

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Citizens Advice:

Cambridge 08448 487979

Royston 08444 111444

Councillors:

County: Susan van de Ven 07905 325574

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

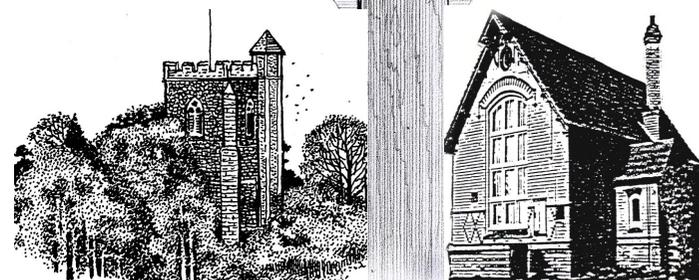
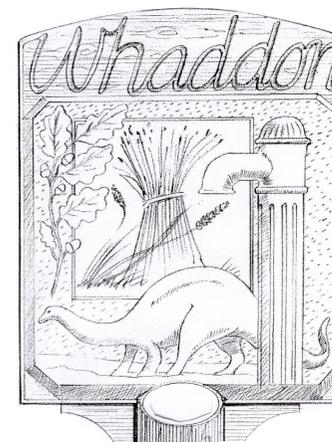
Vets:

Melbourn Veterinary Surgery 01763 262696

Royston Veterinary Surgery 01763 242221

WHADDON NEWS

December 2017



www.whaddon.org

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd Dec	Christingle Service	15th Jan	Parish Council
9th Dec	Children's Christmas Party	17th Jan	Gardening Club
10th Dec	Carol Service	24th Jan	Coffee Morning
13th Dec	Coffee Morning Charity Quiz	12th Feb	Parish Council
20th Dec	Gardening Club	14th Feb	Coffee Morning Charity Quiz
22nd Dec	Christmas Sing-along	21st Feb	Gardening Club
24th Dec	Informal Carols	28th Feb	Coffee Morning
25th Dec	Christmas Day Service	12th Mar	Parish Council
10th Jan	Coffee Morning Charity Quiz	14th Mar	Coffee Morning Charity Quiz
		21st Mar	Gardening Club
		28th Mar	Coffee Morning

NEWSLETTER

*The deadline for the next newsletter is **16th February** Once again items of village interest are always welcome.*

*Joan Pascoe C208062
25 Bridge Street
joanpascoe@aol.com*

VILLAGE HALL AVAILABLE TO HIRE

Special rates for those within the village - ideal for birthday parties and most functions.

Please contact:
whaddonvhrgt@gmail.com



LIST OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr Lee Ginger	Chairman	07850 252015	lee.ginger@btinternet.com Written correspondence may be sent to Lee via Gabby Van Poortvliet
Mrs Kate French	Vice chairman	C 208207	21 Bridge Street
Mr Will Elbourn	Councillor	C 208955	College Farm, Church Street
Prof. Tony Milton	Councillor	C 207105	Chestnut Tree Farm, Meldreth Road
Mr Randall Scott	Councillor	C 208253	26 Bridge Street
Dr Nigel Strudwick	Councillor	C 207434	3 Town Farm Close
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
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:

TBA	Area Commander
T/Inspector Richard Isley	Safer Neighbourhood Manager
Detective Inspector Simon Harding	Area Crime Manager
Rachel Carr	Community Safety Officer
Neighbourhood Policing Team (Cambourne): www.cambs.police.uk/LocalPolicing/SouthCambs/Cambourne/	
Position Vacant	Sector Sergeant
James Lynch	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Lyndsay Gardiner	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

ST MARY'S CHURCH
WHADDON

Church Services in December

3rd December	3.00pm	Christingle Service In aid of the Children's Society
10th December	6.00pm	Carol Service followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
24th December	5.00pm	Informal Carols by candle light (bring lanterns, torches etc)
25th December	9.30am	Christmas Day family friendly Holy Communion
31st December	11.00am	Joint Service at Bassingbourn

St Mary's Church Fundraising

Thank you all for your generous support for two recent fundraising events to raise money for replacement heating. About 60 people came to the church to see David Grech's exhibition of ink and watercolour sketches of a European Grand Tour, followed by a talk. The evening raised a grand total of £637.60. Janet Leech and Gill Coningsby organised a delicious 'Eat for Heat' meal, hosted by Lorna and Richard in the Golf Centre, which raised £565.10. The event was limited to 30 diners to make sure that everyone had space to sit down, but tickets sold quickly so apologies to those who were disappointed.

