndes Arms has re-opened and I have heard many favourable comments.

We also had a really excellent Whaddon Show recently in the Jubilee Hall. The 'Synchronised Swimmers' will remain in my memory for ever!

The re-opening of the weekly Post Office is also brilliant news and we have to thank Deanshanger Post Office for this.

Finally, we have had one of the best showings of daffodils on the village verges that I can remember. These are now followed by cowslips and primroses, all accompanied by one of the sunniest of springs in many a year. ♦

Billy Stanier, April 2017.

From the editor's chair

For the first time, those receiving *Whaddon Quarterly* by email will be able to navigate their way from one editorial item to another. Having read one article and using the icon 'back to contents' at the bottom of the page, readers can then select their next item, and so on through the issue.

The run-up to each issue of the *Quarterly* inevitably sees an ebb and flow of ideas, chance meetings and coincidences. This issue is no different: an eclectic mix of items past, present and future which together form a 'time capsule' of village events. Recalling the past are Robert Excel's excellent article on life at Home Farm during the first half of the 20th century and the strange tale of the Whaddon murder. The present is depicted by the hilarious and scintillating Whaddon Show, the May Fayre, the arrival of Dylan's Gate and the unusual activity of benchmarking – train spotting for gown-ups. As for the future, well, planning has to be the most important topic for the village.

Meanwhile, a recent visitor to the Whaddon website sought details of Snelshall Priory, prompting research into the subject. Initial research failed to throw up an image of the priory itself, although later one did materialise, while Joan Selby-Lowndes sketched her own ideas of what it looked like in two of her books. That feature should have been in this issue but now will appear next time. Also, UK Power Generation – 2, planned for this issue, is held over to the next issue.

However, it is impossible to conduct even modest research into Snelshall Priory without stumbling upon Browne Willis, an interesting 'character' who owned Whaddon Hall. Born at Blandford St Mary, Dorset, the eldest son of Thomas Willis of Bletchley, and his wife Alice Browne (hence Willis' Christian name) and grandson of Dr Thomas Willis, the famous physician, he was educated at Beachampton School (in the care of Abraham Freestone) and Westminster School. He attended Christ Church, Oxford and entered Inner Temple in 1700. In 1705, Willis became Member of Parliament for Buckingham until 1708.

Willis had close links to Whaddon. Indeed, he lived in its midst 250 years ago. As well as owning Whaddon Hall he also refurbished it. Active in other ways, between 1724 and 1730, he built St. Martin's Church on the site of the old Chantry Chapel of St. Margaret and St. Catherine at Fenny Stratford. Philanthropy indeed.

An eye-opener into Willis's nature can be found in historyofparliamentonline.org. It reports "A lady meeting him for the first time in 1740 found him still wearing the greatcoat tailored for his election at Buckingham in 1705 and now so dirty as to be 'quite disagreeable to sit by him at table'. Her opinion of him on further acquaintance was that 'with one of the honestest hearts in the world, he has one of the oddest heads that ever dropped out of the moon. Extremely well versed in coins, he knows hardly anything of mankind.' "

Just over 270 years ago, a report says that on 19th May 1746, a "dreadful Fire destroyed above 50 Houses at Stony-Stratford. Mr. Willis, besides the Money he collected among his Friends for the Benefit of the unhappy Sufferers, repaired, at his own Expence, the Tower of St. Mary Magdalene's Church there, in Hopes that others might have contributed towards re-building of that Church which was then burnt down. He afterwards gave a Lottery Ticket for the Benefit of that Church, which came up a Prize." Philanthropy indeed. But more of Browne Willis next time.

And, 'thinking outside the box', or lateral thinking, a 'first' this time is 'Guest Contributor'. On 29th March, three weeks before Teresa May announced a general election on 8th June, the *Whaddon Quarterly* invited the Speaker of the House of Commons to give insight of 'behind the scenes' in parliament. He responded immediately and his contribution is on page **52**. However, protocol intervened. Tom Tweddle in the Speaker's office noted in an email on 24th April: "He (the Speaker) is currently the Rt Hon John Bercow MP, but as of 2nd May it will just be John Bercow – Parliamentary Candidate for Buckinghamshire, as the House would have dissolved and there will be no MPs."



Finally, local news. After the daffodils, the cowslips, **above**.
NEXT ISSUE. Snelleshall Priory and the 'black monks'.



Clerk's Corner

Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

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

Street Lights Not Working? Unlike many parishes, Whaddon owns and maintains its own street lights. If you spot one that's not working and in need of repair, please let me know on 07891 887826 or

parishclerk@whaddonbucks.org.uk.

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

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

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

SO SIGN UP NOW!

BE SURE OF STAYING INFORMED!

You can also get Whaddon Quarterly by email, and lots of useful notices and information; e.g., refuse collection delays, road closures, planning applications, etc. Send a short email to ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk asking to be added to the list. We absolutely promise you will NOT be 'spammed' and your details will NOT be passed on or used for any other purpose than this one.

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s). The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm on 10th November 2016. Next year's meetings will be available shortly. Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to

confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change at short notice. All Welcome!

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

Printer: NBR Printing Ltd., Galleon Wharf, Old Wolverton Rd, Milton Keynes. MK12 5NL

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.

Local planning updates

VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN (VALP)

FOLLOWING publication of the Government's Housing White Paper on 7th February, and further progress with adjoining Local Authorities on their unmet housing need figures, AVDC advised some time ago that more time would be essential in order to consider the VALP's content. Accordingly, the Council has announced recently that the revised content of the Plan will be discussed at a series of Council meetings to be held at The Gateway, Aylesbury, on the following dates:

VALP Scrutiny Committee6.30 pm, Tuesday 11th July.

AVDC Cabinet 6.30 pm. Wednesday 12th July.

FULL AVDC COUNCIL 6.30 pm. Wednesday 19th July.

All of these will all be Public Meetings, and your Parish Council will attend one, in order for details to be gathered and disseminated within Whaddon, as appropriate, bearing in mind that the next six-to-eight-week long public consultation period is expected to commence in July/August – once the various Council committees have accepted the Officers' recommendations.

AVDC does not currently have an adopted Plan, but is relying on Saved Policies from the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan of January 2004. Whaddon PC submitted comments during the Scoping Consultation period in May 2014, the Issues & Options Consultation in December 2015 and the Draft Plan Consultation held in September 2016). **During this time, the PC strongly opposed the proposed allocation of 2,000 homes on either side of Shenley Road in Whaddon (at the site identified as WHA001).**

Although it emerged recently that AVDC may be able to reduce its housing requirement by some 6,000 homes (due to adjoining southern districts having revised their calculations on unmet housing needs), it is not yet known whether the Whaddon WHA001 site will remain in the Plan. However, the AVDC Scrutiny Committee meeting held last December suggested: *Development sites on the edge of Milton Keynes had to be considered as potential development options, and could only be removed if suitable alternative sites could be identified. Given their scale this would be difficult to achieve.*

Please note. The latest revised timetable for the submission draft of the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate will be announced by AVDC soon. However, it is now expected that the plan will not be considered by the Inspectorate and finally adopted until early 2018.

For further information please visit <http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/section/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-valp>

MK SITE ALLOCATION PLAN

This document supports the MK Core Strategy of 2013. It aims to ensure the Council has enough land allocated in the short and medium term to demonstrate a five-year supply of housing land. This plan will allocate only small-to-medium-sized sites, as the major strategic sites will be allocated through Plan:MK, when it is finally adopted in 2018/19.

Whaddon PC had cause to comment on the Issues and Options document in November 2014 because of the possible inclusion of a 23-hectare site at Shenley Dens Farm (ref No: U29) that would accommodate approximately 350 homes. This, had it been included, would have been a serious incursion into the Whaddon/Nash Valley Local Landscape Area, thus "harming its character" as concluded by the MK Local Plan Inspector in 2005.

The Preferred Option Plan was recently approved by MK Council; the selected 21 preferred MK sites **did not include site U29 - Shenley Dens Farm**. After considering some 87 sites, MK Council concluded that there was "no added value in allocating the Shenley Dens U29 site, at the present time".

Your Parish Council fully supported this recommendation, and MK Council announced on 12 April that the Plan had been submitted "without further amendment" to the Planning Inspectorate on 31st March. The soundness of this plan will now be examined by Inspector Richard Schofield; the dates for the Hearing Sessions will be announced shortly. Whaddon PC will not be attending these sessions as the threat of developing the Shenley Dens Farm site has disappeared – at least for the time being!

The MK Council hopes to adopt this Plan mid-2017.

For further information please visit <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/site-allocations-plan>

PLAN:MK

A separate detailed article on this can be found on **p. 11**, but the latest version of this document is currently out for Public Consultation, and responses are invited by MK Council before 9th June latest.

Your Parish Council will be discussing its response to the plan at its meeting on Thursday 11th June (7.30pm at the Chapel). Please do come along and make your views known, or visit the website below and make your comments directly online.

Following conclusion of the consultation period and once MK Council has considered further comments, the final Plan:MK will be examined by a Government Inspector in Spring 2018. Final adoption is expected towards the end of 2018 or early 2019. It will replace the existing MK Local Plan (2005) and the more recent Core Strategy (2013).

The Plan will set out the visions, development strategy, sites and policies for the future development of Milton Keynes, and its policies' map will cover the whole of the MK Borough administrative area.

Although Whaddon Village sits just outside the Milton Keynes district boundary, MK's planning policies could impact on local residents. Whaddon PC commented on the Topics Consultation Document in December 2014, and attended one of the Vision Workshops in April

2016. The current version appears to reflect and support the comments then put forward by Whaddon PC. As a result, it would appear that, for some years at least, MK Council is now planning to cross the M1 Motorway and look East towards Cranfield for its long-term expansion areas, rather than South and West towards Whaddon.

For further information please visit <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/plan-mk>

Whaddon planning briefs

17/00563/APP – Ash House, 9 Whaddon Hall Mews, High Street.

Householder approval was granted for a single storey rear extension on 31st March, and the development permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years.

17/01062/ACC – Whaddon Church of England School, Stock Lane.

Having already received planning consent for the new classroom etc. and with no objections from BCC or WPC, the landscape, drainage, archaeology, footpath and School Plan conditions were all satisfactorily discharged on 3rd April.

17/00862/ALB – 9 High Street, Whaddon.

A decision is pending from AVDC for the replacement of all windows, external glazed doors and timber front door and replacement of existing french doors and sidelights, window and brickwork with wider french doors and glazed panels. Having discussed this application at the 9 March meeting, Whaddon P.C. raised 'no objection'.

16/01298/APP – Land to the rear of 2a & 2b High Street, Whaddon.

Outline planning approval was finally granted on 3rd January, for a one and a half storey dwelling, not exceeding 7m in height. Residents will be aware from the advertising board that the entire site, including both 2a and 2b semi-detached ex-farmworker cottages, and the building plot to the rear (accessed from the track alongside the Village Hall), is being sold on the open market. As we go to press, the property remains unsold. Detailed plans must be submitted within three years discharging the various planning conditions which include: Site layout, scale, external appearance, landscaping, enclosure, etc.

16/04423/APP – Plot alongside 2a Vicarage Road.

The original planning application for one detached house was refused some months ago. The applicants then applied for a much smaller one-bedroom bungalow on the same site. This second application was also REFUSED by AVDC on 3rd February. The applicants have 6 months within which they can appeal the decision if they are minded to do so.

16/04506/APP – Erection of a detached 3-bedroom dwelling - Land Adj. To 26 Vicarage Road.

A final decision was awaited from AVDC as the February edition of the Quarterly went to press, but planning APPROVAL, with certain conditions was finally granted by AVDC on 28th February, with the applicants having three years to commence development.

