

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Citizens Advice:

Cambridge 03448 487979

Royston 03444 111444

### Councillors:

County: Susan van de Ven 07905 325574

District: Jose Hales 01763 221058

Sally Ann Hart 07791 233303

### Doctors:

Orchard Surgery, Melbourn 01763 260220

Granta Royston Health Centre 0300 2345555 option 7

Granta Market Hill Surgery, Royston 0300 2345555 option 5

Roysia Surgery, Royston 01763 243166

### Hospital:

Addenbrooke's Hospital 01223 245151

### Police:

Non emergency Number 101

**Samaritans:** 01223 364455 (charges)

116 123 (free)

### Transport:

National Rail Enquiries 03457 484950

Stagecoach East 01223 433250

Myalls of Bassingbourn (Bus 17) 01763 243225

Centrebus (Bus 26) 0116 410 5050

### Utilities:

Anglian Water 03457 145145

Cambridge Water Company 01223 706050

Electricity Emergency & Supply Loss 08007 838838

### Vets:

Melbourne Veterinary Surgery 01763 262696

Royston Veterinary Surgery 01763 242221

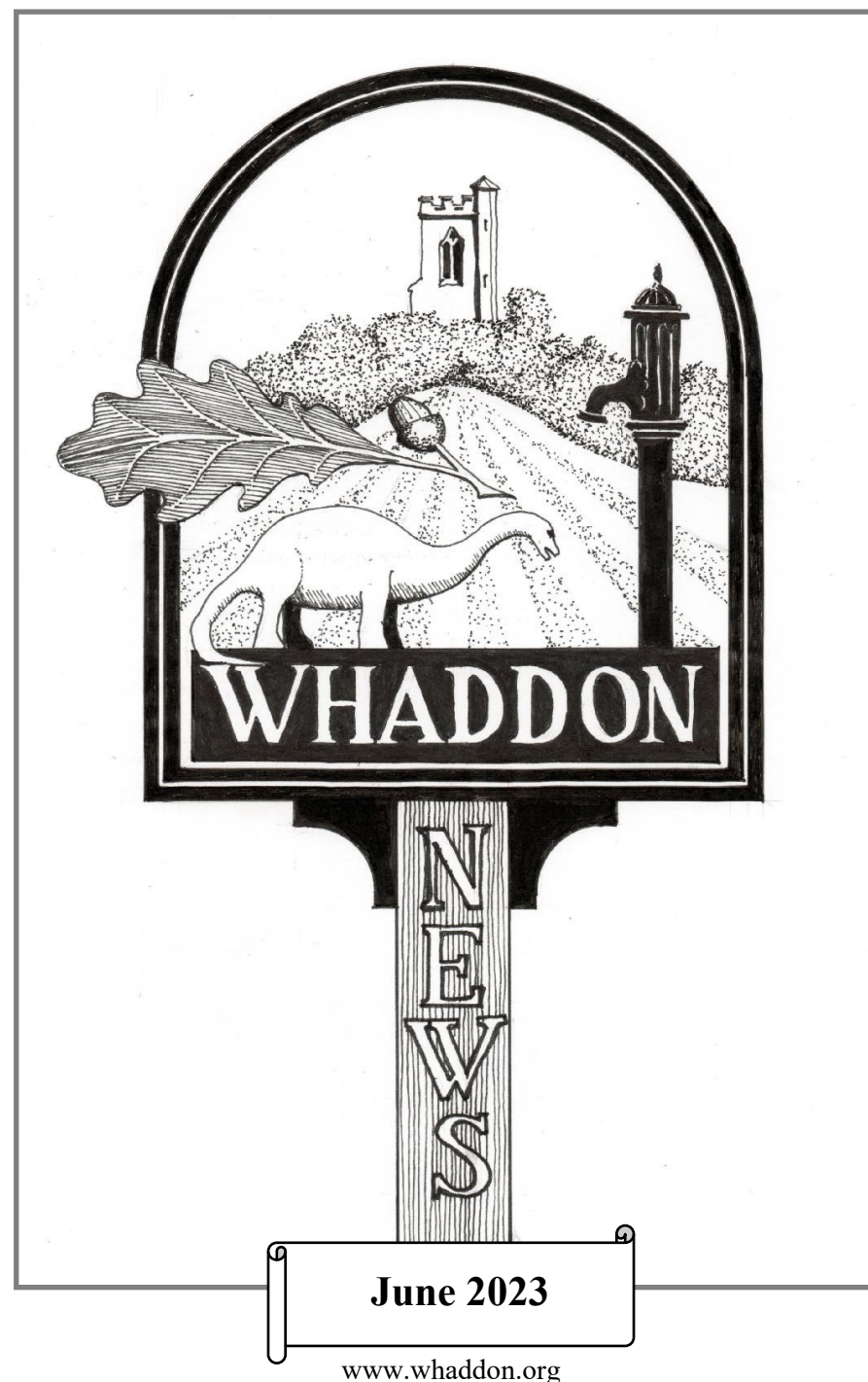
## WHADDON NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