With existing funds and some generous donations, the Fabric Fund now stands at £5,500. We will need nearer £10,000 to complete Phase 1 of the project, new radiators in the chancel and a heavy curtain across the

rood screen to retain the heat. We have been granted a Faculty (permission from the Diocese) for Phase 1, and quotes are currently being obtained for the work which is likely to be carried out in January. Watch out for more fund-raising events in the New Year, and in the mean time we hope to see you at some of the Christmas Services, but please wrap up warmly.

I have now completed the accounts for the Church Fete which raised a magnificent £2,260.65. This makes a big contribution to the day to day expenses of keeping the church in the village.

Finally, the PCC still needs to discuss the information collected by the survey carried out in the summer, but I hope to be able to give you a fuller report in the next issue of Whaddon News.

Jenny Grech

Susan van de Ven - Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Monthly Advice Surgeries:

Susan van de Ven will be holding two drop-in advice surgeries a month for anyone who has a question or concern.

1st Monday of the month The Hub, Melbourn, 3-4p.m.

3rd Monday of the month The Limes, Bassingbourn, 3-4p.m.

Alternatively if there are issues people would like to discuss at other times you can contact Susan on 07905325574 or susan@scilibdems.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter:

Susan writes a monthly e-newsletter on issues affecting our area – please do let her know if you'd like to receive it, or would like anything to be included in it.

Susan van de Ven

County Councillor for Bassingbourn, Melbourn, Meldreth and Whaddon

Stagecoach - Changes to Service 26 (Royston - Cambridge)

15.57 (Mon-Sat) Trumpington P&R to Royston now ends at Royston bus station not Tesco.

16.51 (Mon-Fri)/16.41(Sat) Royston to Cambridge journey now starts at Royston bus station at 16.45(M-F)/16.35(Sat) before continuing to Tesco.

WHADDON GOLF CENTRE

01223 207325

www.whaddongolfcentre.co.uk

9.00 til late

Open to all

DRIVING RANGE

9 HOLE COURSE

TUITION

PRO- SHOP



BAR

FOOD

COFFEE

NEWSPAPERS
(Ask us to order)

Heidi Allen MP

If you would like to contact Heidi about an issue or book a surgery appointment email: heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk
Tel: 01954 212707

The next local surgery:

Saturday 16th December 2017
10.00am - 12.00 noon
Gamlingay Village College
Station Road
Gamlingay
SG19 3HD

New Constituency Office

The constituency office has moved. I've been looking for some time for an office that was more visible and accessible for my constituents so I'm pleased we now have a high street location in Sawston. We have been made to feel very welcome and it was great to meet the local businesses who came to our "open house" afternoon. The new address is: 82A High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ and you can call on 01223 830 037.
Heidi Allen

Citizens Advice Bureau at The Hub, Melbourn

Held on the first & third Thursday of the month.

Bookings taken through the centre manager: 01763 263303

Appointments available: 9.45, 10.15 and 10.45am.



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www.Rothwells.biz

Carpet Cleaning

Stone Floor, Upholstery & Rug Cleaning.

A few points that make us stand out from the others,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture for a thorough clean.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.

Rothwell's, Malting End, Kirtling, Newmarket, CB8 9HH

The 2017 Poppy Appeal

The people of Whaddon very generously donated a total of £586.94 to the 2017 British Legion Poppy Appeal. House to house collections were made throughout the village, a box was placed in the golf centre and the collection at the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 12 November was also donated to the Poppy Appeal.

My thanks go to Janet Leech, Kate French, Rita Monks and Henry Burgess for their efforts in the house to house collections, to Lorna and Richard Green for the golf centre collection and to the donations made at the Remembrance Service. The Parish Council, on your behalf, also funded the wreath and children's spray at the Sunday service. Above all can I thank everybody in the village who gave so generously.

The British Legion continues to play a very necessary role in this country made possible only through the generosity of all who make a donation. Thank you Whaddon.

