**WHADDON CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

3.00 pm on 14th December in the Village Hall

Inside for more

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**CHRISTMAS服务**

Sunday 1st December 3.00pm at St. Mary’s Church Whaddon All Welcome

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**CHRISTMAS IN WHADDON**

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 15th December 3.00pm with The Whaddon Choir Everyone welcome

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**CHRISTMAS DAY IN WHADDON**

Family Service at 9.30am in the Parish Church

This short service will be followed by communion.

Please come and join us.
Children’s Christmas Party 2002

Thank you to everyone who generously supported our coffee morning in August either by attending or by giving donations. The final sum raised was over £200 – fantastic!

The traditional children’s Christmas Party will take place this year on Saturday 14 December, 3.00pm in the Village Hall. “Calamity Clown” will provide the entertainment and we are sure there will be another special visitor too!

All children within the village of Whaddon of Primary School age and under will be invited. Personal invitations will be delivered at the end of November. We promise it will be FUN!

Could you lend a hand? We would appreciate any offers of help in organising this event, leading up to the day and at the party itself.

Please contact Anne Newberry at 26 Bridge St, tel. 207555 or Lorna Green at 47 Bridge St, tel. 208203 for further details.

ALFRED JOHN PALMER TRUST

The Alfred John Palmer Trust is a charity formed in 1927 by the Will of Mary Palmer.

A sum of money was provided and the dividend was to be used to buy coal and distribute to widows in the Parish of Whaddon with those of advanced age given preference.

Another clause in the will was that their grave in the churchyard should be kept in good repair.

In 1972 the trustees gained permission from the Charity commissioner to apply their income in the provision of forms of heating other than coal by means of a cash payment. This is how the trust stands today.

With the winter heating allowance and other help the situation is a lot different from when the trust was set up, but a small sum of money is available every year to help any widows with their heating.

If you know of any widows that you would like to see benefit from this please contact one of the trustees, who are:

Richard Andrews 01223 207300
Chris Conningsby 01223 208204
Stan Smith 01223 208930

VILLAGE QUIZ

The Village Quiz has been rescheduled.
7.30pm
22nd February 2003
For more details see Notice Boards or phone: C. 207373.

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next newsletter will be 5th March 2003.
Contact Margaret Wilson 208648
LILY LAW
18th April 1914 – 6th October 2002

Lilian Turner married Jim Law on 4th February 1939 and came to live in Whaddon with him, at his parent’s house, now known as Rose Cottage, Church Street. At that time there were two houses with the remains of another behind them. There was no piped water and no electricity.

She had worked at the Royston Laundry and loved ironing to the last. In addition to their own two children, Eileen and Pauline, Lily looked after Jim’s father who had been widowed just before their wedding. From him she heard the tales and reminiscences that she later recalled at our village history sessions.

Jim was a very active member of the village in addition to being very heavily involved in the foundation of the Agricultural Workers’ Union. He had the wholehearted support of Lily in many practical ways; for example, she went with him when they chose the slide for the playground. She also did farm work locally and gave her own support of the village events and institutions.

She was a founder of the Children’s Christmas Party and was involved in the catering for all the fundraising events in the village. She was the caretaker and dinner lady at the Village School, lighting the fires in the morning so that it was warm when the children arrived. When the school closed she continued cleaning for the village hall. Her day job was at the RAF and Army Camp at Bassingbourn! Jim was involved in most of the many social events in the village and there, in the background was Lily.

In retirement they moved to Ridgeway Close where Lily continued to live after Jim passed away. Eventually she became too frail to care for herself and lived in a retirement home in Toft. Her passing ends two lifetimes of commitment to Whaddon.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Pauline and Eileen and their families.

Eileen and Pauline, (nee Law), and families would like to say what a great comfort it was to see so many villagers and friends at the funeral service of their mother, Lilian Law.

Special thanks to Rev. John Armstrong for the lovely service. We were left feeling we were celebrating the life of Mum (and Dad). It reminded us that Whaddon will always be our ‘home’.