Half page advert for one issue £12.50

Half page advert for one year (4 issues) £40.00

Other options may be available on request.

Contact Angela Bridges, the Parish Clerk:  
whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com



www.whaddon.org

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th June	Coffee morning	10th July	Parish Council
12th June	Parish Council	19th July	Coffee morning
18th June	Cricket	23rd July	Cricket
21st June	Coffee morning	26th July	Cricket
25th June	Cricket	2nd August	Coffee Morning
2nd July	Cricket	6th August	Cricket
5th July	Summer lunch	13th August	Cricket
8th July	New Village Fete	16th August	Coffee Morning
9th July	Cricket	3rd Sept	Cricket

### NEWSLETTER

*The recent Parish Plan included a short section on the Whaddon News. It is excellent that the News is highly regarded by villagers but nearly 15% of respondents thought it could be improved, which of course is true; most things can be made better. However this would entail more contributions from villagers. Suggestions of additional articles included more Cardiff Place information, nature notes, recipes, puzzles and a children's section.*

*We will endeavour to gradually expand to include some of these suggestions. If you have a particular hobby or interest you'd like to share with the village or can contribute to the suggestions above, please contact me. It doesn't have to be a regular item although that would be very welcome!*

*The Whaddon News is for all parishioners and the more varied the content the better the magazine.*

*The deadline for the next newsletter is **August 14<sup>th</sup>**.*

*Joan Pascoe C 208062 joanpascoe@aol.com*

### VILLAGE HALL HIRE

Special rates for those within the village - ideal for birthday parties and most functions.

Village Rate: £8 per hour

Non-village Rate: £12 per hour

Please contact:

[whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org](mailto:whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org)

### LIST OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr Lee Ginger	Chair	07850 252015	lee.ginger@btinternet.com 14 Carlton Rise, Melbourn SG8 6BZ
Dr Nigel Strudwick	Vice Chair	C 207434	3 Town Farm Close
Mr Will Elbourn	Councillor	C 208955	College Farm, Church Street
Anita Birch	Councillor	07748 908164	68 Bridge Street
Joanne Hart	Councillor	C208009	108 Church Street
Deborah Townsend	Councillor	07388 033616	36 Bridge Street
Claire Hales	Councillor	07901 523525	5 Bridge Street
Mrs Angela Bridges	Clerk/ Finance Officer	—	whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TEAM

Malan Peyton	Whaddon Village Coordinator	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green	C 207358
<b>Coordinators:</b>			
Karen Coningsby	Meldreth Road/Church Corner	17 Church Street	C 207514
Carole Aldred	Church Street/Town Farm Close/ St Marys Close	104 Church Street	C 208147
Maria Mould	Lower Bridge Street / Ridgeway Close	39 Bridge Street	C 207231
Helen Smith	Upper Bridge Street	9 Bridge Street	C 207631
Malan Peyton	Dyers Green	Ermine Farm Dyers Green	C 207358

### Local Enforcement:

Neighbourhood Policing Team (Cambourne):

[www.cambs.police.uk/LocalPolicing/SouthCambs/Cambourne](http://www.cambs.police.uk/LocalPolicing/SouthCambs/Cambourne)

### Dial 999 to report a crime actually happening or when lives are at risk.

For a non-emergency matter please consider using [www.cambs.police.uk/report](http://www.cambs.police.uk/report) or web chat **#safercambs** to report a crime. Both of these are likely to have a quicker response time than dialling 101.