PLEASE NOTE

By logging onto the 'Planning Tracker' link of the Whaddon PC website as follows <https://www.hugofox.com/community/whaddon-bucks-12792/planning-tracker/> you can follow the progress of all current Whaddon planning applications submitted to AVDC. Residents also can make their views known either to Whaddon PC, or direct to AVDC via the web link or at devcon@aylesburyvaldc.gov.

All planning applications are discussed at WPC meetings, and the next one is on **Thursday 11th May, in the Village Chapel**. Details of any applications to be discussed will be displayed on the WPC Notice board (opposite the Chapel) a few days prior to the meeting, so if you are interested please come along and make your views known.

LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS

The latest position on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, and Plan:MK, can also be followed on the same Whaddon P.C. website. Simply click on Parish Council, then planning, in the drop down box.

The Whaddon P.C. response to the Pre-Examination Plan:MK document will be discussed at the 11th May meeting (see separate article in this edition). Residents wishing to make their views known have until 9th June to respond to MK Council with their comments. ◇

Graham Stewart.

Whaddon P.C.

Whaddon's future at stake?

Could Whaddon become a suburb of Milton Keynes and lose its distinctive identity or will it become unrecognisable as a stand-alone village? In this article, Graham Stewart reports on two important planning consultations about to take place that involve crucial decisions and affect everyone.

PLAN:MK

THIS consultation has already commenced and runs for 12 weeks until 9th June. Your Parish Council will be discussing it's response on behalf of Whaddon Village at the Parish Council meeting on **Thursday 11th May – 7.30 pm in the Chapel**. Please come along if you wish to make your views known.

Alternatively, anyone can comment individually:-

Online via the consultation portal: <http://miltonkeynes.objective.co.uk/portal/planmk>

Via email: PlanMK@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Very much like our own District's VALP, the Plan:MK has gone through several important planning and consultation stages already over the last two or three years. There only remains this consultation and final Pre-Submission Plan (Winter 2017) before the plan is presented to the Secretary of State for approval and adoption around Winter 2018. As the emerging Plan reaches its later stages, we should assume that the content becomes firmer and is less likely to be changed, because any unnecessary delay in its production, runs the risk of Intervention by Government who could take over the process – and no Local Authority wants that to happen.

With this in mind, the issue of “In which direction will MK expand up until 2031?” has been at the forefront of everyone's mind, so the decision by MK Council in this latest Plan to cross the M1 Motorway to the East for the very first time (something Whaddon has promoted for many years), has to be welcomed.

To many it has always been seen as the logical decision, with A421 improved infrastructure already in place between MK and Bedford, a lesser quality of local landscape, employment opportunities at Marston Gate Distribution Centre, opportunities to extend, improve and place Cranfield's excellence, with its University, Innovation and Nissan Technical Centres and airfield opportunities at the centre of the Cambridge-MK-Oxford technology corridor, together with an already protected leisure route for a new canal linking MK and Bedford, an existing rail service and leisure opportunities around Ridgmont and the nearby old clay/gravel pit lakes at Brogborough, Marston Moretaine etc.

Admittedly, MKC is only proposing, at present, an area East of Newport Pagnell towards Moulsoe, to commence post 2026, but tellingly it is suggesting that well-planned comprehensive (not piecemeal) development in this location must not prejudice infrastructure projects (yet to be discussed and agreed with the Department of Transport and Highways England) that could provide residential and employment development up to 2031 and beyond.

It should be noted that 19,725 of the 26,500 homes required in the Plan:MK period are already allocated, so MKC needs only to identify land for an additional 6,775 new homes and employment, to accomplish its projected target of 1,760 new homes every year. This requirement (indeed more because they are potentially allocating sites for 7,600 homes in total) can be satisfied by confirming existing sites in the Western and Eastern expansion areas, identifying new sites for 1,000 homes throughout the MK rural areas and at Central MK (3,500), South West MK with rail-related development around Bow Brickhill, Woburn Sands and Wavendon (1,000) and Eaton Leys, Fenny Stratford (600 minimum).

The land to the East of the M1 motorway is planned to provide a major urban expansion post 2031, and has the even longer term potential, subject to agreement with Mid Bedfordshire Council, and others to strengthen existing connections to MK, with an improved and extended rail line and also planned construction the Cambridge/Oxford Expressway, which whilst only a concept at this stage, is high on the Government's National Infrastructure

Commission's agenda, where three potential routes are already under consideration to support the Cambridge-MK-Oxford Technology Arc.

Considering all these factors, and subject to discussion and agreement at the forthcoming Parish Council meeting on 11th May, it is likely that your Parish Council will fully and unanimously 'support' these MKC proposals when responding within the current consultation period; and it is hoped – although we can only guess at this stage that these decisions by MKC if approved and accepted – might help AVDC decide the future of certain controversial development sites that lie within the AVDC district.

VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN (VALP)

THE LAST sentence of the above article should be at the forefront of every Whaddon resident's mind, especially when considering the proposed 2,000 or so housing site at WHA001 which straddles the Shenley Road just beyond the village recreation ground, and would impact on the village and surrounding countryside dramatically.

The site only remains a proposal at this stage, but all residents will know from last year's village meetings in the Jubilee Hall and Chapel, that AVDC is considering the opportunity very seriously indeed, as are the developers who are vigorously promoting the land for development purposes.

It also remains to be seen, following the last December public consultation at the plans previous stage, whether or not the site remains in the next VALP version which is due to be announced at a series of Aylesbury Vale District Council meetings this July, with a further round of public consultation **during July/August this year** – but looking at comments made recently by the VALP Scrutiny Committee there must be a possibility that it will still be included.

Consider these comments and resolutions made by the committee:

a) Development on the edge of Milton Keynes – sites on the edge of Milton Keynes had to be considered as potential development options and could only be removed if suitable alternatives could be identified. Given their scale this would be difficult to achieve.

b) It was confirmed that the Whaddon development was included in the Milton

Keynes figures. (Your PC does not understand this comment given that MKC have since confirmed that all their housing requirement can be achieved within their own boundaries – so are taking this point up with AVDC prior to the consultation period in July)

c) Consideration of a new settlement (Winslow, Haddenham or late-comer Verney Junction) should be deferred until the route of the Oxford/Cambridge Expressway has been clarified and work on the next plan commenced. (This resolution concerns your PC because even though the Expressway is only a concept at the present time and could be many years from actual completion, any delay on a new settlement decision – which could provide up to 6,000 new homes – will invariably place more pressure on AVDC to identify other major sites to make up the housing requirement deficiency – which might include WHA001)

Once your Parish Council has determined in early July, what sites and policies are proposed in the revised plan we will do our utmost to let all residents know the detail – perhaps by leaflets, or a further Village Hall meeting, but certainly through the Village website, the village email list and social media methods.

Depending on the VALP revised content, it may be appropriate to consider compiling a village petition (perhaps with our neighbours at Nash – as we did a few years ago when the ‘Over the Ridge’ development battle raged), but everybody will be encouraged to find time within the consultation period to let AVDC planners know their feelings by way of responses using email, letter or the Council’s planning portal, on this latest plan that has the potential of changing Whaddon village for generations to come.

These are very interesting times – possibly worrying or maybe exciting – depending on your own personal point of view, but clearly your Parish Council is encouraging every resident to become actively involved. It may be that your local councillors cannot do all the work that may be needed – so volunteers, perhaps to distribute leaflets, compile petition signatures, or simply to spread the news etc. may be needed.

Please let any Parish Councillor know if you are prepared to help – if required. If WHA001 is not re-confirmed in the VALP, such help may not be required.

REMEMBER

LATE JULY, AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER IS LIKELY TO BE THE CRUCIAL TIME PERIOD!

Graham Stewart.

Whaddon P.C.

St. Mary's Church Whaddon

Regular services

May 2017

1 st Sunday	10.30 am Family Service
2 nd Sunday	10.30 am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
3 rd Sunday	10.30 am Sunday Special - Contemporary informal gathering. Tea, coffee and croissants available from 10 am
4 th Sunday	8.30 am Said Holy Communion (Traditional, in Lady Chapel)
5 th Sunday	Benefice service at one of the churches - venue to be notified



Other activities

Monday	2.30 - 4.30 pm Post Office in Jubilee Hall
Tuesday	2.00 pm Tea on Tuesday in Jubilee Hall
Tuesday	7.30 pm Bellringing practice – new recruits welcome
1st Wednesday	2.00 pm Women's Institute in Jubilee Hall
3 rd Wednesday	7:30 pm Whaddon Night Owlers WI in Jubilee Hall
1st Saturday	10 am - 12 noon Coffee Shop in church

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

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 10th June Annual Summer Fete at **King's Close House, Nash Rd**

Saturday 5th August 10 - 12 pm Florrie's Coffee Morning at 3 Church Lane

Saturday 7th October 10 - 4:30 pm Open Day at St Mary's. Morning Coffee, Soup and Ploughman's lunches. Cream teas also will be served. You are invited also to bring gifts of produce to the church.

Sunday 8th October 10:30 am Harvest Festival.

Monday 9th October 7:30 pm Harvest Supper & Auction of Produce in Jubilee Hall

This year our ANNUAL SUMMER FETE will take place at **King's Close House, Nash Rd, Whaddon** on **Saturday, 10th June** by kind permission of Sir Beville (Billy) Stanier.

There will be lots of fun and games for children with pony rides, hoop-la, treasure hunt, etc., as well as our raffle, cake, book and plant stalls, to mention but a few. There will also be ice creams and a Cola and Pimms Bar. The Woburn Sands Band will be entertaining us as usual and afternoon teas will be served.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support the village church and have an afternoon of fun, so please come along and bring all your friends.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact any member of the PCC. We especially need helpers at the village hall in the morning to load the chairs and tables at 10.00 am (this usually takes about 30 minutes), erect the gazebos and stalls at the venue and clear up at 4.30 pm.

If you have anything such as a bottle, tin or jar of anything which you can give for the Tombola or plants, books, toys and cakes for these stalls, please contact Hazel Dudley (01908 505727) Clare Garland (01908 501732), Jo Bush (01908 749323) or bring donations on the day between 10.30am and 11:30 am.

We would also be very grateful for raffle prizes and somebody who is prepared to run the raffle on the day. Please contact Hazel Dudley (01908 505727).

The ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING will take place on 27th April in the Lady Chapel at 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm. The Annual Reports will be available and PCC members and church officers elected. This is your opportunity to express your views and comments on the life of the church in this village. If you would like to serve on the PCC or become a sides-person please contact the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Jo Mortimer-Bush 01908 749323 or Mrs Hazel Hedges 01908 501729. We look forward to seeing you there.

EASTER services were well attended and the church looked beautiful on Easter Day, thanks to all who arranged flowers and laundered the Altar linen.

The Family Communion Service was conducted by Rev'd Michael Greig. He managed to involve many of the children present and talked about his journey to faith in New Zealand and subsequent ordination and work in Ruanda. It was a very stimulating talk and an enjoyable service followed by tea, coffee and mini Easter eggs.

MESSY CHURCH in the Jubilee Hall drew a large crowd of children and parents on Good Friday. All had fun making an Easter egg tree and bonnets, and other activities. These were brought into church and displayed on Easter Sunday.

SUNDAY SPECIAL on 3rd Sunday of the month is held at the back of the church and starts at 10.30 am with tea, coffee and croissants being served from 10am. The format is informal with music, songs, slides and film excerpts, talks and discussion. Do come and see how you like it because your contribution and feedback are much valued.

CLEANING. We still need volunteers to help with cleaning the church on a rota basis so that everyone's turn comes round less often. If you, on your own, or with a friend, can give some time to keep the church looking beautiful, please contact Hazel Dudley on 01908 505727. All materials are supplied.

