USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Citizens Advice:
Cambridge 08448 487979
Royston 08444 114444

Councillors:
County: Adrian Dent 01763 245669
District: Nigel Cathcart 01763 241637
David McGaith 01763 248249

Doctors:
Orchard Surgery, Melbourn 01763 260220
The Health Centre, Royston 01763 242981
Market Hill Surgery, Royston 01763 248111
Roysia Surgery, Royston 01763 243166

Hospital:
Addenbrooke’s Hospital 01223 245151

Police:
Non emergency Number 101

Samaritans: 08457 909090

Transport:
National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950
Stagecoach Cambus 08706 082608

Utilities:
Anglian Water 08457 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 Kate French C 208207 or email kate.a.french@gmail.com

www.whaddon.org
Village Hall available to hire
Special rates for those within the village - ideal for birthday parties and most functions.
Contact: Wendy Evans 108, Church St. 01223 207703

LIST OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Office Address</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Malan Peyton</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Ermine Farm, Dyers Green</td>
<td>C 207358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Lee Ginger</td>
<td>Vice chairman</td>
<td>43 Bridge Street</td>
<td>C208077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Kate French</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>21 Bridge Street</td>
<td>C 208207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Jennifer Lewis</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>20 Bridge Street</td>
<td>C 208356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Tony Milton</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>Chestnut Tree Farm, Meldreth Road</td>
<td>C 207105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Randall Scott</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>26 Bridge Street</td>
<td>C 208253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Amy Walker</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Gabby Van Poortvliet</td>
<td>Clerk/</td>
<td>134 Bridge Street, Dyers Green</td>
<td>C 208450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st Dec  Christingle Service
7th Dec  Christmas Bazaar
8th Dec  Carol Service
15th Dec Village Carol Singing
24th Dec Informal Carols
25th Dec Christmas Day Service
13th Jan Parish Council
10th Feb Parish Council
9th March Newsletter Deadline

NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the next newsletter is 9th March. Once again items of village interest are always welcome.
Joan Pascoe C208062 joanpascoe@aol.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TEAM

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
Wendy Evans Church Street/Town Farm Close/ St Mary’s Close 108 Church Street C 207703
Maria Mould Lower Bridge Street/Ridgeway Close 39 Bridge Street C 207231
Mike Monks Upper Bridge Street 58 Bridge Street C 208236
Malan Peyton Dyers Green Ermine Farm, Dyers Green C 207358

Local Enforcement:
Chief Inspector Darren Alderson Area Commander
Inspector James Sutherland Safer Neighbourhood Manager (Recent Appt)
Detective Inspector Ian Simmons Area Crime Manager

Neighbourhood Policing Team (Cambourne):
Sergeant Jon Capes Sector Sergeant
James Lynch Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Lyndsay Gardiner Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
WIMPOLE: SILENT VOICES AND DESERTED HOMES
CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

An exhibition will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 25th and 26th January 2014 in the Marshall Room of the Old Rectory restaurant at Wimpole Hall on the “silent voices and deserted homes” of the former hamlets in Wimpole. You are warmly invited to join us to find out more about this curious parish.

All this year Cambridge Archaeology Field Group has been researching the hamlets that used to exist in the parish of Wimpole before the Park was extended to its present size. Our aim has been to find evidence of when they began and when they disappeared and what we could about the people who lived there. This year-long project has been grant-aided by the “All our Stories” Heritage Lottery Fund.

We have been fieldwalking, excavating, test pit digging, metal detecting and scouring old documents and maps, with the help of local people and other volunteers. The exhibition sees the culmination of the year’s work. We will be sharing what we have discovered and displaying some of the finds.

The exhibition will be open from 12 noon on Saturday and 11 am on Sunday, closing at 3.30pm both days. Normal car park charges apply, but there is no entry fee.

www.cafg.net for more information on the group.

WHADDON VILLAGE HALL

Completed Refurbishment of the Village Hall (Phase 1)

The village hall is back in action!

Thanks to the huge efforts of many members of the village, our most generous sponsors including the Parish Council and our excellent builders HNH, we now have a refurbished main hall with new kitchen, new heating system and new floor. Neil Smith is currently completing the outside works.

We would like to thank all of you for helping with a drawn out fundraising project, which has taken us to this point. The next stage is the Phase 2 to refurbish the toilets and make some changing facilities to allow wider sporting uses for the Hall.

