

February 2020

WHADDON QUARTERLY

Moving towards the future



1

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| ■ VALP and Shenley Park | 11 | ■ Selby-Lowndes' family | 23 |
| ■ Join the Parish Council | 27 | ■ Two widows of Whaddon | 30 |



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For comments, queries and articles

Please contact the editor, John Mortimer, on
wqeditor@whaddonbuckspc.org.uk

To advertise in the *Whaddon Quarterly*

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Advertising Rates and Publication Policy – page 52

Whaddon Jubilee Hall whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com. p. 48

Final deadlines for forthcoming issues:

17th April, 13th July and 18th October 2020.

CONTENTS

REGULAR ITEMS

Parish Council Report, **5**; From the editor's chair, **5**; Clerk's Corner, **6**;
Letter to the editor, **7**; St Mary's Church News, **18**;
Toddler Church, **19**; Whaddon Women's Institute, **19**;
Whaddon Night Owlers WI, **21**; Neighbourhood Watch, **41**; Whaddon Independent Chapel, **42**;
Winslow Community Bus, **43**; Whaddon planning briefs, **46**;
Whaddon refuse collection dates, **47**; Jubilee Hall is your hall, **48**; Nash Events, **49**.

FEATURES

My first week in the Commons.....	9
Be inspired; have fun being creative.....	10
The Whaddon Entertainers present.....	10
VALP: Shenley Park, Whaddon; latest update.....	11
My life with HMGCC at Whaddon Hall.....	12
As three meals were cooked every day.....	14
The gardener's corner.....	15
Calverton Lane road closure plans.....	16
From Babbage and Whaddon to Beethoven and...what?.....	17
NEW BOOKS: Tombstone hide and seek; Secrets found in hiding places.....	21-22
Selby-Lowndes: family lives and times.....	23
Ever thought of joining the Parish Council?.....	27
Changing face of Whaddon (and the nation).....	28
Gigabit broadband makes progress.....	29
The two widows of Whaddon.....	30
How Openreach restored Whaddon back to life.....	36
Harry Varney, Whaddon's hurdle maker.....	39
Celebrating seven years as a choir.....	44
Assured Shorthold Tenancy and you.....	45
Obituary: Margaret Rose Parker.....	58
MVAS records 65mile/h in Whaddon.....	58

Cover: This Starship robot vehicle is but a taste of the future (p. 17). By John Mortimer.

SNIPPETS

● **WHADDON POSTING TIMES.** A tiny notice on post boxes in Whaddon declares that as from 13th January 2020 the “final collection from this postbox will be made **no earlier** than 4.00pm, Monday to Friday and 7.00am on Saturday.” A deteriorating service, it would seem.



● **A PRISTINE** Openreach cabinet (**left**) now stands proudly in Stock Lane following earlier demolition and valiant work by Openreach engineers over Christmas and subsequent weeks (**p. 36**).

● **STREET LIGHTING.** As part of an on-going assessment, two replacement lights will be installed at Shenley Rd/Briary View, as well as on the village green; these are designed to improve lighting at busy junctions. Other lights under investigation being studied as to the best way forward include two at Ladymead Close and one in Church Lane.

● **THE MET OFFICE** noted on Friday 3rd January that the 10 years from 2010 to 2019 were the second warmest and second wettest decade in the country over the past 100 years, slightly behind 2000 to 2009. A record 38.7C was recorded at Cambridge on 25th July 2019.



● **FOR THE RECORD.** This street cleaning vehicle (**right**) could be seen in operation in Whaddon on the morning of Wednesday 15th January, providing a much-valued service. C. Dowdy is a family-run business undertaking work for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and Berkshire County Councils.



● **THIS YEAR** will see major nationwide celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, victory in Europe day.

● **CREST HOMES'** proposed development of Shenley Park appears not to involve destruction of woodland; even so, according to the Woodland Trust, 1,026 ancient woods are under threat from development, with 102 threatened by the proposed and controversial HS2, set now to cost £106bn. Ancient woodland accounts for just 2.4% of land in the UK. Ancient woodland (**left**) is defined as that which dates from 1600 in England and Wales, and 1750 in Scotland.

● **BLATANT SPEEDING** remains a critical feature of Whaddon life (**right**); vans and cars, they are all tarred with the same brush as MVAS figures ably demonstrate. Turn to **p. 58** to see some of the latest results from the Parish Clerk.



● **IT IS ILLEGAL** to drive, according to gov.uk, if you're unfit to do so; either because you're on legal or illegal drugs; or you have certain levels of illegal drugs in your blood (even if they have not affected your driving).

● **WOES** continue to beset the high street. Estimates suggest 16,073 retail shops closed in 2019, against 14,583 in 2018. As a result, 140,000 lost their jobs last year. Already, Mothercare has closed its stores, Debenhams is shuttering more of its stores and John Lewis, with the clock ticking, faces the most challenging period in its history as it mulls how to up its game. ■



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

February 2020

THE New Year promises to be a year of destiny, not only for Whaddon but for Buckinghamshire as a whole.

Aylesbury Vale District Council will be abolished in less than three months' time. It will be replaced by the new Buckinghamshire Council, covering the whole county on all matters of local government, instead of dividing responsibilities between District and County.

This will, supposedly, save a lot of money and make for an organisation that is simpler and easier to understand. I hope so, but it will undoubtedly be more impersonal, despite the formation of a dozen or so Local Committees.

The existing Councils finish at the end of March and elections take place at the beginning of May; then Whaddon will also elect a new Parish Council of seven members.

I hope that plenty of Whaddon residents become candidates for the latter. It would be the first time that we had a contested election for many years.

The issues are straightforward, I think. They revolve around the question of Milton Keynes and whether we mind being gradually swallowed up by it, or not; even to the extent as to whether we have any right to remain rural.

We already have to endure the rush-hour traffic through the village twice a day and endure the A421's perpetually crawling traffic.

But we do, I think, at the moment, have the best of both worlds; five minutes to Westcroft and 15 to the city centre and trains; at the same time our landscape is largely, untouched. Help us retain it that way! ■

Billy Stanier

February 2020

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

THIS issue's Contents once more embrace a mixture, but again on familiar themes of past, present and future. The mobile delivery robot depicted on the front cover is a foretaste of the future: the huge possibilities offered by computer software and, in particular Artificial Intelligence or AI: two letters we will read more about in months and years ahead.

AI is already reclaiming the past: taking a few notes left by German composer Beethoven, whose birth 250 years ago is celebrated in Bonn this year, with a computer-generated version of his unfinished 10th Symphony. This is but a hint of what is to come.

As for the present, my former news editor in the 1970s, an Aussie who had worked on the Insight team of Melbourne's *The Age* and is now a resident once more in Australia, emailed an

impromptu Letter to the Editor. In this he gives a vivid, on-the-spot account of life 'down under' in the face of advancing firestorms: firestorms which create their own weather systems that compound the unprecedented weather patterns. Since his email, floods have beset the region.

The loss of life, human and animal, and the parallel destruction of countless properties and scorched earth across the land throws into sharp relief Whaddon's own loss of broadband for a few days, making that loss pale into insignificance.

Many years ago, when Whaddon became a well-known centre for foxhunting, broadband of course did not exist. The Penny Post had just been introduced when the Selby-Lowndes family occupied Whaddon Hall, a house that would become heavy with memories.

Further in this issue is an account of that family's lifestyle, a lifestyle enjoyed at the time by a relative few: a life of upstairs and downstairs, of birds and animals. A life before the motor car but nevertheless one of burnished images and, as with many villages, one that reflected a great divide; where it was important to mind one Ps and Qs. That feature, and another, highlights much the same era when status almost demanded a wedding in a fashionable London church; well out of Whaddon's sight but certainly not out of mind, or village chatter.

But two World Wars brought change to Whaddon Hall, no more so than the second. But again in this issue, Ron Unwin of Nash brings to life a little of what it was like as a young lad to work for the military, to make a contribution to the war effort, both at the Hall and at nearby Tattenhoe. There, a camp provided a home of sorts for those engaged in secret work at the Hall, and other units in the surrounding area.

As with so many aspects of life, then and now, photographs from the past open up their own vista of life. Photographs of the cooks at Tattenhoe Camp depict, in an instant, a slice of happiness. Judging by their smiles, the cooks were content, unsullied by events many hundreds of miles away, for example at Monte Cassino in Italy, or in Nazi-held Auschwitz, where there were even more foreboding conditions unfurling every minute of every day.

A new book about life under the Nazi regime – yes they still keep coming even after all this time – is compiled from notes secreted under floorboards of a house in Amsterdam where Jews lived in hiding. Meanwhile, switching from the past and looking to the future, The Entertainers once more will be stepping up to the plate, or rather the stage, to deliver their own unique rendering on one aspect of life. Rehearsals have already started; the show will strike its place in Whaddon history in April.

Finally, two opportunities are highlighted in this issue heralding participation of another kind in village matters: as parish councillors in May's elections (**p. 27**), or as editor of this publication (**p. 10**). Times are changing.

This compilation of articles is but a mix of contributions from the village to which is added one person's view; in effect, a structured lace pattern. Another editor will create another gloss: a different mix for readers to digest. Overall, the articles reflect the times in which we live: a collection of facts, thoughts and experiences of past, present and future. Enjoy. ■

John Mortimer



Clerk's Corner

Helpful information from
Whaddon Parish Council

Become clued up on winter driving and drink awareness.

We are well into the winter season, according to Transport for Bucks, and there are many issues to consider when driving as the weather worsens. Whilst it's common sense, it's easy to

forget to "winterise" your vehicle. In the event of bad weather, the first thing to ask is: can you postpone your trip? If not, then carefully plan your journey.

First, you can access online information about designated snow routes in order to select the best route. Next, clear your windscreen, side glasses and rear-view glass of any ice and snow. It is also best to clean all glass in the vehicle to minimise glare and improve visibility when the sun is low in the sky. Ensure to top up screenwash with the correct levels of added antifreeze. Remember to take with you the mobile phone and emergency supplies, in case of becoming stuck. Note too, that even when roads have been salted and/or gritted, this is less effective when temperatures are below -5C. DO NOT depend on gritting to solve all road condition problems. Google 'Bucks winter driving module' for more useful tips.

And whilst online, why not check out information about how long it takes to sober up after drinking alcohol: roughly an hour per unit. Check on line too, for the number of units in each typical drink; it can be as many as four. This can leave you well over the limit and unable to drive safely. The best advice is do not drink and drive.

Does this thing work?

A recent Facebook post asked if our MVAS – Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign – works. The answer is most definitely YES! This is the sign that flashes when your vehicle is exceeding the speed limit in the village. It is moved around and turned to face in opposite directions once a month. MVAS monitors and collects speed data for all road traffic passing it; dedicated volunteers maintain and move the sign, and data is collected monthly.

So YES. This 'thing' does work and is a very useful source of vehicle frequency and speed. Data is fed to law enforcement and highways planning departments.

And a note to the driver who regularly does 65mph in the early morning along High Street and Stock Lane: we know you're driving at this speed; one day you might find a police speed trap waiting for you! The result will be an instant driving ban and a hefty fine.

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 receive *Whaddon Quarterly* by email, and lots of useful notices and information; eg 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 promise absolutely you will NOT be 'spammed' and your details will NOT be passed on or used for any other purpose than this one.

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting. The next meeting of Whaddon Parish Council takes place at the Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm on 12th March 2020. Please check the Village Notice Board at the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location. All welcome!

Whaddon Quarterly

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Living with bush fires down under

I EXPECT you've read that life at the moment here is grim. It matters not the construction of your house: stone, brick, timber, iron, cement sheet. All types have been destroyed by the unprecedented massive intensity of the fires this time round.

Because of the drought, undergrowth vegetation is exceptionally dry.

The raging fires are driven by extremely hot, dry and strong winds from the centre of Australia.

Another day of these conditions is expected on Saturday (4th January) with 42C and 60kpm gusty winds.

Use of farm machinery (say wheat headers) is banned because hot exhaust pipes can set off the dry crop. We have to stay indoors on these days. It's even too hot for the beach.

Usually, under these conditions, a cool change (down to 25C) will be accompanied by stronger, gusty winds which set the fire off in another direction.

Fire might be travelling in a southerly direction. With the change, the eastern flank becomes the new fire front.

As I email, there is no sign of rain. The conditions also produce dry lightning, which starts new fires, often during the night.

Big logistics exercise

A massive logistics exercise is on today to evacuate holidaymakers in these coastal towns which have all the services you find in UK ... but there are smaller communities with, say, just a general store and maybe a pub. Believe every image you see, and what you read.

The operational systems are working well; people are heeding warnings to leave their homes early (days ahead of expected front). If roads are blocked by fallen trees, fire, and smoke (can't see) they are told to assemble at a given point where there is no bush (eg sports oval) or a community hall.

Victoria's Premier, Dan Andrews, has just declared a state of disaster.

A Navy vessel, 1.5km offshore from Mallacoota, is set to pick up aged, infirm and children from the town which is cut off by trees across the only road into the town.

Weirdly, I am on The Surf Coast, at the other end of Victoria's coast and where life continues as normal. For example, several hundred people were at the surf club celebrating the end of the Nippers' Lifesaving Program.

But there is still a sense of unease here; this is another scenic bush-coastal community, like those being razed by fires.

In 1983, in what became known as Ash Wednesday, fires here wiped out homes and the pub at Airey's Inlet. Today, the fire rating here is not as extreme as at the eastern end of the state, but everyone is sharing their Fire Action Plans. The whole state is very nervous.

This is happening in the peak summer family holiday season. All those coastal towns are packed with families.

We have a holiday house on Victoria's surf coast, at Fairhaven, where we own a share house with two families. We will be here on and off over summer, fires permitting. Our plan is to leave and go home ahead of days declared as High or Extreme fire danger.

The house is attached to the Great Ocean Road. Similar conditions exist here: one road with bush to the water's edge. If conditions are bad, our fire plan is to leave and go to my brother's house in Geelong, 30 minutes' drive away.

This fire storm is a massive continuing event. Our PM has been pathetic. He went to Hawaii when the fires had already started. He's back though and playing his party's climate denial platform ahead of dealing with the crisis. No leadership.

In contrast, NSW and Victoria's state premiers are doing well. I'll stop there. ■

Graeme Willingham
Melbourne, Australia.