Volunteers are welcome to take care of flower arranging, on a similar rota basis. Please contact Beryl Evans on 01908 502567 or Janet Spencer on 01908 502540.

BELLRINGING. You are invited – young or not so young – to attend on Tuesday evenings to learn to ring the bells of St Mary's. You require no particular skill, just a desire to be part of the team. Many of our ringers are not youngsters and it would be a great pity if our bells hung silently for lack of ringers. The bells are regularly rung at Festivals and on the 2nd Sunday of the month. They are also rung at weddings and funerals, when possible.

THE CHURCH ROOF is now being replaced with Terne-coated stainless steel and an alarm has been installed and appropriate warning notices erected (**right**). Please see also article on **p.18**.

The associate priest for this parish is Rev'd Gussie Walsh. She can be contacted on 01280 821616 or am@buckinghambenefice.org.uk We invite you to join us at any or all of our events and services when you can be sure of a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you very soon.



Hazel Hedges (Church Warden) 01908 501729

hazel.hedges@gmail.com

Tel: 01908 501729 hazel.hedges@gmail.com

The Parochial Church Council

Hazel Hedges
Churchwarden.
Tel. 01908 501729

Jo Mortimer-Bush
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 01908 503194

Barry Dudley
Hon. Treasurer
Tel: 01908 505727

David Spencer
Electoral Roll Officer
Tel: 01908 502540

Frederick Hayward
Jubilee Hall Rep
Tel: 01908 506083

Hazel Dudley
Tel: 01908 505727

Clare Garland
Tel: 1908 501732

Rev'd Gussie Walsh
Tel. 01280 821616

Whaddon's bells

ON THE FIRST Friday of each month, some members of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers meet at St Mary's Church, Whaddon for a practice session. The North Bucks Branch comprises 32 church towers in the north of the county and practice night is open to anyone who can handle a bell rope safely. However, anyone is welcome to come and talk to the ringers about ringing and see it being done, and perhaps arrange to have a go. ♦



Derek White.

Tower Captain.

• **THOSE WERE THE DAYS** when Whaddon had a strong cricket team, so strong indeed that it won the Milton Keynes Cup three years 'on the trot'. The cricket pitch used to be adjacent to Bottlebank Farm. Happy days. Some people can recall those times, like Stuart Helps, a team member and now a third-generation builder now renovating No. 11 Stock Lane, Whaddon. ♦

Church roof repairs get momentum

AS I write this final report, the church roof is being replaced with Terne-coated stainless steel, as mentioned in my article in the last issue of the Whaddon Quarterly.

By the time you read this, providing the good weather continues, it will have been finished and the alarm system installed and tested.



We have been very fortunate in having a relatively dry winter during the time the temporary covering was on the roof. Consequently, there has been no ingress of water to damage the interior of the church, thanks to Barry Dudley's prompt action in covering exposed timbers.

The appeal donations from the village totalled £4,335 which generated an additional £1083.75 in Gift Aid. The PCC is encouraged by the response and the donations received. We also received money from our insurers, which covered the cost of electrical repairs and a proportion of the value of the stolen lead.

The balance came from the Church Repair Fund and a bequest from the late Florrie Parrott. The fund is very carefully managed by PCC treasurer, Barry Dudley, and is maintained by the PCC's fund-raising activities which you generously support throughout the year.

The PCC is very grateful to all who contributed and especially to David Spencer and Barry Dudley, who undertook most of the research and paperwork necessary in their dealings with the relevant authorities and tradesmen involved. ♦

Thank you all from St Mary's PCC,

Hazel Hedges, April 2017

Dylan, leaving one space and entering another

Remembering a son, brother and friend

THIS was the thought behind Dylan's memorial church gate. However, none of us can be sure which way he ended up going!

Over the past 40 or so years, my family and I have trudged up the bridleway past Church Hill Farm, through the gate to the west of the churchyard, and towards the old school yard where some of my grandchildren now play. Perhaps then on to the village shop, before it closed many years ago. In later years, the journey would have been past Dylan's mum's grave and her memorial cross following her death in 1989.

All of this led to the family of Dylan concluding, with the church's permission, that a new gate would be a fitting memorial to Dylan's life, so sadly cut short by him losing his way in life.

The photograph, **above**, is of Dylan, aged eight following his mother's funeral. It shows him as a proud boy with the huge puffball he discovered on the top of a heap of rubble and detritus from the previous year's demolition of an old timber-frame implement shed in the corner of the then tenant (Reg Faulkner) of the farmer's field, adjacent to the Glebe.

It seemed to us all, like some sort of divine intervention: manna from heaven. As indeed it certainly was when sliced, fried in butter and served seasoned with fresh bread and butter during what was a difficult week at the Glebe where I had moved to in 1976. To this day, not one member of the family has ever found anything close to the size of that magnificent fungi.



A collection held at Dylan's memorial service that followed his funeral yielded, when rounded, up a figure of £400. Of this, £100 will go towards the new gate on the opposite side of the churchyard, while £300 will support Willen Hospice.

The gate, **pictured**, erected and celebrated on what would

have been Dylan's 36th birthday, was funded by a home-made chilli product sold to family and friends. Donations topped this up to the required amount necessary to fund the gate. Its erection was the result of hard graft and love, freely given. ♦

MY SCHOOL DAYS

The best speech day ever?

IT WAS school Speech Day, held in Blackpool's famous Winter Gardens, a formal and hugely boring occasion. Some 500 of us girls, in immaculate uniforms (no cardigans allowed) sat in the front stalls with 500 dutiful parents behind. The teaching staff, in full academic robes sat on the stage behind the headmistress and assorted VIPs.

The proceedings droned on as usual until the Mayor, a self-made man, rose to his feet. First he told us how he'd had very little education but thought it was a "Good Thing" (and to be fair, his Corporation was very generous with student grants).

Then he came to his big moment. He said, in his broad Lancashire accent, that he'd like to congratulate "Mrs Nixon, what's Chairman of School Governors, on being presented by t'Queen at Buckingham Palace with the OBJ."

There was a moment of horrified silence - then great roars of laughter. We girls were in hysterics; the junior members of staff were in fits of giggles. The headmistress was visibly struggling to keep her face straight, while Mrs Nixon, a highly dignified lady, was plainly furious.

And why? Because OBJ stands for Oh! Be Joyful, the best-selling product of the local brewery. It was a wonderful advert for the beer, and the best speech day ever for us. ♦

Margaret Barrie

Table Tennis

Join us in the Jubilee Hall from 8.15 pm to 9.30 pm

Singles and Doubles Admission: £2.00

All equipment provided

2 Tables available Rules explained

Coaching given School pupils welcome from age 8

Beginners or experts welcome

Contact Mark Carter: magcarter@hotmail.co.uk or just turn up

Hands Up For Jesus!



St Mary's, Whaddon

After-School Club with

Rev Gussie and team

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

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

In **February** we heard a story about a mouse who was very seasick when he found himself on a boat with Jesus in the middle of a great storm.

In **March**, we heard about a blind man, Bartimaeus, who retrieved his sight. It happened when Jesus was walking nearby. Bartimaeus, by asking those close to Him, discovered who was passing and shouted out. The people implored Bartimaeus to be quiet, but he kept calling out, more loudly and persistently than before.



Such perseverance was not only proof of his faith, but the blind man showed that he believed in Jesus' goodness and deference to the poor and needy. Jesus told his disciples to call the blind man over. Bartimaeus jumped up and went to Jesus, and Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus said, "Rabbi, I want to see." Jesus said, "Go ...your faith has healed you." Bartimaeus recovered his sight and followed Jesus.

Next term

May 17th, A picnic!

June 21st, Grow your own hair

Songs, story-telling, craft, games, food & loads of FUN!

3rd Wednesdays per month of term 3.00 – 4.00 pm

Toddler church



TODDLER CHURCH

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

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon
every Wednesday (term time from 1.45 – 2.45pm)

The hour consists of arts & crafts, songs & story time plus of course refreshments! A warm welcome awaits you; no one is too old or young. So come along and join in the fun! We look forward to seeing you.

Toddler Church finishes for the Summer Holidays on 19th July

Sally Green (01908 526033)



Thank you to all those who have planted daffodil bulbs around the village over the last couple of years – what a stunning display. A wonderful splash of colour to brighten anyone's day as they drive through our village.



Hobbs: A chocolate box cottage

The last thatched cottage standing in Whaddon has just been the subject of major re-work. John Mortimer talks to the craftsmen involved...

DAVE LEWIS, a craftsman of the 'old school', has been quietly plying his trade in the village for the past few months, replacing (or re-thatching) the thatched roof on Hobbs Cottage.

Dave, a master thatcher of some 31 years' standing, is working in this case for another master thatcher, Neil Painting Master Thatcher Ltd of Brackley (neilpaintingthatcher.co.uk), who won the contract for re-thatching Hobbs Cottage. Neil has been thatching full-time since he was 16.

Dave has some 10 or so other customers on his books and typically re-thatches up to four cottages a year. Last year, Neil and his team completed 14 thatching jobs, including two major cottages at Sulgrave Manor, Northamptonshire.

Thatching is a traditional craft dating back some 4,500 years to the Bronze Age.

I asked Dave if the thatching trade is finally in decline. He shook his head noting that young people are still coming into the trade. And, as well as re-thatches, there are some new-builds being thatched.

Hobbs Cottage is now the only thatched cottage in Whaddon; at one time there were several. More recently, there was another – Pear Tree Cottage opposite, once owned by George King.

Thatched roofs can last up to 30 years. The drawback is that, formed from organic material, the minute it is laid it very slowly begins to decay.

Some three months before starting work on Hobbs Cottage, Neil put a tarpaulin sheet (**right**) over part of the roof started to leak. Once under way, the tools of the trade are few and far between, with an electric screwdriver Dave's only truly mechanized aid.

Dave takes pride in his work for, as his father said to him: "Son, if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well."



The majority of the re-thatch comprises water reed. Water reed is harvested from wetland beds and is more hard-wearing than wheat straw, giving a crisp and smooth finish (**right**). Water reed can be sourced from Norfolk but Norfolk reed is in short supply; Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary or even China are other sources of supply.



Of these, Dutch water reed is reckoned to be of high quality.

Indeed, Holland, with its low-lying wetlands has a huge thatching industry, perhaps more than any other country with much of it well organised, methodical and mechanized.

The Dutch, who use only water reed (not wheat straw), are well noted for the intricate nature of their workmanship and often engage in using thatch for vertical wall covering. Even a fire station has been thatched. Sweden too has a thriving thatching industry.

In the UK, just a little combed wheat straw is used – mainly for the ridge. Here the characteristic of flexible wheat is essential in preference to the more brittle water reed. Combed wheat has heads and butts at opposite ends.

Water reed comes supplied in bales and each bale weighs roughly half a tonne and contains 100 bundles. Water reed typically measures over five feet in length. The entire roof of Hobbs Cottage required 1,500 bundles, and Dave reckons that some days he can hit 50 or so bundles a day. But much depends on the complexity and intricacy of the roof, and, of course, the weather.

Creating the chocolate box effect

Once the old thatch has been stripped down to its underwear – a dry and musty, thin petticoat of thatch – the real work can begin with each bundle being carefully positioned with the flower-head facing the roofline. In the case of Hobbs Cottage, Neil's team stripped the old thatch down to the rafters and battens.

Once thatching can begin, the thatcher picks up a spar: a branch of split hazel wood that has been tapered to a point at each end, and twisted in the middle into a V-shape. Spars are used to staple the thatch into place.