Please come and enjoy the new Hall and we will be arranging a celebratory village function in the near future, news of which will follow via the village email list.

From the Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

‘Thank you’ from the Trust to all who joined in the fun at the Village Hall Quiz on the 16th November.

A big thank you to Kate and Keith Harker for doing the questions and to their helpers.

Thanks also to Carol and Karen for the Chilli.

After expenses the evening made a grand total profit of £527 - a good start to the next project.
**ST MARY’S CHURCH WHADDON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER SERVICES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st December 3.00 pm</td>
<td>Christingle Service  In aid of the Children’s Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th December 6.00 pm</td>
<td>Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th December 10.00 am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd December 9.15 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th December 5.00 pm</td>
<td>Informal Carols by candle light. A chance for a short break in the midst of Christmas preparations to join in singing some well-known carols. (bring lanterns, torches etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th December 9.15 am</td>
<td>Family friendly Christmas Day Service with shortened Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th December 10.30 am</td>
<td>Joint Service at Bassingbourn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHADDON CAROL SINGERS**

We will be Carol singing around the Village on **Sunday 15th December** (weather permitting)

**Meet 4pm at the Village Hall**
Starting along Meldreth Road at **4.10pm**

All welcome to come and join in.

Transport and village locations will depend on the weather

Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies at the Golf Range for the singers.

**COLLECTING FOR ST MARY’S CHURCH**

**Healthwatch Cambridgeshire; your spotlight on health & social care.**

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire is the new champion for people using local health & social care services; we launched in July 2013. We work to ensure that people’s voices are heard in making important decisions about local NHS, social care and public health services.

We talk to people in the local community about their experience of the care they receive to help us understand how well local care services are working. We make sure we feed this information back where it matters to the people buying, providing and regulating local care services.

Tell us about your health & social care experiences. We want to hear about the good and not so good, as this feedback can help improve care for everyone.

Join our Consultation Network, which will connect you with organisations that should know about your experiences and opinions of care in Cambridgeshire.

Get problems resolved... We can make sure you know where to go if you need to sort out a problem with a local care provider. We can give you information about how different complaints systems work and who can help you get your complaint resolved.

Find out about local care. We are developing a Signposting & Information Service, to help you find out about your choice of health & social care services.

Find out more about Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and get involved by calling us on 01480 420628, emailing enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or visit our website www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

**Barrington Village Hall WI Fair**

23rd November

A very busy village fair.

Call WI rep on 01223 873330 for a stall
**Watch your waste, not your waist this Christmas!**

Christmas is traditionally a time for generosity, indulgence and feasting. We love to give beautifully wrapped gifts, feed family and friends and eat our own bodyweight in festive fodder.

It’s not only our waistlines that gain weight at Christmas, festive bins are the heaviest and fattest of the year, with an extra 750,000 tonnes of waste in England alone compared to the rest of the year. That’s an increase of around 30 per cent and is generally made up of food waste, glass bottles, packaging and gift wrap.

To make it as easy and convenient as possible for you to recycle and compost your festive waste, here are a few tips:

**Blue Bin**

Most packaging can be placed in the blue bin, including:
- Glass bottles and jars
- Tins and cans
- Cardboard *(large pieces can be flattened and placed next to your blue bin for collection)*
- Greeting cards
- Gift wrap (all types)
- Plastic pots, tubs, trays
- Plastic packaging

If your blue bin is full, extra recycling can be placed out for collection in a cardboard box or returnable container.

**Paper caddy**

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Leaflets
- Greeting card envelopes
- Plastic film (all types as long as clean)

If you follow these simple steps, your black bin should remain practically empty with only non recyclable and non compostable items, such as polystyrene and nappies.

Remember, collection days change over the festive period due to the bank holidays. Look out for your collection calendar in the winter edition of the South Cambs Magazine.

You can also find it online at [www.scambs.gov.uk/bins-by-parish](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/bins-by-parish).

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**WHADDON VILLAGE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2013**

**Saturday 14th December**

**3.00-5.00 pm**

**The Traditional Christmas Party**

There will an entertainer and we are sure that there will be a very special visitor ..

All children within the village of Whaddon of Primary School age and under will be invited. Personal invitations will be delivered by the end of November. Contact Andrea if your invite does not arrive!

