WHODDON NEWS SEPTEMBER 2025



FROM THE EDITOR

I love this village and I really look forward to being able to represent as many aspects of village life as possible, so I am keen to report on the things that you want to hear about, and cover as many of your ideas as possible. Articles about your personal interests or hobbies that you would like to share would be brilliant additions. This edition features Kayleigh Wallace –our Food Hero, and the fabulously talented Knit and Natter group.

On behalf of the village we would like to extend a huge Thank You to the Whaddon Fete Committee and to all the villagers who gave their time to help with the set up and clear up of the many marquees, and to run the stalls. Thank you for having the vision to take on a much larger event.

The deadline for submissions for the next edition of Whaddon News is November 15th. 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3^{rd}	September	Coffee	Morning

8th September PC Meeting 5th November Coffee Morning

17th September Coffee Morning 10th November PC Meeting

26th September Slice Of Price 19th November Coffee Morning

21st November Slice of Price

1st October Coffee Morning

4th October Foxton Scarecrows Oct-Nov Open Eco Homes

13th October PC meeting Village Hall Race night TBA

15th October Coffee Morning

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
Anita Birch	Councillor
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 whaddonparishcclerk@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

whaddonparishcclerk@outlook.com

BIN COLLECTION DAT	ES		
		Thursday 4th September	
Thursday 11th September		Thursday 18th September	
Thursday 25th September		Thursday 2 nd October	
Thursday 9th October		Thursday 16th October	
Thursday 23rd October		Thursday 30th October	
Thursday 6th November		Thursday 13 th November	
Thursday20th November		Thursday 27th November	

WHADDON NEWS



It's not unusual for members of the Fete Committee to have sleepless nights in the run up to the annual Village Fete, and often it is the threat of rain that keeps them awake. This year it was a new problem, with the prospect of too much sun and heat. An extra marquee was borrowed to provide additional shade and a breeze on the day helped take the edge of the heat, and all was well!









This year the Committee were particularly pleased to welcome the contribution from Evie Oates. As part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award, Evie devised and ran her own 'Guess the Name of the Giraffe' stall.

The Fete was opened by our own St Mary's choir, singing an arrangement of 'Scarborough Fair' and then, for the next 3 hours, the 26 stalls, bar, barbeque, raffle and tombola all did brisk business in the afternoon sunshine.



As well as being an enjoyable community event, the fete was also financially successful, raising £3,460 after expenses which is shared equally between St Mary's Whaddon and the Village Hall Trust. This year's profit was about £500 more than last year's total and the most raised since the millennium. As is always the case, the Fete Committee would like to thank all of those who helped in any way to make this year's fete such a success, whether that was helping to put up and take down the produce tent and gazebos, running a stall, entering produce in the show, donating tombola and raffle prizes, or just turning up on the afternoon and opening your purses and wallets. We couldn't have done it without you.

Next year's Village Fete will be held on the afternoon of **Saturday 11**th **July 2026**, and if you would like to get involved, or have any suggestions as to how the fete might be made even better, then please contact any member of the fete committee listed below.

Fete Committee: Anita and Jonathan Birch, David Grech, Lorna Green, Claire Hales, Pete Nussey, Deborah Townsend, Caroline Trotter. David Short.







PRODUCE

The Produce Tent at the Whaddon Village Fete this year was a window in the hidden talents of a number of our village neighbours. From flower arrangements to the perfect spud – to intricate knitting styles and delicious looking baking – there was much to admire and take inspiration from.

There were three overall winners this year **Best in Show** – Ruth Keir for her cushion using the Brioche knitting stitch

Jim Law Memorial Shield for Best in Show in Produce or Flower Class – Jenny Haselden for her perfect onions

Maria Mould Photography Trophy – Jenny Grech for a beautifu

Maria Mould Photography Trophy – Jenny Grech for a beautiful photograph of an abandoned ship

A special thank you to the children for their contributions too.

Many thanks to every one of the entrants for inspiring us with examples of their creative abilities.



There was fun and games for children and adults alike.



A brilliant afternoon with lots of places to rest and enjoy refreshments.





ARRINGTON GARDEN CENTRE



JOIN US FOR OUR AUTUMN TALKS

Spring Flowering Bulbs - Wednesday 10th September Autumn/Winter Containers - Wednesday 24th September Autumn/Winter Planting - Wednesday 22nd October

Full details on our Facebook page and 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
manager@arringtongardencentre.com

FOOD WASTE HEROES

Interview with Kayleigh Wallace- Whaddon's Food Hero

Does the food waste scheme have a name?

The Scheme is called Olio

This is an app set up designed to reduce waste, with a focus on the local community. Their moto is #sharemorewasteless It is designed for individuals to share any items they have with their neighbouring community and the app also has connections with the local supermarkets such as Tesco, Coop, and other food distribution venues/shops.

What made you start doing it?

I am keen to prevent waste, this includes my own items that are no longer needed as well as those collected from the local supermarkets.

I am a believer that if you don't have something, there will be someone that does.

During Covid I came across the app by chance. I was trying to find out what I could do with items from my home I no longer needed. I would have normally taken to a charity shop which at the time was not an option. I got hooked.

How long have you been running the scheme?

I have been been a volunteer (food waste hero) and signed up to the app now for 3 years.

The food waste hero collects surplus food from a supermarket or food distribution point, brings it home and shares it with the local community.

How much of your time does it take?

I'm not going to lie.. a lot of time..

To use the app not long at all, loading a photo and creating a description of what you have to collect is very quick. What has taken the time is the food waste hero part.. You have a collection slot, my most recent was Tesco's. You go to the supermarket, collect the food, take photos, store them in the fridge/kitchen and then post them onto the app. The items are then collected by individuals at arranged times until all the items have gone.

