

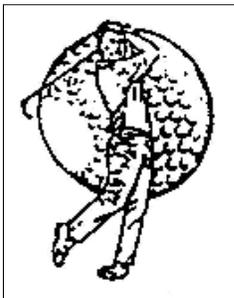


### WHADDON GOLF CENTRE

01223 207325

OPEN: 8.30 'til late

MORE THAN GOLF



BAR  
COFFEE AND  
SNACKS  
FOOD

VILLAGE SHOP  
PAPERS MILK BREAD  
JUST ASK US TO ORDER

### M.G. RADFORD & SON



LANDSCAPES  
GARDEN CONSTRUCTION

Established 1966

Tel: 01223 207772

Mobile: 07714 600323

Patios • Driveways • Fencing  
Turfing • Brickwork • Decking  
Water gardens

### VILLAGE HALL AVAILABLE TO HIRE

Special rates for those within the village - ideal for birthday parties etc.

Please phone Wendy Paton  
01223 207703

### ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

CRICKET IN WHADDON

I am told that cricket was in fact played in Whaddon, many years ago and in different locations throughout the village including the current golf range.

As a keen cricketer and qualified umpire myself, with a son who played last season for England U18s, I am keen to see if we have enough players of whatever ability or vintage, to muster a Whaddon Wanderers side.

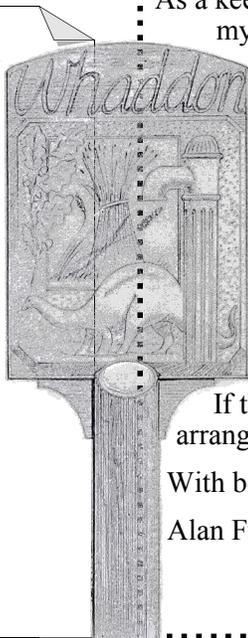
Would those who are interested in helping to set up a team and in playing please let me know on either email [alanfullarton@oneservice.co.uk](mailto:alanfullarton@oneservice.co.uk) or phone in the evenings 01223 207260 or mobile 0772 403 9299.

If there is sufficient interest we will arrange an exploratory meeting in March!!!

With best wishes  
Alan Fullarton.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st March	Posy making
2nd March	Mothering Sunday
15th March	Crafts & Coffee
17th March	Parish Council
23rd March	Easter Day
21st April	Parish Council
3rd May	Village Quiz
19th May	Parish Council
16th June	Parish Council
21st June	Village BBQ
19th July	Church Fete



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Quiz night

The Village Hall was packed with nearly 90 people for the Quiz Night on Saturday 26 January and a wonderful (and educational!) time was had by all. There was a great atmosphere with friendly rivalry between the 14 teams taking part. With so many in attendance, our Quiz Mistress, Wendy Payton, had to keep a firm control of the noisy audience but coped magnificently. Questions were pitched at exactly the right level and every team put up a good show (well, almost every team!)

Table 1 (Ann, Chris, Rowena, Mike and their friends) eventually triumphed and won 6 bottles of wine for their efforts.

In all almost a staggering amount of £500 was raised for the hall restoration fund. So many people have asked when the next contest would take place that another is now planned for Saturday 3 May. Put it in your diary as demand for tables is already very strong.

A big thanks to Wendy for setting and asking the questions, David for keeping the scores and to Karen, Deborah and Carol for the organisation and food.

Village Hall restoration - a quick progress update

There is an urgent need to replace the floor in the hall and are looking to apply for a grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council to part fund the work. Our application needs to be submitted as soon as possible.

We also plan to carry out the restoration work on the main hall at the same time which will include insulation, heating, electrics, windows and redecoration, all in line with the architect's plan for this area. This work can also be covered by the South Cambs. grant and it makes sense to have one application and one work programme.

The Parish Council and Village Hall Committee will have to contribute at least 65% toward the costs so fund raising is critical to our success. That's why events like the Quiz night are so important. We shall also be looking at other opportunities to raise funds from the wider community.

The next step is to draw up detailed specifications and plans to enable us to invite contractors to quote on the project in early March. We can then apply for the South Cambs. grant by the end of March.