Dave's principal tool is a legget (**right**). Like a short-handled spade, it has a flat aluminium head, but turn it over and there's a dimpled-effect pattern punched out of the surface. The raised dimples catch the butt ends of the reeds as Dave tamps the legget up against the reeds. Dave does this to marshal the sea of butt ends (known as the coat-work) to form a smooth surface of thatch.



This is known as dressing and a well-dressed thatched coat is the pride of the trade. Master thatchers like Neil reckon the finished product should have a chocolate box image.

Where the plaster is close to the rafters and battens (as in the case of Hobbs Cottage) a thatcher will use screw fixings in the rafters to act as anchor points for the twisted wire holding the bundles in place. The screw fixing is a self-tapping screw with an 18-inch length of double-wire knotted around its head.

Dave's other main tool is the twister: effectively a sack tie. Rather like an Archimedes screwdriver or Yankee screwdriver, by repeatedly pushing and pulling, Dave can twist the wire which passes from the rafters and then over the steel rods running horizontally across the roof to hold the bundles in place.

Sometimes hazel rods are used in place of the steel rods (as happened previously with Hobbs Cottage) and likewise, long steel staples with a hook at one end can be hammered into the roof timbers to hold the rods in place. But twisted wire is nowadays most common.

Another particular item in a thatcher's tool box is a pair of shears. Dave uses the shears to trim loose ends. Some thatchers employ a shearing hook which looks like a left-handed scythe, except it's right-handed, and is used to shear the ears off the reeds.

When Dave has finally, and painstakingly, worked his way up to the ridge of the roof he pins the thatch down tightly with some spars. He creates a double layer of thatching at the ridge and covers this with thatching wire (like chicken wire but with a smaller mesh) to protect it from lumbering crows.

Unlike the thatched layer underneath, the flowers of the top layer face downwards and are trimmed.

The final topping is Neil's 'signature' ridge pattern – half circles (**right**). Other patterns are possible, such as half-circle and point (or V) or half-circle and clover. But the chances are that if you see a half-circle ridge pattern, it's one of Neil's.

With luck, Hobbs Cottage will not require re-thatching until at least 2050. ♦



Billy Stanier writes: We bought the cottage in 1991 following the death of the owner, Miss Hobbs ('Cis'). The ridge was replaced. Cis had lived there all her life and at one time she had her brother, Fred Hobbs, living with her.

The cottage, christened Hobbs Cottage after the previous owner, was re-thatched round about 1970, with the ridge being repaired in 1991.

We christened it Hobbs Cottage after the previous owner.

Prior to the recent re-thatch, the thatch on the cottage was Norfolk reed as opposed to straw.

The cottage at 3 Nash Road is probably 500 to 600 years old. It is marked on the Whaddon sketch map of 1800 with the occupant named as Buckland. Intriguingly the house next door, almost semi-detached, is marked as being occupied by King in 1800. Nash Road in those days was called Sugar Lane. The 'Meeting House' was on the other side of the road; it is now an orchard and a garage.

Adjacent to the cottage today is a wooden post once used by visitors to tether their horse and cart when visiting. ♦

Stands the clock – in Whaddon

*Deep meadows yet, for to forget
The lies, and truths, and pain?... oh! yet
Stands the Church clock at ten to three?
And is there honey still for tea?*



These four lines conclude Rupert Brooke's iconic 1912 poem about England and, in particular, The Old Vicarage, Grantchester. However, it was the church clock **(above)** in Whaddon which on the morning of 16th February stood silent and motionless at eleven minutes past six and brought Derek White hurrying to investigate the problem.

Having scaled the 30 steep spiral steps to the clock chamber, Derek soon discovered the problem; his worst fears were realised. The 2.5 cwt pendulum, which effectively 'drives' the clock, had become separated from the escapement causing the clock to stop instantly.

There was only one thing to do: call Ray Goodger of Thornborough, clock mechanic 'extraordinaire' and blacksmith. Ray repairs half a dozen church clocks a year afflicted by potentially terminal problems.

And repairing a faulty pendulum can be fatal for the clock, because if lifting such a heavy weight back onto the escapement cannot be accomplished then, unless other means are found for "driving" the clock, the timepiece is useless.

Unable to employ lifting tackle because of the extremely cramped environment of the clock chamber, clock mechanics such as Ray usually resort to crowbars, thick

wooden chocks and even motor vehicle jacks to steady and raise the pendulum to a position where it can be reconnected to the escapement.

And so it was that on 23rd February, just seven days after it stopped, that Ray set about the difficult task of repairing the clock built in 1910 by Potts of Leeds.

The problem had arisen because a small, but vital strip of steel measuring 1mm in thickness and 30mm in width had broken from fatigue. The last time this happened at Whaddon was in 1958.

The tempered spring steel is an essential component connecting the pendulum from a support bracket attached to the escapement mechanism which regulates the movement of the minute and hour hands.



When the steel strip **(shown replaced centre left)** finally fatigued, it allowed the pendulum to drop a short distance into the pit beneath, a pit specially created to accommodate it in such eventualities.

Unfortunately, working space in and around the clock's mechanism is so confined that only one person at a time can have access to it, and even then conditions are so cramped that anyone over 6ft would find it difficult to access, let alone work.

Rectifying the failure is made worse by the weight of the pendulum which had to be raised at least 6 inches to allow the spring support to fit snugly into the escapement mechanism. Weighing 2.5 cwt the pendulum was too heavy for Ray to lift.

It's like trying to lift a 20-stone man by his neck without any real purchase at all. Or trying to lever him off the ground with a wooden plank under his feet. It was difficult. But not too difficult for Ray, a man who knows a thing or two about church clocks. He is also a dab hand at renovating massive wrought iron gates of country estates and palatial homes.

As an effective solution, Ray used a crowbar against the edge of the pit to lever up the pendulum sufficiently to allow him to slide a motor vehicle jack into position beneath the pendulum. Once in place underneath, Ray could turn the jack's screw to raise the pendulum sufficiently until the spring carrier lined up with the support bracket on the escapement.

Ray is accustomed to dealing with a variety of church clocks including that at Thornborough, where his business is located at The Forge. Coincidentally, Thornborough's clock mechanism is almost identical to that at Whaddon. It was made by local man John Sykes who lived at Thornborough House and installed it in 1886. Unlike Whaddon's clock, which strikes only on the hour, the Sykes' clock also can strike quarters (but does not).

At times bent almost double, and struggling to raise the pendulum sufficiently to insert the jack beneath, **(shown right)** Ray eventually, inched the pendulum upwards until, using a lump hammer, he gently but firmly reconnected the upright with the escapement.

All that was left to do was to rock the pendulum gently to put the clock in motion once again, set the correct time and clear away the tools. Well, not quite. The clock was found to gain 10 minutes in every 24 hours. This again required Ray's services of Ray but until that could happen, Derek had to stop the clock (at 4.31) on 1st March until Ray could make the necessary adjustments to the pendulum. Following further adjustments, the clock continued to gain time and Derek stopped it at five past one.

Hopefully the pendulum will not fall freely until at least 2077 when the same task will have to be repeated. Possibly by then, clock mechanics and blacksmiths could be occupations of the past.

JM





Whaddon church clock has stopped once before – coincidentally – on the occasion in 1993 of Hugh Willett’s funeral. Hughie, as he was known, tended the clock assiduously for 34 years, climbing the steep spiral staircase to the clock-tower twice a week to rewind the two weights activating the mechanism. Each weighing a quarter of a ton, it took 100 turns of the handle to fully raise the weights. Hughie took over the task from his brother-in-law, Fred Dormer, in 1958. Since the clock came to a halt on the day of Hughie’s funeral in 1993 Derek White has taken charge of looking after it. However, for some 20 years the task of raising the weights has been achieved by electric motor. ♦

Post office – use it or lose it

THE NEW Post Office in the Jubilee Hall is now up and running and available for a full range of services, plus some added new ones. The trading day will be Monday (not Tuesday) going forward. Opening times are **2.30 - 4.30 pm**.



The postmaster, Mr Jigar Patel, runs the Post Office in Deanshanger. His shop can be contacted on 01908 564490. Please save this telephone number for future reference when placing orders.

Deanshanger Post Office has a shop and off-licence attached. Mr Patel informs me that he is prepared to bring items with him from the shop on Monday, provided that orders are telephoned through in advance. For example, you can order wine, milk, bread, tea, coffee and other groceries. Mr Patel can also order magazines and periodicals. These can also be collected on Mondays.

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

Also available are mobile phone top ups, utility bill payments, and personal cheque deposits into any bank except Metro Bank.

All these extra services will be available, as well as the regular services of money orders, stamps, letters and parcels; and he will have greetings cards for various occasions.

However, neither the Postmaster nor the Jubilee Hall is being paid to provide this service to the village. Whether it stays or goes will depend entirely on how much it is used. If it is not well supported and Mr Patel considers it not worth his while to continue, he will have no option but to close it. Please support this important and valuable village facility whenever you can.

CLARIFICATION. Janet Wyatt writes to say that, in her article My Whaddon families in the February issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly*, the last paragraph should read. “In later

years, Harry (my grandfather) retired and went to live at St Leonard's, in Buckinghamshire, where he owned a herd of dairy cattle from which he supplied milk to the neighbourhood. Harry likewise became a churchwarden. Harry's father, John Underwood from Whaddon and who married Hephzibah, died in Chalfont St Peter at an early age."



Whaddon Chapel

May 2017

'For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."`
[Paul's letter to the Romans 1v16, 17, The Bible)

THIS YEAR, many churches are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation. Just 500 years ago, one man, Martin Luther, was so struck by the verses above that it changed not only his life but the course of history.

The 'Reformation' of which Luther was a part was a sequence of events that brought the *Bible* into the language, hands and understanding of everyday man and woman. It gave all of us the opportunity to read God's words – so that anyone may know God for themselves.

It is strange to think that something we now take for granted was so revolutionary. Many lost their lives for their role in translating and spreading God's word. But this is just what was so powerful about the *Bible*: it was – and is – *God's words*. We all have the opportunity to read them for ourselves.

Reading the *Bible* reveals a personal God – desiring personal relationship with us, and making this possible through Jesus without the need for any human intermediary or labour. As we read the *Bible*, we can clearly see

how God made a way for anyone to be reconciled to Him; to have our right relationship restored and to know and experience Him as we were first created to do.

God's own words tell us that God saves us not because of the things we do, but by certain trust (faith) in Him. Through faith in Him, we can experience His love, forgiveness and grace. This is what we call the 'gospel' or 'good news'.

For all to be able to read and understand this 'good news' was a radical idea 500 years ago – and the fact that God still 'speaks' through His word, the *Bible*, is no less incredible today! Why not take just a few minutes to read some of the *Bible* – the book for which so many thought it necessary to give their lives?

Join us to find out more.

Regular meetings

- Every Sunday at 4.00 pm-5.00 pm, Whaddon Chapel.

Winslow station gathers objections

WINSLOW Town Council has expressed concerns about Network Rail's planning application for Winslow Railway station. Member parishes and town councils are now being encouraged to write letters of objection to AVDC.

The Town Council note that Network Rail has submitted a reserved matters application for the new station building, car park and approach road. The Town Council is working very hard to ensure that this badly flawed application does not succeed.

It claims this application is simply not fit for purpose and puts forward eight objections, including that the size of the site is too small to provide adequately for the necessary facilities in the early years and certainly not for the inevitable passenger usage growth in the future.

The plea is to encourage Parish Councillors to please write in as private individuals using their own words to AVDC either via an email to DevControl@aylesburyvaledc.gov or directly via the website and send as brief a note of objection as they wish. Once operational, Network Rail are anticipating that passengers from at least a radius of 15 km around Winslow will be using the new station. ◇

Stop Press – Details of new planning application 17/01465/ALB – 12 High Street, Whaddon.