The process can take between 1 hour - 6 hours. I often would call it my 2nd job.

How often do you pick up food?

There have been times when I had a good waste collection slot 4-5 times per week... I now do this more ad hoc.

Due to the time it was taking up in my week I need to ensure I have months where I don't have that commitment. There are lots of food waste heros currently in Bassingbourn, which is great as when I started the majority were in Royston.

Where does the food come from?

Tesco mostly, Bassingbourn barracks, Coop

What sort of food do you normally get offered?

It will be whatever is reduced in the supermarket (yellow stickered) or over ordered by the store. It can be anything from bread items baguettes, rolls, pastries etc. to fruit and vegetables.

I have had crates of potatoes, lettuce, strawberries, onions -it really varies.

Is the food best before or use by?

Both-If it is chilled it will have a use by date. With fruit and veg it depends on what has been donated.

Do you get much food left over?

One of my biggest collections was baby potatoes.. I had to put a large amount into my green bin. Often it will be bread due to the sheer volume of it but as more of the village joins the app and is aware of what I'm doing I have found that waste has reduced dramatically.

Do you think people think they shouldn't ask for it?

Yes. Lots of people feel bad for asking. They feel that they should leave it for someone more in need. My reason for being part of this app and collecting is to reduce waste. Judgement does not come into it. The whole idea of the app is reducing food waste. These items if not collected from the supermarket would end up in landfill.

Often food can be frozen or made into something else. It can be used as a meal for the evening, or if you're like me you could heat up a pastry the next day – still just as nice.

Do you have any way of preferring those in difficulty?

The app doesn't tell me who is in need.

When someone requests something I will allocate it to them. If there are multiple requests for the same things I will share them out as much as I can.

If someone messages to tell me they are in need I will allocate as much as I can but also sign post them to local food banks. Olio is about good waste and is not a reliable source for those in need but it can play an important part of helping.

What happens if food is left over?

I post it onto the village Whatsapp and Facebook groups to ensure that items are not left over. Lots of my friends will be given items when I see them, sometimes if they want something or not

If I am left with lots then I will have to resort to putting things

in the green bin.

I'm so grateful for those who have embraced this with me and downloaded the app, collected the surplus food and put up with my weekly messages about bread. You all make such a difference.

Thank you Kayleigh for taking the time to explain the system- especially for those that may not be sure whether to respond or not. And thank you for taking the time to run the scheme, which is a brillaint initiative.

Would You or Someone You Know Benefit From Wellbeing Support?

Care Network Cambridgeshire's Wellbeing Service offers free, short-term support for adults (18+) in South Cambs who may be struggling with confidence, isolation, illness, or low mood. Our friendly team can provide one-to-one support and match individuals with trained volunteers who can offer companionship through phone calls or accompanying them to access the community. Support is tailored over 6–8 sessions, helping people regain independence and feel more connected.

If you or someone you know could benefit, making a referral is easy — just visit <u>care-network.org.uk/wellbeing</u> or contact us at <u>wellbeing@care-network.org.uk</u> or 0330 094 5750.

Whaddon Golf Centre

We hope you are all having a great summer. After some tricky weather at the start of the season the Golf Course is looking good.

For all who are new to the village we are open to all. You do not have to be a member – all are welcome.

We can provide all you need to play, so if you have never tried golf before do come down and have a go. If you're an experienced golfer come and practice your long shots on the range and sharpen your short game on the par 3 course.

If golf is not your thing you can always come to the clubhouse for a coffee, ice cream or something from the bar.

We continue to have a pub night every Friday evening when the clubhouse bar is open until 10.

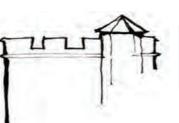
We are looking forward to seeing Slice of Price Pizza again on the following dates:

> 29th August 26th September 21st November.

As we move into Autumn we will be hosting our quiz nights. Questions set and asked by keen quiz participants. Book a table (max 6 people) for £ 10 per person. (includes baquette and cheese selection supper)

Thanks for all your support at the real ale festival in the spring. Look out for details of our other upcoming events.

Richard and Lorna



ST MARY'S CHURCH WHADDON

CHURCH SERVICES

1st and 3rd Sundays Morning Prayer 9.30 am 2nd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion 9.30 am 5th Sunday Joint Service with Bassingbourn 9.30 am 7th September Harvest Festival at 3pm

Harvest Festival - Please come and decorate the church during the week if you can. All decorations will need to be done by Saturday/Sunday morning. Your help is much appreciated.



9th November Remembrance Service 10.45am

21st December Christmas Carol Service 6pm

24th December Karaoke Carols 5pm

25th December Holy Communion/Christmas Service

Church Wardens

Karen Coningsby Peter Haselden

CONTACT DETAILS FOR REV HELEN ORR

Tel: 07761 241190 Email: Vicar@whaddon.org

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



FUNDRAISING FOR ST MARYS

WORK TO ST MARY'S CHURCH

Every five years Ely Diocese pay for the fabric at St Mary's Church to be inspected by an architect or surveyor. Our last Quinquennial Inspection took place in 2024 and the executive summary stated:

'Most of the church is in good condition, but there are various areas that need attention, particularly to the external pointing. South aisle west buttress B12 is a particular concern, along with low level stonework on the north aisle.'

The PCC is therefore currently fundraising to address these two specific areas of work identified in the report. David Grech

CARDS FOR SALE

Some locally created greetings cards were sold at the Village Fete. Some of these are still for sale if anyone would like to buy them as an ongoing fundraiser for St Mary's. Alternatively a personalised card can be made for a special event and can incorporate photos, special words, chosen colours or themes.