Lee Ginger



Whaddon Quiz Night
In the Village Hall
on
Saturday 3rd May 2008

7.30 pm start
Teams of 4 - 8
£5 per person

Nibbles & Ploughman's provided
Please bring your own drinks
Raffle

Get your friends together for a bit of fun

Please ring for tickets and info:-

- Wendy Paton C 207703
Deborah Townsend C 208038
Karen Coningsby C 207514
Carol Ginger C 207688



Village BBQ 21st June 2008
6.30pm until late
Disco to be confirmed
Tickets
Adults £9 OAP £6
Children 5-12yr £4
Under 5's free

To raise funds for the Refurbishment of
your Village Hall

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
DEBORAH TOWNSEND 208038
ANNE NEWBERRY 207555
KAREN CONINGSBY 207514
CAROL GINGER 207688



## WHADDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



It had been my hope to report that the last three months since the November Whaddon News was published had been quiet with little of significance to report; however, there was a burglary at a residence at the Church Street end of Meldreth Road on Saturday 2 February at around 7.00 pm. Unfortunately the occupant was also attacked during the intrusion. The matter is still under investigation but meanwhile the police have asked the following:

“Did you see or hear anything which you considered to be suspicious at this time or do you have any information which you feel could be related to this incident? If so please report it to Cambridgeshire Police on 0845 456 4564.

It is likely that this was an isolated incident as many burglars tend to be opportunists but please follow the security advice below to ensure that your home remains secure, reducing the risk to your property.

- \* Ensure you lock all windows and doors;
- \* Don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under the mat or in a plant pot;
- \* Keep car and house keys out of sight;
- \* If you are not home during hours of darkness, consider leaving a light on so it looks like you are home;
- \* If you are going away for a period of time, inform a neighbour;
- \* Never leave garages or sheds unlocked.

We might add:

- \* Before opening the front door, ensure the back door is locked;
- \* And always ensure that any caller you do not recognize, such as someone from a utility company, shows you their ID. If in doubt close the door and call the company or the 0845 number above if necessary;

Please remember that Whaddon is relatively crime free and that the burglary mentioned above is an isolated incident; nevertheless, all the actions above are simple, normal and sensible precautions for us all to take.

On a similar note, as a neighbourhood watch organization we also discourage house-to-house buying and selling. It is not an offence for people to sell in this way but it can be worrying, particularly for those on their own and it can be a cover for other activities. We have window stickers saying this which are available from your NW coordinator.

In the previous Newsletter I reported the theft of lead on two occasions from St Mary's Church. Thankfully there has been no repeat and we await feedback on the result of the police investigation into what has been a national problem with this region suffering more than most. Action is being taken at St Mary's to counter future thefts.

Three of us from the village attended the third Neighbourhood Panel meeting, this time at Foxton Village Hall, and at which the police and SCDC provide an update on local crime and disorder issues. The focus of police attention remains with the same three concerns: anti-social behaviour (ASB) (notably in Bassingbourn and Melbourne), burglary and speeding. There seems to have been some success regarding ASB in Bassingbourn but Melbourne is proving a greater challenge.

Part of the effort to counter ASB is monitoring the sale of alcohol to under-age young people. Our PCSOs, working in partnership with South Cambs Trading Standards, conducted a series of test

**March 2008**

**NW cont'd**

purchases in a number of local village shops. All shops in the Melbourne/Bassingbourn area passed with flying colours. Bearing in mind that under-age drinking is part of the ASB problem we might ask where the youngsters are getting the alcohol.

We had asked for speeding to be monitored on the Meldreth road but, in the event, only one check was done, and that in November for about 30 minutes in the middle of the day with the PCSO being fully visible. Not surprisingly, drivers observed the speed limit. The police have been pressed for further checks at peak times but it is clear that resources are limited and higher priorities are likely to limit what can be done.

Finally, everybody has been given a "yellow card" which provides both the emergency telephone numbers to report a crime and the names and numbers for your local village NW coordinator. Please feel free to call them whenever you feel it appropriate.

