

WH DDON

NEWS

DECEMBER
2024



www.whaddon.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th Nov	Village Hall Quiz	13th Jan	Parish Council
1st Dec	Christmas tree lighting	15th Jan	Sustainable Whaddon meeting
4th Dec	Coffee Morning	18th Jan	Film night TBC
11th Dec	Charity Quiz	22nd Jan	St Kilda talk
15th Dec	Carol Service	5th Feb	Coffee Morning
18th Dec	Pre-Christmas Celebration	10th Feb	Parish Council
20th Dec	Sing-a-long	12th Feb	Charity Quiz
24th Dec	Informal carols	19th Feb	Coffee Morning
25th Dec	Family Communion		Recycling workshop
8th Jan	Charity Quiz	15th Mar	Film Night TBC

NEWSLETTER

As many of you know this edition of the *Whaddon News* will be my last. I have always believed that the *Whaddon News* plays an important part in village communication and hope it will continue to do so alongside other digital means. The village is very fortunate that Viv Williams, in Bridge Street, has agreed to take on the role of editor.

The deadline for the next edition is **3rd February** and all submissions should be sent to Viv.
email: newseditor@whaddon.org

As always any items of local interest are still very welcome.

Joan Pascoe

Mobile Library

Every 4th Wednesday
10.00 - 10.30
Meldreth Road

Monday 23 December

Wednesday 22 January

Wednesday 26 February

VILLAGE HALL HIRE



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

Village Rate: £9 per hr

Non-village Rate: £15 per hr

Please contact:

whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org

BIN COLLECTION DATES

Thurs 5 Dec		Thurs 23 Jan	
Thurs 12 Dec		Thurs 30 Jan	
Thurs 19 Dec		Thurs 6 Feb	
Fri 27 Dec		Thurs 13 Feb	
Thurs 2 Jan		Thurs 20 Feb	
Thurs 9 Jan		Thurs 27 Feb	
Thurs 16 Jan		Thurs 6 Mar	

Cover picture: Autumn in Whaddon
Photograph: John Kirby



Village Hall Christmas tree lighting and decorating

Our annual Village Hall Christmas tree decorating event is once again imminent.

This year's tree decorating will be taking place on **Sunday 1 December 2024 from 4.30 pm**. Please do come along to help decorate and light it up, it won't be the same without you. We will light the tree at 5pm.

So, bring out the sparkle, yarn, fabric, beading or anything else you can find to make something spectacular for the Village Hall Christmas tree (more than one if you're up to it). If you don't feel up to making something, feel free to buy a decoration from a charity shop. What we really want is for you to be there and to help us kick off the festive period in style.

This isn't just for children; we would love to see as many people as possible. If you have relatives or friends visiting, bring them along.

Mulled wine, a non-alcohol option and mince pies will be available.

Though we do not charge for this, a small contribution would be gratefully received, as this is not funded by the Village Hall Committee.

Our delightful village choir have kindly agreed to lead us through some carols once again following the lighting of the tree to boost the festive cheer further.

If you would like to come along or are unable to but would like your decoration placed on the tree for you, please contact Nikki Cross by email on nikki3004@live.co.uk as soon as possible.

Looking forward to seeing you all.



VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 30th November

7.45pm

Teams of up to 6 people

£5.00 per person

Refreshments and hot dogs on sale

The winners will be the first recipients of the Village Hall Quiz trophy.

Tickets available at the Golf Centre
or via Jonathan Birch at 68 Bridge Street





Whaddon Golf Centre

Christmas Opening



Wednesday 11 December

Friday 20 December

Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

Christmas Day

Boxing Day

25th December to 6th January

Tuesday 7 January

Wednesday 8 January

7.30 for 8pm Quiz. Please book.

7pm for 8pm. Sing along
Mulled wine and mince pies for
St Mary's Church.

9am - 3pm

Open at 6.30pm after Church carols

Closed

Closed

Closed

9am - Dusk

7.30 for 8pm Quiz. Please book.



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email: admin@mothergoosepreschool.co.uk or

phone: 01223 208527.

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings continue to be popular with sufficient numbers attending to enable all running costs to be covered. There is always a choice of two homemade cakes to go with a cup of coffee or tea for £1.50 – a bargain! The sessions are held from 10.30am to 12 midday on the first and third Wednesday of each month and everyone is welcome.



Please note there will no coffee mornings during January .



Pre - Christmas Celebration



Due to work commitments for the volunteers who have helped produce the wonderful Christmas Lunch for the last 3 years, it will, unfortunately, not be possible to do so this year.

Instead, the coffee morning on **18th December** will be a “bring and share” lunch from **12pm** onwards, open to everyone who would like to come for a pre-Christmas celebration.

There will be no charge for this event and if you would like to attend, please could you let me know via either email, jev7459@btinternet.com or message on 07534188354 with an indication of the kind of food you will bring. There will be more details nearer the time.