Contact Viv at newseditor@whaddon.org for details.

TO BE A PILGRIM - A walk from St Mary's Whaddon in Buckinghamshire to St Mary's Whaddon in Cambridgeshire to raise funds for the stonework repairs to the church.

When I first started planning this walk I had hoped to raise a few hundred pounds towards the cost of stonework repairs at St Mary's church, and was truly amazed by the generosity of the local community as the total climbed past £1000. With gift aid added, the final total raised is £1528.75. Thank you all very much for your support. David Grech

TO BE A PILGRIM – A walk from St Mary's Whaddon in Buckinghamshire to St Mary's Whaddon in Cambridgeshire



My five-day, sixty-mile walk started out along the North Buckinghamshire Way, which skirted the churchyard of St Mary's Whaddon and then continued east, across a series of fields towards Milton Keynes. On reaching the city I turned south, and joined the Milton Keynes Boundary Trail which would take me around the city's southern perimeter. Established as a new town in 1967, Milton Keynes continues to grow, and in two locations I encountered new housing developments under construction that straddled the Boundary Trail, and trammelled me behind Harras fencing as I tried to work out where the footpath had gone! Eventually, I reached the Grand Union Canal and gratefully followed the towpath south to escape the clutches of the city. Back amongst fields, I climbed up onto the Greensand Ridge to reach my first night's halt at Woburn.



The next morning, I started out by walking across the Deer Park, but disappointingly much of Woburn Abbey was shrouded in scaffolding, so not worth sketching! Instead, while eating my lunchtime sandwich, I sketched the ruins of the old church at Segenhoe, which had been abandoned in the 19th century and replaced by a new church in Ridgmont. Over the course of the afternoon I had evolving views out over Marston Vale, as I walked on to meet up with Jenny at Ampthill.



It was perhaps appropriate that for some of my route along the Greensand Ridge Walk I overlapped with the John Bunyan Trail, which was established to link places associated with the author of 'The Pilgrim's Progress', and soon after leaving Ampthill I reached the ruins of Houghton House, dramatically perched on a rise overlooking Marston Vale, and believed to have been the model for Bunyan's 'The House Beautiful'. In spite of its ruinous state, it is still possible to appreciate something of the grandeur of the house.

The weather forecast for Friday 13th June promised a hot day, with temperatures climbing to 28 degrees in the afternoon. At nearly 14 miles, it was also my longest day's walk and I made an early start to take maximum advantage of the cool morning. My route took me across an arable landscape to Sandy, where I joined the alignment of an old Roman road to head northeast towards Gamlingay. I tuned aside from the Greensand Ridge Walk at the village of Everton and, in the heat of the afternoon, made my way down to Potton, passing the remains of the old Potton windmill.

My final day's walk took me along the Clopton Way, passing the site of the abandoned medieval village of Clopton and back into 'home territory' as I walked through Croydon and Arrington, before entering Wimpole Park to follow the avenue back to our St Mary's Whaddon, and a very welcome cold beer!



NATURE NOTES SEPTEMBER

We will have days when there is a steady build up of moisture in the air, though warm and still. There is clearly something spectacular brewing, until the thunderclouds have built up enough moisture, risen to a stratosphere that cools them sufficiently for there to be a furious cascade of thundering rain or even hail. These storms are called "cow-shakers", a thunderstorm so heavy that even the cows shake. I have never seen cows shake, but I like the picture it conjures up!

September 21st is St Matthew's Day, which was believed to herald the start of bad weather when beehives needed to be prepared for winter, but also it is a good time to start sowing the autumn crops, for St Matthew's Day "brings the cold, rain and dew." Adult honey bee numbers have been decreasing in the hive as brood rearing gradually tails off from early July and stops altogether sometime in late October or early November. But the honey bees (Apis mellifera) that are reared from late summer onwards, are physiologically very different from your spring and summer honey bees. These are the 'Winter Bees', also termed the diutinus bees (from the Latin meaning long-lived because they survive for several months). This special generation of honey bees has one task, which is to protect the queen through winter and thermoregulate the hive. So, when the temperature outside falls below 10°C, they cluster about her, eating the remaining honey stores (90 pounds of honey should keep the hive going through the winter) and shivering their flight muscles to maintain the temperature around the queen at around 35°C. Usually around the winter solstice, they start to rear small amounts of new brood for the season ahead.

To my great irritation, I lost one of my beehives to wasp predation this summer. Either my queen had died, and the female worker bees were laying unfertilised eggs, or the queen had run out of sperm and she was laying unfertilised eggs. Either way, these unfertilised eggs (called haploid eggs, having only one set of chromosomes) can only hatch into larvae that mature into the male drone bee. The drone does not forage, therefore brings in no stores of pollen or nectar, and can't sting. This meant my hive became increasingly defenceless as my female worker bees died out and were being replaced by harmless drones. Wasps clearly worked out that the hive and its stores were unprotected and set about, I think within just a few days, in stripping it of every drop of honey, any pollen, all the eggs, larvae and drone bees; cleared out and cleaned out!

Our dry spring, the warmest in 50 years, and our blissful summer, have made it a good year for wasps. Amazingly we have 9,000 species of wasps in the UK, most of them solitary and less of a

NATURE NOTES SEPTEMBER continued

nuisance to us. The most common is vespula vulgaris, which are natural pest controllers. Not quite the apex predators that hornets and dragonflies are, but most of their diet will be either carrion (from road kills) or flies, maggots, caterpillars, aphids and the like. Whilst the adults are omnivores, taking nectar from flowers (and pollinating them in the process) or scavenging fallen fruit, cream teas, barbecued food and rubbish bins, their larvae are pure carnivores and so the wasp must bring back morsels of animal protein with which to feed them.