Listed building application, to replace 4 modern double glazed false sash windows with slim-line double glazed traditional sash windows. The application, which can be viewed on the Whaddon Parish Council website, is supported by a heritage, design and access statement. ◇

Whaddon's Women's Institute

This year, starting in February, we gained an insight into what it takes to be a film and television extra – and it's not always as glamorous as you may think.

For our March meeting we learned about the Burma Memorial Window which can be found in a church on the Isle of Wight. We heard about what was involved, including how the idea for the window came about, details of the design, as well as going through the process of making and installing the stained glass window.



In April, husbands and friends joined us for our visit to Belfair Chocolates at Brackley. There we learned about the growing of the cocoa beans, their harvesting and blending, through to the making of the finished product: artisan chocolates. Afterwards, we could taste the different varieties of chocolate (**left**) made by the company. And very delicious they were too.



We are now planning our float for May Day. The theme chosen for this year is woodland creatures. I can't imagine what ideas we will come up with!

The Post Office is back in the Village Hall, but it is now being held on Monday afternoons. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer teas on that day to coincide with the Post Office. However, we will continue as usual on Tuesday afternoons, thanks again to our cake- and tea-makers.

As before, we offer a warm welcome to everyone to join any of our meetings. Further details are available from Jane Waight on 01908 989851 or me on 01908 501987 ◇

Susan White

April 2017

• Belflair Chocolates was founded in 2001 by resident chocolatier Stefaan Moyaert and his wife Mervi. Stefaan learned his craft at the chocolate/patisserie school in Brussels. He worked for (among others) the famous Patisserie Mahieu – also in Brussels – and the Chocolaterie Opera in Antwerp. “As an artisan producer, we make handmade chocolates here using local ingredients wherever possible,” says Mervi. “Our master chocolatier uses his Belgian expertise to create these tasty chocolates. We also produce the very English Rose and Violet cremes!” Mervi adds: “If anyone is interested to learn about how to make chocolates we do some hands-on chocolate-making courses.” For details see www.belflairchocolates.co.uk JM

Whaddon Night Owlers WI

WE HAVE had a busy start to the year – just the way we like it!

So far we have been entertained by a pantomime dame. Oh yes we were. He told us about the history of pantomimes and how they have developed into the tradition we all know and love. He also let us in on some

backstage secrets

and costume information. Daphne tried on one of his wigs and decided against becoming a full-time dame!

A group of us have been to a Murder Mystery Dinner hosted by Winslow WI. We identified the murderer but sadly did not win the prize. We did get an

honourable mention for the suggestion that the peacocks were guilty



though, so came away happy. The dinner was delicious and the theatre very entertaining. What better way to spend a Saturday evening?

On Good Friday, we provided refreshments for Messy Church which proved to be a fun morning. Cakes and drinks were supplied, donations made and Easter Bonnets admired. The children all seemed to have a good time and most of the cakes and hot cross buns disappeared. And we can strongly recommend hot cross bun bread and butter pudding for any leftovers you may have lurking in the freezer.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.00 for 7.30 and would love to include new people, so please do come and join us. For more information, contact Daphne on 01908 502088 or pop along to one of our meetings in the Jubilee Hall.

Alison Cross



Jammy dodger kids work hard to spruce up the churchyard

I WOULD like to thank 'jammy dodger kids' Jessica, Tilly, William and Zack who, after making their biscuits, had great fun tidying up the churchyard in the wake of Storm Doris.

Well done, all of you.

Hazel Dudley

Obituary: Betty Ashford (1927-2017)

BETTY ASHFORD loved Whaddon. Her positive approach to life and inquisitive nature were just two of her characteristics mentioned in cards and letters to me from the many friends she made during her time at Wood Pond Farm, part of which she spent with Ray until his death in 2007.

She attended Adult Learning classes in computing and French for some years in Stony Stratford and was able to write her life story herself with the help of mentor and tutor Liz. She even took some exams, proudly achieving certificates which the family referred to as her "ologies".

Betty was a keen member of the Whaddon Book Club and WI and always had a question or comment to make about the topic or book in question. Members of Book Club will maybe remember her disparaging comments about the *Life of Pi* and the autobiography of Stephen Fry but she loved a good story in the vein of Catherine Cookson! She loved the annual May Fayre, joining in the procession on the WI float, and the antics of the Whaddon Entertainers. Much of the early archive on the Entertainers' YouTube site was taken by Ray and you can often hear Betty laughing out loud!

Betty was a keen churchgoer until her mobility took the better of her. She was confirmed in Buckingham Church not long after she came to Whaddon, and was instrumental in suggesting St Mary's financial support for the street children, supported by the Toybox charity which is still going today.

Pointless and The Chase

In later years she became more house-bound with the onset of early Parkinson's disease, but still loved to be around her family, watching her soaps, doing crosswords and shouting out the answers to tv's *Pointless* and *The Chase* right up to the end.

Betty had had a difficult childhood, losing her mother when she was just a baby and brought up by her sister Lily, who, when only 12, went out to work to support the family. Lily left baby Betty with neighbours who all pulled together to help each other in those days and sharing what they had. Betty was born with a weak heart but despite this, managed to outlive her five brothers and sisters, slipping away peacefully on 20th January at home with her family around her, exactly as she had hoped.



Betty's funeral at St Mary's was wonderfully well attended by Whaddon friends and her ashes will be interred alongside Ray and her beloved sister Lily in the Churchyard at 10.30 am on Saturday 6th May. Anyone passing for Church coffee shop that morning is welcome to stop and join us on the pathway as we make our final remembrances.

As a family we often remark "Betty would've known this" or smile at some incident or a family photograph. For a small lady, she made a big impact on our lives. Thank you Whaddon for embracing and befriending her. ◇

Pat, Alistair and Emily

The Whaddon Show: What an absolute triumph

GIANT chickens, dodgy tattoo artists and some (very) UN-synchronised swimmers – throw in a magic act and a pheasant-plucker or two and it can only mean one thing – the return of the now infamous Whaddon Show!

The Whaddon Entertainers' 2017 sell-out production in the village hall on 7 and 8 April was an absolute triumph from start to finish. Using the format of a local radio show and the discovery of a time machine that enabled the presenters to whizz forward into Whaddon past and present gave the show a clear structure, skilfully interweaving the various diverse acts into a wonderfully entertaining collage.

It would be wrong to single out any individual performers as the great strength of the show was that it was a complete team effort. Every element – lights, sound, props, front-of-house and performers – came together to produce an uproariously entertaining evening in true Whaddon Show-style, brilliantly directed by Sharon Bessell.

This year saw some wonderful partnerships formed, ranging from Clare Garland and Wendy Hibble's "Vicar of St Mary's (Dibley)" duo (fantastic comic timing!), to Pete Bush and Sid Vincent's deadpan newsreaders and, of course, the lynchpins of the show: Louise Collin and Mark Carter's radio presenter hosts, who held the entire evening together with good humour (and bad jokes).

It wouldn't be the Whaddon Show without music and we were spoiled for choice, with not one but two bands: country/rock group Tennessee Line made an impressive debut while the Entertainers' own house band did sterling work accompanying the musical numbers. And the future of the Whaddon Show looks in safe hands with some confident performances from the village's younger generation: Cody, Tilly and Zack Garland, Jessica Hain, Aimee Bush and Amelie King.

The absolute highlight of the show was undoubtedly the Whaddon WI meeting, culminating in their spirited rendition of It's Raining Men, complete with some gyrating, semi-naked villagers of the male variety.

I leave the last word to Dave, the Whaddon postie, who commented: "I am trying therapy to remove those images from my mind!" Roll on 2018!

Words: Julia Lemagnen. **Photograph:** (The Grand Finale) Rob Collins.



Neighbourhood Watch contacts

Graham Stewart
2, High Street
Tel. 01908 501973

Howard Jones
8, Ladymead
Tel: 01908 501871

Peter Beckwith
6, Old Manor Close
Tel: 01908 505727

Sally Telford
4a, Stock Lane
Tel: 01908 336960

Sally Green
Bellsbrook, Church Lane
Ex-directory

Pauline Winward
1, Whaddon Hall
Tel:01908 502559

David McIntyre
2a, Vicarage Road
Tel: 1908 867836

Life down on the farm – Home Farm

Robert Excell's grandfather, Ernest William Peverill, farmed in Whaddon for nearly 45 years, until he retired in 1953. Then he and his wife moved to a bungalow in Vicarage Road. Here Robert gives an insight into life 'down on the farm' during some of those years.

My grandfather, Ernest, leased Home Farm in 1919 from the Selby Lowndes family of Whaddon Hall. Nine years later, in 1928, Ernest also took on Whaddon Oaks Farm, another part of the Selby Lowndes' estate; however, with some of this land extremely wet and heavy, cultivation became almost impossible.



This topic generated some correspondence which eventually urged the laying of drains. Later, in 1933, it also brought a welcome rent reduction. At the time, Mr Tesh served as the Whaddon Hall estate manager. Pictured **left** he is shown in the farmyard with the Lowndes Arms behind.

The farm was predominantly given over to livestock and dairy farming. At one time, a horse-drawn cart ferried milk every morning to Swanbourne station but by the 1940s a lorry collected the milk and took it to the milk factory at Buckingham.

The Agricultural Return of 4th June 1941 illustrates the farm's inventory. Of the 404 acres, the Return described some 90 per cent as 'heavy'. By this time, Ernest's son Jack and daughter Daisy were helping on the farm alongside Alf Knight, Fred Hayward (Frederick Hayward's father, who later went to work at Hanslope Park)

and one part-time woman.

Four acres are recorded as planted with barley, 31 acres with oats and 25 acres of mixed corn without wheat. A further five acres were planted up with beans. Most, if not all, of this would have been for animal feed. In the Return, six acres were allowed to fallow and 66 acres were devoted to grass for mowing; this left 267 acres for grazing.

Livestock comprised 113 cattle but on 4th June, the farm had just 17 cows in milk – all milked by hand. Only four people could milk at any one time as the farm had just four milk buckets and four milking stools.

The farm also had 335 sheep and lambs, one sow and two piglets, 150 chickens and ducks over six months old, and 80 under six months old. There were also two geese. The farm had 10 horses.

A 22 horsepower Fordson tractor served as the farm's principal item of equipment but during the Second World War the local War Agricultural Committee provided some



additional tractors to turn some grazing land over to crops. The sight of five Fordson tractors pictured **above** ploughing at one time was then most unusual.

Two years into the war, on 7th April 1942, John Christie, today aged 92, joined the family, employed primarily to help Jack who had taken over the lease of Shenley Gounds Farm situated at the top of the hill on the road to Calverton. Buckinghamshire County Council then owned this farm, but John lived at Home Farm with the family.

Piped water supplied the farmhouse only; the rest of the farm relied on a well. Some years earlier, at the start of each week, water from the well had to be pumped into a tank in the loft of the house which, like many houses in the village, had an outside lavatory. Electricity had just been installed and was available only for house lighting. Oil lamps previously had been used throughout the house and were still employed at night around the farm.

Officers place a wager

At that time, after threshing, corn would be bagged into two-and-a-quarter hundredweight sacks (about 100kg), which then had to be carried into the barns for storage; sometimes sacks had to be hauled up ladders.



John recalls vividly that as a £5 bet (then about three weeks' wages) placed by one of the officers at Whaddon Hall, Teddy Phillips, then working at Shenley Dens Farm, carried a sack of corn *two miles* to *The Lowndes Arms* public house. He rested the sack for five minutes about half way on Ernest's gatepost. Not surprisingly, most of the village followed Teddy's exploit.

John also recalls making hay and carting it to the yard in a horse-drawn wagon to be built into hayricks.

