



WHADDON QUARTERLY

February 2021

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Fri	10am - 5pm
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WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL
Whaddon Quarterly
Advertising Rates and Publication Policy January 2019

General and Commercial Advertisers

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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 space.

Small Ads

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 wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

Publication Dates and Copy Deadlines

Publication is four times per year in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.
Copy deadlines are available by contacting the Editor, and in the magazine.
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 without the Editor's permission.

Whaddon Quarterly Front Cover Photo Competition

Thank you for all the wonderful pictures you kindly shared to grace the front cover of Whaddon Quarterly. The winner has made the front cover and the fabulous runners up the back! We would love to continue this for each issue. As we go to print retrospectively, our front covers will have to reflect the season we've just been in to ensure there is adequate time to take and share them! The issues will therefore reflect:

- February – Winter
- May – Spring
- August – Summer
- November – Autumn

Please send all entries to the Editors at: wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

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Whaddon Quarterly

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For comments, queries and articles

Please contact the Editors, Charlotte Calder & Gillian Hosier at:
wqeditor@whaddonbucks.org.uk

To advertise in the *Whaddon Quarterly*

Send your advertisement to the Editor as above
Advertising Rates and Publication Policy – page 3

Thank you to **Clive Herbert** for his fabulous painting on the front cover of the road towards Nash! A huge thank you again to **everyone** who has contributed articles. There's no WQ without you!

Letter from your Editors

Dear Whaddon residents,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and encouragement after our first issue as editors of your magazine. It is thrilling and slightly daunting to take over from the legendary John Mortimer, who with enthusiasm and dedication, edited a much- anticipated quarterly magazine, enjoyed by many.



In the next issue we would like to have a special issue as a retrospective of the lockdown, covering activities and events in Whaddon to record what happened in our special village. We will be asking people to send in photos and comments to the Whaddon quarterly inbox, so please look out for requests.

This issue contains all the usual articles but also exciting information about how to become a Parish Councillor. Your community needs you!

There is a fascinating article by John Mortimer about tracing family history, spread over two issues, so look out for more secrets next time.

A particularly touching article features Captain Sir Tom Moore (written before his death). "One small soul like me won't make much difference," he declared in his first TV interview. He could not have been more wrong-by the time he closed his fundraising page at midnight on his 100th birthday, Captain Sir Tom had raised more than £32million. It is truly inspiring to see what a difference one person can make. We were very moved by the article and hope that you are too.

Now that spring is coming, and the grass is growing the Church is looking for volunteers to help mow the churchyard. Some loyal and much – appreciated volunteers already do sterling work but additional people would be wonderful. All the equipment and petrol are provided. If you think you could spare an hour or two, please send your details to the Whaddon Quarterly inbox.

The church is planning to bring water to the church building and provide a much-needed toilet. Grants are available and some research has already been done, but volunteers are needed to come forward to join a committee. If you would like to be involved, please contact Whaddon Quarterly inbox.

Thank you again for your continuing support,

Charlotte and Gilli



Parish Council Report

I looked back just now to see what I had written in January 2020 for the February edition of the Quarterly. No mention of Covid; how things would change in a month. I remember my shock when a scientist claimed, on television, that this would undoubtedly be the biggest world event since World War II. How our lives have changed in a year. New words have entered the dictionary like Lockdown, Zoom and Covid itself.

The Parish Council was looking forward to a May election and wondering if we would have a contest for the seven places. Covid stopped that and so our seven existing Parish Councillors all agreed to serve an extra year. It is planned to hold the postponed election this May. Time will tell if that is feasible.

Further afield, Aylesbury Vale District Council was abolished at the end of March 2020 as planned, as were the three other District Councils in Buckinghamshire. The problem then was how they could be replaced by the new Buckinghamshire Council without an election. The Government's solution was to appoint all the existing District Councillors, including all those who were retiring, to serve temporarily as members of the new Council. This has resulted in a very unwieldy body of over 200 members. The intention is to hold an election in May this year at the same time as Parish elections. It has been an exceptionally difficult year for Buckinghamshire Council officers and Members who did not previously know each other, to form an effective team straightaway. But I cannot praise too much the achievements in both Adult Social Care and Children's Services at Buckinghamshire Council during the Covid pandemic.

I was very sad to give up responsibility for our very fine Aylesbury Vale bin men after 17 years. My temporary responsibilities at Buckinghamshire Council are in Licensing (anything from pubs and betting shops to taxis and dog breeding), and both the Winslow and the Buckingham Community Boards, while attending over fifteen Parish or Town Councils via my computer at my kitchen table.

Billy Stanier

National Parish Magazine Awards

Massive thanks again to the indomitable John Mortimer and all the Whaddon Quarterly contributors whose sterling work and creativity ensured that Whaddon Quarterly came **30th** out of 262 entries in the National Parish Magazine Awards 2020: a huge achievement. We hope to retain this position at the very least in the months to come! New ideas and contributions are always welcome to the Editors' email. Thank you also to everyone who contributed their beautiful pictures as ideas for the magazines front cover; we'd like to do this every issue and stimulate a bit of competition!



Clerk's Corner



Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council



Allotments

There is still time to sign up for an allotment before the spring arrives; one or two are still available. This is a great project for home-schooling children and loads of help is available for beginners and those in need of developing their green finger skills.

'Tis the Season to.... report the Potholes!

Rain and ice at this time of year play havoc with our road surfaces. Reporting problems is a doddle! If you can safely stop and take a photo of the offending crater, and better still, measure the dimensions and depth then all this helps. Next, go online at www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/report/new and pop in the details. This works fine on a smart phone. Voilà! Done! This also works for fly-tipping, road sign problems and related issues; but not streetlights – they need to be reported to WPC.

On-Line Parish Council Meetings.

The Parish Council continues to conduct meetings via Zoom, in accordance with current recommendations and guidance to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and to keep everyone safe. Notices with Zoom joining details, the agenda, and of course minutes, will be on the Parish Council's website and posted on the bus stop noticeboard as usual. Please note the change of start time to 7pm.

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

Many residents of Whaddon Parish are not getting up-to-date and timely information about very important issues affecting our Parish. You can also get the Whaddon Quarterly by email, and lots of useful notices and information; e.g., refuse collection delays, road closures, planning information, etc.

Send a short email to ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk asking to be added to the list. We promise absolutely you will NOT be 'spammed' and your details will NOT be passed on or used for any other purpose than Parish Council and/or Police matters.

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s). The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take(s) place at 7.00pm on 11/3/21. Dates for 2021/22 will be published shortly. Please check the Village Notice Board by the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. All Welcome!

Make a Change, Become a Parish Councillor!

From May 2021 there will be space on Whaddon Parish Council, and new councillors are needed.

What do local Councils do?

Your local council has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- delivery of services
- improving quality of life for residents
- giving communities a democratic voice



Becoming a local Councillor

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities they serve. Local councillors' main responsibilities are:

- decision-making
- monitoring
- getting involved locally

Key issues for Whaddon

There are a number of critical issues facing Whaddon now and the near future:

- ongoing involvement in vetting and commenting on local planning applications as statutory consultees to Buckinghamshire Council;
- monitoring Local Plans and commenting on all important issues that impact on Whaddon from a planning, highway and traffic point of view;
- future involvement in the major changes expected to occur and new working partnerships to be forged within the plan makers of VALP, Plan MK and MK Futures 2050 all of which will impact on Whaddon;
- possible development of a Whaddon Neighbourhood Plan, to encourage and take the village forward on all the consultation aspects that would be involved.

