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:		
Melbourne Veterinary Surgery	01763 262696	
Royston Veterinary Surgery	01763 242221	

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

WHADDON NEWS

March 2017



www.whaddon.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th March	Coffee Morning	17th May	Coffee Morning
13th March	Parish Council		Gardening Club
15th March	Gardening Club	31st May	Coffee Morning
22nd March	Coffee Morning	3rd June	Folk Evening
26th March	Mothering Sunday	4th June	Whit Sunday Events
5th April	Coffee Morning	12th June	Parish Council
10th April	Parish Council	14th June	Coffee Morning
16th April	Easter Sunday	21st June	Gardening Club
19th April	Coffee Morning	28th June	Coffee Morning
	Gardening Club	10th July	Parish Council
27th April	Annual PCC	12th July	Coffee Morning
3rd May	Coffee Morning	15th July	Church Fete
8th May	Parish Council	19th July	Gardening Club
		26th July	Coffee Morning

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NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the next newsletter is **19th May.**Once again items of village interest are always welcome.

²

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	C 208077	43 Bridge Street
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:			
Chief Inspector James	s Sutherland	Area Commander	
T/Inspector Richard Isley		Sa fer Neighbourhood Mana ger	
Detective Inspector Simon Harding		Area Crime Manager	
Rachel Carr		Community Safety Officer	
Neighbourhood Policing Team (Cambourne): www.cambs.police.uk/LocalPolicing/SouthCambs/Cambourne/			
Sergeant Jon Capes		Sector Sergeant	
James Lynch		Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)	
Lyndsay Gardiner		Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)	

SUMMARY OF RECENT BULLETINS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

1. Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking for volunteers in your area to join our successful Community Champion scheme.

Community Champions encourage local residents to carry out fire safety checks in their homes, visit community groups and educate about fire safety and escape plans.

We will train you, give you a uniform and provide you with a wide range of activities to choose from, all of which will help to keep our communities safe from the risk of fire.

To find out more about the Community Champions scheme, contact Katie Dean on 01480 587140 / 07736 132870 or email katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk.

2. Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service are committed to supporting the safety and wellbeing of residents in all of the communities that we serve. The Safe and Well visit will provide us with sufficient information to support you and, with your permission, refer you to selected partner agencies who will be able to support you further. We will not share your data with marketing companies or for other purposes. Our visit will last no longer than 60 minutes and is completely FREE of charge.

To find out if you are eligible for a Safe and Well visit, Enquire online. Alternatively, if you are unable to apply online or have a query about an enquiry form that has already been submitted, please telephone 0800 917 9994.

- 3. During March, we will also be raising awareness of the fire risks associated with smoking, with national No Smoking Day on the 8th. We often find smoking is one of many factors making someone more at risk of fire, for example, when combined with poor mobility, health problems or being elderly, it increases someone's chance of having a fire. Here are some tips to take on board or give to friends and family that smoke:
- Never leave a lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
- Always use a proper ashtray and make sure the contents are cold before you tip it in the bin.
- Never smoke in bed and avoid smoking in a chair if you are likely to fall asleep.

Most importantly, fit a working smoke alarm and test it regularly. Don't forget to also test the smoke alarms of those you love. If you have an elderly or vulnerable relative, friend or neighbour, pop by and make sure they have a working smoke alarm.

WHADDON WHITSUN WEEKEND - 3 and 4 June 2017

The village's annual Whitsun Weekend celebrations will take place on the weekend of 3-4 June 2017, so make a note in your diaries now! For those new to the village, this is an annual celebration connected with the Church festival of Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday. You can read more about it on the village website at www.whaddon.org/whitsun.

On **Sunday 4 June**, Morris dancers will perform in the village from 10.30 am. These people give their time for free, so please show your support by coming out to watch them. At 12 noon, there will be a service for Pentecost in St Mary's Church to which everyone is invited. After that, there will be

more dancing into the early afternoon at the Golf Centre, where Lorna and Richard are holding a beer festival.

