

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Citizens Advice:

Cambridge 03448 487979

Royston 03444 111444

Councillors:

County: Susan van de Ven 07905 325574

District: Jose Hales 01763 221058

Phillipa Hart 01763 261255

Doctors:

Orchard Surgery, Melbourn 01763 260220

The Health Centre, Royston 01763 242981

Market Hill Surgery, Royston 01763 848244

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

Stagecoach East 01223 433250

National Express Coaches 0871 781 8181

Utilities:

Anglian Water 03457 145145

Cambridge Water Company 01223 706050

Electricity Emergency & Supply Loss 08007 838838

Vets:

Melbourne Veterinary Surgery 01763 262696

Royston Veterinary Surgery 01763 242221

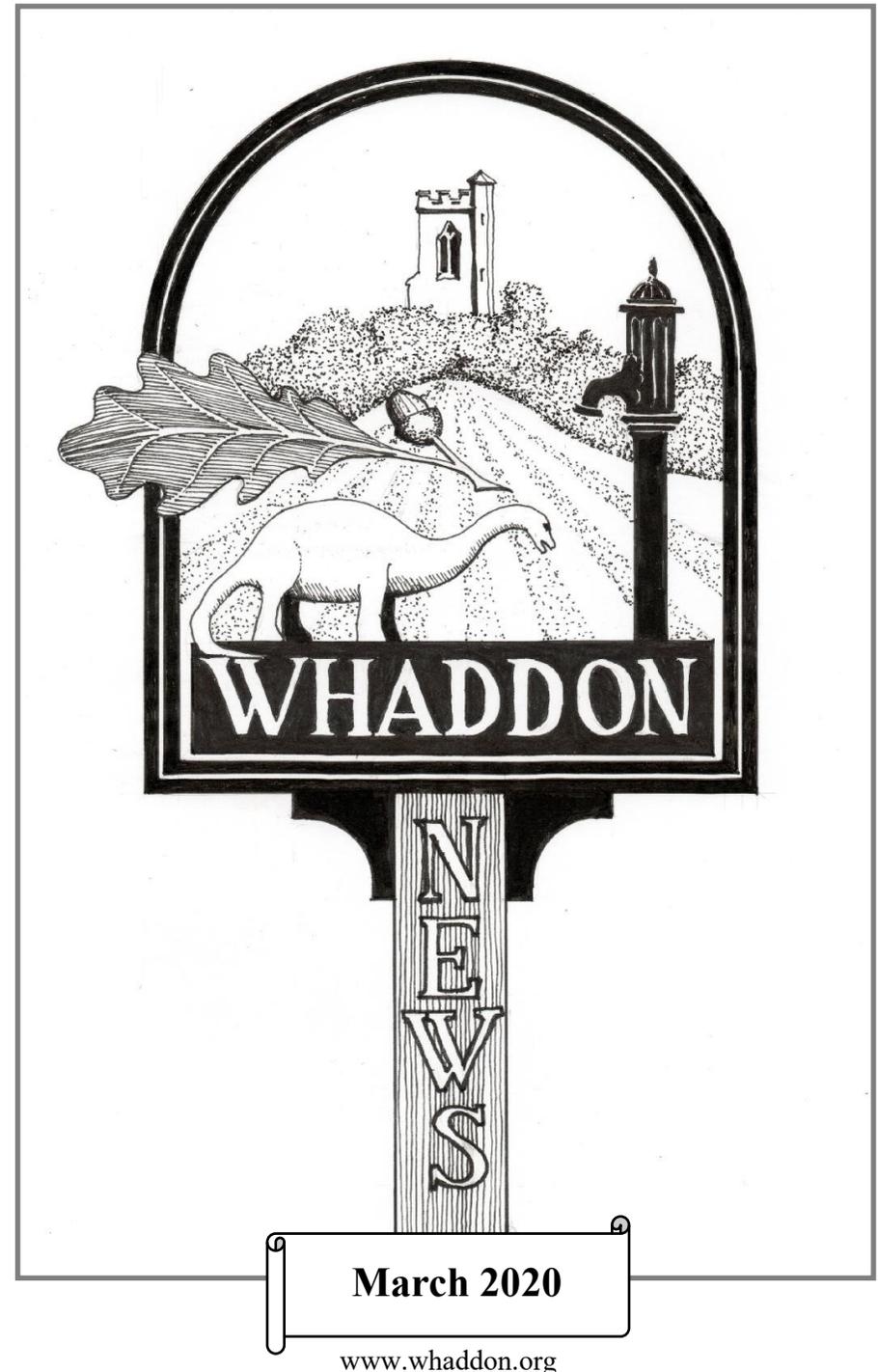
WHADDON NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

