USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Citizens Advice:
Cambridge 03448 487979
Royston 03444 111444

Councillors:
County: Susan van de Ven 07905 325574
District: Jose Hales 01763 221058
Phillipa Hart 01763 261255

Doctors:
Orchard Surgery, Melbourn 01763 260220
The Health Centre, Royston 01763 242981
Market Hill Surgery, Royston 01763 848244
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
National Express Coaches 0871 781 8181

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

March 2020
www.whaddon.org
Village Hall hire
Special rates for those within the village - ideal for birthday parties and most functions.
Village Rate: £7 per hour
Non-village Rate: £11 per hour
Please contact: whaddonvhrgt@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
7th March  Whisky Tasting  22nd April  Coffee Morning
9th March  Parish Council  11th May  Parish Council
11th March  Coffee Morning  13th May  Coffee Morning
   Charity Quiz  20th May  Whaddon Wednesdays
18th March  Whaddon Wednesdays  27th May  Coffee Morning
21st March  Posy Making  29th May  Beer Festival
   Film Club  30th May  Beer Festival
22nd March  Mothering Sunday  31st May  Whit Sunday Events
25th March  Coffee Morning  6th June  Race Night
28th March  Beetle Drive  8th June  Parish Council
6th April  Parish Council  10th June  Coffee Morning
8th April  Coffee Morning  17th June  Whaddon Wednesdays
11th April  Village Litter Pick  4th July  Church Fete
12th April  Easter Sunday  11th July  Party in the Barn
15th April  Whaddon Wednesdays  21st April  Posy Making
20th April  Annual Parish Meeting

NEWSLETTER
The deadline for the next newsletter is May 12th
Once again items of village interest are always welcome.
Joan Pascoe C208062
joanpascoe@aol.com

Bin Collection Dates
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Mobile Library
Every 3rd Tuesday 10.00 - 10.30 Meldreth Road
Tuesday 17 March
Tuesday 21 April
Tuesday 19 May

LIST OF PARISH COUNCILLORS
Mr Lee Ginger  Chair  07850  lee.ginger@btinternet.com
Dr Nigel Strudwick  Vice Chair  C 207434  3 Town Farm Close
Mr Will Elbourn  Councillor  C 208955  College Farm, Church Street
Prof. Tony Milton  Councillor  C 207105  Chestnut Tree Farm, Meldreth Road
Mr Randall Scott  Councillor  C 208253  26 Bridge Street
Anita Birch  Councillor  07748908164  68 Bridge Street
Joanne Vries  Councillor  C208009  108 Church Street
Mrs Angela Bridges  Clerk/Finance Officer  —  31 Bridge Street, whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TEAM
Malan Peyton  Whaddon Village Coordinator  Ermine Farm, Dyers Green  C 207358

Coordinators:
Karen Coningsby  Meldreth Road/Church Corner  17 Church Street  C 207514
Carole Aldred  Church Street/Town Farm Close/St Mary’s 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/
John Coppard  Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Lyndsay Gardiner  Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
James Lynch  Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Dial 999 to report a crime actually happening or when lives are at risk.
For a non-emergency matter dial 101.
If you report an incident to the police please let your neighbourhood watch coordinator know.
SUSAN VAN de VEN Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Monthly Advice Surgeries:
Susan van de Ven holds two drop-in advice surgeries a month for anyone who has a question or concern.
1st Monday of the month The Hub, Melbourn, 3-4pm
3rd Monday of the month The Limes, Bassingbourn, 3-4pm
Alternatively if there are issues people would like to discuss at other times you can contact Susan on 07905325574 or susan@sclibdems.org.uk

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

N. HERTS AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
Our area is served by ‘North Herts and District’ CAB, an independent charity that provides advice on basic rights and services, like housing and benefits.
A free drop-in service is held every 1st and 3rd Monday (9.30 am-12 noon), Melbourn Community Hub,
Monday and Wednesday mornings (9.30 am-12 noon) at the Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire Royston Town Hall, Royston, SG8 7DA.
Any questions, please ring the CAB Monday-Friday, 10-4,

