

# WH DDON

## NEWS

MARCH  
2026



## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the March issue of the Whaddon News, with signs of spring bursting forth around the village. A real encouragement that warmer weather is on the way.

In this issue we introduce our local cat expert Jo Brown, who operates a pet sitting service, but is also an experienced veterinary nurse. She will hopefully be bringing some regular cat advice to the newsletter, and will be looking forward to answering any cat questions you might have.

We are also excited about the new Biodiversity plan adopted by the Parish Council, working on improving biodiversity in Whaddon. Look out for more ideas and advice from Sustainable Whaddon in Whaddsapp groups and in the coming issues of Whaddon News.

*The deadline for submissions for the next edition of Whaddon News is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Should your organisation meet after this date please let me know and I will do my best to accommodate you. Contact Viv at [newseditor@whaddon.org](mailto:newseditor@whaddon.org)*

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **March**

***4<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning***

***9<sup>th</sup> PC Meeting***

***18<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning***

***20<sup>th</sup> March Dario Burger Art at***

***Whaddon Golf Centre***

#### **April**

***1<sup>st</sup> Coffee Morning***

***13<sup>th</sup> PC meeting***

***15<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning***

#### **May**

***6<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning***

***11<sup>th</sup> PC Meeting***

***20<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning***

***23<sup>rd</sup> Whitsun Celebrations***

***24<sup>th</sup> Whitsun Celebrations***

***22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Real Ale Festival at  
Whaddon Golf Centre***

#### **July**

***11<sup>th</sup> Whaddon Village Fete***

Coffee Mornings are held at the Village Hall

10.30am to 12pm on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month.

Parish Council meetings are held at the Village Hall on 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm except August and December. All welcome.

Village Hall dates– Watch this space for dates for upcoming Quiz Night, Race Night (later in the year) and Film Nights set to start again in October.

## VILLAGE HALL HIRE

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

Village rate £9 per hour  
Non- village rate £15 per hour  
Please contact  
whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org



## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Will Elbourn	Chairman
Deborah Townsend	Vice Chair
Ben Fairclough	Councillor
Joanna Hart	Councillor
David Short	Councillor
Nigel Strudwick	Councillor
Angela Culver	Parish Clerk/ Finance Officer

All Parish Council Enquiries should  
be made to the Parish Clerk

Tel 07565 381203  
whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com

## WHADDON NEWS

### ADVERTISING RATES

Single / Four issues

Quarter page	£10	£32
Half Page	£15	£48
Full Page	£25	£80

Contact Parish Clerk-  
Angela Culver

whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com

## BIN COLLECTION DATES

FOOD WASTE CADDY'S NOW COLLECTED EVERY WEEK			
			<i>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</i>			<i>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</i>			<i>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</i>
<i>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April</i>			<i>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April</i>
<i>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</i>			<i>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April</i>
<i>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May</i>			<i>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</i>
<i>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</i>			<i>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May</i>

## LOCAL EVENTS

**The East Anglia Really Useful Family History Show is back for 2026! Following our successful show in 2024, we are back with an even bigger and better show.**

This FREE event will be jam-packed with exhibitors and experts. Ask the local experts of fourteen family history societies covering East Anglia and beyond for help and advice. Receive help researching your military ancestors and their medals. Browse thousands of old photographic postcards and buy images of where your ancestors lived. Buy genealogy supplies, books, maps, data CDs, war medals and more. Attend a talk with renowned DNA expert Donna Rutherford. Find new ways to break down your brick walls at our research session hosted by a panel of family history experts. Take part in tutorials with the team at Family Tree Maker and learn how to make the most of their software. Learn about the new additions to their website with FamilySearch. Plus much much more!

Join us for a great day out whether you are an experienced family historian or a complete novice – we have something for you! Follow us on Facebook #rufhsstives2026 for more information. Free parking is available at the venue and light refreshments will be available to purchase.



## Back for 2026!



Who do you think you are? Come along and find out!

Burgess Hall, Westwood Rd, St Ives, PE27 6WU

18 APRIL 10AM-4.30PM FREE Entry

Facebook:rufhsstives2026

The BIGGEST FAMILY HISTORY SHOW in East Anglia!

## WHADDON GOLF COURSE

The evenings are finally beginning to be lighter and signs of spring are already starting.

We have enjoyed the quizzes at the Golf Centre over the winter months. Thanks to all who participated and all who wrote and delivered questions.

We had a great evening at the Christmas sing-along with mince pies and mulled wine. £192.00 was raised for the Church. Thanks to all who attended and gave so generously.

We are looking forward to the warmer weather and more outdoor events:

We look forward to Dario Burger Art on 20<sup>th</sup> March, and the return of Slice of Price Pizza on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Saturday 4 April 11 am Easter Egg Hunt. Please book at the clubhouse.

Whitsun weekend Real Ale Festival Friday 22 May–  
Monday 25 May

We will be hosting the Morris Dancers on the Sunday along with a lunchtime BBQ.

We are open Tuesday to Sunday for 9 holes of Golf or practice on the range. Don't forget the clubhouse does hot food and drinks as well as the bar.

All are welcome. If you'd like to join us for pub night on a Friday you would be most welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you.  
Richard and Lorna

## WHADDON FETE

# SAVE THE DATE!



## WHADDON VILLAGE FETE SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026

The Committee has started planning for this year's Whaddon Village Fete which will take place on the **Recreation Ground** on the afternoon of **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**.

Last year's Fete was extremely successful and has set a high bar for us to emulate this year, but with your help we know we can achieve great things! Our aim is to provide an event for the whole village, as well as attracting visitors from the surrounding area.

The Committee has already reviewed the categories for the Produce Show and the classes for this year are listed at the end of this article.

Delivering a successful fete will require the input of a significant group of helpers and currently the Fete Committee is made up of only a small group. We would greatly appreciate any additional support that villagers may be able to offer, including offers to take responsibility for setting up and delivering one of the games or stalls at this year's Fete. Nearer the date assistance will also be

needed in setting up the Fete, helping to run stalls on the day, and then clearing everything away afterwards. The committee are extremely grateful to all those who helped last year, but many hands make light work and it would be much appreciated if more villagers might consider getting more involved in delivering the Fete. If you would like to get involved with this year's fete, please contact any member of the fete committee listed below.