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 Angela Bridges, the Parish Clerk:
whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th March	Whisky Tasting	22nd April	Coffee Morning
9th March	Parish Council	11th May	Parish Council
11th March	Coffee Morning	13th May	Coffee Morning
	Charity Quiz	20th May	Whaddon Wednesdays
18th March	Whaddon Wednesdays	27th May	Coffee Morning
21st March	Posy Making	29th May	Beer Festival
	Film Club	30th May	Beer Festival
22nd March	Mothering Sunday		Folk Evening
25th March	Coffee Morning	31st May	Whit Sunday Events
28th March	Beetle Drive	6th June	Race Night
6th April	Parish Council	8th June	Parish Council
8th April	Coffee Morning	10th June	Coffee Morning
11th April	Village Litter Pick	17th June	Whaddon Wednesdays
12th April	Easter Sunday	4th July	Church Fete
15th April	Whaddon Wednesdays	11th July	Party in the Barn
20th April	Annual Parish Meeting		

VILLAGE HALL HIRE

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

Village Rate: £7 per hour

Non-village Rate: £11 per hour

Please contact:
whaddonvhrgt@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

*The deadline for the next newsletter is **May 12th***

Once again items of village interest are always welcome.

*Joan Pascoe C208062
joanpascoe@aol.com*

Bin Collection Dates

Wed 4 Mar	Blue/green	Thu 23 Apr	Black
Wed 11 Mar	Black	Wed 29 Apr	Blue/green
Wed 18 Mar	Blue/green	Wed 6 May	Black
Wed 25 Mar	Black	Thu 14 May	Blue/green
Wed 1 Apr	Blue/green	Wed 20 May	Black
Wed 8 Apr	Black	Thu 28 May	Blue/green
Fri 17 Apr	Blue/green	Wed 3 June	Black

Mobile Library

Every 3rd Tuesday
10.00 - 10.30
Meldreth Road

Tuesday 17 March

Tuesday 21 April

Tuesday 19 May

LIST OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr Lee Ginger	Chair	07850 252015	lee.ginger@btinternet.com 14 Carlton Rise, Melbourn SG8 6BZ
Dr Nigel Strudwick	Vice Chair	C 207434	3 Town Farm Close
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
Anita Birch	Councillor	07748 908164	68 Bridge Street
Joanne Vries	Councillor	C208009	108 Church Street
Mrs Angela Bridges	Clerk/ Finance Officer	—	31 Bridge Street, whaddonparishcclerk@outlook.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TEAM

Malan Peyton	Whaddon Village Coordinator	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green	C 207358
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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
Helen Smith	Upper Bridge Street	9 Bridge Street	C 207631
Malan Peyton	Dyers Green	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green	C 207358

Local Enforcement:

Neighbourhood Policing Team (Cambourne):

www.cambs.police.uk/LocalPolicing/SouthCambs/Cambourne/

John Coppard	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Lyndsay Gardiner	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
James Lynch	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Dial 999 to report a crime actually happening or when lives are at risk.

For a non-emergency matter dial 101.

If you report an incident to the police please let your neighbourhood watch coordinator know.

SUSAN VAN de VEN Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Monthly Advice Surgeries:

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

1st Monday of the month The Hub, Melbourn, 3-4pm
3rd Monday of the month The Limes, Bassingbourn, 3-4pm

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

N. HERTS AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Our area is served by 'North Herts and District' CAB, an independent charity that provides advice on basic rights and services, like housing and benefits.

A free drop-in service is held every **1st and 3rd Monday** (9.30 am-12 noon),
Melbourn Community Hub,

Monday and Wednesday mornings (9.30 am-12 noon) at the Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire Royston Town Hall, Royston, SG8 7DA.

