

# WHADDON NEWS

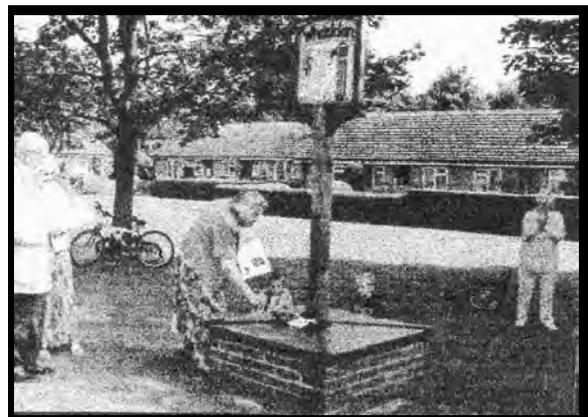
## The Fountain in Bridge Street



On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, in the morning, a ceremony took place to commemorate the completion of the project of refurbishment, and to dedicate the Fountain Project to former Parish Council Chairman, the Late Fred Bradley. Mary Course, a former S C District Councillor for Whaddon, unveiled the Plaque in the presence of June, Fred's Widow and daughter Lynn.

## The Village Sign and Seat

Following the Fountain Ceremony, the re-vamped Village Sign was ceremoniously unveiled, and the Seat part of the Sign dedicated to Jim Law, former Parish Council Chairman for over 30 years. Mary Course, in the presence of Jim's daughter Pauline, unveiled the new Plaque. There were some 30 Parishioners and others present.



The Parish Council would like to thank a number of Parishioners who contributed help on both of the above projects. These include Jim and Diana Docwra, Derek Matthews, John Alberty, Clive Hough, Michael Peyton, and Jean and Stan Ralls who produced the Commemorative Booklet. The current Parish Council Chairman, Ted Webb, conducted both Ceremonies.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

**HARVEST  
THANKSGIVING  
SERVICE**



**Sunday 25th September  
10 am  
in the Parish Church.**

Please note this is a morning service at  
St Mary's

**COFFEE  
MORNING**



at St Mary's Church  
Saturday 1st October  
10 am

Gifts of produce, prizes and cakes  
appreciated

**FUTURE DATES**

**A Service of Advent Carols with  
Christingles**

Sunday 27 November at 3pm



**Christmas Carol Service**

Sunday 18 December  
at 6PM

followed by

Mulled wine and mince pies

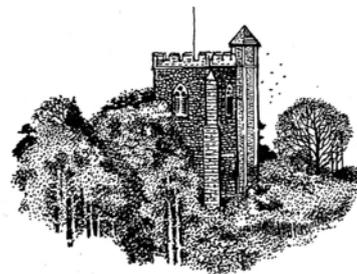
**CHURCH FETE**



The amount raised at  
the Church Fete this year  
was £1923—an increase on  
last year.

Thank you to all those who  
helped and to those who  
came along and supported  
the event.

Special thanks to Bill Knight  
for his organisation.



**Three families have suffered bereavements during the year and many in the village have been saddened by the loss of good friends.**

**LORD WHADDON  
1927 - 2005**

It is with great regret that we learnt of the death of Lord Whaddon on 16 August 2005.

John Derek Page came to Whaddon over forty years ago. This was soon after he became Labour MP for Kings Lynn when he dramatically overturned a Conservative majority in a nail-biting election. He took the name of the village, becoming Baron Whaddon of Cambridgeshire, when he was created a life peer in 1978 and spokesman on the chemical industry in the House of Lords for Jim Callaghan.

The pharmaceutical and chemical industry was Lord Whaddon's business world. He was director and chairman of several international companies, which gave him the opportunity to travel widely, especially to many countries behind the Iron Curtain.

He balanced his business interests and travel with his political duties. It is known that he loved the House of Lords for the friends he made and got on well with members of all political parties. In business he forged life-long links with Eastern Europe and was deeply honoured to receive from Poland the Golden Insignia of the Order of Merit in 1989.

We shall all remember Derek for his sense of humour. He always offered a robust greeting and had a joke to share at every meeting. Yet, when asked, he always had the time to come up with good ideas and sound advice.

His funeral on 23 August dwelt on all his qualities and mentioned his pursuits and interests, including aviation. This passion was marked by a poem read by the freestyle aerobic champion of Britain and after the service a small Russian aircraft flew low over the churchyard, dipping its wings in honour of Derek – a tribute he would have very much appreciated.