**Fete Committee: Anita and Jonathan Birch, David Grech, Lorna Green, Claire Hales, Deborah Townsend, and, David Short.**

**Whaddon Village Fete**  
**Show Schedule Saturday**  
**11th July 2026**

**Vegetables**

1. Four Potatoes (any variety)
2. Four Carrots (any variety)
3. Four Spring Onions (any variety)
4. Four Beetroot
5. Four Broad Beans (any variety)
6. One Cucumber (Outdoor or greenhouse)
7. Four Courgettes
8. Four Onions

**Fruit and Home Produce**

9. Six Tomatoes
10. One Lettuce
11. A Selection of soft Fruits
12. Six Eggs
13. A Jar of Jam
14. A Jar of Marmalade

**Bread**

15. A Loaf of Bread
16. A Bread Product
17. 12 Shortbread Biscuits
18. 6 Scones (any type)
19. A Cake (any type)

**Flowers**

20. A Single Specimen Rose (not a spray)

21. A Selection of Cut Flowers

22. A Display of Sweet Peas

**Flower Arrangements**

23. A Colourful Arrangement

**Handicrafts**

24. A Knitted or Crocheted Item

25. An Item made from Fabric, i.e. a cushion or clothing

26. A Quilted or Patchwork Item

27. A Needlework Item

**Photography**

28. Local Wildlife (photographed within 10 miles of Whaddon) or Whaddon Pets

29. Somewhere in the World

30. The Glories of Whaddon

31. A Close Up

**Children's Classes**

An Open Table for children of any age to bring an item they have made, crafted, grown or baked that can fit on a dinner plate. There will be a small prize for all entries

## WHADDON VILLAGE FETE Produce Rules

- Entries must be booked in from 9.30 – 11.30am on Saturday 11 July
- Judging will begin promptly at 11.45am
- Please ensure your entries are presented for booking in well before judging begins
- Vegetables may be cleaned and onions tied down
- Entry – 50p for each entry
- All fruit, vegetables and other entries to be sold at auction (3.30pm) in aid of funds
- Please remove exhibits by 3.00pm if you do not want them included in the auction

The **Jim Law Memorial Shield** will be awarded for the Best in Show to any one entry in the grown and edible produce classes (vegetables, flowers, cakes, scones, jam etc) worthy of the title.

The **Maria Mould Trophy** will be awarded for the photograph deemed the best in the photography classes. An overall **Best In Show** certificate will be awarded to the item in the handicraft craft class judged worthy of the title.



### TALKS & WORKSHOPS FOR SPRING 2026

Propagation Talk - Wednesday 11th March

Bringing the Garden Indoors - Wednesday 25th March

Children's 'Paint & Plant a Pot' Workshop - Wednesday 8th April

Hanging Basket Talk - Wednesday 15th April

Hanging Basket Workshop - Wednesday 22nd April

Full details can be found on our Facebook page & website

HOME GROWN PLANTS | GARDEN SHOP | TOOLS | CONTAINERS | & MORE

A1198/Ermine Way, Arrington, SG8 0AG

What3words: loafer.pasta.mailers

Tel: 01223 208194

[www.arringtongardencentre.co.uk](http://www.arringtongardencentre.co.uk)

[manager@arringtongardencentre.com](mailto:manager@arringtongardencentre.com)





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**If you prefer, leave a message on 01223 207 342**

**Public liability insured, DBS cleared, references available**

### **Neighbourhood Watch in Whaddon**

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

**Dial 999 to report a crime in progress, or when lives are at risk.**

**For non emergency matters please consider using**

**[www.cambs.police.uk/report](http://www.cambs.police.uk/report) or**

**web chat #safercambs to report a crime.**

Both of these are likely to have a quicker response than calling 101.

The "WhaddsApp" group also works very well for immediate alerts to the village. The village remains a very safe community with very little crime.

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

## SAVE THE DATE

### Whitsun in Whaddon in 2026

will be 23–24 May

Whaddon Whitsun continues as usual in 2026. This year is our 21<sup>st</sup> birthday!

**So please put the date in your diaries now: 23–24 May 2026**

This year, Whitsun **does** coincide with the Late May Bank Holiday weekend. Fuller details will be available nearer the time at <https://www.whaddon.org/whitsun>.

The format will be similar to previous years:

Saturday evening (**23 May**) – Folk Evening in the Village Hall from 19:00 to 23:00.

There will be music, ceilidh dancing and Morris dancing, with food and drink available—all included in the price of the ticket. Don't miss the performance of the village's very own Whitsun Song!

Sunday (**24 May**) – processions from Meldreth Road and Dyer's Green with Morris dance spots on the way, starting at about 10:15.

This year, we are honoured again to have our old friends, White Rose, Manor Mill and Devil's Dyke, along. We hope we may be able to announce further "guest stars" before long.

As usual, we will have two processions from each end of the village. We will all meet up for a combined show at the Village Hall before going up to St Mary's church for the Whitsun service at 12:30. The Whitsun Song will be sung in the church, and there will be dancing either in or outside St Mary's. Everyone will then move

to the Golf Centre, where Lorna and Richard will again be running their beer festival. There will be yet more dancing there. More precise details, including timings, will be shared as we get the event organised.

We would love to see as many villagers as possible over the course of this weekend, especially those who are new to the Whaddon. If you want to know more about the history of the Whitsun celebrations here, there is an article about it on the village web site:

<https://www.whaddon.org/whitsun> – look on the “About” tab.

We look forward to seeing you.

Helen and Nigel Strudwick  
whitsun@whaddon.org



## SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

### **Home–Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire (HSRBSC)**

**Charity Number: 1105385 | Company Number: 05183873**

We are now into February 2026 and we are aware that there have been some changes to local services provided by other charities and community organisations.

We wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you and share an update from Home–Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire (HSRBSC).

We are pleased to confirm that HSRBSC remains fully operational and firmly committed to supporting families across our community.

We continue to deliver our two core family support services:

- Home Visiting Support – our trained volunteers offer practical and emotional support to families in their own homes, tailored to their individual needs.
- Family Support Groups – three welcoming groups that provide connection, encouragement and guidance for parents and their children.

Our service area spans the Hertfordshire–Cambridgeshire border, covering all SG8 and SG9 postcodes. We are actively accepting referrals and continue to work closely with local professionals and partner organisations to ensure families receive the right support at the right time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping us reach families who may benefit from our services. If you have any questions or would like to discuss referrals or partnership working, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

HSRBSC have regular training sessions for those wanting to support the charity by becoming volunteers. They also have a full and varied programme of fund–raising events, such as their up coming Talent Show on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at King James Academy. (See the next page and their website for details and ticket sales.)

**Contact HSRBSC at <http://www.hsrsc.org.uk/>  
or telephone them on 07736825570/01763 262262**

# **“Home-Start’s Got Talent”... .....Back for 2026!**

**Join us for a family fun-filled afternoon of entertainment at “Home-Start’s Got Talent”, our community’s very own version of Britain’s Got Talent.**

**Saturday 28th March 2026 | King James Academy  
(Senior Site), Royston |  
2:00pm–4:30pm (doors open 1:30pm)**

**Enjoy singers, dancers, musicians, and special acts, all hosted by the brilliant Jude Simpson. With a licensed bar, raffle and sweet treats, it's set to be a great afternoon for the whole family.**

## **Ticket Prices**

**Adults: £12 | Children (under 13): £8**

**Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children): £35 |**

**Small Family Ticket (1 adult + 2 children): £25**

**All proceeds help Home-Start to be there for families when they need us most. Your involvement brings real hope and practical help to parents and children locally.**

To book tickets please visit:

[www.hsrsc.org.uk/event/home-starts-got-talent-hsqt](http://www.hsrsc.org.uk/event/home-starts-got-talent-hsqt) .