Finally, for the future, Henry Burgess will be taking on my role as Poppy Appeal Coordinator.

Mike Monks

WHADDON GOLF CENTRE - CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

Quiz nights at the Golf Centre continue for the autumn/winter sessions as follows:

 **December 13th** 
A **Christmas Quiz** with a very special quiz master!


Dates in 2018:

- January 10th
- February 14th
- March 14th

These quizzes are fun and open to all, plus we raise money for charity.

7.30 for 8pm

£6 inc food

All welcome!

The Alfred Palmer's Trust – a local charity to help villagers of Whaddon.



The Alfred Palmer's Trust gives modest grants of up to £50 to people of Whaddon for whom a small cash injection could make a real difference. The Trust will consider requests from all Whaddonians but especially from the elderly.

It was originally set up in 1927 to purchase coal for distribution to the poor widows of Whaddon Parish but the Trustees have now changed the aims to be more in line with the 21st century!

If you want to apply or know of someone else who may benefit from a grant, please either email Gabby van Poortvliet, the Whaddon Parish Clerk at whaddonpcclerk@yahoo.co.uk, or write to her at 134 Bridge Street, Whaddon.

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**



ROYSTON & SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Snowflake Tea Parties



Could you help raise funds for Home-Start by hosting a tea party with your family and friends from your office, playgroup, school, book club etc.?

We will supply you with a “tea bag” fundraising pack with ideas for all you need to host an event - the pack includes invites for your use, a snowflake cutter and recipes for any cakes or biscuits you may want to make for your event. This is a great way to get your friends and family together before or after Christmas.

Concept of the appeal:

Home-Start is asking people to raise money to support vulnerable children who are unique and fragile as snowflakes. This ties in with Home-Start's unique, tailor-made support for children, delivered with parents, in the family's home.

The appeal runs from 1st November – 31st January each year.

“Please join me raising money for The Snowflake Appeal so Home-Start can keep supporting unique and fragile children. Home-Start is in there, making a difference each and every day. It is changing all our communities for the future. It prevents parents' difficulties from becoming their children's problems”.

Kirstie Allsopp, tv presenter, mum, stepmum,
Home-Start ambassador

If you would like to host a tea party, please call our office on 01763 262262 or email admin@hsrsc.org.uk

HOMESTART

Are you looking for a new challenge? Are your children settled in school or gone to university, are you newly retired, would you like to make new friends, learn new skills or do you simply have a bit of spare time on your hands ?

Would you like to join Home-Start as a volunteer ?

Our volunteers are all parents or grandparents who can give a few hours a week to help families who are finding it difficult to cope.

All parents need emotional and practical help to get through the first few years, but not everyone has friends or family nearby.

This is when Home-Start volunteers can help!

Our next training course starts in January, 2018 - New Year - New Start?

If you are interested, please contact us at the office 01763 262262.



If you are not receiving Whaddon e-mails and would like to be included please let me know on: whaddonnhw@gmail.com

Dark and ever longer nights are with us and unfortunately nobody is happier than the criminal fraternity. House burglaries have been on the rise in local villages and Whaddon has not been spared such intrusions. A break-in to an outbuilding in Church Street was followed within a few days by a break-in at the same house and an adjacent one. Soon after, in Bridge Street, a number of expensive car accessories stored outside the house were stolen in broad daylight. While this was witnessed, at the time the event appeared routine and did not cause suspicion or alarm.

The police are very keen that householders take great care of their personal property and homes; in particular secure doors and windows and set alarms where available. This may all suggest a fortress mentality but simple precautions can and do make all the difference. The daily eCops messages regularly record vehicles being broken into and handbags, laptops or mobiles stolen. This can only happen if the item is there for all to see.

A winter topic: look after your expensive heating oil. Theft of valuable heating oil has been an issue for rural areas, including Whaddon, but it can be a particular problem at this time of year as home owners top up for the winter months. Some precautions can be

worthwhile: consider the position of the tank. Can it be viewed easily from the house? If it is close to a road or pathway it is more at risk. A thief will not want to spend a long time trying to attack your tank so discourage him/her by using good quality closed shackle padlocks and lockable fuel caps (although some feel this risks expensive damage to the tank). Think about using prickly, thorny plants (pyracantha [my chosen option], berberis, hawthorn) to hide the tank from view and make any potential theft a painful experience for the thief. Traces of blood or ripped clothing may also help to identify the offender. Be aware of oil levels and check them regularly. Think about fitting a remote oil level gauge/alarm – these cost from about £60.

