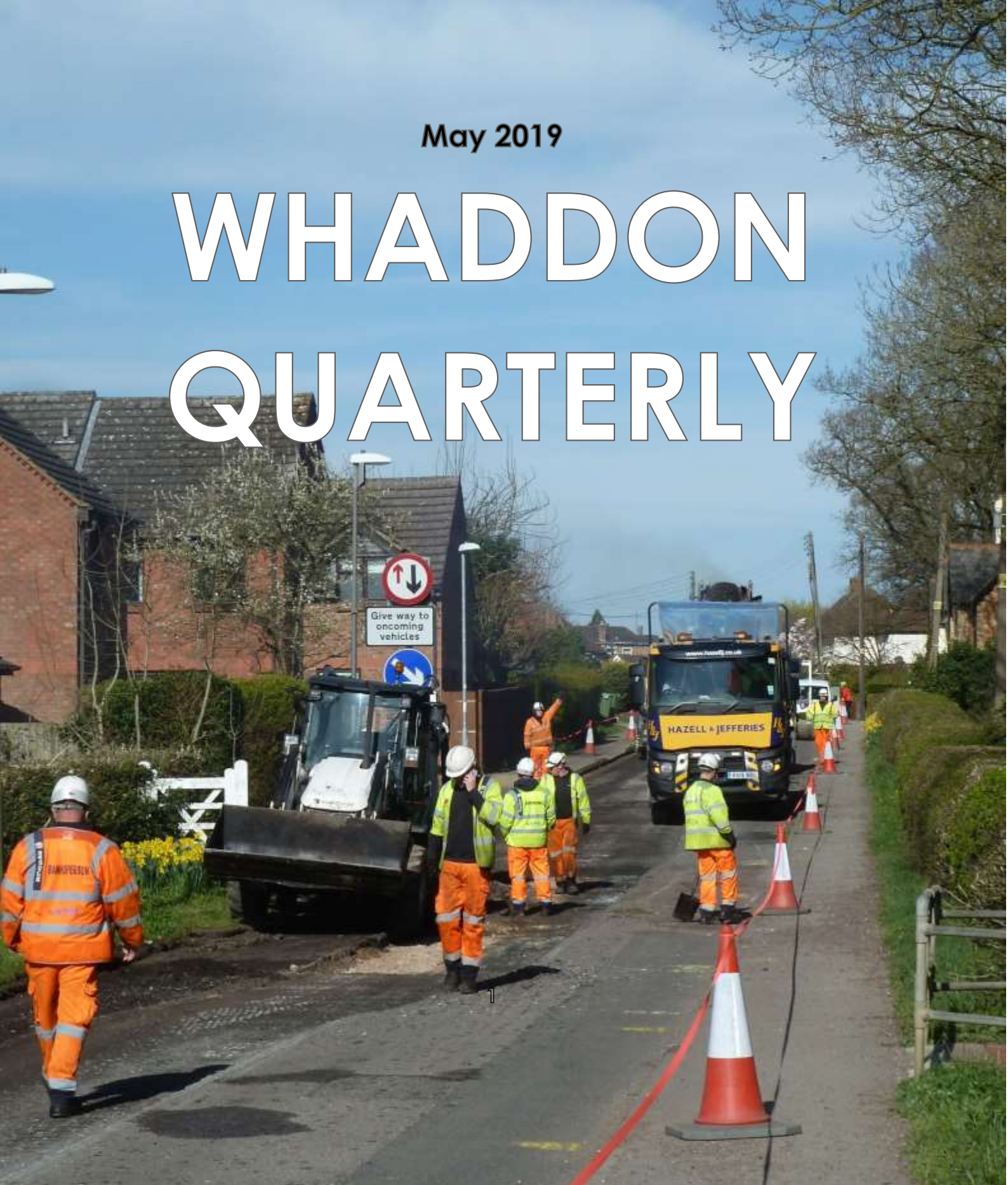


May 2019

# WHADDON QUARTERLY



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Welcome to Bump Start, the baby shop at Whaddon. We stock everything you could need for your baby, from car seats to cots to carriers. We pride ourselves on our product knowledge and will help find the ideal products for you. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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## **For comments, queries and articles**

Please contact the editor, John Mortimer, on  
01908 866988 or johnmortimermsc@gmail.com

## **To advertise in the *Whaddon Quarterly***

Send your advertisement to the editor as above

## **Advertising Rates and Publication Policy – page 51**

### **Whaddon Jubilee Hall**

[whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com). For details see page 22

## **Final deadlines for forthcoming issues:**

19<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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**Cover: Long-awaited resurfacing in progress for Coddimoor Lane, by John Mortimer.**

# SNIPPETS



**A HUGE** vote of thanks is due to Brenda Green who took the trouble to get out her bucket and brush and scrub down the white 'entrance gates' to Whaddon on the Stratford Road. It was kind of her to take time out to undertake this not very pleasant task – they were very dirty! Thank you. Brenda.

**TO COMMEMORATE** D-Day on 6<sup>th</sup> June, colleagues will set up a vintage Morse code radio-station to contact French stations. It will operate probably from Church Hill (Windy Ridge), Whaddon. The security services used the super-powerful Colossus computer, made ready a few days before D-Day 1944, throughout that campaign. The full story of Colossus will appear in the next issue.

**LITTER PICKERS** Kym and Steven were out on the morning of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February ridding two legs of Shenley Road of an accumulation of litter and other assorted items including a seat and electrical cable. By the end of the morning they had amassed a total in excess of three dozen black bags of rubbish to leave the road in pristine condition. But for how long?

**WHADDON CHASE HUNT** represented an imposing sight in the 1930s, as anyone who clicks on the following YouTube clip:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ERYV8LiNKQ> will quickly vouchsafe. The number participating in the hunt that day is amazing.

**CCTV.** DURING the recent upgrade of Stock Lane and Coddimoor Lane, CCTV took the form of a camera and voice recording device slung round the necks of traffic management operatives. It is safeguard for operatives who frequently encounter abuse (verbal and possibly physical) from truck drivers, motorists and cyclists.



**SUMMER** in Woburn on 25<sup>th</sup> February as warm air was dragged up from Africa. Temperature in Whaddon that day was a touch cooler at 17.5C. A year ago the Beast from the East made temperatures tumble. And the day after, Freaky February continued as Kew Gardens recorded 21.2C, the highest February temperature 'ever'.



**EARLY** in March (2<sup>nd</sup> March) a team from Transport for Bucks descended (**left**) on Stock Lane to repair a much-needed and long-outstanding to a large pothole that has be-devilled a gully grating for a long period of time.

**DAYS** later (8<sup>th</sup> March) a low-flying helicopter (**right**) plied back and forth over fields adjacent to Stock Lane. Considered to be at first a police helicopter searching for an



escapee from Woodhill Prison it transpired to be surveying overhead electricity power lines.

