

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Citizens Advice:

Cambridge 08448 487979

Royston 08444 111444

Councillors:

County: Adrian Dent 01763 245669

District: Nigel Cathcart 01763 243637

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:

Melbourn Veterinary Surgery 01763 262696

Royston Veterinary Surgery 01763 242221

WHADDON NEWS

AUGUST 2014



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th Sept	Parish Council	9th Nov	Remembrance
10th Sept	Coffee Morning	10th Nov	Parish Council
17th Sept	Garden Club	15th Nov	Quiz Night
24th Sept	Macmillan Coffee	19th Nov	Coffee Morning Garden Club
28th Sept	Harvest Festival		
4th Oct	Playground Clean	3rd Dec	Coffee Morning
8th Oct	Coffee Morning	7th Dec	Christingle
13th Oct	Parish Council	14th Dec	Carol Service
15th Oct	Garden Club	17th Dec	Coffee Morning
22nd Oct	Coffee Morning	21st Dec	Village Carols
25th Oct	Halloween Disco	31st Dec	New Year's Eve Party
5th Nov	Coffee Morning		

LIST OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr Lee Ginger	Chairman	C 208077	43 Bridge Street
Mrs Kate French	Vice chairman	C 208207	21 Bridge Street
Mrs Jennifer Lewis	Councillor	C 208356	20 Bridge Street
Prof. Tony Milton	Councillor	C 207105	Chestnut Tree Farm, Meldreth Road
Mr Randall Scott	Councillor	C 208253	26 Bridge Street
Ms Amy Walker	Councillor	-	6 St Mary's Close
Mrs Gabby Van Poortvliet	Clerk/ Finance Officer	C 208450	134 Bridge Street, Dyers Green whaddonpcclerk@yahoo.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TEAM

Mike Monks	Whaddon Village Coordinator	58 Bridge Street	C208236
Malan Peyton	Deputy Village Coordinator	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green	C 207358
Coordinators:			
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 James Sutherland	Area Commander
Inspector Jon Hiron	Safer Neighbourhood Manager based in Sawston
Detective Inspector Simon Harding	Area Crime Manager
Rachel Carr	Community Safety Officer

Neighbourhood Policing Team (Cambourne):

Sergeant Jon Capes	Sector Sergeant
James Lynch	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Lyndsay Gardiner	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

NEWSLETTER

*The deadline for the next newsletter is **9th November**. Once again items of village interest are always welcome.*

*Joan Pascoe C208062
joanpascoe@aol.com*

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



RECENT BULLETINS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

HARVEST is upon us and we're calling on local residents to help our fight against straw stack arson.

Stack fires can quickly spread and not only endanger people and live-stock, but also life-long work on farms. Stacks burn very slowly meaning crews are committed for long periods of time, making them unavailable for other emergencies. Don't forget, many firefighters attending incidents like these in rural parts of our county are on-call personnel and their retention at a stack fire impacts directly upon business and services in their community.

What can you do? We're urging residents and those passing through rural areas to keep a careful watch. Do you see someone acting suspiciously around stores of hay or straw? Is there an unusual vehicle near farm buildings? Become a community member of Arson Watch and keep an eye on stacks in your area.

Report suspicious activity to police on 101 and dial 999 if you see a stack fire.

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94.

Carers Away Day - Book your place

Do you care for someone?

A carer is a person of any age – adult or child – who provides unpaid support to a partner, child, relative or friend, who could not manage to live independently, or whose health and wellbeing would deteriorate without this help. Those receiving this care may need help due to frailty, disability or a serious health condition, mental ill health or substance misuse.

Cambridgeshire's Carers Away Day 2014 is being held on **Friday 3rd October** from **10am to 4pm** at the Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon. This free annual event provides carers with the opportunity to take part in informal discussion groups with expert speakers, relax, get creative and have fun by taking part in a range of afternoon activities. Lunch and refreshments are provided.