Joanne Hart



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New editor for the Whaddon News!

Our current editor, Joan Pascoe, and I are delighted to pass on the news to the village that we have a new editor for the *Whaddon News*. She is Viv Williams, who lives in Bridge Street. She has updated her software, and Joan will be sending her the material from the December issue so she can produce a “shadow” issue to find out the issues that arise when producing the Newsletter. This is an excellent way of learning about the process, and we thank Viv very much for being prepared to make this amount of effort for her village.

Many of you may well not have met Viv, so she has kindly written this brief account of herself and her husband Andy:

I have lived in Whaddon with my husband Andy since 1986, and together we have spent 20 years running two charities in Royston - The Openhouse project and the original Royston Food Bank. This kept us busy and meant that there was little time for involvement in village affairs and social events.

In 2020 Andy had a brain haemorrhage resulting in a severe stroke and life changed drastically for us. Both charities were wound up in 2021 and we are gradually getting out and about enjoying getting to know more people in the community.

Whilst looking forward to taking on the role of Editor of the village newsletter, I would like to keep our home life as peaceful as possible so I would very much appreciate Whaddon News correspondence being by email. Joan is obviously a hard act to follow, and I will be learning as I go, so I am open to helpful comments as I get to grips with the task.

Viv and I have agreed that the way to contact her by email will be via the address newseditor@whaddon.org, and she will start collecting material for the March issue at some point in the New Year. Remember that although the editor does a lot of work for each issue, she doesn't originate the items therein, but is dependent on villagers for material that will be of interest to everyone - so please get thinking and writing!

Joan Pascoe has been doing the job of editor for the *News* since 2002 and, as the saying goes, is now on her eighth Prime Minister (the previous 22 years saw only three)! She has overseen the development of the newsletter from a few A4 sheets stapled together to a very professional looking A5 size publication in full colour. The issue you are holding now is her last, and I think I express the thoughts of everyone when we say a huge “thank-you” to Joan for all that she has done to keep us all informed, and we wish her the very best in her “retirement”!

Nigel Strudwick, Chairman, Whaddon PC

More delivery volunteers needed for the Whaddon News

We must not forget that the work of Joan and now Viv would be for nothing without the work of those who take the newsletter around the village and deliver it to your letterbox. We are always looking to expand the pool of volunteers for this important task and if any of you have a couple of hours to spare every three months, please contact Nigel Strudwick at ncs3@cam.ac.uk – we will be very grateful!

Alfred John Palmers Trust

The Palmers Trust was started in 1927 by Mary Palmer in memory of her husband, the interest from an endowment was to buy coal for needy widows in the village of Whaddon.

In 1972 the trustees got permission from the Charity Commission to give money, as other forms of heating were taking over.

As times change the trustees and parish council agreed to allow other groups to apply for a small donation which is where we are today.

If you know of someone where a small donation would help with heating, taxi, etc. please contact the Parish Clerk.

David and Mark Green

We are two brothers from Whaddon with 5+ years of experience in the building trade and can carry out many aspects of works including:

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David

Mark

Mobile: 07563138547

Mobile: 07895530892

Email: Davidgreen610@yahoo.co.uk Email: Markgreen880@yahoo.co.uk



ST MARY'S CHURCH WHADDON

SERVICES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Sun 1st December	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sun 8th December	9.30am	Holy Communion
(Sun 15th December	10.30am	Bassingbourn Holy Communion at Whaddon)
Sun 15th December	6.00pm	Carol Service, Whaddon with mulled wine and mince pies
Sun 22nd December	9.30am	Morning Praise
Tue 24th December	5.00pm	Informal carols - bring torches for a candle lit evening
Wed 25th December	10.00am	Family Holy Communion
Sun 29th December	10.30am	No Service at Whaddon. Joint service at Bassingbourn URC

St Mary's Whaddon Quinquennial Inspection

Every 5 years a Quinquennial Inspection is carried out on the fabric of St Mary's Church. Our latest inspection has identified the need to undertake repairs to the flintwork on the north elevation and to one of the buttresses.

To help fund this work I shall be giving an illustrated talk in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 7:30pm.** The talk is on the remote island of St Kilda, which we visited earlier this year, and will include both its history and natural history.

Tickets are £7:50 each and include a glass of wine or soft drink, and can be obtained from me (tel: 01223 208938), or the Golf Centre.

David Grech



2024 Christmas Card Competition

This autumn the PCC again organised a competition for children under the age of 16, living or associated with the parish, to design the cover of the PCC's Christmas card, which is distributed to every household in the parish. This year we received 11 entries spread across the three age groups, and which the judges very much enjoyed reviewing.

