EASTER EGG HUNT

Calling all children

Come to Church on Easter Morning
Sunday 20th April at 9.15am

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard after the service.

ALL WELCOME!

THE MINDEN BAND

is coming to Whaddon

Saturday 10th May 2003 at 7.30pm

A Five-piece wind quintet from one of the top bands in Army Music today based locally at Bassingbourn Barracks.

This promises to be a varied and entertaining musical evening.

At St. Mary’s Church, Whaddon.

In aid of funds.

Early booking essential to avoid disappointment

Details call C.207429 or C.207340

DATE CHANGE

ANIMAL CRACKERS will now be held on

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE
11.30AM – 4.30PM

Due to the clash of dates with the popular County Young Farmers’ show at Wimpole Hall it has been decided to change the date.
Following complaints about the amount of dog droppings on the recreation ground the Parish Council has had a bin placed at the entrance by the village hall. It is bright red and you can’t miss it. Please use it if your dog ‘uses’ the rec. Nobody wants to have dogs banned so please pick up after your dog.

⭐⭐⭐

We are also delighted to say that the new slide has been installed. At last all you children can (safely) polish your trousers just as your parents did on the old slide. Many thanks to Jim Docwra for his care of the mound and the grass it is really beginning to respond to some TLC. Watch this space for details of the ‘official’ grand opening!

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On a more serious note; it has come to the notice of the Parish Council that certain young people are kicking a football around at the far end of the rec. near the Old Vicarage garden. On several occasions the ball has gone into Lord and Lady Whaddon’s garden and these young people have treated them to some abusive language when they enter the garden to retrieve it. Not only is this unpleasant for the Whaddons it is immature and stupid behaviour. It is hardly grown up to use foul language to elderly people in their own premises and does not encourage adults to treat youngsters with the respect they would like us to. The recreation ground is a big place (obtained for you by the very hard work of the older generation I might say) why not stay up near the hall to kick the ball around?

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Many of you I am sure have been wondering what has happened to the Fountain Project that your Parish Council embarked on what seems an age ago. I am sure you are all aware that the cast iron pipe which leaves the ground from the aquifer is extremely corroded and badly holed. The fountain head and outlet had pinholes in the casting which have now been repaired. An earlier repair to the stem of the head also had to be refurbished. The complete head unit has been de-rusted and is now being professionally powder coated.

A new stainless steel flange, manufactured by Mr. Andrew Robilou from Meldreth Road, will be fitted together with the renovated fountain unit as soon as they are ready.

Now for the bad news. Many of you will have seen the ghastly wooden fence erected by the developer of the new dwelling behind the fountain. This has been done despite a verbal agreement to refurbish and replace the original iron railings and without any consultation at all. You can imagine my astonishment and anger when I noticed what he was doing. I have consulted the deeds of the fountain site and Covenant no. 2 states:- A 1.37 metre high dog-proof fence shall be erected along the East – West boundary, and a 1.37 metre high post and rail fence with dog-proof mesh along the North – South boundary. You see the developer can be said to be within his rights. What happened to the verbal agreement??? He has been told in no uncertain terms of our anger.

The Parish Council will consult further with Parishioners when they are ready to develop a scheme for the site.

Ted Webb, Chairman Parish Council
26th February 2003
WELCOME TO WHADDON

Town Farm Close

Early arrivals: Alan Fullerton and Alexander Helen and Nigel at No.3, Alison and Stewart at No.2 (Apologies to Stewart whom we called Steve in the last issue) Mark and Martine Jim and Cathy Clare and Giles with their daughter Madelaine

Elsewhere

We welcome Liz Strange, who has moved into Ridgeway Close. Liz is a Painter/Decorator. So if you need some professional help with the DIY, Liz is the person you want.

In Bridge Street, Nick and Louise Shaw are living in The Grange and enjoy being in Whaddon.

RECENT EVENTS.