On the evening before (**Saturday 3 June**), there will be a folk evening in the Village Hall, with music, singing and ceilidh dancing from 7.30 pm; food and drink are included in the ticket price - £12 or £9 concessions.

For tickets, please Contact whitsun@whaddon.org or telephone Helen Strudwick on 207434.

More information will be available soon on the website (www.whaddon.org/whitsun). We hope to see you over the course of the weekend

Children's Society

Thank you to everyone who continues to have a Children's Society box. Last year, throughout the village, we collected £146.

The Children's Society help disadvantaged children in the UK. Helping them is really easy. You take a collection box for the year and just put your spare change in it, as and when you can. At the end of the year, I collect the box from you, count up all the change and send it off to the Children's Society.

If you would like to take a box this year, then please let me know. Many thanks,

Kate French 208207.



ST MARY'S CHURCH WHADDON

Mothering Sunday St Mary's Whaddon 26th March 9.30am

All ages are welcome at the service that celebrates

Mums!

Dads are encouraged to help with the posy making in the church on 25th March between 11.00am and 12.00pm. There will be plenty of chocolate biscuits on offer for helpers.

EASTER DAY SUNDAY 16 APRIL

SUNRISE SERVICE

6.00am

Venue TBC

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

9.30 am

in the Church to be followed by:

EASTER EGG HUNT

in the Churchyard

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SERVICES

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1st March	7.30pm	St Mary's Whaddon	Ash Wednesday
26th March	9.30am	St Mary's Whaddon	Mothering Sunday
9th April	9.30am	St Mary's Whaddon	Palm Sunday
13th April	7.30pm	Bassingbourn	Maunday Thursday
16th April	6.00am	Venue TBC	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
	9.30am	St Mary's Whaddon	Communion Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt in the church yard.

Your chance to bag up to £5,000 for local community projects

TESCO is inviting local community groups, green space projects and other organisations to apply for their share of a £12MILLION carrier bag charge fund.

The supermarket has teamed up with the charity Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative, which sees the money raised from the 5p bag levy being used to pay for a large number of local projects to improve green spaces in communities.

Tesco customers will decide on a monthly basis which groups get grants of up to £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 in regions up and down the country. It's expected the new monthly format will see more than 100 projects receive vital funding across Cambridgeshire every year. Funding will be awarded to projects that use and develop outdoor spaces in ways that will benefit their local community. We've already seen local groups, schools and charities benefit and look forward to seeing many more exciting projects come out of this initiative.

Find out more about how to bag your share or nominate a good cause at

www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco







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Raise – after you've made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost whatsoever!

Please sign up to easyfundraising, then every time you shop you will be supporting us, and please tell your family and friends.

Important information about bin day changes

In order to save £700,000 over three years, we now have a shared waste collection service for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. New bin collection rounds will work across the City and South Cambs boundary, travelling approximately 20,000 fewer miles per year saving money and reducing traffic and emissions. The savings will help meet some of the Council's overall targets as the funding we receive from Government has been cut considerably. The new rounds mean that we need to make changes to collection days for most properties.

From the end of February most households across South Cambridgeshire will have a change to the day that their bins are emptied; the sequence of their collection (order that black or blue and green are put out); or their collection time (the time of day the bins are usually emptied). Everyone will still have their black bin emptied one week and their blue and green bins emptied the following week.

The new bin days will start from Monday 27th February 2017. All residents affected, will receive a leaflet from the Council ahead of the changes with a collection schedule for their village. **Whaddon's** new bin day will be **Wednesday** commencing on **1st March** with a black bin collection. The table below details the Whaddon collections over the next few months. The new schedule will also be included in the spring South Cambs Magazine - out between 28 Feb and 19 Mar and at www.scambs.gov.uk/bin-changes

Please ensure bins are out for collection by 6am to avoid missing the collection.