4th January 2020

By email

For those interested there are some charitable causes, such as:

www.wires.org.au (animal charity)

www.redcross.org.au (Australian Red Cross)

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au (New South Wales Rural Fire Service)

My first week in the Commons



What is it like to step into the folds of time and tradition, and governance: the House of Commons? The editor invited Buckingham's 'new' MP, Greg Smith, to give an account of his first week in the Palace of Westminster.

I had often heard that arriving in Parliament for the first time was not dissimilar to your first day at school. From being shown to my coat peg to being issued with a ruck sack (complete with name tag) full of equipment, it actually did feel a little that way!

More seriously, arriving in Westminster was an exciting, daunting, and frankly surreal experience. As I walked into what is arguably the most iconic building in our country, the Mother of Parliaments, I reflected on the massive – and positive – change for myself and my family.

Having worked for myself for 15 years, I now work for over 83,000 employers, all with their own hopes, ambitions, concerns and fears for the future.

Representing a constituency that for a decade has felt unrepresented, certainly silenced, by having the Speaker as its local MP, deepens my sense of responsibility to get this right.

To borrow an over-rehearsed phrase from the election campaign, I strode into work determined to “get it done”. Then I crashed back down to earth, presented with the agenda for three solid days of induction briefings covering everything from the practicalities of tabling a question to staffing budgets, declaring interests and setting up an office.

On the subject of offices, we were told not to expect being allocated one until the end of January. I learned a telephone number has been published for me, but when I asked (reasonably, I thought) how to actually receive a call, was told that this was in fact impossible until a physical office is allocated!

The highlights of week one were undoubtedly experiencing the chamber of the House of Commons for the first time. Electing a new Speaker, taking the Oath of Allegiance, the State Opening of Parliament and getting on with our number one election promise of getting Brexit done, passing the Second Reading of the EU Withdrawal Bill.

All at the same time as joining fellow MPs to form the HS2 Review Group, to bring pressure on the government to stop HS2, I tabled my first Parliamentary questions on the timetable for the priority review of the Expressway and IR35 tax rules.

As I look forward to the New Year, I am under no illusion as to how much I need to do, at least the practical realities of hiring support staff, ordering stationery, establishing an office and getting help and advice surgeries set up all over the constituency for the coming months.

During the campaign, I promised to be a truly local MP – and I absolutely stand by that. If you want my help or want to raise an issue with me, please do get in touch.

Likewise, if you run a community group, charity, school, church or any other local organisation please invite me: I would love to meet you, come along and see what you do for our area. It is an absolute honour to be your Member of Parliament, but most of all, I will not forget that I am the servant and genuinely want to work with everyone locally to make our incredible constituency an even better place to live, work, build a business and bring up a family. ■

- For the record: John Bercow: Conservative MP, Buckingham, 1997-2009; Speaker, 2009-2019.

Be inspired; have fun being creative

A wonderful opportunity has arisen to lead the team which brings *Whaddon Quarterly* to your door and surrounding districts; to join the dynamic group which gives this magazine its unique flavour.

AS editor, you can write just as little or as much as you like. Nothing in fact, if that is your wish. Your key role is to coordinate the contributions of the coterie of valued writers who provide readers with news and views. To do this, you will need only Word software (I have the template you can use); however, you can adopt an alternative format should you so wish.



Our printer, Andy, is close by. He is very helpful and accommodating. Andy will convert your Word document into the finished product. Then, willing volunteers will distribute the magazine in the village and post out copies to our wider audience.

As I mentioned in the last *Whaddon Quarterly*, Father Time has prompted me to stand down. But hey, that is not bad news; instead it is an opportunity for younger heads: more agile and perceptive minds to take over.

No writing skill is required, unless of course your wish is to write; then only the sky is the limit. Editing the *Whaddon Quarterly* really is about coordinating the work of others, marshalling their contributions between the front and back covers and then publishing it. For backup,

you will have the help of a proofreader, an additional set of eyes to iron out any "wrinkles".

Whaddon is a friendly village with a rich heritage and its own energy. Why not play a much valued part in further fostering this image, while at the same time having fun being creative? Gain strength through joy of helping others.

■ **For the record:** In November, the National Parish Magazine Awards (**above left**), in announcing that standards for 2019 were again high, reported that the *Whaddon Quarterly* achieved the position of 47th out of over 360 entries that were received for the A5 Category.



Time for some fresh blood!

For more details about taking over the WQ please contact me, John Mortimer at the editor's email address: wqeditor@whaddonbucks.org.uk or Parish Clerk Suzanne Lindsey at parishclerk@whaddonbucks.org.uk. ■



The **Whaddon Entertainers** present:

THE **2020 Whaddon Show** will echo to roars (of laughter) once more in the Jubilee Hall on Friday 17th April and Saturday 18th April. Doors and Bar open at 7.30pm.

Tickets are now on Sale at **£10** each (£8 under-12's and Senior Citizens). £1 from each full-price ticket will be donated to help rebuild the wild animal population and their habitats in Australia, following the terrible and

tragic fires in that country. There will be also an optional collection at the end of the show for those who wish to contribute on the night.

Many of you will be familiar with the Whaddon Entertainers shows in previous years. All we can say about this year is: You **do not** want to miss this one.

Last time tickets sold out nearly a month before the show, so make sure you get your seats **NOW!**

Contact Daphne via e-mail: daphneroberta@gmail.com or by telephone: **01908 592088.** ■

VALP: Shenley Park, Whaddon; latest update

Following two Parish Council meetings, and many discussions before and during the six-week Public Consultation period, it was made very clear by residents that Whaddon Parish Council should strongly object to AVDC's decision to propose this 'at least 1,150' new home development.

IF this development is eventually approved, it would effectively join Whaddon to Milton Keynes, albeit with a 'yet to be decided' landscaped development edge of undetermined width/design between the new development and Briary View along Shenley Road.

Accordingly, and supported by some 125 residents, a 25-page 'Objection to Shenley Park' was hand-delivered to AVDC just prior to the 17th December consultation deadline.

It is not yet known how many personal objections were made by Whaddon residents, but we are informed by AVDC that a total of 94 representations were made on MM076, which specifically relates to the Shenley Park site.

This might appear to be a relatively low number of objections, especially considering that some residents of Milton Keynes also shared Whaddon's concerns; but this could be a reflection of the number of documents referred to, and the complexity of the Local Plan consultation process.

Final and binding decision

It is now a matter of waiting to see what the Inspector decides. Most commentators suggest that a decision will not be forthcoming until early March, based on the likelihood that AVDC will probably take most of January to collate all the responses, and prepare a report for the Inspector.

The Inspector will then need the month of February to consider all the responses before writing his final report.

The Inspector's decision is final and binding on the Council, but it is hoped the Inspector will reopen the Local Plan Inquiry Hearing Sessions; this will allow further discussion to take place on whether or not AVDC has made the right decision in selecting Shenley Park from the three sites originally appraised by the Council to be 'close to Milton Keynes': a requirement specified by the Inspector to help resolve the housing imbalance between the south and north of Buckinghamshire County district.

You will recall that the other two possible sites were extensions to either Salden Chase (Newton Longville) or Eaton Leys (Fenny Stratford/Great Brickhill); the latter being the alternative proposed by Whaddon P.C.

Whilst the original thinking suggested the Inspector might not allow further hearings to examine AVDC's preferred choice, the response from MK Council (and other interested parties) makes this more likely because they have specifically asked that this occurs, so that residents of both AVDC and Milton Keynes Council (MKC) can make their views properly known, especially as Shenley Park was not included within the previous version of the plan when the initial hearings took place some two years ago.

Whilst MKC has lodged a strong objection to Shenley Park, it has not ventured to suggest which of the three sites appraised by AVDC (all of which adjoin MKC's boundary), is its preferred choice.

Reservations of implications

Clearly MKC, and its residents, have reservations on the highway implications, while members of MKC have made their feelings known about the distribution and sharing of infrastructure monies raised from any major development.

Given the Inspector's views about placing more homes close to the MK boundary, MKC is likely to accept the Inspector's final decision, as long as any new development fully accords with its own recently- adopted Plan:MK, which sets out clear design proposals for proper integration with Milton Keynes.

Crest Homes has stated that if given the go ahead, and Shenley Park is adopted in the Local Plan, then work on site *could* commence within 3-4 years from now.

However, AVDC has stated that a Design Brief must precede any detailed planning application, and at each stage, there will be opportunities for further comment from residents using additional public consultation periods.

MKC is also likely to insist on this, to ensure that emerging plans conform to its own adopted Local Plan requirements.

Whaddon Parish Council believes that Crest Homes does not consider a Design Brief is necessary; but if Shenley Park does go ahead, this will be an important part of the future consultation process to ensure that Whaddon village and its residents have an appropriate opportunity to influence emerging development plans, thereby encouraging benefits to the community that might help to offset the disadvantages that many people associate with the construction of this major development in such close proximity. ■

Graham Stewart

My life with HMGCC at Whaddon Hall

Memories of life at Whaddon Hall in WW2 are, today, few and far between. The *Whaddon Quarterly* is grateful to Ron Unwin for his recollections as a young man when he worked at the Hall and experienced its environs in those war-torn days.

BORN in Harringay, North London in 1940, I was evacuated with my school to Trehaford in the Rhondda Valley. Early in 1941, my parents decided to leave London, as the road they lived in had been bombed. They also moved to the Rhondda Valley and rented a house in Pontygwaith, further up the Rhondda Valley. I then went to live with them; that was where I went to school until the age of 14.

My father found work locally in Wales. However, thinking he was not doing enough to help the war effort, he applied to work at Whaddon Hall and was accepted. When I left school, the only work available in the valleys was in the coal mines; that work did not appeal to me.

So I then applied to work at Whaddon too, and was accepted. I started work as an apprentice electrician at Whaddon Hall on 1st February 1943. I was probably the youngest ever employee of HMGCC – His Majesty's Government Communications Centre.

At the time I began work, my father was billeted at Nash and I went to live with him, and shared the same address. Some time later, Tattenhoe Camp was built at Old Bletchley; it was intended for staff working at Whaddon Hall and the outstations. I helped with some of the

electrical installation during its construction and when building of the camp was complete, I moved in with my father. I lived at the camp until conscripted.

The ATS women at the camp had their own quarters. As for civilians working at Whaddon Hall, Tattenhoe Camp and other sites, they were required to wear arm bands. I became conscripted one month after my 18th birthday in 1946. This lasted for the duration of the emergency and until after the war. National Service did not start until 1st January 1949; it applied to men between 18 and 30.

My work at Whaddon Section 111V comprised run-of-the-mill electrical installation and maintenance activities, but I worked at other places which were very interesting. I worked at Whaddon Hall, Gees, the army side at Little Horwood, the production buildings at Little Horwood, and Windy Ridge where messages were sent to the commanders in France and also to 54 Broadway building in London, HQ of MI6, as well as Hanslope Park, then SCU 3, and the Jubilee Hall in Whaddon. The Jubilee Hall was filled with beds; this was before the accommodation huts were built at the rear of the hall

I also worked at Creslow, near Whitchurch, and Crowborough, in Sussex. I had my fifteenth birthday there. I worked at various other outstations.

At that time, Crowborough had the world's biggest medium wave transmitter. This was



used to beam propaganda to Germany from the studios at Milton Bryant. I recall as I got out of the car following my arrival at Crowborough, the first thing that happened occurred overhead: the arrival of a V1 flying bomb. Behind it came a fighter aircraft. The fighter plane tipped over the wing of the V1, preventing it from flying onwards to London. Unfortunately, it landed on an army camp where it killed several soldiers.

Later, one of the first V2 rockets landed near Crowborough; however at that time nobody knew what it was that had caused the explosion.

After the war, while I was still in the army, my father bought the house in Nash in which we were billeted. That is how I came to live in the village. ■

Pictured above: Back row, left to right: xxxx, Percy Unwin (my father), xxxx, ? Thomas, Bill Eldridge and xxxx. Front row, left to right: Billy Healy, John Harding, Sgt. Stead, Ron Unwin and Reg Hammond.

Photograph: Ron Unwin

■ **THE 75th ANNIVERSARY** of the liberation of Auschwitz took place on 27th January. The atrocity, which witnessed the slaughter of one million Jews, has been described as 'The greatest crime in history'.

As three meals were cooked every day

It might be said that as war raged in Europe, those at the nearby newly-constructed Tattenhoe Camp, in Old Bletchley, were relatively immune, as John Mortimer discovered.

AROUND June 1944, as the horrors of Monte Cassino were unfolding in the Italian campaign, far away in north Buckinghamshire all personnel from surrounding units were moved from their civilian billets to a new camp at Tattenhoe, at the junction of Whaddon Way and the Buckingham Road in Far Bletchley **(right)**.

These new facilities afforded a single dining room for all ranks and a cookhouse operated by ATS 'girls' under the supervision of Sgt Stead.

The cookhouse served three meals a day as well as providing a haversack of provisions for those working on shifts.

At the camp, each accommodation hut featured a central corridor with cubicles on either side. These measured about 10 feet square. There were solid walls on three sides with an entrance on the fourth covered by a black curtain.

Each cubicle had a single bedstead with a straw mattress provided. Each room had a wardrobe and a cupboard made from rough-sawn elm boards. Tubular electric heating strips provided some warmth but later this was superseded by a steam system, fed from a large, solid-fuelled boiler.

A man known as 'Nobby' – how many men called Nobby were there in the armed services? – had, as one of his duties, to

tend to the heating system. Other duties included that of barman, as well as dispensing rations of NAAFI cigarettes and chocolate.

Tattenhoe Camp afforded some social life; aside from the bar, it had a games room as well as a reading room.

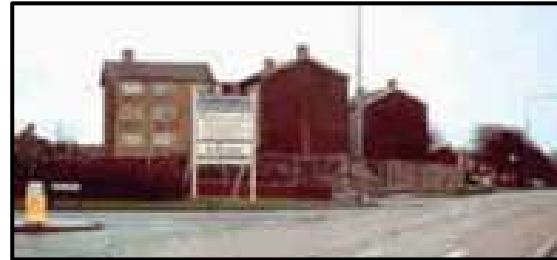
For those working the nightshift, a vehicle would transport them to the work site, later to return them to Tattenhoe. A similar system operated at Potsgrove. It is reported that 'never

once, in all weathers, did the transport system fail'.