Coffee Morning

A huge “Thank you” to everyone who supported our half-term Coffee Morning in February. The fund raising was supposed to be secondary to the socialising but we still managed to raise £115 towards the village children’s Christmas party. Particular thanks must go to all the people who rolled up their sleeves and helped out on the day. Christmas is a long way off but we know that the next party is assured

Quiz Night

A total of £324.39 was raised at the Quiz Night held in February. Thanks to the Harker’s and John Bishop for organising this very successful and enjoyable event.

OBITUARY

SADLY, JOAN MATTHEWS FROM BRIDGE STREET, DIED SUDDENLY OF A HEART ATTACK IN NOVEMBER 2002. SHE WAS 58 YEARS OLD. JOAN HAD LIVED IN WHADDON WITH HER FAMILY FOR 20 YEARS HAVING MOVED HERE FROM LONDON. A SHY LADY, JOAN ENJOYED HER GARDEN AND LOVED GOING OFF CARAVANNING. SHE WILL BE VERY SADLY MISSED BY HER HUSBAND DEREK THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES. OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO ALL THE FAMILY.

KICK-BOXING

Is anybody interested in kick-boxing?

A class has started in the Village Hall on Monday evenings from 6.30 to 8.00pm.

Anybody from 6 years old is welcome.

For further details contact Sally Eley; 207340 or Myron; 07786 498388.

RECYCLING (GREEN) BOXES

Following repeated requests to South Cambs District Council for a green box Nigel Strudwick at Town Farm Close now has a few surplus to requirements.

If anybody else has lost theirs and not had a replacement from SCDC please ring him on 207434.
ANIMAL CRACKERS

Due to the clash of dates with the popular County Young Farmers’ Show at Wimpole Hall, we concluded we had to change the date to

SUNDAY JUNE 8th 2003. 11.30a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

The driving force is to provide
- good quality entertainment for the Village and the visitors
- to raise funds for the development of the Village Hall

We hope it will be a whole village commitment, though if we continue to plan carefully we can ensure everyone can enjoy much of the entertainment as well as undertake a task.

We have several task forces.

Arena Management – Co-ordinator Terry Allison (Needs a team of 5 or 6 to assist)

Stalls and Sideshows – Co-ordinator Di Charles assisted by Ann Newberry, who will bring together the Whaddon stalls and sideshows.

Car Parking – Mr Ken Green has agreed we can have use of some of his land – we need a Co-ordinator – Any volunteer? Need also a team of ‘car parkers’, who will work to a rota.

We plan to advertise in neighbouring towns and villages.

Seeking Sponsorship - Any volunteers? We need someone to persuade folks to underwrite, with small sponsorships, various areas of spending e.g. printing, P.A. hire. Could do with some assistance.

Catering - Co-ordinator sought. Ken Charles will negotiate commercial caterers, but we need our own team to provide sale of teas and beer! Any volunteers?

We would welcome contacts for animals, e.g.
Birds of Prey? Dog Training? Horses and ponies (especially for rides), Reptiles?

We shall have a Children’s Pet Show in the Village Hall. Nominations for judges?

Please phone Ken or Di Charles on 01223 207213 or e-mail on ken@mini-basketball.org.uk

HELP US MAKE IT A GREAT DAY

Gardening Day
Sarah Raven, the well-known author and gardening expert from television programmes, The Daily Telegraph and periodicals, is coming to Shepreth on June 4th 2003 to give a talk about her work.
This will be held at The Cambridge Motel. Shepreth and tickets cost £40 including coffee and a two-course lunch.
Please contact Barbara Clutterbuck on 01763 260592 for tickets and more information.

Petersfield School, Orwell
PTA events to look out for:
Car boot sale: Saturday 17th May
Summer Fete: Saturday 28th June
Everyone welcome!
Look out for details on Village notice boards nearer the time or contact Anne Newberry on C.207555 for more info.
**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

There was a mini crime-wave in Whaddon in the New Year when several outbuildings were broken into. A red Citroen is possibly linked to these offences and other similar break-ins in nearby villages. They must have checked their entry points in daylight.

If you see any people or vehicles you don't recognise please let me know. They are probably perfectly legitimate but the wider picture can only be seen when a lot of information is to hand. Just make a note of the index number, colour and type of car or a brief description of the person(s).

