



Whaddon News



November, 1993



United Christmas Services

Christingle Service - Sunday 5th December
3pm in the Parish Church in aid of the
Church of England Children's Society.

Carol Service - Sunday 19th December 3pm
in the Methodist Church.

TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

at Whaddon Village Hall
on 22nd January 1994
at 7 for 7.30pm
Cold supper; Bar; Music; Dancing
Tickets: £4 Adult
£3 O.A.P.
£2 Child 5-15 years
available from any committee member.

WELCOME

✓ To Richard and Kay Wright who have moved
into 37 Bridge Street with Benjamin, Natasha and
Tarnia.

✓ To Colin and Rosemary Lawrence, Richard,
Michael, Stephanie and Hannah, who are living
in Meldreth Road.

To Mr and Mrs Allen, and their children David (6) and
Jacey (4) who have moved into 45, Bridge St.

To Andy and Sue Stafford, and their children Gemma
(nearly 7) Nicola (3) and Paul James (2) who have re-
cently moved from America into 68 Bridge St.

WHADDON CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

will be held on Weds 22nd December
at 4pm in the Village Hall.

All village children of primary school age and
under should shortly be receiving their
invitations.

Times of Services in Whaddon

Parish Church: 9.15am

Rev Ted Duckett can be contacted in
Bassingbourn
Tel: (95) 243119

Methodist Church: 10.00am

Rev Michael Belfield can be contacted in
Royston
Tel: (95) 243445.

Sunday School meets at 10.00am in the
Methodist Schoolroom.

Contact Margaret Hewat (95) 247611.

THANKYOU

The Childrens Society Boxes in Whaddon were
recently collected, and £111.48 in total was
collected.

The Poppy Appeal collection made recently in
the village raised £99.65. Many thanks.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

There have been two Parish Council meetings since the last Newsletter, and Mr Bradley has had a separate meeting with members of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Transportation Departments.

As a result of that meeting chevrons have been erected at the top of Bridge Street. The signs on the A1198 leading to Whaddon have been improved. Footpath resurfacing in Meldreth Road has been promised before the end of the financial year.

Traffic calming for Meldreth Road will become a priority in the next financial year. Road narrowing is the favoured device. The Parish will need to contribute towards the cost.

Speeding down Bridge Street is still a major concern to Bridge Street residents.

Unfortunately the introduction of a footpath linking Church Street with Meldreth Road is regarded by Cambridgeshire C.C. as a low priority. However the Parish Council will bring this up again next year.

Village Hall

Grants are available for repairs to Village Halls, and the Village Hall Committee has now established a list of priority areas which extends from the toilets to the kitchen, and deals with damp-proofing and repointing along the way.

Playground Equipment

Disappointingly, there is no likelihood of a grant towards any playground equipment planned to replace the slide that was taken down. Therefore the Parish Council is backing the choice of a basic frame with net and tyres, and refurbishment of the swings. The Car Boot Sale in August - a start to fundraising - made nearly £95 in aid of the play equipment.

Best Kept Village

We didn't do particularly well in the Best Kept Village Competition, although the churchyard was praised for being well-

managed. A lot of this is due to the work of Dick Searle, Churchwarden, and Peter Coningsby. The Parish Council would like to thank them both. We'll try to do better, as a whole, next year!

Clare Byatt

Sadly we said "goodbye" since our last issue, to Whaddon's most enduring and, perhaps, best known resident, Mr Jim Law. Jim celebrated his 81st birthday last June and for all that time he lived in Whaddon. His contribution to this village cannot easily be described in the few words I have available. In all the modern aspects of village life Jim has had a hand. He was instrumental in setting up the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers in East Anglia in 1938 and remained a life member of the T.G.W.U. to which it later became affiliated. During his time on the various committees of that Union he was responsible for inspecting and improving the tied housing of East Anglian farms and the general conditions of agricultural workers. He worked closely with the County Council in the 1950s when the local farms were rationalised. His membership of the Whaddon Cricket Club led directly to the village acquiring its own recreation ground, it being handed over in 1962 after ten years or more of campaigning and fundraising. He trod on many a toe during that period, I believe! He was a school manager and was closely involved with the building of the Petersfield School in Orwell when the village school closed and also had ties with the Church during the 1950s when the parish changed. He was chairman of the Parish Council for more than thirty years. Then there are the committees in the village; well, if there was one, Jim was on it! A tireless supporter of all village events and functions, Jim attended everything. To his death he remained a trustee of the Palmer Trust and was responsible for the electoral roll details in Whaddon.

Personally I have known and loved Jim for ten years or more. A great raconteur- he had many a tale to tell of the old days and the old village characters. His memory of when agriculture was a hard, grinding life was sharp and full of humour. He had a long life with which he was very happy and will rest forever in the Churchyard where he wanted to be. He may be gone but his lasting memorial is the shape and community in this village. Without his influence, what little amenities we have here would be non-existent. God bless Jim.

Margaret Wilson

(Approximately £426 in donations have been raised for MAGPAS, in Jim's memory.)

THANK YOU

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Whaddon would like to thank those who responded to the drive for covenants. As a result, we have some new covenants, and this means that we are able to reclaim from the Inland Revenue an extra 25% on top of the promise you make at no extra cost. We have also received several gifts of money, for which we are most grateful.