WHADDON BIN COLLECTIONS					
MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
Wed 1st	Black	Wed 5th	Blue & Green	Thu 4th	Blue & Green
Wed 8th	Blue & Green	Wed 12th	Black	Wed 10th	Black
Wed 15th	Black	Fri 21st	Blue & Green	Wed 17th	Blue & Green
Wed 22nd	Blue & Green	Thu 27th	Black	Wed 24th	Black
Wed 29th	Black				

Annual PCC Meeting

St Mary's Whaddon, Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th April 2017. It will be in the church and all parishioners on the church electoral roll are invited to attend.

Notice of Revision of Church Electoral Roll for St Mary's, Whaddon

The church electoral roll will be updated prior to the Annual PCC meeting. The revision period is between 25th March and 10th April, and information will be published in notices to be displayed in the church for anyone wishing to be added to the electoral roll. If you know of anyone who might like to be added to it, please email Nick Lewis nicksphotos@icloud.com.

CAROL SINGING

Carols in the Golf range made a collection of £121.50. Thanks to everyone who came carol singing and to those who gave generously. A big thank you to Lorna and Richard.

CHURCH FETE

15th July 2pm

Preceded by the usual ploughman's lunch at 12.30

Change to Stagecoach Service 26

From the 9th April 2017 the 15.30 journey between Royston and Cambridge, operating Monday to Saturday, will end at Trumpington Park & Ride, not Cambridge City Centre.

Full details and copies of the timetable can be obtained by contacting Stagecoach directly on 01223 433250, cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com or by going to www.stagecoachbus.com

WHADDON VILLAGE HALL and RECREATION GROUND TRUST

2016 saw the completion of the last stage of the redevelopment of the hall, which was of course the new car park. We are very pleased that the work as envisaged has now been completed, but nothing stands still, and we need to turn our attention to ensuring that everything in the fabric of the building is kept in a good state of repair as we enter our fourth year of having one of the nicest halls in this part of Cambridgeshire. The garage still is in need of a lot of attention, and fundraising will turn to looking at this in the course of 2017.

The levels of bookings continue to look good, and we have a healthy selection of regular bookings, and the hall is seeing lots of private parties over the year. We have at least one wedding coming up this year, and interest in others. The interest in the hall shows how important it is to ensure it looks the best it can. The hall benefitted from the serious damage done to Bumpkins by a car shortly after Christmas, so that it was their base for about 15 days until the building works were completed.

The Rec and playground are keeping busy. It looks as if the Royston 3rd cricket team will be playing some games there again on certain Saturdays, and there will of course be the appearances of the Whaddon All-Star cricket team over the summer.

TRUST VACANCIES

The Trust is still short of two Trustees. The task of being a Trustee is not onerous, consisting of attending a meeting every couple of months, and helping out with various practical things as and when. We would very much urge villagers to get involved: the hall is your hall and the help from new people is very much needed for the community.

Nigel Strudwick Acting Chairman

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

1 el: 01954 212/0/

The next local surgery dates are:

Saturday 22nd April 2017

10.30am – 12.30 pm Cambourne – Venue TBC

Saturday 20th May 2017

10.30am – 12.30pm Bassingbourn – Venue TBC

Citizens Advice: Local Outreach Centres

There are drop-in advice sessions in local villages - no need to book.

Bassingbourn

Every second Thursday of the month between 2.00 - 3.30pm at the Bassingbourn Book Café in The Limes Community Centre.

Melbourn

Every first and third Thursday between 9.30am - 12.00pm at the Melbourn Hub

Whaddon e-mails

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



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WHADDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (whaddonnhw@gmail.com)



Since the last Whaddon News we have had two nights when unwelcome visitors have left their mark on locations in the village. As reported by the police, in January in Church Street unknown offender(s) gained access via the roof of a storage container and smashed a vehicle stored inside. A second theft occurred nearby in a similar timeframe when intruders entered a shed and stole a large quantity of plumber's fittings. Then in early February the Golf Centre storage shed was broken into. Lorna Green savs that the thief/thieves seemed well prepared and avoided detection. They caused damage and stole numerous items. These types of crimes bedevil local villages and offer little opportunity for the police to find the offenders although a scene of crime forensic officer is normally sent to check the location. The reality is that sheds and outbuildings are vulnerable and difficult to satisfactorily secure. Ideally, either do what is necessary to secure these buildings or avoid storing any valuable items in them. Not very satisfactory but such is the situation we face in a rural environment like ours.