Mike Monks

**Cambridgeshire & Peterborough  
Distraction Burglary & Rogue  
Trader Task Force**

**Need your broken fence repaired, a washer fitted to a leaking tap, a new TV aerial erected or your garden tidied?**

**Then you need a reliable tradesperson.**

**Can't find someone to carry out simple maintenance or repairs to your home?**

**Then you need our 'need help'.**

If you live in Cambridgeshire, are aged over 60 or have a physical disability or learning difficulty you are eligible to use the Cambridgeshire Registered Trader Scheme. The scheme will put you in touch with over 50 traders who can cope with most jobs in and around the home. They've all been Trading Standards audited and police checked.

**So don't delay ring 01354 696677 today for more information.**

**Cambridgeshire County Council  
Help us stop Rogue Trading?**

Have you, or a member of your family had a visit from a Rogue Trader posing as a builder, roofer, offering to tarmac your driveway or perhaps doing work in your garden? Or are rogue traders operating in your area?

They often call door to door, and target vulnerable and older people. Some Cambridgeshire residents have been conned out of thousands of pounds – in some cases their whole life savings.

If you know or suspect these doorstep criminals are operating in an area where you live or work, or you, a friend or member of your family have been a victim

You can help by calling

Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

Who will pass your information to Cambridgeshire Trading Standards.

Your phone call can be completely confidential; you will not need to give your name or address.

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

*Deadline for the next newsletter will be 10th May 2008. As mentioned previously a feature of the Newsletter has been to welcome new arrivals (including births) to the village and say farewell to those leaving us. If anyone has information can they please contact me with details. Joan Pascoe C. 208062 or [joanpascoe@aol.com](mailto:joanpascoe@aol.com)*

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Surprise Party for Donald McFadyen

On Friday 8 February, Whaddon Village Hall was packed with a crowd of around 80 to 100 members of all ages from Donald's churches in Bassingbourn and Whaddon. All were waiting expectantly for our Vicar to appear through the door, on the third Anniversary of his Licensing Service, which took place in Whaddon in February 2005.

Sue Simpson from Bassingbourn had the idea of planning a Surprise Party to mark the occasion and judging from the look on Donald's face when he opened the door, this had been a well-kept secret! With helpers from both villages earlier in the day the Hall was decorated in an appropriately

festive manner. Food and drink was provided by all who came. Lively conversation, music and games made for an entertaining family party, which had been constructed to provide fun for all, as we knew that Donald, his wife, Melanie and their children would be there.

John Simpson, Churchwarden from Bassingbourn and David Grech, on behalf of Whaddon, spoke a few words to mark the celebration. The fervent message was that we all hope for many more years with the Rev Dr Donald McFadyen as our Priest-in-charge.

**During Lent — There is an invitation to join a group discussing 'Life Calling'**

**Introduction**

Some people think that vocation is just for special people, but God calls us all to live our lives shaped and directed by his call. 'Life Calling', a 5-session series, explores the meaning of vocation for *everyone*, helping us to embark on an adventure with God – a journey through life in which we make a contribution to the world around us.

*When and where*

*There will be five Lent groups discussing 'Life Calling', four in Bassingbourn (Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and evenings) and one in Whaddon on a Tuesday evening at Iris Green's house. The sessions began on 19 February and are running until 19 March. Please free to join a group even if it has already started - it could be a great opportunity to meet other people.*

**Telephone Donald McFadyen 01763 244836**

**Church Contacts**

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

**Times of Services**

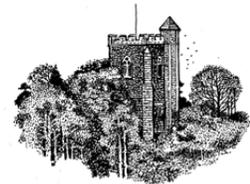
First Sunday	9.15am Morning Prayer
Second Sunday	9.15am Communion
Third Sunday	6.00pm Communion
Fourth Sunday	10.00am Family Service
Fifth Sunday	9.15am Communion

**Everyone most welcome**

**Don't for-**

the regular **Family Service** is a short service for **all ages** at 10 am on the fourth Sunday of the month:  
**27 April, 25 May, 22 June**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Mothering Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**CALLING ALL DADS**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Please come along to the Church  
**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 10 am** to  
 make posies for all the Mums &  
 Grandmas  
 \*\*\*\*\*



## Whaddon Parish Council News—some recent items from the monthly meetings

The new kissing gates have been installed and are operational at each end of the green in the centre of the village. The village is very grateful to SCDC who supplied the gates free of charge and particularly to the landowners - Pete and Chris Coningsby – who cleared the hedges and installed the gates, with the help of James Coningsby, George Allan Elbourn, Lee Ginger and Lee Ginger Jnr.