Among the workhorse vehicles used at the time was the army's Austin Tilley, pictured **right**.

It is perhaps understandable that, against the backdrop of the brutality of those engaged in the fighting at Monte Cassino, the lives of those at the 'Camp' were relatively tranquil.

Footnote: Sgt Stead later married a teleprinter operator at Whaddon Hall. Teleprinter operators relayed encrypted



messages from the radio operators by land line to various government departments; they also received encrypted messages then to be sent by the radio operators.

Pictured on facing page, top right on truck bonnet: Back row, extreme right, Sgt. Stead. Front row, left to right: xxxx, Lily, xxxx and Lydia. Notice their polished shoes!

Pictured on facing page: back row: John Harding, xxxx, Reg. Hammond (these two men were not cooks). Front row, left to right: Lydia and Les Cooper (driver) and xxxx. ■

Photographs of the cooks: Ron Unwin

The gardener's corner...

AS I sit at my desk, looking out across my garden and the fields beyond, the drizzle-soaked air and saturated ground does not inspire a wish to get outside and start practising horticulture, but already, the first signs of spring are there, with crocuses and daffodils poking through the damp soil of the borders, heralding the explosion of colour that is to come.

I've not been able to venture onto my allotment for some weeks; it has just been too wet, with the soil sticking to my boots with the first step off the path. What's needed is a good hard frost to harden the ground and let me onto it to dig it over. I keep hoping, but I'm not over-optimistic that we will see such conditions anytime soon

There are, however, other jobs that can be tackled now. My father always used to grow, and plant, a magnificent display of annual bedding plants in the garden of our family home in North London, and I can remember, from the age of about five, helping him to pull up the dead plants to clear the decks for the next generation that would follow with spring planting.

As a result, I have always, perhaps somewhat perversely, enjoyed this time of year in the garden, with the necessary 'winter clean' to sweep away the dead, prune the over-exuberant and generally prepare the ground for the flush of new life that is to follow.

If like me, you have a greenhouse, now is the time to tidy it up, remove any dead plants and clean the glass, ensuring maximum light for new plants and seedlings.

I finally got around to my own over the past weekend, removing the tomatoes and cucumbers hanging like decaying triffids from their supporting ties.

There are some tasks that can be undertaken on even the wettest and gloomiest of days. One of these is to clean and sharpen any cutting tools. Hoes and secateurs can be sharpened with a whetstone, after removing any rust with wire wool, and finished with a light coating of oil: WD-40 or 3 in 1 oil are both ideal.

You will then be ready for the main February task: pruning! Fruit trees and trained fruit (cordons or espaliers) can both benefit from a hard pruning; the harder the cut, the stronger the re-growth. With trained fruit, remember that hard pruning will generate new stems to be tied in, but that the main pruning is done in the summer. Autumn-fruiting raspberries can be cut to the ground and redcurrants and gooseberries pruned to create an open 'goblet' shape.

If we do get a dry day, it's not quite too late to plant bulbs and most vegetable beds will benefit from a layer of compost that will be worked in by worms and weather.

On the veggie front, first and second early potatoes benefit from 'chitting' – put each seed potato upright in an egg box or tray in a sunny, frost-free place, like a cool windowsill or greenhouse and leave them for 4-8 weeks so they're ready for planting around Easter.

Onion sets and shallots can also be started in plugs (small pots) for later planting out. I always do this, with good results. Early salad crops such as rocket can also be sown in the greenhouse. Finally, chillies need a long growing season so make a first sowing in February, leaving them to germinate slowly, preferably on a heated bench or propagator. Happy gardening!

Paul Logan

Look out for Paul's regular gardening column in the *Whaddon Quarterly*.

Calverton Lane road closure plans

As previously reported, Milton Keynes Council (MKC) has revealed plans to conduct work in Calverton Lane and Watling Street, V4; work that includes construction of roundabouts, a junction under signals and major sewerage works. The following dates were correct at the time of going to press. For road plans see *Whaddon Quarterly November 2019*.

THE V4 Underpass Construction programme is being amended to allow Anglian Water to undertake works that will introduce a water pipe from the new underpass at Barossa Way to Crownhill Roundabout (V4-H4), thus providing necessary facilities in the Western Expansion Area.

During this period, the road closure is being extended up to Kiln Farm Roundabout to facilitate additional development works. By coordinating these works, MKC claims it will be able to prevent future road closures in the area and minimise disruption to local residents and network users.

The programme for the extension of the road closure revealed a start date of 27th January 2020, with work due to continue until 29th May 2020.

This extension is required for the construction of major infrastructure works that will be undertaken on Watling Street and Calverton Lane for the Western Expansion Area development, according to MKC.

The current diversion route is being altered and a revised diversion route implemented to include the closure of the new area.

Traffic management is being carried out by Ringway – the Council’s highways service provider. This provider will ensure that any updates or incidents are dealt with immediately, it is claimed. The infrastructure works will be carried out by Smith Construction on behalf of L&Q Estates Limited as part of a Section 278 agreement.

The works consist of the following:

Junction 3 and Calverton Lane Diversion: Removal of two existing roundabouts and construction of one new roundabout, including permanent diversion of Calverton Lane. Works will also include major sewer diversions, installation of new street lights, updates to direction signs, resurfacing of carriageway and reduction of speed limit to 40 mile/h. (Details can be seen drawing numbered 60555498-SHT-00-CLN-C-00001 Rev C2.)

Junction 28 Signalised Junction: Construction of new access into Whitehouse, opposite The High Street Two Mile Ash, installation of a four-way traffic signal junction and associated redway crossing points. Works also will include major sewer diversions, installation of new street lights, relocation of existing bus stops, updates to direction signs, resurfacing of carriageway and reduction of speed limit to 40 mile/h. (Details can be seen on drawing numbered 60555498-SHT-00-JCT26-C-01001_C2.)

For more information about this please refer to Planning Decision Notice 05/00291/MKPCO and 08/01289/MKPCR and the Section 106 agreement (5 October 2007) and variation 106 agreement (19 March 2018).

During the closure, provisions will be made for access and egress to the traveller encampment and kennels on Calverton Lane. Representatives from MKC and LQ Estates have met with these residents and discussed proposals with them.

The diversion for the Watling Street Extension follows Millers Way H2, Great Monks Street V5 and Danstead Way H4 (visa-versa).

Calverton Lane users are directed through The Wealds towards Stony Stratford and down Watling Street V4 until it meets Millers Way H2.

These diversion routes are clearly signed, it is claimed, and MKC advises all traffic to use these alternative routes, rather than travel through the nearby estates.

Advanced notification signage was in place ahead of these changes, according to MKC. It was stated too at the time of the issue of the notice that new signs “are being installed over the next few days on Watling Street, Calverton Lane and Monks Way.”

There is a basic programme tracker available to allow road users to follow the progress of the work and see the different stages.

Information about traffic management is available at highway.adoptions@Milton-keynes.gov.uk ■

From Babbage and Whaddon to Beethoven and...what?

The computer has come far since its creation by British engineer and mathematician Charles Babbage. It has now even transformed a footnote in history into music, but what next, asks John Mortimer.

SOME 200 years ago, Charles Babbage originated the difference engine which materialised into the digital programmable computer of today; its descendants, using algorithms, drive or control almost every facet of daily life.

In the process of computer development, many computer-dependent technologies have emerged: global positioning, sensor technology, computer vision, speech recognition, tactile sensing and artificial intelligence (AI), to name but a few.

Lunar and Mars landings would not have been possible, nor the 2,200 or so orbiting satellite spacecraft that provide global internet access in the skies above; a number which would double within a decade.

Closer to this village, Alan Turing's WW2 code-breaking computer at Bletchley Park relied indirectly on Babbage's thinking; it provided the sensitive army information sent from Church Hill and helped shorten WW2.

And so it is that anything from iPhones to drones, robotic surgery to autonomous vehicles (like that on this issue's front cover) relies heavily on computers and software.

But it's not all sunshine by any means: the recent use of drones in Iran unleashed a very dark and potentially dangerous imagery, while 387 Boeing 737 Max airliners sitting beleaguered on the ground, expensively bereft of competent software that enables them to fly safely, presents huge cost penalties.

Shoot back to 1770 when 28 babies (15 girls) were delivered safely in Buckinghamshire's agrarian Whaddon; the most common Christian names then chosen were Ann and Mary (four each) and William (six).

But why 1770? That is the birth year of Ludwig van Beethoven – exactly 250 years ago. At that time, even contemplating a computer composing music was unthinkable. But now it is.

Throughout his life, Beethoven produced a myriad of work. He even drafted notes and a notebook of a forthcoming unfinished major work; all that remains of the German composer's 10th Symphony.

He began work on the 10th alongside his 9th (1822-24) but died three years later in 1827, aged 57.

Now teams of musicologists and programmers are working furiously to put finishing touches to their version of the symphony. Are they spurred on by the imperious ninth?

The composer's 'finished' work will be performed in Bonn, Germany. Such is the progress of AI since Babbage.

Christine Siegert, head of archives at Beethoven House in the composer's hometown of Bonn, claims she is “convinced” Beethoven would approve as he too was an innovator at the time, citing his compositions for the panharmonicon — a type of organ that reproduces the sounds of wind and percussion instruments.

She insists the work will not affect the composer's legacy, and should not be regarded as part of his oeuvre. However, the results will be judged by the audience in Bonn as they listen attentively to a full orchestra on April 28th.

In the project, machine-learning software (AI) has been downloaded with much of Beethoven's work. Deutsche Telekom, sponsoring the project, hopes the work will help further develop technology, such as voice recognition.

Possibly within a decade, speech-driven surgery could be at the heart of medical matters following these efforts to transform this footnote in history.

AI is human-reliant, as it drives developments to assess even more complex issues. But will AI be capable of original thinking, and be able to generate creative ideas; the ability to think outside the box? Will it even be able to experience feelings, emotions?

In the meantime, identifying and removing tumours could be the norm as AI spins out its boundaries, even to the intricate surgery on infants, some possibly christened Ann, Mary, William, Charles or possibly Ludwig. ■

St. Mary's Church Whaddon



REGULAR SERVICES

- 1st Sunday 10.30am Family Worship
- 2nd Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 3rd Sunday 10.00 for 10 30 am Sunday Special
- 4th Sunday 8.30am Said Holy Communion (traditional)
- 5th Sunday Benefice service (venue varies)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 1st Wednesday 2.00pm Women's Institute in Jubilee Hall
- 3rd Wednesday 7.30pm Night Owlers WI in Jubilee Hall
- 1st Saturday 10am - 12 noon Coffee Shop .

SPECIAL SERVICES

- Sun 22nd March 10.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service
- Sun 5th April 10.30am Palm Sunday
- Thurs 9th April Maundy Thursday (Venue & time TBC)
- Fri 10th April 11.30am Good Friday Meditation (coffee 11-11.20)
- Sun 12th April 10.30am Easter Day Family Communion

NOTE Please check times and services with the Easter flier or church notice board. At the time of going to Press they have not been confirmed and could be altered.

Lenten Evensongs at 6pm will be held as usual on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Check church noticeboard for venues or telephone David Spencer 01908 502540

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 28th April 7.45 for 8pm in church.

Churchwardens, PCC members and sidespeople will be elected and Annual Reports will be presented.

At Christmas the church was beautifully decorated by our willing volunteers, while the Chase Choir again took part in the service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Two youngsters, Holly and Kitty, began the service by singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City, and the full choir sang two additional carols as solos. A big thank you to the choir for giving their time to enhance the service and for giving pleasure to all.

Jesus' Birthday Party on Christmas Morning attracted a large congregation; they joined in the songs led by the Music Group. Our thanks to all who were involved, especially to Sally Green, Beryl Evans and Hazel Dudley.

Sadly, there was no response to the advertisement in *The Church Times* for a priest for the new Chase Benefice; so it is being re-advertised. The proposed date for interviewing applicants is 11th March. Your prayers are sought for a good and speedy outcome to the process in order that the village churches will have the leadership they need to take God's kingdom forward in the new benefice. Meanwhile, we owe a great debt to the Rev John King, the retired clergy and the LLM's who are helping by taking services and leading worship.

During this time you can contact Rev John King on 01908 501860 or by email at buckinghamvillages@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you at any of our services and thank you for your support.

Hazel Hedges (Churchwarden) 01908 501729 or hazel.hedges@gmail.com.

Your Parochial Church Council

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

TODDLER CHURCH

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

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon.

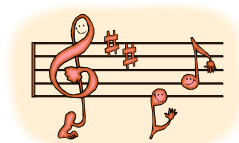
FIRST Wednesday of every month (term time only from 1.45-2.45pm)

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

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

We look forward to seeing you.

Sally Green (01908 526033)



WHADDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

IN October, we travelled to Myanmar – unfortunately via a slideshow rather than an aircraft, but it was still magical. Many thanks to our speaker, Alice Home (**see over**). We were bewitched by the pagodas covered in gold leaf, and particularly the one with pure gold and diamonds at the top. We discovered too there was quite a contrast between rich and the poor. The countryside was beautiful and the people friendly. It was definitely a popular afternoon with our little group.

In November we were so lucky to have a yoga lesson "for those who are not so bendy", according to Charlie our yoga teacher! Charlie is the husband of one of our members and

stepped in at short notice to put us through our paces. Thank you Charlie! Who knew that we could move like that! I think we surprised ourselves this time.



In December, the committee stood down and we had difficulty forming another one. Unfortunately, this meant that our WI advisor had to put our group into pre-suspension (closing down) mode after more than 80 years. This was very upsetting for all. However, after further discussions following the meeting, we now think that we can get enough people to join our committee, and this will hopefully be finalised at our meeting on 8th January 2020, so that this wonderful little WI can continue.

We have finalised our programme for the coming year, which looks exciting and includes an outing to a pig sanctuary, and another garden party in June. We hope this time the weather will be more kind and there will be more colour. There will also be an outing to Bletchley Park.

We will be making fudge and learning about chocolate-making too. And we have some craft fundraising projects planned as well.

Overall, 2019 has been a very successful year for our WI. We have learnt new things, exercised our bodies - and our minds. And we have had a lot of fun along the way. We all hope it will continue that way during 2020, when we can learn some more new things, enjoy each other's company and support and encourage one another as we aim to do in the WI.