Alternatively call 01763 262262.

## **HOME-START ROYSTON, BUNTINGFORD & SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE (HSRBSC)**

*Incorporated as Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire*

**Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Nr Royston, Herts, SG8  
6JP**

**T: 07736825570 | E: [angie.ward@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:angie.ward@hsrsc.org.uk) | W: [www.hsrsc.org.uk](http://www.hsrsc.org.uk)**

**Charity Number: 1105385 | Company Number: 05183873**



## ST MARY'S CHURCH WHADDON

### St Mary's Church

#### Services

- 15<sup>h</sup> March Mothering Sunday. 9.30am  
29<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday 9.30am  
2<sup>nd</sup> April Maundy Thursday  
Bassingbourn 7.30pm  
5<sup>th</sup> April Sunrise Service 6.25am in the field  
opposite the church  
5<sup>th</sup> April Sunday Holy Communion at 9.30am  
10<sup>th</sup> May Holy Communion 9.30am followed by  
APCCM  
24<sup>th</sup> May Whit Sunday Service 12.30pm

**Jazz night in the Church – possibly 27<sup>th</sup> June  
watch this space.**

#### Church Wardens

Karen Coningsby  
Peter Haselden

#### CONTACT DETAILS FOR REV HELEN ORR

Tel: 07761 241190 Email: [Vicar@whaddon.org](mailto:Vicar@whaddon.org)

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



## FUNDRAISING FOR ST MARYS

### MEETING THE MAKERS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

On 4<sup>th</sup> February a packed village hall met with the makers of ancient Egypt through a lively and informative talk by Helen Strudwick, and linked to a major exhibition that she has curated at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. At the start of her talk Helen introduced us to a burly stonemason, expertly captured in a caricature on an off-cut of stone, and complete with 'designer stubble'. Then, over the course of the following hour, we learnt about a succession of craftsmen and their status in ancient Egyptian society, down to the lowly potter 'covered in more mud than a pig.' The talk was in aid of funds for St Mary's Church, and raised £523.50, for which the PCC are very grateful.



Helen's exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum runs until 12<sup>th</sup> April and is highly recommended.

### CARDS FOR SALE

Some locally created greetings cards are being sold to raise funds for St Mary's. These can be personalised for special events.

Contact Viv at [newseditor@whaddon.org](mailto:newseditor@whaddon.org) for details.

# WHADDON CRICKET CLUB

## Whaddon Cricket Club 2025 season

Another semi-sparkling season from the mighty WCC, with 5 wins and 4 losses.

First up our traditional foe Sandon, against whom we often fluff our lines. This time however it was a glorious double. At home our batting blew them away with double figure starts from our top 6 batsmen (except Fieldmarshal Burgess with a 3 ball duck). Michelle Benyan clonked 30 runs off 13 balls, ably supported by Mark “please don’t wear skimpy shorts again” Green, and a lachrymose Stevie X Cross for scoring not just his first ever boundary, but three of them! “I love this game” was his insightful comment at the post-match interview. Finishing on 148 all out off 29.3 overs, the bowling effort was equally broadly spread with the Feldmarschal redeeming himself with the pick of the figures, Sandon skittled for a mere 95 runs.

Next was a new oppo, Grantchester, purely hunted out because we fancy playing on their gorgeous pitch by the Cam. Alas they wanted to play at Whaddon, and they duly whipped us, scoring 159 off their 30 overs, with only HN Birch getting more than a solitary wicket. Special mention to Bob “the Dragon” Strawbridge for being the most expensive. He similarly redeemed himself with the bat, but to no avail. We folded for 96 runs, but not without a most splendiferous and uncharacteristic (if I may say) knock by RvP, 44 runs with a plethora of boundaries. It made the score respectable, but is it enough to get a return match at their ground? We shall see. Buses will be provided for the rabid Whaddon support to make the arduous trip to Grantchester, hopefully in May.

Our third match was against the stalwart Huffer XI, where WCC batted first, reaching 160 off our allotted 30 overs, with three retirements (not because they are old): Clash Green, Milosz and Michelle Benyan. Shorty and YBC put on a very important 22 runs for the last wicket, as we only just limped over the line, winning by a mere 5 runs. Herr Burgess bowled his unplayable skidders to take three fine wickets.

Next up Sandon away, our habitual worst performance of the season. This time was to prove different however. Bowling first, the WCC bowled miserly, restricting Sandon to a 118 runs off 35 overs, with the wickets shared amongst 7 bowlers (a testament to our depth (not of thought, but endeavour)). But the batting, oh the batting was a thing of pure beauty! The credit goes to our recruitment agent (who he?), as three non-Whaddonians (YBC thought we should give the outsiders a chance to bat, as they hadn't bowled) smashed 105 runs off 20 overs, leaving RVP and Milosz to wipe up and put away. Glorious.

The next match was chastening, against Royston Dads, as we should have won, but lost on the last ball. Lumpy batting (except for HNB who hopped and skipped like a wingless daddy longlegs in a frying pan, scoring 21), we scraped to 134 all out. Our bowling however, without being disastrous, was toothless against their big guns. David Green had the immense satisfaction of removing Bob "don't mention the rugby" Strawbridge, but even his 2 wickets for 3 runs could not save us. Michelle B had a torrid day of it, going for 31 runs and no success. Now he knows how the rest of us feel.

Another new oppo was the Comberton Young Farmers, who were swiftly batted aside by the might of WCC, mainly because they seemed to believe that you scored runs by drinking pints. YBC humbly scored a retiring 30 in the chase, supported yet again by Stevie "button-pusher, but dry eyed this time" Cross, hitting yet more boundaries. The senior citizen of Milord Roger Huffer finally strapped his boots on to contribute with two fine twirly wickets as Whaddon won by 5 wickets. One novelty in this match was the appearance no less of the rare beast that is Keith Green, ably scoring for the opposition, to the surprise of the twin brothers, hitting 3 boundaries in a fine 14, outscored only by Mark Twin (not the writer).

We should gloss over the next match against Camceylon, fine spectacle though it was, only because the result is never in doubt. With a mere 270 runs conceded off the allotted overs, the only question was how big was the gap. HNB bowled successfully but expensively, everyone else just bowled expensively. Batting looked very precarious for WCC until Michelle B came, smashing a very rare half century, supported by YBC and Messrs Hawker and Look, who all

scored in the 20s/30s. Losing by 90 runs was actually rather good.