Getting elected

To stand for election to a local council you must be:

- a UK, EU or Commonwealth citizen (some exceptions may apply, details on request);
- at least 18 years old;
- an elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary.

Information, help and support

No experience is necessary, just a desire to do the best for your community. Candidates will get full advice, help and support with the application process, and guidance on the how the council operates and your role within it once elected. Time commitment is six meetings a year taking place in the evenings, (currently via Zoom) plus a few hours of meeting preparation. Then any time you are willing to offer to support the work of the council. For more information please contact Suzanne Lindsey, Parish Clerk at parishclerk@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk or on 07891887826 in office hours.

In Tribute to Keith Robinson 1948 -2020



On December 18th 2020, Keith 'Robbo' Robinson took his last journey (above) out of the village where he spent most of his 72 years.

Pulled by four beautiful black Belgian Friesian horses which had travelled from Diss in Norfolk, Keith's last wish for a horse-drawn carriage to take him out of Whaddon (as he so gently reminded Melanie from Country Funerals over the years!) was met.

A queue of traffic followed Keith on his final journey, something which would undoubtedly have made him smile.

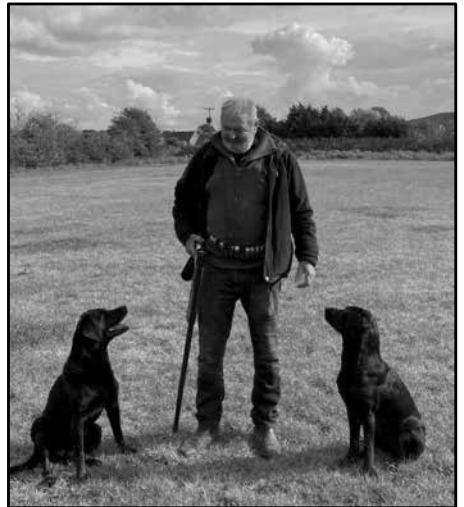
Keith grew up in Shenley Road with his sister Trudy. After a few years working on the pipeline in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Keith moved back to Whaddon (in 1979) with his wife Jeanette and son, Mark. Daughter Joanne was born shortly after.

Keith remained in the family home in Stock Lane until he passed away in early December.

If you've spent any length of time in Whaddon, you'll have seen Keith out walking his dogs across the fields. His passions were being outdoors, shooting pigeons to protect the crops, and breathing in the country air.

Robbo was one of a kind. He said it as he saw it and would do anything for anyone he considered a friend.

The interment of Keith's ashes will take place at the Robinson plot in Whaddon churchyard later in the year. Keith's children grew up in the village and his family would like to thank all members of the Whaddon community for their support during this difficult time.



Jo Robinson

History Half Hour

Part 1: You never quite know what you'll find while tracing family history. It can reveal names and dates, it can also unravel social history and places to visit when Britain returns to 'normal'. John Mortimer examines an engine driver in his tree and makes unexpected finds.

There is a plus side to lockdown: it may be to throw open the gates on past family members. Alternatively, you can use the opportunity to take up previously neglected aspects of life, like brewing beer!

Family history is well suited to the here and now; we can collect wings and fly to faraway times; study social history or expose giant monoliths dominating skylines, awaiting exploration when the pandemic is far-distant. With short days and dark nights still here for a while this could be the time to throw light on those who have passed this way before.

Two keys: www.ancestry.co.uk and www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk can open doors. With these and old maps, you can discover stepping-stones to the past.

I completed my mother's tree, the Wilsons of Battyeford in Yorkshire, some years ago. My cousin Jack, even now at 98, remains an avid tree builder. Two decades ago, creating his tree also constructed my father's tree to 1603.

Weeks ago, a long-time friend looking into the lives (and loves?) of Victorian locomotive engine drivers, emailed one day recently in lockdown asking: "Is Robert Mortimer in your tree?" I scurried for Jack's dark blue, ringbinder folder labelled Mortimer Family Tree. Lo and behold, staring from his chart emerged the self-same Robert, younger brother to William Mortimer, my great, great grandfather, and third child of John (b. 1802) and Rachael (Waters) Mortimer, b. 1807. Ann arrived between William and Robert.

The dates tallied. Bingo: an engine driver in my tree!

A time, long, long ago

Neither Whaddon nor Nash could boast engine drivers as residents; Fenny Stratford and Bletchley could. Daniel Collier, 30, of Mursley, and wife Elizabeth, 31, of Water Eaton, together with their four children lived in Railway Terrace, Fenny Stratford in 1881. Likewise, Arthur Vale from Shirley, Warwickshire, with wife Mary, lived at No. 2 Melbourne Place, Bletchley.

What made engine drivers so special? Long ago, lads yearned to drive locomotive engines. In the last world war, they ached to pilot Spitfires; skim clouds to touch the hand of God while engaging enemy invaders. For indeed, engine driving was a kind of 'profession': a commitment to serve the public in the line of duty: to be at their behest while remaining unknown. Engine drivers formed a Victorian superclass; they clustered on the coattails of leviathans, like IKB – Isambard Kingdom Brunel – who, through engineering prowess, built railways, bridges and ocean-going liners, and carved Britain's name in faraway parts.

Brunel, the 19th century's equivalent of today's technocrat James Dyson, embraced 'new' technologies, harnessing them to advantage: iron and steam – two essential ingredients of Victorian superiority. Today, steam locomotives are a hobby; in Victorian times drivers were a master race plucked from impoverished underclasses.

Growth of York

When Robert was born, former coaching crossroad York with a port on the River Ouse, was itself undergoing a rebirth, thanks to the railways. A coach journey from York to Leeds, for example in 1836, might take three hours; in 1841 railways cut that to under an hour, with similarly reduced fares.

Railway growth is best reflected in employment: in 1851 there were 513 railway workers, of whom 390 were immigrants. Fifty years later, the North Eastern Railway (NER) employed 5,500 in York alone; half were in the carriage works while a third were skilled craftsmen. In 1848, principal manufacturing

included: flax-dressing and -spinning, comb-making, leather-carrying, bone-crushing, glass making, and glove- and mustard-making; likewise, some chemical works, and coffee-roasting. James Meek, a glass manufacturer, employed 212 workmen in glass making. Confectionery provided the next largest: Joseph Terry of St. Helen's Square employed 127; while Thomas Craven employed 63 men and 60 boys. In metal trades, iron founders Edwin Thompson, William Knapton and John Walker employed 118 men and apprentices.

But by 1901, Terry and Rowntree & Co Ltd were large-scale concerns. Rowntree expanded rapidly to reach 4,066 workers. The railway era gifted new life to agricultural labourers: they could shed smocks and the chains shackling them to land and animals; shackles that locked them into poor wages, abysmal working conditions and long, uncertain hours.

Whaddon, like countless villages, had its fair share of labourers. Wages in 1850 were 9s 3d a week; 13s 6d by 1890.

Robert could expect to earn more as a driver: railway wages between 1830 and 1870 offered new drivers, like Robert, 5s a day, with 6d rises a year. Express drivers could earn 8s. As an older driver, Robert might reach 7s 6d: £37.50 a day in today's money. But engine drivers' working conditions were not luxurious. With exposed cabs, they shouldered weather extremes – and everything in between. Their 'offices' were harbingers of red-hot coals, scalding steam, burning metal and flying sparks.