Meanwhile, at a meeting in January a new committee was established to take us into the future. They are: President: Mala Mulukutla (01908) 263920 and Secretary: Jill Aitken, (01908) 502781.



For your interest, here is our events calendar for 2020. Do come and join in.

Exciting year planned ahead

- 5th February** - Recycling and more – Billy Stanier, Cabinet Minister for Waste, Environmental Health and Licensing AVDC
- 4th March** - Craft – fudge and chocolate making
- 1st April** - Visit to Twiggs nurseries for demonstration, tea and cake. TBC
- 6th May** - Whaddon W.I.'s Birthday tea party
- 3rd June** - Garden party
- 1st July** - Curly Tail Pig Sanctuary at Newton Longville outing
- 4th (or 5th) August** - Bletchley Park outing
- 2nd September** - Linda talking about her work at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand
- 7th October** - Hand-made Christmas presents and fundraising craft making for the Christmas Fayre, (candles, boxes etc.)
- 4th November** - Annual General meeting and social
- 2nd December** - Making Christmas decorations and Christmas social

If you need to find out more information please feel to contact me.

Jill Aitken

01908 502781

Whaddon Night Owlers WI

WNOWI 2019 School Report

WNOWI has had a successful year overall. She has worked hard and clearly enjoys her activities.

WNOWI shows, too, a real aptitude and interest for food-related projects and during the past year has partaken in both cheese-tasting and curry-making demonstrations. The homework tasks, completed after the tasting and the demonstration, were particularly pleasing; they established a long-term interest in the material which should prove useful in the future, as well as profitable for local businesses.

The Christmas dinner proved another popular event with a good time had by all the attendees while a brilliant Secret Santa exchange of Christmas decorations was well received.

Exercise is an area where perhaps WNOWI could work harder. Belly-dancing (and the poor attendance) is a particular area of concern, but she made up for it with long walks round Howe Park Wood and Woburn Abbey Gardens. Both were extremely well executed and showed great promise for future endeavours.

WNOWI is making pleasing progress with reading and writing this year. Letter writing is coming on nicely with many being inspired by the thoughtfulness of the projects involved. "From Me to You" proved to be a hugely successful project and is highly recommended. (<https://www.frommetoyouletters.co.uk/>)

Reading is an on-going skill that is developing well and maybe WNOWI could look at broadening her repertoire next year. (No spoilers!)

Books brought in for the reading swap have proved popular and the range of types of books is ever expanding.

We have been particularly pleased with WNOWI's charitable works this year. She has supported the local YMCA with their homelessness project, and has been inspired by their building project in MK.

As winter continues, we hope that WNOWI is keeping warm and toasty with her Alpaca scarves and wish her all the very best for a happy and successful 2020.

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

Alison Cross

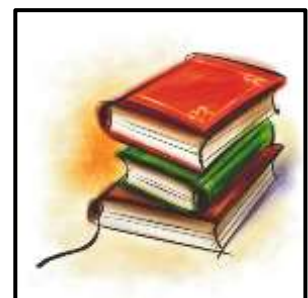
NEW BOOKS

Tombstone hide and seek

GRAVEYARDS, with their solemnity and solitude, perhaps, can be seen as the first port of call for anyone seeking quiet contemplation, or silent prayer. Certainly, St Mary's churchyard, immaculately maintained by its volunteers, offers a feeling of serenity amidst a bustling, chaotic world.

Against this backdrop, churchyards are, by their nature, unchanging yet are 'always'. But, if developers had their way, they would not be always, but changed into profit, and then forgotten.

The author of a new book, who has spent some considerable time researching graveyards, sees them as 'being in a state of becoming'.



Jean Sprackland's love of graveyards began as a child when her local churchyard doubled up as a playground; a place for hide and seek. A place for her and her friends to leap out from behind headstones to frighten one another.

She later discovered they are 'other worlds', a mechanism of connecting to the forgotten lives of those whose names are eaten away by time.

Places where deep thoughts are revealed in short poems – and spelling mistakes. (Visit Toddington cemetery and you'll find one example: My heart is full of sorrow; my secret tears still flow. For what it means to lose you, no one will ever know. That last word is spelt 'no'. Ed)

They are, too, places of forgotten graves and Sprackland explains why there are so many yew trees to be found in them, muses on the myth of graveyard fog and explores the history of graveyard robbers.

The author observes that in graveyards (like St Mary's) it is possible to find collective histories explaining how 'humans have attempted to make sense of death'; serving as 'a kind of archive, a source of information unavailable elsewhere'.

These days, few would choose to mark a headstone with skull and crossbones, yet this was practised years ago. Today, she notes, the norm is glossy black marble or granite, not carved by craftsmen able to make a spelling mistake but by machine. Words today are accompanied by products of this era, tractors or Land Rovers.

More and more people are opting for a wicker casket or not to be buried at all but their ashes scattered to the wind off Stackpole Head, or into a river where two lovers once sat.

All of which leaves graveyards to the owls and the slow-worms, the bees and the butterflies, the ancient trees and the cobwebs of ivy. Unchanged but changing. Until the bulldozers move in.

JM

These Silent Mansions by Jean Sprackland, published by Jonathan Cape, £16.99

Secrets found in shallow hiding places

HAVE you ever stopped to think, as you idly flick through your iPhone, what it must have like to be herded with the rest of your family, mother, father and sisters, onto the back of a cattle truck, then driven jostled and shaken, for three days in cramped, airless, stench-filled air, to Auschwitz, there to be separated, your parents taken away to be gassed to death, you to be transported on further to Belsen to work, suffer hunger, deprivation and humiliation?

Amazingly, out of the darkness of the past, books continue to be written about life in Holland in 1944 using documents that have emerged to recount days spent fearlessly hiding fellow Jews in secret chambers beneath the floor boards.

This explains how Roxene Van Iperen came to reconstruct not only the remote, romantic, shuttered house she and her husband bought in secluded woods 30 miles from Amsterdam but also, through meticulous and painstaking research, the lives of the Jewish family who once owned the property.

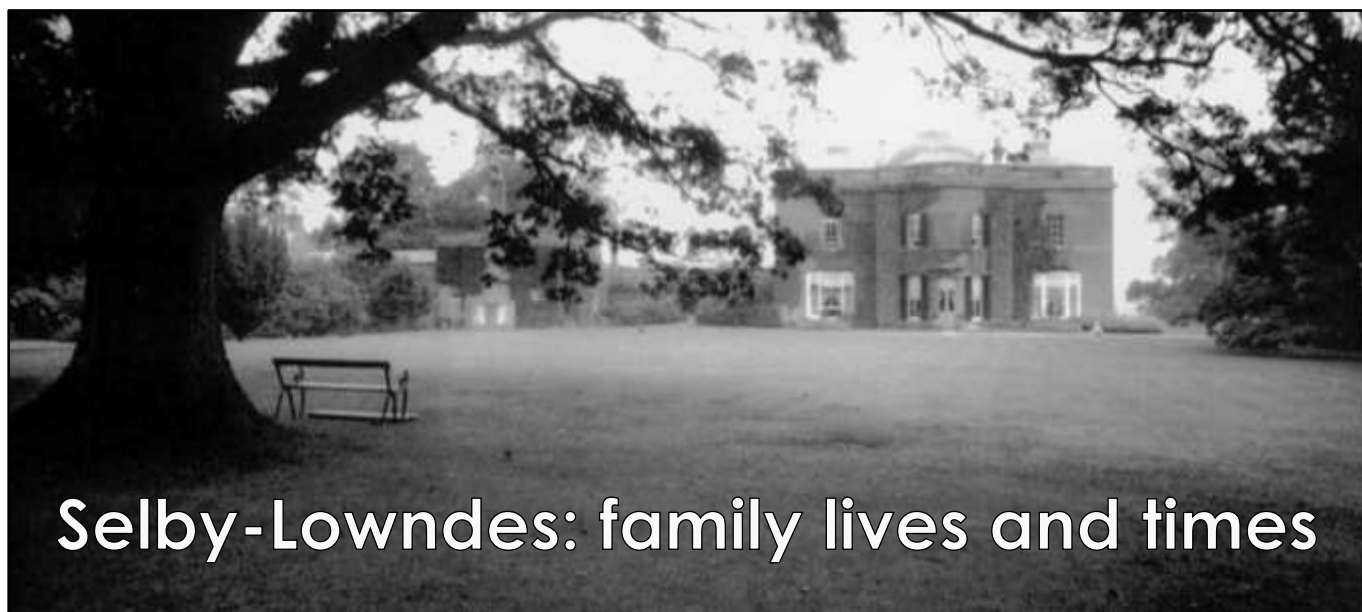
As soon as the couple started reconstructing the house, they found trap doors in each room, with shallow hiding places underneath, containing candle stumps, and old resistance newspapers. Ideal items for a quest into the past.

In this gripping, nightmarish book, the author follows two sisters step by step, sisters of mercy, who in High Nest, created a haven of refuge for 17 Jews throughout a year and a half in WW2, to be precise until July 1944 when they were betrayed.

It's a book you will not be able to put down; it may even trigger an emotion of one kind or another. The shadows of the past are ever with us, a reminder to reflect from time to time of how very, very fortunate we are. Think on.

JM

The sisters of Auschwitz by Roxene Van Iperen, published by Seven Dials, £18.99, 320pp.



Selby-Lowndes: family lives and times

The lives and times of the Selby-Lowndes' families are enveloped in books, documents and photographs made available by Martin Selby-Lowndes, as well as through unearthed archive material. John Mortimer brings them to life.

MENTION the name Selby-Lowndes and some local minds turn instinctively to foxhunting, Whaddon Chase, 'the squire' and Whaddon Hall, a building heaving with memories.

The Whaddon Chase started life around 1842, from whence it grew in prominence so that by 1929, it had enjoyed the continuous mastership of three Selby-Lowndes generations – grandfather, his eldest son and then his eldest son; all three carried William as their Christian name.

'Hayworthe', writing in *Horse and Hound* (June 7th 1969), held that a certain William Selby-Lowndes launched the Whaddon Chase using a pack of private hounds.

As for the Lowndes family itself, according to *The hunting and sporting reminiscences of H. W. Selby-Lowndes MFH*, published in 1926, the family has many branches. By their very nature, these are too complex, diverse and protracted to include here; what follows is but a fraction.

From Whaddon's perspective, the most significant family is that associated with Cheshire village Leigh Hay Overton (with a population in 2001 of 68) situated between Sandbach and Congleton. That particular Lowndes family emerged from a William Lowndes descended from George, Duke of Clarence, who died in 1479.

Married to Mary Goostrey, he produced another William, William Selby-Lowndes, who served as Member of Parliament for Buckinghamshire from 1810 to 1820. This family, high church Anglicans, became prominent in Buckinghamshire during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; for example, Richard Lowndes represented the county in Parliament between 1741 and 1774.

Another William Lowndes flourished in the reign of Queen Anne (1665-1714); he rendered the House of Commons such service as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee such that, by special grant, she



appointed him Auditor of the Land Revenue for life. This honour carried reversion to William's heirs and an augmentation to his coat of arms.

Even to this day, church registers in Winslow show these families' marriages dating back to 1560.

The Whaddon Hall court case

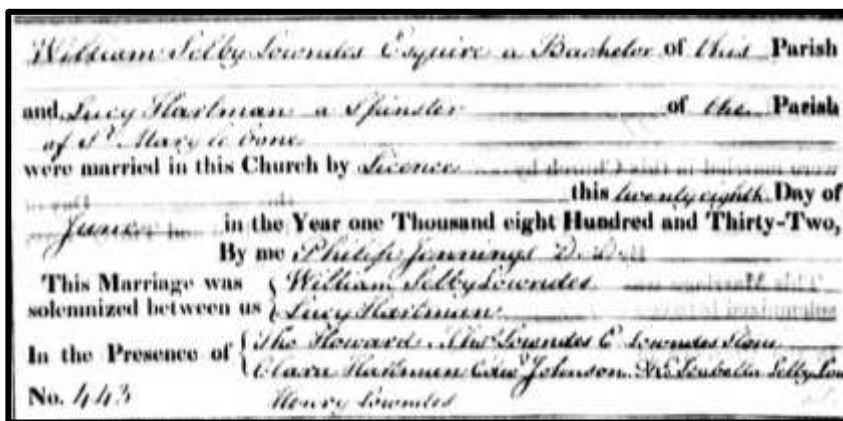
In the eighteenth century, a William Lowndes became the focus of court action; the case of an estate known as Whaddon Hall, Buckinghamshire, worth then between £4,000 and £5,000 a year.

Mr T J Selby left this estate to his heir-at-law and, should none be found, to his friend William Lowndes, a major of the Militia, on the understanding he changed his surname to Selby-Lowndes. Mr T J Selby died in 1772 and many joined the race to lay claim to the status of heir-at-law.

Eventually, all claims were dismissed, but by 1783, William Lowndes had already burnished his image and changed his name – first to Lowndes-Selby and then to Selby-Lowndes. Inheriting the estate, he later settled it on son William on his marriage.

However, the case hit the headlines again when the day before expiry of the claim's 60-year limitation, on 6th December 1832, a certain Mr Davies emerged from the woodwork. Laying claim to the estate, he alleged to be Mr Selby's heir-at-law and the matter duly went to the Grand Assize which found in William Selby-Lowndes' favour.

How do three generations of William Selby-Lowndes fit with this? The dialogue begins in 1832 when William Selby-Lowndes' son, William Selby-Lowndes, married Lucy Hartman (**left**).



As perhaps might be expected, the couple enjoyed a rather 'posh' wedding on 28th June 1832 at St George's Church, Hanover Square.

By 1851, the census shows that William Selby-Lowndes, by then 40 and born in Winslow, was well established at Whaddon Hall with his wife Lucy, also 40, and their seven children: Essex, 11; William, 14; Beresford, 7; Octavius, 5; Lucy, 4; Cressida, 12;

and Florence, 9. They had nine servants.

On census day, Lucy's sister, Clara Hartman, happened to visit. Was she just 'visiting' for the day, or in permanent residence?

Inseparable from Whaddon Hall?