A very similar match against the King's Cross Trainboyz, they scored 223 runs, every bowler got walloped, though Der Oberleutnant Burgess did snaffle a few, but at extreme cost (51 runs off 4 overs). The batting was equally end-weighted, with the Three Benyaneers leading the counterattack, scoring 130 runs between them in about 10 balls. Alas it was not enough, and we fell short by 12 runs. A fine effort, but very English in its glorious failure.

This leaves just the Annual Grudge match of Bridge v Church. I say "match", but the result was once again in the favour of the Lord. Taff Strawbridge and Milord Huffmeister batted solidly, underpinned by a Pete "Hen's teeth" Nussey, as the Bridge reached 151 runs off their 30 overs. The bowling was supplemented by the collective Edwards' family and a very welcome injection of youth from Xzavier and Elijah they were (apart from Chris obviously who is old and slow and had never played before). Cosmonaut "England under-19 cross country almost champion" Benyan then took charge, taking an amazing 3 wickets for 5 runs off 4 overs, and YBC, playing at wicketkeeper took his first ever stumping, of the bridge-sized James Bridges. It's difficult to turn around a supertanker, it is fair to say, when it has charged like a randy rhinoceros halfway down the pitch. The Church's reply looked to be falling short under extreme pressure from the twirls of The Huffmeister and the annoyingly successful waywardness of the Supertanker and Mr Hen's Teeth. Then arrived YBC's very own youth offspring, William Haselden, who hit the largest ever 6 I have seen (paternal pride notwithstanding). With his 40 runs safely banked, the Three Benyaneers finished the job, with a cool 70 between them, as The Church completed the romp with 9 balls to spare.

Totally running out of space now, but the last match does require a mention: we beat Hare Street for only the third time in 15 years, overcoming a challenging 164 runs set for us with once more Young William H and the Cosmonaut hitting 90 runs between them in the blink of an eye. Henry "my batting's rubbish" Burgess got yet another pair of wickets to complete his best ever season with the ball.

So there we have it. My thanks go to Mark Newberry our fine pitch bitch groundsman and treasurer and agent, The Huff

and HNB for fixtures, Helen “the Unperturbable but just get out of my earshot” Strudwick for her scoring, Karen C for her manipulation of the scoreboard, and all of you wonderful people. The WCC is an exclusive but inclusive club. There is genuinely room for anyone to play of any and every persuasion and ability. Just send a message to [cricket@whaddon.org](mailto:cricket@whaddon.org) if you fancy a twirl or a slog. No skill needed (in fact probably better without, so that we can mould you in our inimitable style).  
Peter Haselden

## FIXTURES 2026

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MATCH</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
19/4/26	LONGSTOWE	AWAY
10/5/26	SANDON	HOME
17/5/26	YOUNG FARMERS	HOME
31/5/26	TBC	HOME/AWAY
14/6/26	HUFFER XI	HOME
28/6/26	SANDON	AWAY
5/7/26	ROYSTON	HOME
26/7/26	VP XI	HOME
2/8/26	TBC	HOME
16/8/26	TRAIN BOYS	HOME
30/8/26	CH ST V BR ST	HOME
13/9/26	HARE ST	AWAY
21/11/26	AWARDS DINNER	

## NATURE NOTES

### March 2026

I always think of March as the Gateway month as our natural world stirs into life with an accelerating velocity as the days pass. You can feel the excitement around you as an almost palpable sense of expectation.

Most trees need a sustained period of cold before they allow their leaves to break free (vernalisation), so as not to be fooled into leafing too early in winter. Last month, the elder leaves emerged; this month, the hawthorn leaves and the sticky buds of horse chestnut emerge. The blackthorn flowers from the beginning of March. Usually a bush or hedge rather than a tree, do not mistake them for an early cherry Plum where flowers and young leaves are evident on the branch at the same time. With blackthorn (or sloe) only the flowers appear first.

The pussies on goat willow, *salix caprea* (Latin for she-goat) are pale yellow and fluffy, and soon the weeping willow (*salix babylonica*) will be a striking yellow from the new leaf growth. In fact, green and yellow are the colours of the month, with the fresh green of hawthorn leaves; the acid green of sycamore frondescence and at our feet, dandelions abound and the daffodils all at their best. Are you excited yet?

Just to dampen that enthusiasm for a moment, for those gardeners amongst our readership: in the third week of March, the annual weeds start growing, and gosh, don't we have to keep up! None are more pernicious than the hairy bittercress, with small inconspicuous rosettes of leaves that can flower and set seed in four weeks. Frost hardy, it survives winter too. A member of the brassica family, like kale and broccoli, bittercress is edible, with a peppery flavour that works well with salads (I am told. No, I haven't). It is also known as lamb's cress or land cress or spring cress or, brilliantly, flick-weed and shot-weed for its explosive seed disposal.

The sycamore (*acer pseudoplatanus*) in Greek and Norse mythology is associated with love, fertility and childbirth but in Celtic mythology, it is the world tree that connects heaven and earth and the underworld. No one knows whether the Romans introduced it or it arrived in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century,

however this very short period of time means that it hosts only 15 species of insects that are dependent upon it (one of which is the sycamore aphid which is prolific come June) compared to the oak's 280.

The first butterflies are on the wing on warm days, the earliest usually the acid-yellow (male) brimstone, and the peacock but also the male march moth which can be seen at night because they are attracted to any light source. The male march moth is a sooty grey colour, with distinctively neatly folded overlapping wings, but the female is "apterous" or wingless, a light brown with a tuft of hairs at the end of her abdomen and can be seen crawling on tree trunks at night. The larvae feed on apple, oak and hawthorn. They overwinter as pupae in a silk cocoon underground.

Moths larvae (a.k.a. caterpillars) will tend to pupate in silk cocoons whereas butterfly pupae often hang upside down under a twig or leaf in a hard-cased pupa skin. However, the metamorphosis of both to turn from pupa to butterfly or moth, is incredible. Over weeks or months, the internal reorganisation of the larva cells involves a complete breakdown and rebuilding of tissues. The larva's structure is largely digested by enzymes, turning much of the body into a nutrient-rich "soup". Not quite all tissues are destroyed in this "liquefaction", as parts of the digestive system and the brain are retained and reorganised. Specialised cells called imaginal discs, which were present in the larva, begin to grow rapidly and differentiate. These discs contain the genetic blueprint for adult structures and develop into the moth or butterfly's wings, antennae, legs, eyes and reproductive organs. Thus, the adult butterfly or moth's form is constructed using stored energy and reorganised cellular material.

Look out, too, for large queen buff-tailed bumblebees zig-zagging just off the ground, searching for a nest, using both sight and smell. In gardens bumblebees tend to nest in relatively undisturbed areas such as shaded corners. Some will also nest under structures such as sheds. They do not like to nest in areas with prolonged exposure to the sun as this can heat the nest too much.