OVERALL WINNER and winner in the 5 - 10 age group: Albie Day

Winner in the Under 5s age group: Sienna Black

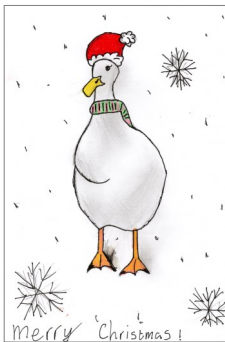
Winner in the 11 – 16 age group: Connie Hills

Highly Commended in the 5 – 10 age group: Olivia Coningsby

Highly Commended in the 11 – 16 age group: Lucy Hughes

Congratulations to our winners, who will receive their book tokens and certificates shortly. All entries will be on display at the back of the church in December.

St Mary's Whaddon PCC



11-16yrs winner



Overall winner and 5-10yrs winner



Under 5yrs winner

Contact Details for Rev. Helen Orr

Tel: 07761 241190

Email: vicar@whaddon.org

My days in the parishes are Tuesday and Thursdays and weekend services



- 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 hedgelink.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



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 19th 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

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



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.

Malan Peyton, Chris Selway and Paul Evans

The next meeting of Sustainable Whaddon is on **Wednesday 15th January 2025** and all are welcome to attend. You can get in touch with the group at sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org



Christmas at **ARRINGTON GARDEN CENTRE**

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What3words: loafer.pasta.mailers Tel: 01223 208194
www.arringtongardencentre.co.uk
manager@arringtongardencentre.com





Knit and Natter

Mondays 5-7 at the Village Hall



Do you have unfinished projects in a cupboard?

Have you always wanted to learn to knit or crochet?

Do you just fancy a bit of company whilst knitting and purling?

Don't feel limited to knitting or crochet, we have needlework going on as well!

Come and join us!

Subs are £6.00 a month or £2.00 for a drop in if you can't make it every week.

We welcome all ages, under18s are £2.00 a month.

If you want more info email Diane Faben edfaben@gmail.com

Friends or tradesmen visiting ?



The roads through our village are not that wide so it may be safer for their cars or vans to be parked off the road either on your drive or, if that's not possible, in the village hall car park for the day.

WHADDON GOLF CENTRE

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9 Hole Par 3 Approach Course

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Bar

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Newspapers

TIMES PAST (and present)

Bassingbourn Airfield (3)

Closure in 2013 to the present day

This article follows on from part 2 in the March issue of Whaddon News and brings the story of Bassingbourn Airfield/Barracks up to date.

The Barracks formally closed at the end of March 2013 and there seemed to be not much future for the site. At a time when our military forces were being slimmed down and bases closed, Bassingbourn seemed to be following the path of many others, often leading to the sites being used for large housing developments or for warehouse or industrial use. Speculation was rife that Bassingbourn could be developed as a huge new township, like that being built at Northstowe, which is on the former Longstanton airfield and at Waterbeach, again another airfield which had latterly been used by the Royal Engineers.

The Control Tower Museum

The Control Tower Museum at Bassingbourn was housed in the original 1930's control tower when the airbase was constructed. It was one of the first museums in the country to be housed in an original control tower and opened in 1974. Its aim was to educate visitors in the history of this world-famous base when the RAF and the USAAF were stationed here. The Control Tower is a Grade 2 listed building but was closed in early 2013 with the closure of the Barracks.



Control Tower

Because of security issues with the current new training role undertaken at the Barracks, there is little chance that the Museum will ever reopen and the artifacts have been dispersed to other museums. The building though, should be maintained as it is a listed building but there appears to be no evidence of that happening.

Community involvement at Bassingbourn

Throughout peacetime, the Air Base and Barracks always had a high level of involvement with the local community. There was the ski slope, land yachting, model aircraft flying, concerts in the hangars, firework displays, motor sports and access to other facilities. The base has played an important role in local life and, of course, was also source of employment for many local people. Apart from the Air Cadets, this all ended in 2013 with the closure of the base.

Training of Libyan troops. Not Bassingbourn's finest hour

Following a deal between the government and the Libyan government, in June 2014, the barracks reopened to train [Libyan](#) troops. Originally the Libyan cadets were only to be permitted to leave the base on escorted visits but the rules were subsequently relaxed. Shortly afterwards, a number of complaints of serious assaults were made against some of the trainees and a few appeared before Cambridge and Norwich Courts and admitted conducting a series of assaults on men and women in East Anglia. A number were found guilty and some imprisoned. As a result, feelings ran high among the local and national population as to the suitability of this training arrangement at

Bassingbourn. Discipline within the Barracks had broken down and consequently, the [Ministry of Defence](#) (MoD) decided to terminate the training programme early, in November 2014 and agreed with the [Libyan government](#) that the recruits should return to Libya in the next few days. The Libyan soldiers also caused damage to the Barracks costing £500,000 to repair.

So ended what was Bassingbourn's darkest hour and with it came a pledge by the MoD that it would never be used for such activity again.

Uncertainty returns

For the next two years, uncertainty returned as to the future use of Bassingbourn and many feared that it was only a matter of time before the MoD announced it was to be sold off for development, which would have devastating consequences for Whaddon and the local area. There were a few rumours that the base might be used for training again but very little seemed to be happening.