**Please note that all children should be accompanied by a parent/carer.**

We would appreciate any offers of help in organising this event, before or on the day

For further details please contact:

Andrea Cook at 14 Bridge St; C 207066

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**CRICKET CLUB**

Annual club dinner on Saturday 23rd November starting at 6:30pm in the Hoops, thereafter in Yuva.

Please let Peter Haselden know.

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**WHADDON POPPY APPEAL - 2013**

The 2013 Whaddon Poppy Appeal raised in total £468.11. This is about £50 more than last year and is close to £1 for every resident of the village. Collections were made house to house throughout the village, at the Golf Centre and at St Mary’s Church. My thanks, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, go to Flo Bye, Janet Leech and Henry Burgess for their help with the house to house collections, to Ken and Iris Green at the Golf Centre and to the congregation attending Remembrance Sunday at St Mary’s Church. But above all to everybody who gave so generously to this annual appeal. I know it will be put to good use by the Royal British Legion

Mike Monks Honorary Organiser

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**THE PALMERS TRUST**

The Palmers Trust was set up in 1925 by Mrs Palmer in memory of her husband Alfred John Palmer.

The aim of the trust was to provide coal for needy widows in the village of Whaddon.

As coal became less widely used in 1976 the trustees received permission from the charity commission to give money instead towards heating costs, and this is where we are today. When the trust was set up there was no social care or winter fuel allowance like there is today but with energy prices rising a little help at Christmas could make a difference to a Widow on a tight budget.

For more information ring Chris Coningsby on 208204
Once again it is time to write our annual report for the financial year 2012/13.

After such a busy year from 2011/12 we have had a year of preparation for another busy year in 2013/14. This year, we increased our precept from £15,950 to £16,200. This has not increased the amount paid by each household very much as we had a grant from SCDC to cover the shortfall caused by the way the precept is paid and calculated by local government.

We have made various grants to applying organisations from Section 106 monies, given to the Parish Council by the developers of St Marys Close, via SCDC. We have given monies to the Village Hall Trust towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall. We have also put aside and ring fenced money towards traffic calming which is now one of our current projects. We have also supported the production of the new Community Led Plan that many of you completed earlier in the year.

Our finances are in a very strong position going forward and I would like to thank all the councillors and our very able clerk who have been very supportive in their roles to me and to the rest of our community here in Whaddon.

Malan Peyton  Chair Whaddon Parish Council

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**WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2012/13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011/12 INCOME</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£15,950 Precept</td>
<td>£16,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£486 SCDC grass cutting payment</td>
<td>£486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£543 VAT repayment</td>
<td>£703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£120 Advertising—village newsletter</td>
<td>£185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£8 Bank interest</td>
<td>£12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£102 Other income</td>
<td>£24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£0 S106 monies received towards community space</td>
<td>£24,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>£17,209 Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>£42,066</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

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**ROYSTON & SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**Thursday 28th November**
**Christmas Swag Making Workshops**
**at Foxton Village Hall**
**Back by popular demand**

The workshops will be held at 11.00am – 2.00pm and another at 7.00pm – 10.00pm – so please identify which workshop you would like to attend when booking.

Tickets are £17 to include all the materials you will need to make your swag.

Thanks

Tracy Aggett
Home-Start
Royston & South Cambridgeshire

Tel: 01763 262262
Website - **[www.hsrsc.co.uk](http://www.hsrsc.co.uk)**

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**Rothwell's Carpet Cleaning**

Thorough, professional cleaning of Carpets, Upholstery, Rugs, Tile & Grout and Natural Stone floors.

- 'Truck mount' cleaning system
- Family firm est 1993
- Great customer service
- We move all the furniture
- Fully Insured
- Highly trained & experienced
- 100% satisfaction or it's free

*If you use us, you'll recommend us!*

12 Carisbrooke Rd, Cambridge. - info@rothwells.biz
Foster Carers provide a stable family support network for local children and young people when they are unable to live with their own family. Every year we have over 425 children and young people looked after by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The shortage of Foster Carers means that children and young people are placed with independent foster carers or residential units some outside of Cambridgeshire. They may also be looked after within the county children’s homes. We need to recruit more Foster Carers in order to give them the best possible future.

Foster Carers come from all different kinds of backgrounds. It may be that you have your own children or you may have worked with children before. You may have no experience of children or possibly considering a career change?

