PARTY IN THE BARN
In aid of Whaddon playground
Live music by Shredded Beat!
Bar & Champagne Bar
Friday 15 June 8 ‘til late
Leyhill Farm Whaddon
For more information ring
Carolyn 01223 208796
Anne 01223 207555
Over 18s only

Treasure Hunt and Summer Social
Get to know Whaddon better by foot
Saturday July 21st
2 pm
on the Recreation Ground
Followed by a Glass of Pimm’s
and Strawberries & Cream
Enjoying a Jazz Band
Tickets: £15 per Family of 4
extra children £1
Wendy Paton 01223 207703
Deborah Townsend 01223 208038
Anne Newberry 01223 207555
Karen Coningsby 01223 207514
TICKET ONLY FUNCTION
BY THE 23rd JUNE

St Mary’s Parish Church
FETE
Produce Show & Auction
On the Recreation Ground and Churchyard
WHADDON
SATURDAY 14 July
Ploughman’s lunch
at 12.30 pm
Fete opening at 2 pm
by
The Commander & Crew of Gamlingay Fire Service

WHADDON VILLAGE
BBQ
Saturday 30th June
7.00 pm
On the Recreation Ground
Bar
Dancing to Rainbird
Adults £9.00
Child/ £6.00
Concessions
5s & under Free

Donations of Salads gratefully received
Tickets available from
Deborah Townsend 01223 208038
Anne Newberry 01223 207555
Karen Coningsby 01223 207514
TICKET ONLY FUNCTION
BY THE 23rd JUNE

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TICKET ONLY FUNCTION
TICKETS BY 16th JULY
VILLAGE HALL.

Plans to extend, refurbish and update the building along with new car parking facilities are at the stage whereby Parish Councillors and the Management Committee have given their approval. The suggested scheme has been discussed with District Council Planners, we are now awaiting their comments before seeking Planning Consent. At the same time the scheme will be examined by a firm of Quantity Surveyors for costings. With Planning consent and an estimate of costs the whole scheme will be presented to Parishioners for comments. Research on how the money to pay for the project can be raised will also be examined in detail.

Parishioners are reminded of their mandate given to the Parish Council in the Parish Plan, to retain the Village Hall Building, extend and refurbish it.

Ted Webb
Chair WPC and Management Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th June</td>
<td>Barn Party</td>
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<td>18th June</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
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<td>30th June</td>
<td>Village BBQ</td>
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<td>14th July</td>
<td>Church Fete</td>
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<td>16th July</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
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<td>21st July</td>
<td>Summer Social</td>
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<td>18th September</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
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<td>13th October</td>
<td>Quiz night</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th July</td>
<td>Church Fete</td>
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<td>16th July</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
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DEADLINE
Deadline for the next newsletter will be 12th August 2007. All items of village interest are always very welcome.
Contact Joan Pascoe C. 208062

www.whaddon.org

Whaddon’s own website.

Find out what’s going on and learn more about Whaddon. You’ll be amazed at what a mine of information it is.

And if you want to put something on the site, just give me a ring on 207688 or send an email to lee.ginger@btinternet.com Or put a note through my door

Lee Ginger
99 Meldreth Road

DOG OWNERS

Please could all dog owners ensure that they clear up their dog’s excrement and place in the Doggie bins provided in the village.

Thank you.
Ridley Hall Gospel Choir performs in Whaddon

On Saturday 10 March the Ridley Hall Gospel Choir gave a superb concert in the church. The building had not been filled with so much sound in all its 650 years! Many there knew Lisa Jackson, who directs the choir. Lisa is a third-year student ordinand at Ridley Hall, the theological college in Cambridge. She has spent her practical training working in Bassingbourn and Whaddon.

The choir was formed in 2005 when students met for a break from academic work to 'sing Gospel'. The aim is a simple one: to celebrate God through music and have fun doing it! The enjoyment the choir got out of singing was obvious but the importance of the message was not overlooked. Each item was individually introduced by a choir member for whom that song had special meaning. The audience played its part too. Lisa had the church grouped, in up to three sections on more than one occasion, each singing its own line.

The concert didn’t just feature voices. The choir took a well earned break and we were all treated to some brilliant instrumental playing from Sax’n Keys: Jo Luckhurst on saxophones and Catherine Vaughan on keyboard. It was an excellent evening and a great start to fundraising in aid of the organ. A total of £520 was raised at the event.