Village Hall - Film Club
21st March
Blazing Saddles
Tickets £5 per person
7.30pm
Refreshments available
Fancy dress encouraged
Tickets from the Golf Range, Anita Birch 68 Bridge Street or Anitabirch1@hotmail.co.uk

Whaddon Golf Centre
Charity Quiz
The last one this season is on 11th March.
Real Ale Festival
Fri 29th, Sat 30th and Sun 31st May
We hope there will be a Barbecue on the Sunday and a chance to join in with the Morris Dancing.
Don’t forget - not just golf. We are your local for newspapers, cafe, bar. Open everyday.
Pub nights Wednesdays and Fridays.
Children and dogs welcome.
Lorna and Richard

PC Repairs
Advice & Installation of Home Networks
Help with Selecting a Computer
Fault Finding
Brian Girling 01223 208529 (Wimpole)
E-mail bg@moncraft.co.uk
We can also provide the following services:
Design of brochures, posters, business cards etc.
A4/A3 laminating • A4 Comb-Binding
Small print runs on A6 to A3 media

Beetle Drive
In aid of St Mary’s Church Roof at Whaddon Golf Centre on 28 March 2020
7.00 for 7.30pm
£5 per person - Teams of 4
Raffle and Snacks
All ages and abilities welcome. If you have never played before don’t worry - full instructions will be provided.

CHURCH ROOF FUNDRAISING
Whisky Tasting
Led by Phil Neale
Saturday 7th March
8.00pm
at the Village Hall
Tickets £25
Includes whisky sampling, cheese and biscuits.
For those non-whisky drinkers a partner’s ticket at £5 each.
Bring your own wine!
**Whaddon Whitsun Weekend 2020**

This year, Whitsun Weekend will fall on 30 and 31 May. This is NOT the Bank Holiday weekend, but the one after. We plan to celebrate it in the usual style. Please make a note in your diary of the events below.

**Saturday 30 May**
Folk Evening in the Village Hall
Come and enjoy some ceilidh dancing, with food and drink provided. It’s an excellent time to socialise and to learn about the village’s own traditional Whitsun celebrations.

Those new to Whaddon might like to read about the history and customs associated with Whitsun (and about past events) on the village web site, via http://www.whaddon.org/whitsun

Helen and Nigel Strudwick

**Sunday 31 May**
Dancing around the village from 10.30 onwards. 12.30 Service for Pentecost at St Mary’s Church. After church, dancing at the Golf Centre.

**Saturday 11th July 2020**
8 pm - Midnight,
Leyhill Farm Whaddon

**Party in the Barn**

**Bar & BBQ**

**1980’s Theme Nightclub**

The original Party in the Barn was organised by villagers to raise funds to enable the village play ground equipment to be purchased and installed in 2009. The equipment has to be repaired and maintained by the Village Hall Trust each year, so it has been decided to throw another party with all profits going towards the upkeep of the playground.

We need your support by buying tickets and joining the party, but we also need help to sell tickets and advertise the event to local groups, schools, colleges, clubs etc. as the more money we can raise, the longer the Trust will be able to maintain our special playground for years to come.

Please spread the word or get in touch if you can help, via the Facebook page: PartyInTheBarn80s

**Tickets available to purchase and reserve from Whaddon Golf Centre**

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**RECENT BULLETIN FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**Safe and Well Visits - Helping you to stay independent in your own home**

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service wants everyone in the county to be safe from fire at home and know how to escape safely if a fire starts. That’s why we visit people in their own homes to make sure they have working smoke alarms and a good level of fire safety awareness to help prevent fires and save lives.

To help keep our communities safe we offer FREE Safe and Well visits across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

A Safe and Well visit is a **home visit** that lasts no longer than an hour, at a convenient time for you, carried out by trained staff. During the visit we will:

- Talk to you about fire safety in the home
- Check your property to identify any fire hazards
- Check that you have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of your home
- Fit FREE ten-year smoke alarms as appropriate
- Provide you with fire safety advice and show you how to test your smoke alarms
- Talk about escape plans, so that you can escape safely if a fire starts
- Provide advice, or link you into organisations that can help you, if you need support with other issues such as health, wellbeing or crime prevention.

