Village Hall Plans

Plans for refurbishing and extending the village hall have made steady progress. Since the initial village survey and public meetings at the start of the year a new village hall committee has been formed. Six villagers have been elected who will ultimately become the trustees of the village hall trust. Draft trust documentation has been prepared and we will be seeking trust status from the Charity Commission by the end of the year. The main work will then begin to formalise the proposals for the village hall and to develop a realistic business plan to support the villagers needs. Early consultations have been held with the local planners to discuss potential plans and ideas, whilst initial investigation work has identified the likely source of appropriate grants.

The village hall committee will need your full support in identifying the potential users of the new hall, as well as help with making grant applications. In recognition of the need to involve the village community, smaller groups or task forces have been proposed and the committee will be looking for your help in running these in future months. In the meantime we will keep you up to date with developments through the newsletter, local notice boards and specially convened meetings as necessary. If you wish to contribute to the future of our village hall or if you have any associated queries please contact either Mark Newberry (Chairman) on 01223 207555 or Terry Allison (Vice-Chairman) on 01223 207710.

Distribution of the Whaddon News is now being extended to include residents at New Farm and Cardiff Place which both fall within the Parish boundaries.

SUMMER EVENTS

Golden Jubilee Day
The very successful Golden Jubilee Celebrations made a profit of £479.37. This was a pleasant result as, first and foremost, this was intended to be a day for the villagers and we had only aimed to cover costs.

See the end of the Whaddon News for some photographic memories of the day.

Church Fete
The funds raised at the Church Fete were £1931.99 - better than last year, an excellent result. Thank you to all those who helped to make this a successful event.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING
St Mary’s Parish Church
Sunday 22nd September
6pm

Distribution of the Whaddon News is now being extended to include residents at New Farm and Cardiff Place which both fall within the Parish boundaries.
NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to Adelle, Dirk and Elise on the birth of Sophia. Also in Bridge Street, congratulations to Harriet French, born in the spring, and Anna Lewis born in July.

Meldreth Road has had a baby boom, too, with the arrivals of a daughter, Aston, to Craig and Teresa Whitehead on 1st and a son, Jacob, on 11th August to Lena and Håkan Erlandsson. Best wishes to you all.

WELCOMES

New arrivals to the village are: Carolyn and Neil Gallery with their sons Joel (2½) and Luke (11 weeks) down Bridge Street and Caroline and Andrew in Meldreth Road. Welcome to you all.

PETITION

Thank you to everybody who signed the petition about the junction of Whaddon Gap with the A1198. This was duly presented at the Transport Committee meeting. There was a magnificent response considering the short notice the Parish Council had. We were supported by Daphne Spink, Councillor for Cambourne which was an added bonus. Any developments will not be known until September when they will be discussed by the Parish Council.

RECREATION GROUND

There have been complaints about the amount of dog droppings on the recreation ground. Apart from the real danger caused by parasites in these faeces it is most unpleasant and smelly to tread in them, let alone get them on one’s hands. This is a recreation area for people to play ball games etc. and to feel free to run around. Nobody wants to ban dogs but that will be the inevitable consequence if owners do not clear up after their animals. Please, if you take your dog onto the recreation ground, watch it and CLEAR UP after it, if necessary.

BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By the time you read this you will probably be back from your holiday and looking at the photographs! If you have a caravan you may be storing it for the rest of the year. There are several tips for extra security which I have if you would like them. Modern caravans have some built in security with a unique VIN number and, since 1997, an electronic tag.

Another security problem is lawn mowers, bicycles, trailers etc. I have some details of a device (the Defiant Ground Anchor) to which you can attach such items with a standard locking chain/cable. The details have been sent to me by the Police who are not recommending it but who say “during a recent attack test carried out by Sold Secure, the ground anchor was granted five Gold awards”. If you are interested in further details on any security problem please contact me; 208648.
A new kind of volunteering is coming to villages and towns around the country.

The Royston & District Volunteer Bureau is undertaking a survey to find out whether it would be feasible to set up a time bank in Royston.