This is an opportunity to meet other carers and share your stories and experiences. Places are limited. To book your place contact the Carers Support Team on 01480 377616 or by emailing: CarersSupportTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Please ask for any assistance you might need to enable you to come.

For more information about the day visit www.cambridgeshire.net

Small grants available to new community clubs and societies

Whaddon Parish Council is making available some small grants of £50 to £100 to help set up new community clubs and societies in Whaddon. To be eligible the club or society must use our newly refurbished village hall and/or recreation ground facilities and be for the benefit of village residents. If you are interested in starting a club in Whaddon but have been concerned about initial start-up costs or hall rental charges, this could help you.

To find out more or to request an application form please contact Gabby - Parish Council Clerk on whaddonpcclerk@yahoo.co.uk (or telephone 208450).

VILLAGE MINI - LIBRARY

You will be pleased to know that the mini-library in the telephone box at the top of Bridge Street is working!! Books are changing every week and it's being kept mostly tidy BUT can users only exchange books (one for one), as extra books build up over the weeks and there is no further space. Also, there is no demand or space for books that repeat each year and date eg National Trust, RHS etc. Please don't leave them in the library.

Otherwise, I hope users are enjoying the facility.

Fionn King

Party in the Barn 2014

Thanks to all of you who supported this year's event which took place at the beginning of July. We all had a fantastic evening and we are delighted to announce that we made a profit of **£2125**. This will be used towards the upkeep of the village playground.

WHADDON GOLF CENTRE QUIZ NIGHTS

Quiz nights at the Golf Centre for the autumn/winter sessions are as follows: During the past year a total of £350.00 was raised and sent to the following charities:

2014	2015
Sept 10th	Jan 14th
Oct 8th	Feb 11th
Nov 12th	Mar 11th
Dec 10th	

British Heart Foundation
Cambridge Food Bank
Diabetes UK
East Anglian Air Ambulance
Jimmy's Night Shelter
Macmillan Nurses
Philippines Disaster Fund
Sport Relief 2014

Everyone is welcome to join in with these 'fun' nights which start at 8 pm.

WHADDON VILLAGE HALL

VOLUNTEERS WANTED AT THE PLAYGROUND

Please come and help the Village Hall Trust on **Sat 4th October** from **10am to 1pm** to brush the mats in the playground. We cannot deny that it is hard work but if there are enough of us - well you know - "many hands make light work" etc.

All that is required is a scrubbing brush or wire brush and a washing up bowl. The mats are deteriorating because dirt and weeds are encroaching on the edges.

The Village Hall Trust will provide bacon rolls, tea and coffee for all willing workers.

Thanks in anticipation Wendy and David Evans

The Whaddon Mainly Gardening Club

After a recruiting drive throughout the village the "Mainly Gardening Club" is firmly established and has already visited two gardens in the village and made its first safari into the great wide world by joining the Reed Club to Hopleys Plant Nursery and Gardens at Much Hadham.

Future visits are planned in the afternoon of Thursday 28 August to Gibberd Garden for a talk, a tour and a cream tea. Then on Tuesday 30 September a visit is planned in the afternoon to the South Farm gardens and smallholding at Shingay.

Inevitably, garden visits tend to be in the afternoon which doesn't fit those who are working during the day. For 2015 we will work very hard to identify places we might visit in the evening.

From this October, we will be planning to have speakers, normally in the village hall, to talk not only on garden related subjects but on any topic that we judge will be of interest to members. This will also be an opportunity for a wider discussion on local gardening issues and for an exchange of ideas on resolving garden problems. These meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month, normally starting at 7.30pm. A small charge of £2 will cover hire of the hall and refreshments. Very occasionally, we may have to pay for the speaker.

If you would like to be a part of the club's activities and have not already joined please make initial contact on whaddonnhw@gmail.com.