To find out if you are eligible for a visit, call us on 01480 444500 or email us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk.

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**Bassingbourn Book Café**

The Limes Community Centre, High Street, Bassingbourn
Books, computers, tea and coffee, cake, free Wi-Fi and much more

Open
Mondays 3 - 5 pm
Thursdays 2 - 4:30 pm
Saturdays 10 am - Noon

Telephone: 01763 247618

Bassingbourn Book Café is a Library Access Point run by volunteers in association with Cambridgeshire Libraries
CEILIDH EVENING
Saturday 14th March 2020
King James Academy Site
Garden Walk
Royston
SG8 7JH
Come and dance the night away with the Cyriacs and celebrate St Patrick’s Day at this fun event.
£16 a ticket to include a jacket potato supper.
A licensed bar will be available

LITERARY LUNCH
Thursday 2nd April 2020
The Old Bull Inn
Royston
Buffet lunch from 12.15pm
Chat 1.00 to 2.15pm
Tickets: £15.00
Jude Simpson hosts a chat with Philip Birtles
Author of “The Past, Present and Future” commemorating the 25th year of the Garden House Hospice.

For enquiries or to book please ring 01763 262262, email admin@hsrsc.org.uk or on line at: www.ticketssource.co.uk/hsrsc
All proceeds in aid of Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

Rothwell’s Carpet Cleaning
01223 832 928
www.Rothwells.biz
Carpet Cleaning
Stone Floor, Upholstery & Rug Cleaning.
A few points that make us stand out from the others,
Rothwell’s has been in business since 1993.
We’re an honest local family firm.
Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible.
Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.
We will move the furniture for a thorough clean.
100% satisfaction or it’s FREE.
Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.
Rothwell’s, Malting End, Kirtling, Newmarket, CB8 9HH

Telephone scams

Scams, frauds, rackets, call them what you will have been around forever, although with modern communications they seem to proliferate. I recently put an email around the village in response to several reports of telephone scams and I thought I should share what I said in the Whaddon News as not everyone who might be affected by fraud are online.

Several people have reported getting automated phone calls claiming to be from Openreach or other ISP-related organisations saying that either there is an issue with your connection with your router or that your service is being shut down in the next 24/48 hours. These calls, and others like them, some of which are by people and not robots, want you to take the action the messages request, and you will end up talking to someone who will try and convince you of a problem and get you to give them money, install a computer virus, or something like this. These phone calls are particularly disconcerting to vulnerable people, which is why I find them so disgusting.

It is important to realise that any reputable organisation, whether ISP, phone company, bank etc, will never phone you about a real problem. They will normally contact you in writing, by post or email. If in doubt about anything, hang up and don’t talk to anyone. But by the same token, be suspicious even of emails claiming to be from your bank – check the addresses from which they come, as they usually look a bit like the real one but are not.

I hear there is also a phone fraud doing the rounds claiming to be from the police, saying that you have not responded to a speeding ticket or something like that. Again, the police will not contact you by phone like that, but always by letter; I confirmed this with a solicitor recently.

If in doubt about the genuine nature of such a call, end the call and actually phone the number you have in your records for the organisation that claims to be calling you (don’t use any number the caller gives you) and report it.

The ecops local police mailing list had a recent entry about a similar racket known as ‘Courier fraud’. Read about it here:
https://www.ecops.org.uk/da/307083/88K_lost_to_courier_fraud_in_Cambs_this_month.html

The police do want to hear from people who feel they have been a victim of such a fraud; another way to get advice is to contact the Citizen’s Advice Bureau.