Every child is different so we need different Foster Carers, if you can offer stability, security and the positive experience of a loving family then we want to hear from you. You might be:

• Married, in a civil partnership, single or living with a partner
• From an ethnic background
• In a same sex relationship
• In work, unemployed or retired

Recruiting local people will mean that children and young people can live in their own community, continue to attend the same school and maintain contact with their family and friends.

We offer generous allowances including a start up package, 24 hr support and full training.

Call our freephone number on 0800 052 0078 or email fanda@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire County Council needs you to help change the lives of local children and young people.

Changes to Stagecoach Service No 27
Cambridge-Meldreth-Bassingbourn-The Mordens

From 4th November Service 27 will now use Chestnut Lane and Kneesworth Road between Kneesworth and Meldreth. It used to use the A1198 Old North Road, (Kneesworth), A505, A10 and Station Road (Meldreth). The No 27 will no longer call at Kneesworth Old North Road, Red Lion bus stops.

Full details and copies of the timetable can be obtained by contacting Stagecoach directly on 01223 433250, cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com or www.stagecoachbus.com

2011/12 EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General administration, insurance &amp; audit</td>
<td>£2342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages &amp; expenses allowances</td>
<td>£3,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Hall &amp; Recreation Ground</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Ground grass cutting</td>
<td>£1,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant to Whaddon Village Hall &amp; Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&amp;RGT) for running costs</td>
<td>£1,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Ground repairs &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>£676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of funds ring-fenced for Village Hall refurbishment &amp; playground maintenance to WVH &amp; RGT</td>
<td>£6,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass cutting - verges</td>
<td>£1,020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grass cutting - church yard</td>
<td>£80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable donations</td>
<td>£100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance - phonebox refurbishment &amp; repaving of Fountain Garden</td>
<td>£173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path clearing - Pickering Woods</td>
<td>£360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement windows for Village Hall</td>
<td>£2,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road safety signs</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Jubilee Celebration</td>
<td>£502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S106 expenditure - cricket nets</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>£20,808</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-£3599 Surplus (deficit) of income over expenditure £27,725

PTO
Cont’d

Whaddon Parish Council
Cash Position at 31st March 2013

Bank balance at 1st April 2012 £20,432
Add surplus for the year £27,725
Bank balance at 31st March 2013 £48,157

Of the bank balance the following has been earmarked for ongoing projects:

Parish Paths Partnership - footpath grant £470
Road safety and traffic management (due to be spent 2013/14) £9,551
Parish Plan (due to be spent 2013/14) £1,000
S106 monies for community space £23,960
WVHRGT – balance of grant for 2012/13 running costs (timing difference) £1,035

£36,016

General reserve (should be 3 to 12 months of precept - currently 9 months) £12,141

Total reserves £48,157

The Parish Clerk will be happy to answer any queries about the financial statements – whaddonpcclerk@yahoo.co.uk

RECENT BULLETINS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

WINTER is coming, and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging all residents to sweep their chimneys before the cold sets in. Our top tips to enjoy an open fire safely:

- Have the chimney swept at least once a year, or more frequently if you burn wood.
- Do not bank fires too high and remember to let them burn down well before you retire to bed.
- Check the hearth, floor and furnishings near the fire for hot sparks or embers before you go to bed.
- Use a fire or spark guard to prevent accidental fires and make sure that it has the kite mark or conforms to a relevant British/European safety standard.
- Do not place objects on or over the mantle-piece which may cause you to stand too close to the fire to reach or use them.
- Inspect your chimney breast regularly – particularly in the roof space – to ensure that it is sound and that sparks or fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.
- Avoid burning resinous woods as soot builds up quickly.
- Buy only suitable fuels.
- Do not overload the grate or appliance.

IT is the time of year when we’re enjoying a tipple with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls. The fire service has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn’t go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking your Christmas dinner. Never leave cooking unattended and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they confirm to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking. Above all, ensure you have a working smoke alarm fitted on each floor of your home. This will give you an early warning to a fire, allowing extra time for occupants in the home to escape. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94.
The past three months have been very quiet for Whaddon although there has been some concern from residents in Dyers Green who have noted on at least three occasions cars parked with occupants at the end of the Mettle Hill right of way and South end of Bridge Street. At least one number plate was noted and given to the police. Moving on, for the most part we have been fortunate with the playground having suffered only limited problems and that mainly with litter; however, a bag was stolen from someone at the playground which highlights the need to take care of your vulnerable possessions when in what is effectively a public place.