CHARITY ANTIQUES FAIR

Orwell Village Hall
in aid of **Help for Heroes**

Sunday 12th October
10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Admission £1
(Early entry 9.00 am - £2)



Learn to DANCE
Ceroc Dance Nights

Mondays - 7.30-10.30pm
Univ Sports & Social Club, Mill Lane,
Cambridge CB2 1RX

Wednesdays - 7.45-10.45pm
Fowlmere Village Hall, Chrishall Rd,
Fowlmere, Herts SG8 7RY

Thursdays - 7.45-10.45pm
Cambourne Village College,
Sheepfold Ln, Cambourne CB23 6FR

Why not come along to our Ceroc dance nights. No partner required as we rotate partners throughout the night, come on your own or with a group of friends.

For more information see website.

www.ceroccentral.com
TEL: 01234 378946/07801 734268

QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of Home Start

Saturday 18th October
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Meldreth Village Hall
High Street, Meldreth

Teams of 6

Book tickets by 9th October
£10 including supper

Tickets from :

Home-Start Royston & S. Cambs
Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road,
Meldreth, Royston, Herts, SG8 6JP

Tel: 01763 262262

e-mail: admin@hsrsc.co.uk
www.hsrsc.co.uk

Fund raiser for Home-Start
Royston & South Cambridgeshire



The Royal British Legion Social Club



31 Downing Close,
Bottisham
CB25 9BA



6th Annual Beer Festival

Friday 19th to Friday 26th Sept

Our regular range of Beers and
drinks plus 12 Guest Real Ales and
2 Ciders

Music on Saturday night Plus BBQ

Further details on the website
[http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/
branches/bottisham](http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham)

or from the Club on 01223 812063

STEPPING STONE

The Stepping Stones project supports disabled people aged 14-25 to access sports activities in Cambridgeshire. This can be as a participant, coach, official or volunteer. All you need to do is call and we will do the research and match you with a local provider. We provide the necessary support to the club to enable you to participate, and can help access funding to engage you in the activities.

Eligibility

Disabled people aged 14-25

Referral

Young people can self-refer

Costs

Club membership fees

Telephone: 01223 301756

[stepping-](mailto:stepping-stone@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

stone@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

HEALTHWATCH - NEWS UPDATE

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire is now one year old and I am delighted to inform you that our Annual Report is now available on our website. We have tried to give an informative overview of our work so far, as ever with the emphasis on real people and real impacts.

During our second year we will be reviewing what we do and how we do it. We plan to hold consultation events early on in that process to make sure that we are getting it right. We would love to have as many individuals and organisations involved in that as possible.

You can find out more about our work on our website, including an Easy Read version of our Annual Report and our Work Programme for 2014/15:
<http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/our-first-year>

Royston Model Railway

The Royston & District Model Railway Club will be holding its 28th Annual Exhibition at Bassingbourn Village College on **Saturday 15th November** 2014. The exhibition will be open from 10:30 am until 5 pm. We hope to have 20 to 25 layouts present with the remainder of the stands being Traders, Demonstrators & Society—based.

Tea, Coffee and light refreshments will be available. Miniature train rides by members of the Royston & District Model Engineering Society on their outside track (Weather permitting!).

Admission £4.00 per Adult and accompanied children are free.

We intend to run a bus service between Royston Bus & Train Stations and Bassingbourn Village College on the day.

Please visit our web site www.roystondmrc.co.uk for further/updated information."

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	6.30 - 8.00pm	Dog training
Tuesday	7.00 - 8.15pm 8.30 - 9.30pm	Yoga Table tennis
Wednesday	10.30 - 12.00 7.30 - 9.30pm	Coffee morning (Alt wks - see diary dates) Garden club (3rd Wed each month)
Thursday	6.30 - 7.30pm 7.30 - 8.30pm	Pilates Pilates
Saturday	9.30 - 11.30am	Dog training

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



The coffee morning held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday 24th September** will be in aid of Macmillan nurses.