Our sympathy goes to Angela, and to Eve-Ann and Keir, Derek's daughter and son.

**ANN DAVIS  
1944 – 2005**

Ann was born to Peggy and Arthur in a cottage in Whaddon and was baptized at the village church. She attended the village school and put her music lessons to good use playing the organ for the Sunday school.

On leaving school she trained as a wedding cake decorator eventually establishing her own business. Ann and Frank married at St Mary's in August 1963 and moved to Duxford where their two children were born. Several moves later they moved back to Whaddon in July 2000.

After a long and distressing battle with leukaemia and many weeks in C10 at Addenbrooke's Ann passed away peacefully at home on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

*Her family would like to thank the district nurses and the Rev McFadyen for their care and support at such a difficult time.*

**JOHN FISHER  
1943 - 2005**

Tragically, John Fisher was killed in a road accident in Spain in early June. Sandy who was with him, was unhurt. John was a well known figure in Bridge Street often to be seen tinkering with one of his collection of elderly classic cars, but perhaps not many people in the village knew much of John's life.

John's early life was spent in Berkshire; he was born in Reading and did his engineering apprenticeship at AEI, Aldermaston, before moving to Racal Electronics, who sponsored him to go to Imperial College, London. He and Sandy married in Hampshire in 1971. In 1973 John took a position with PA Consulting, who were then based in Milton, before the present Melbourn building was constructed.

Before their elder child Katie was born they lived in Royston. Sandy was working in London and John almost immediately found himself developing the world's first micrometer. This led him to becoming the youngest person to win the Duke of Edinburgh's Designer Prize in 1978, and to PA Technology winning the Queen's Award for Technology, which helped them to become well known, with this new product being featured on BBC TV programmes "The Engineers" and "Tomorrows World".

The family came to live in Bridge Street in 1980; Chris was born in 1981. By the mid-eighties, when John was developing a portable tonometer - a device now familiar to most of us who have regular eye tests – the children and all visitors became used to having a puff of air blown into their eyes as he tested his work on all willing participants!

Away from work John was active and interested in village affairs and was always ready to lend a neighbourly helping hand. He was a man of many parts: mechanic, engineer, electrician, plumber and perhaps surprisingly a self-taught classical guitarist. Neighbours in Bridge Street were often treated to an impromptu concert when he practised in his garden on a summer evening.

His funeral took place in our Parish Church on 24<sup>th</sup> June. So many came to the service that the church was completely full. The theme chosen was Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "Ulysees". Read it – you'll begin to understand the kind of man he was.

Donations in his memory amounted to almost £2,000 and will be given to two appropriate causes. To reflect John's passionate interest in the Universe, The Space Education Council will receive money to provide telescopes to schools, to be selected by devising a student competition. A further donation will be made to allow gifted and talented science students to study at summer schools at Imperial College.

*Sandy, Katie and Chris would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their support, kindnesses and of course attendance at the service on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Thanks also to Donald McFadyen for his care and concern for them and for the beautiful service he carried out.*

REVIEW OF WHADDON ANIMAL  
CRACKERS - FAMILY FUN DAY



1. **BACKGROUND.**

Early in 2003 there was a focus on how best to raise resources to fund the development of the Village Hall. An offer to promote a new initiative was accepted, giving the Planning Committee authority to design, promote and deliver an event of its choosing. We invited residents of the village to a reception and shared with them our proposal to mount Animal Crackers – A Family Fun Day’.

Our thinking was that children would be particularly keen to have hands on with animals. The event would feature animals in the arena and about the stalls and we would seek the support of animal welfare organisations. The Village would mount a range of fun stalls keeping to the animal theme. These would be boosted with the neighbouring Thomas Birch fun fair, caterers and ice cream vendors.

2. **PLANNING COMMITTEE.**

In each of the three years the committee of six – Terry Allison, Di Charles, Anne Newberry, Joan Pascoe, Virginia Partridge and myself met regularly on six or more occasions each year. We were the ‘The Blue Sky thinkers’, who led the way with the delivery of the event, including setting up, breaking down, coordinating the village stalls, the arena activities, etc.