Look out for more fundraising events in the future!

Urgent funds needed to repair the organ

Urgent repairs that will cost £5,000 are required to bring the organ back to a state where it can be more easily played. This sum will sort out the pedal Bourdon and Principal chest. Some of the wooden Bourdon pipes have split and some action wires within the soundboard have snapped, causing a number of notes not to work. For this amount we will also be able to repair the Stop Diapason and the Sesquialtera on the Great Manual. Thereafter £10,000 is required for a major overhaul and cleaning of the whole instrument. Total restoration would cost somewhere between £50,000 and £100,000!

Try the web site www.whaddon.org/church/choir.html for some interactive explanations to the technical details and a plea for funds. More details Clare Byatt 207 429 or Betsy Milton 207 105.

Whaddon’s Famous Organ

The visit of the Ridley Hall Gospel Choir to St Mary’s, Whaddon, on 10 March 2007 was to raise funds in aid of the organ in the church. The beautiful and interesting organ that stands in Whaddon Church arrived in 1857 and was a gift from John Felix Beaumont of Town Farm. He bought, and had enlarged and modified, a much older instrument built by John Snetzler in, or about, the year 1740. Snetzler was a famous organ-builder. The first organ that he built in England was made for the celebrated composer George Frederic Handel in 1741 and used at the first performance of the Messiah in 1742.
New Churchwarden for Whaddon

At the Annual Parochial Meeting on Tuesday 24 April, Karen Coningsby was re-elected as Churchwarden of St Mary’s. She is joined by David Grech, who was elected in place of Tony Gardner. Tony was thanked for his hard work and service, caring for the church, during his many years as PCC member and for the last two years as Churchwarden.

St Luke’s Hospital, Malawi

The Coffee Morning held at the Golf Centre during Lent, for the mission hospital, St Luke’s in Malawi, raised a total of £171.06

Many thanks to all involved for their generosity. We are pleased to support this worthwhile cause.

Iris Green

Church contacts
Revd Dr Donald McFadyn, 01763 244836 (part-time only)
Karen Coningsby, Churchwarden 01223 207514
David Grech, Churchwarden 01223 208938
Clare Byatt, Secretary 01223 207429
Betsy Milton, Treasurer 01223 207105

Times of services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Family Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Communion</td>
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</tbody>
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Don’t forget:

The regular **Family Service** is a short service for **all ages** at 10 am on the Fourth Sunday of the month:

**24 June, 22 July, 26 Aug**

Everyone most welcome

Bassingbourn Big Village Gig

Were you one of the Whaddonians in the crowd of 300 people spanning three generations dancing together under the stars at the inaugural Big Village Gig last summer? If so, we hope you’ll want to come again. If you missed it here’s your second chance.

On Sunday 15th July the second Big Village Gig will take place in the garden of Bassingbourn Vicarage, an open-air event of live music, from rock to jazz, and lots in-between. We’ll be starting a little earlier than last year, at 4pm, and going on into the evening.

We’re currently finalizing the line-up of bands, but I’m thrilled to confirm that we’ll be welcoming back The Rodford Files, led by bass player Jim Rodford, who played in legendary bands The Kinks and The Animals, and who currently plays with the Zombies and the Swinging Blue Jeans.

So pack up your picnics and your lanterns and come and enjoy a family summer gig to remember! (You may even spot your Vicar playing a drum kit.)

To book your tickets phone Erica Coomber on (01763) 244714.
At last your Neighbourhood Watch team is complete. Karen Coningsby has joined us as a Coordinator, and has very kindly agreed to cover Upper Meldreth Road as well as Church Corner. This means that, for the first time in years, the entire village is properly covered with the unfortunate exception of Cardiff Place which is proving impossible to include on account of the apathy of its residents. Our coordinator there has had to admit defeat as it seems that the residents do not really consider themselves part of Whaddon.

Over the past year crime in the village has remained very low. One house burglary took place, in the middle of the day, but since the house had apparently been left unlocked whilst all residents were absent, a lesson should perhaps be learned by us all from it. One other theft took place on a building site. Vigilance in the community has been very pleasing. Last May two males were seen behaving in a suspicious manner in the village. Their car registration number was recorded, and this earned us praise from the Police as the men were known to them but no registration number had been recorded before. In February a large quantity of brand new plumbing material was found dumped very early in the morning and reported to the Police who were consequently able to inform the victims of the theft (the Affordable Housing in Meldreth Road, Meldreth) of its whereabouts when they reported it stolen.