People with dogs on footpaths round the back of properties are worth noting as well if they are not familiar. As the days get longer daytime, opportunist burglaries are more likely. This is when people come to the door and if they get no reply to their knock will get to the back, if they can, and gain entry at the rear of your house.

Ways of deterring this are to ensure that the rear of your house is difficult to access. If you have a fence top it with a flimsy trellis or something similar so it will not bear the weight of a person trying to climb over it. Plant prickly hedges or shrubs under windows. Don’t leave ground floor windows open if you are out, even very tiny windows. Do not leave door keys visible from windows or hanging from string inside the door. If you leave a spare key for emergencies change the hiding place regularly.

Tell a neighbour (or me) if you are going on holiday and leave a key with them. Fit bolts or padlocks to side gates etc. and make sure they can’t be reached from outside. Be careful with windows above a flat roof – this is often overlooked but is a favourite point of entry.

Lastly your car is also vulnerable outside your house even on the drive, don’t leave valuables in view and, preferably, put it in a locked garage.

Margaret Wilson  C.207219

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**Broadband in Whaddon**

One of the many attractions of Whaddon is its seclusion and its peaceful environment. Perhaps the only down-side of our location is that the same seclusion often means that we’re regarded as low priority for service improvements and up-to-date technology.

You may have read or heard about ‘broadband’ in the media. This is a name for continuous high-speed access to the Internet and the World Wide Web through your computer or your television, as opposed to the much slower access by modem. As we don’t have cable in Whaddon, the main way it can be achieved is over the telephone line. However, the Arrington exchange to which most of us are connected cannot yet handle broadband, and BT have a rule that something like 450 users of an exchange need to show interest before they will do the upgrade work. Thus towns like Royston and Cambridge are much more likely to be connected than we are.

I would like to enlist the help of residents of Whaddon to express enough interest to encourage BT to make these improvements. There are two ways. Firstly, BT’s web site at [http://www.btopenworld.com/broadband/reg10/](http://www.btopenworld.com/broadband/reg10/) is where your interest can be shown – I must add that expressing interest in no way commits you to taking the service when it becomes available. Even if you think you are unlikely to use it, you would be doing a great service for those who would. A second place to express interest is at the ‘Demand Broadband’ site at [http://www.demandbroadband.com](http://www.demandbroadband.com)

There is one other possibility, which is that broadband could become available by wireless technology in areas of relatively low population density. There is a project called Cambridge Ring West, which aims to produce a wireless broadband network to the west of Cambridge. Again, expressing interest in this project as well may help broadband to come to Whaddon sooner rather than later. The web site for this is [http://www.crw.uk.net/](http://www.crw.uk.net/). Again, expressing interest does not mean you have to take it when it becomes available.

Thanks very much for reading this, and I hope you’ll be able to help by expressing interest in these projects. Do phone or e-mail me if I can explain anything else.

Nigel Strudwick : 01223 207434
e-mail: ncs3@cam.ac.uk

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ST. MARY’S PARISH CHURCH, WHADDON

Your children are important and precious to you and, we think you’ll agree, full of potential!

We are aware that your village church isn’t currently offering many opportunities for children – or young families – to find out how Jesus can make a real “PLUS” difference in their lives, we would like to put this right.

**When, where and what?**

That’s what we’d like to ask YOU. We could introduce a monthly Sunday “All Age Family Service” ... but 9.15am. may well be a bit early! Would another time be better? And/or we are looking at ways in which we could start up a brand-new Sunday Club for children, aged say, 5-12. Again, we’d like to know what you think about times, venues, etc. For that matter none of the above needs to be on a Sunday!

**What do you think?**

Our vicar, John Armstrong, is a governor at Petersfield school and is well known to all our primary-aged children – please let him know what you and they think.

Incidentally, there is already a youth group meeting in Bassingbourn every week, to which all young people aged 13+ are very welcome.

For more information or ideas please contact: Karen C. 207514, Bill C.208052, Clare C.207429, John Armstrong 01763 243119.

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SOUTH CAMBS SUPPORTS REAL NAPPIES!