Please come and give your support to this event.

SUMMER BBQ

Hello everybody
We made a profit of £295 from the Village BBQ which proved to be a great success and fun was had by all.
A big thank you to all who helped.

Karen Coningsby

VILLAGE HALL TRUST

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 15th November

7pm for 7.30pm start

Teams of 4-8

£8 includes Chilli supper
Bring your own drinks

Teams to:

• Carol Ginger 207688,

• Deborah Townsend 208038

• Karen Coningsby 207514

Happy Halloween

HALLOWEEN DISCO

Saturday 25th October

7.00pm

Fancy Dress Optional

Bring your own food and snacks

Adults £5, 5-12yrs £3

Under 5's free

UPDATE ON BROADBAND IN WHADDON

Perhaps the most urgent issue from the 2013 Whaddon Parish Plan, available on the village web site (http://www.whaddon.org/parish_plans/2013-Whaddon%20Village%20Plan.pdf), is that demand for decent, fast and reliable broadband is now among the major concerns of villagers. As more and more government, commercial and entertainment bodies prefer to deliver their products and services online, high quality broadband is now much more important than it was even at the time of the 2005 plan.

As I have outlined in articles online and in the *Whaddon News*, although Whaddon is in the highest priority group in the current plans of the Connecting Cambridgeshire project, particular technical issues with the nature of the village's connection to the network have meant that no concrete plan has been available up to now as to how Connecting Cambridgeshire (CC) and BT/Openreach (BTOR) plan to offer a solution for us.

I am delighted to say that this is now changing. I had a very helpful meeting with CC and BTOR at Shire Hall on 24 July and can report that a plan has been devised for us. This plan is now incorporated into the formal programme of the CC project, and the project web site for Whaddon has in the last 24 hours seen a very welcome update: <http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/parish/whaddon/>

The proposal is for a fibre-optic cable to be run from Arrington exchange to a new cabinet in the village, most likely in the area of the former telephone box at the top of Bridge Street. To enable the connection of the fibre-based services to premises in Whaddon, another cabinet will be installed adjacent to this one, into which the existing copper cables from houses will run. This solution is called "Fibre to the Cabinet" or FTTC. It means that the fibre will be able to deliver high-speed internet to the village, and the issue of service deteriorating the further one is from the exchange will now be confined to the length of copper cable between a house and the new cabinet.

The level of service is expected to fall into the category of "superfast broadband", which will mean that the majority of properties near the cabinets will be able to receive at least 24 mbps (megabits per second); some areas within the CC project are actually getting more than 50 mbps. More distant houses will see some slowing down, but the service they receive will be vastly superior to what is presently available.

There are many technical and constructional issues involved with this proposal, requiring highly detailed planning, and it will not happen overnight. Although Whaddon is "only" 5km from

Residents are reminded to check ID

We'd like to remind our residents to be vigilant and always check the identification of anyone who calls at their door including those who say they are from Cambridgeshire County Council or Trading Standards. Council officers will usually ring and make an appointment first if they intend to call on someone. Council Officers always carry identification and will not be offended if you close the door on them whilst you verify who they are.

You can call the County Council on 0345 045 5200 to check that they are a County Council Officer. Always leave the chain on the door when you are answering to someone you do not know, take any identification card and examine it thoroughly.

Never employ tradesmen who call at your house uninvited.

If you need a tradesman for any jobs, big or small, check out the 'Buy with Confidence'. This is a Trading Standards sponsored group of traders, all of whom have been thoroughly checked before being allowed into the scheme. 'Buy with Confidence' can be found on the internet <http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk>, your local library or by calling Citizens Advice.

THE BIKEBUS EXPLORER

What is the BikeBus Explorer?

BikeBus Explorer is a unique new bus service which pulls a bike trailer behind so you can saddle up and rove further afield. The new service is a first in Cambridgeshire and only operates in a handful of destinations in the UK. The service will be operated by Dews Coaches

When can I use the BikeBus Explorer?