Neighbourhood Watch and the Parish Council are aware that children, at least one of whom is known to be from the village, have been indulging in what began as minor vandalism of the playground and the roof of the adjoining garage. This has now escalated into something more serious. We would remind those children responsible that vandalism is a criminal action and they should think seriously about what they are doing before the police have to become involved.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances we were unable, at the last minute, to attend the Annual Police Conference at Huntingdon in November. However, two delegates did attend a meeting at Impington entitled "Neighbourhood Watch Supporting Neighbourhood Policing" in October. The meeting was addressed by both Police and Fire Officers.

In September a Coffee Morning was held at the Golf Centre by kind permission of Ken Green. Mark Taylor, South Cambs Community Fire Safety Officer, addressed the meeting on "Fire Safety in the Home". The Coffee Morning was well attended and the talk was well received. It was encouraging to have a good attendance and we are very grateful to Ken Green for sponsoring the event again.

At the end of 2006 Neighbourhood Watch was asked by the Parish Council to arrange a Public Meeting in the Village Hall. This request followed concerns expressed by several members of the public concerning possible misuse of firearms in the environs of the village, and about the control of vermin generally. Accordingly, a meeting was arranged on 20th December. Chaired by Ken Charles and very well attended, the meeting was addressed by the Firearms Control Officer who imparted a clearer understanding of the law relating to the use of firearms, and also vermin control. Hopefully this calmed the fears of those who had expressed concern. Louise Shaw agreed that if anyone had further worries they could ring her, but in the event of a suspected crime being committed with firearms, even if "only" a vermin control issue, the police should be informed as with any other crime.

Despite taking pleasure in being able to report that crime in the village remains low, we would remind everybody once again that eyes and ears are our best weapons. If you see anything that you think is suspicious, let your N.W. Coordinator know. We would also remind everybody that if they suffer any crime, however minor, it is absolutely imperative that they report it to the Police, even if they feel it might be too minor to bother. If the police don't know about it they cannot be accused of being apathetic! Do remember that we are beginning the time of year when theft from sheds and outhouses can become a particular problem, and ensure that yours are kept very secure at all times.

Our local Community Beat Officer is Dave Martin and he can be reached on 07736 800128.

www.whaddon.org
WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on the evening of the 21st May 2007. Traditionally the first business was to elect a new Chairman and the Vice Chairman. Councillors were unanimous in the decision to re-elect Mr. E J Webb for Chairman and Mrs. Clare Byatt for Vice Chairman.

The Council is in the process of obtaining Quality Status Certification, this does mean that the Annual Report for the period May 2006 - April 2007 presented by the Chairman to the meeting has to be published. The Newsletter will ensure that every dwelling in the Parish will receive a copy.

The format of the report is in three parts:

1) Full list of Councillors
2) A summary of the Council Financial Accounts
3) An overview by the Chairman of the Council’s Achievements

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.2004 the full report can be obtained from the Clerk/Finance Officer, Mrs. Y Albery Tel 01223 207458

Part 1. Whaddon Parish Councillors, including the Clerk/Finance Officer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr E J Webb</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>01223 207564  42 Bridge Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs C Byatt</td>
<td>V-Chairman</td>
<td>01223 207429  Turpins Farmhouse, Church Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms M Peyton</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207358  Ermine Farm, Dyers Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr P Neale</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207706  104 Bridge Street, Dyers Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr N Strudwick</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207434  3 Town Farm Close, Church Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof A Milton</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207105  Chestnut Tree Farm, Meldreth Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr L Ginger</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207688  99 Meldreth Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Y Allbery</td>
<td>Clerk/Finance Officer</td>
<td>01223 207458  112 Meldreth Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part 2. Brief Summary of Financial Accounts

- Total Income £30653.46
- Total Expenditure £27547.18
- Bank Balance at 30th March 2007 £4254.27
- Unpresented cheques £1147.99
- Income over Expenditure £3106.28
- Tracker Accounts as at 4th March 2007 £9195.68 (including £241.30 interest)

Part 3. Chairman’s overview of Council’s Achievements

Over the period of the report the Council held 10 monthly meetings along with a number of in-house committee meetings. Councillors attendances were generally good, there was room for improvement in some cases. At no time was a meeting abandoned for lack of quorum although on some occasions the minimum requirement was just achieved. Attendances by the District and County Councillors was reasonably good. Parishioners attendances and support was as usual very poor.