Thank you to everyone for the messages of sympathy and to those who helped to make the day special.

NEW ARRIVAL

The Walker family celebrated the arrival of a baby girl, Isabella Grace on 19th September. Congratulations to Mum.

POPPY APPEAL

The recent collection, organised by Sandy Fisher, for the British Legion Poppy Appeal raised £163.00 - £40.00 more than last year.

Thank you to the collectors and all who contributed.

WELCOME TO WHADDON

Linda and David at Green Farm with Rosie aged 14 and Henry 7 yrs.

David and Virginia Partridge with children Mark and Sophie in Dyers Green.

Mandy and Stephen McGuinness at 37 Bridge Street.

Christopher Rose in Church Street.

Helen and Nigel Studwick at Town Farm.

Alison, Steve and Alexandra at Town Farm.
**Whaddon Community Trust**

The plan to change the Whaddon Village Hall Committee into a trust has taken a major step forward with the submission of the village’s proposals to the Charity Commission. A reply is expected early in the New Year, which will pave the way for the trustees to apply for additional grants to support the repair and extension of the village hall. The trust will be called the ‘Whaddon Community Trust’ as the original choice of the ‘Whaddon Village Hall Trust’ has already been registered by our namesake village in Buckinghamshire. The declared object of the Trust is:

*To administrate, maintain and improve Whaddon Village Hall, its contents and immediate surrounds.*

For any one wishing to have a full copy of the trust’s declaration document please contact one of the numbers below. There has been disappointing news recently with the rejection of other local village hall trust’s applications for lottery funding as well as the news that available funds have been drastically reduced. However, the trustees intend to move forward with positive and realistic plans for extending the village hall and we remain committed to organising a number of major fundraising events next year. The support of the villagers is vital to our plans, so if you wish to contribute to the future of our village hall please contact either Mark Newberry (Chairman) on 01223 207555 or Terry Allison (Vice-Chairman) on 01223 207710.

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**ANIMAL CRACKERS**

Given that we need to access significant funds for the development of the Village Hall, we propose that we seek to raise the profile of the Whaddon Village Fete and work towards an annual event comparable with the Barkway Street Market and Thriplow Daffodil Festival, attracting visitors from South Cambridgeshire and North Hertfordshire.

It would place a new dimension on the management and organisation and would be best achieved if we can win the support and help of the residents of Whaddon.

We propose that in 2003 we mount ‘Animal Crackers’ or ‘All About Animals’ on Sunday June 1st on the Village Recreation Ground and in the Village Hall.

We will need to convene a meeting to brainstorm some of our early thinking. Some suggestions are listed below.

**Live ‘Shows’** - A horse/pony gymkana, dog show, police dog demonstration, pet show, pony/donkey rides etc

**Charity & Service Organisation Stalls** - Animal Aid, Cat Protection League, Guide Dogs, R.S.P.B., P.D.S.A

**Traders** - Local pet food & equipment shops, Sandon Saddlery, The Barn Shop, Kneesworth.

**Church Service** - Animal service in the Parish Church

**Fund raising Stalls** - Tombola, Raffles etc.

There are a number of issues to discuss:

1. Concept of proposal
2. Participants & managing the arena programme
3. Management of stalls
4. Catering
5. Providing alternative car parking & management
6. Publicity strategies
7. Recruiting help from outside the village, e.g. service organisations
8. Appointing a Planning Committee and Task forces

We plan to call a meeting one evening next month at the Village Hall and will invite everyone to contribute.

Ken Charles Event Manager 01223 207213.
November 2002

FLOODING IN WHADDON - 2001

Last year’s heavy rainfall coupled with poor maintenance of the water courses and drain ditches, caused quite severe flooding in various parts of the village. There were of course other factors which added to the problems such as ditches which, over the past years had been filled in. Also the clearance beneath bridges had been allowed to become choked with weeds and debris, causing back-up of water.