3. **PUBLICITY.**

Each year we distributed 6 – 8,000 promotional leaflets, in latter years bearing the names of the sponsors. We were fortunate in gaining the support of local schools in South Cambridgeshire and North Hertfordshire. Regular press releases were posted or e-mailed to seven provincial newspapers, 5 provincial radio stations and the two major regional television channels. The Royston Crow was particularly eminent in featuring the event and in 2005 gave us a full-page promotional spread, aided by our sponsoring companies. Programmes were distributed on the day, again appreciating the support of sponsors.

4. **VILLAGE STALLS AND STEWARDING.**

Each year it became easier to recruit folks from the village to steward the stalls. In 2005 there was a very energetic and enthusiastic team who set up and broke down. We take the view we have probably stretched the village human resources to its limit. The stalls were varied, some game skills, some ‘gambling’ on tombola and raffles, others for the children. We profited by about £800 to £900 each year.

5. **ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS.**

We approached 25 – 30 organisations each year, some were regular supporters – Wood Green Animal Shelter, The Blue Cross, Shepreth Wildlife Park, West Anglia College, Needicats, Boxer Welfare, Heathlands Animal Sanctuary, The Raptor Foundation, Eastern Carriage Driving Society, Sandon Saddlery donkeys & Dogs for the Disabled. Each one appreciated participating, some raised funds, all valued demonstrating their presence and raising awareness.

6. **OTHER ENTERTAINMENT.**

Just Puppets proved to be popular and in 2005 Meridian School Wind Ensemble entertained for about an hour.

7. **ARENA PROGRAMME.**

In theory this would have been the highlight of the event, but despite writing as many as four times to various organisation, we failed to get a full and entertaining show. However, we did appreciate the presence of the Eastern Carriage Driving Society and 4 Paws dog agility. In 2005 we invited Jake & Rebecca Willers of Shepreth Wildlife Park to be celebrities and they did us proud, enjoyed by many.

8. **CATERING.**

We used the services of local caterers Shamrock Caterers of Royston, Russell's Hog Roast in 2003 and Gerry Rowe's Ice Cream. We shared their disappointment that there were few clients. Each gave us a percentage of their profits, totals £200 - £140. Year one we mounted the bar in a marquee, Ken Green kindly ran it in 2004, but the folks weren't thirsty so we had no provision this last year.

9. **CAR PARKING.**

From the outset we aimed to keep vehicles off the site. Ken Green kindly made available the field adjacent to the east side of the Parish Church and marked it in years 2004 & 5 to make it easier for the car parkers to position the cars. Car parking is an onerous job, but it was done well by our team.

10. **DOG SHOWS.**

With the enthusiastic help of Christine and Clare Walker we mounted both Companion & Novelty Dog Shows, which proved popular amongst dog owners. We were also fortunate to call on experienced judges. It raised £100+ each year.

11. **FINANCE.**

Viv De Preez looked after the finances for the first two years and Anne Warrack managed them this year. We raised in 2003 £1,209.46, 2004 £1,721.22 and in 2005 £1,459. Grand Total £3,939.88

12. **CONCLUSIONS.**

The Planning Committee at the end of its three year tenure felt that the sum raised is relatively low bearing in mind the work that goes into the many facets of the event. It is disappointed not to have won more support from the animal world.

Therefore, we propose to lay the project to rest, but recognise the tremendous efforts of the Committee, the support of the residents of Whaddon and the many organisations and companies that helped make it possible.

Ken Charles - Event Manager

**PARISH COUNCIL NOTICES**



**PARISH COUNCIL ADVERTISEMENT  
VACANCY**

Currently, the Parish Council is looking to employ (as self-employed), a replacement for the village handyman's post for Whaddon. The past handyman needs to relinquish the post from the end of September 2005. Anyone interested should firstly contact the Clerk, Mrs Yvonne Albery on 01223 207458 or Ted Webb on 01223 207564 for details.

**Village Recreation Ground**



It has been reported that some 'Dog Walkers' are not removing dog faeces from the grounds during their walks. There is a 'Dog Bin' for the purpose situated near the entrance to the ground. Please continue to use the grounds for your walks, but do remove the faeces before you leave.

**Recreation Ground  
Children's Play Equipment**



Safety improvements have been carried out to the Children's Slide. Steps to the top of the mound have been reinforced with wooden decking. A safety rail has been erected alongside the steps. Money for these measures was provided by money received from South Cambs District Council Green Box collections.

**The Watercourse in Bridge Street**

A number of the 'Riparian Owners' have responded well to the Parish Council's letter, a plea to remove silt from stretches of the course now that the water had ceased to flow. To be really effective, when water again becomes available, every 'Riparian Owner' needs to remove the offending silt and obstructions. When water flows in the course it is so pleasing to the eye and a valuable home for all kinds of wildlife.