Any questions, please ring the CAB Monday-Friday, 10-4,

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

CHURCH ROOF FUNDRAISING

Whisky Tasting

Led by Phil Neale

Saturday 7th March

8.00pm

at the Village Hall

Tickets £25

Includes whisky sampling,
cheese and biscuits.

For those non-whisky
drinkers a partner's ticket at
£5 each.

Bring your own wine!

Beetle Drive

In aid of St Mary's Church Roof

at

Whaddon Golf Centre

on



28 March 2020



7.00 for 7.30pm

£5 per person - Teams of 4

Raffle and Snacks

All ages and abilities welcome. If
you have never played before don't
worry - full instructions will be
provided.



Village Hall - Film Club

21st March

Blazing Saddles

Tickets £5 per person

7.30pm

Refreshments available

Fancy dress encouraged

Tickets from the Golf Range,

Anita Birch 68 Bridge Street or

Anitabirch1@hotmail.co.uk

Whaddon Golf Centre

Charity Quiz

The last one this season is on
11th March.

Real Ale Festival

Fri 29th, Sat 30th and Sun 31st
May

We hope there will be a
Barbecue on the Sunday and a
chance to join in with the
Morris Dancing.

Don't forget - not just golf.

We are your local for
newspapers, cafe, bar.

Open everyday.

Pub nights **Wednesdays** and
Fridays.

Children and dogs welcome.

Lorna and Richard

Whaddon Whitsun Weekend 2020

This year, Whitsun Weekend will fall on 30 and 31 May. This is NOT the Bank Holiday weekend, but the one after. We plan to celebrate it in the usual style.

Please make a note in your diary of the events below.

Saturday 30 May

Folk Evening in the Village Hall
Come and enjoy some ceilidh dancing, with food and drink provided. It's an excellent time to socialise and to learn about the village's own traditional Whitsun celebrations.

Sunday 31 May

Dancing around the village from 10.30 onwards. 12.30 Service for Pentecost at St Mary's Church. After church, dancing at the Golf Centre .

Those new to Whaddon might like to read about the history and customs associated with Whitsun (and about past events) on the village web site, via <http://www.whaddon.org/whitsun>

Helen and Nigel Strudwick



Saturday 11th July 2020
8 pm - Midnight,
Leyhill Farm Whaddon



Party in the Barn



Bar & BBQ

1980's Theme Nightclub

The original Party in the Barn was organised by villagers to raise funds to enable the village play ground equipment to be purchased and installed in 2009, The equipment has to be repaired and maintained by the Village Hall Trust each year, so it has been decided to throw another party with all profits going towards the upkeep of the playground.

We need your support by buying tickets and joining the party, but we also need help to sell tickets and advertise the event to local groups, schools, colleges, clubs etc. as the more money we can raise, the longer the Trust will be able to maintain our special playground for years to come.

Please spread the word or get in touch if you can help, via the

Facebook page: PartyInTheBarn80s

Tickets available to purchase and reserve from Whaddon Golf Centre

RECENT BULLETIN FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Safe and Well Visits - Helping you to stay independent in your own home

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service wants everyone in the county to be safe from fire at home and know how to escape safely if a fire starts. That's why we visit people in their own homes to make sure they have working smoke alarms and a good level of fire safety awareness to help prevent fires and save lives.

To help keep our communities safe we offer FREE **Safe and Well** visits across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

A Safe and Well visit is a **home visit** that lasts no longer than an hour, at a convenient time for you, carried out by trained staff. During the visit we will:

- Talk to you about fire safety in the home
 - Check your property to identify any fire hazards
 - Check that you have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of your home
 - Fit FREE ten-year smoke alarms as appropriate
 - Provide you with fire safety advice and show you how to test your smoke alarms
 - Talk about escape plans, so that you can escape safely if a fire starts
 - Provide advice, or link you into organisations that can help you, if you need support with other issues such as health, wellbeing or crime prevention.
- To find out if you are eligible for a visit, call us on 01480 444500 or email us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk.

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





ROYSTON, BUNTINGFORD & SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CEILIDH EVENING

Saturday 14th March 2020
King James Academy Site
Garden Walk
Royston
SG8 7JH

Come and dance the night away with the Cyriacs and celebrate St Patrick's Day at this fun event.