"To use the hay, we had to cut out large blocks with a hayknife – a large sharp blade about 2ft 6in long and 4in wide with a wooden handle," John told me.

"The blocks were about 2ft 6in x 2ft 6in and were very heavy to lift. These were then either lifted onto a cart or carried to the mangers for feeding to livestock."



"Often when we came near the end of a rick it could be infested with rats," added John. "On one occasion, during the war, Jack invited some officers from Whaddon Hall to bring their guns for firing practice. They had great fun shooting the rats."

Another memorable incident recalled by John occurred when a hayrick overheated, as they can do if the hay is too damp.

"You notice the centre of the rick begins to sag (as the hay starts to decompose) and eventually the decision had to be made to open up the rick before it went rotten or caught fire, as sometimes happened," explained John.

"We had to cut open the rick with a hayknife. This could be difficult as the hay could be damp and half-rotten. We managed to save some hay but it turned out to be not much good."

Two soldiers, Griff Thomas and George Westhead, (**see p. 38**), were billeted in the farmhouse. Also present were George Brind and his wife, Louie; they rented the front room.

Griff served as chauffeur to Col. Lord Sandhurst and later Capt. Sharp, while George drove for Capt. Kirby. Griff drove one of the Packard cars, **above**, based at Whaddon Hall where the officers were stationed.

The other soldier, George Brind, pictured **right** on a motorcycle, worked in the radio station at Windy Ridge near St Mary's Church.



The house at Home Farm must have been quite crowded. As well as my grandparents, their two daughters Flossie and Daisy, their son Jack, and John Christie, at one time it also housed an evacuee, Gladys Dynes, who later sent my grandmother a rather touching poem.

◆
NEXT TIME. Robert concludes his article with the moving poem Gladys wrote to his grandmother in 1945, marking her appreciation of the care and consideration she received while living 'down on the farm', and a letter sent in 1990 by Gladys (then Gladys Chandler) recalling her four years as an evacuee at Home Farm during World War 2.

The Whaddon murder

The case of a demented killer

In January 1825, Whaddon villagers

gathered for an extraordinary committal. Curate, John Winbolt, was burying Abraham Hobbs, killed in Whaddon Chase.



Whaddon has a dark and murky past. It hit national newspaper headlines in January 1825 when reports surfaced that murder most foul took place outside the Buckinghamshire village. However, while the crime's bare bones were clear, the flesh quickly became embellished as journalists sensationalised events, creating many juicy variations.

The case hinged on Daniel Mangan, alias Long Dan, and his two 'constant' work companions, Charles Lynn (27) and Abraham Hogg (24).

On the evening of Wednesday, 5th January 1825, Lynn and Hogg caught the Eclipse stage coach at *The Saracen's Head* in Snowhill, London, bound for Brick-Hill "which is situated some nine miles from Stoney Stratford" and Liverpool, probably intent on a new life in America. Neither man reached his destination. Long Dan also seemingly disappeared.

Mangan, as a 'saving man' and employed in Sir Robert Burnett's distillery in Vauxhall, London to extract spirit samples, had accumulated some wealth: sufficient enough to attract the attention of Lynn and Hogg. The previous Sunday morning, paying his week's lodging and dressed in his Sunday best, Long Dan had gone out for a meal. Later, at three o'clock, he was spotted at *The King's Head* in Walworth, London. Thereafter, silence.

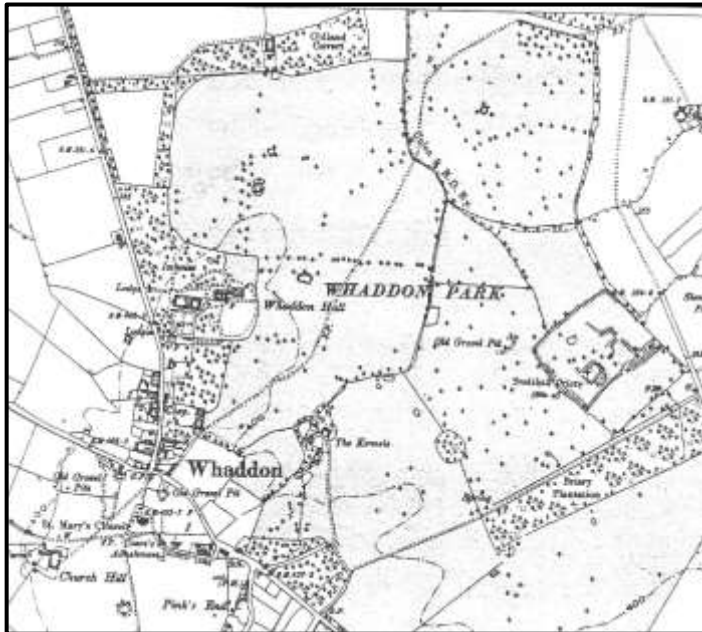
Mangan's workplace 'disappearance' prompted inquiries; he had not been seen since a man of similar description had come to a violent death. Lynn and Hogg having heard of Mangan's disappearance, left suddenly for Liverpool. Some suspected Lynn and Hogg knew where Long Dan could be found; he often inveigled his way into some of their haunts.

The duo spent their first night at *The White Lion* at Little Brickhill, near Stony Stratford, having arrived at 8 pm. (Some papers reported *The White Hart* in Bow Brickhill.)

Remarks by the landlord and others that evening at the bar regarding robberies and murders might have spooked Lynn, especially if the duo's money had been ill-gotten. So while Hogg happily slept at his lodgings, Lynn, disliking the conversation, took off to the public house opposite. It seems they breakfasted together before

heading for Stony Stratford, Lynn tightly holding a gun in a green baize bag while Hogg shouldered a box of some kind. Friction between them continued as Lynn felt uneasy, even fearing for his life, he later claimed.

The Express coach caught them up and the two men joined it, remaining until its arrival at Whaddon Chase, the site for many centuries of royal hunting lands with Whaddon village at its centre. Suddenly, the two men leapt from the coach with Lynn still carrying the gun. Hogg meanwhile had left his box behind. Some suggested the duo failed to pay their fare.



In the Chase the men walked towards Snell's Copse, some 200 yards from Mr Clarke's farm where ditcher Meechan (one report gave his name as George Beecham!) was repairing a hedge.

Meechan, an employee of Mr Clarke, had noticed the two men walking. Suddenly he heard a shout: "Murder!" He witnessed one man raise a gun, striking something on the ground; the gun's stock broke with the blows' sheer force. Meechan could count 20 blows struck by the barrel. Suspecting the man had killed his companion, Meechan hurried to Mr Clarke's house. They agreed Mr Clarke, his three sons and Meechan should try to apprehend the 'murderer'. In a while someone emerged from a thick copse causing Meechan to exclaim "That's

the murderer!"

With Lynn captured, they took him to *The Haunch of Venison* (today *The Lowndes Arms*) where magistrate Mr William Selby-Lowndes secured him until magistrates Mr Smith and Major Mansell could arrive. With Meechan's help, constables were sent to find the dead man and carry him to the inn. With the coroner notified, an inquest was held the following day.

Lynn expressed little interest in the dead body, attempting variously to kill himself, including drinking boiling water from a tea-kettle and stabbing himself several times. Later, taken by post-chaise to Aylesbury prison, Lynn made further suicide attempts en-route. He remained in custody in Aylesbury prison until his trial.

Newspapers up and down the country followed the story, including *The Salisbury and Wiltshire Journal* of Monday, 17th January 1825.

Lynn's trial took place on Tuesday, 8th March 1825. Before then he received visits from his distraught mother, sister and several gentry, including a clerk of Sir William Burnett & Co to establish the reason for the killing and the whereabouts of Mangan.

Lynn's mother, a widow who kept a pastry-cook's shop at No. 4 Morehall-place, Vauxhall, London, also sought her son's account for killing Hogg.

In a narrative at his trial, Lynn claimed "two resurrection men" on the Eclipse coach had spoken with Hogg. Lynn believed Hogg intended to kill him and sell his body to the resurrection men for use by surgeons, two being on the coach. This prompted Lynn to kill Hogg. As to Mangan's disappearance, Lynn expressed hurt but said he knew nothing. In prison, a doctor who interviewed Lynn, possibly saved him from the gallows.

Lynn's trial found him "guilty of killing the deceased but believed insane at the time". Sentenced to imprisonment, Lynn was refused committal to an asylum as being insufficiently mentally ill. He died before the new Aylesbury prison (**right**) opened in 1847.

Six years before Lynn's trial, on 18th March 1819, Sarah Hurst faced the hangman at Aylesbury jail for murdering husband, William.

As for Abraham Hogg, he was interred in Whaddon churchyard, with a "great many people" in attendance; it being remarked as "singular that no relations of the deceased were present".

And Long Dan? Eventually, Mangan came forward claiming to be employed by the East India Company; he refused to disclose reasons for his disappearance. Likewise Lynn's and Hogg's reasons for choosing Liverpool as their destination remain forever concealed. JM

We are grateful to Janet Wyatt for supplying many of the details relating the Whaddon murder. For further reading see *The Chronicles of Crime; or The New Newgate Calendar*, by Camden Pelam. Memoirs and anecdotes of notorious characters who have outraged the laws of Great Britain from the earliest period to 1841. Volume II. p. 103. London: Reeves and Turner, 1886. ♦



Unusual hobbies: Benchmarking to their hearts' content

SOME PEOPLE have unusual hobbies. Such as the two men who, early in March, as dusk fell just before 6 pm, could be seen in Whaddon, closely inspecting a number of buildings. Each carried notebook, camera and printed schedule.

Their mission: to 'capture' the last two items on their day's list. Their next quarry would be in Shenley Brook End. Would they make it? Who knows? The identity of the men is a mystery. And what was the purpose of their mission?

The men were, in effect, modern-day versions of train spotters. Or, more eloquently, geolocators or geocachers. Their pastime is that of locating, identifying and photographing OS (Ordnance Survey) benchmarks, of which six exist in Whaddon.

Geocaching, or more commonly benchmarking, is described in one place as the 'world's largest treasure hunt'.

Benchmarking as a hobby (as opposed to industrial benchmarking) requires participants to travel the highways and byways in search of benchmarks (also known as survey markers or geodetic control points) scattered around the country.

Benchmark, as a noun, is a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared; a surveyor's mark cut in a wall, pillar, or building and used as a reference point in measuring altitudes.

Technically, the term benchmark is used only to refer to survey markers that designate a certain elevation, but hobbyists often use the term benchmarks to include triangulation stations or reference marks.

Typically, hobbyists (also called benchmark hunters) log their finds online. The activity has become popular since about 1995, propelled by the availability of on-line data about the location of survey marks (with directions for finding them) and by the rise of hobbyist-oriented websites.

Ordnance Survey benchmarks (BMs) are survey marks made by Ordnance Survey to record height above Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN). It is the national height system for mainland Great Britain, forming the reference frame for heights above mean sea level (MSL).

If the exact height of one BM is known, the exact height of the next can be found by measuring the difference in heights, through a process of spirit levelling.

Often, BMs can be seen cut into stone at the base of a building, church or bridge. But careful inspection is required to spot them

Although the main network is no longer subject to update, the record is still in existence and markers will remain until they are eventually destroyed by redevelopment or erosion.

The first primary levelling in England and Wales took place between 1840 and 1860; it comprised 184 lines. Others followed, culminating in the third geodetic levelling of England and Wales between 1950 and 1968 with 169 lines. This was followed by Scotland between 1955 and 1968; it had 90 lines.



The network has had little maintenance for 30 years and in some areas (mining areas for example), subsidence has affected the levelling values. In these regions the BMs cannot be relied upon to accurately define ODN. Ordnance Survey would normally have sought the permission of property owners to implant a BM. If granted, then marking would have proceeded. Without agreement, a suitable alternative site would be identified and, if none found, the OS had the legal right to cut the mark on the originally-chosen site.