The first migrants arrive back: the blackcap (17<sup>th</sup> March last year), the willow warbler and the chiffchaff (10<sup>th</sup> March for

both, 2025) can be heard later in the month. The Woodland Trust website allows anyone, from a child to a pensioner, to record first sightings on their website, from migrant birds to frogspawn to the first sighting of blackthorn flowers, fostering our powers of observation and interest in the natural world around us. It is called Nature's Calendar and turns us all in to a great army of natural scientists. Obviously, the benefit is to allow us to measure the impact of climate change, or industrialisation, or changes in our water table, and so on.

One of the more spectacular showings in March is to watch kettling buzzards (*buteo buteo*), a courtship display which sees the birds soar together higher and higher and higher, only to pause and then sweep down in a long stooping arc. I think they are showing the display pilots at IWM Duxford how it should be done. Once you see them at it, it is difficult to take your eyes off them, even when driving!

You may well hear the cronk-cronk-cronk of a raven flying overhead, possibly being chased by a couple of crows. There have been a pair nesting near here for the last few years, and so it is not uncommon. Certainly, the sound, which can apparently carry for over a mile, is so deep and primeval that it is quite startling and you could be forgiven for wondering whether its sighting might be an omen! They are so distinctive in flight because of their wedge-shaped tails.

The worm moon, chaste moon or lenten moon (take your pick) is on 3<sup>rd</sup>, slowly waning to a new moon on 19<sup>th</sup> so that we have dark skies for our vernal or spring equinox the following day. The sun will shine directly on our equator giving us the chance to witness, cloud-cover notwithstanding, the zodiacal light. This is a pyramid of light above the sunset and sunrise point on the horizon which is created by sunlight reflecting off particles of cosmic dust in our solar system. It all sounds very Philip Pullman but you can see it after twilight ends or before dawn breaks and lasts for us only about a month.

The plough or ursa major is at its highest point in our sky and hangs upside down. Auriga, the charioteer, is a large pentagon shape and lies so close to taurus that the pleiades (the heart of the bull) are a good locator for it. Another way to spot it is to take a line from the right foot of Orion (from

**NATURE NOTES continued**

the perspective of him looking down on us) and draw a line through the right star of his belt and then his left hand will point to the auriga constellation and the brilliant star of capella (our sixth brightest star). Auriga is surrounded by, in order, Orion, Taurus, Pereus and Gemini.

Historically, the spring equinox is a good time to see the northern lights and I have an app on my 'phone, AuroraWatch, to give me warning of its likelihood. I am always excited at the prospect, but I always cave and go to bed too early, only to wake the following morning to postings of sightings from my neighbours! I am consistently happy for them.....

Perry Littleboy



*Top left- Pussy Willow*  
*Top right- Hairy bittercress*  
*Right - Female March moth*  
*Below - Male march moth*



# SUSTAINABLE WHADDON

Opportunities to enhance ecology and biodiversity  
Opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint

## HOMES FOR SWIFTS

Would you be interested in providing a much-needed home for a migratory swift? In the last twenty years their numbers have fallen by over 60% and the lack of nest sites is definitely a contributing factor to their demise. The plan is to create a swift corridor running from Gamlingay through Bassingbourn and Whaddon all the way to Sawston, with each village committed to hosting a number of nest boxes.

Swifts really need a nest site that is on a north or north east facing wall, so, looking towards Wimpole, be at least five metres or twelve feet off the ground with an unobstructed flight path, so no trees but wires seem to be fine. The boxes are free and we'll even put them up for you during March. Once installed we can await their arrival in April before they return to northern Africa in the early Autumn. If you're interested in hosting a box or just exploring it further, then please just contact us at [sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org](mailto:sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org)



## **Gardening in Whaddon in the last five years– Loretta Day**

We moved to Whaddon between lockdowns in December 2020. We came from a property that had a postage-stamp sized garden and were now in a position to grow vegetables and more flowers. Our garden covers a third of an acre and is divided in two, the top half is for growing plants and flowers and the bottom half is for growing vegetables. The lower part did already have raised beds but we set about creating more.

The soil in Whaddon is different to what we were used to. It is an alkaline chalk-based loam soil which can contain stones. It is also free draining and difficult to keep fertile so needs lots of humus and compost. Plants like lavender, clematis and geraniums like this type of soil. Many gardens in the east of England have clay in the soil. In contrast clay soils retain water and are prone to becoming water logged, so in a small area we can have a variety of soils. Clay soils are good for roses, pears and plums.

It is more alkaline than what we were used to, so our acid loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias did not do very well here, unless kept in containers and fed ericaceous (acid) plant feed.

We are a nature-oriented couple and want to be as self-sufficient as possible, and try to do things as naturally as possible. The first thing we did was set up as many water butts as we could on the house, shed, and greenhouse, so we could use rainwater which is softer and better for plants than tap water.

### **Climate change**

In the five years that we have been here we have noticed a climate change. The weather is becoming drier, the summers are becoming hotter and the winters are becoming wetter. One year we had a really cold spring which delayed and shortened the growing season that year.

## Compost

We create our own compost, using all the cuttings and plants from our garden with the exception of ivy, laurel, bramble and roses. These we put in our green bin. We collect leaves in the autumn and make our own leaf mould which we use as a mulch to protect our plants from frost, and we add it to our compost. We obtain horse manure for free from generous locals who leave it by the roadside and we mix it in with the compost whenever we use it. We go to the recycling centre at Waterbeach yearly and get soil improver for free and use it in our flower beds. It is not to be used on edible produce. We accept the offer of compost from good neighbours too.

## Weed Control

We do not use chemicals on weeds, we rely on ourselves to weed regularly. Ivy is our biggest challenge; we have to pick this by hand. When sowing vegetables, we leave a space in which the hoe can work to dig up the weeds

## Pest control.

We put up netting around our brassicas to prevent the cabbage white butterfly from laying eggs on our cabbage, broccoli and brussels sprouts. One year our successful cabbages were invaded and eaten by slugs. We could not believe how deep the slugs got into our cabbages. Since then we have lain slug beer traps or a mixture of sugar flour and yeast. We may give copper tape or collars a try.

## Companion planting

We mix strong smelling herbs and flowers among the vegetables e.g. rosemary, chives, mint, nasturtiums, marigolds or garlic. We use crop rotation to make sure that the same pests don't build up in one area and attack the same crop year after year. We use washing up liquid in water to combat greenfly and blackfly. A spray containing garlic and chilli can be used too. We have used nematodes to combat slugs but can't say if they were very effective, and also for asparagus beetle, and again waiting to see the results.

## Animal friendly

We encourage wildlife into our garden e.g. hedgehogs as they eat slugs. We also have bird feeders to attract birds who do the same and we have a bog garden to attract frogs and toads. We put water out for wildlife in summer and winter.

We have a patch where we have wild flowers to attract pollinators.