The bus and bike trailer will depart Cambridge Rail Stations four times a day, Sundays and Bank Holidays only, connecting villages between Barton and Gamlingay with the city.

Where can I go on the BikeBus Explorer?

Taking a circular route, the BikeBus Explorer will call at Barton, Wimpole, Arrington, Croydon, Hatley and Gamlingay.

Can I use the BikeBus Explorer if I do not have a bike?

The answer is yes. For foot passengers the BikeBus can be boarded at any stop.

For further information on bus route, timetable, fares, suggested cycle trails and walks please visit www.scambs.gov.uk/bikebus-explorer.

TWO ARTICLES FROM TRADING STANDARDS

Beware of copycat websites

Trading Standards Officers at Cambridgeshire County Council are urging residents to beware of copycat websites imitating official government services online. These are designed to trick you into parting with your cash unnecessarily by charging for services that are provided cheaper or for free through official government channels.

Ordering new passports, booking driving tests and renewing car tax discs are just some of the ways that people are unwittingly being left out-of-pocket by shrewd fraudsters who operate 'copycat' websites.

Copycat websites tend to use similar design features to replicate the 'look and feel' of official service websites and often use URLs that include fragments such as 'govuk', 'directgov' or relevant organisation names to make them appear as official providers of certain services.

The best way you can avoid being duped is:

Use [GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) It is the easiest and most secure place to find government services and information online. Instead of searching for the services you need via a search engine, go to [GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk) and use the search function there. Then you'll know you're on the official site. If you do use a search engine, look out for the differences between natural search results and paid-for search results.

National Trading Standards is issuing advice for consumers to beat the cyber con-artists, including a video guide at <http://www.tradingstandardscrime.org.uk/copycat-web-site-crackdown-2/>

To report a misleading or copycat website, you can call the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06.

Cambridgeshire Council officers are warning residents of a website called www.parkingpermit.com offering to process Blue Badge applications for a charge of £49, plus the cost of a badge. It is not necessary to apply for a Blue Badge through any other website other than the official Government website on www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge or by calling the Cambridgeshire Blue Badge Service on 0345 045 5204. This is a free registration service with a Blue Badge from Cambridgeshire costing £9 for a new Blue Badge and £5 for a replacement.

Arrington, this will be one of the longest fibre runs installed by CC/BTOR. A new cable needs to be laid alongside the A1198, and that will inevitably cause some inconvenience on the road from time to time, with traffic reductions and even the occasional closure in prospect.

"No pain, no gain" is a saying that is appropriate in the context. Everyone involved in this project requests the co-operation of villagers in being patient while these complex works are undertaken. The process will be slow, and although no timetable is yet available, there will inevitably be some slippage with all the complex factors involved. The Parish Council is fully behind the plan, and will do all it can to help the project and manage the expectations of everyone involved.

The \$64,000 question is "when?". The Connecting Cambridgeshire web site gives a date of September 2015, although we should not underestimate the difficulties involved, and villagers are asked to tolerate any slippage in dates. We will ask CC/BTOR for regular updates on progress and pass them onto everyone in the village via the *Whaddon News*, the village web-site and our Facebook page.

Any questions or comments, please contact me on 207434 or ncs3 [at] cam.ac.uk

Nigel Strudwick
"Broadband Champion" for Whaddon
11 August 2014



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01223 832 928 / 07545 962 026
www.rothwells.biz

M2091
12 Carisbrooke Rd, Cambridge. - info@rothwells.biz

ST MARY'S CHURCH WHADDON

SERVICES

September

28th Sept 3.00pm HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE
Please come and decorate the church during the week. Your help is much appreciated.
(No joint service with Bassingbourn this month)

November

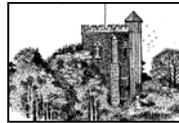
9th Nov 10.45am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

December

7th Christingle at 3.00pm with Bassingbourn invited.
14th Carol Service at 6.00 pm.
21st Carol singing around the Village pm
24th Informal Carol Service 5pm please bring candles, torches etc
25th Family Holy Communion service 9.30am

CHURCH FETE

A big thank you to all involved in the Fete and a special thank you to everyone who came and supported us. After expenses we made a profit of £2313.67. Thank you for your support. Bill and the team.