As we all know, honey bees make their combs of hexagonal cells from wax. This is secreted by the young worker bee (those between 12 and 18 days old) as a liquid from eight wax producing glands, which solidifies on contact with the air. The wasp, however, makes their combs of hexagonal cells from wood. The adult wasps will use their strong mandibles to shave slithers of wood from your garden furniture, chew it into papier mâché, and take it back to their nest. Their cells will only house eggs or pupae, because they do not need to store honey or pollen. The nest will largely die out with the frosts in November, apart from young fertile queens, who will each emerge to fly off and start a new colony in the spring. A last point: their black and yellow striped marking is called aposematic (apo greek for 'away' and sema 'sign') colouration, advertising to potential predators that they are not worth eating. Think poison arrow tree frog! If you are unlucky enough to be stung, rub bicarbonate of soda on a bee sting (which is acidic) and lemon juice on a wasp sting (which is alkali). Or find a leaf of the Ribwort plantain (Plantago lanceolata, it will probably be in your lawn, long lance-shaped leaves, smooth, with prominent ribs), chew it and rub the mashed leaf on your sting. Apparently, it works for all bites and stings. Also, you can, I am told, steep the leaves in hot water for a daily tisane for hay fever sufferers. As a hay fever sufferer, I thought eating my honey was a surefire way of curing it, but it doesn't seem to have had any palliative effect on me these last few years.

Our swallows will leave us, probably during the third week in September. You may well encounter quite large flocks of both swallows and house martins in a feeding frenzy in the skies. They are probably travelling from the north and have encountered a hatch of some insect that has given them pause to feed on their journey. They travel around 200 miles a day, flying at around 20 miles per hour. They may stop awhile in Spain or Algeria, before pushing on across the Sahara desert and on down to South Africa, Botswana and Namibia where they enjoy a southern hemisphere summer. Our skies will seem emptier without their twittering calls.

In the 1600s, people believed that yew trees planted in graveyards would absorb the gases of the decaying bodies and keep people safe from the miasma or bad air that made people ill. The yew tree next to the southern porch of Bassingbourn church will have to be removed because its roots are undermining the porch, however there

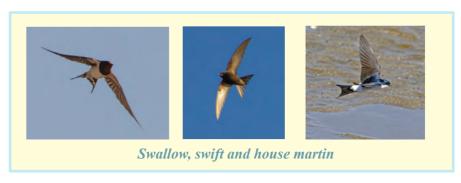
are still quite a number around Bassingbourn. Yew wood outlasts iron in durability and a 250,000 year old yew spear has been found in Clacton in Essex. According to fossil records, the species has been around 200 million years (earliest human ancestor: 6 million years ago). They are slow-growing, so the wood is very dense. This makes it hard to age a tree since there are often few growth rings to count. Having said that, the Fortingall yew in Scotland is estimated to be 5,000 years old. The chemical, taxine, is in every part of the yew which makes it all poisonous, although it is used in chemotherapy treatment.

14th September is NASA's international "Observe the Moon" night where people around the world will be watching the moon. It will be rather humbling to know that all eyes are looking at the same object at the same time. The moon will be 80% illuminated on the night, rising at 7pm in the south-east, reaching its highest point in the sky at 10pm and setting in the south-west just before 2am.

The International Space Station (travelling around our planet at 17,500 mph), appearing low in the south-west for a couple of minutes at 9.05 pm, will seem to pass over the moon and disappear into the east. You can find out a lot more on the satellites travelling above us on www.heavens-above.com. I found a 3D orbital display of all the Starlink satellites there are zipping about and scared myself half to death!

The Corn moon (Harvest moon is next month) is on 7th September. And the autumn equinox ("equal night"), when the day and the night are of equal length, is on 22nd September. You will begin to see some of the winter constellations appearing, such as Andromeda, Perseus and Auriga and at midnight, above your head, the summer constellation of Cygnus gives way to the distinctive W-shape of Cassiopeia. Saturn will be visible at nightfall in the south-east. It is as close as it gets to earth (in "opposition"), so a chance to see its rings through a telescope.

Perry Littleboy



LOCAL EVENTS

Foxton Scarecrow Festival 2025 - Saturday 4 October (12noon - 5.00pm)

We will be holding our very successful Scarecrow Festival once again this year on Saturday 4 October, so please come along and join us for some scarecrow fun! This year our theme is 'In Perfect Harmony!' – see if you can identify all the various songs and singers that the inventive people of Foxton have come up with!

As in previous years, you'll be able to wander through Foxton village from one scarecrow to another. Join in with the various fundraising activities along the way, including a children's quiz and 'Where's Wally?' Will you be able to find this special scarecrow, hidden somewhere in the village? We welcome you to stop at various venues around the village for some refreshments such as bacon butties, home-made soup or tea and cakes. There will be a variety of musical entertainment during the afternoon in the Village Hall and 'The Barn', and you'll be able to vote for your favourite scarecrow. This fun event for all ages will finish with prize giving and the raffle draw.

We'll be raising funds for St Laurence Church, Foxton School and Pre-School.

Programmes will be available on the day from the Village Hall and the Village Shop, Foxton. For further information, email foxtonscarecrow@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.









Opportunities to enhance ecology and biodiversity

Opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint

South Cambs Swift Corridor

In June Paul Evans and Dave Handscombe attended a meeting hosted by Peter Tiffin from Bassingbourn Zero Carbon Collective (ZCC). Those present included representatives from the eco/net zero groups in Shepreth, The Mordens, Sawston, Gamlingay and Litlington, as well as representatives from both the County and District Councils, and Cllr Natalie Warren Green, SCDC lead for the Environment. The emphasis was on Parish bio diversity plans that also embrace the requirements for a Local Nature Recovery plan.