The height above MSL has been given in metres since about 1920. Before that the 'altitude' was shown in feet above the Liverpool Datum. A typical benchmark is shown **left**.

Anyone interested can visit www.benchmarks.org.uk. As for Whaddon, there is a mark on St Mary's Church. This is a triangulation station see <http://trigpointing.uk/trig/19965>); there is also a benchmark.

Further details are available at ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/ where it is possible to find marks in this particular area by entering the km square (for example sp8033) in the co-ordinates box. The former shows there are four benchmarks within this reference – two NBM rivets and two cut marks. One street-level benchmark in Whaddon is 129.985 metres above sea level – or 396 feet. JM

Sea Cadets – TS Whaddon

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

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



Left and below Kayaking or Rowing at Emberton Park, Olney

Bottom left: Colours Parade, Kiln Farm - 7pm

Tuesdays

Bottom: TS Royalist in The Solent



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



Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch

Reminder to remove property from parked vehicles – Aylesbury Vale

This is a reminder to all residents to make sure they have removed valuables from their parked vehicles.

Recent items stolen from parked cars and vans have included bags, wallets, satnavs, sunglasses, cash and power tools.

Please help us by not leaving anything of value in your vehicle. Property, particularly if on display, can tempt an opportunist criminal to break in to your vehicle.

No-one wants the inconvenience of having to repair their vehicle, replace property and possibly deal with an insurance claim, so please take a moment to double check you have removed everything.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously around parked vehicles make sure you call the police at the time that you see them.

Try to obtain a description of them, which way they are travelling and details of any vehicle they are using. Call the police on the 24-hour number 101, or if a crime is happening at that time, dial 999.

If you suspect someone of being involved in this type of crime, or think they are handling stolen property, please call the police on the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre number 101.

If you do not want to speak to the police or give your details you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) anonymously on 0800 555 111, or report it online. No personal details will be given, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court. Advice and information about preventing crime can be found on the [Thames Valley Police](#) website.

The Chase Choir hits the right note for its summer concert

WE LOVE our choir leader! Karen is endlessly patient with us, and she's also rather ambitious! Since the last issue, she's introduced a whole heap of new music into our weekly rehearsals. Our grey matter has never been so stretched, and in a good way! And what are all these new songs we've been learning, I hear you ask...

Well now, if I told you, that would spoil the surprise of our Summer Concert, which is scheduled for 16th July. Look out for flyers and posters a little later. All I can say is that it promises to be full of variety, with something for everyone, and a couple of surprises thrown in for good measure. Don't miss it.

We enjoyed a great workshop recently at one of our regular Monday rehearsals. A certain Mr Alex Aitken (does that name ring a bell to anyone?) came as a guest conductor to put us through our paces, in advance of an upcoming performance. Well, if we thought Karen worked us hard... We all needed a lie-down in a darkened room after Alex had given us his own particular style of workout. What a great, exhausting, hilarious, interesting evening that was.

We enjoyed performing at the Milton Keynes Music and Drama Festival again a few weeks ago. Our two songs, At the End of the Day from *Les Misérables*, and Scarborough Fair, were very well received and the adjudicator gave us some extremely positive feedback too.

We were praised, amongst other things, for our diction so all Karen's nagging has proved to be worthwhile! Our next festival performance will be at the Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts, and the choir section will be held on 21st May. Having an enthusiastic audience really helps, so if you'd like to come along and support us, please contact Karen for more details.

Singing in a choir is so much more than simply getting the tunes and words right. Singing is great for your mind and body, and we're a lovely friendly bunch and we're always looking for new members. We meet on Monday evenings in Whaddon Jubilee Hall 7-9pm. If you know someone who'd like to try it out, give the lovely Karen a ring, on 01908 501922 or check out our website: www.chasechoir.com Oh yes, we're on the Internet, you know! ♦

Marianna Beckwith

Drivers needed for Community Bus

SUE at Winslow Community Bus says that volunteer drivers are urgently required. She asks: "Do you enjoy driving and meeting people? Are you aged between 25 And 70? Have you a few hours to spare on an occasional or regular basis? Then please consider joining our friendly team of volunteer drivers. We can give you full training and out of pocket expenses. Trips can vary from short local runs to longer excursions; we also run regular bus routes."

To find out more, please ring Sue on 01296 715786 or e-mail wdbenquiries@btconnect.com ♦

The welcome return of The Lowndes Arms

THE 400-year-old *The Lowndes Arms* has made a welcome return to village life following 11 months of closure. Sid Vincent reports.



THOSE WHO have used of it will agree this is a most welcome event! For those yet to visit, or not familiar with *The Lowndes Arms* might find this article beneficial.

First of all, a warm welcome to new tenants (hopefully soon to be owners) Mark and Sue. They are ably assisted by daughter Daisy as head waitress who is proving particularly adept at running a dining room, which at times is extremely busy! They can call also upon other members of their immediate family to help out: sons Daniel, Perry, Finlay and Mitchell.

Internal redecoration has transformed the pub's appearance, making it a homely and comfortable place in which to spend a few hours. Furthermore, dogs are allowed in the bar areas again but, as might be expected, not in the dining room.

Mark and Sue are keen to stress their aim is to provide a pub which contributes to, and is part of, the village community, and they are always open to any suggestions from the village. This has already been demonstrated in that, as a result of customer comments, menus have been merged to provide a wider variety of food options in both the dining room and the bar.

The dining room features a large 8-10-person raised round table with seating to match and a 'Sharing Menu' is offered specifically for this facility. This is bookable separately. Another 'occasional' menu is bookable on the first Saturday of each month: the 'Bottomless Brunch' is available from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon and includes "all the Prosecco you can drink"!

The other menus offered include Main Menu, Children's Menu, Sunday Lunch Menu, (the main menu plus traditional Sunday roasts), and the Pudding/Sweet Menu (displayed on chalk boards). Menus depend on season and are therefore subject to change.

The kitchen is run by Gary, a trained chef who has much experience in the Wing and Mentmore areas. He is ably assisted by Sally, also a trained chef, but specialising in puddings and sweets. All food served is sourced locally and cooked from scratch. Although the kitchen is closed on Tuesdays, a mobile 'Chippy', which has a scheduled stop opposite the pub, offers food and customers can consume their purchases in the bar.

A new, boarded patio area is being constructed at the rear of the pub outside the french windows, at the far end of the dining room. The accommodation



One of several ‘silent salesmen’ dotted around neighbouring public footpaths, pointing the way across fields to a ‘hideaway’ offering something to eat and a welcome drink.

rooms are being renovated and may well all be completed by the time this is published.

In addition, the old room 4, situated across the drive, is to be turned into a private function room which will also be used for afternoon teas, (with a yet to be announced “twist”!) – another of the planned future services! Wheelchair access is to be provided by the construction of a wheelchair ramp at the side entrance door.

Large commercial barbecues and marquees form part of the equipment, and these will be used in the garden area over the summer months.

The bar is stocked with a variety of good quality wines, ciders, lagers and beers including up to four real ales, some of which are always sourced from local micro-breweries. Particular mention must be made of the extensive variety of high quality gins that are stocked; the fledgling

‘Ladies’ Gin Club’ seems to be very popular!

I am sure all would join me in extending a warm welcome to Mark, Sue, their family and the kitchen staff on the return of a village pub we can all be proud of. Let us all wish them luck in their venture and do all we can to support them in their effort to provide a facility which I am sure will prove to be a major asset to the village!

All that remains is to provide the absolutely essential information, the opening hours!



DAY	OPENING TIMES	FOOD ORDERS TAKEN
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	1700 – 2200	Kitchen closed
Wednesday	1200 – 2200	1200 – 1400, 1800 – 2100
Thursday	1200 – 2230	1200 – 1400, 1800 – 2100
Friday	1200 – 2400	1200 – 1400. 1800 – 2100
Saturday	1000 (Bottomless Brunch only) 1200 – 2400	1000 1200 – 1400, 1800 – 2100
Sunday	1200 – 2000	1200 - 1530

May Fayre – Whaddon's passion

May Fayre: Whaddon's Magical Wonderland



Whaddon School float earns smiles all round



The WI - moving with the times

AS THE joint chairpersons of the Friends of Whaddon School, we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the people who helped at our May Fayre. Thanks in particular go to the Whaddon Women's Institute (WI) and everyone who helped on the floats.



Winslow Concert Band in full swing

The Winslow Concert Band performed again this year and did a great job at entertaining the masses.

Huge congratulations go to all the winners of the Raffle, the winner of the fancy dress, Archie, and the two runners-up, Harriet and Benjamin, as well as the WI who have won for best float this year.

For the first time, the School Choir **(right)** performed the two songs, *Spring* and *The Handsome Butcher*, directed by Karen Logan, and delighted their audience.

A special thank you also goes to the Chair of Governors, Hazel Hedges, for driving the May King and Queen in the procession and for judging the fancy dress. Hazel also took the opportunity of announcing her retirement from the Board of Governors after a lengthy service; she has been a great support to the school and we wish her all the best.



Spirited action seen with maypole dancing

setting up the bar and serving and Linda Beech for helping out with just about everything!

The following list of thanks is by no means exhaustive: The BBQ Maestros: Sid Vincent, Paul Logan, David Vallance and Guy Birch-Jones. We also had so many people who helped set up and then pack away and help run stalls. So a special thank you to National Locums for sponsoring the BBQ, Mark Goyen of *The New Lowndes Arms* for sourcing the beers, Hannah Beech and

Mat Ansell for all their help



Yummy delights at the tea and cake stall

Also a huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents of the school who volunteered this year. Finally, a massive thank you to the Friends of Whaddon Committee and partners who worked so hard to make the day possible. To the Merediths, Mitchells, Harrises, Lucketts, Guy Birch-Jones, Vallances, Bells, Carters, Thomsons, Burnetts, Amy Jones, Katie Clarke, Julia Fox, Mike Avery and our own families: the Ambler-Boatengs and the Williamsons. Weeks of work happens in advance of the day and simply would not be possible without this unique team and their families' support.

A big thank you goes to the villagers of Whaddon for all your support, donating cakes, bottles, jam jars, teddies and so much more which makes the day. Also, thank you for coming to the May Fayre to celebrate on the May Day with all the children of Whaddon School. You all make the day very special and we couldn't raise the money for Whaddon School and the kids without you. Thank you and we hope to see you again next year. ◇

Katie Ambler

and

Camilla Bach Williamson

Joint Chairpersons,

The Friends of Whaddon School



GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

What happens during MPs' Recess

AS I write this, my inaugural column for the *Whaddon Quarterly*, Parliament is in Recess – but the work does not stop. Members of Parliament use the Recess for a variety of different purposes but mine has been dominated by constituency work.

Every day, I receive letters and emails from constituents on a whole variety of matters - ranging from concerns about their own housing situation and health problems to wider, national or international issues - most notably, at the moment, Brexit and the unravelling situation in Syria.

While Members of Parliament have an important job as legislators, they also have significant constituency duties to undertake as well. Amongst the issues at the top of my agenda at the moment are East-West Rail and the perennial problems presented by High Speed 2. I continue to press Government Ministers and others to ensure that the area I represent, and its residents, get the best possible deal - and while every battle cannot be won, I will continue to fight hard for North Buckinghamshire.

I was interested to read in February's edition of the *Whaddon Quarterly* of plans to start preparing for events to commemorate 100 years of remembrance of the First World War. Given Whaddon's historic association with the efforts during World War 2, it seems only fitting that the sacrifice of brave men and women a century ago is marked in this way.