Mission Ready Training Centre

To inspire confidence so that people excel on operation

Then, on 10th November 2016, the Government announced that Bassingbourn Barracks was to reopen as a military training site from 2019. This was a result of a review of MoD facilities which meant that some smaller bases would close but that training of soldiers would once again occur at Bassingbourn. These were not to be new recruits but serving soldiers.

The extensive plans would see many MoD and military personnel return to the vacant barracks. The plan was part of the Better Defence Estate strategy which aims to 'support military capability by providing a smaller but better estate for the armed forces and their families to 2040 and beyond'. The strategy was backed up by a huge budget to renovate, re-equip and build new facilities at the Barracks as well as dramatically improve the on-base living accommodation and infrastructure, much of which was old and in a state of disrepair.



The new role would see Bassingbourn reopen in December 2018 and assume a new title as the Mission Ready Training Centre. It was designed to train serving soldiers to be as prepared as possible for wherever they were to be deployed. It is known as a 'multi cap badge site' which means that no one regiment is in charge and the soldiers who are permanently based at Bassingbourn are drawn from a whole range of disciplines. So it's possible to see personnel from the Royal Marines, Military Police, Gurkhas, Royal Engineers, Guards, Artillery and Infantry regiments and all other modern day army roles all working alongside each other to train the very large number of army personnel who pass through its 'gates' each year. Its aim is that each soldier will attend or be trained by Bassingbourn MRTC every five years or so.

Not all soldiers will undertake their training at Bassingbourn, some may be hundreds of miles away in specialist combat training areas or undertake Arctic warfare training. Work to invest in the infrastructure is still progressing and a project that the army is keen to see to come to fruition is the installation of solar panels which will provide 40% of their electricity. They have built a splendid new lecture theatre that seats 600

people, a new gymnasium, work is about to begin to install more secure fencing as well as major improvements to security at the main gate have been completed. Apart from the military personnel who are permanently based at Bassingbourn, there is a significant number of civil servants providing administrative and specialist support. So from a worrying period in the early part of this century, we can expect Bassingbourn to continue to be an important part of the local scene, with many staff contributing to the local economy and taking part in community activities. They support events in Whaddon and sent a small contingent at the Remembrance Day Service at St. Mary's on 10th November. It is really pleasing to see that our relations with the Barracks continue to be very good and they try and give us all sorts of warning and prior notice of noisy events taking place on site. For the record, they also are kept awake by low-flying helicopters, which they tell us are generally nothing to do with the Barracks!



Lee Ginger with many thanks to Major Simon Elson for his help on MRTC



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Whit Sunday next year will be on the 8th June.

2025 will see the 20th anniversary of when we revived and recreated the tradition in 2005. We are still very much in the early stages of planning, but we want to make it a little more special as befits this anniversary. We are presently looking at expanding the Morris content of the day to include additional teams so that there will be even more dancing in the village.

All the “regular features” will be there, beginning with the Folk Evening on the Saturday, through the procession(s) on Sunday, the church service and the dancing at the Golf Centre. We very much hope Lorna and Richard will put on the Beer Festival as they have done every year (except for the dark days of Covid). Please put the date in your diaries/calendars and fuller details will be in the March *Whaddon News*.

Helen and Nigel Strudwick, whitsun@whaddon.org

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ANY OLD NEWS?

I am still keen to trace very old issues of the Whaddon News, up to and including 2001 so they may be copied, scanned and added to the Whaddon website. We do have some old copies on the website but I would like to make it as complete as possible. Any issues received will be returned.

If you can help please contact Joan Pascoe on 07753 316714 or email: joanpascoe@aol.com

Whaddon Cricket Club 2024 - Results			
DATE	MATCH	VENUE	RESULT
21 April	Longstowe	Away	Cancelled
28 April	Steeple Morden	Away	Cancelled
12 May	Sandon	Home	Win
23 June	Hare Street	Home	Loss
30 June	Sandon	Away	Loss
7 July	Huffer XI	Home	Cancelled
14 July	Royston Dads	Home	Win
21 July	Guilden Morden	Home	Cancelled
28 July	Hare Street	Away	Loss
4 August	Cantabs	Home	Cancelled
18 August	Train Boys	Home	Win
1 September	Church St v Bridge St	Home	Win by Church St
8 September	Hare Street	Home	Win

The WCC season was a shortened affair, only 8 matches this year, with several being lost to rain and scared opposition. 4 victories, 3 losses and the yearly Battle of the Streets (more below).

We started the year with our usual home and away vs Sandon, with an all-too predictable home win (chasing 74 to win, with 14 overs to spare) and frustrating away loss (Sandon chasing our 117 with just 3 balls to spare). The home win was remarkable for the most splendid over of the year, by none other than our very own DJ button-pusher Stevie X: his solitary over consisted of one wide, one no ball, one dot ball and 3 wickets, cleaning out the tail end of Sandon. Steve duly inherited the lachrymose mantle from Lionel.