Nigel Strudwick
Normal Sunday Services
(all services at 9.30am)
1st Sunday Morning Prayer - Churchwardens
2nd Sunday Morning Worship
3rd Sunday Morning Prayer - Churchwardens
4th Sunday Holy Communion
5th Sunday Joint Service

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES
All children and Dads are welcome to help make posies on Saturday 21st March at 10.30am in the church.

ST MARY’S CHURCH
WHADDON

Village email list changes
The Whaddon email list, started originally by Mike Monks in 2012, has recently seen a change of settings. The original server at Gmail started rejecting my messages sent via bcc: as it apparently thought I was sending “spam”. Gmail seems to be taking a harder line against lots of addresses in bcc:, and stopping messages being sent. This became a major problem for me as perfectly legitimate messages to the village were not getting out.

So I have decided to use a similar system that runs off the email system we get as part of the Whaddon web site. Emails from the Whaddon email list now come from email-list@whaddon.org. Nothing else has changed. Your privacy is the same, and you are only on the list because you have in the past given me your explicit permission to be contacted for the purposes of village-wide emails. Remember, you only have to drop me an email to be removed and I will do it immediately.

Because of the way some people’s email settings work, some of you may not have heard of this change, perhaps because your system does not recognise the address email-list@whaddon.org and thinks it may be a bad one. If you used to get emails from the list but don’t now, make sure the address email-list@whaddon.org is marked as a valid one and not a blocked one, and emails should flow as they did before.

If you want to be added to or removed from the list send me a message at email-list@whaddon.org. Ditto if you have an item that you would like circulated. Please also remember that if you are asked to contact someone mentioned in the email, their contact details will be given so do NOT press reply as it will not get to the person intended.

Nigel Strudwick

WHADDON GOLF CENTRE
01223 207325
www.whaddongolfcentre.co.uk
9.00 til late
Open to all

DRIVING RANGE
BAR
9 HOLE COURSE
FOOD
TUITION
COFFEE
PRO- SHOP
NEWSPAPERS
(Ask us to order)
A1198 speed limit
After two postponements, we finally managed to present our case to Cambridge Highways for our bid to reduce the speed limit along the A1198 from just beyond Whaddon Gap, past the Barracks and to Kneesworth. There will also be other measures to make the road safer, including traffic islands to stop vehicles overtaking at Whaddon Gap. We were accompanied by the Chief of Staff from the Barracks and Susan van de Ven, our County Councillor, who are both very supportive of the plan. We should know whether we have been successful by the end of March.

Phone box 1 – Bridge Street
The new Phone Box library is now open for business. Many thanks to Randall Scott for fitting it out and together with Neil Smith and Peter Coningsby for the permanent installation. Angela Bridges has volunteered to look after the library. Don’t forget that there is also a second library in the Golf Centre – thanks to Lorna Green who stepped in when the original phone box was destroyed. There is always a need for ‘new books’ to keep the libraries fresh.

Phone box 2 – Meldreth Road
The Parish now owns this phone box now that BT have removed the equipment. While there are a number of possible uses, we are keen to hear of any ideas that villagers may have, another library, a second defibrillator or a possible community use perhaps? Let either Angela Bridges or the Parish Council know if you have any thoughts.

Parking on the grass at the top of Bridge Street at Ridgeway Close
Following the complaints about parking and the mud this has caused on this stretch of grass verge, South Cambridgeshire Housing, who own part of the verge, have installed an extra parking space at Ridgeway Close and shall soon be remarking the bays to include one disabled space. They then plan to install a rail fence just back from the road to deter parking which should also stop vehicles from mounting the verge at this location when passing others. From observation, delivery vans seem to be the main culprits!

Annual village litter pick
The national Great British Spring Clean is to be held between 20th March and 13th April and we shall hold our annual village wide litter pick on Easter Saturday, 11th April. Details to be announced nearer the time.

Three free trees
South Cambs. District Council have offered Parish Councils a £60 voucher to buy and plant three trees by this Spring. We have taken advantage of this generous offer and are in discussions with our tree warden as to the best type of trees to plant.