Chief Inspector James Sutherland, the local police area commander, is organizing a spring community safety day on Saturday March 18th, 09:30-12:30 at South Cambs District Council, Cambourne. The meeting is

planned to give local residents practical help and advice on a range of community safety issues - including:

- Speeding and parking
- Making the best use of social media

Protecting yourself and the vulnerable from scams, frauds and cyber crime The day will consist of workshops and information sessions on the above areas and will be an opportunity for you to meet senior officers from the local police as well as members of the community safety partnership, Neighbourhood Watch and the County Council. Entry is free and refreshments will be provided. Just email the Chief Inspector at: james.sutherland@cambs.pnn.police.u k if you wish to attend.

As most of you know our day to day policing cover is provided by police community support officers (PCSOs). Our PCSO is James Lynch. He may, of course, not be on- duty but if you have a non-urgent issue you would like to raise with him then try: www.cambs.police.uk/LocalPolicing/SouthCambs/Cambourne

Meanwhile, as Spring approaches and the long dark nights become a memory, there is still a need to keep yourself and your property secure. It is surprising how often when a crime occurs the building or vehicle has been left insecure.

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.

DOG FOULING ON THE RECREATION GROUND

Steve Argent, who runs SC Dog Training and is a regular user of the Rec, has said to me that he is finding an increasing amount of dog faeces when he prepares the Rec for his classes from Friday to Sunday. So, over the weekend of 3–5 February he picked up a total of **16 bags** of it, and the following weekend **12 bags**. It is essential that those exercising their dogs on the Rec carry with them bags so that they can clean up after their pets have relieved themselves. It does present a health hazard as well as being a rather unpleasant surprise for other users. There is a dog bin by the entrance to the hall that the Parish Council pays SCDC to empty. Thanks.

Nigel Strudwick Acting Chairman

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL					
Tuesday	8.00 - 9.00pm	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			
Friday	6.30 - 8.00pm	Dog training			
Saturday	8.30 - 11.00am	Dog training 6 week blocks			
Sunday	8.30 - 11.00am	Dog training			

Reporting Potholes

Potholes can be reported via the Cambridgeshire County Council website.

Visit www.cambridgshire.gov.uk and select 'Report a Highways Fault'. You will be asked to select the location on a map and enter a brief description of the problem. On the map it is also possible to see potholes already reported in the same area.

WHADDON WEB SITE

I am pleased to announce that the Whaddon web site has been completely overhauled. The URL is still www.whaddon.org

The main aim of the redesign was twofold: to bring the overall appearance up to modern web design standards and technologies, and to make the site "mobile-friendly". The last site redesign was undertaken in 2010, and much has changed since then; in particular the number of people accessing sites from mobile phones, tablets etc has increased dramatically. Time has become available recently, and I now of course have the valued assistance of an Assistant Webmaster, Randall Scott.

The site still has the same broad range of information as the old site, but it is speedier and has been completely rearranged. There are fewer pages overall, and the design uses drop-down menus at the top of the page and tabs and expanding boxes within each tab. Also added is a search facility, based on Google; Google of course does not index the site every day so results could be a little out of date, but there is also a Site Map on the Info/About menu item that should help you find things you seek.

What has not changed a great deal is the content of the pages, as I have always said my job as webmaster is to make the site work and add things, but not to write them! So several pages are way out of date, and I am very much hoping that those in the village who are responsible for those particular areas will read over the relevant pages and give Randall and me new text that we can slot into the new pages. A web site is not much good if it is not up to date, and so this is important. Suggestions for new pages and topics are always welcome, but please remember what I said above that I cannot write them, and if you suggest something, I may ask you to compose it for us! Please send any comments, criticisms, error reports etc to webmaster@whaddon.org.