### Seed Bank

We save seeds of vegetables and flowers to put in the seed bank in Meldreth Road

### Greenhouse

We are lucky enough to have a greenhouse which is invaluable in sowing seeds in the spring. It means we can start growing seeds earlier than usual. This year we grew a variety of tomatoes in the greenhouse, cucumbers did well and we also grew chillies (2 varieties), aubergines and bell peppers which were very successful.

### Fruit trees

Fruit trees do well in our soil type. We have a mature apple tree in our garden which produces wonderful eating apples. It needs pruning every year. We have sown a pear tree which is still young but should bear fruit next year. We have a patch with berries; gooseberries, jostaberries, loganberries and blackcurrants, and another with raspberries. These all grow successfully in our soil.

### Satisfaction

We really enjoy the pastime challenge and satisfaction of growing our own fruit and vegetables. We are learning from experience. We enjoy the taste of our produce which is more intense and natural than the produce bought from the supermarkets, and we love not having to buy apples, tomatoes and cucumbers during the summer months.

### Herbs we have grown:

Parsley  
Dill  
Thyme  
Coriander  
Rosemary  
Mint  
Fennel  
Basil  
Sage

Potatoes (Very Successful)  
Beetroot Red and Golden  
(Very successful)  
Cabbage (Very Successful)  
Brussels Sprouts  
Broccoli  
Cauliflower  
Sweetcorn  
Celery  
Carrots

### Vegetables we have grown:

Onions (Very Successful)  
Green Beans (Very Successful)  
Runner Beans  
French Beans (Very Successful)

Chard  
Leeks  
Parsnips  
Garlic  
Rhubarb (Very Successful)

## The Big Garden Birdwatch

Many thanks to the five households who sent the results of their RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch to Sustainable Whaddon as well. A total of 19 species were seen across the village with the number of species in each garden ranging from 6 to 14. Blue tit and Woodpigeon were present in every garden, with Blackbird, Dunnock, Great tit and Robin seen in four gardens.

Looking at the highest number of a particular species seen at any one time and adding these together for all five gardens, the biggest total was 30 House sparrows. At first it seems strange that no House sparrows were seen at all in two of the gardens, but this is quite characteristic of these gregarious birds. They gather together in large groups, but then are completely absent from areas where you might expect to see them.

I have been doing the Big Garden Birdwatch ever since we moved to Whaddon 20 years ago, and I am beginning to see some patterns. For example, I saw Greenfinch in my first two years, but haven't seen them in our garden since, and I have only seen Chaffinch once in the last seven years when I used to see them quite regularly. It is encouraging that they were seen in two and three Whaddon gardens respectively this year, and reflects that they are making a comeback from the effects of Trichomonas infection which decimated the breeding populations of British finches a few years ago.



Sustainable Whaddon hopes to gather information on all species present in the parish and, over time, build up a picture of which species are doing well and which are declining.

Jenny Grech

**SUSTAINABLE**  
**WHADDON**

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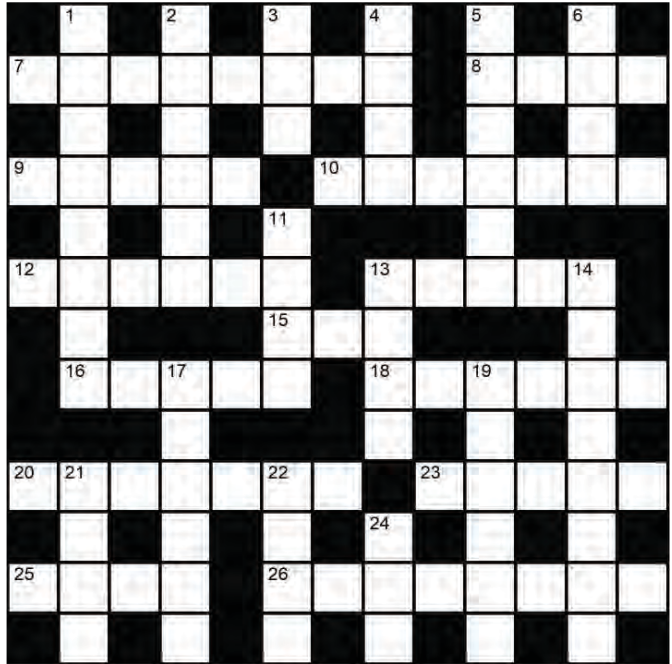
## PUZZLE PAGE

### Across

- 7 Ratchets (8)
- 8 Moan (4)
- 9 Alone (5)
- 10 Thirsts (1-6)
- 12 Skater (6)
- 13 Usage (5)
- 15 R D A (3)
- 16 Caged (5)
- 18 Tea set (6)
- 20 An ulcer (7)
- 23 Cruel (5)
- 24 Lego (4)
- 26 Resounds (8)

### Down

- 1 Pinochet (8)
- 2 All set (6)
- 3 Elm (3)
- 4 Pass (4)
- 5 Inuits (2,4)
- 6 Hats (4)
- 11 Ewer (4)
- 13 Dane (4)
- 14 Stir Asti (8)
- 17 No meld (6)
- 19 Turing (6)
- 21 Sang (4)
- 22 Dais (4)
- 24 Gum (3)



### ALL ANAGRAM PUZZLE

All the answers are anagrams of the clues. The clues may be familiar words or random strings of letters.



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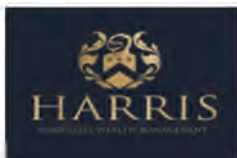
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SIP Approved 23/10/2025

Senior Partner

**St James's Place**

## RECIPES

Please send in your favourite family recipes. We're looking forward to seeing them in this space and trying them out.

For 2026 I have joined a Facebook group called The Homegrown Year. It's a group of people wanting to learn or hone a new self-sufficiency skill each month. This could be bread making, cooking from scratch, mending or preserving. It's not a "how to" manual- rather a community helping each other with a shared monthly focus. February is cooking from scratch. I used to do a lot, but have recently bought more ready meals as my life has become more unpredictable. As part of my home cooked focus I bought a mushroom growing kit and have so far harvested beautiful blue oyster mushrooms 3 times. Although you can buy these now in most supermarkets the fun of seeing them grow and the flavour of freshly picked mushrooms means that this is something I will probably repeat. Time will tell whether it is cost effective.

I have included a simple recipe for cooking the mushrooms.

Viv

### **Mushroom orzo "risotto"**

#### **Ingredients**

1 onion

1 large clove of garlic

1 cup of orzo

1 vegetable or chicken stock cube

150g fresh oyster mushrooms, torn into pieces

Other quick cook vegetables. I have added sliced courgettes, peas or broccoli chopped fairly small.

Fresh parmesan or Pecorino cheese to taste.

Salt and pepper to taste.

2 tablespoons of butter

2 Tablespoons of brandy (left over from making the Christmas cake)

2 tablespoons cream.

Of course orzo is rice shaped pieces of pasta, but as I hadn't tried it before I thought I would give it a go.

(Risotto rice could be substituted instead, in which case

add the hot stock in small amounts to allow the rice to release its starch and keep stirring as it cooks.)

