June 2004

Family Fun Day
Sunday 13th June
11.00 am - 4.00 pm
on the
Recreation Ground
Including the traditional stalls and sideshows of Whaddon Village Fete

St Mary’s Parish Church

FETE
Produce Show & Auction
On the Recreation Ground and Churchyard

WHADDON
SATURDAY 17 July
Ploughman’s lunch
at 12.30 pm
and
Fete opening at 2 pm
by
Colonel N.J. Richardson RE

WHADDON VILLAGE
BARBECUE

Saturday 3rd July
on
The Recreation Ground
at 7.00 pm

Adults £8.00
Child/ £5.00
Concessions

For tickets contact: Terry Alison C. 207710
Joan Pascoe C. 208062

LICENSED BAR
LIVE MUSIC

For  tickets contact:  Terry Alison  C. 207710
Joan Pascoe  C. 208062

LICENSED BAR
LIVE MUSIC
The big day is getting closer......

It promises to be a really fantastic day out for all the family, with everything from the traditional Village Fete stalls to a packed programme of arena events to keep you entertained.

Please help support the event in any way you can, by helping out, donating prizes, sponsorship and most importantly, being there on the day to have fun!

Vacancy for Village Hall Treasurer

The Maintenance & Fund Raising Committee has a vacancy for a treasurer. Duties include simple record keeping and attendance at bimonthly meetings. (No previous experience necessary.)

Contact Mark Newberry  C 207555

Vacancy for Parish Councilor

Many of you will know that Margaret Wilson has resigned as Councilor for Whaddon Parish, in particular for the Meldreth Road area. She served as Councilor for several years and worked with great enthusiasm for improvements to the Village.

Margaret began a Degree Course at Cambridge University at the beginning of the year and is now finding it difficult to combine study and Council requirements, hence her resignation. We wish her every success.

The Parish Council will be looking for someone to fill the vacancy in the next few weeks.

T.W.
31/05/04

Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning held at the Village Hall in April.

We raised an amazing £100 towards the Children’s Christmas Party. It was a very successful event and a good time had by all!

NEW BABIES

Lois Burchett, born in January to Penny and Will in Bridge Street, a sister for Finlay

Emily Stewart, born in March to Andrea & David also in Bridge Street, a sister for William and Alex.

Congratulations!

RED CROSS WEEK

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your support during this year’s Red Cross Week.

I am delighted to tell you that the collection raised £138.82, which will help us to support vulnerable people in crisis in our local area.

Your contribution really does make a difference to the Red Cross work.

Thank you,

Iris Green
Village Hall Painting Weekend

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who turned out to help paint the Village Hall. Several villagers gave up all or part of their Saturday and we are very grateful for their time. We managed to complete most of the interior, which is looking much brighter.

We plan to complete this work and to paint the exterior woodwork on **Saturday 5 June** and would be grateful for offers of help.

Contact Mark Newberry on 207555.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>5th June</td>
<td>Village Hall Painting</td>
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<td>13th June</td>
<td>Animal Crackers</td>
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<td>21st June</td>
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<td>3rd July</td>
<td>Village Barbecue</td>
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<td>17th July</td>
<td>Church Fete</td>
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<td>19th July</td>
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<td>14th August</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
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<td>20th September</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
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<td>2nd October</td>
<td>Village Quiz</td>
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Welcome to St Mary’s Parish Church Whaddon
Come and try our Family Services
We are inviting people of All Ages, on an informal and friendly occasion, to explore your church in Whaddon.
Short services on the Fourth Sunday of the Month.
All welcome to these half-hour services at 10 am
27 June, 25 July, 22 Aug
Sharing and learning together. . . .

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

CHORAL CONCERT
The recent Choral Concert, held in May, raised a total of £530.74 towards Church funds.
Many thanks go out to Richard Harker and the Fitzwilliam Choir and all those who helped in any way to make this a very successful and enjoyable evening.

SPEEDING TRAFFIC IN WHADDON
Speed checks carried out in Whaddon during March by the Police resulted in several motorists being charged with excessive speeding. We are told that further checks will continue from time to time. Many official complaints have been laid with the Police and the County Highways department by both the Parish Council and a number of Parishioners, to get the speed limits reduced from 40 to 30 mph. They have all fallen on deaf ears. The Parish Council will continue to complain.