Yet these were small prices to pay for 'enhanced reality'. Drivers were respected and honoured, in charge of large, powerful and dominant 'animals' able to maim and kill, yet able to transport hundreds to and from work and play, including annual summer seaside holidays. For Yorkshire folk, Devon came within reach! Drivers and firemen were admired: passengers heaped praise at journey's end; men doffed hats or caps to acknowledge a safe journey. What else raised them to a plinth, an imperious place in Victorian society? What marked them out?

An elite brigade of men

For the first time in full public gaze, there emerged an elite coterie – no women – with special skills for their tasks. They could master mechanical systems unheard of in the agrarian world and understood steam.

They complied with complex rules 'of the road' to avert collisions; they comprehended signalling and developed communication skills with a working companion: the fireman. With voices drowned, they conversed with hand signals. Drivers understood the interaction between steam and mechanical components. They were pioneers, individuals responsible for their own actions. They were assured, confident, capable of hard work.

In exchange they received above-average wages; enough to attract agricultural labourers to throw away a way of life. But to do so demanded a restart: labourer to railway worker, fireman, driver of shunting locomotives, driver of goods trains, driver of local trains, and finally driver of long-distance expresses. But with railway growth of came trades unions to protect employees from exploitation by owners. And, consequently, disputes.

Robert Mortimer was born in Rufforth, north Yorkshire in 1831. On leaving school, his only employment was on a nearby farm as agricultural labourer. Did the farm employ his father and older brother, William? Then came change: Rufforth's sleepy surrounding countryside reverberated to strange noises; gossip heralded 'the coming of a railway'. An 1845 Act of Parliament in faraway London would pave the way for York to join Leeds by 'railway'.

Well before reaching his 20th birthday, Robert worked as a 'servant' on a farm in nearby village Hessay. Farmer Thomas Rodgers, then 47, tenanted 138 acres with son Michael. Michael's birth in born Ruffort suggests Thomas and wife Grace once lived in Robert's village. Were they on good terms with Robert's father, John; or even employed by him?

By 1851, Thomas and Grace had nine children as well as Michael, 26; their youngest was Charles, aged one. In the census heading 'Relationship to the family', Thomas Rodgers employed another Robert: 'servant' Robert Guardham, 17.

The designation 'servant' is confusing. Mostly, 'servant' in that column referred to domestic servant. In rural parishes, 'servant' implied farm servant – an older term for a retained worker outside normal family structures but still living on the premises. Robert was a 'farming labourer' as well; so, he worked full-time for Rodgers on manual tasks – 'hedging and ditching' – and some animal husbandry. Rodgers possibly 'loaned' Robert to other local farms. It's not known whether farm servants would eat with the family or attend church with them.

Resonance with Whaddon today

By then, rumours of a railway had become fact. The East and West Yorkshire Junction Railway Act (passed on 16th July 1846) connected with the Great North of England Railway (GNER). It ran from York to join the Leeds and Thirsk Railway at Knaresborough – 25 miles to the west – passing through the Rodgers' village before reaching Knaresborough. It gave Hessay a station.

Some 150 years later, this resonates with Whaddon: the new East-West Railway is disrupting nearby roads to Newton Longville. In Robert's day, railway controversies raged, as now: would lines affect rural life, destroy countryside, disturb farm animals and disrupt lives? Construction began in 1847, including a tunnel and a viaduct over River Nidd in Knaresborough. Building the line proceeded speedily. Gangs of navvies were brought in; they occupied camps nearby. Navvies toiled in quarries nearby; they hacked out huge rock segments to line tunnels, build viaducts. Other gangs tunnelled through hillsides, using picks and shovels. All told, they created eye-popping structures that no one in north Yorkshire had seen before.

The first 'trains'* between York and a temporary station on the east side of Knaresborough ran on 30th October 1848. Teenager Robert (17) knew their significance; they sparked ideas. Trudging across soggy fields that October – August was by far the wettest month of an already very wet year – to see the advancing spectacle, Robert joined neighbours to gape, wide-eyed at the passing machine as it discharged sparks, white steam and black smoke at a previously unknown speed. Similarly, a few years later, on his first visit to York, Robert would venture his first steps from the station into York. Momentarily cowed, yet wide-eyed with amazement and mystified by as which way to walk, he could but only follow in the footsteps of others, hoping they were travelling in the right direction.

Back in Hessay, scandal had bubbled at Knaresborough's Nidd Gorge viaduct. To all-round embarrassment, especially the chief engineer, the viaduct collapsed into the river before the opening in 1858. Victorian viaducts did *not* collapse! The new Knaresborough viaduct did not open until 1861.

As Robert continued to toil on Rodgers's farm, the railway became an obsession; a vital amenity transporting folks to and from York. Narrow streets, overhanging houses and jostling pedestrians impressed Robert. Tiny shops brimmed with strange items; some Robert had not seen before. Multiple churches sheltered by York Minster nestled with large shed-like buildings: railway stations, turntable roundhouses, and goods and engine sheds. Over-arching everything, clouds of steam and black smoke hovered threateningly; slowly drifting skywards, occluding the sun, making everywhere gloomy.

The coming of the railways offered countless opportunities to anyone bold enough to strike out; earn more money; even find romance. Railways were spreading their tentacles, bringing more tunnels and viaducts. Few are more imposing than Ribbleshead Viaduct (right), 45 miles west of Hessay, on the line carrying the Settle to Carlisle railway across Batty Moss, close to Cumbria's border. Ribbleshead's huge navvie camps introduced social and economic mayhem. **To be continued....**



John Mortimer

An extraordinary year at Wiltshire Farm Foods, new faces, new challenges, and Captain Sir Tom Moore!



We have lived in Whaddon for six years now and have been running a franchise of Wiltshire Farm Foods for twenty-six years – our offices are in Stewkley. Wiltshire Farm Foods was started by a farmer's wife in Wiltshire in 1928 and provides a home delivery frozen meals service. We supply a large range of easy-to-cook favourites such as roast dinners, stews, pies, pasta, curries and hot and cold desserts including ice creams handmade by Marshfield Farm in Wiltshire. We deliver across Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and North

London to mainly older customers.

When lockdown began back in March 2020 and there was a surge in demand for home food deliveries, particularly for the elderly; our phones started ringing and didn't stop. From an average daily rate of 400 calls we jumped to over 1200 calls on the first day! We had never seen anything like it and it was clear that we would have to increase all of our resources from the people who answer the phones, to those who pick and pack the frozen food, to our drivers who make the deliveries. As demand increased for our meals, we also had to order thousands more meals from our head office in Wiltshire which meant that our three deliveries each week had to start arriving on 40 tonne articulated lorries!

Facebook appeals and word of mouth meant that we soon had fifteen new members of staff from all walks of life including an anthem singer more used to football crowds at Wembley Stadium, a hairdresser, a nail technician, a Michelin trained chef, a speciality festival caterer and a provider of super-sized dinosaur models for events! A couple of former staff members who had moved on to new careers but could no longer work came back to help and could pick up their old roles quickly. Coronavirus contingencies also meant that we had to set up half of our office staff to work on laptops from home. To their credit, everybody involved gave a huge amount of their time and energy to gear us up for this unforeseen step change and to make sure that we could deliver meals to the homes of those most in need. Soon we were delivering over 26,000 meals to over 2,500 customers a week and our cobbled-together crew was becoming a team that they didn't know they would be part of the year before.