Local villages have had some crime problems, notably shed and bicycle thefts and two village halls were broken into with the thieves stealing copper items such as boilers, shower items and radiator pipes. These items were torn out and no effort was made to cut-off the water with considerable resultant damage.

Those receiving the village e-mails have been told of an e-mail scam that is doing the rounds but which might catch you off-guard because it appears to have been sent by a Whaddon villager you probably know. In essence, the e-mail pleads for financial help which is needed because the individual has an emergency while abroad. The scam has been around for some time but as it is using the correct e-mail address of a local villager you might like to be made aware of a typical message. In this recent incident I was not the only person in Whaddon to receive this particular message, so please be on your guard. The e-mail goes:

Good morning, I hope you get this on time, I made a trip to Manila (Philippines) and had my bag stolen with my passport and personal effects therein. The embassy has just issued to me a temporary passport but I have to settle my hotel bills with the Manager. I have made contact with my bank but it would take 3-5 working days to access funds in my account, the bad news is that my flight will be leaving very soon but I am having problems settling the hotel bills and the hotel manager won't let me leave until I settle the bills. I need your help/LOAN financially and I promise to make the refund once I get back home, you are my last resort and hope, Please let me know if I can count on you and I need you to keep checking your email because it's the only way you can get to me at this time. I promise to pay you back as soon as I get home. End of message.

Please remember to call 101 if something happens that you feel the police should be aware of. Car registration numbers and descriptions of people are particularly valuable. If you delay telling the police for some days there is often little they can then do.

A reminder: the village email system is sponsored by Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch and has about 130 addresses. It offers a rapid means of disseminating information not only on crime but on other matters that might be of interest to villagers. If you are not receiving emails and would like to be added to the list please let me know on: whaddonnhw@gmail.com

Remember – dial 999 to report a crime actually happening or when lives are at risk and for a non-emergency matter call 101. If you report an incident to the police please let your neighbourhood watch coordinator know.

Whaddon Village Hall refurbishment
The work has been completed on time and the November meeting was held in the superbly refurbished hall. Well done to all concerned! Work was now proceeding to improve the car park.

Whaddon Gap Traveller & Gypsy Site
It was confirmed that South Cambridgeshire District Council will be purchasing the site and that they would embark upon a major upgrade to the facilities.

Village upkeep
Following the comments received about the poor quality of grass cuts, there had been a review meeting with the contractor and the next cut was of a much better standard. New street signs for Meldreth Road and Coningsby Terrace had been installed and the refurbishment of the older metal sign for Ridgeway Close was being done. Peter Coningsby had cleared the fallen tree obscuring the chevrons in Meldreth Road by Bumpkins and was warmly thanked by the PC.

Bassingbourn Barracks
No further news has been forthcoming.

Broadband
There was another positive meeting with key suppliers on 23rd October about upgrading Whaddon’s infrastructure. They were due to report back in four weeks. The eventual upgrade may not happen until 2015 though.

Speed limits and traffic calming
A meeting had been held with consultants who suggested two options to be trialled to reduce traffic speed in Meldreth Road, before any permanent solutions are adopted. A letter of support had been sent to Meldreth PC for their plan to introduce a 40 mph speed limit from the Whaddon/Meldreth boundary and an extension of their 30 mph limit to the west of the cross roads.

Whaddon Community Led Plan
An update was given on the progress of the plan, which will be delivered to residents by the end of November. Two big issues identified were concerns about safety at the A1198 junctions and poor Broadband.

All minutes of meetings are on the village website www.whaddon.org and notice boards – in Church Street, Bridge Street, Cardiff Place and Meldreth Road.

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30 pm on Monday 13th January in the Village Hall.

Compiled by Lee Ginger
An update on Broadband in Whaddon

As your “broadband champion” for the Connecting Cambridgeshire project, here’s my latest update on the quest to bring better broadband to Whaddon. As always, I need to say that this concerns only the premises in the village in the 01223 dialling code, as those in 01763 are being dealt with by updates to the Royston exchange.

The contract was signed between CCC and BT in March, but early indications over the summer were that the initial efforts of the project were to be concentrated outside South Cambridgeshire. This immediately caused dismay in our area. Obviously the project has to start somewhere, but enquiries suggested that these other areas were the easiest to equip and thus the quickest initial results could be obtained. I was left feeling that it was a slightly cynical move to show that “quick fix” progress was being made and to hit targets and grab headlines. The implication was that the trickiest areas would be left to last, and we have always known that Whaddon would be a little problematic.