The question rightfully can be raised. Why? From events that followed it is clear Clara and the Buckinghamshire mansion were inseparable. Was she indeed caring for her sister? Lucy Selby-Lowndes died a year later, on Thursday, 21st October 1852.

The death certificate, filed in Winslow on 9th November 1852, reveals Lucy died from 'paralysis'; something she had endured for '60 weeks'. The certificate states Lucy's age as 52. Can that be right? The 1851 census shows Lucy's as 40.

Even though Lucy's death could be expected, quite what discussions took place over several weeks and months at Whaddon Hall in the wake of her death are unknown. But they can be imagined; within nine years (and certainly by 1861) Clara Hartman had become deeply entrenched, living at Whaddon Hall and taking Lucy's place.

Indeed, the census confirms this: it shows Clara Lowndes, 51, as William's 'wife'. As Clara Hartman she came from Middlesex.



Occupying Whaddon Hall at that time were some of William's children: William, 24; Fleetwood, 22; Beresford, 17; Octavius, 15; Cressida, 19; and Florence, 18. William employed a bevy of 13 servants, the youngest being footboy George Sear, 18.

Clara's situation is interesting. She died at Whaddon Hall three years later on 14th June 1864. Probate discloses 'Clara Selby-Lowndes' as 'spinster'; her effects were valued under £800, that's £100,000 in 2019 money!

An MP and major landowner

Clara, born on 11th August 1803 and baptised the following month, on 9th September, at St Mary's Church, Marylebone Road, London, had, as parents Isaac Rawlings Hartman and his wife Lucy Elizabeth. Isaac and Lucy Elizabeth (née Merrick) were married by special licence on 21st July 1800.

As an aside, Lucy came from good stock: the youngest daughter of MP Owen Merrick. The *History of Parliament* gives an Owen Merrick of Bodorgan, Anglesey, as one of the

island's largest landowners; he served as MP from 1715 to 1721. The parallel with Whaddon's Selby-Lowndes families cannot be overlooked. It is but a short step to imagine how well she would have settled in at Whaddon Hall.

But was Clara Selby-Lowndes *really* William's 'wife', his partner or neither? There are no records to suggest William and Clara ever married. Perhaps she became accepted by all and sundry in the village as Lucy's sister.

By 1871, Whaddon Hall had witnessed many changes. William's son, William, 34, had left the magnificent property four years previously, having wed widow Jessie Mary Coote, also 34.

Instead, Oakfield Farm in the parish of St Peter in Bedfordshire became William's new home. Sharing the property with wife Jessie were niece Mable Stuart, 19, step-son Charles Henry Eyre Coote, 11, and step-daughter Florence Coote, 10.

Step-son and step-daughter? That's interesting. Records on this issue are sparse. But a tiny item tucked away in *The Belfast Newsletter* of Saturday, May 25th 1867, gives a clue.

Military men through and through

Under the cross-head Marriages is the following: "May 21, at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, London, William Selby, eldest son of William Selby Lowndes, Esq., of Whaddon Hall and Winslow, Bucks, to Jessie Mary, widow of the late Eyre Coote, Esq., of West Park, Hants and daughter of Lieut-General Lechmere Worrall, Indian Army."

Another wedding at St George's Church, Hanover Square, London **(left)**.



However, some 10 years previously, on 17th February 1857, Jessie Mary Worrall married Eyre Coote at St Andrews, Clifton, Bristol. Eyre died for reasons unknown on 7th September 1864 at Rockbourne, Hampshire. Six years earlier, in 1851, Lieutenant Eyre Coote had been stationed at The Cavalry Barracks, Pockthorpe, Norfolk, where the Earl of Cardigan was colonel. In records, Coote's name appears just below that of the colonel and three captains! The barracks could house 250 soldiers and horses.

The miniscule item in the far-away *The Belfast Newsletter* possibly spawned a question in some newspaper readers' minds. "How *did* those two people meet?" Possibly, given Jessie's relatively high standing, it could only have been through horses and hunting, as the second and final part of this article will reveal.

By 1871, William and Jessie's family had blossomed, with

daughters Essex, 3 and Jessie, 2. Still William Selby-Lowndes shied away from revealing his true occupation but clearly 'well off' he employed seven servants. A couple of years later Jessie gave birth to a boy, born on 27th February 1873. The following month new-born William's parents registered him in Newport Pagnell. But already William had begun to set his sights high.

Move on 10 years and by 1881 life had changed again for the Selby-Lowndes family. William, then 44, uplifted everyone to a much more imposing property, namely Aspley House (**right**) on East Street in sleepy Bedfordshire hamlet Aspley Guise; a house with grandeur and one large enough for the toddlers to become lost, even marooned by its sheer size and comparative magnificence. Again, William declined to be forthcoming in disclosing his occupation but records hold a mirror to the family's lifestyle.



The couple certainly needed a larger house, as their offspring had multiplied. Eldest daughter Hortensen, 20, now headed the list, followed by Essex, 13; Jessie, 12; William, 5; Sylvia, 6; Thomas, 4, and toddler Marjorie, 2.

William continued to employ seven servants, including gardener, George Taylor, a widower whose daughter Phylis, 24, shared his company.

Three middle class women

To provide income, William Selby-Lowndes took in three lodgers. These were not working-class lodgers, more middle-class and moneyed. Emma Evans, 32, a surgeon's wife, was joined by Winifred Markham, 22, a solicitor's daughter and Clara Gray, 31, a clergyman's wife.

Move on 10 years to 1891 and Selby-Lowndes' change in status could not be concealed as a life of luxury would pervade Whaddon Hall. Not only had he returned to the family's Buckinghamshire mansion, but his tally of staff had expanded too. The house oozed wealth. Jessie, by then 22, still lived under the family roof, as did William, 15, Sylvia, 16, Richard, 15, Thomas, 14 and Marjory, 13.

However, a notable addition to the household had also appeared: Jessie's son Charles Coote, aged 31. He had joined the fold; a Captain in the 11th Hussars he introduced heavy echoes of his father (Eyre Coote) and his grandfather, Lieutenant-General Lechmere Worrall of the Indian Army.

Also present that day, was a well-travelled visitor: 30-year-old Ellen Davidson from Hydrabad, India. Could she, in some way, be linked to Charles Coote?

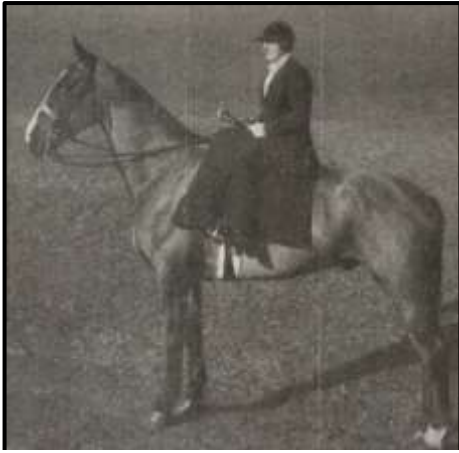
Serving the family's needs were no less than 13 servants, including some with surnames familiar today, namely hall boy Emmanuel Missenden, 17, born in Whaddon, and Adelaide Faulkner, 18, also of Whaddon but next up in servants' pecking order after the lowly hallboy.

In the summer of 1893, a major event brought joy to the Selby-Lowndes domain: young William Selby-Lowndes married sweetheart Blanche Frederica Milne. However, at 23, Blanche was not *exactly* the girl-next-door, more a noteworthy British subject born across the English Channel in Paris, France.

A horsewoman fluent in French

How did Blanche and William meet? Well, a couple of years previously, Blanche could be found not far away at The Rectory, in Shenley Church End. Blanche was cousin to the then vicar, Edgar Milne, 28, a 'clerk in Holy Orders'; no doubt she spoke French fluently.

Some weeks previously, the Rev Milne took pleasure in reading out in his church his cousin's banns of marriage. Edgar too, was not a local man; he hailed from Sale, in Manchester, although his wife Amy, 25, came from Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire.



Blanche (**left**) was some three years older than William, then aged 20; he gave his 'rank or profession' as 'gentleman'.

But what served as their unifying force; what bound them together? Most likely horses and a love of horses helped their fall into an easy relationship. And might being slightly older and Blanche's upbringing in France have presented her with a certain unusual worldliness?

Their nuptials duly unfolded at Shenley parish church on 23rd July where, at the nearby vicarage, an indication of the living enjoyed emerges through their four servants: a parlour maid (aged 26); a nurse (22); a housemaid (22) and a cook (28). In addition, Thomas Whitwell, 44, tended the garden; he occupied the gardener's cottage next door.

Three years following their 'great day', on 6th August 1896, Blanche produced a much-needed son. His name? None other than Montacute William. Surprise, surprise!

It is at this point – Montacute – that the Selby-Lowndes family saga comes full circle. According to Hayworthe of *Horse and Hounds* the name Montacute 'burdened' Brigadier M W Selby-Lowndes. Burdened? How come? Hayworthe knew that Montacute was "the maiden name of a wealthy old aunt".

Montacute William, in the way of things, embraced fox hunting with vigour and became a Master of Fox Hounds (MFH). He relinquished North Staffordshire Foxhounds' horn in 1958 after 34 years and 15 packs. It ended an unbroken 116-year spell of family Masterships.

Next time, the focus turns on Brigadier M W Selby-Lowndes' father William, or Henry William Selby-Lowndes. We shall see how, long before his wedding at Shenley Church End in 1893, Henry William experienced an 'initiation' at Whaddon Hall where his father's and grandfather's deep-rooted passions for hunting were fostered.



Grand lodge for imperious Whaddon Hall

During that 'initiation', as an infant aged just four, H W received an elixir for life; it defined him as an MFH; a position which imbued deference, privilege and power. In effect, he created his own narrative with the thrill of the chase as its central theme. ■

The impressive oak staircase shown in the photograph of Whaddon Hall's interior was destroyed in a mysterious fire in 1976. The staircase nestled beneath an imposing leaded-light dome visible in the lead photograph. The fire occurred conveniently: at just the time the Country Club happened to be experiencing 'difficult times'. ■

Ever thought of joining the Parish Council?

Local Elections will be coming up shortly and this could be your chance to be involved, help your community and make a positive difference.

HERE are eleven (tongue-in-cheek!) excuses for not joining the Parish Council:

- "I'm too young". If you're over 21 then you qualify.
- "They don't do anything, they just talk!" Come along to a meeting and judge for yourself; you'll be surprised!

- “I’m too busy and couldn’t get to the meetings”. There are six meetings a year. They generally take place on a Thursday evening and last only for a couple of hours.
- “I need to focus on furthering my career”. Being a Parish Councillor *is* a big plus point on your CV, and for your career – it shows you can make decisions, take on responsibilities, work in a team, are community-minded and pro-active. All qualities a good employer is seeking.
- “I haven’t lived here very long and don’t know people”. If you have lived or worked in this parish for a year you are eligible. And being a Parish Councillor is a good way of getting to know people.
- “I’m worried I won’t win many votes and look silly”. Even if you are not voted on, you may well be approached later should a vacancy occur, and then be co-opted.
- “Our Parish Council is full of old fogies”. Well, join up and change it!
- “I’d look a fool because I will not know what’s going on”. You’ll be eased in gently – there is help, advice and training available; and it is the Parish Clerk’s job to support you and see that the formalities are properly carried out.
- “I’ll have to sign a code of conduct that means everyone will know my business”. The code of conduct is nowhere near as onerous as it is made out in the Press; and it protects you from being put in a position of conflict of interest.
- “I’m too lazy and I don’t care about my community”. That is an excellent reason not to join!
- “I like to let others do all the work, then criticise them”. That too is another good reason not to join! Expounding your views on Facebook and in the pub amounts to a waste of time – you’ll actually make a difference as a Parish Councillor!

All the information you’ll need to put yourself forward as a prospective Councillor will be placed on the noticeboard during the lead-up to the election in early May; also information will be posted on the Whaddon Facebook Page and sent out via the WPC Email System. In the meantime, if you’d like more information please contact the Parish Clerk on parishclerk@whaddonbuckspsc.org.uk

Changing face of Whaddon (and the nation)

THE other day, I came across a copy of the 1984 Electoral Roll for Whaddon and thought it would be interesting to compare it with today’s list.

Thirty six years ago, the village had 342 voters, now there are 387. Of that increase, more than half, 25, arises from the Chase Farm development on the way to Mursley; so Whaddon itself has only increased by 20 or 3% in 36 years.

However, what interested me was what a moving population we have become. Of the present residents, only 26, if my research is right, were here in 1984; this means that 93% have gone.

Of course, 36 years is a long time but it reflects the changing nature of our employment, I believe, whereby people are not only more inclined to move to different branches of the same employer but change firms or even change careers, meaning the population is much more mobile.

I recall, as a boy in Shropshire, one of my father's employees (aged in his 50s) telling me he had left the county only once in his entire life and that was when my father took him to Worcestershire for the day!

More recently, I took Alfred Knight, from this village to the Test Match at Lords; his only visit to London in 84 years. He had been born in Singleborough, moved three miles to Nash as a child and thence to Whaddon. ■

Billy Stanier

Gigabit broadband makes progress

Those in Whaddon hit by the recent downfall of broadband connectivity will have watched, somewhat enviously, progress made 'across the border' in Milton Keynes where CityFibre is putting Gigabit-speed connectivity within reach of thousands of homes.

SO FAR, over 20,000 homes across Milton Keynes are able to access full fibre broadband – one year on from the start of the city-wide expansion of the digital network.

As part of CityFibre's 'fibre to the premises' project, the network size has doubled to over 350km since March 2018. Through a strategic partnership with Vodafone, CityFibre has been installing the new system in Bancroft, Blue Bridge, Bradville, Great Linford, Willen, Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

In Whaddon it is fibre-to-the-cabinet.