In the middle of all this activity one of our drivers, Daryl, mentioned that we had a customer in Marston Moretaine called Tom Moore who was doing one hundred laps of his garden before his 100th birthday on 30th April 2020 to raise money for NHS charities. It sounded like a novel and kind idea; little did we know that in a few short weeks this wonderful gesture would capture the hearts and attention of the country and the whole world it seemed! The sadly now late Captain Sir Tom went on to raise £32.7 million pounds for charity, released a chart-topping single and became one of the most well-known faces in the country. With his 100th birthday fast approaching, we wanted to deliver our own little something to mark the occasion, and so as well as making sure he didn't have to pay for the meals that were fuelling his epic walk, we also prepared a hamper of goodies and asked the children at our son's school in Whaddon to make birthday cards for him. Rather than having to send these to the local school where all the thousands of birthday cards were being delivered, Daryl was able to deliver this directly to Captain Sir Tom at his door. I asked Daryl if she would be able to take a photograph for us to put up in the office and was thrilled when this lovely shot came through. A thoroughly charming and kind man, Captain Sir Tom had been happy for Daryl to take his photograph. This was taken at about 8.30 am and he was already up and suited with his medals on and enjoying the glorious April sunshine.



With the latest lockdown upon us we are still as busy as ever but now have all of the resources and people in place to deliver what we hope is a useful and friendly service. The letters and emails that we have received from our customers and their families since March last year have been a real boost to morale and we feel that we have helped in some small way to keep our customers safe and well fed in their homes. 2020 was an extraordinary year for us as it was for everyone and we were grateful to be able to return to our peaceful and beautiful village at the end of every busy day.

Verity and Chris Mainwaring - The Hollies, High Street, Whaddon.

Kites Are Up

Kites are up, but no paper and string.
Not thrown up and diving to ground.
Not just a stick stretched thing.

Talons and beak speak raptor.
Red tail forked, with huge spread wings soars on,
Has no grounded captor.

This is no performer, not earth tethered.
No toy for the awe-struck child.
This is bird, red, full feathered.

This is real. A free wind surfer,
Only ground linked by the keen-eyed vision of the searcher.

Quartering the fields in a stall and dive.
A dazzling display of breeze riding.
Flying on long after the grounded
Paper flyers have retreated home, for tea at five.

Still up, gliding in sky now pale
Still searching for that tasty morsel,
To bring home to the nest in the vale.

Paul Moss - #mossmanpoet



Thank you to **Linda Warren** for the incredible Kite shots!

Reflections from the Rectory

Happy New Year! I say this with defiant hope rather than any expectation that the new year is a happy one. So far it has been a very sad new year with the horrifying daily death toll from COVID and yet another lockdown disrupting our lives, and endangering the lives of those reaching breaking point. I don't think we even dare think about the state of the economy as a result of all this.

There have, of course, always been difficult times. Life is rife with tragedy. Lives turned upside down by a diagnosis, divorce, death of a loved one, debt, being made redundant, dormant dreams. However, there is something about the pervasive nature of this pandemic which is particularly depressing. I think this is why we feel like we are beginning to run on empty. I hold onto the hope that the suffering is not in vain as we re-evaluate what it is we truly value. That perhaps humanity might be wiser when we come out the other side of this.

What has the Church got to offer in these times? February sees the start of Lent and I'm wondering if Lent can help us through lockdown. I found it interesting to learn that fasting during Lent stems from a time when the winter food supplies were at their lowest. People fasted to make the food supply last longer. If everyone fasted together the community had a better chance of surviving.

So, in the past, Lent gave spiritual significance to a time of physical hunger, and, in doing so, helped enable people to co-operate together for the common good. Though some people are facing hunger due to COVID, I think in Whaddon the key hunger is for connection. Perhaps this hunger for connection reveals a spiritual hunger for God: after all we are all made in the image of God.

I'm concerned that we are beginning to suffer from 'lockdown syndrome' rather like 'Stockholm syndrome'. The more we live cut off from each other, the harder it is to reach out and connect, especially as our energy levels are low. Maybe the discipline of keeping Lent provides an opportunity for us to connect with each other.

I'm still at the brainstorm stage regarding what shape this might take. I have a book: *Candles in the Dark – Faith, Hope and Love in a Time of Pandemic*, which is full of short reflections. This could form the basis of a book club where we meet once a week via Zoom. I also have a book called *Wild Lent – Discovering God through Creation*. The Oxford Diocese is providing a daily reflection through Lent which you can sign up for. They are also providing weekly visual and audio material looking at the fundamentals of the Christian faith; this could form the basis for a weekly group.

Whatever form it takes, there will be the opportunity to connect with God within us and between us and all around us as we look at lessons in Lent for surviving lockdown.

Rev. Jacqueline Dove

**The Rectory,
Chapel Lane, Thornborough,
MK18 2DJ,**

01280 817828

Whaddon Plant Swap

The Whaddon Plant Swap, located last summer on the grass between Briary View and Shenley Road, attracted a lot of attention and a lot of plant-swapping was done. I plan to start again later in the Spring and thank all who donated last Spring; but I need more plants to keep it going. So please take cuttings, clear unwanted seeds and split large perennials. Or even grow extra vegetables plants to help other people to enjoy their garden this year.

Thank you!

Valerie Peters



Litter Picking Weekend

There appears to be an accumulation of litter collecting on the Shenley Road out towards Kingsmead. If anyone would be willing to volunteer to support a litter picking weekend, please contact me at the email below!

Belinda Scott - belindascott@fastmail.fm

Organising a litter pick within Aylesbury Vale?

Buckinghamshire Council is committed to supporting local groups in keeping communities and neighbourhood clean and tidy. The council offers a range of support to communities planning litter picking events. We loan litter pickers, bags, high-vis tabards and gloves (subjected to availability). We also arrange to collect the litter collected and dispose of it.

To request a litter picking kit or arrange a litter picking event, please email the Streetscene team streetscene.av@buckinghamshire.gov.uk with the following information:

- Your name, address and contact details
- Equipment required
- Date you would like to collect the kit and the date you will be returning it.
- date of event, location of event and location of waste for collection.



Walking in Buckinghamshire

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Walking in Buckinghamshire <http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/bucks> is the website for you! With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own, or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

Walking in Buckinghamshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place, so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles-plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

John Harris - john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Community Food Ark at Whaddon Allotments



Thank goodness for allotments and the Food Ark Project - it was the one thing that kept me sane during 2020. When I couldn't work due to Covid restrictions, I sought refuge in the glorious outside space in Vicarage Road, where Whaddon's green-fingered come to grow food the old-fashioned way. And so, surrounded by shiny orange pumpkins and emerald kales, I sat in the afternoon sun, sipping

hot tea I'd just boiled over a fire. I watched the smoke rising, twirling, and eddying in the air as it caught on the breeze, and all around was the comforting birdsong of bluetits chirping in the hedges. It was a peaceful retreat - an escape from my problems of unemployment and isolation, and vital to my mental health. And I wasn't the only one. All over the country, similar pilgrimages were performed, as cooped-up Brits returned to nature - to something that made sense in an ever worsening public health crisis that saw many of us unable to leave our homes to do much else. Allotments saw their biggest resurgence in the UK for decades - and it's easy to see why.

I've always been passionate about being outside, and growing food has been a perpetual hobby. Now more than ever, I'm committed to bringing the simple joy of digging over a vegetable patch to people who have never tried it before. So, in Autumn, I and a team of eco-conscious volunteers (who also needed to escape their houses for a bit) collaborated to create a beautiful, functional outside community space using only second-hand timber and upcycled materials. The result of our labour is an outside kitchen, compost toilet and covered shelter with seating. It will be launched officially in Spring, and Covid willing, you are all invited to come and see what we have been up to and find out what we are offering!