A time bank works in a very simple way. If you join as a member, (which is free), and do a job for another member, your time is rewarded with credits (1 hour = 1 time credit). You can then spend these time credits to get help from another time bank member. All the exchanges are arranged through a paid co-ordinator and credits are “banked” on a computer.

If you wish to take part in the survey (by completing a short, confidential questionnaire) or find out more, contact Toni Battison at the Bureau.

Tel: 01763-243020
e-mail: roystonvb@care4free.net

Questionnaires must be returned by 30th Sept.

Are you a first aider or interested in becoming one?

MAGPAS is hoping to start a Community First Responder Scheme in all villages throughout Cambridgeshire.

First Responders will be trained in first aid and in the use of specialised heart monitoring equipment (defibrillators) to shock a heart in the event of a cardiac arrest. The team member on call would attend an incident after being activated by the Ambulance Service control room and would be trained and equipped with a first aid kit, oxygen, defibrillator, two way radio, mobile phone/bleeper, etc.

This is an exciting opportunity to become involved in your own community and to provide vital time to a casualty, often saving a life, until the ambulance arrives. The Community First Responder Scheme is designed to complement and work alongside the emergency ambulance service and will NOT replace services delivered by the ambulance service.

The scheme requires a minimum number of volunteers within the village to make it viable. I have volunteered and look forward to more people joining me!

If you would like to become a First Responder, or know of anybody who would be interested in volunteering, find out more by calling the Scheme Co-ordinator, Rob Payne, on 01480-371059.

Terry Allison
RECYCLING

At the Parish Council A.G.M. the matter of the green recycling boxes came up. South Cambs. District council are pleased with the response to the boxes but are we making good enough use of them? For example the parish council receive £5 per ton of recyclable articles.

Could we put more into the boxes?

They collect all glass, all types of metal cans, all kinds of paper and textiles. Please wash cans and jars. No cardboard and no plastic. Another useful by-product is keeping down the community charge because all land fill rubbish now has to be paid for. The old adage is still true about brass being where muck is!

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

The Parish Council would like to commend to everybody, but particularly anybody who feels vulnerable, the Emergency Information Scheme.

This is a completely free system of supplying important information to the Emergency Services should a householder be the subject of a sudden illness or accident at home.

A small container is given within which are stored medical/allergy details and a contact person. The container is kept in a pre-arranged place and stickers within the home indicate that such details are available.

Your Health Centre or GP has a supply of containers as do Chemists.

For further information contact Margaret Wilson 208648.

COLLECTIONS

The last collection for the British Red Cross raised £139.02. The Kidney Research collection, by Janet Leech along the Meldreth Road, raised £60.00.

Thank you to all who gave to these good causes and to the collectors.

DEADLINES

Deadline for the next newsletter will be October 26th 2002. This will ensure that your Christmas event will be publicised in good time. The team hopes that you enjoy having the extra copy this year.

Contact Margaret Wilson 208648

Rainbows are coming to Whaddon

We are hoping to start Rainbows (part of Girl Guiding UK) in Whaddon during September. We will require at least two helpers to assist the Rainbow leader. The age range is 5-7 years (girls). If interested in helping or if your daughter would like to join please contact Karen Coningsby on 01223-207514.

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

This is advance notice that the Children’s Christmas Party will be held in the afternoon on 14th December.

Village children of Primary School age and below will receive personal invitations nearer the time. Please call Anne Newberry on 207555 if you are new to the village, or have a new addition to the family, to ensure an invitation.

WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

Once again it is planned to hold a Quiz Night during the Autumn. Keep watch for further details.

DEADLINES
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

- Some Notes from the past few months

Mrs. Aileen Bishop has now resigned as Clerk to the Parish Council after many years service. On behalf of Whaddon, we sincerely thank Aileen for all her hard work and support over the years and particularly for staying on until we could find a replacement Clerk. Watch out for a special social evening at the village hall in September, where the whole village can thank Aileen personally. We welcome Yvonne Albery as our new clerk to the Council.

Recently, a petition was circulated in the village to obtain support for a request to the County Council to make safety improvements to the dangerous junction at Whaddon Gap. There were 357 signatories obtained on the petition and this was presented to the Environment and Transport Division at their meeting in early June. Councillor Wilson gave a three minute speech in support of the petition and a decision will be reached in September. The leader of the District Council has supported our case for safety improvements.