**Tree Conservation in Whaddon**



Not many of you will be aware that we have in Whaddon seven historic elm trees. The trees are situated in a meadow next to the Parish Church, on the eastern side. The trees formed an Avenue Drive to a large Manor House, which stood on what is now the Golf Driving Range. Recently a group of Arboriculturists (experts who study the cultivation of trees) visited the trees at the request of the Parish Council and the landowner Mr Ken Green to give advice on how to further protect the trees and to prolong their lives. Ecologist Rob Mongoven of S C District Council has been given a copy of their findings and has indicated his department may well fund up to 50% of any costs. At this moment in time we wait in hope.

**VILLAGE ADVERTISEMENTS**

It has been agreed by the Parish Council that Village Advertisements will, in the future, be a feature of the Whaddon Newsletter. Further details and charges will be available in the next newsletter so that advertisements can start in the New Year.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr E J Webb	Chairman	01223 207564	42 Bridge Street
Mrs C Byatt	V-Chairman	01223 207429	Turpins Farmhouse, Church Street
Ms M Peyton	Councillor	01223 207358	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green
Mr P Neale	Councillor	01223 207706	104 Bridge Street, Dyers Green
Dr N Strudwick	Councillor	01223 207434	3 Town Farm Close, Church Street
Prof A Milton	Councillor	01223 207105	Chestnut Tree Farm, Meldreth Road
Mr L Ginger	Councillor	01223 207688	99 Meldreth Road
Mrs Y Allbery	Clerk/ Finance Officer	01223 207458	112 Meldreth Road

## Whaddon Parish Council News—some recent items

The Parish Council welcomed Mr. Lee Ginger as new Councillor to replace Mr. Chris Fisher. We would like to thank Mr. Fisher for all his work on the council in the past and we wish him all success in the future,

At the Annual meeting in May, Ted Webb was re-appointed as Chairman and Clare Byatt as Vice chairman of the Parish Council.

\*

An open meeting was held with the Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) to discuss the proposed **low cost housing development**, at which 40 parishioners attended a presentation on the proposed development for Church corner. Various comments were received and others are encouraged to write their views for our records. The BPHA will report back to the Council on any issues and if possible the designers would consider incorporating these comments. The next step will be to consult the planner. Funding would be applied for later in 2005 with the project hopefully starting between April 2006 and 2008. There will have to be discussions of land purchase, services etc, and the Parish Council will be kept informed continually.

\*

Mr. Ken Charles presented a review of the **Animal Crackers** event held in June and it is obvious that many people have worked very hard over the past few years to make this event a successful fund raising event. Unfortunately, this year, the event was poorly attended, possibly due to adverse weather and clashes with other events. The committee has decided that the project will be discontinued, and the PC offered a vote of thanks to Ken and all his helpers for their efforts over the past years.

\*

In June the PC was asked to support South Cambridgeshire DC in its opposition to the Government's capping of SCDC budget for the **Council Tax**. The PC was equally split on this matter and a casting vote by the chairman decided that we would not be supporting SCDC in their claim. The main reason was the duty to those villagers on fixed or low income who already find the

Council Tax extremely onerous as well as concerns with the manner in which SCDC had managed some of their finances in recent times.

\*

The planting for the **Village Fountain** in Bridge Street was completed and over the Summer everyone has been able to watch the plants establish themselves. The area has now been complemented by a plaque commemorating the history of the fountain as well as a dedication to Fred Bradbury, past chairman of the PC.

\*

The status of the two **red telephone boxes** in the village is about to change. Letters from BT have been received with a proposal to change both boxes to card use only. The PC has written to BT with a request that the boxes remain with cash payment options, to maintain the flexibility of use for everyone on the village.

\*

Cambridge Water Company does not seem to be able to repair the apparent **leakage of water** at Bridge Street corner. They have agreed to have one final attempt by replacing the sluice valve. To date water is still collecting on the road and it may be that this frustrating problem will not be solved.

\*

The PC continues to pursue options to improve the safety of the **Whaddon Gap junction**. It has been learned that the cost to install a mini-roundabout would be £60,000 and £50,000 for double white lines on both approaches to the junction. As no fatalities have occurred or serious injuries reported, money is being spent in other areas where there have been more accidents. County Councillor Oliver has been investigating the problem, and because speed restriction now come under Government legislation, it is unlikely to reinstate the original speed limit in this area on the A1198. Currently she is looking into the possibility for 'yellow backed signs' on the approach to the junction.