We will be hosting a range of art, food growing and gardening workshops and there are plans afoot for a forest school too. The space is available to Whaddoners to book and use for free - so if you'd like to offer workshops, courses or clubs, please get in touch with us.

One thing we have all desperately missed throughout the Covid crisis, is social interaction and events. Some of us have struggled with depression, anxiety, loss and money worries. We hope this year will be better of course, and when restrictions lift, we can all embrace a new start and witness the village getting back to some kind of normality. So, keep an eye out for our grand opening, and we hope to see you there! To find out about getting a plot, volunteering, or to offer a workshop, please email: communityfoodark@protonmail.com

Lee Anne - Food Ark Community Organiser

Inside The Lowndes Arms

We first took on the Lowndes Arms on Valentine's Day, February 14th 2017; how quick 4 years have gone by! We took an empty shell and turned it into a thriving community pub for everyone to enjoy!

Each year we have grown and grown the business; even during COVID-19 we managed to stay afloat and serve the local community. But we still really need your help! We are still carrying on with our traditional Sunday roast every Sunday, so going forward during lockdown if you are lucky enough to live in the village, we can offer you **free delivery** of your roast from 12.30-3pm. Please ring the pub or contact us via Facebook and send your address over, and we will do the rest! Please also look on Facebook to see our up-and-coming events while we are still closed. Just want to say a massive thank you for everybody's support, without you the pub really wouldn't be open. Keep safe!

The Lowndes Arms



St. Mary the Virgin Church - Whaddon

A Happy New Year to you all. We hope you all managed to have an enjoyable Christmas despite the restrictions on the number of family and friends allowed to share it. Sadly, we were unable to celebrate in church with our Service of Nine Lessons & Carols with the Chase Choir and our very popular Birthday Party for Jesus. However, the Advent windows were a huge success, giving pleasure to everyone and showing how much creative talent we have in the village. Thankyou to all who participated. The Nativity trail was also very popular, finishing in the North Porch, where there was a crib.



Since the lockdown, the Church has had to remain closed for regular services. However, the weekly service for Blackthorn Chase Benefice is available online (Zoom) every Sunday at 11am. If you would like to join in, please email/phone Rev Dove (see below) and ask her to add your email address to the invitation list. She also sends a weekly article "Reflection from the Rectory" which you can receive. There is also an online (Zoom) prayer meeting organised from Nash every Wednesday and everyone is welcome to join. Contact Pam King (John's wife) for details or if you would like prayers said for a special person you know.

We hope you are all managing to survive the lockdown and stay safe and well now that vaccinations are up and running. We hope that some of the restrictions will be eased and life can return to something approaching normality in the not-too-distant future.

The church is still conducting funerals with a limited number of mourners. Since we last wrote there have been four services:

- ♥ Dorothy Wall aged 98. Her parents are buried in the churchyard and she grew up in Whaddon.
- ♥ Doreen Cowling, her daughter, who lived in Bletchley, passed away in MK Hospital aged 78.
- ♥ Tim Barnard, aged 56. A former resident of Whaddon Hall, whose father is buried in our churchyard, Tim's funeral service was held in the church and afterwards at the crematorium. His ashes will be scattered in Cornwall.
- ♥ Keith Robinson, known as "Robbo", died aged 72, at home in Stock Lane. His service was held at the crematorium and for his final journey, his coffin, surrounded by beautiful floral arrangements, was in a glass hearse pulled by four black horses with black plumes on their heads. Robbo was born in Whaddon and lived in the village for most of his life as did generations of his family. After the cremation, the floral tributes were placed on the family grave in the churchyard.

Recently, we were asked to look up something in the Marriage Registers which are kept in the vestry. We noticed that the church is called 'St Mary the Virgin' in the registers, so presumably that is its full name rather than the shortened 'St Mary's' in common usage. Sharp eyed readers will have noticed that I have used the full name in the title of this piece – were you one of them?

Please contact us about Prayer group, Reflections, online church services and pastoral care needs at the details below.

Hazel Hedges Churchwarden 01908 501729 Hazel.hedges@gmail.com	Reverend Jacqueline Dove 01280 817828 revjdove@gmail.com	Pam King 01908 501860 Pamking199@gmail.com
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Whaddon Jubilee Hall

The Jubilee Hall Committee is very much hoping that the roadmap recently issued by the Government will allow us to open to some gatherings later in the year. In the meantime, we're pleased to confirm that building works will commence at some point this year to create a dedicated entrance at the rear of the hall, incorporating access for wheelchair users.



In other news, we are grateful to Mr Patel and family for continuing to run the Post Office each Tuesday 1.30 – 3.00pm. This facility will continue for the foreseeable future.

Although we are unable to take bookings for general hire at the moment, we are hopeful that it won't be too long before we can cautiously offer the hall for hire again, in line with any new government guidelines. If you have any questions about hiring the hall, please email us at whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com and we look forward to seeing our hall open again in the not-too-distant future.

STOP PRESS! The good news is that our beady eyed Treasure, Peter Hedges, spotted an email offering grants to village halls to replace income lost due to Covid. We were awarded £2,250 thanks to his vigilance. Well done Peter!

The Jubilee Hall Committee

Chase Choir

We all keep turning up on Zoom, week after week, practising our singing in our own rooms, some behind closed doors apparently! Singing alone isn't nearly as much fun as singing together properly, but we're determined to keep on making the effort, in the knowledge that when we get together eventually, there will be lots of new songs to put together, and hear, in full voice, which will be very rewarding.

In the meantime, we have a cunning plan to produce an online song, so watch this space (well not this one, of course, but an online one!) Seeing everyone's faces each week keeps our sense of community alive, and singing, even if alone, is always good for your mental and physical health, so we'll carry on regardless, looking forward to Spring, warmer weather and lifting of restrictions. Then try and stop us!



We're very happy to have welcomed a new member: Jacqueline Leach Dove, our vicar, to the Altos' section of the choir too. Now there's courage and commitment in the face of adversity!

If anyone else is interested in joining our warm, happy "fold", please do get in touch with either Karen Logan, our magnificent leader, who brings us all together with such persistence (!) each week on 01908 501922, or with Marianna Beckwith, who racks her brains each quarter, as to how many more superlatives to find for our awesome Chase Choir on 01908 503194. Keep singing!

Marianna Beckwith

Whaddon Women's Institute



Our Annual Meeting took place via Zoom in November and we were all pleased that the committee agreed to stay on and we could continue for another year. It was certainly a strange way to vote and agree on the way forward, but we were assisted by Thelma, our WI Adviser, and all went well.

In December, Marion, one of our members, showed us via Zoom how to make little bobble hats to put on our Christmas trees or onto a boiled egg. We all enjoyed the challenge and enjoyed each other's company. It was also good to hear how everyone was getting on. We ran out of time to learn how to make a candle table decoration with Sue, another of our members, but we will do this another time, I'm

sure.

Unfortunately, because of the Coronavirus problems we had to cancel our lunch at The Lowndes Arms, but we will re-arrange this as soon as we can.

At our January meeting, again via Zoom, Daphne gave an interesting talk on Claydon House with fabulous photos of the very detailed plasterwork and woodwork made by master craftsmen. We heard about the Verney family including Sir Ralph Verney who had 12 children and how each generation had influenced the way the house looks. We admired the carved wood ceiling in the Gothic Room and the beauty of the Chinese Room which was created by Luke Lightfoot from Suffolk.