**PLEASE NOTE.** If you would like to write an article for the *Whaddon Quarterly*, please contact the editor on 01908 866988. It's a parish and a village magazine. Thank you.



## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

April 2019

THANKS to the hard work of a number of residents in recent years, Whaddon looks a much more cheerful place in the springtime, following the planting of daffodils in so many corners of the village. This is followed by what seems like a million cowslips on the green at the top of Nash Road. I honestly believe that a true community spirit, which I believe we have in Whaddon, is much encouraged by such embellishments.

As I write, road resurfacing, on Coddimoor Lane and Stock Lane, is nearly complete. I shall not easily forget the potholes of two years ago, having myself suffered two damaged tyres at the time. It proves that persistence pays off; as I remember, we were told that we were in a queue with almost the whole of Buckinghamshire.

The County Council was told by the Government that if we opted for Unitary Status (all services provided by one organisation), it must be for the whole of Buckinghamshire, rather than a north/south split. And so it is a very busy time starting to get to grips with the change, not to mention a mass of work to create unity. I think you would agree that our bin men are the best, and I will fight, if necessary, to keep it that way, rather than outsourced as in south Buckinghamshire.

As a result of the changeover, we will not have local elections this year, so Parish Councillors will have a fifth year to serve, instead of the normal four until May 2020 when we will also be electing our Buckinghamshire councillor.

*Billy Stanier*

April 2019



### Allotments available.

Whaddon Parish Council has a number of allotments available to rent at £25/year. Contact Suzanne at [ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk](mailto:ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk) or 01908 507970 (office hours please).

**WHADDON MAY FAYRE** takes place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Please give this annual village event all your support as funds go towards Whaddon CofE School.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

THESE past three months have witnessed four coincidental occurrences not to be ignored: Windy Ridge, gliding, Whaddon's Kings and suffragettes.

It's amazing how items from Whaddon's past continue to emerge from the mists of time. Early photographs and a book landing on the editorial desk provoked fertile investigation.

In the search for WW2 veterans, a chance conversation with a colleague about his father's just-found war-time diaries of D-Day, brought forth a photograph of SOE men on Windy Ridge (where June will see a commemoration). Within days, an identical photograph arrived from Australia, courtesy of Suzanne Lindsey. Combined, they resulted in the article on **p. 30-31** by John Pullin, a former editor (1984-1991) of the leading national engineering weekly newspaper, *The Engineer*; this magazine's editor occupied that chair between 1969 and 1980.

Four photographs, 100 years old, open up Whaddon's aviation history past. These never-before-published photographs are world exclusives (see **p. 15**). The identity of this aircraft has baffled aviation experts. Even a national aviation library could not name its maker. Can publication unlock the secrets of the past? Who is the intrepid aviator who holds aloft his newly-minted, hand-crafted flying machine? And the house beyond?

Finally, musings from Roger Porter about suffrage coincided with a book about Buckinghamshire's involvement in the movement (see **p. 38**). It is just over 100 years since women obtained the vote, and their places in Parliament. It is sometimes forgotten how hard suffragettes toiled and suffered to obtain the vote. For many years, Aylesbury Jail was a women's-only prison; many Suffragettes were incarcerated inside (see **p. 35**). While Whaddon women watched unfolding events from the sidelines, Buckinghamshire women certainly played their part, with High Wycombe as an important centre of activity.

A farm labourer's wife living in a tied cottage had much to lose from participation in 'votes for women'. That's not to say they did not share protesters' ideals. But 'upper class' women could afford travel; they had time, education and freedom on their side. Freedom to 'live, move and have their being'. Contrast this with women of little education, living ordinary lives; their only outlook being drudgery and that week's wages. Graham Stewart's plethora of unearthed bottles of the period of the suffragettes yield another rich seam about Whaddon life (see **p.12**).

Next month is the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings and beginning of the end of WW2 in Europe as London suffered the effects of a new type of air bombardment; one of German ingenuity: the doodlebug or V1; the precursor of all subsequent space rocketry. One major V1 atrocity immediately following D-Day devastated Horse Guards chapel (see **p. 26**).

Next year sees the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE-Day and VJ-Day – wars triggered by two leaders who wanted their place in the sun. A time for reflection: of how much has been gained and how much lost. Of all the participating nations, Japan has made perhaps the biggest stride, offering lessons in many spheres. A timely Letter to the Editor (see **p. 8**) is a reminder of one transformation that puts the UK to shame: internal railways. Mainland Europe's railways have similarly improved, but Japan's effort is exemplary.

To put this letter in context, all but six of the world's 51 busiest railway stations can be found in Japan. Japan's busiest, Shinjuku Station in Tokyo, handles about 1.26 billion passengers a year, or nearly three-and-a-half million passengers *a day*. In contrast, Waterloo, the UK's busiest railway station, handles 270,000 passengers a day.

If Japan has a single, over-arching ethos it is 'kaizen' or continuous improvement; making incremental steps to improve. Perform better today than yesterday. Had the UK adopted kaizen vigorously and widely it might be a much better place in which to live. Meanwhile, another Japanese term, poka-yoke, lurks elsewhere in this issue (see **p. 58**).

*Whaddon Quarterly* aims to inform, with Whaddon people, places, history and events as its bedrock. Hopefully you'll find enlightenment in one direction or another. Enjoy summer. ■



# Clerk's Corner

## Helpful information from Whaddon Parish Council

**Please report damage to highways if you see it happen.** Bucks County Council Highways is asking for support for its "Don't Pay Twice" campaign. I'm sure readers will join me in being angry about people who damage bollards, road signs, streetlights, and just drive off leaving tax payers to pick up the pieces and the costs of repair.

Bucks County Council has a new webpage on its website where you can log on, report the damage and upload any information and photos you have available. Please note this page is not for reporting potholes etc; it is for making a witness statement to report any damage you have seen taking place.

The website is <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-highways-problem/dont-pay-twice/>. Alternatively, search for "Bucks CC don't pay twice". As the title suggests, we've already paid once for the equipment to be provided, and shouldn't be expected to pay again for damage caused by irresponsible road users.

**A quick reminder about street light repairs.** Please note that Whaddon Parish Council maintains Whaddon's street lights, *not AVDC or Bucks CC*. If you see a problem, please email me, or phone during office hours to report it. And please be patient; our street lights are old, cranky and spares can be hard to get. We cannot provide instant repairs in most cases. If you are worried about inadequate light on the footpaths, use a torch!

### **Sign up to get important information and updates by email!!!**

Many residents of Whaddon Parish are not getting up-to-date and timely information about very important issues affecting our Parish. By signing up, you can also get the Whaddon Quarterly by email, and other useful notices and information: refuse collection delays, road closures, planning applications, etc.

Send a short email to [ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk](mailto:ParishClerk@WhaddonBucksPC.org.uk) asking to be added to the list. We promise absolutely you will *not* be 'spammed' and your details will *not* be passed on or used for any other purpose than this one.

**Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s).** The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take(s) place at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, at 7.30pm 9/5/19 (AGM), 11/7/19, 12/9/19, 14/11/19, 9/1/20, 12/3/20. Please check the Village Notice Board at the bus stop to confirm these dates and the location, as these can be subject to change. All Welcome!

### **Whaddon Quarterly**

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ANY recent visitor to Japan, a country broken by war following its aggressive acts in WW2, will be aware of stark contrasts with the UK which, by comparison, seem almost archaic.

This week we travelled from Tokyo to London; the contrast between the two could not be wider.

In Japan, life revolves around railway stations. A plethora of shops and restaurants surround such bustling hubs, almost towns in their own right. Trains are responsible for the transit of millions of people a day. They run quickly, efficiently, on time, without cancellations. You can set your watch by Japan's futuristic 200 mile/h bullet trains, or shinkansen. Without the railways, Japan would be unable to function.

Our journey to London from Japan began by train. The wide-bodied carriages delivered us and many others to Narita as scheduled. On arrival, in London however, it was a different story.

By contrast, the groaning narrow-bodied London Underground trains are not fit for purpose, hardly enough space for people, let alone luggage. At the mainline station, we grabbed something to eat at a fast food restaurant, only to find rubbish strewn everywhere. We then found our train was cancelled - as they so often are. The eventual journey home involved two other trains, a bus and a taxi, before arriving several hours late. By all accounts, our experience was not unusual; that's why so many people think we should be upgrading our existing railway infrastructure country-wide – not wasting billions on HS2.

It's not just trains that set Japan and the UK apart. Any visitor to Japan will be impressed by the profusion of clean public toilets: contrast this with the worsening situation in the UK.

Despite internet shopping, Japan's high streets and shopping malls are thriving; absent are the boarded shop fronts scarring so many UK high streets (20,000 at the last count and rising – Ed). Japan's streets are clean, free from litter, graffiti, and homeless. Japan's crime levels are a fraction of those in the UK. Japanese are polite, respectful, and appear to take pride in what they do.

Japan, like any country, has its problems; the people constantly live with the threat of natural disasters. But our creaking country would do well to look East – and take a few pages from Japan's book on how to do things better. ■

*Name and address supplied*

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## Helping hand for those hospital trips

**A volunteer car service is available for anyone requiring transport to nearby hospitals, as John Mortimer reports.**

THE MK Community Car Service is made up of volunteer drivers who are available to take passengers to and from hospitals or doctors' surgeries.



The cost of 45 pence per mile is payable directly to drivers at the conclusion of the journey. If there is a hospital car parking charge this will be added to the total at the journey's end.

The driver will usually telephone the day before the appointment, to introduce himself or herself and to confirm arrangement for the journeys.

A driver will wait for/with you for up to two hours. If the appointment lasts longer than two hours, the driver may leave and return later. Please note: this additional trip will be recoded as another journey.

If it is known the appointment will take longer than two hours, it is important to alert the administrator when making the booking, so that two drivers can be arranged to carry out the journeys.

However, one condition of the service is that those wishing to join the scheme must first register with Volunteering Matters, which operates the service; this requires the completion of a registration form available from Sarah Thurston, telephone 01908 670309 or [Sarah.thurstans@volunteeringmatters.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.thurstans@volunteeringmatters.org.uk) The one-time charge for this registration is £15.00.

Another point made clear by the service, concerns mileage charge. The charge is from the driver's home to the pick-up point and then to the hospital, and the return journey.

A registration pack is available from Volunteer Matters, Acorn House, 381 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes. MK9 3HP. Contact Sarah Thurston, details above.

The office administrator is available Monday to Friday only from 09.30 to 12.30 to accept any journey calls. Calls made outside these hours will be recorded on an answering machine. If you need to leave a message, it is important to give details of the journey required.

The greater the notice that can be given, the easier it is to find a volunteer driver. All volunteer drivers receive training and undergo DBS checks. ■

## The joys of church bell ringing

**Church bell ringing is good for the body as well as the mind; it's certainly not essential to be a mathematician to enjoy it, as Philip Starr explains.**

BELL ringing has been part of my life for over 14 years. Indeed, it has become so much a part that it is only recently I gave it any consideration: *why* do I ring church bells? The question follows one posed by the editor of this fine publication.

Derek White, Tower Captain at St Mary's Church, Whaddon, has been known to the Starr family for more years than I dare say he would care to recall. Ringing would be raised in conversation, a subtle recruitment technique maybe? Added to which, I have read Derek's 'call to arms' in pages of the *Whaddon Quarterly*.

Likewise, a friend of mine, Nicholas Green, another ringer, has spoken of it often, and with passion.

Seeds must have been sown as the decision to try church bell ringing emerged in a flash one Tuesday evening, some 14 years ago. I happened to be seated on the sofa at home,

watching a tv programme that clearly I did not find stimulating. I thought: "Ringing has to be more engaging than this rubbish!"

And, having read yet another of Derek's 'call to arms', I duly resolved the following Tuesday to see for myself what bell ringing was all about.

And so I entered, and was met with, the warmest of welcomes: the world of church bell ringing.

Bell ringing is a tradition which combines two key elements: technique and patience. Without developing a good technique, little is possible, yet with good technique almost every bell in the country can be rung.

Patience is certainly a valuable asset, as much of ringing does not easily relate to any other activity. It is not like playing a musical instrument: the Church tower is the instrument; the ringer plays but a single note.

Confronted for the first time with a bell rope is not unlike the first driving lesson; seemingly many elements come together at the same time.

A bell ringer can become as engrossed as he or she wants. There are some in the bell ringing world who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of perfection; it has become an obsession. On the other hand, there are those who simply enjoy the company of like-minded people; they are keen to ensure the tradition does not fade into obscurity.

I fall most happily into the second category. Many of the people I engage with during bell ringing I would not have otherwise met; they enjoy the simple act of ensuring the bells ring out for Sunday services, and other church festivals and weddings.

The mind becomes most active when changes are made to the order in which bells peal; namely, using a memorised pattern (method ringing), and called changes, which are decided by the conductor. It is here that with one ringer out of 'order' the whole band can be led astray, resulting in a terrible cacophony for any listener.

Yet a band that strikes well, changing order neatly, crisply and precisely is one that creates a confident and welcoming sound to be heard both near and far, but especially by parishioners; a sound that perhaps echoes through centuries of church life and village activity: the sound of tradition and shared history. ■

*Phillip Starr*

## Calverton's new bells in first peal

The new bells at All Saints Church, Calverton, were first rung as a peal on the afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> April by a full band of eight ringers, according to David Muston.

Shown (right) is the large tenor bell in motion being fine-tuned in terms of its strike timing. The other bells were timed and adjusted in a similar manner one by one in preparation for that afternoon's ringing.