Over 400 bin bags (or equivalent volume) of disposable nappies go into South Cambridgeshire District Council’s landfill site EVERY DAY – THAT’S the equivalent of two full refuse freighters.

To help cut down this huge amount, South Cambridgeshire District Council is supporting real, i.e. washable, nappies by introducing a free home trial scheme.

The free nappy trial allows parents of new babies to try out real nappies, free, for a limited period. Used nappies are then returned to local nappy mail order company, Eco-babies, for clinical laundering and re-use. This scheme allows parents to try several different types of nappy before committing to a purchase.

The free loan pack includes five different types of nappy, pants, liners, nappy bucket and full instructions. A nappy laundry service is available to deliver cotton nappies to your door and collect soiled nappies for laundering.

To take part in a free trial call the Cambridgeshire Real Nappy Network on C. 509837

For more information, including a forum for buying and selling second hand nappies and a chance to ask questions visit: [www.realnappy.net](http://www.realnappy.net)

Information also available from: South Cambs. D.C. 443262

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M.A.G.P.A.S.

I have more details about setting up a first responder scheme in the village but I need to know who wants to help in this valuable area. The response times are phenomenally fast because of the sophisticated method of alerting volunteers.

I understand several people have indicated that they would like to help but I don’t know who you are! Please ring me and I can arrange a meeting to update you on the requirements and training. It isn’t too onerous and precious lives can be saved. 207219 or better still 07734 753555. M.W.

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Confirmation Classes

A Deanery Confirmation will be held on 7th December 2003 at St. Mary’s.

Classes will begin in the Autumn. For further details contact John Armstrong 07163 243119.
RECYCLING COMPOST

In conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council HDRA are running a Master Composter Programme. This involves recruiting volunteers to promote and demonstrate composting of household and garden waste.

Volunteers need no specialized knowledge as training will be given. You will be given a resource pack and taken on several away days all free of charge. Ultimately they hope to encourage home and community composting schemes to help reduce land fill rubbish and improve our garden soil.

Training will, hopefully, begin in May. A small time commitment is required over the year following training involving such diverse things as helping neighbours with their garden compost or talking to children about composting. Whatever activity you choose to do will be tailored to your own skills.

Miss Penny Holmes at HDRA has all the details for anybody interested in following this up. 024 7630 8202 or fax 024 7630 8225 (Coventry).

OXFAM WALK 2003

Once again the Oxfam Walk will start at Wimpole Hall and cover a choice of routes of 7, 14 or 21 miles. Although not passing directly through Whaddon walkers will be coming as far South as Croydon. Taking place on 18th May 2003, this will be the 36th Cambridge Oxfam Walk.

A particular cause to benefit this year will be coffee growers and other poor producers who need to receive a fair price for their crops. If you don’t fancy the walk you can sponsor someone else to walk or volunteer to be a marshal or steward.

Further information or sponsorship forms can be obtained by ringing Stephen or Clare on 0 1 2 2 3  5 6 3 3 8  or email oxformwalk@btopenworld.com or www.oxfam.org.uk/walk. For marshals or stewards ring Jerry on 01223 414954 or email jcarrrbrion@yahoo.co.uk.

DEADLINES

Deadline for the next newsletter will be 4th May 2003. This will ensure that your summer event will be publicised in good time.

Those of you who have events to be advertised further afield may like to know that future deadlines for the Melbourn Magazine are May 1st, August 1st and November 1st.
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
- Some Notes from the past few months

The village hall leasing document has been developed after much discussion and research into the covenants required. Extra covenants and maps have been proposed by the Parish Council, to ensure that the village Hall Trust can accomplish their aims, whilst at the same time protecting the village hall for the future of the village. The next stage is to consult with our solicitors, using a plan of the building and whole site, which has been generously drawn up by Mr. Clive Hough. There is still obstruction being caused by the inconsiderate parking of cars on the area around the village hall. Please can we ask those neighbours who believe the Village Hall is their own private car park to think again.