### BIN COLLECTION DATES

Thurs 1 June	Black	Wed 19 July	Blue/green
Wed 7 June	Blue/green	Wed 26 July	Black
Wed 14 June	Black	Wed 2 Aug	Blue/green
Wed 21 June	Blue/green	Wed 9 Aug	Black
Wed 28 June	Black	Wed 16 Aug	Blue/green
Wed 5 July	Blue/green	Wed 23 Aug	Black
Wed 12 July	Black	Thurs 31 Aug	Blue/green

### Mobile Library

Every 4th Wednesday  
10.00 - 10.30  
Meldreth Road

Wednesday 28 June

Wednesday 26 July

Wednesday 23 Aug



## Bassingbourn Community Library

The Old School Community Centre  
Telephone : 07593 853189  
[bassingbourncommunity.library@gmail.com](mailto:bassingbourncommunity.library@gmail.com)

Your local volunteer run library has a stock of over 5000 books, and we give access to the Cambridgeshire County Library, from where you can order almost any book.

*And our café is open to sell tea, coffee, cold drinks and delicious treats.*

### Normal Opening Hours

Monday	2 - 4.30pm
Thursday	2 - 4.30pm 6 - 8pm
Saturday	10 - 12 noon



**Library membership is free – so join us today!**



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# The New Village Fete

Saturday July 8th  
2pm - 5pm

**Craft Stalls** **Beer Tent** **Tea & Cake**

**Village Show** **Children's Games**

**BBQ**

**and so much more....Come join the fun.**



## WHADDON VILLAGE FETE SATURDAY 8TH JULY 2023

This year the fete will be in a new format as a Village Fete, promoted jointly by the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust and St Mary's Whaddon PCC. The aim is to give the fete a bit of a 'make-over', keeping some of the more popular components while allowing space and time for some new ideas, with the hope of delivering an event that will appeal to a greater cross section of the village and visitors from outside of Whaddon. Afterwards, the organising committee will be looking for feedback to help with planning next year's fete.

The organising committee will be looking for contributions to help stock the plant and cake stalls, along with suitable contributions for the tombola stall and raffle prizes. Contributions of home-made cakes and biscuits will also be needed for serving with teas, and we will need help in setting up, running and clearing up after the fete. More information will be circulated nearer the time via the village e-mail, WhaddsApp and posters displayed around the village. We look forward to a fun afternoon that will be enjoyable for all.

Whaddon Village Fete Organising Committee.



**Located in Wimpole Village Hall and serving the surrounding villages.**

**Open Monday to Friday during term time.**

**For 2 to 4 year olds.**

Highly experienced staff provide stimulating learning experiences through play and structured activities.

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For more information visit: [www.mothergoosepreschool.co.uk](http://www.mothergoosepreschool.co.uk)

email: [admin@mothergoosepreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@mothergoosepreschool.co.uk) or

phone: 01223 208527.

## Nature Notes – Marsh Harriers

If you are walking up the avenue towards Wimpole Hall, keep an eye out for a pair of Marsh Harriers that are nesting on the reed basin. At this time, you are more likely to see the male, but later in the summer, when the chicks have hatched, you can also see the female flying in to feed their young – she is darker than the male, but with a pale crown to her head. The young Marsh Harriers should then fly in the second half of July.

