



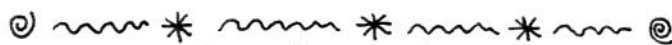
Whaddon News



JUNE 1999

WE'RE BACK

Whaddon News is back. The team regret the long absence of the village newsletter but changes in circumstances and heavy commitments meant that it was difficult to continue. We hope to reinstate the circulation of three letters per year to keep you all up to date with events and news in your village. You all know what a hard working Parish Council and Village Hall Committee we have and it is these people who organise most of the village events. The P.C.C. look after Church events and the general running and upkeep of our lovely Church. If you are organising something in the village let us know and it will be included. Any axe to grind, praises to sing and we will be your vehicle! Contact Margaret Wilson 208648 or Anne Williams 207779. We have had nature corners and things of particular interest for children in the past. Everything concerning Whaddon and the residents is welcomed for inclusion.



Dates for your diary

A quiz night with licensed bar and a supper. Specific date has yet to be arranged but it will probably be late October.

Lamb Roast, commitments permitting, will be middle of September.

The next Newsletter will have full details.



Village Welcomes



Maureen and Frank Cullen with their children Francis and Claire have moved in to Meldreth Road from Western Scotland. They think it's warm here!

Did Betsy and Tony Milton escape mention in the news? They have also moved in to Meldreth Road whilst we were out of circulation.

A very warm welcome to our recent residents.



BABY BOOM



To Kevin and Sally Daish in Meldreth Road a baby boy, James, born in December 1998. Congratulations to you all.



St Mary's Parish Church



FETE



Produce Show & Auction

On the Recreation Ground and Churchyard

WHADDON

Saturday 24 July

Ploughman's lunch
at 12.30pm

(£2.50 and £2.00 children)

Fete opening at 2pm

by Oliver Heald MP

Featuring The Raptor Foundation,
Ponies and traps, Vintage cars
and a Dog Scurry

with prize for fastest dog
back over the line with two dummies
Plus much more





Much work has been carried out to the village hall. Finally, the floor covering has been finished in the annex and repairs have been made to the floor in the main hall. The kitchen has some new equipment, there are several new power points and some new furniture. There has also been some remedial work done around the base of the exterior walls. This should help combat the problem of damp.

To hire the hall at very reasonable cost contact Chris Rayner 207983. Whaddon residents are always given very favourable rates. It's your hall, please use it.

Whaddon Water

When space permits we try to include little bits of information about Whaddon. The symbols on the village sign may be a mystery to some people. The water fountain represents the fact that Whaddon was renowned for its artesian water supply. Until 1940 there was no mains water in the village. Drinking water came from the many springs and fountains and washing and laundry water came from the stream. Many residents were most unhappy when water came from pipes and taps, they preferred the "pure" water from the ground. That was fine where no primer was needed for the pump but some people were not fussy what liquid they used to prime their pumps. I will not elaborate! Unfortunately the main reason for the piped supply was the lowering of the water levels in the aquifers caused by the large and deep bore installed by the Eternit factory then called the Atlas Stone company. The memory of those times is kept alive by the fountain in Bridge Street and an almost permanent wet patch outside the Brandon's house in Meldreth Road. One or two gardens also have springs and there is one still flowing into the ditch alongside the green.

Can you imagine what life was like when you not only had to light a fire under your copper to do the washing by hand, but you had to collect the water to do so from the stream? There are still some Whaddon people who can!



WEBB IVORY

As you may know a Webb Ivory catalogue circulates in the village to raise funds for the childrens' Christmas party. For the last two years Dana Inman has dealt with the orders but she is leaving the village. Is there anybody else willing to help towards this very valuable cause? The task is not very onerous but can be fiddly. Margaret Wilson has also done this in the past and would be willing to help any volunteer who might like to give it a try. Tel: 208648 for a chat.



TREES

There is a search on in the district for the oldest tree. I have been sent a tape measure and proformae to give details of our oldest tree. This can be anywhere in the Parish including private gardens. Could it be in yours? Ring Margaret Wilson if you think you have a candidate.

I also have a very good book on the planting and long term care of trees. If you would like to borrow it just let me know. We have been a very tree orientated village during the last few years which is very pleasing.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

This report covers the period January to June 1999.

At the beginning of the year our County Councillor, Margaret Hunter, resigned on health grounds. She has represented this area for some years and always put a great deal of energy into representing Whaddon. We all wished her well in her 'retirement' and a letter of thanks and good wishes was sent.

Following an election Councillor Richard Truman now represents the Parish on the County Council. He was welcomed at the annual Parish Council Meeting and we hope to build up the same relationship we had with Margaret,

There have been several planning applications during the period, the District Council have granted permission to some of these and refused others.

One of particular interest to the Parish was an application for outline permission on the small parcel of land at the rear of the fountain in Bridge Street. The Parish Council has been planning to tidy the area around the fountain but without losing any of the enclosed nature.

We raised objections to this development and the Planning Committee refused permission. The owners, County Council Farms, are now appealing to the Department of the Environment.

The Parish Council has made repeated requests for the footpath to be properly surfaced between the Church and the bend in Meldreth Road. You will probably be aware of the well-publicised state of the County Council budgets, therefore, the footpath is not considered priority at this time. We will continue to raise this matter on your behalf.

The Parish Council has also spent some time in discussions with the County Council regarding possible outline planning permission for the Town Farm site. They now have the land for sale without any planning consent.

Due to a general increase in the workload of the Parish Council we requested that the number of Councillor be raised from five to seven, the District Council agreed to this increase.

At the recent elections the previous five Councillors stood again and were joined by Ted Webb. Since then Prim Stevens has been co-opted on to the Council and we now have our full complement.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 19th July at 7.30pm. All are welcome and the meeting is usually opened to the floor once we have finished the agenda business.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

May I remind everybody that the whole village is considered to be in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Should your household insurance company ask the question you can legitimately answer yes.

The co-ordinator for Whaddon is Margaret Wilson on 208648. Should any body from Church Street or Bridge Street like to volunteer to cover those areas she would be pleased to hear from you. Also if you have a regular keyholder (especially if you have an alarm fitted) it is a good idea to inform the co-ordinator. In the unlikely event of a break in during your absence the Police can call upon the N.W. Co-ordinator rather than hold many keyholder details.

Fortunately Whaddon remains relatively quiet and crime free, just two reports of criminal damage and a theft from a motor vehicle up to May.

Bassingbourn beat Officer, John Sutton draws your attention to sheds and outbuildings. These have been the target of thieves lately in surrounding villages. A security light (NOT a searchlight to upset the neighbours!) and good locks are recommended. Vehicles are always of interest to the thief, especially the opportunist. Added deterrents such as steering locks are a good idea. Remember that property left in vehicles is always an attraction. Even if your vehicle is not stolen it can be damaged during the course of a theft.

Please remember to dial 999 if you see something suspicious and you think it is urgent. Non urgent calls can go to the co-ordinator or direct to the Police at Huntingdon. There are still booklets available about N.W. schemes if anybody would like one, they include tips on how to take notes and important things to look out for.