Above all, life in Whaddon has a certain routine and the unusual tends to be seen by a vigilant resident, Just this week, as I write this piece, a couple of residents called me to express concern at two men calling at houses in Bridge Street in the dark (after 7.00pm). I spoke to them to find they were working for SCDC checking on Electoral Register completion. They were genuine but not all are. If you do notice something unusual or out of place take a note of any vehicle registration number and report suspicious activity to the police.

Mike Monks

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.

SCDC RECYCLING CHANGES - PAPER CADDY

South Cambridgeshire District Council is changing the way used paper is collected from residents for recycling.

From 11th December, residents won't need to use their caddies to recycle paper anymore.

From that date, residents should place their used paper directly into their blue wheelie bins instead. This used paper will still be recycled after being sorted from other materials at our facility near Waterbeach.

Residents can keep their caddy to use for anything they like. Alternatively, they can be recycled by being dropped off at the nearest household waste recycling centre. They should not be placed into wheelie bins.

The decision to withdraw the paper caddy service was taken at South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet meeting in September. The decision will save taxpayers money and simplify the recycling process for residents.

Because of this upcoming change, the District Council will not be delivering any new paper caddies. If they are lost or stolen before 11 December, residents can begin putting paper in their blue bin.

More information can be found here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling>



Your Library Access Point for Whaddon is at

BASSINGBOURN BOOK CAFÉ

The Limes Community Facility, High Street, Bassingbourn

Books, computers, tea and coffee, cake, free Wi-Fi and much more

Open	Mondays	3 - 5 pm
	Thursdays	2 - 4:30 pm
		6 - 8 pm
	Saturdays	10 am - Noon

Telephone: 01763 247618

BASSINGBOURN BOOK CAFÉ is a Library Access Point
run by volunteers in association with Cambridgeshire Libraries



Whaddon Mainly Gardening Club

After a break in August and the cancellation of a planned Capel Manor visit in September we had an excellent and informative evening on 18th October when Stephen Poyser spoke to us on "Bee Keeping and the Gardener". Stephen is a former Chairman and Secretary of the Cambridgeshire Beekeepers Association and certainly knew his subject. A fascinating topic would fairly describe the evening as we learned that honey bees put humans in the shade when it comes to community service and their navigation skills.

Our 15th November evening has been donated to the parish council for a training seminar on our Community Defibrillator.

On 20 December we will hold our Christmas Party in the village hall. Details will follow.

The committee are meeting in mid-November to put together a programme for 2018. If you have any thoughts on a suitable speaker, not only on gardening but on any subject that would be of interest to villagers, then please let us know via the village email:

whaddonnhw@gmail.com

PUMPKIN CARVING

On Saturday the 28th October we held a Halloween event on the Recreation ground to raise money for the Children's Christmas Party.

There were pumpkins of all different shapes and sizes, an area and tools for carving, Face Painting, Apple Bobbing, a Treasure Hunt around the Rec and some wonderful cakes and refreshments.

It was a lovely afternoon with everyone joining in the fun, children playing in the park, parents chatting over a slice of cake, and a wonderful creative pumpkin to take home.

We had a great turn out across the afternoon, and raised over £200 after expenses.

We would like to say thank you to all those who attended and took part, thank you to those who supported, made donations to the Children's Party or brought a cake to us.



From,

The Children's Christmas Party Group



Let's be clear about two things this Autumn.....

A polite reminder to Whaddon householders and landowners
from the Parish Council.....

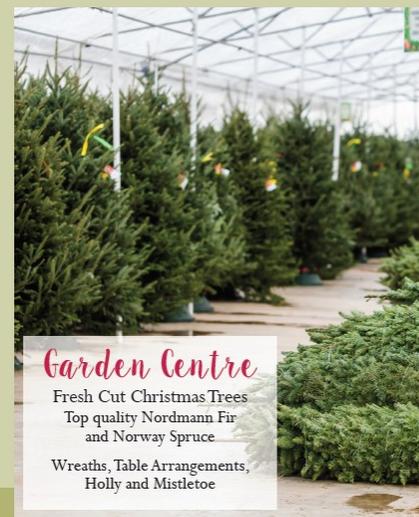


clear any overhanging hedges and branches
from footpaths and signs.....