A chastening loss to Hare Street with no batter making 20, was then followed by

a comprehensive flattening of the Royston Dads. Michael O'Benyan continued his fine form with the willow, scoring an unbeaten 48, ably (actually not that ably) assisted by HNBirch, with 33 runs, as the mighty WCC put on 147 runs in our allotted 30 overs. The wickets were shared evenly, with some excellent catching and a very rare run out by Miles O'Brien (the only one that can run and throw at the same time), and the dear old Royston Paters just fell at the last hurdle, needing 14 off the last over: Graham duly got a wicket then inexplicably gifted a few grenades that sailed over onto the golf range.

Royston Dads only needed a four off the last, but ... alas I can't remember what happened next, but they didn't get the four runs needed. A fine memorable victory (well, sort of memorable). This

buttock-clencher was followed by yet another spanking at the hands of Hare Street, against whom we fell about 50 runs short, in spite of a few fine partnership involving Craaash Green and YBCaptain, who put on 60 for the penultimate wicket. All to no avail.

Our next outing was against the Train Boys, who are basically London-based train chefs and ticket inspectors on the LNER line, a very jolly bunch actually. The Train scored a very respectable 179 off their 30 overs, with Henry “Feldmarschall” Grills-Burgess taking 3 wickets, due to some spectacular catching once more from George M-P and RVP. A run-a-ball was the target, and a fabulicious start to the innings with three retirees (that’s a good thing) in Lou the Shepherd, George Michael-Pinner and Michael O’Padraig. A unnerving hiatus in the mid order was rescued by a swashbuckling Crashman Green who peppered the Church Street roofline, and the target was achieved with 2 overs to go.

What better preparation for the Battle of the Streets. Many columns inches could be wasted explaining the politics behind the teams, but suffice to say that Church Street is bequeathing the Rest-Of-World right to Bridge Street, in a vain attempt to arrest the rot. Photo duly taken with 11 Church St and 13 Bridge Street

(another dubious “right”), Church Street manfully strode out to bat. And bat they did. Three of the first four all retired, with George Wham-Pinner scoring 54, Steve the Hawk 53, Michael O’Shea 30 and Larry Lamb 21. Bridge Street came back into it with some fine and rare bowling from Mark Groundsman Newberry and the Bridge Street captain, HNBirch. Nevertheless it was all just too much for the poor Bridgians, with only Mark Crashman G achieving the retirement mark of 30, falling short by a rather sore 102 runs. All was well and the friendships rekindled in the Golf Club afterwards, as thoughts turned to the cricket club dinner, with a Caveman/ Dinosaur theme.

There was one more match, against our old foes Hare Street, and by some miracle the WCC came out on top, as we chased down their mediocre 138 (some fine Huffmeister twirling), with a “comfortable” 3 balls to spare, with Steve Lookie and Michael O’Fijian getting 30+ scores each, both unbeaten. That is only our third win against Hare Street in 26 attempts, a fine way to sign off the season. My thanks go to Mark the Groundsman, Helen the scorer, Roger H the fixer, and Jonathan HNB for organising teams and the tease.

Peter Hasleden

PIPPA HEYLINGS MP

South Cambridgeshire

If you are a constituent and need to raise a matter with me, please email me at pippa.heydings.mp@parliament.uk

Please include your name and address.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	17.00 - 19.00	Knit and Natter
Tuesday	09.15 - 10.15	Yoga
	18.00 - 19.30	Dog Training
	20.00 - 21.00	Table Tennis
Wednesday	10.30 - 12.00	Coffee morning (1st & 3rd Wed)
Thursday	18.25 - 20.25	Pilates
Friday	09.15 - 10.45	Yoga
	18.00 - 19.30	Dog training
	20.00 - 22.00	Royston & District Model Railway Club

N. HERTS AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The **Royston** office is open **Monday** and **Wednesday** 9.30am to 12 noon.

To contact the local CAB please call 01462 689801 and leave a message or email: northhertscab.org.uk

The CAB also hold a session at the **Melbourn Hub** on **Wednesdays** 9.30am to 11.30am. No need to book - just drop in.

Alternatively contact the CAB national phone service: Tel 0800 144 8848.

Table Tennis in the Village Hall Tuesdays 20:00 to 21:00

We have two table tennis tables and other equipment is provided. The cost is £2.00 per person per week. There are about half a dozen regular players.

Anyone who would like to join us are very welcome . An hour of fun and exercise and an opportunity to meet other villagers.

Those interested please contact Nigel Strudwick, ncs3@cam.ac.uk

Hope to see some new faces soon!