Last year two areas in the village were the main culprits, namely, the pipe under the byway at the bottom of Bridge Street and a similar situation on the Chestnut Tree Farm area in Meldreth Road. Both these areas have been satisfactorily dealt with.

Another area of severe flooding, namely the entrance of Bridge Street is a more complex problem and is involving the Environment Agency Enforcement Department. Very significant improvements have been made by one home owner (whose house was flooded) but these improvements will only be effective if Riparian Owners upstream do the same. This is where the Agencies are involved. Riparian Owners of water courses and ditches are also reminded of their responsibilities to maintain a clear way for water to flow through their sections of the water course. They are also reminded that failure to do so, could result in Civil Court action in the event of Flood Damage.

This letter is to remind everyone that ‘Flash Flooding’ along with Constant Heavy Rainfall seems to be the ‘name of the game’ these days and will undoubtedly happen again.

The Parish Council is to adopt Emergency Procedures in the case of an incident where either Life or Property is substantially at risk. In this event, you are advised to contact any of the Parish Councillors, for help or advice.

E. Webb – Chairman 01223 207564
Mrs. C. Byatt – Vice Chairman 01223 207429
T. Milton – Councillor 01223 207105
Mrs M. Wilson – Councillor 01223 208648
R. Huffer – Councillor 01223 208929
Ms. M. Goddard – Councillor 01223 207358
P. Neale – Councillor 01223 207706

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

As some villagers may be aware our Community Beat coverage is from Sawston Police Station. This is currently closed and a new station is being built. Until the new building is operational there is a temporary station at Building 288, Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambs, CB2 4QR. Telephone contact remains the same; 01223 358966. There is also a Contact Officer, Carol Wilson, on 01223 497615. Mobile 07736 731929.

The majority of crimes reported over the last two months have been thefts or attempted thefts from outbuildings. Please check your shed/barn security - particularly as it is getting dark so early. Security lights with detectors are a cheap and effective deterrent.

There have also been reports of suspicious callers. Always check the identity of an unexpected or uninvited caller. Do not be pressurised into buying anything you do not want. One last tip, bicycles are a popular target for theft at this time of year - they make good Christmas presents. Lock them away and mark them with your postcode.

RECYCLING

Whaddon Parish Council have received a cheque for £99.52 from South Cambs District Council. This was for the contents of the Green Boxes over the period April 2001 to March 2002. This is a really good effort for such a small community. However we must not be complacent so let’s try to improve in the next year.

Suggestions as to how the money should be spent can be voiced at the next Parish Council meeting – watch the notice boards for dates.

WHADDON SUNDAY SCHOOL

Is anyone interested?

If you have any ideas or thoughts please contact Karen Coningsby on C. 207514.
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

- Some Notes from the past few months

A brown field and exception site has been identified in the village for possible development of **affordable housing**. A recent public meeting was well attended, where representatives for District Council and The Rural Housing Trust explained the different options and process for getting a small development underway. The first action is to complete a detailed survey of requirements for possible residents of the housing. The number and types of housing can then be tailored to requirements to ensure that the development is fit for purpose, without causing unnecessary and unwanted development in the village. It is clear that the Parish Council, District Council and the Housing Trust must work closely together to make the process efficient and obtain the right result for Whaddon. It is understandable that several residents are concerned that such a development is done sensitively and with the proper consultation, as there are no sites currently within the framework where such a development would be possible.

* Letters from our MP and the county Council have confirmed that no further action can be taken to improve the safety at **Whaddon Gap road junction**. As part of the Parish Council strategy to continue to campaign for improved safety, it has been agreed to take photographs and record all near miss accidents to strengthen our case in the future.

* An emergency plan has been drawn up in case of severe **flooding**, for when life or property is in danger. There will also be maps displayed in the village hall, showing the extent of the flood plains around the village. Some improvements to the water courses have been made by clearing vegetation.