- Finely chop the onion and garlic and fry gently in butter until the onion is transparent. Divide between two pans.
- In one pan add the orzo and gently continue to fry for a few minutes. Then make up the stock cube with double the amount of hot water as you have of orzo ( 2 cups). Add to orzo pan and bring to the boil. Simmer gently until the required texture (al dente or well cooked to your liking.)I have sometimes added a little extra hot water towards the end.
- Vegetables can be added to cook in the stock, or they can be cooked separately and stirred in at the end.
- In the second pan add a little more butter and add the mushrooms. You want a nutty slightly crispy texture. Don't overcook. Add the brandy to deglaze the pan. Cook for a few minutes to dissipate the alcohol then add the cream and warm through. Keep in a warm place.
- When the orzo is cooked, dish the rice up, then top with mushrooms and grated cheese. The rice may already be salty enough from the stock cube depending on the type used. Taste and adjust seasoning with a grind of black pepper and salt.

### **Raspberry Possit**

A lovely dessert and a great way to use frozen raspberries.

140g frozen raspberries- defrosted  
2 tbsp champagne ( optional)  
200ml double cream  
4 tbsp golden caster sugar

Blend the raspberries and the champagne together, then sieve to discard the seeds.

Put the cream and sugar in a saucepan and warm until the sugar melts. Increase the heat until just boiling then boil vigorously for 2.5 minutes stirring constantly. Turn off the heat and add the raspberry puree.

Cool then divide between 2 glasses.  
Chill for a few hours- ideally overnight.  
Serve with thin shortbread biscuits

## 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 and 3rd)
Thursday	18.25–20.25	Pilates
Friday	19.15–11.30	Yoga
	17.45–19.15	Dog Training
	20.00–22.00	Royston and District Model Railway Club



LOUISE TRENWITH

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## **Knit and Natter**



### **Mondays 5-7 at the Village Hall**

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going on as well!

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make it every week.

We welcome all ages, under 18s are £2.00 a month.

If you want more info email Diane Faben [edfaben@gmail.com](mailto:edfaben@gmail.com)

## **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](mailto:ncs3@cam.ac.uk)

Hope to see some new faces soon

## LOCAL BUSINESSES

### The Cat's Whiskers

Hello everyone — my name is **Jo Brown** and I run a local cat-sitting service called **The Cat's Whiskers**, which was established in **2022**.

I live in **Bassingbourn** and over the years I've been lucky enough to get to know lots of the local cats (and their people too!). What started as helping out friends and neighbours gradually turned into a small business doing something I genuinely love — caring for cats while their humans are away.

I'm a **qualified and registered veterinary nurse**, and I work with a **small, trusted team**, which means we're able to look after cats with all sorts of needs — from confident kittens to elderly cats, shy cats, and those who need medication or a little extra monitoring. We always aim to give each cat calm, gentle, reliable care in their own familiar home.

### A quick cat-care tip: helping cats cope when routines change

Cats are creatures of habit, so even small changes — like their people going away — can feel quite big to them. Stress in cats can manifest in all kinds of unwanted behaviours, and can also make them quite unwell, the good news is that often a few very simple things can really help:

- Try to keep feeding times as consistent as possible.
- Leave familiar smells around the house (your worn jumper on a chair can be surprisingly comforting).
- Keep litter trays, food bowls, and furniture in their usual places.
- If your cat is shy, don't worry if they don't want lots of fuss — quiet, gentle company is often enough.
- If your cat is used to going out? still allow them out. Cat Flaps can be set with a curfew but the trick to a happy kitty is to keep things as normal as possible.

A calm, predictable environment goes a long way towards keeping cats relaxed and happy. It's also so important to

have someone looking after the cat who understands cats, ideally someone they know.

No matter how well intentioned some people don't realise how simple things can cause additional stress inadvertently, being noisy, insisting on cuddling a cat who is scared or doesn't want contact, feeding inappropriate food or treats or even something as simple as trying to pick them up when they really don't want to be picked up, all on top of a cat whose owners are away, can set off a real stress snowball, I know a cat once who urinated on the carpet for 2 days because his owner put the shopping bags down in a place in the house he didn't like! They are creatures of habit!

**Over to you...**

I'd love this to become a regular column – shaped by you the villagers, so if you have any questions about cats – behaviour, health, feeding, introducing new pets, or anything else – please feel free to send them to the newsletter editor and I'll do my best to answer them in future editions.

Thanks for reading, and please give your cats an extra scratch from me!

Jo Brown–The Cat's Whiskers, Local Cat Sitting Service  
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## WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

**We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Anita Birch for her time and commitment to the Parish Council.**

### **Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

The works have now been completed on the Veranda and Garage. This has smartened up the area to the side and rear of the hall.

The works were completed during a very wet January by Geoff Hyland and team to a very high standard.

We would appreciate not allowing your children to use the garage as a goal.

### **Parish upkeep and maintenance**

#### **Pathways and verges**

Looking at the verges around Whaddon we would appreciate you reminding your guests, workmen and deliveries not to park on the verges and pathways. Not only does it restrict the views of pedestrians of what is on the road, it also makes it more difficult for road users to see those on the pavements. Pathway parking has been reported in Town Farm Close, Meldreth Road and Bridge Street.

The verge at the top of Bridge Street in particular looks worn down and muddy. We are hopeful that this will recover during the drier months; however the possibility of adding bollards is being discussed.

#### **Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS)**

The recently purchased sign has arrived and will be installed soon.

## Whaddon Village Plan: Actions Update

Following our 2023 village questionnaire, the Parish Council has been working hard to address the priorities you identified. Below is a summary of the actions taken and the current status of various projects. Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire and those who collated the data into the report too.

### 1. Housing & Sustainable Development

- **Affordable Housing:** The village questionnaire and more recent poll showed strong support for local affordable housing. Consequently, the Parish Council has begun talking to Cambridgeshire ACRE as to the next steps that should be taken. Please note that this is a long-term project, and we are currently in the essential early planning stages.
- **Environmental Standards:** While the questionnaire supported a 15% carbon reduction target for new builds, the National Building Regulations have since been updated. These new national requirements are more stringent and will supersede our local target, ensuring all new homes meet high sustainability standards.

### 2. Traffic, Travel & Safety

- **Speed Reductions:** Speeding remains a concern. To monitor this, we have purchased an additional **Speed Indicator Device (MVAS)**. Data from these signs, along with reports from the Speed Watch team, are used to help us advocate for further safety measures.
- **Mettle Hill:** To manage traffic types on the track from Dyers Green to the Wireless Station, we have installed width-restricting bollards. We are monitoring the site to ensure this remains an effective solution while ensuring emergency vehicles do not try to use this route.
- **Meldreth Cycle Path:** There is significant support for an off-road cycle path to Meldreth station. The Council fully supports this in principle; however, we are waiting for the section from the parish boundary (near the Eternit factory)

to the station to be completed first. It is not currently a prudent use of funds to build a "path to nowhere," but we will revisit this when the Meldreth connection becomes available.