£16 a ticket to include a jacket potato supper.

A licensed bar will be available

LITERARY LUNCH

Thursday 2nd April 2020
The Old Bull Inn
Royston

Buffet lunch from 12.15pm
Chat 1.00 to 2.15pm

Tickets: £15.00

Jude Simpson hosts a chat with **Philip Birtles**

Author of
"The Past, Present and Future"
commemorating the 25th year of
the Garden House Hospice.

For enquiries or to book please ring 01763 262262, email admin@hsrsc.org.uk or on line at: www.ticketssource.co.uk/hsrsc

All proceeds in aid of **Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire**

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

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

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

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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

Telephone scams

Scams, frauds, rackets, call them what you will have been around forever, although with modern communications they seem to proliferate. I recently put an email around the village in response to several reports of telephone scams and I thought I should share what I said in the *Whaddon News* as not everyone who might be affected by fraud are online.

Several people have reported getting automated phone calls claiming to be from Openreach or other ISP-related organisations saying that either there is an issue with your connection with your router or that your service is being shut down in the next 24/48 hours. These calls, and others like them, some of which are by people and not robots, want you to take the action the messages request, and you will end up talking to someone who will try and convince you of a problem and get you to give them money, install a computer virus, or something like this. These phone calls are particularly disconcerting to vulnerable people, which is why I find them so disgusting.

It is important to realise that any reputable organisation, whether ISP, phone company, bank etc, will never phone you about a real problem. They will normally contact you in writing, by post or email. If in doubt about anything, hang up and don't talk to anyone. But by the same token, be suspicious even of emails claiming to be from your bank – check the addresses from which they come, as they usually look a bit like the real one but are not.

I hear there is also a phone fraud doing the rounds claiming to be from the police, saying that you have not responded to a speeding ticket or something like that. Again, the police will not contact you by phone like that, but always by letter; I confirmed this with a solicitor recently.

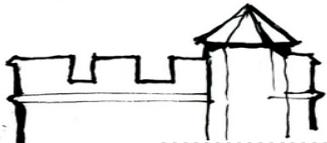
If in doubt about the genuine nature of such a call, end the call and actually phone the number you have in your records for the organisation that claims to be calling you (**don't use any number the caller gives you**) and report it.

The ecops local police mailing list had a recent entry about a similar racket known as 'Courier fraud'. Read about it here:

https://www.ecops.org.uk/da/307083/88K_lost_to_courier_fraud_in_Cambs_this_month.html

The police do want to hear from people who feel they have been a victim of such a fraud; another way to get advice is to contact the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Nigel Strudwick



**ST MARY'S CHURCH
WHADDON**

Normal Sunday Services
(all services at 9.30am)

- 1st Sunday Morning Prayer - Churchwardens
- 2nd Sunday Morning Worship
- 3rd Sunday Morning Prayer - Churchwardens
- 4th Sunday Holy Communion
- 5th Sunday Joint Service

SERVICES

26th Feb	Ash Wednesday	8.00pm	Bassingbourn
22nd March	Mothering Sunday. Family Holy Communion Service with distribution of posies	9.30am	St Mary's Whaddon
5th April	Palm Sunday	9.30am	St Mary's Whaddon
9th April	Maundy Thursday	8.00pm	Bassingbourn
12th April	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service	6.00am	Field opposite church
	Family Communion Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard.	9.30am	St Mary's Whaddon
31st May	Whit Sunday Service followed by Morris Dancing	12.30pm	St Mary's Whaddon

**MOTHERING SUNDAY
POSIES**

All children and Dads are welcome to help make posies on Saturday 21st March at 10.30am in the church.

CHURCH FETE

4th July 2020
12.30pm for
Ploughman's lunch
2pm: Opening of Fete.

Village email list changes

The Whaddon email list, started originally by Mike Monks in 2012, has recently seen a change of settings. The original server at Gmail started rejecting my messages sent via bcc: as it apparently thought I was sending "spam". Gmail seems to be taking a harder line against lots of addresses in bcc:, and stopping messages being sent. This became a major problem for me as perfectly legitimate messages to the village were not getting out.