* The footpath in Church street cannot be improved any further because there is no more funding available. The County Council has agreed to reinstate the damaged speed restriction signs. The speed restriction will be reduced to 30 mph, sometime next year.

A cheese and wine reception was held on Friday 6th September in honour of Mrs. **Aileen Bishop**, previous clerk to the council, who retired from the position following over ten years service to the Parish Council. Aileen resigned in July and on the night she was presented with an engraved cut glass fruit bowl.

* The causes for the recent halt in water flowing from the **fountain** in Bridge Street have been investigated and it has been decided to postpone any repairs until the adjacent building work has been completed. It is still unclear as to how the current developer of 23/25 Bridge Street plans to complete the site without making major changes to the water course adjacent to the property. Problems have already been caused by pollution of building materials into the water course.

* A dog waste bin is to be purchased for the **recreation ground**. A new slide is to be purchased and grants are available from SCDC. Berkeley Homes have been approached for financial help towards the cost of the slide and associated equipment. The safety inspection of equipment has been put on a more formal basis by the utilisation of weekly inspection log book.

* Occupants of **Ridgeway Close** have approached the Council, with complaints that unauthorised vehicles are being parked and obstructing the rear entrances to these dwellings. It was also suggested that a ‘Private’ sign should be erected to deter the unauthorised cars. In addition, it was also reported that garages at this site are being used for storage facilities by people who no longer live in the village. These matters are being investigated by our District Council representative. Cars parked around the village hall are still causing problems to genuine users of the hall. The Parish Council has had some success in getting vehicles removed and will continue to work, using whatever means at our disposal, to remove the offending vehicles.

_P.J.N._
**VERY EARLY DAYS**

In Anglo-Saxon times Whaddon was part of Armingford Hundred. As the area lies on both sides of Ermine Street it is thought to derive its name from the Earnings who occupied the area at that time.

During the 10th century England was divided into shires and these shires, which existed until 1974, were broken down into sub-divisions called hundreds. In theory it comprised a hundred hides. (A hide in Cambridgeshire was assessed at about 120 acres). Armingford Hundred comprised ten vill - Melbourn, Meldreth and Whaddon probably including Kneesworth, assessed at 30 hides, Bassingbourn, Abington and Litchington at 20 hides, Wendy and Shingay at 5 each and the Mordens at 15 hides together. Croydon 10, Clifton 5, Tadlow 5 and East Hatley 5 had probably been included to make a total of 100 hides.

Also during the tenth century royal authority was increasing and many laws and charters were introduced into the administration of the country at meetings of the Royal Council, which from the reign of King Athelstan (924-39) was a well established institution comprising nobles, bishops and other men of influence in their own localities. In addition the hundreds had their own courts for settling local affairs called a 'moot' court in which presided someone appointed by the King who along with those who lived in the area meted out justice. It is believed that the court for Armingford Hundred may have met at Mutlow, later Mettle Hill, between Meldreth and Kneesworth.

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By the thirteenth century these courts had become six-monthly assize courts and they dealt with civil and criminal cases. Each hundred had to send twelve jurymen to report to the royal judges what had happened since the judge's last visit. These jurymen were always named in the ensuing records which were written on long sheets of parchment about two to three feet long. When finished another was stitched to it and the final roll could eventually be 15 feet long.

Some rolls for the assizes in Cambridgeshire have survived and can be found in the Public Record Office in Kew. The following assize cases are recorded for Whaddon in Rolls 82 and 83.

**Assize Roll 82 - Henry III 1260**
The jurors present that John de Wangford, Steward of the Earl of Richmond, arrested Richard Baldry of Whaddon and Matilda his wife. They were imprisoned for 6 days at Whaddon then escaped. The jury say that they suspect them only of stealing bread during the great famine. Therefore they may return if they wish.

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Augustus, the smith, was found hanged in his house in Whaddon. His wife Agnes found him: no one is suspected. Judgement suicide. Challets 23s. for which Geoffrey de Scalers will account.

