

# WHADDON NEWS

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Sunday 17th September  
6 pm  
in the Parish Church.

**ALL WELCOME**

Church decoration will take place on  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday and  
children are welcome to come and help

## HARVEST COFFEE MORNING



at St Mary's Church  
Saturday 23 September  
10 am

Gifts of Produce, Cakes and  
Bring & Buy most welcome.

## CAR BOOT SALE



**Saturday 21st October**

**9 am-12 noon**

**Pitches**    £6 Booked in advance  
                 £8 On the day

Tea, Coffee, Squash & Bacon Rolls  
available

Further dates to be arranged in 2007

Phone Deborah Townsend C208038  
Karen Conningsby C207514

## World Wide Whaddon

Don't forget that Whaddon now has its  
very own website. You can find it at  
[www.whaddon.org](http://www.whaddon.org)

You'll be amazed at what a mine of  
information it is. Log on to find out  
what's going on, who does what or to  
learn about Whaddon's history.

Help us to make it even more useful by  
adding more information or publicising  
any activities.

And, if you run a business, have your  
details added – absolutely free!

Give me a ring on 207688 or send an  
email to [lee.ginger@btinternet.com](mailto:lee.ginger@btinternet.com)  
and I'll get your words on line.

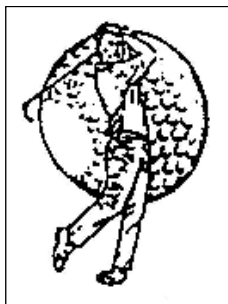
*Lee Ginger*  
**99 Meldreth Road**

## WHADDON GOLF CENTRE

01223 207325

**OPEN:** 8.30 'til late

**MORE THAN GOLF**



BAR  
COFFEE AND  
SNACKS  
FOOD

VILLAGE SHOP  
PAPERS MILK BREAD  
JUST ASK US TO ORDER

**M.G. RADFORD & SON**  
  
LANDSCAPES  
GARDEN CONSTRUCTION  
Established 1966

**Tel: 01223 207772**

**Mobile: 07714 600323**

**Patios • Driveways • Fencing  
Turfing • Brickwork • Decking  
Water gardens**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th September	Harvest Festival
18th September	Parish Council
23rd September	Coffee Morning
28th September	Fire Safety Meeting
16th October	Parish Council
21st October	Car Boot
20th November	Parish Council
26th November	Christingle Service
17th December	Carol Service
24th December	Carol Singing

### VILLAGE BBQ

The amount raised by the Village BBQ, held in July, was nearly £618. Thank you to all those who organised, helped and supported this successful event.



### DEADLINE



Deadline for the next newsletter will be 10th November 2006. This will include details of Christmas events in the village. Other items of village interest are always very welcome.

Contact Joan Pascoe C. 208062

### **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

## ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

### Church Fete's Honoured Guests



On Saturday 15 July 2006 Whaddon's Church Fete took place. Five special villagers opened the event.

Peggy Wells, Daphne James, Bessie Smith, Sylvia Pardoe and Ted Webb, all of whom were born in Whaddon and lived all their lives here, accepted the invitation to open the afternoon's proceedings. Ted Webb spoke on behalf of the five village members and revealed that their combined age was over 400 years! He also mentioned that two of the team still live in the houses in which they were born.

After a ploughman's lunch in the church, the five guests were driven across the Recreation Ground to open the Fete. Ben Hogan drove his Panther de Ville vintage car that was made for Oliver Reed, and Tony Skipper chauffeured his 1930s Rolls Royce.

The day was blessed by beautiful weather and the Fete was very well-attended. A record sum of £2,313.99 was raised to go towards the upkeep and running costs of our beautiful and ancient church.



If anyone has found a church key with a labrador key fob please ring Karen Conningsby on C 207514 or place in letterbox at 17 Church Street.

The key was lost on Wednesday 2nd August during a choir practice.

### **BASSINGBOURN ROOF APPEAL**

We hope that the whole village, whether church-goers or not, will get behind our **Bible Reading Marathon** on 21-24 September to raise money for the Bassingbourn Roof Appeal. The idea is for 500 individuals to each read for 10 minutes, so that we read cover to cover without stopping – this will take three days and three nights! We hope that every single participant will get at least £10 sponsorship (and hopefully much more!) so that we can make a difference to the Roof Appeal.

For further information phone Alan & Lesley Bond on 01763 246405.

### **FUTURE DATES**

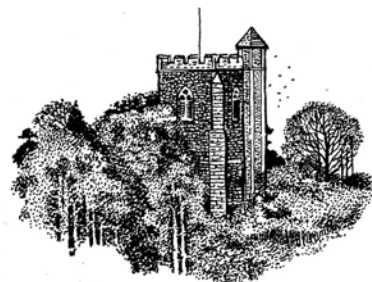
**A Service of Advent Carols with  
Christingles**

Sunday 26 November at 3 pm



**Christmas Carol Service**

Sunday 17 December  
at 3 pm



## WHADDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

This year we have successfully recruited two new coordinators, Wendy Paton and Andrew Townsend, who we are confident will contribute greatly to the successful running of your Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Unfortunately however, we still have an urgent need for more Coordinators for what is not, by any stretch of the imagination, an arduous task but is a vitally useful one. If anyone feels they could "put in" a little of their time to help our community, please ring Louise Shaw on 207400.