We also ask residents to try and park their cars off the roadways throughout the village if possible. Many of our roads are very narrow and have many corners where there is more danger from cars parked on the roadside, particularly when others have to pull out and overtake.

Concillors have agreed to raise the village precept for 2003/2004 to £6500. The parish has an unusually high expenditure for next year including elections, children’s slide on the recreation ground, new notice boards, solicitors fees for work on the village hall lease and a possible donation to set up the MAGPAS ‘first response’ scheme.

The proposed first reponse scheme needs 5 volunteers to start the scheme and a notice will be put on the notice boards giving relevant information for those who may be interested.

The village survey to be organised by the affordable homes housing trust will not be completed until later in the year and we are awaiting the next move from the Rural Housing Trust.

On highway matters, the council has failed in an application for more improvements to the footpaths in the village. An interesting comparison was made with Meldreth, where extensive footpath work and traffic calming measures have been introduced recently. Whaddon has been waiting for simple repairs to the speed limit signs for over a year. Many of these speed signs have disappeared. Concern has also been expressed at the very poor state of some of the roads in the village, particularly Church street and Bridge Street. A letter has been sent to the County Council Highways Dept., asking for some action and also expressing our concern with the unfair treatment of Whaddon in highway matters. Another example of the extremely poor management and communication by the County Council, concerns the loss of the footpath across Town Farm Close to the golf course.

The PC has heard from a reliable source that there are to be alterations to the sewage system from the Bassingbourn Barracks houses, that have been sold on to private buyers. These houses will either be joined to the Whaddon sewage system or that at Bassingbourn. In view of the many concerns with flooding in the village and in particular the problems caused when the sewage system becomes overloaded, the clerk has written to Anglian Water asking for further information. It is strongly believed that if the connection is made to Whaddon then the sewage system must be upgraded to cope with the increased burden.

Large quantities of household rubbish and appliances continue to be dumped illegally at the Whaddon Gap car park. It is very difficult to prevent this and we ask that everyone using the road keeps an eye out for larger vehicles such as vans and trucks which may be using the car park as a rubbish tip. Numbers should be taken and reported to a councillor or the police.

The PC is investigating the installation of a height restriction bar at the entrance to prevent larger vehicles entering the site.

WATCH OUT FOR OUR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
- USUALLY HELD EVERY MONTH ON THE THIRD MONDAY IN THE MONTH AT 7.00 P.M.
- KEEP A WATCH ON THE NOTICE BOARDS FOR DETAILS.
TOWN FARM

The last tenant farmer of Town Farm was Ken Green who moved to the village with his family in 1965. The previous tenants had been the Andrews family who had farmed there since before the Second World War. Town Farm consisted of many isolated fields around the village.

The old farmhouse was in a sorry state of repair and in 1966 some old thatched barns were dismantled and Town Farm bungalow was built. The old farmhouse (now Turspins) was subsequently sold for private occupation.

A few years later the thatched barns on the other side of the road were demolished. Some of the main timbers from these barns were used to rebuild the Guildhall in Whittlesford. The Sun Insurance plaques from the barns now grace the kitchen walls of the Town Farm bungalow - in earlier days fires to property would not be extinguished unless it was shown that the owners were insured.

In 1965 there was a derelict serf’s cottage next to the stream on what is now the Golf Course. Access was gained via the road through the old stackyard. Only if it was extremely wet or muddy were the occupants allowed access through the actual farm house and over the bridge which had a five-bar gate into the field beyond. This field was used as a cricket meadow between the two world wars. The bricks from the floor of this ruined house were used to make the fire surround in the new Town Farm bungalow.

Ken Green spent thirty years farming at Town Farm growing mixed arable crops and rearing pigs and poultry then diversified into the driving range and golf course when farming became less profitable. In 1994 the landowners decided that Town Farm was no longer viable. He then bought the land on which he had established the golf course and the remaining fields were distributed to neighbouring County Council tenants. The stackyard and remaining farm buildings were subsequently rented until 1999 after which they were sold to Berkeley Homes for the development of the eight houses in Town Farm Close. Town Farm as such therefore came to an end but the bungalow will continue to be called Town Farm as long as Ken and Iris live there as it is now part of their family heritage.