The potential installation of a second set of RADAR gates between St. Mary's church and the recreation ground was discussed and it was agreed that this should be done if there was no cost to the village. The gates should ideally be black to match the church railings. This gate will be included in the new Parish Path Partnership application as the County Council have not been able to confirm whether the gate can be supplied free of charge, at this stage.

The Parish Path Partnership application will again be submitted for 2008 (in 2007 £300 was received from the County Council through this scheme). It will include remedial work on the village footpath signs, hedge laying at the Whaddon Gap car park, as well as the new gate described above.

Concern has also been expressed that gates at the Barn Shop, on the A1198, when locked, prevent free access to the footpath, from the road towards the Wimpole avenue path. The clerk has written to the footpaths department at the County Council, asking them to investigate the matter.

The Parish Precept has been set at £15,500 for year 2008/9. All Councillors were agreed on this figure. The increase of £500 was made to cover the costs

of the Parish Council election due in May. The Village Hall floor was now regarded as dangerous and in urgent need of repair. It was believed that priority should be given, from available finances, to the replacement of the floor. Additional funds could not be given to the children's playground at this stage but the situation would be reviewed at the end of the financial year. The precept details have been published on the main notice board.

Mr Neil Gallery provided an update on the status of the Play Area Project at the January PC meeting. In order to meet the deadlines for receiving the grant, work must have started on the playground by June 2009 and the grant must be claimed by December 2009. The Project group now needs to concentrate on raising the additional £9,000 required over the next 12 months, and a number of ideas for events are being worked on. The PC has agreed to cover the additional insurance costs for the new equipment.

The lorry movements in connection with the Eternit landfill have now completed but the road at the Metal Hill junction had been left with larger potholes and the verges were also in poor repair. The Highways Agency has already filled in some of the holes but additional work may be needed, and County Councillor Oliver and District Councillor McCraith agree to follow this up with Eternit.

The coach/bus arrangements for school pick-ups and drop-offs in Whaddon and the proposed positioning of the lay-by were investigated at a meeting in late January.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr E J Webb	Chairman	01223 207564	42 Bridge Street
Mrs C Byatt	V-Chairman	01223 207429	Turpins Farmhouse, Church Street
Ms M Peyton	Councillor	01223 207358	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green
Mr P Neale	Councillor	01223 207706	104 Bridge Street, Dyers Green
Dr N Strudwick	Councillor	01223 207434	3 Town Farm Close, Church Street
Prof A Milton	Councillor	01223 207105	Chestnut Tree Farm, Meldreth Road
Mr L Ginger	Councillor	01223 207688	99 Meldreth Road
Mrs G Poortvliet	Clerk/ Finance Officer	01223 208450	134 Bridge Street, Dyers Green

**March 2008**

### **NEW CLERK FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Whaddon Parish Council is delighted to welcome Mrs Gabrielle van Poortvliet as the new Clerk and Finance Officer for the Council. After many years service, Yvonne Albery has had to resign for family reasons, but has promised a smooth handover and will continue to provide Gabby with support in her new roll.

Councillors jointly contributed together to present Yvonne with an engraved crystal bowl, as a mark of their appreciation for her help and hard work for the Council from 2002. Ted Webb, Chairman,

expressed admiration for the professional way in which Yvonne had conducted Council affairs and explained how much he had personally valued her support.

Councillors are looking forward to working with Gabby, who lives at the bottom of Bridge Street in Dyer's Green with her husband and two small daughters. Gabby took up her post on 1 January.

Parish Council Meetings are the third Monday each month in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

### **PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION**

#### **The Precept – what is it?**

Quite a few people do not know what the term Precept, in relation to Parish Council matters, actually means.

