LAST HURDLE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

A Social Evening with supper, a bar
and a chance to have a flutter at the
VILLAGE HALL.

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER 1997
They’re Off at 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

Tickets from Maureen Pinner 207678
Over 18 only £6.00p Over 60’s £5.00p

Sunday 30 November at 3 pm
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
A combined service with Bassingbourn
In the Parish Church, Whaddon
ALL WELCOME

Sunday 21 December at 3 pm
CAROL SERVICE
A united service held this year
In the Methodist chapel
EVERYONE WELCOME

Annual
Christmas Gift
Bazaar
Saturday 22 November
at 2.00 pm
in the Village Hall
Doors open from 10am-12 noon
for any kind of donation
cakes, crafts, produce, gifts,
white elephant, nearly new

Children’s
Christmas Pirate Party
13 December 4-6pm
personal invites to follow
PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

During the summer, the Parish Council met in July and September. In July the Basketball Court was opened and the Parish Council is grateful to Ken Charles for undertaking this ceremony and for his advice and support. They would also like to thank Di Charles for her help with the refreshments that were much appreciated by the guests and Basketball teams. This project benefited by local donations organised by Tony Law, and from English Basketball Association and South Cambs District Council.

Rev. John Armstrong kindly undertook the dedication of the teak bench on the Recreation Ground, a gift from the Parish Council to the memory of George Coningsby, before the September Council meeting.

Welcome
In the summer Mr Philip Neale was co-opted onto the Council. He is a resident of Bridge Street, is a governor of Petersfield School, Orwell and has experience of Parish Council work in Harston.

The stream
The last couple of months have seen a disastrous drop in the water table resulting once more in a dry streambed in Bridge Street. Parish Council chairman, Terry Allison, mentions elsewhere the general water problems faced throughout the area.

Planning
In September the Local Plan Review 1997 Consultation Draft document was available. This is the first stage in the review of the District Council's Local Plan for South Cambridgeshire. The Parish Council endorsed the District Council's view that planning policy in Whaddon should remain an Infill Only village, which limits development to within the defined framework of the village. This framework has two boundaries in Whaddon that recognises the two separate parts of the village. This is seen to be an important characteristic of Whaddon.

At the same meeting the Parish Council received notification that the County Council wishes to sell for development the site of the farmyard at Town Farm at the end of the tenancy of the present occupant.

The County Council proposal is for sympathetic development of the existing barn and farm buildings. It believes the site would be capable of producing twelve dwellings. The Parish Council is in favour of retaining the barn and believes that modest conversion of the existing buildings could be achieved without destroying the character of the village but disputes the number of units proposed.

It is important that villagers let the Parish Council hear their views. So please let any of the Councillors know what you think or write to the clerk, Aileen Bishop at 72 Bridge Street, telephone 208 122.

Parish Council Chairman, Terry Allison, shares some facts about the water supply...

I recently attended a meeting of the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils which included a presentation on 'Water Supply and Demand - Areas of Concern in South Cambridgeshire'.

The speaker, Mrs. J. Barker, is a Senior Engineer (Water Resources) from the Environment Agency.

Mrs. Barker began by explaining, using charts, that rainfall in this region has been below average for the last seven years. Last year, the rainfall was only 450 mm against the average of 600 mm per year and most of this (75%) evaporates.

The Environment Agency controls the licensing of water abstraction, 70% of which is taken by the water companies for public consumption. This means 30% of the water resources is abstracted for agricultural and other uses. However, this year the quantities they were allowed to abstract under their licences was reduced to half.

People generally use more water today, 32 gallons per day per person against 22 gallons thirty years ago. The population has also increased thus making more demands on less available resources.

There is a draft Environment Agency Local Plan, due out by Christmas, and I have requested a copy of the summary for the Parish Council. Should anyone wish to read this please contact me and I will endeavour to make it available to them.

Terry Allison
Whaddon Parish Council

The Heron Scheme seeks a new Co-ordinator for Whaddon. Ray and Jean Furnie have been doing this job for over ten years and the service is needed now more than ever.

For a small charge towards petrol, this volunteer scheme exists to help those who are without transport get to the doctor, dentist, chiropodist, hospital visit or hospital appointment. You can also be taken shopping if you are infirm in some way and find it difficult to cope with public transport but could manage a car journey.