We would like to congratulate members of the village community whose vigilance has enabled us to give some very useful information to our Beat Officer. Unfortunately our Beat Officer has been changed again. Adrian Stephenson has been replaced by David Martin who many will remember was the Beat Officer who was replaced by P.C. Stephenson, so at least we have a familiar face back again, although it would be preferable to have better continuity and less change.

Following the benefits we felt were obtained from attending the Police Conference for Neighbourhood Watch in

Huntingdon last year, where we had the opportunity of meeting other Neighbourhood Watch groups, it is hoped that three delegates will attend this year's conference in November.

In January we held a successful Coffee Morning, very kindly sponsored by Ken Green, at the Golf Centre. Its aim was to give everyone in the village the opportunity of meeting the Community Beat Officer who gave an interesting talk on security in the home, afterwards answering questions. A talk by the South Cambs. Community Fire Safety officer has now been arranged to take place at the Golf Centre on Thursday 28th September at 10 a.m., once again by kind permission of Ken Green. Please make a note of this in your diaries and come and join us for a cup of coffee.

Despite crime rates remaining low in Whaddon, the eyes and ears of everybody in the village are still our best weapon against an increase, so we ask everyone to be vigilant and report anything they think may be even slightly suspicious to their Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

August 2006

### 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

**Village Hall Booking:**

Wendy Paton.....01223 207703

**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

## Whaddon Parish Council News—*some recent items*

A meeting was arranged to meet members of the SCDC regarding eligibility for the **affordable homes**. At a further re-arranged meeting, during July it was discovered that the Bedford Pilgrims have not yet obtained finance but is still hopeful that funds will be made available. The Parish Council has had a meeting with Laura Razzell of ACRE who is examining the current position on affordable homes. She has sent an e-mail stating the conditions of entitlement and will also be in contact with Bedford Pilgrims to find out the current situation. Discussion took place among the Councillors as to whether an alternative site was worth looking for. It was agreed to wait for the outcome of Laura Razzell's investigation before making any decision on this in view of the work already undertaken.

The **ROSPA report** has not yet been received, but the day after the **playground** was inspected, Chairman Webb received a telephone call telling him that the 'monkey climbing frame' was rotted and should not be used. Subsequently after further inspection by the Chairman, it was decided to have the frame removed for safety reasons. This has now been done. The children of the village who have been using this equipment, were asked to form a group and come up with suggestions for a replacement.

For the **Village Hall**, all the paperwork for the sewer connection is now in place, and we are awaiting a start date. The proposed plans for the Village Hall are now at the stage where they can go for planning approval. Thanks were given to Mr Ron Albery for overseeing the work on the Village Hall lighting, which is now up and running. A meeting has recently been held covering ideas for improvements to the Village Hall. The positions of the proposed bollards are still to be finalised by the Parish Council.

Grants and loans will need to be sought. A list of jobs has been created for the Village Hall handyman to take on.

Mr E Webb will take over as acting Chairman in the absence of Dr Strudwick.

A special meeting of the Parish Council is to be held at the end of September to discuss the recommendations from the **Parish Plan**.

Some items for publication were received from our County Council and are worth repeating in these notes:

Distraction Burglaries are becoming common in the area (people posing as Utilities Officials, gardeners, children collecting balls from gardens etc.)

Herts. Fire and Rescue Service has moved services and manpower closer to S Cambs. during periods of the Hertfordshire strike, to cover emergencies.

At Stansted Airport, BAA has applied for maximum use of the existing runway and has requested a major increase in aircraft movements and passenger numbers. Cambridgeshire County Council is not supportive of any relaxation of current controls.

The planning application for a mobile phone tower on the A1198 has been withdrawn by O<sub>2</sub>

The next public Parish Council meeting is on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

# TIMES PAST

Number Twenty

## Wartime Whaddon ( 2 )

### Home Guard

This became the popular name for the Local Defence Volunteers formed in the country to protect Britain from invasion. It was made up of men exempt from military service because of age or occupation. At its maximum strength the force numbered about 1.6 million men nationally. It assisted in local organisation but although it regularly practised military manoeuvres was never called into action against the enemy and was disbanded in 1944. The idea later spawned the successful television series Dad's Army. Whaddon had its own group.



#### *Back Row Left to right*

Dicky Watson; Bernard Webb; Leonard Abrey; Alfred Abrey; Ron Budge; French Jacklin; Tom Butler

#### *Middle Row : Left to right*

Leonard Harding; Sid Pearce; Harold Andrews; Douglas Smith; Fred Brookes; George Coningsby.