All minutes of meetings are on the village website www.whaddon.org and on the notice board at the Village Hall in Church Street. The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 9th March 2020 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Compiled by Lee Ginger

New Vicar
Our Vicar, Caroline Yandell, will shortly be leaving the parishes of Whaddon and Bassingbourn to allow her more time to develop the academic part of her ministry in relation to theological ethics and how the Church, and Christians as individuals, might respond to some of the big ethical dilemmas of our time. Caroline’s last Sunday will be 15th March and we will then enter an Interregnum, a period when we will have no vicar, and during which time our PCC will work with the PCC at Bassingbourn to advertise for, and appoint, a new vicar. During the Interregnum we will still have Amanda O’Neill, our Associate Minister, and the regular pattern of services will continue more or less unaltered. The aim will be to keep the period of the Interregnum as short as possible, but it will, necessarily, last for several months, and maybe up to a year.

Update on the Church Roof
Following the theft of all the lead from the roof of St Mary’s last June and the PCC’s decision to re-roof the church in terne-coated stainless steel, in January 2020 South Cambridgeshire District Council informed us that the change in material on the roof would require planning permission. A planning application has now been submitted and should be determined by Easter. Historic England is not objecting to the change in roofing material, so we are hopeful that the application will be approved. That would then enable us to submit grant applications in the late spring/early summer and, if successful, have contractors on site in the autumn. Due to the presence of bats in the church we have been advised that we cannot undertake the works between May and the end of August.

In the meantime we are continuing with our fundraising efforts to help pay for the new roof and the next event is a Whisky Tasting led by Phil Neale, which will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 7th March at 8:00pm. Tickets are £25 each and includes whisky sampling and cheese and biscuits. We are aware that not everyone enjoys whisky, so we are offering partner’s tickets at £5 each (bring your own wine!).

David Grech and Karen Coningsby
Church Wardens, St Mary’s Whaddon

British Red Cross collection week May 3rd – 9th 2020.
In the Whaddon News of June 2019, I wrote that people in Whaddon have been collecting for this worthwhile cause for 100 years and I asked for volunteers to continue this good work. I am sad to say that, as yet, nobody has come forward, but my number is C 208072 and I am ever hopeful. Please help!

Many thanks
Iris Green
Friends or tradesmen visiting?

The roads through our village are not that wide so it may be safer for their cars or vans to be parked off the road either on your drive or, if that’s not possible, in the village hall car park for the day.

Openreach are not at the moment running out FTTP to very many villages, concentrating on larger settlements. But of course this may change, as the whole FTTP idea is developing almost every day it seems at present. Openreach also have an approach towards FTTP in villages, in the form of their Community Fibre Partnerships (CFP). These, unlike County Broadband, need the initiative to come from the village itself and as the rules stand at the moment, we would have to set up a limited company to take the risk of such a project. There are, however, possibilities that this might change.

All FTTP projects take advantage of various Government vouchers to reduce the cost of installing the additional technology needed. These vary in value according to the current speed you are able to get, whether you are a business, etc. The organisers of any FTTP projects will expect people they connect to get one of these vouchers as a Government contribution to help defray the cost of their scheme. I, wearing my hat of “Broadband Champion”, am keeping an eye on all possible ways of improving Internet speeds and connections in Whaddon and I can try and field any questions you may have. I will pass on information via village emails and quarterly in the Whaddon News.

Nigel Strudwick
Whaddon Wednesdays

Well a new year and a new decade brings with it much to talk and be talked about for Whaddon Wednesdays’ regulars. We have a full programme until the summer with a healthy mixture of garden related topics along with more general local interest topics. We got off to a grand start for the year with a very well attended evening in January in the company of Whaddon’s own Phil Neale who talked on “Treasures of Syria”. Phil, accompanied by Angela, was lucky enough to visit and experience the country’s treasures and its people just before the troubles started. Phil provided a fascinating and very personal insight into what was a beautiful country now torn apart by a dreadful war. Mint tea and baklava successfully got everybody properly involved.