Speeding in Bridge Street is also a continuing problem. Many residents believe that a considerable number of car owners who live in the Street are some of the worst offenders. It is the right time now, with the children’s summer break from schools coming up to ask all car owners of the Street, and others to observe the speed limits and to drive safely within those limits.. There are now over 40 children living in Whaddon, more now than for very many years. We all know that children love playing in the road. We do not want any injuries or fatalities.

Of course, we must not forget the elderly, or indeed anyone else.

Ted Webb
Mother Goose Pre-school
Open Day
Tuesday June 8th, 12.30-2.00 pm

Come and visit this popular local pre-school, highly praised by Ofsted at its latest inspection. There are places available for children age 2½ to 5 from September and all prospective parents and children are invited. Children can start at any time during the academic year so this event will be of particular interest to you if you would like your child to start during the next 18 months. Call Kerry on C.208572 for further details.

Petersfield School, Orwell
‘Woodstock at Petersfield’
Summer Fete & Live Music Festival
4pm, Saturday 26 June

This year we are holding a fete with a difference! We are combining the usual fun of the school fete followed by a ‘Sixties & Seventies’ night. There will be live music from popular local band, Unreformed and a lamb roast/barbeque. Fancy dress is optional! No need to book – free admission for all.

Details to be posted on village notice boards nearer the time.

Meldreth Manor Fete
Saturday 26th June
1.00 pm

We have an exciting range of attractions including Lady Mary Archer as our celebrity opener.

Entertainment includes rides in a real miniature steam train, Morris dancers, rides in a vintage bus plus many more.

Plenty of prize winning games for young and old alike including treasure hunt, champagne Charlie, tattooing, a Grand Raffle (with big prizes) and lots more!

For a drink, a sit down or something to nibble, there will be a barbecue and indoor café with a wind octet.

Hope to see you there!

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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<th>Council:</th>
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<td>Cambridge……………………...01223 358966</td>
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<td>Royston…………………..……01763 242134</td>
<td>[Anthony Milton] ……………...01223 207105</td>
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<td>[Mary Course] …………………01763 260284</td>
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<td>Anglian Water ………………..08457 143145</td>
<td>Parish</td>
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<td>Electricity Emergency……….0800 7838838</td>
<td>[Ted Webb] …………………….01223 207564</td>
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<th>Doctor:</th>
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<td>National Rail ………………...0845 484950</td>
<td>Orchard Surgery Melbourn. 01763 260220</td>
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<td>Stagecoach …………………….01223 423578</td>
<td>Royston Health Centre ……..01763 242981</td>
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the next newsletter will be 14th August 2004. This will include all the fund raising results and news of Autumn events.

Other news items of Village interest are always very welcome.

Contact Joan Pascoe C 208062
The Parish Council is concerned with the number of motor racing events to be held on Saturdays at Bassingbourn Barracks. The meetings have caused much noise nuisance so far and people in the villages of Bassingbourn and Whaddon have expressed concern at the number of meetings this year and the noise levels recorded so far. The MOD require that the barracks has a number of events during the year for fund raising purposes and are apparently allowed up to 14 events per year. However the Environment and Health Departments are now being involved and the County Councillor in Bassingbourn, Mrs. Oliver has started a campaign to prevent these events from being a nuisance.

At the event on 8th May the environmental health department had promised to monitor the noise levels. However, due to adverse weather conditions it was not possible to achieve these measurements. The Department then promised to monitor the noise levels at the event on 22nd May and no information has been received to date on the results.

Apparently the next event is planned for Friday 11th June.

It is very disappointing that that the village of Whaddon should suffer this noise nuisance during afternoons in the summer. We have lived in harmony with the barracks at Bassingbourn for several years and this use of the site is now at odds with us the neighbours in Whaddon.

If anyone wishes to write and complain at the disturbance cause by these race events, you are encouraged to write to Russell Watkins, Environmental Health Officer, South Cambridgeshire Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge. CB3 6EA.

The Low Cost Housing Survey results have been reviewed by the Council and representatives from ACRE, and results were presented at the Parish Council meeting in March.

The scheme as planned by the Bedford Pilgrims Society has been lost because the application for a grant has been turned down. The Society is still looking into possible funding options.

A Planning Application for two dwellings, following demolition of existing buildings has been submitted at Pickering Farm.