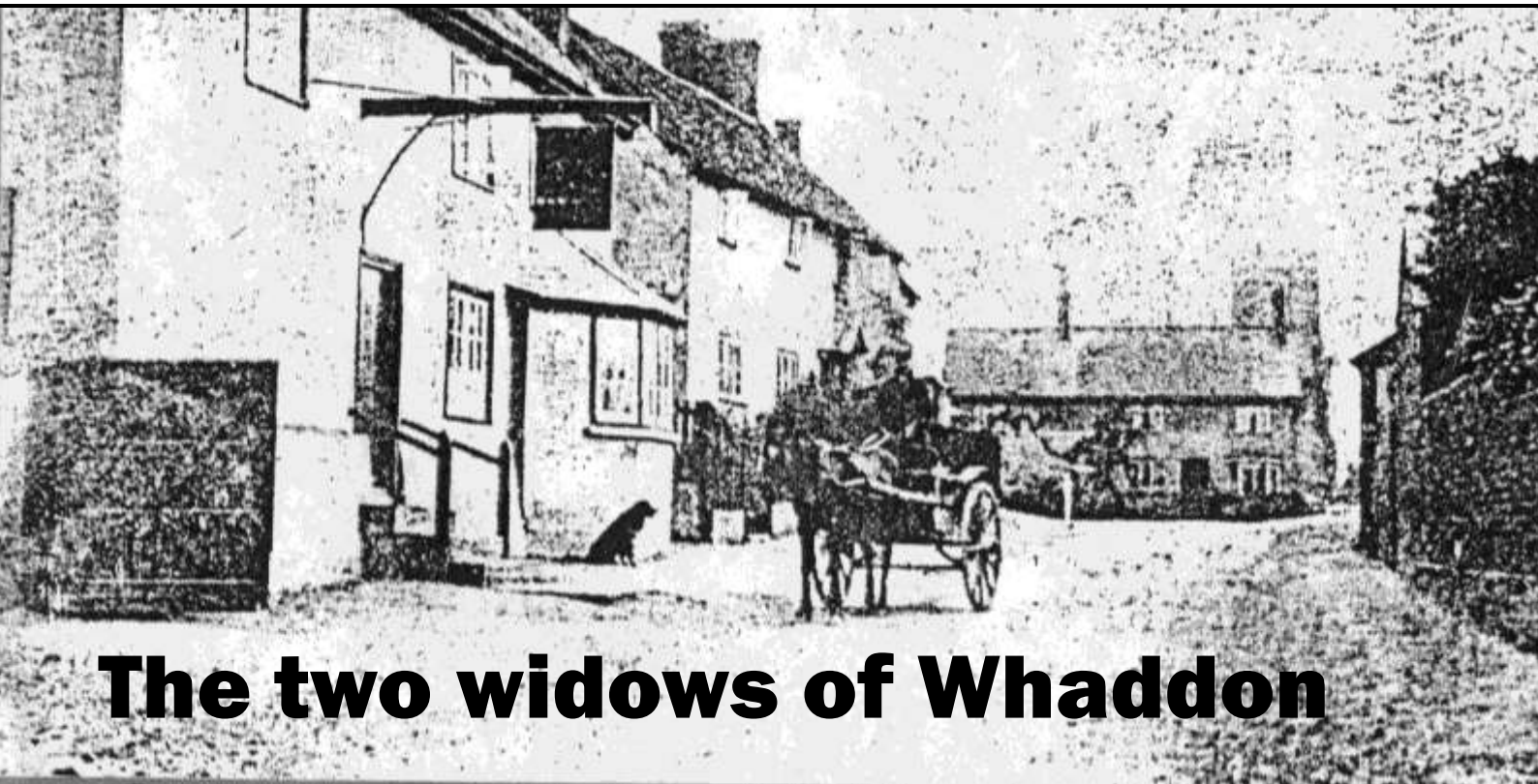
Cityfibre claims it will be 'accelerating' across the city to build to almost every home and business.

CityFibre has made the build possible through a private investment of more than £40m. In addition to building the full fibre network, which is expected to complete by the end of this year, CityFibre has opened a new state-of-the-art office in Milton Keynes and intends to bring its Engineering Centre of Excellence to the city.

It claims full fibre broadband will bring a range of benefits to Milton Keynes: from greater innovation and productivity within businesses worth £62m according to Regeneris, to unlocking the use of smart tech within households, and increasing the value of local homes by £119m.

It claims it will underpin the city's economic growth, supporting a range of new business ventures due to launch in the next few years including three new hotels, apartments and the Institute of Technology, reinforcing the city's ambitious expansion plans.

Pete Marland, leader of MK Council, claimed: "Full fibre will play a huge role in Milton Keynes, both now and for generations to come. It will give our businesses the digital firepower they need to compete on a global stage, while ensuring our households and local services can reap the benefits of gigabit-capable broadband and the innovations it can support. The council has been working closely with CityFibre on this project and it is fantastic to see it gathering momentum and reaching so many communities at such an impressive pace." **JM**



The two widows of Whaddon

Turn back the clock 150 years and Ann Woodward and Ann Underwood lived yards apart in Whaddon. But as the years rolled by, their lives moved in different directions. John Mortimer examines the curious lives of the two Anns of Whaddon.

PICTURE the scene. It is 1851, thousands are flocking to Hyde Park in London for the Great Exhibition. Some probably made the journey by the new-fangled train, adding further excitement to the adventure. Correctly named The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations, the show opened on 1st May and concluded on 15th October.

Over that period, that eye-popping event attracted over six million people — equivalent to one-third of the then entire population of Britain; and it made a surplus of £186,000 (£24,677,364 in 2017 values). The visitors, some in all their Victorian finery, could study anything from national cultures to every conceivable industrial and scientific technology, including observing the entire process of cotton production, from spinning to finished cloth.

In contrast, move the scene 60 miles north-west to Buckinghamshire, and little disturbed the rural pattern of life. But anyone walking down unmade Principal Street (**above**) in Whaddon might ponder: Fancy that, two hostelries just a stone's throw from one another. These were *The Haunch of Venison* and *The Fox and Hounds*.

Agricultural workers stepping inside those two establishments would find each with quite different atmospheres. Why was that?

Widow Ann Woodward, 46, publican of *The Haunch*, must have been quite a woman. Following her husband James' death, Ann bravely battled the world and its challenges. Besides running the pub, she had to manage 135 acres of land; for such work she had hired seven agricultural labourers. She could also rely on sons James, 21, and Thomas 14, to give a hand.

You can almost visualise Ann in a Stetson, rounding up cattle; a woman in a man's world, she would know how to hold her own.

A few yards down the 'Street' at *The Fox*, and a quite different scene prevailed. Ann Underwood — a handful of years older than Ann at *The Haunch* — relied on husband Edward for support. Edward, aged 60 and 10 years older than his wife, combined duties of innkeeper with those of a working cooper.

And the difference between publican and innkeeper? One definition suggests publicans owned or managed public houses or taverns; usually they did not provide lodgings. Innkeepers, on the other hand, ran houses for 'the lodging and entertainment of travellers'.

Turning her hand to anything

Notwithstanding this, Ann at *The Haunch* did take in lodgers, like grocer Frederick Weight, 23, from Newport Pagnell. Ann also employed Ann Daniels, 24, her general servant from nearby Shenley Brook End.

With sons James fully employed as a builder and teenage Thomas working on the farm, Ann Daniels would be expected to turn her hand to anything, though on busy evenings James would no doubt be roped in to help out.

Ann, a Whaddon woman baptized as Ann Bennet on 1st September 1805 (her parents were Thomas and Ann Bennet of Whaddon), had given the couple's son James her husband's name. Ann and James married on 18th August 1823.



Meanwhile, down the Street at *The Fox*, the Underwoods' five children (all neatly and mathematically spaced) Ann (later Stonehill), 27, Charlotte, 25, Thomas, 23, Martha, 21, John, 19, and Maria, 17, lived at home or within a few doors. The entire family was Whaddon-born too; Underwood and Woodward were both long-standing Whaddon surnames. Edward Underwood, a long-time cooper, had lived in Principal Street for many years.

Coopers (**left**) made wooden-staved casks and barrels sewn together with hoops; they had flat ends or 'heads'. Edward knew how to handle such heavy and cumbersome items.

At the opening of the Great Exhibition, Charlotte Underwood, (named after her aunt Charlotte, who had married wealthy farmer George Judge in the village), lived at home; she being the eldest child still under the family roof. With the status of innkeeper's daughter, Charlotte had naturally found employment at *The Fox*; likewise, teenager John, as innkeeper's son, was learning the ropes of the trade. In those days, it was not uncommon for children to follow in their parents' footsteps; there was little else to do.

Measure and fit her customers

Martha Underwood, on the other hand, had turned her hand to dressmaking. Possibly she had a sewing room at *The Fox*; there she could measure and fit her customers, some no doubt well-known to her parents. On winter days, she would have a fire blazing to make her female customers comfortable as they undressed.

The Underwoods' eldest son Thomas had naturally chosen coopering like his father. He had become very friendly with Ann Pargeter who lived just four doors away. So cosy was this friendship, that the couple married, with Thomas moving in with the Pargeter family. Thomas Underwood's new wife, Ann, 23, worked as a dressmaker, like his sister Martha.

Ann's father, James Pargeter, 46, came from Little Horwood; he had a licence to let post horses. His wife Jane, 51, hailed from Shenley Brook End; however all their children, Ann, Francis, 14, Alfred, 11, and Fanny, 9, were Whaddon born.

Meanwhile, by 1861 James Woodward continued to make good progress while still living in Whaddon. That year, when the census numerator took down details from William Gardus (he witnessed the wills of Edward and Ann Underwood) who lived in Church Hill, he came across John Underwood, 28, living at the same house.

The official then strolled further along the road to Pond's End. The first people he encountered were carpenter and joiner James Woodward and his wife Elizabeth, both 33. They

had two children James, 3 and Sarah, 1. By that time, Ann Woodward's eldest son James would have been earning good money; the family could afford to employ a domestic servant in the form of Jane Darders, 17, of Whaddon.

A few years later, not long after the Great Exhibition closed, in 1868, there was much excitement within the Underwood family, as well as more than a little gossip amongst village folk.

Yet those in the know were not surprised at all when Maria Underwood announced her engagement to a man 20 years older than herself. Widower George King of nearby Church Hill Farm decided it was time he wed again as his first wife, Sarah Ann, had died two years previously, aged only 41.

Being a wealthy farmer, it was not enough that George King, 54, should get married in Whaddon. He had enough money for his marriage to Maria, 34, to take place in London at Old Church, St. Pancras, which it did on 20th October 1868.

1868. Marriage solemnized at <i>St Pancras Church in the Parish of St Pancras</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>								
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
307	October 20 1868	George King	54	Widower	Farmer	Whaddon Buckinghamshire	John King	Farmer
		Maria Underwood	34	Spinster	—	St Pancras	Edward Underwood	Iron Worker

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *James* or after _____ by me, _____

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *George King* in the Presence of us, *Robert Stone*
Maria Underwood *W. Knatchbull*

And was that why bride-to-be Maria Underwood, half the age of her future husband, chose to live in St Pancras, so that in the reading of the banns she could be declared truthfully as spinster of this parish?

This does not answer the fundamental question: Why would the couple, or George King in particular, choose to marry in St Pancras, Middlesex and not in Whaddon, Buckinghamshire; the excitement of London or a simple wish for a private, anonymous and exclusive ceremony in the capital?

Certainly, bride-to-be Maria Underwood gave her residential address as St Pancras. Did the reading of banns offer the only explanation why this Whaddon village woman would choose to live there? Or was it not of her choosing?

And why St Pancras, where there were two churches: The Old Church and The New Church? Such is the vagary of ancestry.co.uk that there are two *different* records for the same marriage: one gives it as having taken place in The Old Church (no certificate available), and the other at Parish Chapel, St Pancras, Camden, for which the marriage certificate is shown

above.

In 1870, one historian reported of The Old Church (**left**) "This old and venerable church is said to be the first Christian place of worship in the county of Middlesex in the eighth or ninth century." But a medieval altar slab, marked with five consecration crosses and found during 19th-century building works, could date from an earlier church dating back to the 6th century. The chancel of The Old Church is shown **facing page below right.**

There could have been other reasons. Following the Reformation, the church fell into decay; that made it a tempting worship place for Catholics. Indeed, it



was said that the last bell to toll for Mass in England took place at St Pancras. The Old Church (and to a lesser degree Paddington Church) were the only churches in London where Roman Catholics were permitted to be buried.

A prolific composer

Catholics buried in the churchyard included Johann Christian Bach, youngest son of Johann Sebastian Bach. His name was mis-spelled as Back in the register.

Apart from being one of the most prolific composers (Georg Philipp Telemann being the most) J. S. Bach also mastered building and repairing the complex inner mechanisms of pipe organs.

His personal life proved to be as interesting as his professional achievements: he married twice and fathered 20 children; only 10 made it to adulthood.

Aside from this, Charles Dickens mentioned The Old Church by name in his 1859 novel *A Tale of Two Cities*; he made it the location for body snatching, providing corpses for dissection at medical schools – a common practice.

Or did George and Maria marry in St Pancras New Church (**below**), a Greek Revival church in Bloomsbury built in 1819–22 to the designs of William and Henry William Inwood. It was historically often referred to as St Pancras New Church to distinguish it from St Pancras Old Church, some way to the north.



Rich inhabitants in Whaddon

But whichever of the two churches was the venue for their wedding, how did the couple travel to London? And did many guests join them? Did they make the journey by train: the HS2* of the day? After all, St Pancras Station had been opened just a few years earlier; it was one of the wonders of Victorian engineering. Built by the Midland Railway Company, the station connected London with some of England's major cities. It was intended to make a grand statement about the company; a display of physical magnificence. Did it also reflect George King's image?

And after the wedding, and any celebrations of the event, did the couple honeymoon in London before returning to Whaddon. Or might they have ventured onwards to Brighton?

Whatever they chose to do, might Maria have found her early days at Church Hill Farm, where husband George farmed 210 acres with the help of three men and two boys, interesting? Just think about it. Martha was much the same age as George's children; his son James was eight years her junior while daughter Emma was 11 years younger. There were other young boys like George Jnr., and Edwin – both from her husband's former marriage.

However, within a year, Maria found her own hands full with her own child, William. Shortly after the birth, Maria inherited money from her mother, Ann Underwood, when she died in 1873.

In addition, nine years after their wedding, George and Maria welcomed another inheritance windfall: each received £500 (£60,000 today) from village watchmaker, William Gardus.

William Gardus died in February 1877 with an estate valued then at £4,000 (£600,000 today). Besides his bequest to George and Maria, he left £500 to his sister and the same to his housekeeper, as well as his cottage in Whaddon.



