

Whaddon News



March 1997

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 3 May 1997
A CHURCH YARD SALE
Cakes and Crafts in aid of Church Funds

Sunday 1st June 1997
THE VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 12th July 1997
VILLAGE BARBEQUE

Saturday 19th September 1997
THE VILLAGE FETE
to be confirmed

Sunday 21 September 1997
OX ROAST SUPPER

Times of Services in Whaddon

Parish Church : 9.15am. Rev John Armstrong can be reached in Bassingbourn Tel (01763) 243119

Methodist Church : 10.00am. Rev Michael Belfield can be contacted in Royston Tel (01763) 230210

Sunday School : meets in the Methodist Schoolroom
Telephone Margaret Hewat (01763) 247611

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

IN THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 9 March 10 am



ALL WELCOME
AT THIS UNITED SERVICE

BASKETBALL

The Parish Council are ready to make a start on the new basketball practise area. Good clean hardcore is needed for this project. Would anyone with any hardcore please contact either Terry Allison or Margaret Wilson for details of where and when to leave it. Collection may be possible if necessary. 207710 or 207219.

CASINO EVENING

Once again the village was treated to a great Social evening by the hard working Village Hall Committee. An unusual night's entertainment at the gambling tables, a pleasant drink, excellent food and good company, what more could one ask? On top of all this 70.00p was donated to Cancer Relief and 1.00p was raised towards the village hall funds. See you all next time!



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At the Parish Council Meeting in November, Mr Terry Allison was nominated for the position of Chairman. It was a unanimous choice and Mr Allison said he hoped to be a worthy successor to Fred Bradley.

The Stream

The Parish Council is pleased to have moved a little closer to completing one of Mr Bradley's initiatives. At the January meeting a decision was made to accept the estimate from the Environment Agency for construction of an adjustable "V" match weir for positioning in the stream at the end of Bridge Street, where the stream divides so that the flows are properly apportioned.

Landscaping

There was also a good response to the request for ideas for landscaping the pump in Bridge Street in memory of Fred. This will be the next project once the hedge and tree planting are out of the way. Meanwhile thank you to all who responded.

The last 25 metres of the hedge along the Whaddon Gap Road have been planted and the whole length of two years worth of planting has been weeded and pruned. We can record an excellent rate of plants "taking". By the time this newsletter is received the trees will also have been planted with the help of the County Council Rural Group. Thank you everyone in Whaddon who gave up time to come along and help in February.

The Village History

A short Village History is also underway. This is an updating of a document which was regularly given out to newcomers on arrival in the village. The new version will be circulated to all villagers shortly.

The Village Hall

The cover features the Village Hall, the Church and Colin Barker's drawing of the village sign. Colin is currently working on a design, to be produced in wrought iron, for a sign for the Village Hall, a gift from our County Councillor, Margaret Hunter, which we much appreciate.

Work on the basketball practice court is about to start. The posts have been received and the groundwork awaits the right weather conditions. Offers of hardcore would be gratefully received, telephone 207 219 or 207 710. Also outside the hall, the garage has been completed and looks smart with its pitched roof and new tiles.

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that a seat will be placed on the recreation ground in memory of George Coningsby, who lived and farmed in the village all his life and sadly died in August 1995.

Annual Parish Meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 17 March at 7pm for a parish council meeting before **The Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm**. Do come and support your Parish Council.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting	Monday 17 March 8.00pm, Village Hall
Village Hall Committee	Thursday 20 March 8.00pm, Village Hall
Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Thursday 24 April 8.00pm, The Church

VILLAGE HALL STORAGE BUILDING.

Approximately two years ago it was decided to attempt to obtain some form of storage building to help clear the amount of chairs and tables piled in the Village Hall which were substantially reducing available space. This building has now been finished and a tidying up exercise will take place shortly. During the last 18 months a number of villagers have kindly given their time, and in some cases their services to help complete this project. Many thanks to all those who assisted and in particular Colin and Sarah Waring, who donated the building, Roger and Michaela Huffer, who provided the roof trusses and base hardcore and Eternit who very generously donated the tiles and roofing system.