David Grech



## ANTHONY BROWNE MP

Contact details for Anthony Browne MP are as follows:

**Email:** [Anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk)

**Address:** Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Road, Hardwick, CB23 7QJ

**Tel:** 01223 603677



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**Or Email: [4ashley.ives@gmail.com](mailto:4ashley.ives@gmail.com)**

**If you prefer, leave a message on 01223 207 342**

**Public liability insured, DBS cleared, references available**

## Answers to Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust Quiz.

1. 30 November 2010
2. The hall was originally the village primary school built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The school closed in the 1960's
3. The building was then bought by the parishioners, on behalf of the village and is now owned by the Parish Council
4. The building is now leased to the Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust on a 99-year lease. The lease is a full repairing lease, which means that, although only a peppercorn rent is payable, the village hall management committee is responsible for keeping it in a good state of repair.
5. The Trust Deed states that the management committee shall consist of 4 elected members, 5 appointed members and may include not more than 2 co-opted members. Therefore, any year, we can run with a maximum of 11 Trustees.
6. Look first on the village website [www.whaddon.org](http://www.whaddon.org) >info tab > Calendar to check availability.  
If available, email [whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org](mailto:whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org) who can officially confirm availability and provide you with booking details.
7. Residents of Whaddon £8/hour  
All others £12/hour
8. Yoga, Pilates, Motorcycle club, Whaddon Cricket Team, Table Tennis, Coffee morning, Royston and District Model Railway Club as well as private hires for social events, meetings, private clubs/friend's meetings etc.
9. Christmas lunch, Christmas tree decorating and lighting, Jubilee Celebrations, Film Night.



### Village Garden & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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Contact us:

Neil - 07540605860  
Suzanne - 07835400637  
Home - 01223 207960

Email - [villagegardenandproperty@gmail.com](mailto:villagegardenandproperty@gmail.com)

## Coffee Mornings.



Coffee mornings, held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, have been very well attended. In addition to a cup of tea or coffee there is normally a choice of two homemade cakes - and all for £1.50!

As sufficient funds have built up I have decided hold a summer lunch party on Wednesday 5th July in place of the coffee morning. This will be from 12 noon until 3pm. During June I will discuss with coffee morning attendees those items I'll provide from funds and other individual contributions. Everyone is welcome and hopefully the weather will be fine and we can be outside.

Joanne Hart



## They Came and Sang (Handel's Hallelujah Chorus)



In early January, the World Famous Whaddon Choir received an email inviting them to take a leading part in a **Come and Sing the Hallelujah Chorus** event in the village. This was to be for everyone in the village, plus friends and family, to come and join the choir to sing on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, and then again at the Easter service.

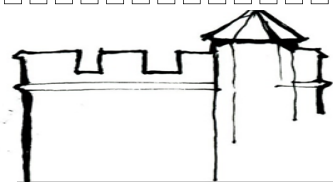
The choir rehearsed their individual parts (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) separately over several weeks, and then came together on 1<sup>st</sup> of March for the first of several get-togethers of all parts.

Then, on 25<sup>th</sup> March we had the Come and Sing event. This started with practices during the morning for each part, with the choir and any extra people who came to join in. Then at 2.30, everyone came together for a final rehearsal, ready for the 3 pm performance in the church.

No one knew whether there would be an audience, but just before 3 pm people started showing up. At little or no advance notice, members of the impromptu choir sang a few other parts from Handel's Messiah ('Comfort ye', 'Lift up your heads, O ye gates' and 'He shall feed his flock'), and then it was time for Hallelujah. The audience rose to their feet (as is traditional) and stood to listen. Everyone sang their hearts out and the audience were very appreciative, with lots of compliments; some people said they had goosebumps. We all thoroughly enjoyed singing it.