So I have decided to use a similar system that runs off the email system we get as part of the Whaddon web site. Emails from the Whaddon email list now come from **email-list@whaddon.org**. Nothing else has changed. Your privacy is the same, and you are only on the list because you have in the past given me your explicit permission to be contacted for the purposes of village-wide emails. Remember, you only have to drop me an email to be removed and I will do it immediately.

Because of the way some people's email settings work, some of you may not have heard of this change, perhaps because your system does not recognise the address **email-list@whaddon.org** and thinks it may be a bad one. If you used to get emails from the list but don't now, make sure the address **emailist@whaddon.org** is marked as a valid one and not a blocked one, and emails should flow as they did before.

If you want to be added to or removed from the list send me a message at **email-list@whaddon.org**. Ditto if you have an item that you would like circulated. Please also remember that if you are asked to contact someone mentioned in the email, their contact details will be given so do NOT press reply as it will not get to the person intended.

Nigel Strudwick

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)

Whaddon Parish Council Matters

A1198 speed limit

After two postponements, we finally managed to present our case to Cambridge Highways for our bid to reduce the speed limit along the A1198 from just beyond Whaddon Gap, past the Barracks and to Kneesworth. There will also be other measures to make the road safer, including traffic islands to stop vehicles overtaking at Whaddon Gap. We were accompanied by the Chief of Staff from the Barracks and Susan van de Ven, our County Councillor, who are both very supportive of the plan. We should know whether we have been successful by the end of March.

Phone box 1 – Bridge Street

The new Phone Box library is now open for business. Many thanks to Randall Scott for fitting it out and together with Neil Smith and Peter Coningsby for the permanent installation. Angela Bridges has volunteered to look after the library. Don't forget that there is also a second library in the Golf Centre – thanks to Lorna Green who stepped in when the original phone box was destroyed. There is always a need for 'new books' to keep the libraries fresh.

Phone box 2 – Meldreth Road

The Parish now owns this phone box now that BT have removed the equipment. While there are a number of possible uses, we are keen to hear of any ideas that villagers may have, another library, a second defibrillator or a possible community use perhaps? Let either Angela Bridges or the Parish Council know if you have any thoughts.

Parking on the grass at the top of Bridge Street at Ridgeway Close

Following the complaints about parking and the mud this has caused on this stretch of grass verge, South Cambridgeshire Housing, who own part of the verge, have installed an extra parking space at Ridgeway Close and shall soon be remarking the bays to include one disabled space. They then plan to install a rail fence just back from the road to deter parking which should also stop vehicles from mounting the verge at this location when passing others. From observation, delivery vans seem to be the main culprits!

Annual village litter pick

The national Great British Spring Clean is to be held between 20th March and 13th April and we shall hold our annual village wide litter pick on Easter Saturday, 11th April. Details to be announced nearer the time.

Three free trees

South Cambs. District Council have offered Parish Councils a £60 voucher to buy and plant three trees by this Spring. We have taken advantage of this generous offer and are in discussions with our tree warden as to the best type of trees to plant.

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 9th March 2020** at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Compiled by Lee Ginger

New Vicar

Our Vicar, Caroline Yandell, will shortly be leaving the parishes of Whaddon and Bassingbourn to allow her more time to develop the academic part of her ministry in relation to theological ethics and how the Church, and Christians as individuals, might respond to some of the big ethical dilemmas of our time. Caroline's last Sunday will be 15th March and we will then enter an Interregnum, a period when we will have no vicar, and during which time our PCC will work with the PCC at Bassingbourn to advertise for, and appoint, a new vicar. During the Interregnum we will still have Amanda O'Neill, our Associate Minister, and the regular pattern of services will continue more or less unaltered. The aim will be to keep the period of the Interregnum as short as possible, but it will, necessarily, last for several months, and maybe up to a year.

Update on the Church Roof

Following the theft of all the lead from the roof of St Mary's last June and the PCC's decision to re-roof the church in terne-coated stainless steel, in January 2020 South Cambridgeshire District Council informed us that the change in material on the roof would require planning permission. A planning application has now been submitted and should be determined by Easter. Historic England is not objecting to the change in roofing material, so we are hopeful that the application will be approved. That would then enable us to submit grant applications in the late spring/early summer and, if successful, have contractors on site in the autumn. Due to the presence of bats in the church we have been advised that we cannot undertake the works between May and the end of August.