At the Town Farm development it has been agreed by the County Council, that street lighting will not be imposed on the adopted road. This is a victory for the village of Whaddon and we thank Mary Chapple for her support in preventing this light pollution in our village. The development will be known officially as ‘Town Farm Close’. However, we do appear to have ‘lost’ the footpath which went across the site.

Five residents have agreed to become holding Trustees in order to create the Village Hall Management Trust. They will then be superseded by 8 trustees who will run the trust. A Trust will need to be in place before applications for grants can be made to help finance the development. A lease from the Parish Council has been drawn up. The plans for the development of the village hall have been discussed with representatives from the Planning Department at District Council.

Everyone will have noticed that much tree pruning and hedge management has been done in the village, to improve the appearance and access on the road sides. The standard of the grass on the recreation ground has also significantly improved in 2002, under the careful attention of Jim Docwra.

The development on the small piece of land between 23-25 Bridge Street has been causing considerable problems to adjoining neighbours. Waterways have been polluted with building materials and adjacent boundaries have not been respected. There is also concern that the village pump will be damaged, particularly if the spring supplying the pump is affected. It has been decided not to do any further repair work on the pump, until the building work is complete. A letter from the developer, has been sent to residents of Bridge Street outlining disruption to the road on occasions, in late August, when building materials are delivered. If anyone has problems using Bridge Street as a highway or suffers any further disruption, please contact one of your councillors with the information.

The Jubilee celebrations on Bank Holiday Monday, in early June, were well supported and there were some excellent floats and costumes seen throughout the village, as the procession wound it’s way from Eternite to Dyers Green and back to the village Hall. The afternoon entertainment, barbecue, evening live band and fireworks was an occasion enjoyed by all and was sold out well before the event. Many thanks to all those who helped put the day together and particularly to all those helpers who set up and dismantled equipment, marquees etc. on the recreation ground. All children under 16 received a commemorative Jubilee spoon to celebrate the occasion.

The speed limits through the village should be changed to 30 mph, before the end of this year. The County Council has agreed to this measure and hopefully it will lead to drivers travelling more slowly through the village. If you are driver in Whaddon, please drive slowly and carefully on our roads and make the village a safer place for all.
End of an Era

The end of July 2002 saw the closure of the Methodist Chapel in Whaddon and it is interesting to look back over its history in the village.

The chapel was initially housed in Home Cottages. These had been acquired as the living accommodation for the diggers employed in the coprolite industry which flourished in the village at the end of the nineteenth century. The chapel was situated in what had been the sleeping quarters for the workers. There was an earlier chapel in a house at the end of Bridge St which was attended by a family known to be Methodists. It is believed to have been transferred to Home Cottages in 1895 when the Whaddon chapel was added to the Cambridge Circuit, which also included Royston and several other local villages. The chapel flourished in these premises, being restored in 1933, until a fire in 1935 ended its life in this particular spot.

The chapel was a very active participant in the life of the village. Many local people have fond memories of the old chapel and of its many activities; the Harvest Festival when the chapel was beautifully decorated with produce for the service (the produce was auctioned off on the Monday); the Bible Class for the older children; a Sunday School for the youngsters; parties in the room above the chapel; anniversary celebrations and trips to the seaside.

A Catastrophic Fire

The fire which signalled the end of the old chapel broke out about 2 a.m. on a Tuesday morning in September 1935, in a small farmhouse at the end of the row of Home Cottages in the occupation of Mr William Jarman. Mr Jarman’s house was known as Home Farm but during the time of the coprolite workers had been known as The Home or The New Found Out (the beer house for the workers).

At the time of the fire there was a wind blowing straight down the row of houses and the upper floors were the first to catch alight. The fire quickly spread and in a very short time the whole row and the little Methodist Chapel were involved. Six families were rendered homeless but no lives were lost, save for a cat.

Considerable damage was done to most of the household goods by water and smoke. A call to the fire brigade in Royston was not got through until 3.50 a.m. and it must have been a terrible experience for the residents watching their property gradually being destroyed.