Put very simply it is a tax. Correctly it is an order issued by one local authority to another, specifying the rate of tax to be charged on its behalf. This means that Whaddon Parish Council will issue an instruction to the South Cambs. District Council to raise a specified amount of Council Tax to meet the costs of running the parish.

At the start of the each year, the Parish Council creates a budget to allow for the following year's expenditure allowing for contingencies. This is the Precept. The budget will cover such things as Clerk's salary, expenses, insurances, repairs to Parish Council property or other assets, mandatory inspections of equipment, general maintenance etc. and any future projects that could be of benefit to the village.

The Parish Council receives this Precept from South Cambs. District Council in two payments, one in April at the start of the fiscal year, and the other in September.

The SCDC collects the Precept as part of the annual Council Tax and the sum that will appear on your Council Tax Demand is a computation based on the number of properties in the village and the respective Tax Band of the property.

TW

### **THE MARY COURSE PRIZE**

A fund is being set up to commemorate the life and preserve the memory of Mary Course. The fund will be invested to produce an income so that The Mary Course Prize can be awarded annually at Meldreth Primary School. The prize of at least £50 will be to a pupil (or pupils) who has excelled in a project on Mary's interests and loves – the countryside, crafts, local history and the community. It could be for an essay, poem, painting, photography (or other medium) about Meldreth or a nearby village, at the discretion of the school.

The fund will be administered by Meldreth Parish Council and donations can be sent to:

Judy Damant, Parish Council Office, Sheltered Housing Communal Room, Elin Way, Meldreth, Royston, Herts SG8 6LT (cheques payable to

Meldreth Parish Council).

Mary, who lived in Meldreth, was District Councillor for Whaddon, Meldreth and Shepreth for many years and was totally committed to the surrounding countryside and villages. She had that wonderful combination of concern for the good of the community and the energy and drive to achieve results through her own or others' efforts.

The fund will also be publicised in Meldreth and Shepreth, at the School and at South Cambs District Council.

Please help to commemorate Mary and preserve her memory through the efforts of pupils in future school projects.

**Paul Ray, for the Meldreth Parish Council**

# TIMES

## PAST

### NEW SERIES 4

### *Getting About (2)*

In the last article mention was made of the poor state of the toll road from Royston, north along the site of the present A1198. Along this major route passed stage coaches from London to towns in the north including Stamford, York and Edinburgh. If a road such as this was in a bad state imagine the routes leading off to nearby towns and villages? In this respect Whaddon was lucky because in 1818 the original road, Penny Lane, which linked the village to the main road at the Kneesworth Turnpike, was diverted westwards to what is now the Whaddon Gap road because of its terrible condition. '*...the Justices aforesaid having viewed a course more commodius for travellers have ordered the said highway to be diverted...*' (*Cambridge Chronicle July 24th 1818*).

As can be expected Royston, being at the junction of two major routes, Ermine Street and the Icknield Way, was a major stopping place for various long distance coaches, with many coaching inns providing changes of horses and refreshments for travellers. For people living in Whaddon and other local villages who wished to visit relatives or friends living in Cambridge, London, Edinburgh etc. there were regular services from Royston.

Quite often the long distance coaches had names which either indicated their final destination or was an advertisement for their speed and reliability! Some examples are as follows:-

*The Star*, and *The Telegraph* to London and Cambridge, the *York Wellington* to London, York and Newcastle and *The Edinburgh Mail*

to London and Edinburgh, all left from the *Red Lion* in the High Street, Royston, which was demolished in 1963,

*The Beehive* and *The Rocket* to London and Cambridge and *The Wisbech Day* to Wisbech left from the *Bull Inn* in the High Street, Royston; this still survives to day.

*The Stamford Defiance* to London and Stamford left the *Old Crown Inn* which stood, until its demolition in 1927, on the site of Lloyds Bank.

Transport from local villages was supplied by carriers based on the Royston Inns. From the *Hoops* (this was situated at the rear of what is now Woolworths) William Judd of Green Farm, Whaddon, provided a carrier service to Royston Market on a Wednesday. Also in the 1881 Census for Whaddon a William Loveday, living on The Green, is listed as a Cowman and Carrier.