A new survey form has been circulated around the parish to gain views on the refurbishment of the Village Hall and the favoured uses for the hall.

A planning application for a further showmen site to include up to 40 caravan pitches/chalets/showmen yards in Kneesworth Road, was made over a year ago. This was turned down at the time, but is now going to appeal on 27 July 2004.

The Council, together with Meldreth PC is concerned that a further site may be built on the Mettle Hill road, with all the possible problems and change to the rural scene. The fact that the current infrastructure in our villages cannot support such an increase in population, together with the fact that the other showmen site already exits, has caused the concerns.

If anyone is concerned at this further possible development, you are encouraged to write to Mr. L. Koch, South Cambridgeshire Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB3 6EA. The reference for the planning application is: S/0177/03/F (Planning Appeal APP/w0530/au/03/1136689).

Broadband is coming to Whaddon via the Arrington exchange which is due to convert in the first week of June, by Trilogy Telecom taking over from BT. To learn more and to look at the options contact Trilogy on www.trilogytelemc.co.uk or 0870 1999 030

Mr Ted Webb was re-elected as chairman of the Parish Council with Claire Byatt as vice chair, at the Annual meeting in May. Margaret Wilson has now resigned from the Parish Council, so we have a vacancy for a new councillor. We would very much like a representative from the Church Street or Meldreth Road part of the village. All applicants are welcome and will be interviewed in June.
THE INDUSTRIAL SCENE IN WHADDON

Copolite mining in Cambridgeshire during the late 19th century provided cheap raw material for the manufacture of fertiliser. But what was coprolite and how did it affect our village?

Copolite was the commercial name for phosphatic nodules and came from the Greek words for dung and stone. They occurred in a belt of Greensand stretching across Cambridgeshire and contained the fossilised remains of prehistoric creatures. These nodules were very rich in the phosphate which fertiliser manufacturers required.

The Industrial Revolution and the Enclosures Act led to an increase of urban population in England as landless peasants migrated to the towns in search of work. As a result of the increased demand for food the agricultural community had to find an alternative to the expensive guano fertiliser which cost £14 a ton. The phosphate produced from coprolites was half this price and so there was a great demand for it.

Copolite workings started in Whaddon in 1861 when Adam Moule, the tenant farmer at Christ's College Farm, was granted a new 12 year lease for which he paid an annual rent of £180. At the same time Francis Carver, who lived in the adjoining Hoback Farm, won a lease from the same college to work coprolite deposits on his land. With the seams extending southwards into the land of Rectory Farm, which was tenanted by Alfred Coningsby, the owners, the Dean and Canons of St George's Chapel Windsor, were persuaded to allow the extraction of coprolites on this farm.

Men and boys were employed in the removing of bushes, topsoil, subsoil and the diggging out of the coprolite seams which were then emptied into a washmill. From here they were stored in heaps ready to be taken to Meldreth Station for transport to the fertiliser works in Royston.

The local economy benefited greatly as manure merchants were paying up to £3.60 per ton and an average 250 tons could be obtained from an acre. Village workers saw the benefit of higher wages and cottagers increased their income by providing accommodation for the influx of workers from outside the village. With the improvement in the parish's fortune the Whaddon Church Repair Fund was set up and Christ's College gave £50 from their coprolite fund towards the final cost of £1,450.

On the Meldreth Road a row of cottages called Home Cottages, obtained by one of the contractors from the Earl of Hardwicke, was made into an all-male billet. S. Izzard, as part of a school project, provided a description:- "Over the beerhouse, called The Home or The New Found Out, and the ground floor sleeping quarters (which eventually became the old chapel) was a long room forming almost half the upper floor where, even in the 1880s, there used to be dancing there on Whit Monday... The fiddle player was "Stibben" Steven Jacklin. The cook's house was in the middle and towards the Meldreth end were eating quarters and a games room on the ground floor with more sleeping quarters above. Skittles were a popular pastime, played in what was termed "Skittle Alley in the wall of the living room. The end house was the foreman's."

There was in addition a mobile wooden shelter on wheels which provided refreshment for the workers.

Two reports in the Cambridge Chronicle of September 22nd, 1866 and September 28th, 1867 provide more details of the social lives of the workers.