**NEXT TIME: Look out for the special feature in our August issue: The new bells of Calverton's belfry – 2.** ■



### LATE NEWS Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April: Social Evening, Jubilee Hall

THE editor of the WQ dispatched this roving reporter to cover the Social Event in Jubilee Hall, under strict instructions the piece should be 150 words max, plus photo. So, for the good of our village magazine, and for no other, I went. Since brevity is not really my thing, but he must be obeyed, I've resorted to a collection of words and phrases which sum up the evening to the best of my remembering (it was a good 'un): Towcester Mill Brewery; Spotify juke box; Prosecco a-go-go; thoroughly convivial; great to catch up; Whaddon does things so brilliantly; nice mix of villagers; true friendship; many thanks to Jubilee Hall Committee; where's the paracetamol; apologies no photo, some may be relieved to know! Is this ok, JM? **MB**

# Coddimoor Lane gets upgraded – at last

Hold the front page! Whaddon's most important event for years evolved from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April as Coddimoor Lane received its long-awaited upgrade. Here is the story in pictures, from closure through red diesel bowser to new sign and finally white-lining. About 1,500 tons of 'base' were laid, topped with 300 tons of 'finish'.



## Bottle(d) treasure from the past



**It's amazing what lies buried in the ground, discarded by previous generations, as Graham Stewart unearthed when he began preparations for his refurbishment of 2a and 2b High Street. Here's his description of what he found. If Antiques Roadshow ever came to Whaddon...**

LOOKING at the photograph (**above**) probably taken around 1900, it is perhaps a little easier to understand why the replacement pair of houses were positioned some 8m back from the existing footpath, especially when considering other finds discovered during recent extension and conversion works.

Viewed from the perspective of that early photographer, little of the original is remaining, apart from No. 2 High Street (less the side extension building) and *The Lowndes Arms* public house, which may then have sold beer under the name of *The Haunch of Venison*.

The pub's name changed at the turn of the century, a token of respect to the Selby-Lowndes family: a name linked intrinsically to Whaddon since 1783 when Mr W Lowndes, Lord of the Manor at Winslow, took possession of Whaddon Hall estate and its grounds; an occasion marked by a procession of friends with a ceremonial band providing music.

He took possession under the name Mr W Lowndes Selby, having been judged the most likely and proper owner of the estate in Mr James Selby's will.

That happened only after a long and prolonged legal investigation involving numerous claimants and several writs, as the 'rightful and lawful heirs' in Mr. Selby's will could not be traced!

I know little of the two cottages' history, save that they appeared on Ordnance Survey 1923 (with 1950 revisions). Possibly located behind them was an old butcher's shop; they may also have provided accommodation during WW2.

The cottages were demolished by 1955, judging by the plaque discovered during renovation and now replaced on the original façade. The two new houses were built as farm worker houses for the Merchant Venturers, at that time major landowners countrywide. They owned No 2 High Street, Manor Farm opposite, Bottle House Farm, Shenley Dens Farm, and other property and land within Whaddon village.

So, having demolished the original property (which from the chimney stacks suggests it might even have been a pair of houses) the two new houses were set back. The purpose: to avoid the original foundations, which were probably minimal, and, more likely, to avoid a very

large and deep well sited immediately to the rear (or possibly, looking at the original gable end depth, just within the property itself). This would have posed a problem when modern foundations were required in 1955!

We know this from excavating for the front extension of 2b (next to the pub). We discovered remnants of the original foundations and the old well (which had been loosely filled), and a small rubbish dump alongside. All of this unfortunately led to a costly delay during construction, while engineers and building control officers designed a 21<sup>st</sup> century well capping configuration suitable for the approved extension plans to proceed, and right under one corner of the front two-storey extension! I pity any who may have to dig up these foundations in the next 100-150 years' time!

However, within the rubbish dump, and filled well, we unearthed a small, but curious selection of items; these perhaps shed a little light on our village's social history and how residents lived in late Victorian times, well before modern-day rubbish collections.

The items include crockery shards, rotten kettles, pots and pans, and a barely recognisable child's shoe (complete with a nailed sole). Predictably, there were various glass and ceramic bottles, some of which have survived intact and offer an interesting insight.

Residents older than me will undoubtedly recognise brand names; some I do recall but younger Whaddonites may be intrigued.

Here is a brief circa 1900 history of the bottles (**above**) as identified from their markings:



#### 1. LUNG TONIC – OWBRIDGES, HULL.

A 'cure-all' preparation sold all over the country and invented in 1874 by Hull pharmacist Walter Owbridge. Advertised as 'A cough medicine, a remedy for bronchitis, asthma, consumption (tuberculosis) and all other manner of chest and throat infections'. 'It never fails', or so it claimed. Made from a 'secret formula', archival analysis shows it consisting of chloroform, honey and alcohol in the form of ipecac wine. This style of bottle was discarded around 1910 and its current worth is about £3 (no fortunes will be made selling this collection!)

#### 2. WOODWARD CHEMIST – NOTTINGHAM.

These Cobalt or Ice Blue bottles almost certainly contained gripe water and dated around 1900. William Woodward invented gripe water in 1851 to relieve colic; it was sold mainly for infant use.

#### 3. EIFFEL TOWER LEMONADE – FOSTER CLARKE LTD – MAIDSTONE.

Foster Clark began in Maidstone in 1891, being created by George Foster Clark, aged 27. He experimented for a couple of years, using his mother's kitchen, developing techniques to make baking and lemonade powders. These he sold in Thomas Carpenter's grocery shop where he worked. By that time, he had left the grocery store, having set up business in a small shed with brothers William and Henry, to sell grocers' sundries. Capitalising on the enormous popularity of the Eiffel Tower, which had just been erected in Paris for the exhibition of 1889, he registered the name Eiffel Tower for his lemonade trademark. This bottle can be dated to 1910, after which Foster Clarke Co became a limited company. Bottles were embossed accordingly.

#### 4. CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO – SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

The California Fig Company opened in Reno, Nevada in 1878. Its only product, syrup of figs, was a medical preparation for 'constipation and many ills, acting upon the kidneys, liver, stomach and bowels'. The company moved to San Francisco in 1883. This bottle can be dated after 1917 when bottles started to be manufactured and the product sold in England.

#### 5. POISON – NOT TO BE TAKEN.

Date and content of this distinctive green bottle are unknown!

#### 6. THE CAMBRIDGE LEMONADE – CHIVERS AND SONS, HISTON, CAMBRIDGE.

Well known for its jams, Chivers also produced lemonade crystals. This small, rectangular aqua bottle, measuring just 3ins tall, contained enough crystals to make up to 2 gallons (32 glasses) of lemonade. These bottles, made in two halves before sealed together, can be dated circa 1880. Chivers, originally famous for its 'ideal hygienic factory' making jams, was acquired by Schweppes in 1959. The company, also the largest canners of fruit and vegetables in England by 1938, employed 4,500 people across four factories. The farms, providing fruit and vegetables, extended over 7,000 acres. However, Chivers lost market lead in 1945 due to failure to install modern equipment.