Village Garden & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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Neil Porter - 07540605860

Email:

villagegardenandproperty@gmail.com

WHADDON POPPY APPEAL 2024

On behalf of The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, I would like to thank the villagers of Whaddon once again for their generosity in donating to the appeal.

We raised a cash total of £556.60 which is slightly higher than last year's total and doesn't take into account any donations made via online banking using the RBL QR code. Thank you to everyone who also donated in this way.

I would like to thank Lorna and Richard at the Whaddon Golf Centre for hosting a collection box and also for raising an amount of £33.00 at the November Quiz Night which was kindly donated to the appeal.

Also, many thanks to Whaddon Parish Council for their kind donation and the congregation of St Mary's Church who, together with representatives of Bassingbourn Barracks, came out in force to the Remembrance Sunday Service and donated so generously.

Henry Burgess



Suzanne Hill (Porter) - of Meldreth Road, Whaddon

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SJP Approved 07/11/2024

Senior Partner

**St
James's
Place**

Whaddon Parish Council Matters

Grass cutting

The last verge cut was undertaken in September after a meeting with the grass contractor. It was agreed that a compromise would be reached between letting wildflowers grow and maintaining visibility for motorists. Some of the verges had become unkept and looked untidy due to the large number of weeds. The verge by the village hall would be cut again before winter and the area would be used for small patches of wildflowers in the future, when the stinging nettles could be reduced. The contractor did not want to use chemicals so near to the recreation ground and would tackle the weeds by planting wildflower seeds and regular cutting.

Whaddon News editor vacancy

The PC was pleased to confirm that a villager has volunteered to take over the village newsletter from next year. The current editor, Joan Pascoe has done a wonderful job over the past 22 years that she has edited the Whaddon News. The Parish Council will formally thank Joan for all her endeavours. In the meantime, Joan is producing the December Newsletter but is using the opportunity to help train the new editor.

MVAS update (Mobile Speed Activated Sign)

Cllr Strudwick has still not managed to meet with the Chair of Bassingbourn PC about this issue despite having tried to make contact on a number of occasions. In the meantime, the issue remains unresolved.

School bus drop off and pick up location

The lay by at the top of Ridgeway Close was built in 2011 to enable buses to turn around and return to the A1198 and also serve as a safe pick up/set down point. This was designed and built by Cambridge County Council specifically for this purpose! Now because of budget constraints, Cambridgeshire County Council has changed the Bassingbourn Village College school bus arrangements and in the morning the bus now travels along the north side of the road through the village and is unable to use the safe pick-up points along the pavement side. The bus company are concerned that, for a number of reasons, the large coach which they now use is unable to turn safely in the lay by. The school bus now stops either opposite the bus shelter or opposite the village hall and the PC feel that these are not safe or appropriate places to pick up school children as they have to wait in private gardens or on the grass verge because there were no pavements on that side of the road. They also have to cross the road at both places, which are near to the adjacent bends. The PC is pressing, along with our County Councillor, for an urgent site meeting with the School Transport team and the bus company to resolve this and return the bus to its traditional route and pick up from the pavement on the opposite side of the road.

Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust solar panel application

The Trust asked the Parish Council (the hall landlord) to agree formally with their proposals to install solar panels and a battery at the hall. The Parish Council fully support this application and felt that it would be beneficial environmentally as well as substantially reduce hall electricity costs. The Trust have had three quotes for the solar panels and also for a battery to store the energy. It was felt that the best position for the battery is on the outside of the porch but fitted with anti-theft measures.

Parish Councillor resignation

After almost 20 years, Cllr Ginger has resigned from the PC with effect from 1st January 2025. Cllr Strudwick thanked him greatly for his hard work over the years. The vacancy will be advertised in the new year

Parish Council meetings

These normally take place on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There is no meeting in December so the next meeting will be held on **Monday 13th January 2025**.

Minutes of PC meetings are on the village website www.whaddon.org and on the noticeboard at the Village Hall in Church Street.

Compiled by Lee Ginger



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Or Email: 4ashley.ives@gmail.com

If you prefer, leave a message on 01223 207 342

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NATURE NOTES

December / January Nature Notes

Last year's RSPB Christmas cracker gave me the following "joke": When should you buy a bird? When it is going cheep! Well, I hope that has got you into the spirit of Christmas!



2023 was a "Waxwing winter" when many thousands flew in from Scandinavia, rather than the usual few hundred. This unusual migration is called an "irruption" (sic). You will probably see them feeding on cotoneaster or rowan berries and may be alerted to their presence by the sound of their trilling call. But they are absolutely and unmistakably beautiful: somewhere between a sparrow and a blackbird in size, they are "pinky-buff and crested" (how the British Trust for Ornithology puts it) with the crest being the bird's most striking feature. The name, waxwing, comes from bright red and yellow spots on their wing, whilst in Germany, they are known as "silk tails" for the delicate yellow band spun across their tail feathers.