We discovered that Florence Nightingale's sister, Frances Parthenope Nightingale, married Sir Harry Verney and catalogued the whole library, a huge undertaking. Both Florence and Parthenope were named after the place where they were born (Parthenope is the Greek name for Naples – who knew?).

The collection at Claydon House includes a very delicate costume collection, a carriage in which Florence Nightingale toured the battlefields and the 'Notes on Nursing' book that Florence wrote. Claydon House became a school in WWI and in 1956 was taken over by the National Trust who began a process of repair, conservation and restoration. Various films have been made at Claydon House including Far from the Madding Crowd with Carey Mulligan and Michael Sheen. This involved 140 volunteers and of course was a good source of revenue for the National Trust. The National Trust is hoping that Claydon House will re-open in May, but only for 2 days a week initially. Let's hope so, as I'm sure we will be keen to visit and see all the amazing things ourselves.

We are pleased to report that our members are staying well and are looking forward to our programme for 2021 which includes a talk on Macular Degeneration, a return visit from Daphne on 'Spinning Plates' which is about earthquakes, an outing to play croquet and Bollywood dancing to name just a few things. Our minds and bodies should be much improved by the end of this year!

We are also proud of our members such as Sue who have made beautiful bags for patients (see photo).

We are a small, welcoming WI and usually meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall in Whaddon. If you would like any further details or a copy of our programme, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jill Aitken (01908) 502781
Secretary





Whaddon Night Owlers

This pandemic has not stopped us at the WI! Our meetings have carried on, just on the medium of Zoom rather than in person. Thanks to the technical prowess of one of our members, we have met every month, with speakers! It has been a joy to be able to say hello to people, chat with them and catch up on all our news. I don't know about you but the thing I am missing the most is the chat and the gossip...

November saw us carry out our AGM and the re-election of the committee and president. We then had an online wedding celebration as one of our members got married during lockdown, with the help of the WI as witnesses in far-off towns up north. Any excuse to get a wedding hat out! We had fizz, flowers and some amazing head wear.

We have also had talks from an author who explained her fascinating life as well as how to construct a series of extremely successful novels. It was a real insight into a job that brings so much pleasure to so many people. In January, a local lady talked to us about "Silks for Sundays". She now paints and sews vestments for church people across the globe, including the previous Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, and radio star, the Reverend Richard Coles. The work is beautiful! It was great to talk to such talented people.

For February we are planning some creative treats for members to go with a talk from the Parks Trust in Milton Keynes. Talk has already turned to Easter and chocolate too... We have a full programme planned for this year including investigating recycling, wildlife in Milton Keynes, stained glass work (entitled "Not Just for Christmas") and a local art walk guided by an expert. We also take the opportunity to look further afield with information about the North Bucks Way and Life on a Cambodian Dump. What a wide variety of things we cover!

If you would like to find out more – and we would love to meet you – please contact Daphne on 01908 502088. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm, normally in the Jubilee Hall, currently on Zoom.

Alison Cross




Information for our village....

Bin Days

If, like me, you never have a clue what bin to put out on a Monday night then do use the handy tips provided by my ever-helpful husband:

1. Look out the window to see which bin everyone else has put out.
2. Remember which bin you put out last week and now put out the opposite one.

Alternatively, the Council have a very handy website: <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/find-your-bin-day> and an app which tells you each week what to do. And as a Brucie Bonus, a few of the next dates below.

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans and tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable
Tuesday 9 March		Tuesday 9 March
	Tuesday 16 March	Tuesday 16 March
Tuesday 23 March		Tuesday 23 March
	Tuesday 30 March	Tuesday 30 March
Wednesday 7 April		Wednesday 7 April
	Tuesday 13 April	Tuesday 13 April
Tuesday 20 April		Tuesday 20 April
	Tuesday 27 April	Tuesday 27 April
Wednesday 5 May		Wednesday 5 May
	Tuesday 11 May	Tuesday 11 May
Tuesday 18 May		Tuesday 18 May
	Tuesday 25 May	Tuesday 25 May

Could you build a Hedgehog Highway?

We've lost a third of all our hedgehogs since the millennium.

Hedgehogs love gardens, and fortunately there are around half a million hectares of garden in the UK; and Whaddon is blessed with a vast array of gardens, fields and woodland.

Hedgehogs need to be able to roam far and wide in search of food, mates and nesting sites - the average hedgehog roams 2km a night! Get together with your neighbours to make a hole in your fence or dig a channel beneath garden boundaries to connect your gardens. To find out how (and what permission you need) visit: <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>



Health Blog

Five foods you need to support your immune system:

Protecting your health has never been more important. The food that you eat has a huge part to play in strengthening your immune system and helping your body fight off illness and infection. The good news is, you don't need to break the bank on immune-boosting elixirs, powders, supplements, or other expensively marketed health concoctions, to get the benefits. Every day, affordable foods in supermarkets can provide you with all the nutrients you need to keep your immune system strong. What's even better is that all of these can be simply added, sprinkled, or blended into your existing meals – extra immunity with no extra effort! Here are some of the key foods that we should all be adding to our daily diet:

<p>Ginger provides fantastic bang for your buck when it comes to immunity. It is inexpensive and contains very strong antioxidants and antimicrobial properties which help fight infection. Ginger is most beneficial when eaten fresh. Grate it into an apple compote to enjoy with porridge in the morning, blend it into a smoothie, add it to a curry or stir-fry, or make ginger and lemon tea!</p>	<p>Garlic has immune-boosting superpowers! It stimulates and activates your white blood cells – immune system soldiers – supercharging their powers. It also contains sulphur phytochemicals which act as antioxidants, are anti-inflammatory and help to fight both infection and inflammation in the body. Garlic too is more powerful when eaten fresh – use it in curries, stir-fries, soups or pasta sauces. Two cloves a day should be enough to give you a boost.</p>
<p>Turmeric is a root from the same family as ginger. Like ginger, it contains potent biochemicals which act as antioxidants and have antimicrobial properties, both of which help your immune system stay strong. As well as adding it to your favourite curry, you can use turmeric to make a <u>delicious tofu scramble</u> or even as a drink – ‘golden milk’ or a turmeric latte. The key is to use enough turmeric for it to be effective, without it being too bitter – about one teaspoon should do! Pro tip: <i>Add some black pepper to your turmeric dish – it increases your absorption of the wonder substance, curcumin, from turmeric.</i></p>	<p>Berries are probably the most nutritious, health-protective foods in the world, not to mention, delicious! Berries contain phytochemicals which help to protect our bodies from infections and environmental damage. They also contain phenolic compounds which have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial effects. On top of that, they also encourage beneficial bacteria in your gut! It's easy to get your daily dose of berries – simply add a handful of blueberries, raspberries or strawberries to your morning cereal or porridge, or toss them into a smoothie. Pro tip: <i>Frozen berries are cheaper, last longer and contain a similar amount of nutrients to their fresh counterparts, plus they're perfect for that morning smoothie. If you have the freezer space, buy them in season and freeze.</i></p>
<p>Seeds. Zinc is a mineral that we often forget about, but it is crucial that we get enough to support a healthy immune system. Thankfully, seeds such as pumpkin seeds and sesame seeds are particularly high in zinc. Simply sprinkle some of these super seeds onto your porridge, cereal or soups and you're on to a winner! If you're not a big seed fan, lentils, tofu, tempeh and wholemeal pasta also score high on the zinc charts. Adding some of these immune-supporting wonders to your daily diet should help keep your immune system in tip-top shape. Combine these with regular exercise, avoid too much junk food and alcohol, and remember to take 10 micrograms of vitamin D s day over the winter months, and you will give your body the best chance of fighting off any viruses that come your way.</p>	<p>Tayana Simons</p> <p>Tayana is a freelance writer specialising in veganism, the environment and mental health. She is a trained journalist and previously worked for Viva! as a Campaigner. She now lives in Cornwall where she is a keen sea swimmer, jogger and coastal hiker.</p>

Neighbourhood Watch

Don't be caught out by a COVID vaccine scam

Remember to remain vigilant as criminals begin to take advantage of the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine to commit fraud. The vaccine is free - you will NOT be asked to pay.

