

# Whaddon News

May 2000

The **Village** **Fete**  
Saturday 3 June  
Whaddon  
2 pm  
STALLS  
RACES  
CAR BOOT SALE £5 pitch  
LINE DANCING  
TUG OF WAR  
TEAS

Free admission

## THE NEWS IS BACK

Whaddon News is back after too long an absence. This issue contains some important dates for your diary - the two Fetes in the village, the barbecue and the annual Parish Council meeting. We do aim to issue three Newsletters a year and the next one should appear in September. If you have some news, are organising an event or just want to say something, please let us know, and it will be included in the next issue. Your editorial team are waiting to hear from you:

Margaret Wilson C. 208648  
Anne Williams C. 207779  
Phil Neale C. 207706

## CONGRATULATIONS

*To the Newberrys who celebrated Christmas 1999 with the arrival of Emily Michaela and Roger Kuffer had a new addition to the family when Madeleine Lucy was born in September.*

*Penny and Will Burchet celebrated the birth of Finlay last November.*

*The Whaddon baby boom has just been completed with the birth of Alana to Donna and Craig on 27th April.*

*Congratulations to you all and welcome our new citizens.*

## St Mary's Parish Church



# FETE

Produce Show & Auction  
On the Recreation Ground and Churchyard

## WHADDON

Saturday 22 July

Ploughman's lunch  
at 12.30pm  
(£3.00 and £2.00 children)

Fete opening at 2pm

With all the usual features  
Stalls, Tombola, Teas  
Sideshows, Children's Entertainer  
Vintage Cars, and much more!

# Parish Council News

*-some highlights from recent meetings*

The proposed development of the Town Farm site by Berkeley Homes continues to occupy our time.

The original application for eight 4 bedroom homes was revised to reduce the number of detached houses from five to four and to increase the number of houses occupying the central 'barn' position to four. All the houses have four bedrooms. The houses in the barn are three storeys high. Of the detached houses, one is already a five-bed roomed house and two have the potential for more rooms in their top storey.

The Parish Council has continued to object on the basis that the plans do not comply with the District Local Plan which specifies a mix of different cost housing. We are also concerned that the density of housing is too great with no provision in the village for such a large increase in population. With no further amenities planned for the village it is felt that current schooling, health care and public transport are inadequate. Concern has also been expressed with the potential number of traffic movements at what is already a blind corner in the centre of the village.

To date it is unknown when the plans will be discussed at the South Cambs. planning meeting.

Plans to improve the area surrounding the village hall are well underway with the purchase of railings to fence off the frontage of the hall. Plans to improve the car parking area together with a new entrance from the road have also been developed. Different grants are being pursued to help us pay for these improvements.

The County Council has agreed to sell us the small area around the fountain in Bridge Street for £1500. The possibility of forming a trust to manage this area for the village is being investigated. The piece of land (track) behind the fountain is currently for sale after the Dept. Of the Environment overturned South Cambs. District Council rejection of the

outline planning application for one dwelling on this land.

The precept for the village was kept at the same level of £5000 as last year.

Mr Noel Moses has resigned from the Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to thank Noel for all his hard work and help during his time on the Council and we all wish him well for the future.

Two candidates have applied for the vacant position and the successful candidate will be co-opted onto the Council at the meeting on 15th May.

Recently a large amount of rubbish was dumped in the Whaddon Gap car park. The County Council has been asked to investigate the possibility to provide a height barrier to prevent entry by trucks or lorries. If anyone sees rubbish being dumped illegally at the car park or anywhere else in the village, please inform one of the Parish Councillors.

Whaddon has a new Community Beat Officer from Cambridgeshire Police.

He is PC271 John Shickell and he can be contacted at HQ on 01480 456111 or Pager Number 01893 385383

Millennium gifts of £5 coins were distributed to all the children in the village at Christmas.

Bidwells have donated a Persian Ironwood tree to the village, for the millennium, and it was agreed that it should be planted on the verge outside the Methodist Chapel.

## Annual Parish Meeting

**Monday 15th May 2000**

**This meeting will take place at 8.00 pm after the bimonthly Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm.**

The Parish Council meetings are open to everyone in the village and take place on the third Monday in the month, every two months. These are your meetings and a good opportunity to find out what is happening in Whaddon.

# Whaddon's

## Millennium Book

We all wish to thank Chris Fisher and the support from his family for the excellent work to produce the Whaddon Millennium Book. It really is a credit to the village and provides a real insight into life in the village at the turn of the century. Somewhere in the future people will be able to look back at the book and know what life in Whaddon was like in 2000.

Well done Chris

## The Red Lion .....in Kneesworth

Has anyone been to the Red Lion in Kneesworth recently. After a very agreeable meal there the other evening I can recommend it for both it's beer and fine food.

It has changed hands in the last year and is a vast improvement on the pub we used to know.

So why not take a 10 minute walk along the footpath at the end of Bridge Street and visit the nearest pub to our village. *PJN*

### VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Sally Eley has taken over responsibility for Village Hall bookings. Please contact her on 01223 207340 for details of availability and fees.