#### *Front Row: Left to right.*

Jim Law; Reg Chapman; Stanley Oliver; Rev Galley; Bill Coningsby; Harold Hinkins; Charlie Linsdell

## HOME GUARD AWARDS

*On Sunday March 8th 1942 a parade of the Home Guard was held with Sergeant Oliver in command. The High Command of the Home Guard presented certificates for good service awarded by the War Office to Sergeant WG Coningsby of Whaddon. The recipients were congratulated on their fine service and the gallant conduct of Sergeant Coningsby, together with the other members of Whaddon Home Guard in attempting at great personal risk to rescue an air man from a burning aircraft the previous year. The words 'Devotion to Duty' on the certificates should be the inspiration of every member. (Royston Crow 13th March 1942)*

Where exactly the award ceremony was held was unclear. The burning aircraft referred to came down in the field opposite the church- see next page.

## Strangers in the Village

During the war years there was a considerable number of strangers to be seen around or even lodging in different parts of the village.

The first of these were the *evacuees*. In 1939 city children were sent for safety to the country and inevitably some arrived in Whaddon where they

lodged and attended the local school. The country side was a very alien environment for some who knew only streets and they returned home when the bombing did not start as early as expected. Some remained or returned when the Blitz started.

Unmarried women were eventually called on to do war work and those who joined the *Land Army* arrived in village where they worked on the land for local farmers. One, Agnes Woodcock, married the farmer for whom she worked and became secretary to several village organisations during her lifetime and in her memory a tree was planted on the recreation ground.

*Italian prisoners of war* were employed on the farms - they came from the prisoner of war camp in Royston and were identified by their 'muddy brown uniform'. In the later years of the war German prisoners of war were also in the neighbourhood. (People visiting the cinema in Royston remember queueing with the prisoners of war).

*Military personnel* and their families lodged in the village when necessary. A young John Mills working on the searchlight battery at the top of the Whaddon Gap Road could be seen fetching water from the fountain in Bridge Street. His wife to be lodged in Bridge Street when visiting.



## Tranquillity Disrupted



The proximity of the village to Bassingbourn Airfield, originally under the control of the RAF, had a great impact on Whaddon's rural tranquillity. The constant noise of planes revving, taking off on bombing raids with heavy loads and returning to the airfield could be heard almost incessantly. (The children used to enjoy waving to the planes as they set off or returned). Security procedures also had an impact. There was a security gate where the car park is situated at the top of the Whaddon Gap road. It was necessary before passing through for everyone to go through the security procedures. *Halt: advance and be recognised* - that included children going to school in Bassingbourn.

It was inevitable that some damage was done. The stained glass window in the church was damaged and was repaired in 1948 but very little new glass was required. The cricket pavilion which stood in the field opposite the church was destroyed. A bomb dropped and blew the roof off New Farm and three or four people were killed by a bomb at the barracks.

As already mentioned a Wellington bomber with six people aboard came down in the field opposite the church and caught fire; one of the Home Guard recalled holding the hand of one of the crew who was dying (see award ceremony).

In 1942 the barracks were transferred to the Americans who brought with them their own inimitable life style and attitude to life. To austere Britain they brought such items as chewing gum, nylon stockings and chocolate and the music of Glenn Miller. Their main aircraft was the B17 or *Flying Fortress*.

## Saving

This word became very familiar to those remaining behind in the village "on the home front". Saving became recognised as a form of national service. Putting money into National Savings schemes made more money available for the Government to finance the war and advertisements designed to appeal to all types of people appeared in the press. This campaign was backed nationally by all groups e.g. the

employers and the TUC. Town, village and street savings groups were set up and their results published in the newspapers.

In 1940 Royston & District set up a fund to raise money towards the purchase of a Spitfire. Whaddon was included and a list of residents appeared in the newspaper with contributions ranging from 2½d to £5. One lady from Whaddon, who wished to remain anonymous, sent £7. A Messerschmidt, which had been shot down, was on display in Royston to help raise money.

Various government campaigns to encourage took place. In 1941 there was *War Weapons Week*. As part of South Cambs Rural District, Whaddon raised £1200. 1942 saw *Warship Week*. Whaddon adopted a warship HMS P57. The target was £700. and later in that year *Tanks for Attack* reached £80. The slogan for 1943 was *Wings For Victory*. Whaddon far surpassed their target of £1500 with a final figure of £2,610. 1944 *Salute the Soldier* raised £3,406 well over a target of £2000.

A familiar figure in the local paper was the *Squander Bug* urging people to save not spend their money. He appeared in many different guises.



As well as those savings drives mentioned above other causes urgently needed money. - *Aid to Russia: Anchor Day: Poppy Day: British Sailor Society: Mobile X Ray Units for Russia: Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund: St Dunstons: Air Raid Distress Fund: Prisoner of War Parcels Fund: Local Lads Christmas Fund: YMCA: Wool Comforts Fund: Homecoming Fund*. All this money was raised by means of fetes and door to door collections and by the organisation of many activities in the Village Hall such as whist drives, concerts and dances

## Salvage

This was another key word. Saving items other than money became paramount almost anything was helpful to the war effort- the word recycling might now be used- cinders, iron, saucepans, rubber of all kinds from wellington boots to car tyres, paper, card, books, paraffin and metal, particularly metal railings and gates- the list is endless. The results of this campaign are visible today as far as metal is concerned. 7,082 tons of metal, railings and gates were collected in the Eastern region alone. Many of these have never been replaced.

*This Times Past is the last in its present format.*