### 3. Environment & Sustainability

- **Sustainable Whaddon:** We are delighted that the formation of Sustainable Whaddon has been a success. This active group meets regularly to promote biodiversity and energy efficiency. To date, they have created a biodiversity plan, built a "bug hotel," and are supporting the regional "swift corridor" project. You can find their updates in the Whaddon News.
- **Allotments:** We have explored reinstating a previous allotment site, but unfortunately, it is no longer viable. As the Council does not currently own any suitable land, we are at an impasse. However, if any resident knows of land that could be made available for community gardening, please do get in touch.

### 4. Community Integration & Amenities

- **Cardiff Place:** We are committed to ensuring Cardiff Place feels fully integrated into Whaddon. We have asked the editor of Whaddon News to ensure Cardiff Place is featured in upcoming articles. We warmly invite all residents there to attend Parish Council meetings and participate in all village social events.
- **Village Shop & Pub:** Many residents expressed a desire for a local shop and pub. While the Parish Council does not have the legal remit to own or operate a business we are lucky to have **Whaddon Golf Centre** serve the community by offering a pub-like atmosphere with drinks and snacks during their opening hours, including their popular Friday evenings pub nights as well as visits from pizza and burger vans.
- **Village Hall:** The Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust remains the first point of contact for anyone wishing to use our communal spaces for workshops, entertainment, or classes. The Council stands ready to assist the Trust in facilitating new community-led activities.

## Get Involved with Whaddon

Your feedback was the foundation of the Village Plan, and we remain keen to hear your views.

The Parish Council meets on the **second Monday of each month**; agendas are published in advance on the village noticeboards and website.

Should you have suggestions for new initiatives, or wish to volunteer with **Sustainable Whaddon**, the **Village Hall Trust**, or the **Parish Council**, please do get in touch.

For further updates, please refer to Whaddon News, the parish website or the village email and the Whaddsapp group on Whatsapp.

**Contact the Parish Clerk:**

**Email:** [whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:whaddonparishclerk@outlook.com)

**Website:** [www.whaddon.org](http://www.whaddon.org)

Next meeting Monday 9th March 19:30 – All welcome

### BIODIVERSITY PLAN

As stated in the Parish Council Matters, Sustainable Whaddon has created a Biodiversity Plan, which has been adopted by the Parish Council, and will be viewable on the village website shortly.

The aim of this plan is to identify steps that Whaddon Parish Council can take to satisfy both its legal duty, and the wishes of the majority of its parishioners, to enhance biodiversity and to improve the environment of the village.

The plan– which is a work in progress – covers many aspects of biodiversity– from how the Council manage the maintenance around the village to how we as homeowners can make wildlife friendly habitats in our own gardens– improving biodiversity by means of, for example, water butts, hedgehog corridors, home composting, bird feeders, nest boxes and wherever possible avoiding pesticides. Along with The Swift Corridor and Bug Hotels there will be advice and encouragements as to how we can all make a difference. Plans are underway to identify a list of species currently present in Whaddon and look at ways to protect them. Watch this space for updates.



## Village Garden & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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Contact:

Neil Porter - 07540605860

Email:

[villagegardenandproperty@gmail.com](mailto:villagegardenandproperty@gmail.com)

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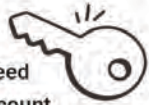
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## WHADDON VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Jonathan Birch	Chair
Karen Coningsby	Secretary
Peter Haselden	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 to  
[whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org](mailto:whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org)  
(including Village hall bookings).

## LIBRARY SERVICES

Mobile Library-

Meldreth Road 10.00 -10.30

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Bassingbourn Community  
Library-The Old School  
Community Centre

Monday 2-4.30pm

Thursday 2-4.30pm

6pm-8pm

Saturday 10-12 noon

Refreshments available

## Whaddon's local Bus 17 now gives a direct link with Cambridge via Royston

Our local Bus 17 has some journeys that run **to and from the centre of Cambridge via Royston**, giving nearly two hours in the city on Mondays to Fridays and over four hours on Saturdays. The key times for Whaddon are:

### **To Royston and Cambridge**

	<b><i>Mondays to Fridays</i></b>		<b><i>Saturdays</i></b>
Whaddon, top of Bridge Street	08:31	10:15	10:15
Royston, Tesco	08:39	10:35	10:35
Royston, Bus Station	08:57	10:50	10:50
Cambridge, Drummer Street	10:02	11:55	11:55

### **From Cambridge via Royston**

	<b><i>Mondays to Fridays</i></b>		<b><i>Saturdays</i></b>	
Cambridge, Drummer Street	11:55	15:00*	11:55	16:02
Royston, Bus Station	13:10	17:10	13:10	17:10
Royston, Tesco	13:21	17:21	13:21	17:21
Whaddon, Bridge Street	13:33	17:28	13:33	17:28

\*Take Bus 26 from Cambridge and then change at Royston to Bus 17

### ***Extra journeys also run on Bus 17 to and from Cardiff Place -***

- to Cambridge via Royston at 12.15 and to Royston at 14.40 and 16.40
- from Royston at 09.10 and 11.10 and at 14.15 from Cambridge (15.30 from Royston).

Bus 17 is run by local company, A2B Travel Group of Melbourn.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Citizens Advice:

Cambridge 03448 487979

Royston 03444 111444

Age UK: 0300 666 9860 Mon - Fri 9am - 3pm

[infoandadvice@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:infoandadvice@ageukcap.org.uk)

[www.ageukcap.org.uk](http://www.ageukcap.org.uk)

### Councillors:

County Adam Bostanci 07400 236329

District Jose Hales 01763 221058

Sally Ann Hart 07791 233303

MP Pippa Heylings [pippa.heydings.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:pippa.heydings.mp@parliament.uk)

### Doctors:

Orchard Surgery, Melbourn 01763 260220

Granta-Royston Heath Centre 0300 2345555 opt 7

Granta- Royston Market Hill 03002345555 opt 5

Roysia Surgery 01763 243166

Hospital: Addenbrookes 01223 245151

Police: Non emergency 101

Cambridge Fire and Rescue  
(Home safety assessments) 01480 444500

Samaritans: 01223 364455 (charges)  
116 123 (free)

### Transport:

National Rail Enquiries 03457 484950

A2B TravelGroup (Bus 15, 17 & 26) 0800 001 6255  
[hello@a2btravelgroup.com](mailto:hello@a2btravelgroup.com)

Stagecoach run P&R from Trumpington

### Utilities:

Anglian Water 03457 145145

Cambridge Water Co 01223 706050

Electricity Emergency/supply loss 08007 838838

### Vets:

Melbourn Veterinary Surgery 01763 262696

Royston Veterinary Surgery 01763 242221