The new site can now much more easily have new things added to it. I believe the Parish Council has agreed in principle to upgrading the level of hosting that we have for the site, so we will be able to make available a lot more text and images in particular. This is going to be above all else useful for presenting archive material. So, as an example, I have added various new and old photographs I have taken of the village, and, more importantly, I have added a PDF of a booklet about Holme Cottages/The Home by Bob Giddings, a great-grandson of Daniel Jacklin. Jacklin was the landlord of the

Whaddon Mainly Gardening Club

On the 3rd Wednesday of every month, like-minded villagers gather in the village hall to talk gardening or any other interesting topic that we can find an expert to speak on. These gatherings are not only a chance to learn something new but also a great opportunity to meet neighbours or someone from the other end of the village. Bridge Street meets Meldreth Road and all places in between! Past village plans suggested that something along these lines would be worthwhile and that encouraged a small group to put something together. We call it the Mainly Gardening Club because we needed a title but really it is simply a chance to get together, listen to an interesting speaker or visit somewhere local, learn something new, have a cup of tea or coffee and get to know each other. We normally meet at 7.30pm with the speaker starting at 8.00 and ending around 9.00. The cost is £2.50 which goes towards the speaker's fee.

Our regulars clearly enjoy the evenings and outside visits but we would really like to see a few more faces, particularly from more recent residents. If you haven't been to the village hall since it was refurbished it is warm and very welcoming with excellent facilities. Why not break away from the box and do something different once a month. You would be very welcome – promise.

MAINLY GARDENING CLUB PROGRAMME FOR 2017			
Date	Subject	Speaker	
18 January	Garden Design	Jan Gibson	
15 February	Clematis Through the Year	Roy Nunn	
15 March	Packet of Parsley	David White	
19 April	Pickwick's Gardening	Mike Petty Scrapbook	
17 May	Old London Gardens	John Neal	
21 June	Garden Party and Plant Sale		
19 July	Visit to Madingly Hall		
16 August	Possible Hedgehog Visit to Shepreth		
20 September	Visit Capel Manor		
18 October	Bee Keeping and the Gardener	Stephen Poyser	
15 November	Soap Making	Malan Peyton	
20 December	Christmas Party		

Whaddon Parish Council News - some of our discussions and decisions from our meetings in January and February

Precept for 2017/18

The village budget for the next financial year (precept) of £17,530 was recommended. This was slightly more than last year (2016/17 £16,960) but the amount per household remains unchanged. The precept was made up of Parish administrative costs of £12,810, additional expenditure of £5,400 less anticipated income of £680. The additional expenditure was £150 for promoting/publicising the Community Defibrillator, £2,500 for a As most villagers have probably Village Sign, £1,000 Village Hall Capital Projects Reserve, £1,000 for a picnic bench/base for the recreation ground, £250 to convert the Meldreth Road phone box into a library and £500 for a replacement notice board in provide a replacement. Costs for a Meldreth Road.

Alfred John Palmer's Trust

The trust has been in place for a be appointed to a working group to number of years (since the 1930s) and look at options and draw up a was set up originally to provide coal specification for the new sign. Mr D for widows in the village. As times Grech has also agreed to join the have moved on, a working group was working group. set up last year to review how the proceeds from the trust should be All minutes of meetings are on the distributed vear. recommendations of the working and on the notice board at the Village group were to revise the aim of the Hall in Church Street. AJP Trust to give modest grants to residents for whom a small cash The next Parish Council meeting will decided to appoint Trustees as welcome. follows: Mr P Evans (four years), Ms

R Keir (four years), Mrs H Strudwick (three years) and Mr W Elbourn (two vears). Mr C Coningsby would also continue to serve as Trustee (two-year appointment). After these initial periods Trustees would then be (re-) appointed for four-year periods. Further details of how the grants could be applied for, would be advertised in due course.