Robert Vaux

Village Hall Treasurer.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I have had a request for information from the Police. A white Peugeot van has been seen in the vicinity of several recent burglaries, it often has an "L" plate on the back. Any sightings of such a vehicle should be reported urgently to the Police via the 999 system. Please endeavour to take the number when you report it. Unfortunately there was a burglary recently when the thieves returned more than once to the premises. On this occasion a Transit pick-up type vehicle was used. Any sightings of this sort of vehicle should be taken as suspicious, especially if you know your neighbours are likely to be out. Correct action was taken at the time but I would be grateful if you would let me know in addition to the Police if you are the victim of a crime.

VOLUNTEERING *HELP!*

Heron Self Help Scheme

In Whaddon, we are lucky enough to have a number of individual good neighbours and the **Heron Self Help Scheme** for giving lifts, run by Mr and Mrs Ray and Jean Furnie, 118 Church St, tel 207 469. Please contact Mr and Mrs Furnie for more information or to volunteer help.

Care Network

Communities helping themselves is what this is all about. **Care Network** has been operating in South Cambridgeshire for the past ten years, with the aims of starting up and supporting good neighbour schemes in the community. Care Network is grant aided by Social Services.

They initiate and support:

- . **Social car schemes**
- . **Help schemes**
- . **Luncheon clubs**
- . **Mobile warden schemes**

They also administer

- . **Welcome home from hospital** supporting elderly patients on return from hospital

They are always grateful to receive offers of voluntary help, such as assistance in our own community or a neighbouring one with any of the schemes listed above, especially the **Welcome home from hospital** scheme which is quite new.

Please do help Contact the Project Manager
Mrs Ruth Rogers, 50A High Street, Cottenham,
Cambs CB4 4SA Telephone 01954 200020

Royston & District Volunteer Bureau

Royston, too, wants to recruit volunteers, anyone over the age of 15 years wishing to offer their services to the community. This could be :

- . *Listen and chat to an older person*
- . *Use gardening, DIY or technical skill*
- . *Do shopping, make a pot of tea, warm the house for someone coming out of hospital*
- . *Drive someone to hospital*
- . *Help care for the environment*
- . *Offer information, advice and counselling*

*The scope for volunteering is enormous and so are the benefits. For further information, please contact **Toni Battison, Royston Hospital, London Rd, Royston SG8 9EN Telephone 01763 243020** who will spend time discussing the types of volunteering available and match you up with a local organisation.*

FUNDRAISING

Our November Newsletter announced various fundraising events.

The month began with **The British Legion Poppy Appeal**. Sandy Fisher would like to thank all the villagers and her collectors for raising £115.40 in aid of this worthwhile cause.

The Village Hall benefitted from a prize of £209.78 raised at the Casino Evening which was a great success. It is hoped to organise another such event in the latter part of this year. We do hope that you will be able to come along and join in the fun that the evening promises to hold.

The Whaddonians and the Parish Church joined forces in the Village Hall to hold a Christmas Bazaar at the end of the month. They raised £311.76 and £245.25 respectively in exchange for handcrafted gifts, homemade cakes and other Christmas ideas, and enjoyed a warm and sociable afternoon.

There are further tea towels for sale commemorating Whaddon and St Mary's Parish Church, designed by Colin Barker, price £3.50 in aid of **Church Funds** from Lorna Searle, 118 Meldreth Road, telephone 207 504.

The Children's Society was sent £101.59 which was a record collection from the Christingle Service for this very good cause. Thank you.