If you missed it, you can view the performance on the village Facebook page by following this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/WhaddonCambs/videos/207973658583802/>



## ST MARY'S CHURCH WHADDON

### Church Services at St Mary's over the Summer will be as follows:

#### June

Sunday 4th June	Morning Prayer at 9:30am
Sunday 11th June	Holy Communion at 9:30am
Sunday 17th June	Morning Prayer at 9:30am
Sunday 24th June	Holy Communion at 9:30am

#### July

Sunday 2nd July	Morning Prayer at 9:30am
Sunday 9th July	Holy Communion at 9:30am
Sunday 16th July	Morning Prayer at 9:30am
Sunday 23rd July	Morning Praise at 9:30am
Sunday 30th July	5th Sunday Joint Service of Holy Communion to be held at St Mary's Whaddon at 10:00am

#### August

Sunday 6th August	Morning Prayer at 9:30am
Sunday 13th August	Holy Communion at 9:30am
Sunday 20th August	Morning Prayer at 9:30am
Sunday 27th August	Morning Praise at 9:30am

### Contact Details for Rev. Helen Orr

Tel: 07761 241190 Email: [vicar@whaddon.org](mailto:vicar@whaddon.org)

My days in the parishes are Tuesday and Thursdays and weekend services



### N. HERTS AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The **Royston** office is now open **Monday** and **Wednesday** 9.30 am to 12 noon. To contact the local CAB please call 01462 689801 and leave a message or email [northhertscab.org.uk](mailto:northhertscab.org.uk)

The CAB also hold a session at the **Melbourn Hub** on **Wednesdays** 10am to noon. Appointments can be made via The Hub 01763 263303 option 1. Alternatively contact the CAB national phone service: Tel 0800 144 8848.

## THE 2023 WHADDON PARISH PLAN

Work has now concluded on drafting a new Parish Plan for Whaddon, and the final draft was considered and endorsed by the Parish Council at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Subsequently, a printed summary of the Plan was distributed to every household in the parish and an electronic version of the full Plan is now available on the parish website. Hard copies of the full Plan are also available, and may be requested from David Grech (01223 208938) or the Clerk to the Parish Council (e-mail [whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com)).

If there is one overarching theme that emerged from the responses to the questionnaires, it is probably the desire to make Whaddon a 'greener' place. That might be through tree and bulb planting to improve the appearance and biodiversity of the parish, by developing a safe, off-road route to Meldreth station to encourage walking and cycling, or through facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience to help make our homes more energy efficient.

The working group would like to thank all those who took the time to submit responses to the questionnaires. There were a wide range of opinions expressed within the responses, and we have endeavoured to capture and reflect those that are more widely held.

Many of the recommendations contained in the Plan will only come to fruition with the help of residents. For instance, ideas for expanding the content of the Whaddon News will require volunteers to step forward and draft that new content, so if you have the knowledge to contribute a regular 'Nature Notes' column, or similar, then please contact Joan Pascoe.

David Grech  
On behalf of the Parish Plan Working Group

### SUSAN VAN de VEN Cambridgeshire County Councillor

#### Zoom Cuppa Surgeries: Mondays 5-6PM

If you'd like to meet with your councillors by Zoom, to bring any concerns or ask any questions, please come along to our weekly Zoom Cuppa Surgery, now on Mondays from 5-6 PM. Please contact Sally Ann for a link: [Sallyannhart@riskingonpurpose.com](mailto:Sallyannhart@riskingonpurpose.com).

Alternatively, you can contact Susan on 07905325574 or email [susanvanden5@gmail.com](mailto:susanvanden5@gmail.com)

#### Monthly Newsletter:

Susan writes a monthly e-newsletter on issues affecting our area – please do let her know if you'd like to receive it, or would like anything to be included in it. Susan van de Ven County Councillor for Bassingbourn, Melbourn, Meldreth and Whaddon.

## **COMBERTON COMMUNITY SWIMMING CLUB**

(comberton-pool.org.uk)

The swimming club has been running for many years in its current form and offers the opportunity to swim outdoors during the summer months in a heated pool. Each household of up to 6 people pays a one off fee for the season and at least one adult member from the household has to carry out duties to enable the swimming sessions to run safely.

For further information go to **comberton-pool.org.uk** to learn more about the club and you can join online if you think this is for you. For households with children there are extra sessions during the school holidays on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons which tend to be a bit quieter.