In the meantime we are continuing with our fundraising efforts to help pay for the new roof and the next event is a **Whisky Tasting** led by Phil Neale, which will take place in the Village Hall on **Saturday 7th March at 8:00pm**. Tickets are £25 each and includes whisky sampling and cheese and biscuits. We are aware that not everyone enjoys whisky, so we are offering partner's tickets at £5 each (bring your own wine!).

David Grech and Karen Coningsby
Church Wardens, St Mary's Whaddon



RED CROSS



British Red Cross collection week **May 3rd – 9th 2020**.

In the Whaddon News of June 2019, I wrote that people in Whaddon have been collecting for this worthwhile cause for 100 years and I asked for volunteers to continue this good work.

I am sad to say that, as yet, nobody has come forward, but my number is C 208072 and I am ever hopeful. Please help!

Many thanks

Iris Green

Broadband update

There are a variety of interesting things going on at the moment regarding speeding-up broadband connections. Openreach, backed by Connecting Cambridgeshire, is trying to find ways of raising the minimum fibre FTTC (fibre to the cabinet) connections in the village to the most recent requirement of 30 mb/s. I do not yet know the extent to which this is working, but I am trying to find out more and will let you know.

In the days while I was writing this note, County Broadband have begun publicising their interest in installing another fibre network in the village, separate from the Openreach one, that would actually take fibre to houses (FTTP). They are only at an exploratory stage, but residents should have either received a letter from them or been visited by one of their staff, or you may have seen the village emails I have sent out about it. I am encouraging households to express a NON-COMMITTAL interest in this, as County need some idea of interest before they will hold a public meeting in the Village Hall where they can present their project and answer questions. So if you are interested, it is worth replying positively to them so we can all learn about it before anyone formally commits to anything. If anyone does not have the letter, go to <http://www.whaddon.org/broadband> where you will find the file and the address to send it to under the "County Broadband" tab.

Openreach are not at the moment running out FTTP to very many villages, concentrating on larger settlements. But of course this may change, as the whole FTTP idea is developing almost every day it seems at present. Openreach also have an approach towards FTTP in villages, in the form of their Community Fibre Partnerships (CFP). These, unlike County Broadband, need the initiative to come from the village itself and as the rules stand at the moment, we would have to set up a limited company to take the risk of such a project. There are, however, possibilities that this might change.

All FTTP projects take advantage of various Government vouchers to reduce the cost of installing the additional technology needed. These vary in value according to the current speed you are able to get, whether you are a business, etc. The organisers of any FTTP projects will expect people they connect to get one of these vouchers as a Government contribution to help defray the cost of their scheme. I, wearing my hat of "Broadband Champion", am keeping an eye on all possible ways of improving Internet speeds and connections in Whaddon and I can try and field any questions you may have. I will pass on information via village emails and quarterly in the *Whaddon News*.

Nigel Strudwick

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 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMME FOR 2020 (Third Wednesday of each month)

18 March	Ideas for a Low Maintenance Garden	Wendy Evans
15 April	The Pye Story - from a garden shed in Chesterton to a worldwide success	Roger Crabtree
20 May	Cambridge Illustrators from 1688	Mike Petty
17 June	Fry Gallery/Bridge End Gardens Saffron Walden	-
22 July	Kathy Brown's Garden at Stevington <i>(Provisional)</i>	-
19 August	Summer Break	-

Garden Centre

Come and visit our friendly team for expert advice!

Extensive outdoor plant area plus two large glasshouses bursting with:

Seasonal perennials Homegrown plants
Trees & Shrubs Seeds
Bedding plants Gardening equipment
...and much more!



Cafe

Visit our welcoming, bright and dog-friendly cafe

Choose from our light bites menu, delicious cakes (including a vegan range) and a selection of beverages



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

ALL YOU NEED FOR YOUR GARDEN, THROUGH ALL THE SEASONS

Whaddon Wednesdays

Well a new year and a new decade brings with it much to talk/and be talked about for Whaddon Wednesdays' regulars. We have a full programme until the summer with a healthy mixture of garden related topics along with more general local interest topics. We got off to a grand start for the year with a very well attended evening in January in the company of Whaddon's own Phil Neale who talked on "Treasures of Syria". Phil, accompanied by Angela, was lucky enough to visit and experience the country's treasures and its people just before the troubles started. Phil provided a fascinating and very personal insight into what was a beautiful country now torn apart by a dreadful war. Mint tea and baklava successfully got everybody properly involved.