The Parish Plan Recommendations were given serious thought at a special in-house meeting. A list of 10 recommendations were adopted and prioritised, the remainder were either completed or well in hand. Priority was given to the following:

1) Speeding through the village.
2) Whaddon Gap/A1198 Junction Improvement
3) Bus Layby at Ridgeway Close. Replacement Bus Shelter.

Much work has been established already.
The Village Hall Refurbishment, Extension and update has progressed to a point whereby Architects Drawings are complete and have been discussed with District Council Planners. Planning Consent will be applied for in due course. Plans will be passed on to a Quantity Surveyor already commissioned, for Costing.

The Council dealt with 11 Planning Applications over the period of the report.

The Council has accepted an invitation from County Highways Div. to join the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme. Working together the scheme is for the general upkeep of the Parish Paths. The County have already earmarked a sum of £300 for the purpose.

There are hopeful signs for Public Transport (Bus Service) to encompass the village. This is the results of some very thoughtful negotiations by Councillor Lee Ginger with County Council Transport Div. Because the proposals submitted by Lee attract no extra funding the Parish Council are very hopeful. The County will make the decision later in the year.

The Children’s Play Areas on the Recreation Ground is to be improved, to include new Play Equipment. The Council sought the help of Resident Neil Gallery to arrive at a scheme.

The Village Web Site was set up by Councillors and is proving popular and informative. The Web Site is being very well managed

I want now to applaud the Parish Council’s Clerk/Finance Officer Mrs. Yvonne Albery. Yvonne has worked tirelessly throughout the past year as in previous years to keep the Council running smoothly and efficiently. She has kept the Financial Activities of the Council under strict control including making sure that the Council receives all Finance it is entitled to. Her dealings with Parishioners and their problems were dealt with great diplomacy. Yvonne’s assistance to myself as Chairman was immense.

I would like to thank Mrs. Louise Shaw for organising and keeping the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the village very much alive. I would also like to thank all the many volunteers who ably assist with the scheme.

Finally I want to thank my Deputy, Clare Byatt for all her help and assistance. I also thank all my colleague Councillors for their help and assistance.

E J (Ted) Webb
Chairman
21/05/07

Parish Path Partnership 2007-2008

The Parish Path Partnership scheme is a partnership between the Parish Council and County Council with District Council support. It aims to improve, maintain and promote public Rights of Way within the village. The scheme allows a parish to have a greater say on how and where funding could be spent on its Rights of Way, such as improving access for legitimate users on a footpath. This does not mean that we take responsibility for the Rights of Way as the County Council will always maintain that role.

A grant of funds is usually available for the Parish to help in the aims of the scheme.

We are pleased to announce that this year; a grant of £300 has been offered by the County Council to Whaddon.

When we applied for the scheme, the following ideas for improvements were listed in the application:
Footpath 8: New Kissing Gates at the Meldreth road and Bridge St. ends (we have since found out that a separate fund may be available for this work)
Footpath 7: Improvements to footbridge surface
Footpaths signs around village - repainting or replacement.
Footpaths 11 and 22: Possible stiles/gates, new signs
These were our initial thoughts and the next stage is to discuss the options with a representative from the County Council.

If any parishioner has any ideas or comments on the scheme, then please contact one of your Councillors.
SAFE BARBECUING!

Now that the warm, light evenings are with us and the smell of barbecues are sizzling across the County, a timely warning has been given by Mark Taylor, Community Safety Officer for South Cambs District.

Said Mark “We are currently experiencing some delightful weather and it is natural to go outdoors and enjoy it with family and friends.

By following some simple rules you can ensure your barbecue is a safe enjoyable event.”

- Keep young children well away from the barbecue.
- Stand portable barbecues on an even surface and make sure they are away from the house, fences or shed.
- Use only approved lighter fuels, never petrol.
- Lighter fuels must only be applied before lighting.
- Remember to light your charcoal an hour before you commence cooking.
- Don’t be over generous with the charcoal.
- Be careful with fatty foods and never pour oil onto meat when it is cooking.
- After the event seal your charcoal bag and store in a dry place, which will make it easier to light next time.
- If you are the chef, try not to drink too much whilst cooking.
- Never put petrol on any barbecue to try re-ignite it – start the process again, properly.
- After you have finished cooking, extinguish the burning coals. Then leave a period of time, 1 to 3 hours, to check that the fire is completely out.