\*

The next open Parish Council meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

September 2005

## WHADDON VILLAGE PLAN STEERING GROUP

Chairman Mr N M Shaw  
Whaddon Grange Bridge Street  
Whaddon, Royston SG8 5SP  
Phone 01223-207400, Fax 01223-208117  
E-mail: Nickmshaw@aol.com

### FROM NICK SHAW ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Residents of Whaddon who have given their time to help with the preparation of the plan by filling in the questionnaires delivered to them. We are delighted with the response although acknowledging that for a variety of reasons a few Residents have not felt able to help.

We have received responses from 84% of the homes in the main part of the village, with a rather less successful response of 73% when the outlying areas are included, as of course they should be. This response will enable us to very clearly gauge the wishes of the residents and to produce a worthwhile plan for the future of the village.

Throughout August we have been going through the laborious process of entering all the responses into the computer programme, which has analysed the results. The Steering Group has had its first meeting to review the responses and find some interesting results. Although generally there seems to be a high level of satisfaction with life in our rural community there are many things that can be improved.

We will shortly be making arrangements to discuss the issues raised with the various interested parties, such as Local Government, The Parish Council and Community and Environmental Groups.

However before we do this we want to present the results of the analysis to the Residents of Whaddon at a public meeting. This has been set for October 14<sup>th</sup> and you will receive, or will already have received, a yellow invitation put through your door by the same person that delivered your questionnaire. In order that we may gauge the number of people that we will be catering for on that night we would be grateful if you would advise your local representative of the group as soon as possible if you will be attending.

At this meeting we will be doing the prize draw and will allow time for discussion of the analysis after the presentation so as to help us draw conclusions from the survey

We look forward to seeing as many residents as possible at that meeting.

September 2005



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE**

Meldreth Manor, a residential school for young people who have cerebral palsy and associated learning difficulties, is appealing for more volunteers to support the professional staff team

We already have a team of around 90 volunteers from the local community who make an enormous contribution to school life and certainly enhance the lives of our students. We owe a great deal to our volunteers and would like to thank them for their tremendous support.

Volunteers give more one to one help to individual students, enabling them to participate in a wide range of activities including classroom work, swimming and trips out of school.

There is a particular need for helpers with trips out of school and college, as the students must have one to one support if they go out. Volunteers with clean licences are always needed to drive school vehicles for the many trips out, which are vital for helping our students to integrate in the local community.

Volunteers offer their time for a variety of reasons. Some want to give something back to society, others simply enjoy doing something completely different from their everyday jobs or want to learn new skills. We currently have several members of staff who started as volunteers.

If you would like to know more, please contact Rosemary Johnson at Meldreth Manor on 01763 268013

### **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

Your local R.D.A. group, which operates at Meldreth Manor on Friday afternoons between 1.30 and 2.30, is urgently seeking more volunteer helpers. You do not necessarily have to be 'horsey'! We have a lot of fun and if you are reasonably fit and could spare just one hour a week you could help make a great difference to the lives of our young riders.

Please call Louis Shaw on 01223 207400

### **TREE AID**

TV presenter John Craven has launched an appeal for local families to help plant trees in Africa and the UK, by recycling their aluminium cans and foil.

For every tonne of aluminium packaging recycled in South Cambridgeshire, a tree will be grown in Africa and the UK until September 2006.

For further information  
Contact Alupro on 0845 722772 or visit  
[www.alupro.org.uk](http://www.alupro.org.uk)

### **STAGE AND SCREEN EQUIPMENT**

It's lights, camera, action across South Cambridgeshire as a new equipment bank and touring cinema kit allows communities and local groups to screen films and take to the stage at an affordable cost.

Event equipment and the touring cinema kit are available to venues, schools, colleges, theatre and drama groups, music societies, and community groups at reasonably priced rates.