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**Assize Roll 83 - Henry III 1268**
The jury present that Roger de Leyburn immediately after the battle of Evesham seized the land in Qwadone which had belonged to Thomas de Qwadone, who died in arms against the king in the battle of Lewes. And Henry de Qwadone, brother and heir of Thomas, took at the Feast of St Michael next following 5s. rent. And afterwards the king gave that land to the aforesaid Roger.

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**The name Whaddon**
In old documents the name Whaddon has appeared in many different spellings such as the ones below.

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Rectory Farm (2)
A Pleasing Discovery

It was with great pleasure in June 1937 that a descendant of the Bell family (the tenants of Rectory Farm before 1878) first discovered their connections with Whaddon and Rectory Farm. A description of the village and the farm was subsequently written and extracts of it provide an interesting snapshot of an earlier Whaddon.

Whaddon is an old world place. Many cottages are still roofed with thatch. The village school, the village store, the smithy, these buildings are much the same as they would have appeared in my father's time. The thatching is masterly and picturesque ... and the old parish church with its square tower is a landmark in this low-lying level country side. While I was examining headstones of the Bell family an elderly man busily scything the long grass approached. His name was Jarman, sexton and parish clerk since 1890, who remembered the family. He referred me to the farm where they lived and informed me I knew nothing of it..... He gave me directions.

We, my wife and I, came to a substantial looking building. Mr Coningsby, a gentle man of 64, opened the door and gave us a warm welcome. The house is built of wood and thatch and plaster and is roofed with slate, probably thatched in earlier times. The banister rails are very old in their patterned oak as are the doors in their panelling. One old fireplace is intialled with monograms and dates. In the front room of the building is an ecclesiastically-shaped window in coloured glass, very old as Mr Coningsby informed me. We saw the old weather glass, oaken chest and other momentoes which our host informed us had been taken over from John Bell at the sale of effects in 1878.

A visit to the gardens showed us an orchard of mixed fruit trees flower pots, rose bushes and a summer house all from the time of the Bells. Rectory Farm has a semi-circular moat which passes within 30 feet of the house and a dovecote.

The farm of 104 acres looked lush in rich pasture and corn crops. Mixed farming as in the Bells time, is still carried on. There are many buildings covering considerable areas: piggeries, dairies, barns, granaries loose boxes cow-houses - some buildings very old and some thatched.

Mr Coningsby told me that the house bore evidence at one time by the special divisions made, of two families being in residence. Investigations made by me lead me to the conclusion that this provision was made at the time of George Bell's (my grandfather's) marriage......

As we took our leave Mr and Mrs Coningsby showed us where there had been a mounting block now removed beside an old cherry tree and it was here that John Bell in his later life used to mount his horse.

From information provided by K Coningsby

Great Excitement
A report from the Royston Crow February 1902

The inhabitants of Whaddon and other neighbouring villages witnessed the unusual occurrence of a stag hunt when some undergraduates from Cambridge with several members of the Cambs. Hunt liberated a very fine stag in the vicinity of Harlton Wheatshad about midday. The stag started off in fine style a and made for Haslingfield, back again to Eversden, then over the Orwell hills into Wimpole Parish. He then made for the river Cam, crossed into Whaddon fields over hedges and ditches, hounds and huntsmen following in full cry towards Whaddon Gap on to Kneesworth, where he was lost for a time, but, was seen again in the Meldreth boundary brook which he traversed until the high road was reached. He then made across to Mrs A. J. Palmer's farm, across the Moor, through the garden and jumped a moat about fifteen feet wide and away again towards the river. By the time the stag had nearly had enough of it and was captured in Mr Woodcock's field, taken up to College Farm and billeted for the night in a loose box to himself. He appeared none the worse for the long run in the morning and entered his box and was driven off to Cambridge. The distance travelled is estimated to be about 25 miles.

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If any one would like to provide information for the newsletter on any interesting details they have found out about their own properties or the village, please contact us and we will be pleased to include it - Tel 207242

S & J Ralls November 2002