The NHS will never:

- ask you for your bank account or card details
- ask you for your PIN or banking password
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up.

If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk



Neighbourhood Watch now has a **rural crime section on their website**. This is a result of the collaborative work of their Rural Crime Working Group, made up of Association Leads from across their network and their Rural Crime Partnership (which includes National Farmers' Union, CLA, Countryside Alliance, Historic England and the National Rural Crime Network). The rural crime section, <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/rural-crime> covers topics such as fly-tipping, heritage crime, theft of livestock and machinery and livestock worrying - a very serious issue and devastating to our rural communities.

Milton Keynes Council COVID-19 Community Champion Scheme

Milton Keynes Council are calling on people throughout Milton Keynes to help them to reach their friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and thousands of other local people, with trusted information and advice related to COVID-19.

Throughout the pandemic, the Council have been keeping residents informed and up-to-date with local information and the latest government and health advice. In light of increasing infection rates and changing restrictions, keeping up-to-date with the latest advice is more important than ever.

But they know they won't reach everyone, which is why they are calling for people to sign up to become a MK COVID-19 Community Champion to help them reach more of the local community.

Many people have wanted to help others throughout the pandemic but were unsure as to how to go about it. Being an MK COVID-19 Community Champion is an easy way to make a massive difference, by sharing the latest information and advice with friends and families. This could be via local Facebook groups, WhatsApp groups, social organisations and clubs that people are part of.

Anyone interested in becoming an MK COVID-19 Community Champion should visit and register at: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/covid-champions.

YOUR LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS

Graham Stewart	2, High Street. Tel. 01908 501973
Peter Beckwith	6, Old Manor Close. Tel: 01908 503194
Sally Green	Bellsbrook, Church Lane. Tel: Ex-directory
David McIntyre	2a, Vicarage Road. Tel: 01908 867836
Howard Jones	8, Ladymead. Tel: 01908 501871
Sally Telford	4a, Stock Lane. Tel:01908 336960
Pauline Winward	1, Whaddon Hall. Tel: 01908 502559

MK Futures 2050

Milton Keynes Council published the final draft for this strategy on 20 November 2020, and the MK Cabinet approved it for adoption on 15 December. It will almost certainly be finally adopted by MKC full council in due course, as an annex to the MK Local Plan. It is then MKC's intention to pursue a partnership approach to implementing the strategy with the Government and its various agencies. The plan will be reviewed again in 2024.

The final document has been reviewed for North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium (NBPPC) of which Whaddon PC is a founder parish, by one of its members and the main changes/issues that have been picked up are detailed below:

1. The term 'Metropolitan Milton Keynes' used in the Draft Strategy has been dropped and MKC will now use 'Greater Milton Keynes' in its place. There is no map delineating what constitutes the areas in Bucks, Beds and Northants beyond the MK Borough boundary, which constitutes the extent of Greater Milton Keynes. All that is provided in the documents as to which communities outside MK Borough would be encompassed within Greater Milton Keynes is – *the immediate neighbouring parts of the 3 counties. (It should be noted that Shenley Park, Whaddon, is a 'Greater M.K.' site identified as being very likely to come forward in the Bucks Council VALP document).*
2. The claim now is that MK Council recognises it must *pull back from what the strategy says about cross-boundary growth but to still make reference to the fact that there will be growth in these neighbouring areas and that it will be managed through their own local plan processes, but be less explicit about how and where that might happen.* The Final MK Strategy for 2050 advises it is planning for population growth within Milton Keynes Borough from the current level of 270,000 to 410,000 by about 2050, a 52% increase.
3. The Final MK Strategy for 2050 still mentions the figure of around 500,000 inhabitants for Greater Milton Keynes in about 2050 - the actual wording is *around half a million people at some point in the middle of the century.* According to the document, the population of Greater MK is currently 315,000, ie 45,000 people living outside the borough boundary. So, the Strategy is indicating a doubling of the population in the area of Greater MK outside the borough boundary 'at some point in the middle of the century', a rate of population growth very significantly greater than that for MK Borough over the same period!
4. The maps in the Final Strategy document make it clear that Milton Keynes Council still appears to have designs on annexing Winslow and the other 8 Growth Proposals detailed in the Draft MK Strategy for 2050. (If you google the document, See Figure 7 on page 46) you will see details of Winslow serviced by the Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) system and Figure 8 on page 66, which denotes Winslow and the other 8 Growth Proposals as *possible future long-term development locations outside the scope of the Strategy for 2050).* The only conclusion one can draw from this, is that Milton Keynes Council still believes very substantial growth is needed in parishes bordering the borough boundary and Winslow. It certainly does not reflect their promise 'to be less explicit about how and where that growth might happen'.

5. On page 11, in the Greater Milton Keynes section of the Final MK Strategy for 2050, we find - *Advanced plans exist for around another 10,000 homes to be built in the parts of Greater Milton Keynes outside the borough, including major developments at Marston Vale and Salden Chase, Newton Longville. These are shown on the map at Figure Two. We estimate that by 2050 there might be a further 10,000 more homes built in those neighbouring areas.* The emerging Central Bedfordshire Council Local Plan 2015 to 2035 has an allocation of up to 5,000 dwellings in 4-5 "garden villages" between Lidlington and Marston Moretaine. So, together with Salden Chase and Shenley Park, it appears MKC's suggestion of 10,000 additional homes in the parts of Greater MK outside the borough to 2035 has merit. Whether the same level of growth in the following 15 years is realistic is open to debate.

Whaddon Planning Briefs

SALDEN CHASE (SWMK) - 15/00619/FUL - MKC APPEAL (on highway access refusal grounds)

SALDEN CHASE 15/00314/AOP - BUCKS COUNCIL RE-CONSULTATION (same site) and SHENLEY PARK - Update

The appeal relating to the MKC access refusal, has not been withdrawn despite the request from the MKC barrister that it should be, with a new application being made afresh. However, the Inspector has agreed that the MKC appeal can be postponed for a second time. It is now scheduled to commence on 11 May 2021.

WPC has repeatedly asked Bucks Council for an assurance that Whaddon's interests will be fairly and properly represented at the Salden Chase appeal relating to the access refusal, especially as Bucks Council will be attending as a 'Rule 6 party'. It is important to remember that the access from the A421 is in MKC area, but the actual site of 1855 new houses is wholly within Buckinghamshire, and BC are obviously keen that the site does receive full planning approval for the access, because it currently forms a major part of their VALP local plan strategy - the success of which will pave the way for the further 1150 new homes at Shenley Park, Whaddon. WPC has written to BC requesting copies of their updated Proof of Evidences when they are available, so that previous deficiencies and omissions can be corrected.