"WHADDON. Works dinner.- On Saturday, the 15th inst, Mr. C. Roads gave his annual dinner to upwards of a hundred of his employees, in the spacious building erected for their accommodation. The room gaily decorated with flags for the occasion is 60 ft. by 19 ft. and so gave ample space for so large an entertainment. The dinner was supplied by the host, Mr. A. Coningsby, in a most able and satisfactory manner. Mr. Cole with his Bassingbourn band was in attendance and greatly promoted the enjoyment of all present, and after spending a most pleasant evening and expressing their thanks to Mr. Roads for his kind liberality, the men at ten o'clock quietly dispersed to their respective homes."

"WHADDON. Thanksgiving service.- On Tuesday last a service was held in the old parish church in the afternoon for the purpose of offering thanks for the blessings of Harvest. The church was thronged and among the congregation was observed a large number of coprolite diggers...After leaving church, the farm labourers and the coprolite diggers in the employ of Mr. Frank C. Carver - about 120 in number - proceeded by the Bassingbourn choir band, playing a merry quickstep, marched to the coprolite tavern where they enjoyed an excellent dinner, followed by singing and dancing...The women were not forgotten whilst the men were at dinner, they were treated to an excellent tea with plenty of cake."

Train used to take coprolite to Meldreth station
By the end of the 1870’s the demand for coprolite dropped considerably. This was due to a variety of causes, chiefly the introduction of Free Trade which led to the import of wheat and meat from Canada and America, and the discovery of a much cheaper rock phosphate in the United States. Farmers and contractors who had depended on the coprolite trade suffered. These conditions led to labour being laid off and machinery being sold.

**HOBACK FARM, WHADDON
IMPORTANT SALE OF COPROLITE PLANT Etc.**

Messrs Grain and Long are favoured with instructions from Mr. F. J. Carver, who has now finished his extensive coprolite works, to sell by Auction on the 29th July.

**VALUABLE PLANT AND MACHINERY**
comprising 2 8-horse power PORTABLE ENGINES by Burrell in capital order, 4 Engine Sheds, 3 Coprolite Mills with Rings, Harrows and Working Gear complete. Steam Saw bench in perfect order, 4 Tangye’s Steam Pumps, a large quantity of Tram Iron, Weighbridge. Two and a half Horse-power Tom Thumb TRACTION ENGINE. Barrows, Pumps, very promising 2 year old fillies Etc. and other items too numerous to mention."

*Royston Crow 23rd July, 1886*

**A NEW TREATMENT**

It may interest readers to know that the recent discovery of anti-toxin has proved a great service in a case of diphtheria at Whaddon. The case is that of a girl, named Mabel Lovely, living in Bridge Street, Whaddon. Dr Bindloss at once procured and inoculated the child with anti-toxin serum, and an immediate improvement took place. The improvement was steadily maintained from day to day, and the patient is now convalescent. This we believe is the only case in the district for some time, consequently there has been no opportunity of testing this new treatment.

*Royston Crow 1st May 1886*

**OH DEAR!!**

**TWO TRAP ACCIDENTS IN ONE WEEK**

On Friday evening last a Royston lady, with a lady and gentleman friend, were out for a drive, and after taking tea in this village started on the return journey Melbourn way. When opposite Mrs. Palmer’s gate the pony stumbled and went down, throwing the occupant of the trap into the road. One lady had some teeth knocked out and the other a severe shaking, while the gentleman fell onto the pony’s back and so escaped. A gentleman from Meldreth was just behind on his bicycle and rendered assistance. The pony’s knees were badly cut.

*Royston Crow 24th October 1902*

**A DEATH CONCEALED**

Last Saturday, an inquest was held at the home of Mr. F J Carver, farmer, Whaddon, on the view of a body of the illegitimate child of Susan Stokes, living as a servant in Mr. Carvers’ employ. It appeared that the mother of the deceased was confined early on Thursday morning. Upon returning to her bedroom she was questioned by her fellow servant as to where the child was. She replied downstairs, and that it was in the steam boiler (there was no water in it), where the body was found dead. The mother admitted that she saw the child alive. The jury after the medical evidence returned a verdict of “found dead but by what cause there is insufficient evidence to show”. It is expected that a charge of concealment will be preferred.