The equipment bank and touring cinema kit are managed by the Sawston and Linton Broadening Education Partnership at Sawston Village College and funded by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

For more information please contact Dan Schumann on 01223 712825 or 07974 303464.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



25th September	Whaddon Harvest Thanksgiving
26th September	Parish Council
1st October	Coffee Morning
14th October	Parish Plan Meeting
17th October	Parish Council
21st November	Parish Council
27th November	Advent/Christingle
18th December	Carol Service

## An 'ESSE'ntial Night Out

### Ladies!

You are invited to attend a Fashion Party to be held at 'Esse' Sheene Mill Retail & Therapy in Melbourn on Friday 7 October at 8 pm. The evening is being held to raise funds for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. You will be able to relax and enjoy a glass of wine whilst taking time to look around the shop and the beauty spa. Some of the outfits on sale will be modelled during the evening. There is no obligation to buy, however, Sally Woodman has kindly agreed to donate a percentage of sales of clothing, accessories and beauty products to the CLDF. Tickets cost £5 and entrance will include a glass of wine, nibbles and a very civilised ladies night out! Tickets will sell quickly so book now!

Tickets from Helen Slater on 01763 242963 or Anne Newberry on C 207555.

The Children's Liver Disease Foundation is a registered charity (no. 1067331) raising funds to support children with serious liver disease and their families.

### VILLAGE BBQ

The amount raised by the Village BBQ, held in July, was nearly £600. Thank you to all those who organised, helped and supported this successful event.

### **CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND PANNIER MARKET**

10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Orwell Village Hall

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November

and

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December

£5 a table.

Contact Pauline Aslin

01223 208035

e mail: [Pauline.aslin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Pauline.aslin@tiscali.co.uk)

Pannier Market Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October on Orwell Pavilion



### DEADLINE



Deadline for the next newsletter will be 12th November 2005. This will include details of Christmas events in the village.

Other items of village interest are always very welcome.

Contact Joan Pascoe C. 208062

### **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

#### **Police:**

Cambridge.....01223 358966

Huntingdon.....01480 456111

**C.A.B.** .....01763 238020

#### **Hospital:**

Addenbrooke's .....01223 245151

Royston..... 01763 242134

#### **Services:**

Cambridge Water.....01223 706090

Anglian Water .....08457 145145

Electricity Emergency..... 0800 7838838

#### **Transport:**

National Rail .....0845 484950

Stagecoach .....01223 423578

#### **Council:**

Housing repairs .....0800 0851313

Pest control .....01223 443145

Refuse collection .....01223 235468

#### **Councillors:**

County :

Linda Oliver.....01223 718199

District :

Nigel Cathcart.....01763 243637

David McCraith ..... 01763 248249

Parish:

Ted Webb.....01223 207564

#### **Doctor:**

Orchard Surgery Melbourn. 01763 260220

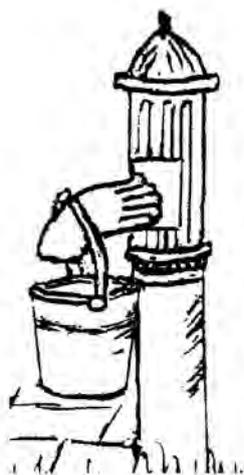
Royston Health Centre .....01763 242981

#### **Village Hall Booking:**

Wendy Paton .....01223 207703

# TIMES PAST

Number Sixteen



The fountain in Bridge Street which has recently been restored is an important part of the history of Whaddon. It is one of thirteen recorded artesian wells (natural fountains) which were in use for the water supply to the village until piped water was fully installed in the 1940s.

An early attempt in 1896 to supply water to the village was declined as "Whaddon had an excellent water supply". The original fountains were situated at - Queen Adelaide, Home Cottages, Chestnut Farm, Hoback Farm, The Green, The Green beyond Green Gate, Rectory Farm, Church End, Pickering Farm, Town Farm, Ladies Place, The Moor and Fountain Farm. The water was pumped at the Vicarage and College Farm as these were the two highest points of the village. Most of these fountains have now disappeared or ceased to be used for their original purpose.



As can be imagined there was a great deal of work involved in carrying buckets of water from the fountains to individual houses. One method was to use a yoke carrying two buckets. The nodule on the top of the spout was to support the hanging buckets whilst they were being filled.

During WW2 one of the residents of Bridge Street relates that there was a search light battery at the top of the road and as the only water available in the village was from springs the men manning the battery had to fetch water from the fountain in Bridge Street. One of the men was John Mills later to become the famous actor.

It is reputed that the Mormon missionaries who visited the area in the 1880s baptised some of their converts in the Bridge Street fountain.

A former resident of the village, Miss Grace Pearce, who died in 1982, left a clear description of the water facilities in Bridge Street.