WHADDON GOLF CENTRE

01223 207325

8.30 'til late

BAR
COFFEE

FOOD
SNACKS



MORE THAN GOLF

VILLAGE SHOP

PAPERS
MILK
BREAD

JUST ASK US TO
ORDER

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR SPEEDWATCH

The Whaddon Speedwatch team is down to just three people as one of our volunteers, Nick Shaw, has moved and another spends most of the year abroad. The remaining three volunteers have been part of Speedwatch since early 2009 when Whaddon was the first village in South Cambs to use the system. The data provided significantly helped our case for a village-wide reduction in the speed limit to 30mph and despite the inevitable racer, average speeds of those exceeding the limit in the village have dropped by some 10mph. As operating Speedwatch requires three people we need more volunteers or Speedwatch will come to an end. Put simply, it is unfair to rely on the same people year after year. Over the years the team has been made up of volunteers from Church Street, Town Farm Close and Bridge Street but never Meldreth Road. As the focus of Speedwatch monitoring has been

Meldreth Road, how about some of you folks, of either gender, joining us! You would be very welcome.

The commitment is certainly not arduous but does require some availability during weekdays in the morning and late afternoon or at weekends when those working during the week would be very welcome. Joining the team requires no more than 3 hours a month and probably less if we get some more volunteers. The task involves monitoring cars using the Speedwatch kit and recording the details of those that are speeding. Results are then passed to the police for action. We operate as a team of three for one hour sessions, normally at the rush hour periods on weekdays and conversation can be lively when the volume of traffic allows. Please contact me on 208236 if you can spare a few hours a month.

Mike Monks

PC Repairs

Advice & Installation of Home Networks

Help with Selecting a Computer

Fault Finding

Brian Girling 01223 208529 (Wimpole)

E-mail bg@moncraft.co.uk

We can also provide the following services:
Design of brochures, posters, business cards etc.
A4/A3 laminating • A4 Comb-Binding
Small print runs on A6 to A3 media



Rural crime has been in the national media recently following a report from NFU Insurance that it has risen by 12% in the past year with Eastern England suffering the highest rise. Cl Sutherland, our police Area Commander, was recently on the Today programme on Radio 4 talking about the problem. The main focus seems to be on expensive farm equipment but the problem is often felt down to households. There are many farms in Whaddon and the surrounding district and it is everybody's responsibility to keep a wary eye open for unusual activity, particularly with the nights drawing in.

Fortunately, Whaddon has been free from any reported crime in the last few months although other local villages have faced a number of shed burglaries and cars have been broken into, probably because the owners have left handbags, laptops and other valuable items visible for all to see. Not the most sensible thing to do and an irresistible temptation to any light fingered passer-by.

The ingenuity of thieves never fails to surprise as proved by a thief in Wendy cum Shingay who managed to steal a set of electric security gates from a property during the night.

Most of us are plagued by intrusive telephone calls offering us a vast array of services you simply cannot possibly refuse or energy saving equipment that brings the tropics to your home in the middle of Winter for

next to nothing. The most intrusive, the market survey, can in the hands of a skilled caller extract from you a remarkable breadth of personal information which, upon reflection, you probably wish you had never revealed. These cold callers can be very adept at breaking down barriers and they rarely have an offer you wouldn't be much better declining.