#### 7. ESSENCE LINSEED – KAYS, STOCKPORT.

Kay Brothers, a firm of chemists started in 1865, manufactured adhesives, as well as essence of linseed used for bronchitis, asthma and consumption. The latter could be taken by horses for which it was equally effective. Interestingly, Kay Brothers also made anti-tank grenades known as 'sticky bombs'; these were dipped in tar to enable them to stick to tanks when thrown!

#### 8. J W SMITH MPS – DISPENSING CHEMIST – STONY STRATFORD.

I found little about this company, other than it became reasonably well known for taking photographs of local scenes in and around Stony Stratford.

#### 9. LINGS OSMOND & SONS – CHEMIST.

Osmond & Sons c 1910 of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, manufactured veterinary products and medicines. This bottle almost certainly contained a cure for colic in horses.

#### 10. STEPHENSON BROTHERS – FURNITURE CREAM.

This bottle dates from circa 1910 when glass bottles replaced previous stoneware pots. The company manufactured soap bases from 1856, as well as furniture polish and wax for processing wool.

#### 11. GARTONS HP SAUCE.

The original recipe for HP sauce was invented and developed by Frederick Gibson Garton, a grocer from Nottingham. He registered the name in 1895 and called it HP. He had heard of a restaurant in the Houses of Parliament which had begun serving it! He sold the recipe and the HP brand to Edwin Sampson Moore for £150, founders of the Midlands Vinegar Co. This company subsequently relaunched it in 1903 under a new label; this puts the date of this bottle before 1903. If you can believe auction prices, this bottle is probably the most collectable of those unearthed; it sells for £20-£25!

#### 12. INK BOTTLES.

Early 1900 samples, and now quite collectable!

#### 13. H J HEINZ & CO – PITTSBURGH PA.

The well-known food processing company, founded by Henry John Heinz in 1869 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, manufactures thousands of food products in plants on six continents; it markets its products in over 200 countries and territories. Since 1869, the company has used its '57 Varieties' logo (inspired by a company advertising 21 styles of shoe), but for some reason Henry Heinz chose the number 57, although the company manufactured more than 60 products at that time! Almost certainly, bottles of around 1900-1910 contained tomato ketchup or vinegar. The company, following several mergers, is now known as Kraft Heinz Company; it is the fifth largest food company in the world. ■

## LOCAL HISTORY

# Whaddon had its own Kill Devil Hills

**Just a decade after Orville and Wilbur Wright made powered flight history from Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, Whaddon's Church Hill played an historic role in one man's flight of fancy.**

TODAY, we think nothing of walking onto an aircraft and jetting to near and far-away places. One hundred years ago, man struggled to be airborne for even a few minutes in sustained flight.

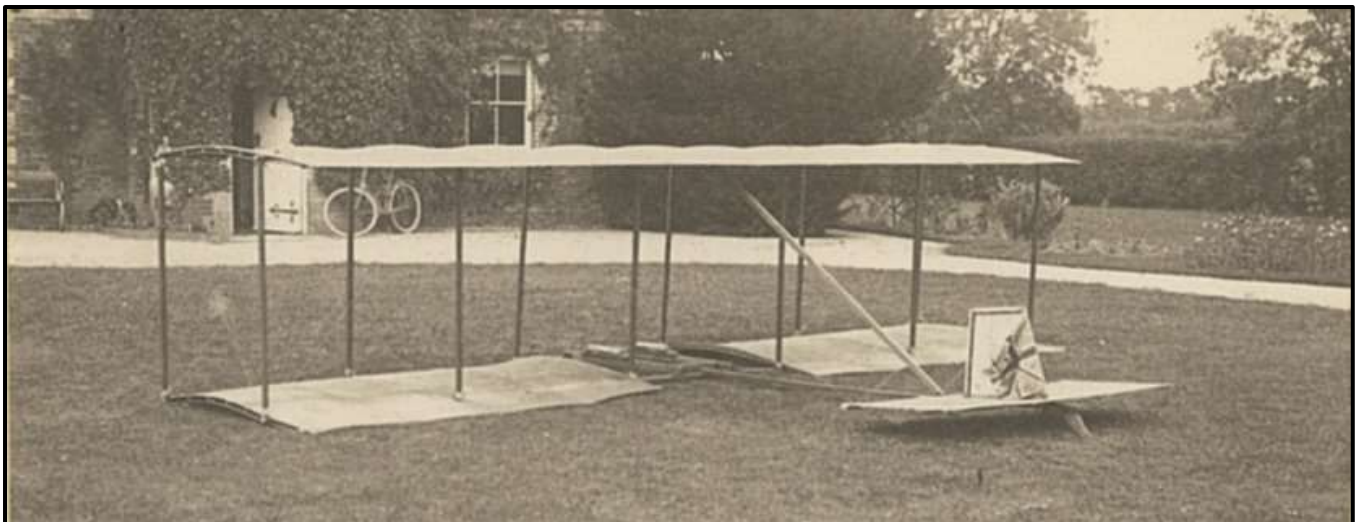
In this context, it is hard to take it in; that tiny, insignificant Whaddon should be at the cusp of sustained manned flight. Can you believe it?

And yet, just as today aero-modellers occasionally can be spotted flying their fragile craft on Church Hill, so a much different aero-modeller took to the skies from that same windy spot.

How come? Thanks to Suzanne Lindsey's diligence, secreted photographs have emerged of Whaddon's place in aviation history.

Four historic photographs reveal a chapter of unusual proportion. They not only usher in an extremely flimsy manned glider and its constructor (or the pilot) but they unveil the aircraft actually taking to the skies.

Alas, that photograph is too dark to reproduce *in print*; however it does confirm the glider did lift off from Church Hill, later in the day (there is a single, hand-written word 'evening' beneath the photograph), possibly launched by men or horses in a fading light as it finally slipped from view.



Hand-written caption: 'One of 'four photos of a glider aeroplane taken at Whaddon Bucks, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1913'

The photographs pose more questions than they provide answers. Who designed this craft? Who built it? What materials were used? Did its constructors work from plans? Who is the man standing so proudly alongside? Where was it assembled with such painstaking effort? How was it launched? Did it land safely without damage or harm to pilot? Did it, and the pilot, make a repeat flight? And note the bicycle leaning against the house, by the door.

To set the photographs in context, it's worth taking a look back. For thousands of years, mankind has held aloft the yearning to fly; accordingly many names have emerged from the history of flight.

Take Percy Pilcher, a Glasgow University lecturer. He became so obsessed with flight he built a glider called The Bat. It flew in 1895, it is said. Later that year Pilcher corresponded with, and met, German gliding pioneer Otto Lilienthal. The legendary Lilienthal made over 2,000 glider flights from 1891 until his death on his final flight on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1896.