What was travelling on the stage coaches like? Not very comfortable! The long distance coaches had elementary springing which cushioned the travellers somewhat from the bumps and swaying but there was no protection from the dust raised by the horses hooves and the wheels and of course from the elements, especially tricky for outside passengers. This is particularly emphasised by an incident of a coach arriving at the *Old Crown Inn*, Royston, during a winter storm and the discovery that the guard had frozen to death at the rear of the coach!

With a top speed of 11 to 12 miles per hour journeys took a long time necessitating overnight stops with the growth of coaching inns, many of which survive to this day.

To assist people on their way milestones were essential and those along the A1198 are in a good state of preservation due to the efforts of *The Milestone Society*. There is a particularly good example just outside the village on the A1198.



Even today one can find a direct link with the era of the stage coach in Royston. The Royal Mail's new sorting office is called 'Fourth Stage House', a reminder that Royston was the fourth stage on the northern mail coach run. The life of the stage coach for long distance travel, however, was understandably severely curtailed by the arrival of the railway in the mid 19th century.

People tend to look back with nostalgia to the age of the stage coach and horse drawn traffic. However anybody living in rural England knows that when horses pass along the road it is handy to have a bucket and shovel handy; many rhubarb plants have benefited from a little bit of careful gathering! Imagine what it was like in any town where there were hundreds of horses moving around every day! The stink and mess must have been awful. In London at the end of the Victorian era there was a total of at least 1.1 million horses, used for 100,000 public passenger vehicles and cabs, 500,000 trade vehicles and 500,000 private carriages. Overall England had to deal with an estimated 10 million tonnes of manure a year. Straw was used to deaden the rattle of iron wheels on stone cobbles which of course churned up a foul mixture which had to be continually cleared away and disposed of. Manure was "exported" to the agricultural areas for fertilising the fields.

Many new words entered the language such as gig, barouche, phaeton brougham, fly, hansom, landaulette, hackney, landau etc and during these times were as familiar to the population as car models and their names are now. With the thriving business in through long distance coach traffic, local carriers, and the general ownership of horse-drawn transport, it is not surprising that an active back up service grew up to keep the wheels

of all the vehicles moving. The following list of various coach related occupations, in Royston, has been assembled mainly from Trade Directories. It covers the latter end of the 18th century until the arrival of motor transport.

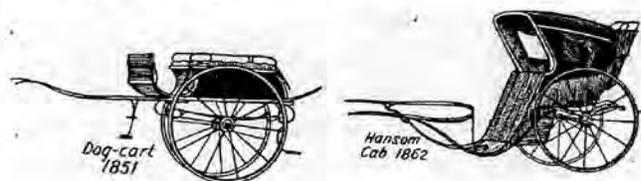
Blacksmith, Wheelwright, Groom, Cab Owner, Harness Maker, Farrier, Horse Clipper, Hub maker, Horse Singeing, Carriage and Coach Builder, Ostler, Carman, Carting Contractor, Post Boy/Master, Coach Driver, Coach Guard, Carrier, Stablekeeper, Turnpike Keeper, Drayman, Waywarden.

In Whaddon itself there were people whose jobs were directly related to horse drawn vehicles. The following information is taken from the Census Returns.

1841	North Road	Thomas Pegram	Toll Collector
	North Road	George Mayhew	Toll Collector
1871	The Green	Joseph Jacklin	Roadman
	High Street	Oliver Jarman	Groom
	The Green	Richard Sewell	Blacksmith
	The Green	William Jacklin	Groom
1881	Bridge Street	John Fincham	Wheelwright
1891	Bridge Street	Oliver Jarman	Groom
	Bridge Street	David Jacklin	Groom
	The Home,	? Frost	Groom



A commercial wagon

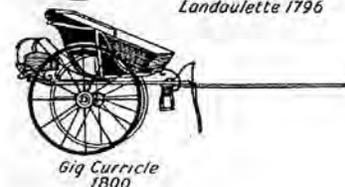


Dog-cart  
1851

Hansom  
Cab 1862



Landaulette 1796



Gig Carriage  
1800