Incidentally, I was pleased to take my children to the newly re-opened National Army Museum in London last weekend - if you are looking for activities for the summer months, I cannot recommend it highly enough! Educating future generations about the sacrifices made by those before them is extremely important - which is why I hope that Whaddon's Centenary events next year will be well-attended, but especially by young people.

I wish you a happy, relaxing summer. ◇

John Bercow, Parliamentary Candidate for Buckinghamshire





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Thurs. 11 th May	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M. Telephone to book.
Mon. 15 th May	Asda shopping. £4.00
Thurs. 25 th May	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M. Telephone to book.
Tues. 30 th May	Thame Market. £5.00
Tues. 6 th June	Buckingham bus.* 1 hr in Town and 1 hr in Tesco. Telephone to book.
Thurs. 8 th June	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M. Telephone to book.
Tues. 20 th June	Visit Ryton Gardens - £12.00 travel & entrance.
Thurs. 22 nd June	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M. Telephone to book.
Thurs. 29 th June	Visit Gardens of the Rose, St Albans. Cream tea £5.50. Travel & entrance £12.00.
Tuesday 4 th July	Buckingham bus.* 1 hr in Town and 1 hr in Tesco. Telephone to book.
Wed. 5 th , 12 th July	Winslow market bus* Whaddon & Nash pick-ups& 10am, return 11.40am. £3 return
Wed. 19 th , 26 th Jly	Winslow market bus* Whaddon & Nash pick-ups& 10am, return 11.40am. £3 return
Sunday 9 th July	A day out in Swanage. £20.00
Thurs. 6 th July	Visit MK Museum – guided tour and lunch. £10.50 entrance & travel.
Thurs. 13 th July	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M. Telephone to book.
Thurs. 27 th July	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M. Telephone to book.
Tuesday 1 st Aug.	Buckingham bus.* 1 hr in Town and 1 hr in Tesco. Telephone to book.

Wed. 2 nd , 9 th Aug.	Winslow market bus* Whaddon & Nash pick-ups& 10am, return 11.40am. £3 return
Wed.23, 30 Aug	Winslow market bus* Whaddon & Nash pick-ups& 10am, return 11.40am. £3 return
Thurs. 10 th Aug	Westcroft bus.* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots, Pet shop & B&M. Telephone to book.
Thurs. 17 th Aug.	Cotswold Wildlife Park. Great day. Adults £25, child/seniors £20 entrance/travel.

Milton Keynes Theatre.

Please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. All prices are for tickets in Band A price range (Circle or Stalls) and travel. Performances start 2.30pm, unless otherwise stated. Door-to-door service.

Wed. 10 th May	Mamma Mia! – Abba-solutely fantastic! Circle Row A 7 B. £49.00
Wed 24 th May	Evita – A classic is reborn – stunning musical. Stalls P & Q. £37.00.
Thurs. 8 th June	Billy Elliot – The musical – funny, uplifting, spectacular. Circle M & N. £34.00.
Thurs. 15 th June	Billy Elliot – The musical – funny, uplifting, spectacular. Circle C. £48.00.
Wed. 19 th July	Wonderland – enchanting adaptation of Alice – Circle C & D. £34.50. Book by 22/5
Wed. 26 th July	Judgement in stone – Roy Marsden, Sophie Ward, Shirley Ann Field – A new thriller from Ruth Rendell. Circle KK. £24.50. Book by 5th June.
Wed. 9 th August	La Cage aux Follies. New production of musical. Stalls JJ/KK/MM £37. Book by 12/7
Wed. 27 th Sept.	Cilla – Stalls H, J & K, £39.00
Wed. 1 st Nov.	Cabaret – Stalls L & M £38.00
Wed. 29 th Nov.	Sunset boulevard – Circle D. £29.50
Wed. 18 th Jul '18	Planning ahead for 2018. Flashdance Circle £29.50
Thurs. 20 th Sept	War Horse – Circle C £50.00
Wed. 26 th Sept	War Horse – Circle £50.00

Did you know?

The Winslow & District Community Bus is for **everybody!!** Groups can hire a vehicle for trips out too! Ring Sue for information on 01296 715786.

Creative Coach:

Thoughts from my comfy chair



I've been wondering how these articles I've been writing for the past three years or so have been received. Since I'm in a bit of a Spring Makeover mode at the moment, I decided that for this issue, I'd do something different and set you all a challenge! So, instead of reading my article, and thinking, "Oh, yes, very good, that's interesting, what a lot of nonsense, I really like that," or whatever it is you think or say afterwards, I'm setting a seven-day challenge.

Try these out, one a day, for seven days, and then see what happens. You might like to make them a more regular part of your day/week. They all have a purpose; trust me! Up for it? Good, let's go...

Day 1 – Do something that you normally try to avoid doing. Just give it 10-15 minutes, that's all. See how you feel about it at the end of the time. No, you probably won't like the job any better; the point is you've made a start. You may also decide that you might as well get on and finish what you started!

Day 2 – Carry out a random act of kindness. It doesn't have to be something big; something that seems only small to you can be massive for someone else. Do something lovely for someone: a word or deed.

Day 3 – De-clutter something. It could be a drawer, a shelf, a box, a bag, a whole room. This works on the same principle as the Day 1 challenge. It gives you a limit which makes a big job feel doable. It's liberating. Plus, you get to have a little smug smile to yourself when you're done!

Day 4 - Say "no" to something/someone. You can do this with respect and empathy, if you take time to think about how to say it. Too often, we find ourselves saying "yes" to try to please, and end up stretching ourselves unnecessarily, causing stress, overwhelm and making ourselves less effective for other jobs. You'll be doing yourself a favour.

Day 5 – Decide, at the start of your day, which three words will best describe you, or your actions that day. Write them down and put them somewhere you can easily see them. Look at them now and again. At the end of the day, reflect on your words. Were you? Did you? You'll find that writing them and checking in with them makes them real, and you will fulfil your prophesy, so choose wisely!

Day 6 – Stop using the word "but" for the day. Replace it with "and" instead. See what happens and how it casts a completely different light on what you say, and how it comes across.

Day 7 – Share something with someone. It could be a piece of good news, a piece of cake, a photo, a lunch, a coffee, a walk. Sharing creates communication, a feeling of belonging, a good old dollop of satisfaction. Think about how you both benefited from it. Win-win!

Enjoy your challenges and let me know how you get on. Until next time...



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Buckinghamshire is set to go barking mad for the



Stowe Great British Dog Walk 2017!

It's back and it's bigger and better than ever before! Buckinghamshire is set to go barking mad for this year's Great British Dog Walk at Stowe Gardens, Buckinghamshire on 4th June 2017 at 11am.

The Stowe Great British Dog Walk is one of 20 fun-filled walks taking place around the UK to help ensure more hearing dogs can be trained to bring life-transforming benefits to deaf children and adults, like Terry Dawes.

Terry, from Milton Keynes, who became deaf after developing Meniere's Disease over 30 years ago, is now enjoying life so much more with his hearing dog Dottie.

Terry says: "Without Dottie my life would be unbearable, she is my lifeline and means the world to me.'

Around 250 adults and over 25 dogs of all shapes and sizes are expected to take part in this year's event at Stowe, Buckinghamshire. There will be a 8km and 3km route making it an ideal event for dog-lovers, families with or without buggies, couples, independent walkers and organised walking groups.

Northern Home Counties Community Fundraising Manager, Michelle Sapwell, says: 'I am really excited to be a part of this event. Stowe is a stunning venue, containing ornamental lakes, fantastic open spaces and wooded valleys, with over 40 temples and monuments. With something for everyone, this promises to be a great day out for all!'

Aston Hearing will be attending to offer advice and information on hearing and ear healthcare.

Join us here and register your dog for the fun dog show.

Refreshments and entertainment will be on offer and participants can also bring a picnic to enjoy after the walk.

There is a free special limited-edition Great British Dog Walk doggie bandana and opportunity to be entered into a prize draw to win a luxury Forest Holidays getaway with every event booking.

To sign-up to your nearest Great British Dog Walk and for more information visit



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Honey Bee Swarms are Important

Honey Bee Swarms: Swarms such as the ones pictured are merely Colonies that are in transition. Normally these Swarms are found hanging from tree branch, fence post or any place where the swarm can gather close to the Queen while scouts are sent out to look for a more permanent home. A swarm left alone will only be in place from just a few minutes to a few hours and occasionally a few days. Generally these swarms are very docile and the swarming Bees usually will not sting. When Honey Bees swarm they gorge themselves with honey before leaving the hive which makes it very hard for them to double over and sting.



What Causes Honey Bees to Swarm: Honey Bees have a natural instinct to survive by sending out new colonies. They may also swarm through overcrowding or because an old queen is thought to be failing and they wish to raise a new one. Honey Bees usually swarm in early spring just as the colony is building up numbers in anticipation of the upcoming honey flow but swarming can happen through to late summer. It is difficult to predict if weather conditions will lead to a large number of swarms in a particular year. MBBKA members attended nearly 100 calls to swarms last year and are on standby to collect throughout our area in 2017.

If You See a Swarm: Declining Honey Bee numbers make the collection of swarms an important part of the work of bee keepers. You should never interfere with a swarm and pest control companies will not kill a swarm unless absolutely necessary.



Please contact:

MBBKA Swarm Hotline 07770370132

Brian Bush – Mid Bucks Beekeepers and BBKA Swarm Officer
BBKA British Bee Keepers Association website



www.mbbka.org.uk



www.bbka.org.uk

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Whaddon Quarterly

Advertising Rates and Publication Policy

January 2017 Advertising Rates
General and Commercial Advertisers

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

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

Non-Commercial Local Advertisers

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

Small Advertisements

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

Format and Submission

Full page – A5 size

Copy to be submitted in high resolution .jpg format.

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

Publication Dates and Copy Deadlines

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

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

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

Content Policy and Copyright

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

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

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

Men in Sheds Buckingham

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

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Buckinghamshire CC's "Collective Switching" scheme should reduce your electricity bills.

Participating in Buckinghamshire County Council's (BCC) collective switching electricity-buying scheme (analogous to the local oil-buying consortium) could reduce your annual electricity bill by £280.

www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/sustainability/collective-switching

BCC declares: "We are working with iChoosr, the Government's approved organisation for collective switching, to bring you the opportunity to join the scheme for the next auction. On average, households saved over £280 [per annum] in the last auction round."

You can register on this site, which would notify you of the next "reverse auction". You may reject the offer if you prefer not to save money.

The most recent [February 2017] deal from First Utility iChoosr Collective Tariff [April 2017 – April 2018] offered the following rates:-

Daytime Electricity	14.837 p/kWh
Economy 7 Electricity	8.325 p/kWh
Standing Charge	14.28 p/day

These prices include 5% VAT and assume payment by Direct Debit.

BCC notes: "We have three auctions a year and the next auction is on the 23rd May, and offers being sent out from June 5th onwards."

Bucks CC commissions www.ichoosr.co.uk/how-does-group-buying-work [0800 048 8285] to recruit potential new purchasers three times per year. iChoosr invites suppliers to compete to offer the best deal. iChoosr manages the cancellation of your old contract and your transfer to the new contract. The process is simple for the consumer.



Kieren Beasley (kieren.beasley@gmail.com) points out that "First Utility's "Refer a Friend" scheme offers one £25 Amazon.co.uk gift card to the referrer [e.g. me] and another to the friend [e.g. you]. I will give all my gift cards to Barry Dudley, Treasurer of Whaddon's Church Roof Repair Fund, as auction prizes. If you do the same, then the Fund would gain vouchers worth £50 for each referral. A generous donor could give half, say, of his/her first year's electricity savings to "St Mary's, Whaddon PCC" for this fund, and still save money."



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