But one aviation name stands supreme: step forward Sir George Cayley (1773-1857), the "father of aerodynamics". Cayley studied bird flight and determined the four basic forces governing flight: weight, lift, drag and thrust. All aircraft rely on these, and essential cambered (aerofoil) wings. Cayley knew too the importance of centre of gravity. Cayley foresaw that long distance, sustained flight was impossible without lightweight engines to generate thrust.

Cayley flew model gliders in 1804, culminating in a bi-plane glider in 1848. An unknown boy of 10 reputedly flew it a few yards. Cayley subsequently built a large craft, towed by two horses for launching. He used this for man's first recorded flight in a heavier-than-air machine on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1853. It flew across Brompton Dale, Yorkshire, in front of Cayley's home, Wydale Hall.

Everyone since has used Cayley's work, including Pilcher and, most famous of all, Orville and Wilbur Wright.

It's well known the Wright brothers completed the first successful sustained manned powered flight on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1903 in a heavier-than-air machine at Kill Devil Hills on Outer Banks, North Carolina; the location enjoyed 'strong, sustained winds', not unlike Church Hill at times.

It was the Wright's father, a bishop in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, who actioned the family's frequent house moves — 12 times — before returning permanently to Dayton, Ohio in 1884. There, the brothers pushed ahead their interests in flight.

### **Man's first powered flight**

Orville and Wilbur were deliberate in their quest. They spent years absorbing early flight developments, conducting detailed research of other inventors. They read literature by Cayley and Lilienthal.

Before 1900, the brothers designed several gliders to fly unmanned as kites. They recognized flight control as their greatest problem.

Following a successful glider test, the Wrights tested a full-size glider, selecting sandy and remote Kill Devil Hills. Flight-testing included a new 52lb biplane glider with a 17ft 6in wingspan wing.

In the first tests, probably on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1900, with Wilbur aboard, the glider flew as a kite, close to the ground; men held tethering ropes. Most kite tests were unpowered using sandbags, chains or even a local boy as ballast.

Some consider that as the first piloted glider flight. Following this, the brothers refined controls and landing gear before building a bigger glider.

Next year, again at Kill Devil Hills, they flew their largest glider. With a 22-foot wingspan and weighing 98lb, it had landing skids. Another followed in 1902 weighing 112lb and with a span of 32ft.

At that point, the brothers' attention then turned to powered flight using a lightweight, powerful engine.

For Orville this was not enough; after their successful powered flights he returned in 1911 to Kill Devil Hills to retest gliders — two years before that photographer recorded a glider on Church Hill.

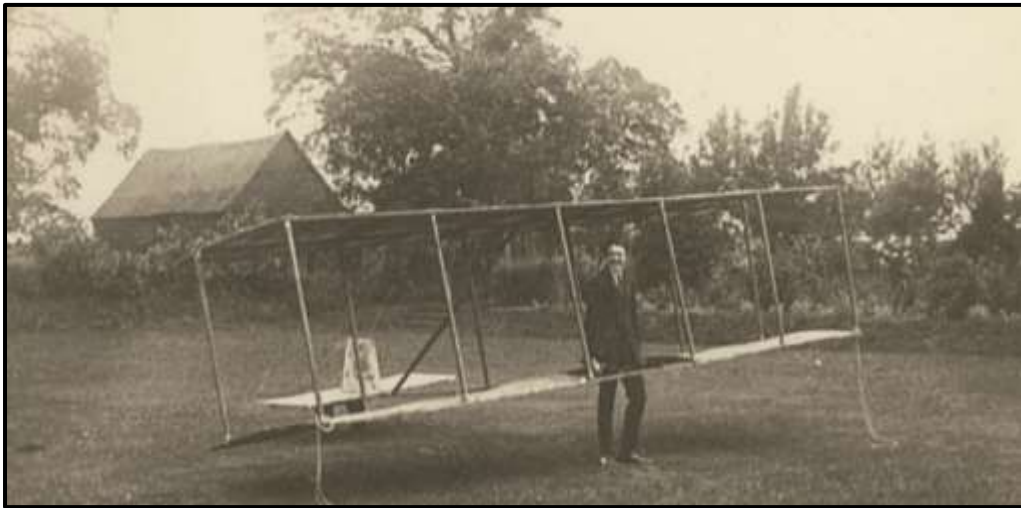
### **Gliding in England become popular**

Armed with a new glider and accompanied by his English friend, Alec Ogilvie, Orville planned tests with an automatic control system, but with reporters near tests were aborted.

Orville used a 'conventional tail plane', not a front-mounted elevator. The pilot had hand controls and remained seated; not prone in a cradle as with the original gliders.

With a 40 mile/h wind on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1911, Orville soared above Kill Devil Hills for 9 minutes 45 seconds, breaking the brothers' previous record of 1 minute 12 seconds set in 1903 with the 1902 glider. The new record stood for 10 years until broken in Germany.





Intrepid aviator (or constructor) holds his glider aloft. Note tiny vertical tail fin.

Meanwhile, in England, gliding had become so popular that Charles Lane launched the Lane Gliding School at Weybridge, Surrey in 1910; possibly the first British gliding school.

By 1922, with gliding so popular, the *Daily Mail* offered £1,000 for the longest flight from Itford in East Sussex. Years

later, Douglas Culver proposed a lunch meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1929 at London's Comedy Restaurant for those with gliding interests. With 56 people attending, a committee created the British Gliding Association (BGA), making gliding a UK sport.

So, who designed and built Whaddon's flimsy and simple glider? Was it home-built? And who was the intrepid aeronaut? What did he understand of the theory of flight – is the vertical tail fin, for example, is inadequate for good lateral stability? Did he even survive the landing to fly again?

Seeking information, *Whaddon Quarterly* contacted the esteemed National Aerospace Library in Farnborough, Hants. Unable to help, it enlisted assistance from aviation historian, Mike Goodall, co-author of *British Aircraft Before the Great War* (Schiffer Publishing, 2001). Goodall, of Woking, Surrey, has researched early aviation history in depth: his book, of 390 pages, details 175 gliders spanning 100 years, of which 25-30 craft were built before 1903.

Even so, 90 year-old Goodall informed *Whaddon Quarterly* he failed to recognise Whaddon's glider, given its similarity to others built at the time.

So, does anyone recognise the glider, the man aiming to burnish his flying credentials and who may have read a few years earlier of the Bristol Boxkite's flights? Did he enjoy a celebratory glow; or was he doomed never to fly again? And where is the house beyond?

The glider appears not to conform to any design recognisable today. Does that mean it was home-designed and put together in a barn nearby? A one-off?

Will time tell the originator of the Whaddon glider? ■

## How gliding developed from 1903 to 1914

### Aviation historian Mike Goodall examines how, in man's attempts to fly, modern streamlined gull-like sailplanes evolved from the hot air balloon.