If you have any questions about the club, then please feel free to contact me,

Jo Hart on 07534188354

## **GOLF CENTRE**

May is a busy month for the Golf Centre.

We welcomed friends and family to watch the Coronation of King Charles III and share a glass of Prosecco and some lunch. We had another successful visit from Slice of Price Pizza and look forward to their visit in June.

The Whitsun weekend and Real Ale festival finished off May with a barbecue on the Sunday afternoon. The weather is always a factor and the wet and now warmer days mean that the golf course is looking very lush.

All are welcome at the Golf Centre. We are open for Golf and also drinks and snacks. Do pop in for a coffee or tea or some lunch. Friday evening is Pub night. Whether it's a quick after work drink or an evening catching up with friends and village events the more the merrier

### **REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Tuesday	09.00 - 11.00	Yoga
	18.00 - 19.30	Dog Training
	20.00 - 21.00	Table Tennis
Wednesday	10.30 - 12.00	Coffee morning (1st & 3rd Wed )
Thursday	18.25 - 20.25	Pilates
Friday	09.15 - 11.15	Yoga
	17.45 - 19.15	Dog training
	20.00 - 22.00	Royston & District Model Railway Club
Saturday	08.00 - 12.00	Dog Training

## **Whaddon Cricket Club 2023 - Fixtures and Results**

DATE	MATCH	VENUE	RESULT
23 April	Longstowe	Away	Loss
30 April	Steeple Morden	Away	Cancelled
14 May	Sandon	Home	Win
21 May	Huffer XI	Home	Loss
4 June	'Unders v Overs'	Home	-
18 June	Train Boys	Home	-
25 June	Bassingbourn	Away	-
2 July	Sandon	Away	-
9 July	Royston Dads	Home	-
23 July	Guilden Morden	Away	-
26 July	Royston Misfits	Home	-
6 August	Cantabs	Home	-
13 August	Camb Ceylon	Home	-
3 September	Church St v Bridge St	Home	-
10 September	Hare Street	Away	-



01223 207325

[www.whaddongolfcentre.co.uk](http://www.whaddongolfcentre.co.uk)

Tuesday to Sunday

**Open to All**

9 Hole Par 3 Approach Course

Driving Range

Tuition

Bar

Coffee

Snacks and Ice Creams

Newspapers



## **CORONATION CELEBRATIONS IN WHADDON**

The Whaddon Village King's Coronation Event was held on Sunday May 7th. It was such a pleasure to see so many members of community attend and especially the number of children who turned up for the games. A big thank you to the Church Choir who performed Zadok the Priest at the start of the community tea and to DJ Stevie for providing the evening entertainment. The weather was very kind which made the event even better.

I would also like to thank everybody who helped with setting up the marquee and assisting with the events.

Please remember the all new Village Fete will be on Saturday July 8th.



*Children's games*



*Choir singing  
Zadok the Priest*



*Tug-of-war*



*Disco*

celebrations held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. There was something for everyone and the weather could not have been better. A truly excellent Whaddon effort.

### **Wildflower areas on verges**

One of the clear messages from the new Parish Plan is that villagers are much more aware of about environmental matters and are keen for suitable improvements in Whaddon. The PC has already started by planting the verges opposite Ridgeway Close and Bumpkins Pre-School with wildflower seeds. Verge mowing will be reduced but we shall keep a two-metre mowed border to allow for clear visibility for road users. We have also agreed to investigate other areas in the village where wildflower seeds can be planted.

### **Dog waste bins**

A new bin has been installed by the entrance to the footpath to Bumpkins in Meldreth Road. The bin on the Recreation Ground verge has been replaced by a new bin in the Village Hall car park, which is more convenient for the many dog walkers who use the Recreation Ground.

### **Parish Council meetings**

These normally take place on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The next meeting will be held on

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June.**

Minutes of PC meetings are on the village website [www.whaddon.org](http://www.whaddon.org) and on the noticeboard at the Village Hall in Church Street.