To reiterate, the difficulties in Whaddon stem from the fact that we are among a small number of locations (perhaps 10%) who do not have a telephony cabinet in the village, but who are instead directly connected to the exchange (Arrington in our case). Most places at several km from the exchange, e.g. Orwell, have a Primary Connection Point which can be upgraded to fibre-optic cable, and then the local premises can be connected to that cabinet, giving only a short run on copper cables. With Whaddon at the moment we have no alternative but to send our signals on copper all the way to Arrington, which is anything from four to six km or more, with the results we all know.

The Chairman of the Parish Council took the initiative and, along with our new County Councillor, were able to arrange a meeting with BT and the Connecting Cambridgeshire project in late August, at which we aired these concerns and also our worries that Whaddon would never be connected. We were assured that Whaddon is to be included, but they did need to work out the best method for us. We offered our cooperation, and BT offered to send an Openreach project official to conduct a more detailed survey of the village and see the problem on the ground, and then to recommend a way forward. The sad fact of the development of the telephone system in the UK means that BT do not always possess the historical records of their infrastructure which we might expect them to!

Come September, Connecting Cambridgeshire did produce a village-by-village account of the state of play. Looking at Whaddon, I and others were not surprised to see that while nearby villages were given ‘road maps’ as to how they could move forward, we were not (http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/parish/whaddon/). However, we had made our point, and the survey visit from BT took place in mid-October. While we do not have a formal result as such, BT are now better informed, and we are encouraged to believe that BT are taking the issue more seriously and that some good will come of it.

That is where we are at present. My impression is that it seems unlikely that anything will happen here before 2015.

County Councillor

The village is very grateful to its new County Councillor, Adrian Dent, for giving our broadband provision his close attention. Cllr Dent used to work in the communications industry and is able to speak the language of those overseeing and implementing the project, and we can be sure that he will fight our corner very hard.

Cambridge News item

An item appeared in the Cambridge News on 28 October suggesting that financial pressures might derail the Connecting Cambridgeshire Project among others (see http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Cambridge/Road-repairs-and-new-schools-may-be-at-risk-if-Cambridge-fails-to-strike-deal-with-Government-20131025060000.htm). Due to the notorious ability of the local press not quite to get things right, I checked this story with Cllr Dent, and he assures the village that the CN is wrong on this, and agrees with me that it is important that we pass this on.

Repairs

I think everyone is aware of how poor our phone lines are, and we know that there are a lot of faults reported in the village. It would really be helpful if we could also try and keep tabs on the scale of such problems and make BT aware of general trends. Thus we would be grateful if, once you have reported your fault to your telephone provider or ISP, you were to drop a line to me at nes3@cam.ac.uk so that I know where some of the issues are.

The Community-led/Parish Plan

The Plan is now in the final stages of preparation by the steering committee following analysis of the results of the questionnaire distributed to every household in the village. I was shown the results relating to the technology questions, and can summarise that aspect as follows.

It can be said with some clarity that the availability of decent broadband is becoming a major issue in Whaddon. More and more villagers are attempting to gain access to services which, unlike email, require a high level of connectivity. In much of the UK, and indeed the world, delivery of more and more essential services is predicated on the existence of fast connections. Similarly, delivery of new software for computers, phones and other mobile devices is now almost entirely carried out via the internet; a vast amount of entertainment and information services likewise are transmitted the same way, and (perhaps with regret) one can see the day when the more conventional media many of us have known for many years will be a distinct minority interest. A lot of some people’s social lives—some would say too much—depends on services such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and so on.

Better and faster broadband has become a basic utility requirement in the second decade of the 21st century. It is essential that if Whaddon is going to maintain its popularity among present and potential residents that serious efforts be made to address the technical difficulties which plague broadband in the village. Although the plan has yet to be published, I think it would be fair to say from what I know already that the Parish Council take this particular issue very seriously.

Web site and Facebook

The village web site continues to be kept up-to-date and be developed, although it is of course dependent on continuing input from everyone. I update the news and broadband pages as often as there is something worth doing. It is important that we pass on information services likewise are transmitted the same way, and (perhaps with regret) one can see the day when the more conventional media many of us have known for many years will be a distinct minority interest. A lot of some people’s social lives—some would say too much—depends on services such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and so on.

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