Moving on to the 19th February we will have Rodney Tibbs seeking to persuade people that the Fens are not dull, flat and boring, as many people are inclined to think. Rodney has spent a lifetime in journalism and for many years was a feature writer and later features editor of the Cambridge Evening News. Rodney will be suggesting places to visit in the Fens and things to see which may not be well known but are fascinating in their own way. He takes a look at the many unusual and intriguing things in the Fens ranging from the seven and a half mile long Devil's Dyke to the Stained Glass Museum tucked inside Ely Cathedral. He will also explain some background to the region, looking at how it got from an inland sea to its present inhabited state.

On 18th March, Wendy Evans will speak on Low Maintenance Gardening. Many of you will have heard Wendy speak on garden topics before. She always brings a very practical edge to her words as well as valuable advice on how to reduce the workload and increase the enjoyment of your gardening.

On the 15th April, Roger Crabtree, possibly aided by a colleague, will talk on “The Pye Story – from a garden shed in Chesterton to a world-wide success”. Pye is a name that will bring back memories to many Cambridge residents. It was a company that, in the first half of the twentieth century, put Cambridge at the heart of the radio and television revolution sweeping the world. Roger will explain how Pye became Cambridge’s biggest private sector company for much of the 20th century and why it has since disappeared.

Continuing our programme, On 20 May, Mike Petty who has spoken to us before and is an acknowledged expert on Cambridge and its history, will talk on: “Cambridge Illustrator’s from 1688”. Mike’s talk comes highly recommended.

Details of each event will be publicised via the village email system and the website. Everybody is most welcome and although we do have a number of regular members it would be a great pleasure to see other residents from the village join us in the village hall on the third Wednesday of the month. Your £3.00 will go some way to provide refreshments, fund the speaker and pay for the hire of the village hall. We hope to see you.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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6 week blocks

Broadband speed survey

With so much going on in the broadband area at the moment, the time has come again to survey the speeds around the village, and I need you to help me. I would like every household who can to run a few speed tests on their line and let me have the results. This information will be very helpful to me in my dealings with Connecting Cambridgeshire, Openreach and others such as County Broadband. This is especially important if you are at the far end of Meldreth Road or of Bridge Street/Dyers Green, as you know you have the most problems with the current system.

I want everyone to run tests using the same testing site, https://www.broadbandspeedtest.org.uk. This does not require logins or divulging personal information and only takes a few seconds. Specific details:

1. For the purposes of the test, please connect a computer directly to your router with an ethernet cable. But if you don’t know how to do that, use Wi-Fi and get as close to the router as you can get; if no other equipment is available use a phone or tablet.
2. Ensure that no-one else is using the system as that will degrade the speed.
3. If you know how to do it, take a screen shot of the results; failing that, write it down.
4. Send the fastest result that you get to me at emaillist@whaddon.org;

please give your name your house number and street name the phone number of the line you are using for the broadband whether you used Ethernet or wi-fi whether you used a computer or mobile device

This data will only be used for the purposes of collating data around the village.

Thanks, Nigel Strudwick
TIMES PAST

THE ENVIRONMENT
A Question of Trees

Old newspapers provide a splendid source of research material. However, these newspaper reports, while providing an interesting glimpse into earlier life, often pose questions which cannot really be answered with any degree of accuracy. In 1813 and 1815 there appeared two advertisements in the Cambridge Chronicle for the sale of timber. Reading these closely it poses the questions about the village at that time. Where exactly were the trees? They appear to be rather large and numerous. Was the surrounding area of the village very much more wooded than at present or alternatively were the trees brought in to Whaddon from elsewhere? – though they do seem rather large for unnecessary transportation.

In addition details of individual sales of wood by tenants of the Earl of Hardwicke in 1777-8 also suggest a more wooded environment and regular sales of timber. However neither the advertisements in the newspaper nor the details of Wood Sales give any indication of where the trees might have been situated. Interesting to speculate!