If you haven't responded to our appeal, it is still not too late to do so; more covenant forms are available if you require one.

The money we receive is used in three ways:

- * the maintenance of the fabric of our lovely parish church, which is such an important feature of our village;
- * the day-to-day expense of running the church, especially heating and lighting and the cost of services;
- * the payment of the Vicar, which is a rapidly increasing item now, because by the year 2000 the cost of the maintenance of the clergy will be handed over totally to the parishes in the Diocese, proportionate to population as the subsidy from the Church Commissioners reduces.

We accept that much of the responsibility for raising this money rests upon church members; but the parish church belongs to the whole village, and the vicar perceives his ministry as one directed to the community as a whole, and not just to members of the church.

Ted Duckett

WHADDON METHODIST CHURCH

The necessary repairs to Whaddon Methodist Church were completed at the beginning of September. We are delighted with the fine steel ties which will prevent further roof spread. They will be ideal for suspending Christmas decorations!

We have been busy fundraising to meet our share of the cost. A sponsored swim, a very successful street stall and a generous donation have already raised £286. Margaret Wilson is also doing a sponsored swim and would be glad to have more sponsors.

Margaret Hewat

CHURCH FENCE REPAIRED

Users of the churchyard will have noticed the resurrected fence. Late last year the Churchwardens decided that something had to be done about the disintegrating old iron fence, which was probably made locally more than 150 years ago when Whaddon had a blacksmith. Wooden posts and rails were an option dismissed as being too costly. Barbed wire and wire netting would not have been in keeping.

Then, by a fortunate coincidence it was found that the Six Mile Bottom estate were removing a similar fence in better order. An approach resulted in the gift of enough ironwork to restore the fence. This was dismantled and transported to Whaddon in Steve Coningsby's furniture van. With the aid of our two local welders, Peter Coningsby and Steve Wilson, the fence has been restored. Steel standards given by the Army at Bassingbourn provided substantial uprights. The highlight was the painting 'bee', when on a very pleasant day 17 people turned up to paint it with black preservative paint. The age range of the painters was from 11 years to quite considerable! The PCC wishes to thank everyone who helped in any way, especially Mr Cunningham-Reid and Toby Owen at Six Mile Bottom, and the Army at Bassingbourn Barracks for donation of materials.

Dick Searle



The Old Elm Trees

Recently foliage and seeds of the old elms growing in the vicinity of the church have been sent to Kew Botanical Gardens. They have been identified as *Ulmus Minor*, the small leafed elm, native to Britain and the Channel Islands. These trees have resistance to the depredations of the Dutch Elm Beetle, and have been recorded by Mr Guy Messenger of Uppingham, an elm expert who is recording surviving populations of elm trees.

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PARISH NOTICES

Appointment of Magistrates

Fresh nominations for suitable persons to serve as Justices of the Peace are being sought by the Cambridge Area Panel. Good quality people from all walks of life are needed, and it is perfectly in order for people to put their own names forward.

Further details first from Aileen Bishop, Clerk to the Parish Council, or direct from the Clerk to the County Advisory Committee at Shire Hall, Cambridge 317960.

County Councillor Consultation

Margaret Hunter has started having monthly meetings with parishioners, usually on the third Saturday of the month, in the Parish Hall, Melbourn, 10.30am-12.00 noon.

There is ample parking space at the hall, which is reached by the lane beside the church and phone box. It would be helpful if those wishing to come and discuss problems would ring and book in, so no-one has too long to wait.

Phone Royston 260372.

Date of next meetings: 20th November and 18th December.

Community Care

Miss Hunter has also set up an initiative to consider Community Care and its operation in the Melbourn Ward. Out of the first meeting interest arose in the concept of a Parish Community Warden - a new development where Parish Councils employ mobile community wardens to ensure contact with vulnerable residents. This idea is being explored further.

Orchard Road Surgery, Melbourn

Mrs Compton is the Parish Council representative to liaise with the Melbourn Surgery, who are keen to improve communication, linking the care they offer with patients in the villages. Information booklets are available at the Sub Post Office in the Golf Centre.

WHADDON POST OFFICE

The petition by some of the pensioners in the village to have the Post Office at the Golf Centre came to fruition on Thursday 14th October with the official opening.

Anglia Television arrived on pension day and Ken Green was presented with an award by the Managing Director, Post Office Counters, for one of the most unusual Sub Post Offices in the country.

The Post Office is open primarily for pensions, but the pensioners are finding it very useful to stop and have coffee and a chat with their friends in the family room.

SUMMER FUNDRAISING

The traditional summer events in Whaddon did very well, raising funds and providing entertainment.

On Saturday 5th June the Village Hall Fete made £648 for its own funds and, as before, encouraged support for various other causes by combining the traditional elements of the fete with a Car Boot Sale.

The Church Fete on 24th July held to its tradition of combining a Produce Show and Auction with the fete and raised just over £1,750.00. The novelty this year, in Jurassic Park style, was the dinosaur dung for sale, relic of the coprolite industry, when droppings were excavated during the last century for use as fertilizer.

The Barbeque on 31st July was its usual culinary success and made £787.40, and was greatly enjoyed by everyone who was there. Thanks to all who put in the hard work.

Your contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. Please contact:
Clare Byatt 207429; Kathrine Mitchell 207400; Margaret Wilson 207219
January 1990