To find out more about helping out phone Mr & Mrs Furnie 207 469.
THEFTS & BURGLARIES
This guidance has been summarised from an information fact sheet circulated to all Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. It contains some useful self-help tips.

The most common burglary is committed during daylight by an opportunist.

He/she calls at the front door with an apparently genuine reason. If you are in, check his identity. If he is selling anything he should have a peddlers certificate, other official callers will have a proper I.D. card.

If the house appears empty a way round the back is his next goal. Try to make the house look occupied using time switches for lights and radios, you can get curtain closures as well.

Stop easy rear access. Lock side gates. Plant thorny bushes under windows and around the boundary. A good idea is to make boundary fences too flimsy to support someone’s weight. If that is not possible top your fence with some trellis.

Once around the back of your house, your garage and garden sheds are a target, keep them locked. The burglar also looks for easy access to the house, especially ground floor windows and doors. Flat roofs under windows provide good access, protect the window as if it were on ground level. Fit window locks and check whether you can reinforce door panels with marine ply or some suitable material.

The average burglar will spend about 10 minutes trying to get in, make sure you keep him out for at least that long.

If our man gets in, the first call is to the main bedroom. Keep small valuables in an unusual place and do not leave keys in doors. Mark property with your postcode.

If you are a neighbour and see anything suspicious report it to the Police or the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

LAMB ROAST

This was the third supper held in aid of the Children’s Christmas Party. In a departure from previous years legs of lamb were roasted on the barbecue instead of the whole animal and it was served with hot vegetables to make a dinner rather than a supper. The reaction of guests was extremely favourable and I expect the same formula will be followed in the future. Many thanks for the delicious apple pies in all their varieties and, once again, my mentor Maureen Pinner for invaluable help in putting on the event. The potatoes were kindly donated by Michaela and Roger Huffer and also thanks for the raffle prizes. The grand total of £165.00p was raised for the party. See you all next year!

The Webb Ivory fund raising lives on. Thanks to Dana Inman in Home Cottages this valuable contribution to the Children’s Party funding is able to continue. The catalogue has been passed around for 1997 and we have a note from Dana.

"Thanks to all who supported the Children’s Party through Webb Ivory. Unfortunately the catalogue didn’t get around quickly enough before I had to send in the order. Next year I’ll try to get more catalogues." There is a circulation list but everyone is welcome to look. If you missed the catalogue and would like to see it next year let Dana or one of the children’s party organisers know.

Please be speedy when the catalogue comes to you so that everyone can see it in time to send in the order in early November.

Dana’s number is 207853
VILLAGE WELCOMES

We would like to welcome all the following families to the village:-

Claire and George Whisker to Bridge Street. They have been here a while but evaded your roving reporters until now!

Ruth Brett with her two sons, Edward (7) and William (5) has moved into Bridge Street.

Barry and Jane Boulter have moved in at White Cottage; they have Robert (12) and Samantha (11). The family is completed by Meeka; Jane’s mum, and various cats and dogs.

Penny and Will are the newest residents on the corner of Bridge Street.

Welcome to Will and Lynne Elbourn with Naomi (8), George (7), Will (5) and Victoria (3) who have come to College Farm.

Last but not least, not quite in Whaddon, but welcome to Andy Robelow who has moved into Cherry Close.

SPECIAL WELCOME TO

Lily Anna Sparrow who arrived on 2nd October, born to Helen and Simon in Meldreth Road. Congratulations to you all.

SUMMER EVENTS

The first event was the village fete raising a record £1,093.74p. The usual stallholders were joined this year by young army recruits, and very welcome they were. We had some unusual “ladies” to knock into very cold water as well as victims for the stocks and stalwart cooks helping on the barbecue. Takings were also boosted by the popular car boot sale. Thanks to all who helped and those who came to enjoy themselves.

The Barbecue was the 10th to be held, and haven’t we progressed. This year there were two bands who were both very much appreciated. There was the gentle easy sound of Elastic Band as we arrived and tucked into the generous meal followed, later, by Jinx who rocked us all into the next day. The evening was balmy and warm, the food was superb with plenty left at the end and the beer didn’t run out, what more can be said. Of course! £510.85p was raised for the Village Hall.