Some entries from the account of wood sold at Whaddon in 1777-8:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Brown</td>
<td>5s. 8d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Barlow</td>
<td>£1 2s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow Barton</td>
<td>6s. 5d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Bell</td>
<td>£1 13s. 3d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Giffen</td>
<td>£1 8s. 2d.</td>
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</tbody>
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The Whaddon Organ - but not the church this time!

Last year we went to a talk given by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative about wild places and species of the Fens, and my attention was caught by mention of ‘Whaddon Organs’, extinct pool frogs which used to be plentiful in a few locations in this part of the country.

Pool frogs have a loud, shrill croak, generated by a pair of inflatable vocal sacs each side of the mouth, and were known locally as ‘Cambridgeshire Nightingales’ and ‘Whaddon Organs’. They are distinguished from common frogs by their different croak, the vocal sacs in the male, their timidity and their need to be in water. Pool frogs are also different to edible frogs, although in the past they were thought to be the same species.

In the 1770s Mr Bell, a native of Cambridgeshire, considered the frogs of Whaddon and Fowlmere, known as ‘Whaddon Organs’, to be a separate species to the common frog. Then in 1843 a Mr Thurnall of Duxford presented two specimens of pool frog, taken from the site of the present RSPB bird reserve in Fowlmere, to the British Museum. They were identified by the Latin name *Rana lessonae*, and the following year an illustration of them appeared in the Zoologist journal. However, by 1847 Fowlmere Fen had been drained and the pool frogs disappeared. The last known example of a British pool frog died in the 1990s in Norfolk.

While Fowlmere was a certain site for pool frogs, Whaddon is described as a probable site. In 1903 it was contested by a Mr Yorke who suggested that the phrase ‘Whaddon Organs’ indicated ‘the boast of Whaddon Churchmen in a recently acquired barrel-organ’. Yorke further observed that the frogs concerned had not been found in the district between Whaddon and Fowlmere.

Considerable research has been done to establish that pool frogs did occur naturally in East Anglia and were not introduced by say the Romans or by Medieval monks. Their croaks were also analysed and found to be related to Scandinavian pool frogs rather than to those from central and southern Europe. Therefore, it was pool frogs collected in Sweden which were used in the current programme of breeding and reintroduction at sites near Thetford.

I was intrigued to learn of the Whaddon Organs, and more recently David Handscombe picked up the term in an article on lost language of the Fens, and he and Nigel Strudwick circulated an article via Whaddon Email. We thought that we had never heard of Whaddon Organs, but I now find that our parish historians Jean and Stan Ralls have beaten us all to it, and there was an article in the Whaddon News some years ago titled ‘A Question of Frogs’.

To Coachmakers, Wheelwrights, Carpenters and Others
Large Elm and Ash Timber
Whaddon, Cambridgeshire

To be sold by Auction by Thomas Cockett at Whaddon in the county of Cambridgeshire on Monday, the 24th instant, at 11 o’clock.

230 very fine Ash, Elm and Poplar TIMBER TREES many of them 35-45 feet in length; of unusual large dimensions; and in quality not to be excelled.

To be viewed by appointment to Mr Joseph Giffen, carpenter at Whaddon, of whom catalogues may be had; also at the inns and public houses in the neighbourhood, and of Thomas Cockett at Royston, Herts. A deposit of ten per cent to be paid at the sale; six months credit will be given for the remainder of the purchase money with approved joint security.

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Elm and Ash Pollard Trees
Whaddon, Cambridgeshire

To be sold by Auction by Thomas Cockett at Whaddon in the county of Cambridgeshire this day the 15th instant at 11 o’clock.

180 Elm and Ash Pollard Trees most of which may be cut into good Planks and Boards.

Credit will be given till September next, with proved security.

Catalogues to be had at the public houses in the neighbourhood, of Mr Joseph Giffen at Whaddon and Thomas Cockett, at Royston, Herts.

Cambridge Chronicle 8th January 1813

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Jenny Grech Feb 2020

Cambridge Chronicle 17th March 1815

S & J Ralls July 2003