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### ***DID YOU KNOW.....***

*There is now a day care centre in the village?. Details from Michaela at Nippers.*



## GARDENING TIPS

.....from Dyers Green

- Don't cut your grass too short. Never cut more than a third of the plant leaf off at any one time
- Reduce the height of your grass gradually down to the required height
- Keep your grass longer if it has more traffic e.g. kids, dogs
- Thicken the lawn by raking with a fine rake once a fortnight
- Give the lawn a feed in early May. Not too high in Nitrogen (no more than 8%) or you could be cutting it 2 or 3 times a week

### **WHADDON'S ANNUAL BARBECUE**

**SATURDAY JULY 8th 2000**  
Starts 7.30 pm

**DANCE, EAT and  
DRINK the NIGHT  
AWAY**

**Tickets available in  
June**

From the Village Hall  
Commitee

## MOVING HOUSE

Welcome to Angela and Nick Buxton who have moved in to Meldreth Road with their children; Charlotte (11) and Ross (9). Many will already know them from the dog training classes at the Village Hall. We have no excuse for illbehaved dogs now!

We also welcome to Bridge Street Donna, Craig and Joshua (22months).

Just before Christmas Melissa and Tony Davidge moved into Church Street with Zoe aged 7 and little brother Ryan 5..

## WEBB IVORY

As you may know a Webb Ivory catalogue circulates in the village to raise funds for the childrens' Christmas party. For the last two years Dana Inman has dealt with the orders but she has left the village. Is there anybody else willing to help towards this very valuable cause? The task is not very onerous but can be fiddly. Margaret Wilson has also done this in the past and would be willing to help any volunteer who might like to give it a try. Tel: 208648 for a chat.



### **TIM PHILLIPS**

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existing accountant when you  
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## WATER VOLES in WHADDON

Most people will have read or seen Wind in the Willows with Ratty, Mole and Badger. What a lot of people will not know is that Ratty was a water vole (*Arvicola Terrestris*). These endearing creatures which live along river and stream banks, are often confused with the common rat otherwise known as the brown rat or norwegian rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). Brown rats also like to live in burrows by water and are rightly classified as pests as they cause damage and carry disease.

Water voles are under threat of extinction in Britain with the most dramatic decline in numbers of any British mammal this [last] century. Causes of this decline are damage to habitat from agricultural intensification and river dredging, and predation by mink and domestic cats. Water voles are protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Acts 1981.

The good news is that we have water voles living in Whaddon. I have seen them swimming in the brook at the Meldreth end of Meldreth Road. They burrow in the bank close to the water and I have watched them enter burrow entrances below the water line.

Water voles leave indistinct tracks along the water's edge unlike brown rats which leave well trampled paths connecting burrows and often leading away from the water. Water voles can be distinguished from rats by their blunt snout, rounded bodies and shorter, hairier tail. They are active in the day whereas rats are mainly nocturnal.

We can help conserve water voles by leaving vegetation along the banks of brooks and being careful in the use of rodenticides. What we can do about cats I don't know!

I would be interested to hear of any other water vole sightings in the village. My phone number is 207373.

Keith Harker.



### Ed.'s note.

A recent radio programme looked at the population problems of water voles and all the research currently being done. Apparently the water voles can withstand the predation better when they have good habitat. Less long grass and herbage gives less cover thereby making them more vulnerable to attack. Therefore the answers are much more in our hands than we might care to admit! We may think short grass looks nicer but animals and insect don't.

### HORSE RIDERS

Once again an appeal to riders not to allow horses to walk along the footpath between Meldreth Road and the church. The horses hooves are damaging the surface of the footpath which is not in the best condition anyway. It was made for pedestrians.

### OXFAM SPONSORED WALK

The Oxfam Walk has been an annual event in the Cambridge area for 33 years, raising over £45,000 in 1999. This year's walk will start and finish in the grounds of Wimpole Hall, which will host various activities and entertainment in the Oxfam marquee. Walkers can choose to be sponsored to conquer a route of 7, 14 or 21 miles around the Eversden, Longstowe, Hatley and Croydon areas. The walk will also be linked with the 'On the Line' campaign, which aims to link the people living in the eight countries along the Meridian Line.

For this event to be a success Oxfam need YOU. They would like walkers to get out and enjoy the countryside whilst having lots of family and friends sponsoring them. People who would put up posters publicising the event. Volunteers to be marshalls and stewards even for just two or three hours. They would like to hear from you by telephone. Contact Ruth Dawson, Walk Manager at 01223 301317.



A short word on natural security as the warmer weather entices us into the garden. Have you considered a hedge around your property, or parts of it, where it might be vulnerable to a break in? A nice, thick and thorny barrier of shrubs can deter thieves as well as look beautiful in your garden. Some suggestions are:- Creeping juniper, Blue spruce, Common holly, Giant rhubarb, Golden bamboo, Chinese Jujube, Firethorn, Shrub rose, Juniper or Mountain pine. Don't forget good old Hawthorn either. If you are interested in any of the above plants and don't have access to planting conditions or description contact me.

Also topical as the gardening season gets under way is shed security. I have a suggested top ten list of precautions. Number one is to check the state of repair. The rest I will pass on if required. Don't forget to mark your tools especially lawn mowers. Post code and your house number marked somewhere unobtrusive and make a note of serial numbers where appropriate.

I also have a holiday security checklist if anyone would like one.

Finally caravans; your caravan is vulnerable even when on your driveway. Did you know that a caravan registration and identification scheme was established in 1992 and, since then, all touring caravans manufactured by Caravan Council members are recorded on a database. They have a unique 17 digit number (VIN). This VIN is etched on up to 10 windows and the frame. If buying a second hand caravan check the details against the registration document. Since 1997 caravans have been electronically tagged. This system can be fitted to older caravans at very small cost. I have more security tips should you be interested.

Margaret Wilson 208648.