It is important that WPC scrutinises these documents carefully, as they should highlight the concerns of all councillors and residents over the rat-running and HGV traffic issues, and address how these might be dealt with by mitigation. It may be that only limited benefits may derive from the Salden Chase development, because the traffic data suggests that Whaddon's traffic problems will not be made worse by this specific development - although the same may not be the case if Shenley Park gets the planning go ahead.

WPC's biggest concern is whether the new Link road through Shenley Park relieve the rat-running issues through Whaddon? - as BC claims it will - or will it make it worse? Worryingly, it seems that this matter is not of strategic importance and is very likely to be left to resolve at the detailed planning and design brief stages, along with the possible A421 dualling questionall of which is of course AFTER the Local Plan will have been adopted and the development die is cast!

At present, if Salden Chase goes ahead, WPC have negotiated a sum of £22,000 to be made to Whaddon (via BC) as a section 106 contribution for improving safety through Whaddon (variable 20mph signs on both approaches to village school). Although this figure was negotiated before the introduction of a possible Link Road through Shenley Park - the amount is unlikely to change, although further traffic data may be requested if predicted traffic flows do not go according to BC predictions, and the rat-running journeys through Whaddon increase, post development.

VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN (VALP) - FURTHER MAIN MODIFICATIONS.

Having already gone through one Main Modification consultation exercise last year, this additional public consultation is not hugely important to Whaddon residents but those interested in this emerging document should read on:

The Inspector has determined that the previous Main Modifications made by BC have led to amendments and additions which must be declared 'Further Main Modifications' (FMM's), requiring further public consultation. This process commenced on 15 December and your PC commented on them before the 9th February 2021 deadline. These FMM's dealt with minor errors, expected timescales and projections for certain major housing sites, transport issues (not affecting Whaddon whatsoever), housing for the elderly - some 110 units are to be included at Shenley Park - and some employment policies (none at Shenley Park). There is also a Sustainability Appraisal update and revised Habitat Assessment.

However, in considering the FMM's your PC has concentrated solely on the timescale that BC are proposing for the development Phasing of Shenley Park, Whaddon. Instead of 'the site is expected to be delivered between 2024 and 2033' in the previous draft of the VALP, the document now reads '*50 homes to be delivered 2020 - 2025 and 1100 homes to be delivered 2025 - 2033*'. The implication is that 50 homes will be completed at Shenley Park, Whaddon within the next 4 years, which realistically seems highly unlikely bearing in mind all the process, further investigations and development work yet to be undertaken and resolved, and especially if such works - such as the required development brief - are to be undertaken diligently and with proper consultation with Whaddon and other interested parties.

DEPARTMENT for TRANSPORT - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAVEMENT PARKING - Options for Change

As was discussed and agreed at an earlier WPC meeting, your Parish Council submitted a detailed response online, before the 22 November deadline, supporting Option 3 - a complete pavement parking ban, which was supported by almost every resident who responded to the WPC village survey request. At this time, the DfT are saying that they received some 12,000 responses (much higher than anticipated) and are outsourcing the detailed analysis work to consider replies before producing a summary within 3 months (end March?) but what - if anything - will happen thereafter is anyone's guess!

WEA - CALVERTON GREEN SOUTH, WHITEHOUSE (Area 10.1 - Phase 2), MK.

Whaddon residents cannot fail to notice how the major development of some 7500 new homes at the M.K. Western Expansion Area is slowly edging towards Whaddon, along Calverton Lane. The latest Design Code for this particular phase was approved by MK Council on 7th Jan 2021, with minor changes, and work on advanced infrastructure has already commenced. This area essentially covers all that land to the north of the North Bucks Way. The next major area to the south of the NBW, that contains POS, playing fields, housing and burial ground (as an overspill area to Crownhill crematorium), is the area of most interest to Whaddon, as it will reach up to the Shenley Ridge which overlooks the Whaddon/Nash valley, and is currently recognised as the western edge of the City. Whilst your Parish Council has indicated to MKC that WPC has no concerns over the current design code, we have asked several questions on the timing and content of the upcoming codes, including details of the 'city street' that will sever Calverton Lane eventually and may impact on Whaddon residents and our rat-running problems. It is hoped to report on any response received at future WPC meetings and within WQ editions, so that we can ensure that the development and highway expectations proceed as per the approved plans, without any hidden surprises!

15/00314/AOP - NEWTON LONGVILLE, Land South of the A421, West of Far Bletchley, North of the East West rail link and East of Whaddon Road, Newton Longville.

Confusingly, this is the same site previously referred to as Salden Chase by BC, but also SWMK by Milton Keynes Council, for the 1855 new homes between Bottledump roundabout and the rail line close to Newton Longville. Following three previous public consultations on this same site, this most recent one refers to the latest updated traffic impact assessments required by BC and other objectors including WPC. Comments should be submitted by 8th March 2021. There are 7 main new documents,

amounting in all to some 1500 pages of calculations, diagrams and explanations, most of which do not affect Whaddon as they are mainly in MK. It is worthy of note that BC and WSP (the traffic consultants for the developer consortium) both agree that the development will not generate sufficient increase in traffic through Whaddon to impact on the Coddmoor Lane/Stock Lane/Shenley Road junction, and therefore alterations to that junction are not required. There are, however, improvements proposed to the A421 Whaddon crossroads/roundabout, which, although relatively minor, will cause disruption as and when approval is granted, and development work commences. It is highly unlikely that WPC will object to the Whaddon roundabout improvements, as they are designed to improve safety once, and if, the development proceeds, which is looking increasingly likely, if the updated traffic data is to be believed.

PLEASE NOTE:

All the issues detailed above are discussed at Whaddon Parish Council meetings, of which there are six every year. Despite the Covid pandemic these meetings continue - albeit virtually via Zoom discussion online - (and not, I would add, like that recently witnessed at Handforth Parish Council!!) Residents can participate as normal during the public session, and if you would like to do so then please contact in good time, Suzanne Lindsey the Parish Clerk, who definitely 'has the authority' to register your interest and provide you with the necessary link prior to the meeting.

Graham Stewart

Whaddon Planning Application Updates

20/03558/APP - Jubilee Hall Stock Lane Whaddon - Single storey side and rear extensions with new access ramp for disabled access, and storage.

Planning permission GRANTED on 10 December, with normal 3 year and material conditions. Approval of building regulations is currently underway.

20/00728/APP - 25 Stock Lane. - Proposed additional residential unit on ground floor, with first floor side extension and all associated works.

Planning permission REFUSED on 19 December. Reasons included, lack of parking, non-compliance with Conservation Area policies, detrimental impact, cramped and overdevelopment, relationship to bungalow and scale and massing. The refusal reasons were very much in line with the WPC objection.

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

Decision still awaited. An earlier report has apparently been written by the new planning officer (the fourth to have dealt with this case due to staff problems) and is currently going through the Bucks Council checking process.

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

Decision still awaited, but a new site plan was added to the online BC planning website on 12 Jan, together with details of a required new bat house.

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

Although not in our patch, it was agreed at the last WPC meeting to raise an objection on traffic and safety grounds to this application, for a gas tanker offloading facility. Although a final decision is still awaited, it is noticeable from the website that the number of local resident objections has increased from circa 650, to in excess of 1,100.

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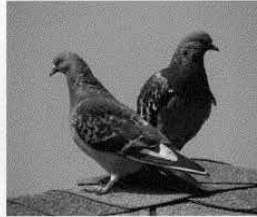
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