July brought the Church Fete, held once more at the Old Rectory by kind permission of Lord and Lady Whaddon. More records were established with the Raising of £2,947.88p for Church funds. We must make a special note of Dick Searle’s bunch of roses, sold at auction for £250.00p. Thanks to all the many people who make this possible.
Watch for Alpha!  Alpha is for:
Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith.
Learning and laughter. Learn about Christianity and have fun too.
People meeting together. An opportunity to make new friends.
Helping one another. Small groups give a chance for talk and discussion.
Ask anything. No question is regarded as too simple or too hostile.
Our Vicar, John Armstrong and his wife, Vicki, will be running an Alpha Course early in the New Year. John explains more below . . .

Bernard Levin once wrote an article called ‘Life’s Great Riddle, and No Time to Find Its Meaning’. Despite his great success as a columnist he feared he might have ‘wasted reality in the chase of a dream.’ He wrote: ‘To put it bluntly, have I time to discover why I was born before I die? ... I have not managed to answer the question yet, and however many years I have before me they are certainly not as many as there are behind. There is an obvious danger in leaving it too late ... why do I have to know why I was born? Because, of course, I am unable to believe that it was an accident; and if it wasn’t one it must have a meaning.’

A glance at today’s newspaper is likely to prompt the same question and others besides. In a nation where every day at least 480 couples are divorced and 470 babies are aborted, where a new crime is committed every six seconds and a violent attack every two minutes, is it no wonder that people ask: ‘What is the world coming to?’ ‘What is the point of life?’ ‘What happens when we die?’ ‘How do we deal with guilt?’ and ‘What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today?’

All excellent questions. Yet many people have not found the answers to them even when they have attended churches and, as the newspapers inform us they have voted with their feet and haven’t gone back. No wonder! What the papers don’t tend to mention are the growing churches which are willing and able to address the questions. In our group of villages we would like to give as many people as possible the opportunity to explore the Christian faith. Boring, false and irrelevant ...... or alive, true and transforming? Whatever you think, it deserves further investigation.

This is why we are inviting you to join us on the Alpha course - a short, practical introduction to the Christian faith - for everyone. Alpha caters for well-established church members and people interested in investigating Christianity, but who have no connections with the church. It really is possible to learn (more) about the Christian faith and have fun at the same time!

The first course will be starting on January 21st and will meet every Wednesday evening (except during half-term) until April 1st in The Limes community centre - the old school on the High Street in Bassingbourn. Every week a new subject is addressed, from ‘Who is Jesus?’ to ‘Why read the Bible?’, ‘Guidance’ and ‘Healing.’ We begin with a meal, which is followed by the talk. Then there is time in a smaller group for everyone to discuss any issues or questions they have, giving them the opportunity to get to know each other and learn together. There will also be an Alpha Day Away in March.

Hundreds of Churches up and down the country are running Alpha courses, and those who have taken part in them have found them to be very worthwhile. Do watch out for further publicity and registration forms, but if you want to know more, now, please don’t hesitate to call me on (01763) 243119.

We have been pleased to welcome many new children to the village during the last few months, maybe their families are not aware that Whaddon has a Sunday School. This is completely non denominational and is held, for comfort and convenience, at the Methodist Chapel. Starting at 10.00am the children sing two hymns and there is usually a story from the preacher aimed at them, they then go off for their own activities. Games and activities play a prominent part in their learning about Our Lord.

The age range is large and we have children as young as three who thoroughly enjoy their time. One of our erstwhile children now helps to instruct the younger members. There has also been a regular annual outing to the pantomime or, in the summer, places such as Woburn Safari park.

Families who do not normally attend Church or who are part of different congregations are all very welcome to send their children, we are all Christians, after all.

If anybody feels able to help with the adult duties Margaret Hewat would be pleased to hear from you. Children who are interested can just turn up, there is no obligation, and they might just find its what they’ve been looking for to fill Sunday mornings. Parents do not have to stay but, should they wish to, they would find a warm reception from the regular congregation.

Margaret Hewat 01763 247611

Rev John Armstrong