The Latin name for waxwing is, wonderfully, *Bombycilla garrulus*, as *Bombycilla* comes from the Greek, Bombyx, for silk. And *garrulus*?

Certainly, listening to their call on the Chirp app makes them sound very chatty! And fearless. You can approach them closer than you think you should. I have never, ever seen a waxwing (top lip trembles). Perhaps this winter will treat me. Last year they were seen on the crab apple in Knutsford Road and they were also observed at one of the car parks at Addenbrooke's hospital.

You may well see a blackcap on your feeder, unusually for a migrant warbler. Known as the northern nightingale (though silent now), but in Yorkshire as the coal-hoodie, their song in Spring is fast and melodious, though with the odd scratchy note thrown in. But the ones we see now are **not** our overwintering blackcaps, left over from the summer (ours are on a cushy billet in North Africa). These are different birds that arrive in from South and Central Europe and they have evolved a different migration route and will return to their breeding grounds in Spring. These birds, apparently, seem to be developing a different taxonomy, with longer bills and more rounded wing tips than "ours". Their diet turns from insects to fruit in winter and then, when the natural berries have all been hoovered by the waxwings and redwings, to the sunflower hearts we put out. They can be quite aggressive on their feeding station and will chase off other birds.

In December and early January, you can walk down to the reed bed below Wimpole Hall, south of A603, at 3.30 in the afternoon and over the next 30 minutes you may see hundreds of starlings murmuring, like watching wisps of black smoke with the film spool reversed. Instead of the smoke being blown apart and dissipating, the wisps are blown together as the birds fly in from the surrounding countryside in tens and twenties, then forming larger and larger clouds, which will settle eventually in the reed bed.

From looking skywards, now cast your gaze downwards. Mosses are at their best in January because of all the moisture in the air. They can hold a huge amount of water and thereby create their own humid microclimate where they grow. Woodlice and

slugs like to hide beneath it, and blackbirds like to scuff it all up in their hunt for food, but moss is also home to microscopic creatures with names straight out of Doctor Who, like rotifers, tardigrades and nematodes.

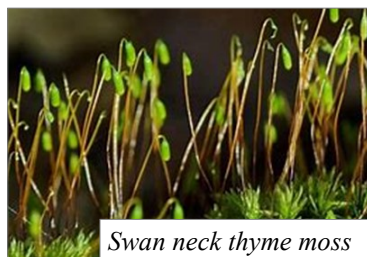


Tardigrade

Tardigrades are often referred to either as “Moss Piglets” or “Water Bears” because they look like little bears with eight puffy legs, with little claws, and two eyes, a nose and a mouth! If you have a microscope at home, collect a pinch of moss from your garden in a paper bag or envelope. Bring it in and place some in a clear plastic container, such as the lid from a food container. Put enough water in it for your scrap of moss to be suspended and leave

overnight. The following day, on your microscope’s lowest magnification, hunt for your tardigrades, which are not fast movers, hence their name, which means slow walkers! I have learned that tardigrades can live for a hundred years, withstand extreme heat and cold, and you can find them everywhere. They protect themselves by going into a type of hibernation called cryptobiosis. They roll up into a dried little ball, and just stay dormant, with no sign of life until they are wetted. Scientists have rehydrated them from a piece of moss in a museum collection that was a hundred years old. They’ve been frozen and defrosted, put under pressure, subjected to very high temperatures and survived.

One of Britain’s most common species of moss is the Swan neck thyme moss. Dull green mats of moss send up reddish filaments (the swan neck) with pale green spore capsules on the end (if female) or open “stars” on their ends (if male). There is also the common haircap to be found along streams, which grow quite tall and looks like a million miniature pine trees! common tamarisk moss is ubiquitous with its thick mats of dark green “tripinnate” branches, arranged, more or less, on the same plane.



Swan neck thyme moss

And then there is sphagnum moss, from which peat is made, which is both enormously absorbent and has antiseptic properties. It was used instead of nappies and as wound dressings. It really is worth getting down on one’s hands and knees (if you can) to take a closer look, or if you have a microscope, squeeze water out of a clump of moss and you will find it alive.

The Christmas calendar used to start with fasting from 1st to the 24th December, followed by the twelve days of celebrations, feasting and jollity. On the Twelfth Night (5th January), you must go a-wassailing. The tradition in the West Country is to sing to your apple trees to bid them good health and scare away the evil spirits, ensuring a productive apple harvest come next autumn. (There is also the house-visiting wassailing where you go door to door, singing and offering a drink from your wassail bowl. This has largely been replaced by carol singers!) The Twelfth Night is also Epiphany Eve, the night before the feast day celebrating the Three Magi’s visit to the Christ child. The second Sunday after Epiphany is Plough Sunday, when the plough is blessed in front of the congregation (with prayers for a fruitful crop growing year) and the following Monday is called Plough Monday, which marks the end of the festivities (the plough was dragged from house to house in a pageant, with much singing and

Cont’d

Nature notes cont'd

drinking... again) and the beginning of the agricultural year... the celebrations are over, so now back to your fields! Plough Sunday (12th January) is one book-end to twin with Harvest Festival, thanking God for the fruits of the year's labours (which will be on 6th October in 2025).