Thanks to Iris Green for this article.

The Church Clock

The clock on the south facing wall of the tower is the gift of Dame Grace Pickering, second wife of Sir Henry Pickering Baronet. They occupied the Scalers manor house which stood just south-east of the church and was demolished in the early eighteen hundreds. Sir Henry’s father acquired it in 1648. Sir Henry died in 1705 and Dame Grace in 1732 and the following extract is from her will.

I give and bequest to the parish church of Whaddon...fifty pounds of good & lawful money of England, forty of it to set up a good Clock in the steeple of that church (if I dont happen to do it as I designe in my lifetime) with handsome Dialls each way, and the other ten pounds to keep it in repair and wound up as long as it will last and then I think the parish may afford to do it for themselves without thinking much of it.

The puzzle is that the clock has only one face in spite of her request. There is evidence in the tower that an attempt was made to provide a dial on the north side, even if the dial was not actually made. Exactly in line with the rod connected with the hand on the south face the hole is drilled through the splay of the single lancet window which gives light to the clock chamber. The corresponding lancet on the south side is blocked by the dial, as the one on the north would have been. Why it was abandoned we shall never know. Perhaps the task was too difficult.

When the tower was repaired in 1894 a new stone dial was given to the clock. The original dial had been square-shaped set lozenge-wise and in 1894 it was recalled that the old dial had been made of red wood and painted blue. It was broken when men took it down for the purpose of repainting the figures. The clock has an hour hand only but when the new stone face was installed the hours were divided into minutes instead of quarters as was the custom on the dials of household clocks having only a single hand.

An example of what was known in the village as a serfs cottage. Copy of a photograph dated 1928
The Red Cross

At the end of January a photograph was reproduced in the *Royston Crow* depicting a procession of Whaddon school children in 1919. The school was situated at that time in what is now the village hall. The children had made items for sale in aid of the Red Cross and they were walking around the village to sell them. These facts are interesting because they illustrate the long association that the village has had throughout the years with the Red Cross. Collections are still being organised in the village by their representatives, two of the longest serving being the late Miss K. Coningsby (in the photograph below) and Iris Green.

![Photo of children in a Red Cross procession]

The ladies leading the children were Miss K Coningsby and Miss Ciss Woodcock and the pair following Miss R Hayles and Miss R Pearce. They were all walking behind Mr Arthur Woodcock’s wagon which displayed a Red Cross tableau. The actual photograph was taken by a village resident H. C. Chapman who became a photographer after losing a leg in the First World War.

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Food in Winter

We have in the village on *Rectory Farm* a dovecote many years old and indeed one of the best remaining specimens in the country the interior being unspoilt and almost if not quite as it was in the days when only lords of the manor and parsons were allowed to breed pigeons. The original thatched roof has gone and was replaced by a slate roof. Tradition has it that the original roof was destroyed by fire the conflagration probably being started by a disgruntled farm hand.

The cote had accommodation for nearly 1000 birds. The building is square in shape and in each of the four walls are fifteen rows of “holes” or nesting places with fifteen apartments in each row a total of two hundred and twenty five for each wall. Light now comes in through the open door. The windows at the top through which the birds came and went have been blocked up.

Pigeons had been bred as a source of food during the winter since Roman times. However the practice of keeping dove in dovecotes was possibly introduced by the Normans and it was estimated that in the mid-seventeenth century there were as many as 26,000 dovecotes in England. With improved farming techniques the breeding of pigeons declined in the nineteenth century and many cotes were pressed into service as labourers’ cottages or were converted into granaries, stables or storerooms.

Robberies from dovecotes were commonplace. In January 1823 a man named Place robbed the dovecote at Rectory Farm of 11 dozen pigeons and Bales, a waggoner, took them to London. Another man Pilkin, a porter, took them to a shop in Holborn where they were sold. Bales received one year’s imprisonment with hard labour, Place seven years transportation and Pilkin was acquitted.

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Rectory Farm Dovecote

![Dovecote image]

S & J Ralls  March 2003