In closing Mark said: “This may seem a long list but most of these things are common sense. By far the biggest danger is the use of flammable liquids to light the barbecue. We have had a couple of occasions where people have poured petrol onto the charcoal in an effort to get it going and the reaction has, not surprisingly, been violent and highly dangerous. Prepare well in advance and light the charcoal early. Most of all, enjoy yourself in safety.” If you require any further information, or would like a free Home Fire Safety Check, please do not hesitate to contact South Cambs District office and make your appointment on 01223 376217.

### Thank You

The Parish Council would like to thank the following Parishioners who gave up their Saturday time recently to install the recently purchased Picnic Table on the Village Recreation Ground.

Roger Huffer, Henry Burgess, Giles Custerson, Mark Newberry, Pete Hussey, Will Knight.

Special thanks to Neil Gallery, Will Burchett and Ron Albery for organising, designing and overseeing the project, and to Roger Huffer for supplying the JCB along with sand etc.

Many thanks.

TW
The Friends of Meldreth Manor are happy to announce that the annual summer fete on Saturday 23rd June will be opened by Lord Jeffrey Archer.

The fete opens at 1pm. Admission is 50P per adult and children are FREE.

Fun for all the family—tombolas, games, crafts, plants, cakes, pancakes, dance, music, steam train, Grand draw.

Help on the day or donation of prizes or cakes for the event would be much appreciated. Please call Rosemary Johnson on 01763 268000.
TIMES PAST

NEW SERIES 1

Whaddon and Slavery

What can possibly be the connection between Whaddon and the evil practice of slavery? In this the 200th year since the abolition of slavery, it is interesting to observe how the wealth of a prominent member of 18th century Whaddon depended directly on the slave trade.

Dame Grace Pickering, the second wife of Sir Henry Pickering of de Scalers Manor, the remains of which are beneath the driving range of the Golf Course, was the daughter of Constant and Grace Silvester. Constant was a merchant of London and Barbados. Their children were sons Constant and Humphrey and daughters Grace and Mary. Constant senior emigrated to Barbados and acquired a sugar plantation which used slave labour. In 1651 he bought, with his brother Nathaniel and two others, Shelter Island, Long Island, New York, covering 8,000 acres. It was the main source of resources for Barbados sugar plantations, producing barrel staves needed to make containers for transporting goods, such as wine, molasses and food stuffs. Twenty African slaves, both skilled and semi-skilled, worked as coopers, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.

It might be appropriate to look why the slave trade started in Barbados. During the 17th and 18th centuries European tastes were transformed by the advent of coffee, tea and chocolate. Hand in hand with this new taste came the need for sugar. In 1625 with the conquest of Barbados and other West Indian islands, an ideal place had been found for the growing of sugar. With Dutch money, British indentured labour and African slavery, Barbados was transformed into a luxurious sugar island and the initial small holdings of the original settlers soon gave way to large plantations. By 1650 there were 300 and twenty years later there were 900 all worked by slaves. The slave owners cared only about the work their slaves could produce. It is not the place here to describe the conditions under slavery, but did Europeans make the connection between the sugar they consumed and the misery of the slaves producing it?

Did Dame Grace have any thoughts about the source of her parents’ wealth?

In 1671 Constant senior died and left his “Lands, Tenements and (40) Negroes” to his wife Grace. On her death in 1702, as her elder brother had died at sea, Grace Pickering inherited these plantations. Sir Henry Pickering went to Barbados to administer the estate. When he died in 1705 his body was returned to Whaddon for burial.

The riches to be made in the sugar plantations is illustrated by just one bequest made by Constant in his will dated 24 Jan 1671. For his daughters he states “…item; I give and bequeath unto my daughters Grace and Mary to each of them the sum of two thousand pounds sterling to be paid to each respectively at her Marriage or her age of one and Twenty years which of them shall first happen…”. As well as this sum of money each daughter had a further bequest of £100 to buy a jewel and £60 per annum for maintenance and education. As the pound at this time was worth about £100 in today’s money, these were considerable sums and illustrate the profits that could be made from the use of slaves!

These points bring us back to the question asked earlier. Dame Grace must have known of the origin of her wealth but one can suppose that with the attitudes of the time she did not feel guilty about the origin of the money. During her lifetime Dame Grace made bequests to the Church including the clock. Were these paid for with ‘slave’ money?

Slaves at work on a sugar plantation

S & J Ralls, May 2007