How did village watchmaker Gardus come to be so wealthy? Possibly he inherited some from his wife, Charlotte, but perhaps he was also a very successful watchmaker, even if not well known. But that is another story for another day. Within three years of Gardus' death, the King household had become much reduced; only George Jnr, then 31, and William, 17, lived at home with George and Maria. By that time they employed Sarah Lee, 15, as their domestic servant – a far cry from 1871 when there were eight living at Church Hill Farm.

Short-lived celebrations

Meanwhile, back in Whaddon, Charlotte Underwood (especially following Maria's marriage and her father's illness) felt increasingly sidelined. She found herself undertaking the brunt of the work at *The Fox* even though her father Edward continued to hold the licence.

Four years after Maria's wedding, there was more excitement in Whaddon; Ann and Edward Underwood celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. But the occasion's joys (Edward had married sweetheart Ann Leach on 10th January 1822) proved short-lived. Within days, Edward's paralysis deteriorated to such an extent, that later that year he passed away. When he died on 4th November 1872, aged 82, he was still registered as publican of *The Fox and Hounds*. In his will Edward left £800.

Edward's death halted Ann in her tracks; she immediately drafted her own will. And who did she choose to act as witness? None other than watch and clockmaker William Gardus, of Church Lane, Whaddon.

Ann's will named her eldest daughter Ann (by then she was a widow with the surname Stonehill), Charlotte, Thomas, Martha, John and Maria as beneficiaries. Ann died seven years after her husband, on 3rd December 1879 aged 78. She was buried in St Mary's churchyard, Whaddon.

Following her father's death, spinster Charlotte moved in with younger sister Martha (51) and her husband Joseph White, 54; the couple ran a general purpose shop in Principal Street, near the bakery.

Charlotte lived another seven years after her mother, Ann. She died on 31st July 1886, aged 60; she left everything to her brother Thomas. By that time he too had become an innkeeper in Buckingham, having well and truly followed in his father's footsteps.

As for Ann Woodward, well 10 years after the opening of the Great Exhibition, Ann found love. She became Mrs Inns, 55, having wed older man, Steven Inns, 65, a farmer of some 270 acres. Steven, who employed five men and four boys, hailed from Woughton on the Green.

By sheer coincidence, the couple had returned to live in Principal Street, where Ann once ran *The Haunch*. Living with the couple was Ann's son Thomas, 24. Whaddon-born grandson Thomas King, 8, also shared their house.

Twenty years further on, in 1881, and Ann's fortunes had somersaulted; by then husband Steven had died. At the age of 75, Ann had to find a new roof over her head. And so as 'aunt', she moved in with family and friends on the 300-acre Petsoe Manor Farm near Emberton. She had found accommodation with William Kingston Inns, his wife Mary Ann Inns and their young sons John, six, and Stephen, four.

Brother Joseph Inns, 45, a fellow farmer, also shared the house, as did young Jane Sharp, 15, a general servant from nearby Yardley Gobion across the border in Northamptonshire. Interestingly, on the day of the census, a relative visited the farm: Laura Woodward, 15, a carpenter's daughter of Stony Stratford.

Adjacent to an ancient monument

Petsoe Manor Farm had been sited adjacent to an ancient monument – Great St. Martin's Chapel. However, when Ann lived at the farm, the chapel had long since been demolished although many years earlier, in 1733, and the outlines of the structure's remains were still clearly visible; they comprised a single aisle of '18 paces long and 7 paces wide'.

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It is thought Ann Inns passed away in the spring of 1885, aged 79. Her death was registered in the district of Potterspury, Northamptonshire.

Poignant postscript

In a poignant postscript to all of this, the Underwoods, too, did not escape tragedy, as the focus turns to another widowed An of Whaddon: Ann Stonehill, the Underwood's eldest child.

Behind the facade of cosy family life in Whaddon, lurked a heart pierced by a loved one's death. Ann had married carpenter and publican George Stonehill in 1849, and accordingly helped her husband behind the bar to run *The Heath Inn* in Woburn Road, Leighton Buzzard. So she too, like her father Edward and her brother Thomas, found herself helping to run a pub.

However, 11 years on from their happy wedding day, Ann Stonehill found herself alone with five children; the youngest was barely 18 months old. Ann, forced to earn her living, became a straw plaiter. She also had to move house to the east side of Lamsden in Leighton Buzzard.

Ann spent 55 years in Leighton Buzzard, the last 24 in Church Street. There she struggled to make ends meet, turning her hand to lace making or straw plaiting. Fortunately she had family; she always had one or more of her children with her.

Unmarried sons George, 57, a journeyman baker, and William, 42, an army pensioner who lived with her, were at Ann's bedside when she passed away aged 81, nine days before Christmas, 1904.

For Ann Stonehill, with her happy childhood, parents Ann and Edward, and brothers and sisters, the *Fox and Hounds* must have seemed a far-distant memory; at that time the Underwoods lived cheek-by-jowl with Mrs Ann Woodward in adjacent public houses in Principal Street.

In the intervening period, with memories of the Great Exhibition long gone, much had happened to the two widows of Whaddon. ■

*At the latest count, HS2 is estimated to cost three times the original figure of £32.6bn.

How Openreach restored Whaddon back to life

WHAT'S it like to live without broadband: seemingly to be sliced in two; cut off instantly from the world? Only when a service, at a stroke, is discontinued, does life before broadband become truly obvious.

FOR those totally reliant on 'fibre to the cabinet', or FTTP, there is no internet banking, no emails, no digital contact with friends near and far, no final checking of Inland Revenue status, and countless other activities done 'on line'.

But it happened, albeit to a few in Whaddon, with other 'casualties' affected as far afield as Kingsmead.

In one sense, it's no big deal. There are alternative lines of communication; it just requires more effort; or, alternatively, doing nothing at all but focusing more directly on something else.

In other ways, Friday 20th December proved to be the day when Whaddon life imploded; a day that may go down in annals of the village's long history.





But, put into perspective, it was utterly, utterly trivial compared with the weather activity which has wreaked havoc in recent weeks across the world, most notably in Australia (see Living with bush fires down under, (p. 8) not to mention the destruction in The Philippines.

In unprecedented fire-ravaged Australia, thousands of homes have been destroyed; engulfing, destructive, terrifying, rampaging fires have left next to nothing in their wake but charred remains. This tosses Whaddon's mini-break from broadband into oblivion.

Sound of a very loud bang

The first indications that nearby neighbours had of Whaddon's impending mini-break in world-wide communication arrived around 10pm, first with the sound of a vehicle travelling at speed down Coddimoor Lane followed, shortly after, by a very loud crash.

Later, a recovery vehicle extracted the vehicle from the hedge. Seemingly, a late-night car driver travelling towards Whaddon had careered, in pouring rain, into Openreach's KABA FTTP cabinet.

What prompted the incident: excessive speed or misjudged braking distance, or both?

Meanwhile, dislodged from its base, cables severed and power disrupted, the sad and forlorn-looking green FTTP cabinet had become ultra-unfit for purpose; a mangled mess no longer directing its 'superfast' broadband to households near and far. Broadband would not even work at the speed of a ladybird. Kaput. Nothing, but there was considerable damage to the garden situated behind it, including the destructive damage of a shed.



And so it was that overnight, some village residents were, at a stroke, isolated from civilisation. They, and others in Kingsmead, realised how dependent they had become on the hidden wonder of buried cable.

Residents in Nash however, two miles away could only sit back in total relaxation, even enjoy a certain air of smugness and superiority; while those in Whaddon reliant on 'superfast' technology to service their online needs, suddenly found an unsurmountable hurdle in their midst.

It meant a reversion to past practice; a turning back of the clock. For some, it required investment in other 'new technology'.

The morning after

With daybreak unfurling on the morning after the FTTP demolition job, the distraught-looking green cabinet at the end of Stock Lane, nearest to Shenley Road, presented itself for all to see, like a bedraggled tramp having spent the night out in the lashing rain.

The offending vehicle, on the other hand, was nowhere to be seen; that had been removed covertly under darkness.

Openreach engineers appeared early the following day to inspect the damage. In the trail of various assessments of one kind or another, exposed cabling was made safe and weatherproof; it would remain so for some days. All and sundry agreed, following various mobile calls to H/Q, that remedial work would require a brand new KABA cabinet, reconnection of usable cables and some new cabling.

It took some days later, on 24th December to be precise, before a full team of Openreach engineers loomed out of the unfolding day; like well-trained homing pigeons they descended on Whaddon to tackle the matter in hand. Concurrently, traffic management 'troops' likewise zoomed into view and began to play their vital part (**previous page**).

Protected by a three-way road traffic control system, the telecom engineers began their work; activity that would occupy them virtually ceaselessly until dusk as they restored Whaddon's beleaguered Wifi system to something like 'normal'.



And so began their painstaking task (**left**) of installing a new cabinet, reconnection of a multiplicity of wires, and frequent referrals to the master database detailing vital information that spells out the intricacies of Whaddon's and Kingsmead's broadband network; replacing a cabinet alone can take four to five hours to complete; other cabling work only adds to this.

In this case, so bad was the damage that even underground cables did not escape unscathed. A new power line, a new copper cable and a new fibre link to the next cabinet were among replacements that would be

necessary. Although cabinets contain back-up battery packs, FTTP cabinets are reliant on mains electricity, so must be sited near to power cables to provide 24/7 energy.

Normal service resumed, sort of

With 'power' restored by 16.07 that day, Christmas Eve, it remained only for a solitary Openreach engineer to resume work for about an hour the following morning, Christmas Day, to 'tidy up'. However, much more work would be necessary after the holiday. And so it was. Even up to 8th January 2020, an Openreach engineer could be seen on the spot.

There was talk among telecom engineers, at the time of the reinstatement of the FTTP cabinet, that eventually a new dedicated line will be required, possibly from the Shenley exchange. This would effectively replace the FTTP cabinets.

Subsequently, on various other days, Openreach engineers could be seen working to make adjustments to the job to meet their satisfaction; even to working, as they had before, on the next cabinet in Stock Lane. Perhaps they were even responding to customer complaints.

Despite being reconnected, some users still found themselves cut off for short periods of time. For others, the breakdown in broadband communication did not come without costs and 'problems'. Alternative means of re-connection with the outside world (sometimes costly) had to be found; computers reset, and so on.

But overall, the question remains: What steps can be taken to prevent it happening again? A motorway Armco crash barrier placed in front of the cabinet, perhaps? And by whom and at what cost?

The cabinet sits at the apex of a nasty 90-degree bend which has claimed a number of careless drivers, as well as an errant concrete mixing truck coming down Stock Lane that failed to turn the corner. And it's not the first time a vehicle has over-stepped the mark to mount

Stock Lane; many, many years ago a truck careered into the side of No. 1 Briary View, causing much damage. Others have continued into the hedge. A dangerous place. ■

Harry Varney, Whaddon's hurdle maker

Following publication of August's *Whaddon Quarterly*, Antonio Romeo offered up two photographs (below) of his great grandfather, Henry (Harry) Varney. Ron Unwin of Nash has kindly added his commentary about Harry Varney.

HARRY Charles Varney was born in Whaddon, in the cottages at Bottlehouse Farm, in 1893. His father was a timber merchant and the family moved to Nash two years later, in 1895, to continue their timber business there. When Harry left school, he joined his father in the timber business in Nash.

In WW1, he joined the army and served in the Warwickshire Regiment, where he rose to the rank of sergeant and was mentioned in dispatches. He became a member of the British Legion and would carry the Legion Banner during British Legion parades.



After the war, he returned to help his father in his timber business, and in about 1923 he married Rachel May Hopkins in the Congregational Chapel in Whaddon.

The couple lived in a cottage in Kennel Lane, but in 1928 Harry and Rachel moved into a new council house in Whaddon. Harry occupied that house for the rest of his life. He had three daughters: Mary, Phyllis and Vera. During the Second World War, Harry joined the Home Guard and became a Captain, being in charge of the Whaddon section. Harry achieved this rank probably on the basis of his experience of military life during WW1.

After the war, he continued in the timber business until it ceased trading in 1956. As he had been in the timber business all his life, it was perhaps only natural that Harry managed to obtain the use of a disused ex-army building on Windy Ridge (Church Hill). There, he continued to make hurdles until shortly before his death in 1970.



Hurdles are portable fences which can be used to control or enclose animals, such as sheep. Once made of wood, they are today constructed of steel. ■



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - WHADDON SCAM ALERT

BE wary nowadays of communications from any financial institutions you deal with - email, letter or phone call. If you receive an email from your bank, building society, etc. asking you to click on a link you don't recognise, or a letter possibly saying they need you to ring a specific number to confirm your security details, or a phone call that just doesn't sound right - DO NOT RUSH TO DO ANYTHING.

Stop and think first - and if at all unsure telephone your bank/building society (or whatever) on the telephone number you normally use, to check that this is a genuine request. They will not mind at all, and will be pleased that you are sensible enough to check things out.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud, you can report it online <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reportfraud> or by telephone 0300 123 2040

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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
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Whaddon Chapel

Paul – one of the witnesses to Jesus' resurrection – summarised the importance of Easter in the following words:

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

*"Death is swallowed up in victory.
O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"*

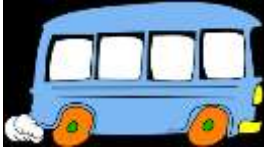
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

That Jesus died and rose again is beyond doubt: hundreds of people were witness to the fact. So it follows that He who defeated death and sin can deliver any who put their trust in Him from the sting of death, and the power of sin. This remains the Good News of Easter!

Why not join us to find out more?

We meet regularly on:

- Sundays, 4pm-5pm in Whaddon Chapel.
- Bible Study & Prayer meeting, 7:30-9pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 3 Briary View.

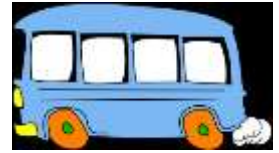


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Everyone is eligible to come on the bus. We pick up near to your house.

Please ring Sue for more information. *Denotes bus pass accepted.

Tuesday 4th February. Buckingham Bus – 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service, bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.

Tuesday 10th February. Anglesey Abbey – Enjoy the Snowdrops. £25, NT Members £10 travel

Thursday 13th February. Westcroft Shopping - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book

Tuesday 18th February. BBC Birmingham Studio Tour – behind the scenes tour of the TV and radio studios. Tour begins at 1pm, duration of 1 hour 30 minutes. £25 entry and travel.