SINCE the dawn of time, people have watched birds fly and wished they could emulate them.

But not until 21<sup>st</sup> November 1783 did Pilatre de Rozier and the Marquis d'Alondes, in a Montgolfier hot air balloon, become the first men to ascend into the sky.

Flying, in balloons, then became the rage until George Cayley of Brompton Hall, near Scarborough, launched his coachman in free flight across a nearby valley in a glider Cayley had built in the early 1800s – the first true glider flight.

Not much then happened, with the exception of the experiments of Wenham and Brearley, until later that century when the German Nikolas Otto perfected the first internal combustion

engine and Horatio Phillips invented the true aerofoil for wings; its curved upper surface giving greater lift than that generated from flat surface wings used by constructors of most early gliders.

These new inventions prompted the hope that engine-powered flight could be realised. Accordingly, a large number of enthusiasts began constructing aeroplanes, but alas the new engines were too heavy and expensive.

Even so, many aero clubs were formed in Britain and their members began building gliders of every configuration: monoplanes, biplanes and even triplanes. Not surprisingly, several well-illustrated aviation magazines also soon appeared, giving prominence to aero clubs and glider construction.

In 1903, when the Wright brothers made the first successful controlled powered flight in a biplane, the real craze for heavier-than-air flight began.

However, as engines remained too expensive, many individuals, clubs and companies built gliders. Constructed mainly of wood (including bamboo) fabric covering (sometimes toughened with semolina) and a few metal fittings, it was not until after World War 1 that elegant, streamlined gull-like sailplanes began to appear.

All of this led to a number of British glider and sailplane manufacturing companies, including Slingsby Aviation Ltd of Kirkbymoorside, Yorkshire, founded by Fred Slingsby, an RAF pilot in WW1, who bought a partnership in a woodworking and furniture factory in Scarborough, and became one of the founders of the Scarborough Gliding Club. Slingsby is now Marshall Slingsby Advanced Composites. ■

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## Fundraising for Under Fives

**At Whaddon Under Fives, children from the parish and surrounding areas have a great time learning and exploring through play.**

THE playschool, which is open every weekday morning in Jubilee Hall, takes great pride in providing a happy, stimulating, safe and caring environment where the children can develop confidence and independence.

The popular Forest School session, at a dedicated nearby site, sees the children exploring the best of what nature has to offer. Recently, the children have spent time exploring the woodland looking for wildlife, making campfires, dens, and digging in our mud kitchen: there is a different activity and experience every week!



Whaddon Under Fives is a charity-based playschool, so there is opportunity for parents and members of the community to become trustees of the charity to help govern and provide a strategic overview of the setting. We love developing links with members of the community; the children have had a brilliant time visiting village residents' gardens whilst exploring a topic on 'new life' recently. We are also extremely grateful for the support that we have

received from members of the community as we tackle a period of financial uncertainty.

The playschool is led by a fantastic Montessori teacher and supported by experienced, wonderful staff. Please pass on our details to anyone you may know with young children; parents can choose the number of sessions they would like their child to start with and these can be increased as the child grows. We have low children:staff ratios and currently some spaces available! Please visit [www.whaddonunderfives.org.uk](http://www.whaddonunderfives.org.uk) for more information.



## Event announcement

Our next big fundraising event will be an Afternoon Tea on Saturday 18th May at 2.00 pm. We hope to see lots of village faces there to enjoy delicious sandwiches, cakes and freshly baked scones with cream and jam. Tickets £10, please contact us at whaddonunderfives@live.co.uk or call Joanne 01908 417705 or Daphne 01908 502088 or text Victoria 07739 563946. ■



# St. Mary's Church Whaddon

**MAY 2019**

### REGULAR SERVICES

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 10.30 am Family Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10.30 am Holy Communion (Common Worship)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10.30 am Sunday Special: informal discussion of topical themes  
Tea, coffee & croissants available from 10am  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 8.30 am Said Holy Communion (Traditional, in Lady Chapel)  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Benefice service at one of the churches - venue to be notified

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00 pm Post Office in Jubilee Hall  
Tuesday 2.00 pm Tea on Tuesday in Jubilee Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 2.00 pm Women's Institute in Jubilee Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7.30 pm Whaddon Night Owls WI in Jubilee Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 10.00 am - 12 noon Coffee Shop in church

### Dates For Your Diary

- Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Fete at King's Close House, Nash Rd  
Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Benefice Service with the Chase Choir  
Saturday Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> 10-12 pm Florrie's Coffee Morning, No. 3 Church Lane,  
Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> 10- 4.30 pm Open Day at St Mary's. Morning Coffee, Soup &  
Ploughman's lunches followed later by cream teas.  
Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Harvest Festival. Everyone welcome  
Monday October 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Harvest Supper & Auction of Produce in Jubilee Hall

This year our ANNUAL SUMMER FETE will take place from 2.00 pm at **King's Close House, Nash Rd, Whaddon** on **Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** by kind permission of Sir Beville (Billy) Stanier.

There will be lots of fun and games for the children with pony rides, hoop-la, treasure hunt, a raffle, cake, book and plant stalls, ice cream and a cola & Pimm's bar. Woburn Sands Band will be entertaining us, as usual, and afternoon teas will be served.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support your village church and have an afternoon of fun, so please come along and bring all your friends.

We do rely on helpers at 10.00 am at the village hall in the morning to load the chairs and tables (this takes about 30 minutes), and to erect gazebos and stalls at the venue. We need help too clearing up at 4.30 pm. All volunteers are most welcome – details from the contacts given below,

If you have anything such as a bottle, tin or jar of anything which you can give for the Tombola, plants, books, toys or cakes stalls, please contact Hazel Dudley on 01908 505727,

Clare Garland on 01908 501732, Linda McIver on 01908 330964 or Hazel Hedges on 01908 501729. Alternatively, bring donations to King's Close House on the day between 10.30 am and 11.30 am. Thank you.

We would also be very grateful for raffle prizes and someone who will volunteer to run the raffle on the day. Please contact Clare Garland on 01908 501372

The BUCKS' HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST invites you to tour local gardens near our historic churches in North Buckinghamshire. This takes place on JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am-5pm. The details are in St Mary's Church porch.

There will also be the annual "Ride & Stride" in September. Details will be available nearer the date.

St Mary's has received a number of grants from that Trust over the years and so your support of these events would be appreciated.

The ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup> in the Lady Chapel at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm (please note the earlier time). The Annual Reports will be presented and PCC members and church officers will be elected. If you would like to join the PCC or become a sides-person please contact the Hon Sec. Linda McIver or Hazel Hedges.

This is your opportunity to express your views and comment on the life of your church, and have your say about the qualities you would like our next priest to possess; and how you would like your church to move forward. We look forward to seeing you there.