Moving on to the 19th February we will have Rodney Tibbs seeking to persuade people that the Fens are not dull, flat and boring, as many people are inclined to think. Rodney has spent a lifetime in journalism and for many years was a feature writer and later features editor of the Cambridge Evening News. Rodney will be suggesting places to visit in the Fens and things to see which may not be well known but are fascinating in their own way. He takes a look at the many unusual and intriguing things in the Fens ranging from the seven and a half mile long Devil's Dyke to the Stained Glass Museum tucked inside Ely Cathedral. He will also explain some background to the region, looking at how it got from an inland sea to its present inhabited state.

On 18th March, Wendy Evans will speak on Low Maintenance Gardening. Many of you will have heard Wendy speak on garden topics before. She always brings a very practical edge to her words as well as valuable advice on how to reduce the workload and increase the enjoyment of your gardening.

On the 15th April, Roger Crabtree, possibly aided by a colleague, will talk on "The Pye Story – from a garden shed in Chesterton to a world-wide success". Pye is a name that will bring back memories to many Cambridge residents. It was a company that, in the first half of the twentieth century, put Cambridge at the heart of the radio and television revolution sweeping the world. Roger will explain how Pye became Cambridge's biggest private sector company for much of the 20th century and why it has since disappeared.

Continuing our programme, On 20 May, Mike Petty who has spoken to us before and is an acknowledged expert on Cambridge and its history, will talk on: "Cambridge Illustrator's from 1688". Mike's talk comes highly recommended.

Details of each event will be publicised via the village email system and the website. Everybody is most welcome and although we do have a number of regular members it would be a great pleasure to see other residents from the village join us in the village hall on the third Wednesday of the month. Your £3.00 will go some way to provide refreshments, fund the speaker and pay for the hire of the village hall. We hope to see you.

Broadband speed survey

With so much going on in the broadband area at the moment, the time has come again to survey the speeds around the village, and I need you to help me. I would like every household who can to run a few speed tests on their line and let me have the results. This information will be very helpful to me in my dealings with Connecting Cambridgeshire, Openreach and others such as County Broadband. This is especially important if you are at the far end of Meldreth Road or of Bridge Street/Dyers Green, as you know you have the most problems with the current system.

I want everyone to run tests using the same testing site, <https://www.broadbandspeedtest.org.uk>. This does not require logins or divulging personal information and only takes a few seconds. Specific details:

1. For the purposes of the test, please connect a computer directly to your router with an ethernet cable. But if you don't know how to do that, use Wi-Fi and get as close to the router as you can get; if no other equipment is available use a phone or tablet.
2. Ensure that no-one else is using the system as that will degrade the speed.
3. If you know how to do it, take a screen shot of the results; failing that, write it down
4. Send the fastest result that you get to me at emailist@whaddon.org; please give
your name
your house number and street name
the phone number of the line you are using for the broadband
whether you used Ethernet or wi-fi
whether you used a computer or mobile device

This data will only be used for the purposes of collating data around the village.

Thanks, Nigel Strudwick

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) Whaddon Wednesdays (3rd Wed)
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
Sunday	8.30 - 11.00am	Dog training

} 6 week blocks

TIMES PAST

Number 9

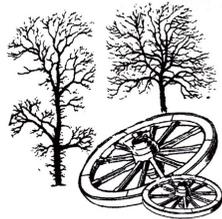
THE ENVIRONMENT

A Question of Trees

Old newspapers provide a splendid source of research material. However, these newspaper reports, while providing an interesting glimpse into earlier life, often pose questions which cannot really be answered with any degree of accuracy. In 1813 and 1815 there appeared two advertisements in the Cambridge Chronicle for the sale of timber. Reading these closely it poses the questions about the village at that time. Where exactly were the trees? They appear to be rather large and numerous. Was the surrounding area of the village very much more wooded than at present or alternatively were the trees brought in to Whaddon from elsewhere? – though they do seem rather large for unnecessary transportation. In addition details of individual sales of wood by tenants of the Earl of Hardwicke in 1777-8 also suggest a more wooded environment and regular sales of timber. However neither the advertisements in the newspaper nor the details of Wood Sales give any indication of where the trees might have been situated. Interesting to speculate!

