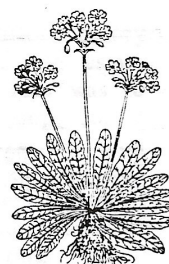




Whaddon News

March 1994



UNITED SERVICE
MOTHERING SUNDAY
Sunday 13th March at 9.45 a.m.
in the Parish Church
** ALL WELCOME **



COME AND "BRUSH UP"
ON YOUR DANCING

Thursday nights at the Village
Hall (Whaddon)

*Coached by Friends

*Enjoy a Social Evening

*For details ring Madge Compton
on 207 718 or 207 678

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING**

Friday 22nd April at 8 pm
in the Parish Church
ALL WELCOME

JUMBLE SALE

Friday 29th April
7 p.m.

in the Village Hall
To raise-funds for the
Whaddon Childrens' Christmas Party.

The Library Van now calls on alternate Mondays
2:15 - 2:25 pm in Meldreth Road; the next date it
calls being the 14th of March.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Annual Parish Council Meeting is on:

Monday 21st March at 7.30pm

All Welcome

Come and support your Councillors and take an interest in the village.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Fred Bradley, our Chairman, for all his hard work over the year.

He steers the meetings through regular topics, such as the stream. He has had several meetings recently with the NRA to measure the water flow and to discuss culverts that need clearing. The Parish Council is currently awaiting a list of authorised dams from the NRA.

Another regular topic of the parish concerns traffic: advice from the police reveals a reluctance on their behalf to change the speed limit from 40 to 30 miles an hour in Bridge Street, on the basis that it would be impossible to police. It is therefore up to residents to report persistent speeding here.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is intended to promote awareness amongst local people. In the past couple of months there has been a report of a car abandoned and another stolen. Saddles and other related horse-riding equipment have also been taken. The Parish Council would like to organise a public meeting to promote the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme again, particularly as the village coordinator has moved and a new coordinator is sought.

Meanwhile please don't hesitate to report anything suspicious. I can vouch for extremely prompt and courteous response from the police, even though the matter was inconclusive.

Another matter for public awareness and consultation is in respect of a single unitary authority. The Secretary of State for the Environment has directed the Local Government Commission to

undertake a review of a large number of regions, which includes Cambridgeshire, with "a remit to make structural boundary or electoral changes as, after consultation, they recommend."

This affects Whaddon Parish Council in that the two existing tiers of local Government, the County Council and the District Council, may end up combined into one authority answerable for all services.

In the village itself, the Village Hall repair programme will be published shortly. When all the work is finished the Village Hall Committee propose to erect a notice board, inside the hall, in memory of Jim Law.

The Parish Council plan to dedicate the new village sign to Jim and, as an additional feature, to place a seat underneath. We are very grateful to Dave Chappell who will carve the sign and to Colin Barker for drawing up the design incorporating ideas of his own with those of other villagers.

The climbing frame will be in place on the recreation ground by the Easter holidays. Thanks particularly to Brian Charlwood for undertaking the groundwork necessary to enable the frame to be placed on a bark safety surface.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Monday 21st March in the Village Hall.

Clare Byatt

Times of Services in Whaddon

Parish Church: 9.15am

Rev Ted Duckett can be contacted in Bassingbourn
Tel: (95) 243119

Methodist Church: 10.00am

Rev Michael Belfield can be contacted in Royston
Tel: (95) 243445.

Sunday School meets at 10.00am in the Methodist Schoolroom.
Contact Margaret Hewat (95) 247611.



It is with regret that we lost an old Whaddon resident, Harold Walker, on 31st January 1994.

He was buried in the churchyard on Friday 11th February.

Harold came to Whaddon in 1959, where he and his wife grew flowers for sale. They lived at The Wilderness, Meldreth Road.

A POTTED HISTORY OF WHADDON

Whaddon is not a wealthy village nor an important one historically speaking, but it is a very old village. It obviously has Saxon origins, or maybe even older since it is mentioned in the Domesday Book. All land at that time was given to loyal servants of King William (the Conqueror) in order that uprisings could be quelled and invasion made extremely difficult. Broad sweeps of land were strategically given to the most loyal, and the rest was allocated according to service. One landowner may have had plots all over the country; he would live (of course they were all "he's"!) on one and, maybe, have houses on others, but the bulk of his land would be let and sub-let.

Whaddon was always a part of a larger estate. At the time of the Domesday survey there were four landowners, three of whom sub-let. Richard FitzGilbert sub-let his land - he was a most close follower of William and is mentioned throughout the Domesday book, especially in Kent where the strategic value of his holding is obvious. Count Alan sub-let his land to two other people and the Abbot of Ely sub-let to Hardwin of Scales. This same Hardwin of Scales was the other landowner and, I should think, probably lived here.