If you would like to see the back of many of these calls then there are services available such as the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) which can help. Check your phone book for details or go to www.tpsonline.org.uk TPS will help to reduce UK based calls; however, be aware it will not work for International calls. Remember, it is a legal requirement that companies do not make such sales and marketing calls to numbers that are registered with the TPS. If you get such a call and are registered with TPS then remind the caller they are breaking the law.

A reminder to everybody that the village e-mail system is sponsored by Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch and has about 130+ addressees. The aim is to keep residents updated not only on police matters but also on parish council, village hall, church, social and other topics that might be of interest to villagers. If you are not receiving these e-mails and would like to be included 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.

Mobile telephony in Whaddon

After the village's success with improving our prospects in the broadband arena, I have been seeing what can be done to improve our similarly lamentable mobile phone service.

In Whaddon, irrespective of your Internet Service Provider (ISP), broadband comes down the same set of phone wires owned and managed by BT Openreach, and to whom the ISP has to turn if there is a problem. Mobile service is quite different from broadband. Each mobile phone company operates its own separate network, with separate masts. O2, Vodaphone and EE (plus 3, about which I know little) are the main providers of the mobile infrastructure round here; other companies, such as Virgin and Tesco, "piggy-back" off one of the major players. I don't know enough about Blackberry to be sure how it operates.

We all know that the service varies remarkably depending where you are. My experience is that O2 has the best coverage in the village, with EE/T-Mobile/Orange coming in a fairly poor second, and the coverage for Vodaphone being very poor indeed. Because each of these have their own networks, it is impossible to make a blanket complaint.

I recently complained about the level of service to my provider, EE/T-Mobile/Orange (henceforth EE). What follows only applies specifically to this provider, but individuals with the other companies may find it worthwhile complaining using a similar set of tactics. In our house in Town Farm Close, it is virtually impossible to get an EE signal of any type. I had a long conversation with several people in the technical and networks side of EE. Firstly they repeat-

ed that there are no plans for making improvements to their networks in this area (this is a commercial decision, rather like we got for years from BT). However, clearly here is a degree of embarrassment about poor rural services, and they offered several suggestions:

1. Each customer should discuss with their mobile provider whether it is possible to have some sort of signal booster in the house; these usually work in conjunction with a broadband line to help improve the signal. See <http://ee.co.uk/help/mobile-and-home-connections/checking-and-improving-your-network-coverage/signal-box>.
2. You should raise the possibility of obtaining a discount on your monthly contract for the level of service. Seriously—it worked for me!
3. For EE, it could have an effect if customers of all three brands, EE, T-Mobile, Orange, were to write to EE indicating the poor level of service we get here, and the difficulties it presents for us. If enough of us were to write to them and complain, they are more likely to take some action rather than doing nothing. No protest, no improvement. They told me to write to EE Ltd, Trident Place, Mosquito Way, Hatfield AL10 9BW. I can give you a suggested template text for such a letter if you wish. While these three points relate specifically to EE, there is no reason why customers of the other companies cannot do the same to try and get improvements. I hope this advice will encourage you to take up arms with your mobile provider! As ever, contact me on 207434 or ncs3[at]cam.ac.uk if I can be of help. Nigel Strudwick Whaddon "Broadband Champion"

Whaddon Parish Council News – *a flavour of our meetings in June and August*

Parish Council changes

At our August meeting the council was delighted to co-opt Councillor Will Elbourn to the council. Will replaces Cllr Malan Payton, who resigned in May.

Broadband

The PC was delighted to receive a positive update from Nigel Strudwick, the village 'broadband champion'. As a result of much lobbying, there has been a breakthrough with Connecting Cambridgeshire/BT Openreach in the provision of superfast broadband to Whaddon, possibly by Autumn 2015. This will require much design and infrastructure work to take place and there is the potential for some disruption to our local roads through the installation phase. For many people though, it will be 'short term pain for long term gain'.