One of the topics covered was the concerns regarding a 60% decrease in swift sightings over the last 10 years. This decline is due to several factors including climate change, farming practices, decreasing insect numbers and a lack of nesting areas.

Many of the groups had started tackling the problem, mainly through the provision of swift nesting boxes. The hope is that there will be a "swift corridor" running from Gamlingay to Sawston and the Shelfords. Much of the funding has been via the local Parish Councils.

Bassingbourn now has 78 swift nesting boxes of which a third are currently occupied, and since the meeting Sustainable Whaddon has applied for and received a grant of £300 from the PCC to purchase Whaddon's first nesting boxes. Dave has offered to undertake the installation. Initially bespoke swift and bat boxes will be installed on the tower in the church, and it is hoped that this would encourage villagers to continue the initiative by installing boxes on their houses.

The next meeting of Sustainable Whaddon will be on Weds 10^{th} September at the house of Jan Gibson - 122 Bridge Street.

Sustainable Whaddon Seed Exchange First Year Review

The seed exchange in the Meldreth Road telephone box has now been up and running for a full gardening year. Seeds of approximately 60 different species and varieties of flowers and vegetables have been kindly donated during the year, in more than 150 packets, including both commercial seeds and those collected from gardens. The flower seeds range from common English garden annuals and perennials to more exotic Australian and New Zealand species, alongside a wide range of vegetable seeds such as broad beans, courgettes and peas. It's good to see that the majority of these have been taken away and hopefully successfully sown and grown in Whaddon gardens. Many thanks to everyone who donated seeds and to those who took them away to grow on, you've made it a very successful first year. We'd love to hear your gardening stories; be it successes or failures, and any general comments on the seed exchange.

The autumn equinox is just around the corner and plants are setting seed once again, so now is an ideal opportunity to start collecting for the second year of the seed exchange. To continue to be successful, the exchange needs regular seed donations so please harvest your garden seeds and dig-out unwanted commercial seed packets and add them to the collection. Further information is available in the phone box and on the Whaddon web site at https://www.whaddon.org/sustainable-whaddon or email specific questions or comments to sustainablewhaddon@whaddon.org.



House Plant Glasshouse Open Weekend

Saturday 6th September 10am-4pm Sunday 7th September 11am-4pm

Tour the glasshouses and buy peat-free plants direct from growers

Cut Your Own Dahlias 7 Days a Week PYO Pumpkins Coming Soon

Bury Lane, A10 Bypass, Melbourn, Royston, SG8 6GT What3Words: months.wells.tanks Tel: 01763 260418 www.burylane.co.uk

FOOD HALL • DELICATESSEN • BUTCHERS • FISHMONGERS • CAFÉ • GIFT HALL • GARDEN SHOP • FUN BARN

FORAGING- The act of searching, finding and collecting natural resources from the wild. As well as enjoying nutritious food it can increase our sense of wellbeing and our appreciation of nature.

GUIDELINES

Wild plants and the law All wild plants are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is illegal to dig up or remove a plant (including algae, lichens and fungi) from the land on which it is growing without permission from the landowner or occupier. Some species are specially protected against picking, uprooting, damage and sale. A list of these can be found on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

Minimise impact -Only take what you plan to consume. Avoid trampling areas you are collecting from. Pick leaves or berries with care to avoid damaging plant roots.

Ask permission – Many places only allow foraging for personal use. Important conservation sites are habitats for rare or vulnerable species and need to be carefully accessed.

Identify what you are foraging – Never consume a wild plant or fungus unless you are certain of its identification. Leave it alone if unsure.

Only collect from plentiful populations -Only collect flowers, leaves, fruits and seeds where they are in abundance. For fungi, only take mushrooms that have opened their caps (so are likely to have dropped their spores). Do not collect small 'button' mushrooms.

Leave plenty behind -Wild food is vital for the survival of the UK's wildlife, and species need to regenerate.

Never collect rare species – Take a good field guide to confirm species in the field and avoid confusion. Some species are protected by law, so know what not to collect.

FORAGING IDEAS FOR AUTUMN

Beech nuts. You can nibble the nuts as you pick them after removing the outer brown skin. They can be used as an alternative to pine nuts in risottos or pasta dishes, but can be a little toxic if eaten in large quantities

Hazelnuts. Hazel nuts or cobnuts are common hedgerow finds. They have a lovely nutty taste and can be eaten raw or can be roasted for an even better flavour. Pick when green and ripen in a dark place. They are safe to eat once their papery covering begin to peel back. Delicious in cakes and nut butters.

Hawthorn berry. A common hedgerow find. Haws are picked when bright red or orange and are much better after cooking as this brings out a sweet, mildly spicy flavour. Great in jams and jellies due to their high pectin content. The round fruits are about 1cm long and resemble small apples with a single seed.

Rosehip. Rosehips are the ripe red and orange seed pods of the wild <u>rose</u> plants commonly found in hedgerows. The irritant hairs from these seeds were traditionally used to make itching powder. The outer layer of a rosehip is packed with vitamin C and traditionally made into a syrup to reduce winter colds, but rosehips are also good in wines, jellies or jams. Pick carefully to avoid the prickly thorns, and sieve well once cooked to remove seeds and hairs.

Sloe. The <u>blackthorn</u> is best known for its crop of acidic fruits known as sloes. These edible berries are too bitter to eat raw but are used to make sloe gin. Pick after the first frost as it softens the skins and helps to release the juices, or pick earlier and freeze at home before using.

Elderberries. September is a great time to collect the berries as most elders fruit between July and October. They must be cooked to be edible as they are mildly poisonous if eaten raw and can cause stomach upsets. They make an excellent wine.