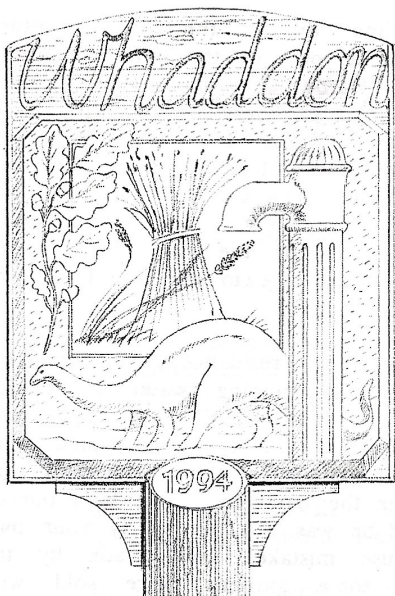
Throughout history Whaddon has been an agricultural village with the bulk of the farming being arable. Sheep were kept during the 19th century and Mr Coningsby and Mr Andrews still keep a few, but their importance has been minimal. Some dairy cattle were kept earlier than that but by the 1900s most animals were in very small herds supplying the owner and a few other villagers only.

At some time during the 18th century Whaddon became part of the Wimpole estate owned by the Hardwicke family. This was to be its last period of overall ownership, for it was parcelled up and sold at auction on Wednesday November 19th 1913 at the Bull Hotel in Royston. The County Council bought large areas of land and many of the properties then offered, but for the first time 'small' private people were able to purchase their own houses.

These very desirable residences were not able to boast lighting, running water or toilets. However they were nearly all old thatched and beamed cottages or farm houses which were not considered 'character' then, and went very cheaply under the hammer. The land outside your front door was not necessarily your own either, because mistakes were made by the clerks, and some gardens were sold with adjoining houses, leaving them with a path to the loo and that was it! The land was also in odd parcels with fields all over Whaddon belonging to a farm not necessarily near any of them. Since most farm land was owned by the Council, this was rationalised in the 1950's, and fields and houses became more logically associated. This was also the time when many new farmhouses were built for the tenant, and the old, expensive to maintain, farmhouses were sold. Since these houses often had large plots of land, it was after this that the modern housing boom began to make itself felt in Whaddon. Prior to the auction the only 'modern' houses were Home Cottages (built to accommodate the coprolite diggers and navvies) and the three pairs of semi-detached houses in Bridge Street (on the bend) and opposite the recreation ground. The three semis further down Bridge Street by the meadow were built by the Council to house the homecoming soldiers from the first world war, but apart from one or two buildings all others have been built since the 1950's.

During the 1970's restoring country cottages became profitable and fashionable, and most of the surviving cottages have duly been 'modernised'. Unfortunately some have been lost because at the time they became vacant this practice was not profitable and 'character' not important. You must remember that even as late as the 1970's these cottages were still without toilet facilities and some didn't even have water laid on or electricity.

Thus we have arrived at the Whaddon of the 1990's. Still not an important or influential village, but no longer a poor one. Improved communications and transport have meant that all the existing houses are very expensive and, as is the problem in many villages now, beyond the reach of the village children.



The drawing by Colin Barker for the Whaddon sign beautifully incorporates the different ideas of those villagers who participated in the scheme.

A letter from Mrs Eileen Izzard:

On behalf of Mrs Lily Law, Eileen, Pauline, and families I would like to say thankyou for all the help, kindness and support, also for the lovely letters, cards and spoken tributes given to us on our sad loss.

It was heartwarming to see so many friends from near and far in the large attendance at the chapel and churchyard.

Dad loved Whaddon and Whaddon did him proud! Approximately £426.00 in donations are going to M.A.G.P.A.S. in his memory.

I'll finish if I may with a sort of epitaph in Dads' own words spoken on his eightieth birthday last year;

" I feel I've achieved something by reaching my eightieth year, I've had a good life and I wouldn't want to change any part of it."

Thankyou Whaddon! You and his family were his life.

And we give thanks for being given someone so special.

Jim Law!

TRANSPORT

Bus Pass forms are now available in the Post Office, Whaddon Golf Range Club House.



Whilst also on this subject, there is a little used group, The Heron Self Help Scheme, the aim of which is to give you a lift to the doctors, dentist, chiropodist, hospital visits or a hospital appointment when you cannot get there by public transport or a friend giving you a lift. You can also be taken shopping if you are infirm in some way and would find it difficult to cope with public transport, but feel you could manage a car journey. There is a small charge for this service. Please contact Mr. & Mrs. Ray and Jean Furnie of 118 Church Street, Tel. 207469 for more information.

Dates for your Diary:

☞ Village Hall Fete ☞

This year to be held on a Sunday
Sunday 5th June at 2.30pm.

☞ Grass Festival ☞

Weekend of 25th/26th June
in the Parish Church.

This original event, the second of
its kind in Whaddon, was first
held here in 1988.

☞ Village Barbeque ☞

Saturday 23rd July.

All the usual Barbequed food,
excellent range of salads,
live music and Bar.

☞ Church Fete ☞

Saturday 30th July at 2.00pm.
in the Old Vicarage, by kind
permission
of Lord and Lady Whaddon.

Your contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. Please contact:
Clare Byatt 207429; Kathrine Mitchell 207400; Margaret Wilson 207219