When the fire brigade did arrive they were at the scene until 10.50 a.m. The last cottage was saved owing to the strenuous effort of the fire brigade. After the fire many sightseers came to visit the site and streams of traffic were reported passing through the village.

A New Chapel

Moves were soon afoot to replace the burnt out chapel, services taking place temporarily in the school room. Fund raising began and building started work on the site of the chapel’s present home and the foundation stone was laid on July 23rd, 1936. The Royston Crow commented:

That nearly £100 was collected at the stone-laying for the new Methodist Church yesterday evening is something that a little village can be proud of. Indeed many towns would not have done so well and we heartily congratulate the village on its achievement.

The builders’ estimate for the church was about £509 with £512 for incidental expenses. The insurance company had given the full amount. They had sold the old site for £20. The new site had cost £25. Money was also raised by the sale of guinea bricks.

A well-known evangelist, Gipsy Smith, conducted the ceremony and in his address said that they were there to lay foundation stones and everyone would be judged by the foundations they had laid in a life based on Jesus Christ.

Its completion ensured the continuation of Methodism in the village and the chapel, later being extended and modified, carried on the work begun at the turn of the century. Its demise is to be regretted but in this increasingly secular world, only to be expected. Its congregation eventually became too small for it to remain viable.
**HISTORY OF RECTORY FARM (1)**

Many thanks to K Coningsby for the following information.

**

It is interesting to think that the name Coningsby has been associated with this village for well over 120 years. This fact alone reminds us that the villages of England have been vibrant living communities for many years.

**

Rectory Farm originally the rectory for St Mary’s Church which came into the hands of St George’s Chapel, Windsor, in 1351 and remained with them except for a short period until it was taken over by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the nineteenth century. Throughout the years many different people leased the rectory and glebeland including the Lords of the Manor, and for much of the eighteenth century the Earl of Hardwicke, owner of Wimpole Hall, who sub-let the property.

The Bell family occupied the Rectory Farm and there is documentation showing that a John Bell was there in 1709 and the Rental to Wimpole Hall was £65 14 0 p.a.

From Land Tax Assessments of 1830 we find that a William Bell was now the occupier and he was assessed at £13 10s.

Wimpole Hall rental in 1834 for 104 acres was £197. It would appear that William had additional land other than Rectory Farm as he paid two more sums; a) £122 10s p.a. for 90 acres; £32 p.a. for 32 acres previously worked by S Custerson.

Until her death in 1871 we find Rectory Farm in the hands of Elizabeth Bell. This suggests the widow carrying on after the death of her husband William in 1834. Their son John carried on there until 1878.

**A New Beginning**

A solicitor’s letter from the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, dated 22nd May 1878, indicated the handing over of the tenancy by John Bell, the last of the Bell family of Rectory Farm to “a highly respectable tenant willing to take over the farm ... Alfred Coningsby.” This was the start of what was to be a long and still-continuing occupation.

**Rectory Farm**

Various descriptions of the house exist, two of which appear below:

Rectory Farm and buildings consist of a two storied farmhouse built of wood, lathe and plaster and slated containing cellar, kitchen and scullery and lumber room, two sitting rooms small ditto, six bedrooms - very old.

Out buildings consist of a brick and slate brew house, granary, dovecote, thatched wooden poultry house, two-stall stable loose box, and a large barn slatted and nearly - new.

(A survey for Windsor Estates 1868)

**

A rectory house was first recorded in 1359. The present house on a moated site retains at its centre the structure of a late mediaval house of two bays. Early in the 17th century a porch was added on the north side, the house was rebuilt as cross wings new chimney stacks being built at each end of the hall and the upper floor was put in. Both stair cases appear to have been renewed in the late 17th century and there was a great deal of re-fenestration in the early 19th century.

(Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire)

**Robbery and Arson! (During the Bells’ occupation)**

In 1823 his dovecote was robbed of 11 dozen pigeons which were taken to London to a shop in Holborn. As a result one man was transported for 7 years and another was imprisoned for one year with hard labour.

In 1850 two fires occurred at the farm by now in the occupation of Mrs Bell. On one occasion one wheatstack, the middle one of three, was set alight and three weeks later another, 50 loads of wheat stored in the dovecote no longer used, were set alight.