In front of each cottage facing the stream was a 'dipping hole'. The man of the house cut out steps on the bank of the stream to be able to dip a bucket into the stream to get water for cleaning and washing purposes. Special buckets were kept, for drinking water and for the dipped water. It was heavy work fetching drinking water in those days and specially if you lived a long way from a fountain so the 'dipping holes' were a boon. The men of the house always saw that the buckets were kept filled up with drinking or washing water. The men used to gather around the fountains in the evening to fetch water and gossip! The first fountain in Bridge Street was opposite cottage No. 16. It stands there to this day, June 1980. The water only trickles out of it now but it used to gush out. This fountain supplied water for all the cottages in Bridge Street. Everybody in those days had a washing stool and this was kept in the kitchen. It was a long, narrow wooden table about 45"x 12" and was about a foot higher than a table. The drinking water was kept in the buckets on the washing stool; to be out of the way of the children. A carpenter, Mr Billy Plumb, who lived at the Cross Roads, Meldreth, used to specialise in making washing stools. I remember my mother saying that hers cost 3s 6d (17½p); that would be over 80 years ago.

The Parish Council, recognising the historical importance to the village, purchased the Fountain and site from the County Council's Farms Estates for the sum of £1500, the Council having declined to "gift" the site. A thorough inspection of the fountain revealed serious corrosion and leakage of the 4" steel pipe which breaks into the aquifer at a depth of 24ft. The Parish Council contracted Eastern Counties Pumps of Ipswich to effect repairs during 2004.

The site has been reconstructed and will eventually incorporate a seat and plants. Money for the purpose has been donated by Cambridge Water Co. and the District Council. It will be dedicated to the memory of the late Mr Frederick Bradley former Chairman of the Parish Council who died in 1996. It was his vision that the Fountain should belong to the village.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Time Flies

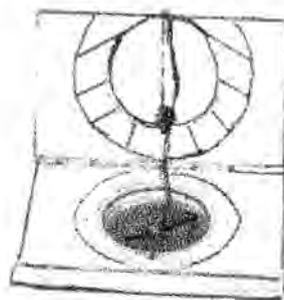
What would life be like if we could not measure time accurately? All our actions are governed by the position of the hands of a clock or the figures on a digital display. We tend to forget that in earlier times people living in a village such as Whaddon relied upon the natural events to give them an idea of time; the rhythms of agriculture, the cycle of the seasons and the rising and setting of the sun and by the tolling of the church bell marking the time of the offices or prayer services such as laude(daybreak), matins and vespers(sunset), vigils (after mid-night) etc.

Many of us have a sundial in our garden simply for decorative purposes but for our forbears in the village it became an up-to-date 'must have' especially for the wealthier and more important people. It was of course the forerunner of our clocks and watches. Some sundials were small enough to be portable. Nevertheless, these would show only local time as there was no Greenwich Mean Time until 1852. To actually find the correct time at a given place a gazetteer, inscribed in the instrument, was consulted. This listed places and their latitudes and this information enabled the sundial to be inclined at the proper angle.

In the 15th century the early clocks, made for the wealthy, were very inaccurate and owners had to use a sundial to set them at the correct time. The development of clocks and watches advanced only slowly until the early 1800s when accurate and spring-balanced watches became available to the ordinary person.

Before GMT, guards on the mail coaches were issued with watches so that coaches could run to a timetable. Their watches were set to gain or lose time depending whether they were travelling east or west. As the sun rises in the east clocks have to be put forward when travelling eastwards and back when travelling westwards. However in the 1850s railways in Britain were setting their schedules to Greenwich Mean Time through the railway telegraph system. At this point sundials became obsolete; people set their clocks to GMT and people began rising or going to bed at the same time whether in Whaddon or Aberystwyth!

It is interesting to note that a watch was mentioned in the will of Dame Grace Pickering, a resident of the Manor House until her death in 1732. This watch still exists in a museum in Austria and was made by famous watchmakers called Tompien and Graham. How it got to Austria is another subject for research!! Dame Grace also donated money for the church clock.



*A sketch of a simple portable sundial. Measuring about 9cm by 6cm they had two hinged faces inscribed with dials which opened to form a right angle. There was a magnetic compass in the lower part. The gnomon was string. The lower part was placed parallel to the horizon. the gnomon was placed in a N/S direction and adjusted so that its angle was the same as the latitude of the user. Some of the best sundials were able to provide data equivalent to the most sophisticated watches today.*