*Compiled by Lee Ginger*

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## Whaddon Parish Council Matters

### Whaddon Parish Plan

The plan team presented the new Parish Plan to the Parish Council in April and to villagers at the Annual Parish meeting a week later. Please read the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details of the Plan but the Parish Council wish to place on record our deep appreciation and thanks to the Plan team who have worked so prodigiously over the past 16 months. It certainly gives the Parish Council some clear ideas and strategic aims for the next five to ten years.

### PC Annual General Meeting

This was held as part of the May meeting. Lee Ginger was re-elected Chair for the year and Nigel Strudwick was elected Vice Chair. The Planning Committee now consists of Will Elbourn Jo Hart, Lee Ginger and Anita Birch plus David Grech who is a non-voting member. Anita also continues as one of the PC representatives on the Village Hall Trust. The PC will seek to nominate a villager to fill our other Trustee position.

### Annual Parish Meeting

This was held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April and was, once again, very well attended by villagers. Highlights of the evening were the presentation of the new Parish Plan and the return of Capt. Simon Betteridge, the Welfare Officer at Basingbourn Barracks, who gave us an update on progress at the Barracks. Thanks also to all the other speakers for their updates.

### Whaddon Gap road safety scheme

At last, all the details and budget issues

have been sorted out. The scheme is now waiting for a contractor to be appointed to get on with the work of installing a right turn lane and keep left island, together with changes to the road layout and new markings. We sincerely hope that this will all be completed by the time the next Whaddon News is published. Many thanks though, to our County Councillor Susan van de Ven, for her dogged pursuit of the various people to get this scheme and budget finally agreed.

### Ridgeway Close bus shelter

Following on from the installation of the new bus shelter at Ridgeway Close in February, it was disappointing to see that the timetable frame was then stolen on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, having been reinstalled only the day before! It would seem there are a number of thieves operating in the area who are stealing bus stops and timetable frames for their scrap value. A bus stop has been stolen in Melbourn together with the timetable frame! Please keep an eye out for these rogues and report any suspicious activity and vehicle numbers via the police report line, shown on the back cover of the Newsletter. Thanks to Richard and Lorna at the Golf Centre, who gave us three frames that they weren't using, bus timetables are now displayed in both Whaddon bus shelters.

### King's Coronation

The Parish Council wish to place on record their grateful thanks to the Village Coronation Committee for their hard work in organising the successful

## WHADDON VILLAGE HALL and RECREATION GROUND

Hi Everyone,

In April, as part of the Annual Parish Meeting, the Village Hall Trust presented a small quiz. So, in this edition of the Whaddon News, rather than presenting our usual article, we thought we'd share that quiz instead.

Please do take part. Answers are on page 16.

How much do you know about our Village Hall?

1. When was Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust first registered with the Charities Commission?
2. What did the Village Hall used to be?
3. Who owns the Village Hall?
4. Who is responsible for keeping the Village Hall in a good state of repair?
5. How many Trustees does the Village Hall have?
6. How do you hire the Village Hall?
7. How much does it cost to hire the Hall?
8. Can you name 5 Groups that meet at the Village Hall?
9. Can you name any 'Community Events' held in the Village Hall in the last 12 months?

### PC Repairs

### Advice & Installation of Home Networks

### Help with Selecting a Computer

### Fault Finding

**Brian Girling 01223 208529**

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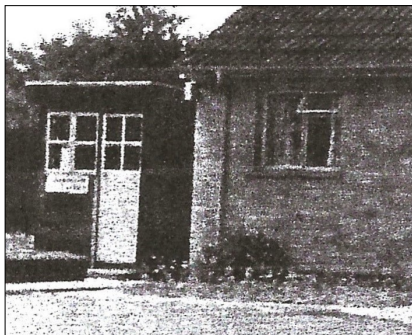
# TIMES PAST

## THE POST OFFICE IN WHADDON (2)

Additional information for this second part was kindly given by David Handscombe and Wendy Godfrey (née Handscombe).