Blackberries Always a favourite. Great for puddings, jams and jellies and sauces.

CAMBRIDGE ECO HOMES

With all the potential grants available at the moment, those of you who are considering a change over to a heat pump might be interested in this event.

Highlighting heat pumps in Cambridgeshire

Heat pumps will take centre stage this year for Cambridge Carbon Footprint's Open Eco Homes: Winter Special.

From 26 Oct – 23 Nov, people from across the region are invited to discover for themselves what it's like to get off gas and retrofit their homes to increase comfort, reduce carbon emissions and enjoy cost savings.

A fantastic opportunity to experience what it feels like to be in a Cambridgeshire eco home in winter: visit homes in Cambridge City and South Cambs equipped with heat pumps and other low carbon technologies and hear directly from homeowners about their journey towards increased comfort, savings and sustainability.

Gain practical advice from experts on working with professionals, cutting energy use, saving water, installing solar PV, and making affordable DIY improvements.

Whether you're planning your next retrofit or just curious, these events will help you to take the next step towards a greener, more efficient home.

Tours and talks are available in person and online. All are FREE; advance booking required. For full event details and booking go to https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes/

"Really useful real world experience" OEH tour attendee "Went well beyond other information I've found on the internet" talk attendee.



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email: admin@mothergoosepreschool.co.uk or

phone: 01223 208527.

SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

Home-Start RBSC (covering Royston, Buntingford, & South Cambridgeshire is a local charity dedicated to supporting families with young children who are facing challenging circumstances. We provide practical and emotional support to help these families build stronger relationships, improve their well-being and create a brighter future for their children. Charity number 1105385.

Do you have what it takes to shine in Home-Start's Got Talent?

We are on the hunt for stars... and we think it might just be you!

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire is launching its very own Home-Start's Got Talent event – a fabulous, feel-good evening of entertainment where our local legends take the spotlight!

- 🌄 Tentative date: Saturday 18th October TBC
- Yenue: Royston area (final location to be confirmed)
- ① Time: 6pm start
- Audience: 200+ cheering supporters

We're looking for singers, dancers, magicians, ventriloquists, comedians, musicians, and more! Whether you've got polished skills or just a passion you've always wanted to share - we want to hear from you. If you've ever dreamed of performing on stage (and don't mind a crowd!), this is your moment.

Participants must be available for an audition and a dress rehearsal in the weeks leading up to the show.

If you're ready to dazzle us, or know someone who could, please get in touch!

Email us at: admin@hsrsc.org.uk

Let's make some magic happen on stage - and support our local families while we do it!

Best wishes, Angie

The Importance of a Summer Outing

Many of the families supported by Home Start benefit greatly from opportunities to enjoy quality time together. A summer outing to Standalone Farm represents a valuable chance for these families to experience a fun, educational, and memorable day out. This kind of experience provides respite from the stresses of daily life, encourages positive family interaction and helps create lasting memories for both parents and children. The farm offers a safe and engaging environment where children can learn about animals, nature and healthy eating habits. We'd love to make more of this possible for the families we support. We estimate the total cost of the outing to be £1500. Any contribution, large or small, would be greatly appreciated and would have a significant impact on the lives of these families.



Literary Afternoon



Angie Ward - Home Start's Fundraising Manager

in conversation with Author

RUSSELL WATE 'How to catch a Murderer'





on Thursday, 21st August at Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford, SG9 9SG

Russell Wate is a retired senior homicide detective and has been the senior investigating officer in over 100 major crime enquiries, from homicides to international kidnappings and large-scale paedophile investigations. One of his most high-profile cases was that of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, two ten-year-old girls from Soham, UK, who were murdered by lan Huntley in 2002. Russell subsequently received the Queen's Police Medal for his work as a detective, in the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honours list. Russell is also well known for his current work relating to safeguarding children and has published several dozen serious case reviews involving domestic homicide and the death of children, where he has established the lessons that can be learnt from these deaths. Writing crime fiction started as lock down 2020 project and his first novel, Greed is a Powerful Motive, received such positive feedback that it inspired Russell to write three more books in the DCI Alexander McFarlane series. The books are written in an authentic manner, with the narrative based on how Russell would have investigated the suspicious deaths, using all the modern-day techniques available, and how he would have presented his findings during the subsequent court case.

To book your ticket(s) call us on 01736 262262 or use the html link:https://buytickets.at/homestartroystonbuntingfordandsouthcambridgeshire/1775041 or scan the QR code →



Ticket(s) include an afternoon tea from 2pm Chat and Q&A from 3 - 4pm

MSRBSC: embedding diversity, equality and inclusion into everything we do in our community.

HOME-START ROYSTON, BUNTINGFORD AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE Incorporated as Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire unit 6, Valley form, Station Road, Middrell, Royston, Nerh 566 (AF To 1213) 24226 E. Jahninghires, ang ali Wang Area (Cambridges) (Cam

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CAMBRIDGE LIBRARIES

The Library Presents returns this September with a Fourteen week Autumn Season.

The thrilling programme starts in September and includes music, puppetry, dance, circus, theatre, storytelling and workshops in arts, crafts and much more.

With 33 events hosted in 26 venues across the county, there is sure to be something for everyone.

Events in your area include:

Charlie Hooper-Williams (Music) and I'm Muslamic Don't Panik (Theatre & Dance).

Additionally we have workshops with:

Textile Portrait, Fused Glass and Magic.

Thanks to public funding from the Arts Council England, tickets are affordably priced between £3 and £9, with concessions available.

Guests can look forward to a unique and intimate experience, quite unlike anything offered by a traditional theatre or larger entertainment venue.