*Royston Crow 1st June 1877*

**....and the consequences**

*WHADDON.* The exceptional circumstances of a large number of able-bodied labourers appearing at the Board Room of the Royston Union on Wednesday last through being out of work... This surplus in their case is in great measure the effect of a busy run of coprolite digging in the neighbourhood... The two parishes of Bassingbourn and Whaddon, from which the applicants to the Guardians came... naturally are among the first parishes to experience the gradual disappearance of coprolite works from the district. ... They were called before the board and were informed that all the Board could do for them was to give them an order for the Workhouse. This they did not at the time seem disposed to accept.

*Royston Crow 10th December 1886*

By the 1891 Census there were only 8 coprolite workers in Whaddon from a total of 73 listed in the 1871 census. At its peak about 400 acres were dug in Whaddon. It had been a labour-intensive industry that affected the social and economic life of the village.

*********

**Help!** We should like to write up all the details we have on Whaddon School. Personal memories of their school days from past pupils would make it more interesting.

Here’s one to start the memories flowing:

There was a pickled adder in a jam jar on a shelf above where the hatch to the kitchen is now.

*S&J Rolls May 2004.*
Carol Wilson  “I am looking forward to National Neighbourhood Watch Week!”

“National NHW week is June 12-19th – and I am setting up a few initiatives that need your support. The week commences with National Good Neighbours Day. We have promoted this over the last two winters for the elderly neighbour. Your new Cluster Co—ordinator will be giving out information regarding this event soon. Befriend a New Neighbour is another campaign for the week. This week I will be visiting all the estate agents on the sector and leaving ‘Peace of Mind While You Move Home’ leaflets with an introduction to NHW and my contact details. When a completed slip is returned to me, I will pass it on to the appropriate Co-ordinator, whom I trust would then introduce themselves to the new resident. Also during NHW week, I will be out with the Community Beat Managers and the District Co-ordinator in the mobile station promoting NHW in the villages that have no co-ordinators.”

Christopher Fisher  “It’s Time to Move On!”

Setting up the Neighbourhood Watch in Whaddon has been an amazing experience for me, as I have learnt so much from constructing, managing and chairing the committee. Winning the Community Safety Competition was also an incredible moment as we invested money in residents and making their lives safer. The last ten months have been a real learning curve and I hope to use my skills in the new position of District Co-ordinator. I won’t be leaving Whaddon completely; I will be working with Carol Wilson and the Community Safety Panel to construct the UK’s first ever official Youth Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Whaddon, as well as supporting the new Cluster Co-ordinator. I will also be representing the Sawston Sector on numerous committees including the Police Authority, the Community Safety Panel, Vehicle Task Force and Distraction Burglary. I must thank my dedicated deputy Sally Eley who has been amazing in her active involvement in the scheme. It is very sad to see her go and she will be missed by the committee.

Don’t forget to join us for our Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Festival in June. See you there!  

Whaddon Crime Rate

• No crimes have been recorded over the last few months.

- District Co-ordinator: Chris Fisher
- Cluster Co-ordinator: To be confirmed
- Deputy Cluster Co-ordinator: To be confirmed

CHRIS FISHER  (01223) 208947

DON’T FORGET THERE ARE MONTHLY UPDATES OF CRIME RATE & NEWS ON ALL NOTICEBOARDS
Whaddon Youth Neighbourhood Watch

Earlier this month we carried out a survey to find out what you thought of our prospective Youth Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Here is an update on what is happening...

- Carol Wilson and I are planning a Youth Neighbourhood Watch Launch Party in the Village Hall on Friday 11th June as Whaddon’s climax to National Neighbourhood Watch Week. More details will be available nearer the time.
- If you are over 18 and are interested in becoming a youth leader, please contact Chris now!!

DON’T FORGET

The Neighbourhood Watch email address has changed to whaddonneighbourhoodwatch@yahoo.co.uk

Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch is joining a campaign set up by the Community Safety Panel to track Bogus Callers.

As a Neighbourhood Watch, we are determined to alert residents to be wary of bogus callers. Whenever we hear that there are bogus callers in the area, either from you or the Police, we will drop a warning notice through your letterbox.

WANTED

Secretary to Neighbourhood Watch Committee. Must have a PC. Role is voluntary - contact Chris now.

NEXT ISSUE...

- The ultimate personal safety check.

COMING SOON...  JULY  SEPTEMBER

Family Safety Event 2004

Dusk Dawn

Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch

Home Protection Kit