Some entries from the account of wood sold at Whaddon in 1777-8:

Of	Susan Brown	5s. 8d.
	Susan Barlow	£1 2s. 4d.
	Widow Barton	6s. 5d.
	John Bell	£1 13s. 3d.
	Richard Giffen	£1 8s. 2d.



To Coachmakers, Wheelwrights, Carpenters and Others Large Elm and Ash Timber Whaddon, Cambridgeshire

To be sold by Auction by Thomas Cockett, at Whaddon, in the county of Cambridgeshire on Friday, the 24th instant, at 11 o'clock.

230 very fine Ash, Elm and Poplar TIMBER TREES many of them 35-45 feet in length; of unusual large dimensions; and in quality not to be excelled.

To be viewed by appointment to Mr Joseph Giffen, carpenter at Whaddon, of whom catalogues may be had; also at the inns and public houses in the neighbourhood, and of Thomas Cockett at Royston, Herts. A deposit of ten per cent to be paid at the sale; six months credit will be given for the remainder of the purchase money with approved joint security.

Cambridge Chronicle 17th March 1815

Elm and Ash Pollards Whaddon Cambridgeshire

To be sold by Auction by Thomas Cockett at Whaddon in the county of Cambridgeshire this day the 15th instant at 11 o'clock.

180 Elm and Ash Pollard Trees most of which may be cut into good Planks and Boards.

Credit will be given till September next, with proved security.

Catalogues to be had at the public houses in the neighbourhood, of Mr Joseph Giffen at Whaddon and Thomas Cockett, at Royston, Herts.

Cambridge Chronicle 8th January 1813

S & J Ralls July 2003

The Whaddon Organ - but not the church this time!

Last year we went to a talk given by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative about wild places and species of the Fens, and my attention was caught by mention of 'Whaddon Organs', extinct pool frogs which used to be plentiful in a few locations in this part of the country.

Pool frogs have a loud, shrill croak, generated by a pair of inflatable vocal sacs each side of the mouth, and were known locally as 'Cambridgeshire Nightingales' and 'Whaddon Organs'. They are distinguished from common frogs by their different croak, the vocal sacs in the male, their timidity and their need to be in water. Pool frogs are also different to edible frogs, although in the past they were thought to be the same species.

In the 1770s Mr Bell, a native of Cambridgeshire, considered the frogs of Whaddon and Fowlmere, known as 'Whaddon Organs', to be a separate species to the common frog. Then in 1843 a Mr Thurnall of Duxford presented two specimens of pool frog, taken from the site of the present RSPB bird reserve in Fowlmere, to the British Museum. They were identified by the Latin name *Rana lessonae*, and the following year an illustration of them appeared in the Zoologist journal. However, by 1847 Fowlmere Fen had been drained and the pool frogs disappeared. The last known example of a British pool frog died in the 1990s in Norfolk.

While Fowlmere was a certain site for pool frogs, Whaddon is described as a probable site. In 1903 it was contested by a Mr Yorke who suggested that the phrase 'Whaddon Organs' indicated 'the

boast of Whaddon Churchmen in a recently acquired barrel-organ'. Yorke further observed that the frogs concerned had not been found in the district between Whaddon and Fowlmere.

Considerable research has been done to establish that pool frogs did occur naturally in East Anglia and were not introduced by say the Romans or by Medieval monks. Their croaks were also analysed and found to be related to Scandinavian pool frogs rather than to those from central and southern Europe. Therefore, it was pool frogs collected in Sweden which were used in the current programme of breeding and re-introduction at sites near Thetford.

I was intrigued to learn of the Whaddon Organs, and more recently David Handscombe picked up the term in an article on lost language of the Fens, and he and Nigel Strudwick circulated an article via Whaddon Email. We thought that we had never heard of Whaddon Organs, but I now find that our parish historians Jean and Stan Ralls have beaten us all to it, and there was an article in the Whaddon News some years ago titled 'A Question of Frogs'.



Jenny Grech Feb 2020