

# SUSTAINABLE WHADDON

- Opportunities to enhance ecology and biodiversity
- Opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint

## Hedges and hedgerows

A hedgerow, in law, is considered important if more than 30 years old and meets one of the following criteria: marks all or part of a parish boundary that existed before 1850 or has a listed monument in it. But surely hedgerows are more than just markers in the landscape and boundary designations ? So a hedge forms part of a hedgerow which can contain trees, banks, gates, fences and even walls.

In the not too distant past hedges were considered to be a hindrance to effective farming in arable areas, where there was a move to increase the size of each field to make it easier to use ever larger machinery. Farmers were encouraged to remove hedges and grants were given to enable the removal of those hedges and hedgerows. How times have changed and now all of us, farmers included, are being encouraged to plant hedges either round field perimeters or around our own boundaries including our gardens. There are rules about cutting/trimming hedges mostly to do with nesting times for birds and also rules about permissions for the removal of hedges. These were updated recently in May 2024 and include having a 2 metre buffer strip which must be green cover from the centre of the hedge adjacent to any hedgerow, so no cultivation or pesticides. If you're interested then [hedgeline.org.uk](https://hedgeline.org.uk) is a good place to start. You can grow a non evergreen hedge to any height you wish but you should not cause a nuisance to your neighbours, evergreen hedges are a separate issue involving law suits...

Whaddon has many miles of hedges: some ancient, several hundred years old along estate boundaries: some planted very recently: some are cut yearly: some never cut. All have their place in the landscape and are quite often referred to as wildlife highways. Different types of birds prefer differing heights of hedges. In Whaddon we do have a couple of 'laid' hedges which form an impenetrable thick stock proof hedge and safe nesting from predators. A quick rule of thumb for aging hedgerows, and applying to ancient hedgerows, is to count the number of species within the hedge and its age may be related to the number of species, with one species per century. Quickthorn/ blackthorn and hawthorn were planted to keep livestock in from the earliest times of farming. One of our old hedges at Ermine Farm has purging buckthorn which is very unusual. Recently there has been a move to plant mixed species including thorn species roses, dogwoods, wild privet and hazel to improve bio diversity. Sometimes this can even be a requirement of planning permissions.

When we moved to live in Whaddon in 1996 our fields were open to the west and we planted around 400 metres of native mixed species hedging in December 1996. We were supported by a grant of plants from the County Council Rural team.

We planted another 1500 metres of hedging in 2001 again with the help of a grant from the CC. The village in 1996 planted the hedge to the south of Whaddon Gap and also Pickering Wood using the same type of grant from the CC. What a difference to our village having the woodland has made to us and the local wildlife. As a member of Sustainable Whaddon I would encourage you all to think about any hedgerows you

have around your property, this time of year being an excellent time to be planting new hedging. Below are 2 photos of the same boundary 27 years apart incredible how hedges and trees grow!

If anyone would like to have some advice and help please contact Malan, via email on [erminefarm@gmail.com](mailto:erminefarm@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Recycling Workshop in Whaddon



What can I put in my blue bin?  
Where does my recycling go?  
Could I put more items in my blue bin?

A free workshop exploring the answers to these questions will take place on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, at 6.30pm for 7.00pm** at Whaddon Village Hall, with Jon Crisp, Cambridgeshire County Council recycling officer. Come along and find out why recycling is important and how you can take part.

For further details, contact Sustainable Whaddon  
[sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org](mailto:sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org)

## Soft Plastic Recycling

A big thank you to everyone who is recycling their soft plastics whether they be bread bags, crisp packets, bubble wrap, salad bags, sweet wrappers and in fact anything with this logo on.

We are definitely doing a great job, but did you know for every kilo we collect and we do this in about a fortnight that this equates to a saving of 6kg of CO2 which is equivalent to a car journey of just over three miles.

So, please keep collecting and thank you again for helping to make Whaddon slightly more sustainable.

Sustainable Whaddon - [Sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org](mailto:Sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org)



*cont'd*

## Whaddon Seed Exchange Update

The Sustainable Whaddon group is pleased to report that the Whaddon seed exchange is up and running in the Meldreth Road telephone box. Its purpose is to help gardeners easily swap vegetable and flower seeds, enabling more sustainable gardening and hopefully providing villagers with interesting seed to grow. Currently there are more than 30 varieties of seeds available and villagers are welcome to take seed from the exchange to grow in their own gardens. We are planning an official opening ceremony in the near future and hope to get a local “celebrity” to cut the ribbon, so watch this space!

To be successful, the exchange needs regular seed donations so please harvest your garden seeds and dig-out unwanted commercial seed packets and add them to the collection. Further information is available in the phone box or email specific questions to [sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org](mailto:sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org).

*Malan Peyton, Chris Selway and Paul Evans*

The next meeting of Sustainable Whaddon is on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025** and all are welcome to attend. You can get in touch with the group at [sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org](mailto:sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org)



### Christmas at **ARRINGTON GARDEN CENTRE**



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