Everyone is welcome – we aim to make our activities as welcoming and accessible as possible. Detailed access information for all activities is on the Events page on our website.

Tickets are now on sale. Take a look at the full programme schedule, pick up a brochure and purchase tickets in participating libraries and online www.library.live/the-library-presents



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A THREAT TO OUR NATIVE POLLINATORS

Beekeepers across the UK have been asking the public to help them protect their native bees by keeping an eye out for yellow-legged Asian hornets, whose presence in the UK have been on the increase since 2023-up 150% on last year alone!

Data collected from last August shows that we are now in the peak month whereby the highest number of nests tend to be located. It is imperative for the protection of native bees and the environment that the public help by locating these highly aggressive predators who not only risk our bees but other pollinators across the country.

The best way to help is to report any sightings via the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app.

Download the app, which has all the info for identifying and reporting here-

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details...

How to identify the Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet:

Does it look very black?

Has it got a dark abdomen with a wide orange stripe on 4th segment?

Do its legs look as if they have been dipped in yellow paint?

Has it got a black head with an orange face?

Is it's thorax black and velvety?

As at 1st August 2025 there have been 108 sightings and 41 nests. Latest sightings are in ILFORD.

Please Be Vigilant



RECIPES

Please send in your favourite family recipes. We're looking forward to seeing them in this space and trying them out. This edition features the best of our autumn produce – Blackberries and Apples, but maybe not the usual favourites

Blackberry Ketchup

<u>Ingredients</u>

Blackberries

Water

To each 600ml (1 pint) pulp add

½ tsp salt

4oz/125g sugar

14 tsp dry mustard

14 tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsp ground cloves

1/4 tsp ground nutmeg

½ pint/ 300 ml vinegar

Put the blackberries in pan with water half way up the berries, simmer till soft then sieve and measure the pulp. Place pulp in a pan with all the other ingredients and simmer for 30 minutes or until the desired pouring consistency is achieved. Pour into warmed bottles or jars.

Apple Fool Brulee

Bramley apples are one of the best cooking apples and break down into a lovely smooth pulp - perfect for a fool.

Peel, core and chop the apples and cook them down with a small amount of water. A microwave works well. Add caster sugar to taste, then mix with whipped double cream to make a fairly stiff fool. Place in ramekins or make a large one in a suitable dish. Smooth the top then refridgerate for a couple of hours. Sprinkle caster or soft brown sugar in several layers and use a hot grill or a blowtorch to melt each layer of sugar into a lovely crunchy topping.

Blackberry flapjacks

140g golden syrup

These bars are a lovely mix of chewy and fruity. The recipe makes around 10 bars and they're great for popping in your lunch box. 350g blackberries 25g golden caster sugar 250g porridge oats 140g butter, cut into cubes 50g light brown sugar

- 1 Preheat the oven to 190C/gas 5.
- 2. Grease a tin of around 18cm square.
- 3. Put the blackberries and caster sugar in a small saucepan with two tablespoons of water, put the lid on and simmer on a low heat until they're soft. Keep giving them a stir to make sure they're not burning. Mash them up a bit and then let them cool.
- 4. Slowly melt the butter, brown sugar and syrup in another saucepan. Stir in the oats and mix well.
- 5. Press half the oat mix into the tin, spread the blackberries on top and cover with the rest of the oat mixture.
- 6.Bake for 25 minutes minutes or until golden. Cut into bars and leave to cool before taking them out of the tin.

Blackberry sauce

This simple sauce is delicious over ice cream! You will need:

250g blackberries 50g caster sugar Half a tablespoon of vanilla essence

- 1.Put the blackberries and sugar into a saucepan with 100ml of water.
- 2.Bring to the boil and simmer until the fruit is mushy.
- 3. Remove from the heat and mix in the vanilla essence.
- 4.Strain the sauce through a sieve to remove the seeds.

Blackberry cheese

Great for making use of the pulp left after making bramble jelly. Add enough water to the leftover pulp to liquidise it in a blender. Sieve to remove pips . To every 1 pint of pulp add 450g of sugar. Heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, then simmer gently—adding any spices you want, until a spoon scraped along the bottom of the pan leaves a clean line. Grease molds or jars with glycerine then pour in the cheeses and allow to set. Cover and seal. Store in a cold dry place. The cheese should be able to be sliced and is great with a wide variety of foods.

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 17.45-19.15 20.00-22.00	Yoga Dog Training Royston and District Model Railway Club



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Knit and Natter

Mondays 5-7 at the Village Hall

Do you have unfinished projects in a cupboard? whilst knitting and purling?

Don't feel limited to knitting or crochet, we have needlework going on as well!

Come and join us!

Subs are £6.00 a month or £2.00 for a drop in if you can't make it every week.

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, <u>ncs3@cam.</u> ac.uk

Hope to see some new faces soon

VILLAGE GROUPS

Knit and Natter Diane Faben

I moved to Whaddon from Southwest Essex in April 2023. I had lived there for 25 years, and it was time for a change. What I wanted more that anything else was community, I had no community in the small town I lived in, and it didn't help that I was out at work 5 days a week. I was talking to my now new neighbour about this, and she said, if you want to go to the Annual Parish Council Meeting, you can come with me. I was delighted by that offer, walking into a room of complete strangers is always hard for me, and it's made much easier if you go with someone.

During that meeting there was a request to think of ways in which the hall could be used more often, and I thought "that's something I could do". I belong to a textile group in Essex, and I know how wonderful that has been for me. I thought about replicating that, but it's a lot of work, and then knitting came to mind, I put out some feelers, did the maths, and in September 2023, Knit and Natter was born.

It started quite slowly, people bringing work they had long ago abandoned, some people saying "I only crochet", but slowly the group started to gel, and people were sharing their skills, branching out, researching new skills and working on things they never imagined they would.