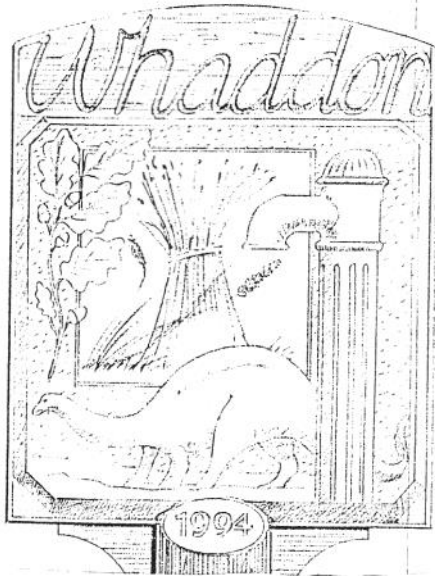


Welcome to Whaddon.

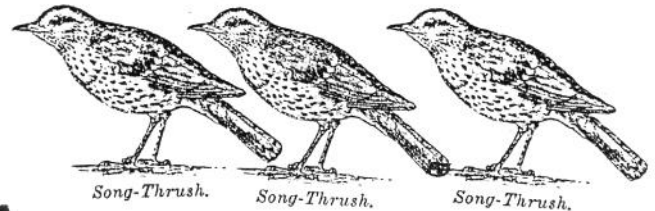
Dana and David Inman have moved into Home Cottages with their year old daughter, Eleanor.



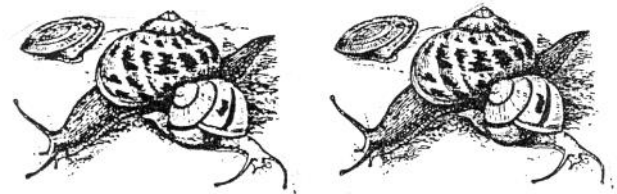
Your contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome.
Contact Clare Byatt 207 429, Karen Coningsby 207 514,
Ann Williams, 207 779 or Margaret Wilson 207 219



The oak leaf on the village sign signifies the traditional singing of the Whitsun song. A group of young men would gather together and proceed around the village giving everyone a sprig of oak to display on the roof or eaves of their house. Popular belief has it that the oak came from the tree in the churchyard. This would be done on the Saturday before Whit Monday. On Whit Monday itself the group would actually stop at each house to sing the Whitsun song, much as carol singers do at Christmas. The song had five verses and during the last verse they would wave yet another sprig above their heads. Householders were invited to reward the singers with money which was collected and taken to the village pub where open house was declared. This meant that all comers could have a "free" drink. The tradition in Whaddon died out before the last pub, the Queen Adelaide, closed its doors. The last known performance was in 1937 when Albert and Jack Smith demonstrated the song at the village celebrations for King George VI. This was by popular request because the practise of going around the village had ceased before that. Albert Smith lived in Bridge Street in one of the terrace of cottages now known as Jarmans and No. 68. His son Charles married a local girl, Hilda, and went to live at Dyers Green now The White Cottage. Their daughter, Bessie, still lives in Whaddon and she has given me a copy of the words to the song as written by Hilda. Jack Smith, Albert's brother, lived at Homestead, The Green, Meldreth Road now Wisteria Cottage. To perform properly the men would wear a top hat with a white scarf tied around it. The origins of the practice are, unfortunately, lost in time.



Most residents of Whaddon seem to enjoy birdwatching both in their gardens and around the village. We seem to be blessed with a particularly attractive and varied variety of bird life. Have you, though, been aware of changing trends in your feathered visitors over the years? The British Trust for Ornithology has been monitoring bird populations for many years and large declines have been noted in many common song birds. One of the methods they have recently introduced is having people note the birds that visit their gardens and keep records which are then collected and analysed by the Trust. Of the many species that have been declining the Song Thrush has shown one of the greatest drops in number, about 65% over 20 years. The reason is known, many birds do not survive their first winter, but the cause remains a mystery. One possible reason is the loss of food; the Thrush is the only predator of snails and if their numbers fall (more use of pellets etc. loss of weedy patches and waste ground) the birds are forced into competition with other species for different types of food i.e. worms. Apparently Thrushes do not do well in competition being less aggressive birds. Information is patchy and no proper explanations have so far been established. I have more information and details of how you can help if you would like to ring me. There are many interesting findings already emerging from these surveys.



207219.