Village Sign

noticed the village sign has been removed as the post holding it up had rotted and the overall sign is reaching the end of it's life. Money has been put aside in the 2017/18 budget to new sign will be dependent on size, style, material and artwork. It was agreed that Cllrs Elbourn and Milton

The village website www.whaddon.org

injection could make a real difference be on Monday 13th March 2017 at (requests from the elderly to be 8pm in the Village Hall. This is a especially favoured). It was also public meeting and everyone is

Home when it became a pub after the houses changed function with the decline of the coprolite industry; he is buried in the churchyard.

I would urge villagers to look at the new site and feed back to me what you think of it. So far the site has been tested on these operating systems and browsers: Windows 10 (Internet Explorer 11, Edge, Opera, Firefox, Chrome), Mac OS (Safari, Opera, Firefox, Chrome), iOS (Safari, Opera, Firefox, Chrome), and on some Android browsers. It is not possible for Randall and I to check every possible hardware and software configuration, so let us know if something does not work. We do know that versions of Internet Explorer prior to version 10 (2012) do not render the site properly; we do not yet have any reports from operating systems prior to Windows 7 (2009), but it generally seems to be the browser that is the most important. I cannot stress enough that it is important, whatever your computer or mobile device, to run the most recent software available for it to ensure you are as secure as possible online.

I would like to thank Randall for his help in all this, and the following persons for offering very helpful comments on test versions of the site: Helen Strudwick, Mike Monks, Malan Peyton, Karen Coningsby, Bob Strawbridge, Bob Giddings

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SPEEDWATCH AND SPEEDING IN WHADDON

The Speedwatch team, having taken a Winter break while dark mornings, dirty number plates and cold weather provided very little incentive to deploy, are now out there encouraging drivers through the village to observe our 30 mph speed limit. As outlined in the last News, we have a new piece of kit which uses current technology including bright LED symbology, a greater range and better portability which some of us no longer in the prime of life really value.

As we have many new residents in the village, it may be useful to say a few words about what we are doing. Speeding in Whaddon has a long history, in part a product of the high volume of commuter traffic we experience through the village on weekday mornings and evenings – typically 140-170 vehicles per hour each way between 7.30–9.30 and in the early evening. Speedwatch is supported by our parish council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary and has been in active use in Whaddon for the past eight years. The police train and monitor the teams who use equipment either supplied or authorised by the police. The object of Speedwatch is to make drivers aware of their speed and the concern of the local community, thereby encouraging a reduction in overall traffic speed levels.

When we deploy Speedwatch, the three team members, who wear yellow high visibility tabards, locate to police approved sites within the village and place the sensor by the side of the road facing the direction being monitored. The sensor will detect all approaching vehicles and display their speed up to 60mph. If the vehicle speed exceeds a police prescribed threshold the team records the vehicle's registration, speed, time, vehicle make and when possible model and colour. These results are reported to the police administration team which processes the results as follows:

- The vehicle registration is checked against DVLA records for legal 1. ownership, insurance, MOT and road fund licence;
- the owner driver is checked for current valid driving licence;
- a letter from the police inspector responsible for Speedwatch is sent to the registered owner. For repeat offenders or where excessive speed is involved, the tone of these letters hardens and a third letter will be hand-delivered by the police together with a verbal warning;
- Speedwatch reporting does not result in points or fines but repeat offenders are likely to be monitored by the police.

We have been "speedwatching" in Whaddon for many years with the active support of the parish council and most of our community. Village-wide surveys have shown that speeding is a real issue for residents and we rely on everybody to join us in our efforts to make Whaddon a safer place to live. Put simply, everybody reading this has a role to play: It's our village and our speed limit – please do your best to keep to it.

If you would like to become involved, we are keen to welcome new volunteers who are willing to occasionally give up and hour of their time. Call me on C208236. MM

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MORE THAN GOLF

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