In the first part of the post office history there was some doubt over services between 1945 and 1950. Further information suggests that Stanley Oliver did indeed provide services from his house in Bridge Street and Rose Law, who lived in the cottages opposite the village hall, also provided some services between the above dates. She also sold sweets from her front room.

In 1950 the post office relocated to the front room of the Webb family's cottage, 14-15 Bridge Street (now 40-42). This was run by Maisie Hanscombe (née Webb) who had moved from London to marry Frederick Handscombe, (known as Ted), in September 1950 at the age of 21. Maisie had been brought up in Whaddon and was the sister of Ted Webb whom many villagers will remember. The post office business was registered in Ted's name as Post Office rules did not allow a married woman to hold a business. So Ted went out to his full time work and Maisie ran the post office. At this time the couple were living at 15 Bridge Street but were building a bungalow next door with a small annexe at the side which became the post office and shop. The bungalow was called Springbanks.



*Springbanks with post office*

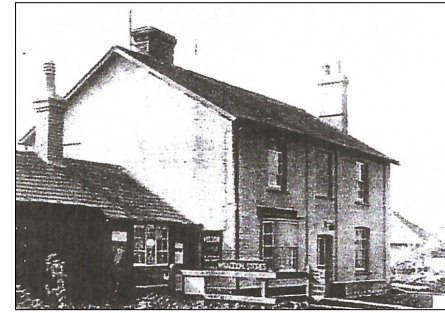
Springbanks was first recorded as a post office in the Electoral Registers in 1956. Access, across the stream, was by a footbridge consisting of two old railway sleepers, side by side, and a single handrail. Opening hours were 9 - 12.30 and (approx) 3 - 5 Monday to Fridays and Saturday mornings. The extended lunch break allowed a quick trip to Royston on market day for shopping. Initially the premises included a general store and sweet shop but this was later reduced to just a sweet shop.

David remembers collecting corona bottles, discarded by workmen, so he could claim the deposit. Generous pensioners would also give Wendy and David sixpence (6d) for sweets. A pot of pepper was kept behind the counter in case of a robbery. Sunday afternoons were used to settle the accounts.



*Maisie Handscombe at the post office.  
Cambridge News 21 May 1965*

The Handscombe family left Whaddon about 1974 and the post office was transferred to the shop at the home of Ann and Leslie Brandon at 132 Meldreth Road, the former premises of the Queen Adelaide public house which had closed in 1956. The Brandons had moved to Whaddon in about 1970. This shop, which also sold sweets, had been run by the Lewis family who immigrated to Australia.



*132 Meldreth Road with shop*

The post office continued at Ann's shop until her retirement in 1990. It then moved to the home of Bill and Rene Lamont who lived in the bungalow next door. They ran post office services from their kitchen until 1993.

Following much encouragement by Whaddon pensioners and realising there was a need, Ken Green agreed to run the post office from Whaddon Golf Centre assisted by his son Richard. It was opened in August 1993 by Richard Dykes, managing director of Post Office Counters.



*Ken Green (L) and Richard Dykes 1993*

This was followed by an official opening on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 1993, again by Richard Dykes, who presented Ken with an award. On this occasion Anglia Television were also present. At that time the Golf Club was one of the more unusual venues along with pubs, a windmill, potting shed, church vestry and even a foundry.



*Ken Green (L), Bill Lamont from  
Meldreth Road and two P.O. managers*



*Ken Green (L), Richard Dykes, Millie Watson  
from Home Cottages, Meldreth Road*



*Ken Green (L) and Ted Webb - chair of  
the Parish Council 2000-2008*

The post office was open 4 hours on a Thursday morning and provided the opportunity for pensioners to meet for coffee and a chat as well as collecting their pensions. As time went by some of the original pensioners had died, left the village, or had pension money paid directly into bank or other accounts. Thus, on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the facility finally closed at the Golf Centre – the end of an era in Whaddon.

*Joan Pascoe*