.....and clear weeds and plants
from ditches and streams



Thank you!



Garden Centre
Fresh Cut Christmas Trees
Top quality Nordmann Fir
and Norway Spruce
Wreaths, Table Arrangements,
Holly and Mistletoe



ARRINGTON
GARDEN CENTRE
& CAFE

Café

A warm welcome awaits you
in our Café with hot food,
sandwiches, cakes, hot & cold
drinks and seasonal specials

OPENING TIMES: Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm & Sunday 10:30am to 4:30pm

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES:

Christmas Eve - Sunday 24th December 10am to 3pm,

Friday 29th December 10am to 3pm, New Year's Eve - Sunday 31st December 10:30am to 3pm

CLOSED: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th & 28th December and New Year's Day



Located directly off the A1198 near Arrington, SG8 0AG | Open 7 days a week | 01223 208194

Whaddon Parish Council News – some of our discussions and decisions from our meetings in September, October and November.

Eternit Housing proposal scheme

Following the refusal for the scheme by South Cambs., the developer has now lodged an appeal. More information will be given later.

Defibrillator for Whaddon

The defibrillator cabinet is now ready for use and training and awareness for villagers was planned for Wednesday 15th November, organised by the Community Heartbeat Trust.

Meldreth Road noticeboard

The noticeboard has been expertly restored by Steve Coningsby, following problems with the door hinge. Many thanks to Steve for his superb craftsmanship.

Replacement Village sign

Following the consultation exercise, villagers voted for option 1 (by two votes!), the design with the dinosaur, oak leaf and pump. The PC have endorsed this decision and will investigate to see if the oak leaf from option 3 can be included in the final sign. Thanks to all who took part (and David Grech for the designs) and we now move on to the manufacture and installation stage.

Mobile Vehicle Activated System (MVAS)

This has now been agreed and ordered.

2016-17 Annual Return

The annual return has been approved by the Parish Council, Internal Auditor and External Auditor and published on

our website. Full details can be found on the Parish Council section of the website www.whaddon.org or can be requested from our Clerk.

Mike Monks

Following Mike's announcement that he and Rita shall be moving to Orwell in the New Year, Mike has cascaded most of his regular village tasks to other villagers: Malan Peyton – Neighbourhood Watch; Nigel Strudwick – the village email system; Randall Scott – Speedwatch; Phil French – managing the MVAS system; Henry Burgess – the Annual Poppy Appeal. The PC is grateful to all for taking on these commitments. We are also extremely grateful to Mike for his tireless efforts over the past years. The fact that there are so many tasks to reallocate is testament to his hours of devoted hard work. We wish Rita and Mike every happiness in Orwell and look forward to them visiting Whaddon many times.

All minutes of meetings are on the village website www.whaddon.org and on the notice board at the Village Hall in Church Street.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 15th January 2018 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Compiled by Lee Ginger

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday	8.00 - 9.00pm	Table Tennis	
Wednesday	10.30 - 12.00 7.30 - 9.30pm	Coffee morning (2nd & 4th Wed) Garden club (3rd Wed each month)	
Thursday	6.30 - 7.30pm 7.30 - 8.30pm	Pilates Pilates	
Friday	6.30 - 8.00pm	Dog training	} 6 week blocks
Saturday	8.30 - 11.00am	Dog training	
Sunday	8.30 - 11.00am	Dog training	

Stay Well this Winter



Winter weather can be seriously bad for our health. Being cold can aggravate existing conditions and raise the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. However, there are lots of things you can do to stay well this winter.

Get expert advice from your pharmacist

If you start to feel unwell, even if it's a cough or a cold, don't wait until it gets more serious. Seek advice on the best treatment from your local pharmacist.

Make sure you get your free flu jab

Flu is a highly contagious and can cause serious complications for at risk groups. Adults over 65; those with long-term health conditions; children aged two to eight; carers and pregnant women may all be eligible for a free flu vaccination – ask your GP practice today.