Speed limits and traffic calming

A draft scheme for Meldreth Road has been designed and put out to consultation with the local residents. It elicited a very creditable 29 replies from the 42 questionnaires delivered (69% response rate). Of the replies 65% (19) were in favour of the proposed scheme, 31% (9) objected and 4% (1) held no strong view. Of those who objected, 7 believed there should be some traffic calming measures. Overall 93% of responders favoured some form of speed reducing measures. The PC will now discuss with the traffic consultants the results of the survey.

Whaddon Village Hall – PC Grants

So far there have been no applicants for the PC grants of between £50 and £100 that are available to help clubs and societies set up activities for the benefit of village residents in the VH and/or recreation ground. Applications should be made via the Clerk and would be

discussed and decided on by the PC.

Village upkeep

The Council have appointed Nathan Morley to the role of village handyman.

Bassingbourn Barracks

County Cllr Dent reassured the meeting in August that the Libyan soldiers being trained have caused few problems but are always closely monitored by the British soldiers when they travel off site.

Speedwatch

The Speedwatch co-ordinator reported to the August meeting that there are now only three members of the team conducting this valuable work. If more volunteers do not come forward there is a real chance that Speedwatch will cease altogether in Whaddon. This would be a serious blow to the village because Speedwatch has not only reported upon those drivers travelling at excess speed but it has also given the Parish Council valuable data upon which to make the case for speed limit reductions and other safety issues. It is of particular concern that no one from Meldreth Road has ever been a Speedwatch member despite the fact that 93% of residents living there indicated in our survey above that they wish for more action. If any one can spare an hour or so to help it would be much appreciated. Either talk to me or to Mike Monks, the Speedwatch co-ordinator (tel 208236)

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

The next PC meeting is at 7.30 pm on Monday 8th Sept in the Village Hall.

Compiled by Lee Ginger

NEWS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECYCLING

Cambridgeshire County Council's consultation to help decide the future of the Household Waste Recycling Service has now started and will run until **Friday 26 September**. During this period they are encouraging residents to complete an online questionnaire which can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentreservice.

This online consultation focuses on residents' current use of the service and their thoughts on the options being considered. The options being put forward include looking at the location, usage and potential closure of some household recycling centres (HRCs) in the county as well as proposals such as charging for certain wastes such as hardcore and plasterboard or reducing weekday opening hours and opening days at sites.

This consultation will run alongside surveys being undertaken by AmeyCespa on CCC's behalf at all of the nine household recycling centres (HRCs) within Cambridgeshire (Alconbury, Bluntisham, Milton, March, St Neots, Thriplow, Whittlesey, Wisbech and Witchford).

BUDGET PLANNING

Cambridgeshire County Council is currently reviewing its annual business plan which includes looking at the authority's priorities and setting our budget for the year 2015/16. Please be advised that the CCC Budget Planning consultation has just started and will finish on **30th September**.

We want your views:

Before any final decisions are taken by councillors and stakeholders we would like to gauge local opinion. Therefore,

we would be grateful if you could take the time to view the proposals and complete the questionnaire – which you can access here: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation>

PARKING CHARGE AT P & R

SITES

A £1 car parking charge has been introduced at each of the five Cambridge Park and Ride sites.

The £1 charge will allow motorists to park for between 1 and 18 hours. The first hour is free to allow people to drop off or pick up bus passengers or to collect purchases from the John Lewis distribution centre at Trumpington.

There will be no barriers and parking tickets do not have to be displayed in the vehicle. The system uses cameras that have automatic number plate recognition on entrances and exits to check who has paid to park. Therefore, making it easy and simple for customers of the Park and Ride site.

Daily tickets can be purchased from ticket machines outside the main buildings on the sites - you will need to know the car registration number. Discounted ticket deals can be purchased online or using mobile phones

Parking for longer than 18 hours will be allowed but much higher charges will apply.

The charge to park also applies to concessionary bus pass holders but they can still use their cards to travel on the buses.

Further details can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/park-ride.