Monday 24th February. Asda Shopping MK1 - option to go to M&S, Primark, etc. £4.00.

Tuesday 25th February. Lunch at The Robin Hood, Bufflers Holt. Travel £4.50

Thursday 27th February. Westcroft Shopping - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring

Tuesday 3rd March. Buckingham Bus – 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service, bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.

Tuesday 10th March. Ely Cathedral - Gowns and Crown event and tour the Cathedral. £20

Thursday 12th March. Westcroft Shopping - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book

Monday 23rd March. Asda Shopping MK1 - option to go to M&S, Primark, etc. £4.00.

Thursday 26th March. Westcroft Shopping - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book

Coming Up! Gardeners World Live & Good Food Show Sunday June 21st

SCHEDULED WEEKLY SHOPPING ROUTES:

Every Friday and Saturday morning – Aylesbury Market Bus – from Winslow, through the Horwoods, Mursley and Swanbourne, arriving in Aylesbury just after 10am and departing 12.15pm. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £4.50 return.

Every Wednesday morning – Winslow Market Service – bringing surrounding villages into Winslow (Swanbourne, Mursley, Great Horwood, Whaddon, Nash and The Claydons). Pick up times vary according to village. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £3.00 return.

Call for more information on times 01296 715786, or visit our website!

Celebrating seven years as a choir

WE think it's fair to say, that the members of Chase Choir are feeling rather proud of themselves, as they start a new year.

For one thing, we have just celebrated our 7th anniversary, still going strong, with almost 50 members, many of whom have been there from the beginning. And we ended 2019 with our best ever fundraising efforts for our two charities: Harry's Rainbow and MK Hospital Cancer Centre appeal.



During 2019, we put money raised during our Summer concert, summer bbq together with our Christmas events, and, thanks to the support of members and of course everyone from Whaddon and far beyond, who came and supported us and donated, we've raised the fantastic total of £2,271 to be divided between our two charities. Thank you all so much!

We enjoyed raising this money, of course, but any member of the choir will tell you that the greatest enjoyment we get is from actually singing together. We've said it before, and we'll carry on saying it: singing is good for you! There's something about being part of a group, making music together, celebrating when the harmonies sound great, laughing it off when things don't go quite as planned that's simply good for the soul.

And that's before you get to the physical and mental benefits of the singing: breathing, listening, exercising vocal chords and all the other associated body parts. Anyone who has ever watched the transformation in individuals in documentaries such as those featuring Gareth Malone, will know how it works. (If you haven't yet seen what happened when he took his skills to Aylesbury Prison, do find it on "catch up" and watch. It's extraordinary.)

The good news is that musical transformations happen right here in Whaddon, and you can be a part of it too. Chase Choir, under the direction of the talented and supremely patient Karen Logan, and accompanied by the equally talented Ros, meets every Monday evening from 7-9pm in the village hall. All these benefits for the ridiculously reasonable sum of £2 per week – what a bargain! If you'd like to know more, please contact Karen: 01908 501922 or Marianna: 01908 503194.

Marianna Beckwith

• **A CUP OF TEA** allegedly tasted better over the weekend of 18th and 19th January last. The unusually high pressure (1,050.5 mb) raised the boiling point of water by 1°C. Tea tastes 'better' the higher the temperature at which it is made, it is claimed. Records show the atmospheric pressure was only the third highest since 1902, it is claimed, at this time of year.

• **READ next time about Ian Fleming's James Bond and his link with Whaddon Hall.**

Assured Shorthold Tenancy and you

Do you rent out your property on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy? If so, what have you done with the deposit?

If you rent out your property on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy (a scheme intended for private landlords) and have taken a deposit, then it must be protected by a tenant deposit scheme.

The schemes are intended to allow tenants to retrieve all, or part of their deposit, when they are entitled to it. If you are a landlord, then it encourages you to make a clear agreement from the outset on a property's condition, so that you are not left out of pocket when a tenancy expires and a tenant leaves.

What are the requirements? Within 30 days of receipt of the deposit, the landlord must give the tenant certain prescribed information about the scheme, the deposit and the tenancy.

The landlord must also certify that the information is accurate and give the tenant the opportunity to agree to it.

What happens if the landlord fails to comply? Upon application to the court, the landlord may be ordered to repay the deposit, or pay it into a scheme and, further, pay money by way of a fine. The landlord may be prevented from recovering possession of the property pursuant to section 21 of the Housing Act 1988. ■

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

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WHADDON PLANNING BRIEFS

The following planning matters were discussed at the Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2020.

NEW APPLICATIONS

19/04232/APP: 1 Ladymead Close

Single-storey front extension

Following discussion, 'No Objection' was recorded, subject to materials matching the existing host dwelling.

19/04176/APP: 1 Nash Road

Two-storey side (south) and single-storey rear (west) extensions, with internal alterations

Being a listed building within the Conservation Area, extensive discussions have been held between the applicant and the AVDC Historic Building Officer, leading to an acceptable design that would not be out of character, and there would be little loss of light or amenity impact on neighbouring properties. 'No Objection' was recorded.

RECENT APPLICATIONS

19/02591/APP: 33a Stock Lane

Open-plan front carport with pitched roof.

AVDC refused this application for the following reasons: The carport, by reason of the proposed design, size, siting and appearance, would result in a highly prominent form of development that would visually compete with, and detract from, the host dwelling, resulting in a significant detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the dwelling house. The proposal would also appear out of character with the design ethos of the wider area.

WPC welcomed this decision, which is in line with similar applications along Stock Lane in recent years, and seeks to protect and preserve the open nature of that part of Stock Lane which connects the two village Conservation Areas.

19/03666/APP: Rear of 2a and 2b High Street, accessed off Stock Lane

Single new dwelling, and change of boundaries

Although this is effectively a simple renewal of the Outline consent no. 16/01298/APP granted back on 3rd January 2017, and should have been determined by 9th December, no decision has yet been forthcoming from AVDC. This is probably representative of AVDC's current workload and staff shortages. 'No Objection' has been raised.

19/02309/APP: The Oaks, Off Stratford Road

Demolish existing semi-derelict house and replace it with a larger two-storey detached dwelling

This application has still not been finally determined (see above) but WPC did not object and it is expected to be approved with appropriate planning conditions in the near future. A detailed planning application is likely to follow thereafter.

19/00082/REF: Land at Stratford Road – Appeal proceeding

Retention of re-constructed barns and installed Klargestor bio unit (Retrospective)

This appeal relates to AVDC's refusal to allow the works described, following a retrospective planning application, and after the works were undertaken without the necessary planning approvals. That is, the works were deemed unlawful and an enforcement notice was issued by AVDC. WPC did not object to the retention of the works, but only if the appropriate and secure planning conditions were placed regarding 'future use' and restrictions, both for now, and once the issues surrounding the land's change of use to animal training (dogs) have been resolved (see below). Following discussion, it was agreed that WPC send 'further comment' to the Inspectorate for the Inspector's consideration early in 2020.

18/01333/APP: Land at Stratford Road

Change of use to animal training (dogs)

WPC has, for over two years, objected to this application, but accepting that the owners do have the right under the 28-day 'permitted development' rules to hold events, it was considered essential that appropriate and secure conditions must be put in place, to ensure that the future use could be monitored and controlled by AVDC, whilst at the same time protecting the amenity of those living close by and ensuring road safety etc., was not compromised. WPC now understands that AVDC is likely to refuse this application, and although the decision notice has not yet been signed off by senior officers, the applicants have been advised of this action. WPC has requested that the final decision should be made known by AVDC to the Inspectorate (see above), because although the appeal relates only to the works that have been undertaken – and that issue is a separate matter to the actual land use – the two issues could be seen to be directly related, and one might prejudice the other. Whatever the outcome, WPC maintains its position about the importance of proper planning conditions being placed, if consent is granted in any form, or if the permitted development use continues.

PLEASE REMEMBER that you can view these or any other planning applications, on the AVDC planning website by simply Googling: AVDC planning simple search, then open this link, highlight the appropriate search (ie application or appeal) and then type in the planning application reference in the box provided. Then click 'search' and open the documents and inspect the public papers that are of interest to you.

The next meeting of Whaddon Parish Council, where any new planning applications will be discussed, will be held on Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm in the Village Chapel. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Whaddon Refuse Collection Dates

Food waste: Every Tuesday

Recycling: Tuesdays: 4th & 18th February; 3rd, 17th & 31st March; 14th April.

Waste refuse: Tuesdays: 11th & 25th February; 10th & 24th March; 7th April.

Garden waste: If you have subscribed to the garden waste service, all collections will be the same day as the waste refuse collection, viz: 11th & 25th February; 10th & 24th March; 7th April.

If AVDC misses a collection; report within 48 hours by phone to AVDC (01296 585858) or via the website. www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/find-your-bin-day

Jubilee Hall is your village hall

A Very Happy New Year to you all.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

February 29th

Curry Night with food provided by Safina from Chin's Kitchen as usual. There will be a choice of curries including a vegetarian option, together with chutneys etc, followed by a dessert. The bar will also be in operation as well as entertainment. Doors and bar open at 6.45 and the meal will be served at 7.30pm

Tickets cost £15 from Deb Spinks.

March 7th

"Opera Dudes" are coming to Whaddon. This is a return visit by this successful duo whose light-hearted and humorous musical interpretations have been enjoyed in previous years. (This event was originally postponed due to illness). If you already have a ticket, we look forward to seeing you on March 7th at 7.00 pm. Seats are still available so please contact Deb Spinks for tickets. Hall and bar open from 6.45pm for 7.30pm meal.

Our December social evening was a success and we plan more events during the year. If there are any events you would particularly like the Committee to arrange, please let us know. Our thanks go to all who support our functions.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee please contact any member below. Hazel Hedges, Louise Collin, Deb Spinks, Ralph Spinks, Joanne Walker, Mark Burnett, Frederick Hayward, Pierre Hibble and Peter Hedges. ■

Jubilee Hall Committee



Winslow Community Bus would love to have more Volunteer Drivers!

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Nash Events

February 2020

Saturday, 1st February, 6.30 pm to 10.30pm

Nash PUMP – Pop Up Micro Pub – popular monthly event serving ales, prosecco, wines & spirits as well as great Nash spirit!

Friday, 14th February, 10.30am to 4pm

Nash Community Café – drinks (now licensed) and cakes, light lunches, co-working space

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information

Friday, 14th February, evening times TBC, Valentine's Double Bill Cinema Club

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information on what films and times

Wednesday, 26th February, Ash Wednesday lunch

Contact Pam King pamking199@gmail.com to book and for timings

Saturday, 29th February, Leap Year Winter BBQ, winter bar, BBQ, firepits and fun.

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information and to book

March 2020

Wednesday, 4th March, 12pm-2pm

Soup shop, a range of soups, bread rolls and hot drinks on offer

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information and to book

Saturday, 7th March, 6.30pm to 10.30pm

Nash PUMP – Pop Up Micro Pub – popular monthly event serving ales, prosecco, wines & spirits as well as great Nash spirit!

Friday, 20th March, 10.30am to 4pm

Nash Community Café – drinks (now licensed) and cakes, light lunches, co-working space

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information

Cinema Club - date TBC

A showing of a sing-a-long musical with a ploughman's supper. Limited tickets.

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information and to book

April 2020

Saturday, 4th April, 6.30pm to 10.30pm

Nash PUMP – Pop Up Micro Pub – popular monthly event serving ales, prosecco, wines & spirits as well as great Nash spirit!

Friday, 10th April, 10.30am to 4pm

Nash Easter Community Café – drinks (now licensed) and cakes, light lunches, co-working space

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information

Cinema Club - date TBC

Contact infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com for information and to book

For the cinema club, please do let us know if you'd wish to be added to the mailing list. Mailing list also covers other events.

- **NEXT TIME in the *Whaddon Quarterly*, final part of Whaddonfield not Akenfield.**



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WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL
Whaddon Quarterly
Advertising Rates and Publication Policy January 2109

General and Commercial Advertisers

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 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@whaddonbuckspsc.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. ■



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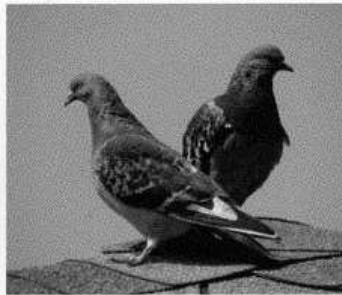
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IT IS with great sadness that we have to notify you of the death of a beloved wife, mother, grandma and friend, Margaret Rose Parker. Formerly of Vicarage Road, Margaret lived there with her husband, Ken, for 25 years. Margaret was an amazing lady who loved village life and was a member of the local WI. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Kind regards,

Donna Parker

MVAS records 65 mile/h in Whaddon

The Whaddon MVAS traffic monitoring device recorded a car travelling mid-morning at 65 mile/h through the village on 4th October 2019. John Mortimer analyses the latest data.

THE figures emerge from data from the Parish Clerk who compiles traffic reports using MVAS information. The latest figures show that from 2015 to 2019, vehicular traffic flow has increased by nearly 60%.

Meanwhile, the MVAS mounting point opposite Ladymead Close has been repaired following damage, thus allowing the recording device to be re-installed in due course. It is now positioned next to the Chapel.

MVAS will have a valuable role to play in providing traffic speed and volume data over the coming four months during the closure of Calverton Lane.

Most recently available figures, taken over a 34-day period in January 2015 and November 2019, show that vehicular traffic has grown from 29,861 to 47,089 respectively, an increase of 17,228 movements or 57.6%.

In the same periods, traffic at peak times, namely 8.00 to 9.00 am and 5.00 to 6.00 pm, has likewise shown a staggering increase of 38% and 90% respectively. In 2019, 179 vehicles travelled through the village between 5.00 and 6.00 pm.

The fastest vehicle speed recorded in January 2015 was 50 mile/h, while that in the 2019 period was 65 mile/h. Generally speaking, overall average traffic speed has remained much the same: the 85th percentile speed in 2015 was 28.2 mile/h compared with 27.6 mile/h in 2019.

It could be construed that over the four-year period, Whaddon has fallen victim to an exponential increase in through traffic, with all the corresponding dangers associated with this. ■

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