Stock up your medicine cabinet

A well-stocked medicine cabinet can help you treat common winter ailments such as coughs, colds, sore throats and sickness bugs at home and will save you going out if you feel unwell. Ask your pharmacist about essential medicines to keep at home.

Keep warm

Keeping warm, both inside and outdoors, over the winter months can help to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression.

Get the right help

Make sure you're receiving all the help you are entitled to. Learn how to make your home more energy efficient and take advantage of financial schemes to keep up with energy bills. Visit www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell for details.

BILL KNIGHT (10.10.1951 - 16.10.2017)

The village was saddened to hear of the recent death of William (Bill) Knight, who was a great friend and well known to many in Whaddon. The fact that over 150 people attended his funeral on 31st October at St Mary's, was testament to how many people knew and loved Bill.

Life started for Bill when he was born at Hertford County Hospital on 10th October 1951. His proud parents were William Frederick and Minnie May Knight. Bill was lucky enough to spend all his formative years in a pub - his parents ran The Boot public house in Dane End in Hertfordshire which is not too far from Whaddon!

He had a sister, Pat, who was three years older than Bill and he told me that like many siblings, they used to fight like cat and dog when they were young. He was once accused of pulling Pat's hair but she got her own back when they were playing hide and seek in the local woods. Bill was told to hide and then Pat promptly went home! They later became great friends though and Pat's untimely death in September 2003 was a massive blow to Bill and the family.

Young Bill attended Little Mundon Primary and then Buntingford Secondary Modern before he left school aged 15 in 1966 and took up an apprenticeship as a carpenter/joiner in Ware and Hitchin.

In 1974, aged 23, Bill decided it was time to spread his wings and he went to work overseas on building projects for a company based in Stevenage. Before he went he sold his beloved Riley Hornet car to a chap called Arthur who was a machine operator where Bill worked in Stevenage. The vehicle was Bill's pride and joy, with leather seats and a walnut dash. Soon after he left for pastures new, however, the car had a calamitous suspension failure and Arthur was alleged to be after Bill's blood when he returned!

Fortunately, Bill managed to avoid the hapless Arthur and found his work overseas both interesting and rewarding. He worked on large construction projects in Oman, Dubai, Qatar, Libya and Egypt and made many lifetime friends. When working in Tobruk in Gaddafi's Libya, Bill and his chums found the evening entertainment somewhat lacking, so they decided to put on a charity play loosely based on Passage to India. Bill played the British Ambassador, I'm sure with great aplomb.

Attending the play were a group of Polish nurses, who had been sent to work in local hospitals. One of them caught Bill's eye - a young lady called Maria and, in Bill's own words, he immediately fell in love with this beautiful girl! Their relationship developed and they decided to come to England to get married but there was a big problem with Maria's passport. Before the fall of communism in eastern Europe, passports were generally only issued for specific journeys and Maria's was valid for trips between Poland and Libya only.

They enlisted the help of the British Embassy, who issued a visa to Maria and the happy couple came to Whaddon in October 1983 and married in Cambridge on 6th January 1984. Their marriage was blessed with the birth of young William in December 1988 and the family became complete in September 2016, when young Will and Holly were married. Bill and Maria were so proud that day and it was difficult to imagine that Bill was terminally ill.

He enjoyed greatly his trips to see Maria's family in Poland, even though he didn't understand much Polish! He said their hospitality was amazing with vast family feasts and wine flowing freely!

Bill continued working in project manager roles mainly in the east of England until his retirement in March 2016. He worked on many large building projects and would often be travelling the length and breadth of East Anglia, which certainly took its toll.

But he liked nothing better than to be involved with the celebration of village life in Whaddon with its community events. He was a member of the Parochial Church Council until 2016, a Foundation Governor at Petersfield school until 2003 and the Chair of Whaddon Church fete committee since early 90s. Masterminding the fete was Bill's annual crowning glory for many years and, with his Dad's Army (and Mum's) of helpers, he put together this most marvellous of Whaddon events which has raised many thousands of pounds for the church and given much fun to so many.

In his final year, he bore his illness with tremendous courage, dignity and philosophy. Comforted by his family and his faith he passed away on 16th October. He was one of the nicest, kindest and genuine person you could ever wish to meet and he will be massively missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and condolences go to Maria, Will and Holly.

Lee Ginger