Knit and Natter isn't just about creating things, its also about what's going on in your life, and around you. No complicated knitting happens at Knit and Natter, because it's hard to count and talk. There is a lot of talking and laughter, people bring their visiting friends, in fact last week a friend was visiting me with her man and they both came, and we taught him how to knit! He loved it but I doubt he will make a career of it!

We now have a few people who have joined who don't knit, they sew, so we are branching out, everyone is welcome, Weekly subs are £2.00-monthly is £6.00 and that includes a cup of tea or coffee.

We have completed a couple of projects, we made teddy bears for the fete in 2024- photographs were taken of them for the Bear Hunt. All the bears were donated to Care Homes and Children's Groups. We made poppies for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and put them out for display by the village sign. We are just about to embark on another project, but I can't reveal what that's about just yet.

Lots of our members make baby clothes for charities which support newborn babies and mothers. Others make things which they donate to charity shops for sale. And then there are plenty of pieces made for family, friends and even ourselves. It's a complete joy to share in each other's achievements and one of these days we might even get an Instagram Account set up to share with the world.







COFFEE MORNINGS

Run by Jo Hart- Coffee mornings are a great way to get to know new people or meet up with friends.

Coffee mornings have seen a slight rise in numbers coming to sample the delights in the last few weeks which is very good news. They are run on the first and third Wednesdays every month from 10.30am to 12.00 noon in the village hall.

There is always a choice of two homemade cakes to go with a cup of coffee or tea – all for £2. I am planning to hold a Christmas lunch on the final coffee morning of the year – details in the next newsletter.

Dates for the remainder of 2025

September – 3rd & 17th October – 1st & 15th November – 5th & 19th

December - 3rd. The 17th will be the Christmas lunch.



Neighbourhood Watch in Whaddon

Whaddon has an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which is coordinated 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 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.



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David Mark

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Email: Davidgreen610@vahoo.co.uk Email: Markgreen880@yahoo.co.uk

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Overhanging trees in Bridge Street

As reported in the last Whaddon News, the Parish Council (PC) have responded to concerns from residents regarding the overgrowth from trees towards the bottom end of Bridge Street, impeding the movement of traffic. The PC have since had confirmation from County Council that the trees are indeed their responsibility and as such, they have assessed the growth and have flailed back the trees, to allow for safe and secure passing of vehicles.

County and District Councillor reports

Our new County Councillor Bostanci has requested to meet with both the Chairman and Vice-Chair of the PC to discuss any ongoing issues and areas of need for residents. The PC remain appreciative of the healthy working relationship that exists between itself and both County and District Councillors.

It is worth noting that at each PC meeting we usually have a representative from either or both County and District Council. Each month the Councillors produce a report updating the PC and our residents of ongoing items of interest. This report is distributed around the village via email and can also be found on the village website at www/Whaddon.org.

Parish Plan Update

Councillor Fairclough continues to lead on recommendations from the most recent Whaddon Parish Plan. The recommendation of a housing needs survey is one such item. In order to fully understand the implications/process of such a survey, Mr Moore from Cambridgeshire ACRE attended a recent PC meeting where he gave a very helpful presentation on affordable housing and housing

needs surveys in rural areas. The PC will consider further the need for a survey to be completed.

Other concerns arising from the Parish Plan included speeding through the village. The PC were reminded that there had been recent discussions regarding the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit through Whaddon. When this was first introduced by Cambridgeshire County Council the idea had been rejected, however, due to the concerns highlighted in the Parish Plan, it was agreed that the PC would liaise with the MVAS (mobile vehicle activated sign) co-ordinator to request monthly data to compare speeds. This would give the PC hard statistics on which they could base their future decisions upon.

Another item of interest highlighted in the Parish Plan was the appetite for a cycle/walking path to Meldreth and Melbourn. As the majority of this would be in Meldreth it was agreed to raise this item with ClIr Bostanci.

Parish Maintenance

Each month the PC update on any maintenance works including roads, footpaths and public spaces. If you have any concerns for any of these areas, please contact a member of the PC or the Parish Clerk at whadddonparishcclerk@outlook.com, who will then discuss any concerns at the next PC meeting.

Grant application from Sustainable Whaddon

Paul Evans from Sustainable Whaddon approached the PC with a grant application to create a swift 'highway', by installing a number of swift boxes in the parish, as has been adopted by neighbouring villages. The grant request was for £500 which would be used to buy the materials and to make the boxes.

The PC agreed the application by Sustainable Whaddon and are happy to support this initiative.

Village Hall maintenance works

The PC have also been approached by the Chair of Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust for financial support. They are in the process of gathering quotes for repairs to both the veranda on the Village Hall and the garage roof. As the PC are landlords of the Village Hall it was considered appropriate that they ensure that the property is kept in good structural condition. The PC will consider this item further, once all quotes have been received and they have a full understanding of costs involved.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 8th September, 7:30pm Whaddon Village Hall

Thank you,

Anita Birch

WHADDON VILLAGE HALL TRUST							
Jonathan Birch	Chair						
Karen Coningsby	Secretary						
Peter Haselden	Treasurer						
Gabby Van Poortvli	et 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							

(including Village hall bookings).

LIBRARY SERVICES Mobile Library Meldreth Road 10.00 -10.30 Every 4th 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



Suzanne Hill (Porter) - of Meldreth Road, Whaddon

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

infoandadvice@ageukcap.org.uk

www.ageukcap.org.uk

Councillors:

 County- Adam Bostanci
 07400 236329

 District- Jose Hales
 01763 221058

 Sally Ann Hart
 07791 233303

MP Pippa Heylings pippa.heylings.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

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