Mid January the hazel catkins are an inch or more long, the silver birch catkins too are showing and the "black" (dark chestnut brown in reality) buds of the ash have taken on a greenish hue. Hunt for your signs of Spring whenever you are out. They lift the heart.

In midwinter, if you have binoculars, you can see the Great Orion Nebula which sits just below Orion's belt (three stars in a line at an angle). Also the Andromeda Galaxy, a barred spiral galaxy and the nearest large galaxy to the Milky Way (it is twice the size of our Milky Way). It is some 2.5 million light years away but can be seen through binocs if you look at the Andromeda constellation. The free App, Stellarium helps you find these constellations with the greatest of ease.

The December Full Moon is the Cold Moon and is on 15th, the day after the peak of the Geminid meteor shower (look to the constellation of Gemini), with the Ursid meteor shower at its peak on 22nd December (look to Ursa Minor, where the North Star lies). The January Wolf Moon is on 13th.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a healthy and successful 2025.

Perry Littleboy



Bassingbourn Community Library

The Old School Community Centre

Normal Opening Hours:

Monday 2 - 4.30pm

Thursday 2 - 4.30pm

6 - 8pm

Saturday 10 - 12 noon

Membership is free

Refreshments available

Tel: 07593 853189

bassingbourncommunity.library@gmail.com

SUSAN VAN de VEN Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Zoom Cuppa Surgeries: Mondays 5 - 6PM

If you'd like to meet with your councillors by Zoom, to bring any concerns or ask any questions, please come along to our weekly Zoom Cuppa Surgery, now on Mondays from 5-6 PM. Please contact Sally Ann for a link: Sallyannhart@riskingonpurpose.com.

Alternatively, you can contact Susan on 07905325574 or email susanvandeven5@gmail.com

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.

WHADDON VILLAGE HALL TRUST	
Jonathan Birch	Chair
Karen Coningsby	Secretary
Peter Hasleden	Treasurer
Gabby van Poortvliet	Member
Claire Hales	Member
Marine Boulter	Member
Steve Coningsby	Member
Terry Allison	Holding Trustee
Lee Ginger	Holding Trustee
Please send all enquiries, including Village Hall bookings, to whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org	

PARISH COUNCILLORS	
Dr Nigel Strudwick	Chairman
Deborah Townsend	Vice Chair
Anita Birch	Councillor
Will Elbourn	Councillor
Lee Ginger	Councillor
Joanne Hart	Councillor
Ben Faireclough	Councillor
Angela Culver	Parish Clerk/ Finance Officer
All Parish Council enquiries should be made to the Parish Clerk.	
Tel: 07565 381203 email: whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com	

Neighbourhood Watch in Whaddon

Whaddon has an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which is co-ordinated by Malan Peyton, who can be contacted on 07836 549871.

Dial 999 to report a crime actually happening or when lives are at risk. For a non-emergency matter please consider using www.cambs.police.uk/report or web chat #safercambs to report a crime. Both of these are likely to have a quicker response time than dialling 101.

The 'WhaddsApp' group also works very well for immediate alerts to the village but please remember that the village remains a very safe community with very little crime.

Unfortunately, one of the crimes that we do see from time to time, is hare coursing. Please dial 999 if you suspect that this is occurring but please **do not approach** the people concerned yourself.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Citizens Advice:

Cambridge 03448 487979

Royston 03444 111444

Councillors:

County: Susan van de Ven 07905 325574

District: Jose Hales 01763 221058

Sally Ann Hart 07791 233303

Doctors:

Orchard Surgery, Melbourn 01763 260220

Granta Royston Health Centre 0300 2345555 option 7

Granta Market Hill Surgery, Royston 0300 2345555 option 5

Roysia Surgery, Royston 01763 243166

Hospital:

Addenbrooke's Hospital 01223 245151

Police:

Non emergency Number 101

Samaritans: 01223 364455 (charges)

116 123 (free)

Transport:

National Rail Enquiries 03457 484950

Myalls of Bassingbourn (Bus 17) 01763 243225

Centrebus (Bus 26) 0116 410 5050

Utilities:

Anglian Water Emergency 0800 771881

Cambridge Water Company 01223 706050

Electricity Emergency & Supply Loss 08007 838838

Vets:

Melbourne Veterinary Surgery 01763 262696

Royston Veterinary Surgery 01763 242221

WHADDON NEWS ADVERTISING - NEW RATES

	One issue	Four issues (1 year)
Quarter page	£10.00	£32.00
Half page	£15.00	£48.00
Full page	£25.00	£80.00

Contact Angela Bridges, the Parish Clerk:

whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com