The SUNDAY SPECIAL on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday is held at the back of the church and starts at 10.30 am with tea, coffee and croissants being served from 10.00 am. The format is informal with music, songs, slides and film excerpts, talks and discussion. Do come and see how you like it because your contribution and feedback will be valued.

We still need volunteers to help with cleaning the church on a rota basis. If you can give any time towards keeping the church looking beautiful, then please contact Hazel Dudley on 01908 505727. All materials are supplied.

Volunteers to arrange flowers for the altar vases, on a similar rota basis, can contact Beryl Evans on 01908 502567 or Janet Spencer on 01908 502540. No great expertise is needed because the vases do not lend themselves to large arrangements.

### **A new benefice**

Since the departure of Gussie, the villages of Whaddon, Nash, Thornborough and Beachampton have decided to form their own Benefice. Permission from church authorities to do this is well under way, and it has been agreed to name the new benefice The Blackthorn Chase Benefice.

The Chase, the former hunting ground, runs through all four parishes. At the moment, hedges in the region are snowy-white with Blackthorn blossom. Blackthorn is one of the earliest trees to flower following winter and give hope; the wood is used for walking sticks and these give support. Blackthorn propagates itself by spreading from its roots – as does the church through its mission and outreach work; it bears fruit (known as sloes) in the Autumn. It is, therefore, a tree which perfectly mirrors the aims and work of the church.

I heard from Gussie recently. She is settling into her retirement and is considering offering herself to help out at local churches, if needed. She said how much she enjoyed her seven-year ministry in the village and that she misses us all very much, especially her work with children in our school. While we are in our Interregnum, we are in her thoughts and prayers and she hopes our search for a new priest goes well.

A confirmation took place on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> at Maids Morton Church with Bishop Alan officiating. Lauren Bennett was confirmed. Her first communion was on Easter Sunday.

During the Interregnum, Revd John King from Nash can be contacted on 01908 501830 or by email at [buckinghamvillages@gmail.com](mailto:buckinghamvillages@gmail.com). The Hon Sec to Whaddon PCC is Linda Mc Iver, who can be contacted on 01908 330 964.

We invite you to join us at any, or all of our events and services when you can be sure of a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you very soon. ■

*Hazel Hedges* (Churchwarden ) 01908 501729 or [hazel.hedges@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.hedges@gmail.com).

### The Parochial Church Council

Hazel Hedges	Churchwarden.	Tel. 01908 501729
Linda MacIver	Hon. Secretary.	Tel: 01908 330964
Barry Dudley	Hon. Treasurer	Tel: 01908 505727
	Electoral Roll Officer.	
Frederick Hayward	Jubilee Hall Repr'ive	Tel: 01908 506083
Hazel Dudley		Tel:01908 505727
Clare Garland		Tel: 01908 501732

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## I have no Will. Does it really matter?

**We're so busy these days, filling daylight hours with work before an evening of family or community commitments. It's no great surprise that many of us have a list of life-admin that we never get around to tackling.**

TAKE a minute to think about the implications of dying without a Will.

You will have no say in what happens to your money, possessions or business. Your next of kin will be left with the (perhaps unexpected) costs of your funeral. They'll have to pay for a Grant of Probate, pay inheritance tax (see below), and deal with your business affairs, all in the midst of their grief and shock.

### **Making a Will really does matter**

You may have treasured possessions that you've worked hard for, or are of sentimental value. To determine who receives those, you must leave instructions in your Will.

You may have a life partner with whom you've no legal relationship. They are not entitled to receive anything from your estate. If you want to provide for them, you must do so in your Will.

You may own your own business. If you die without a Will, your next of kin will inherit it, even if they may have no interest in, or talent for, your business. If you want to succession plan, you need to do this in your Will.

You may work in a partnership or be a shareholder. When you die, your share may be controlled by partnership or shareholder agreements, or it may be yours to distribute. If so, it will go to your next of kin unless you specifically state otherwise in your Will. Make sure you fully understand the meaning of 'next of kin'.

You may have a charitable cause close to your heart, and wish to support them with a legacy. You need to commit this to writing in your Will. Your next of kin cannot simply follow your verbal wishes to make a charitable gift out of your estate. They have to pay the inheritance tax on your full estate, and then make the gift from the assets when they receive them.

Inheritance tax of 40% is payable on your estate, except the first £325,000. In this region of England, property value can mean your estate is worth much more. With careful planning, charitable donations and lifetime gifts, we can reduce the inheritance tax liability. This planning can only take effect if it is specified in your Will.

There are many other reasons to make a Will. You might stipulate guardians for your children, pass on your digital legacy, or set up a trust. To find out more, read our online blogs, or just call us: Gail at Bicester Wills (01869 226 760) [www.bicesterwills.co.uk](http://www.bicesterwills.co.uk) or Lesley at Buckingham Wills (01280 811201) [www.buckinghamwills.co.uk](http://www.buckinghamwills.co.uk)

Our business offers a free review of your existing Will to ensure it is up to date. We offer a fixed fee Will Writing Service: Single Simple Will £199 | Pair of Simple Mirror Wills £299. ■

## Jubilee Hall is your village hall

**The Jubilee Hall was built on land donated by the Selby-Lowndes family and opened in 1935. It has strong historical connections with the village.**

THE Hall is governed by a committee of trustees and has charitable status. A group of volunteers from the village takes care of the administration and maintenance of the Hall.

Following the AGM in November, there have been some changes to the committee and the current members are as follows: Chairperson: Hazel Hedges; Secretary: Rotation within Committee; and Treasurer: Peter Hedges. Other members: Frederick Hayward, Deb Spinks, Ralph Spinks, Mark Burnett, Lawrence John, Sharon Bessell, Louise Collin and Pierre Hibble. Booking clerk: Marianna Beckwith.



As well as facilities for many and varied activities for villagers to enjoy, Jubilee Hall is available for private hire. It is currently in regular use by the weekly Post Office, the pre-school, Chase Choir, Whaddon Entertainers, St. Mary's Church, WI afternoon and WI Night Owls as well as for fun physical activities such as yoga classes, Pilates and table tennis.

The rates for hiring are as follows:

- Village residents      £8.50 per hour
- Non-Village            £12.50 per hour
- Charity                 £5.50 per hour (registered charity number when booking)

**For bookings and enquiries:** please contact Marianna Beckwith using the Jubilee Hall's e-mail address [whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@googlemail.com) or by telephone on 01908 503194.

### Fundraising

Roof repairs, a new boiler and a new kitchen have all been funded in recent times, but now the hall is badly in need of floor refurbishment. The committee would also like to build additional toilets and an entrance to accommodate wheelchair users. In order to carry out these improvements and maintain and protect the hall going forward, the committee are working hard to create fun events to raise funds; for this, we need support from the community.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Midsummer Barbeque** – Tickets now on sale. Starts at 6.30pm. Family fun, games, food and licensed bar. Tickets from: [Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com](mailto:Sharon.bessell@btinternet.com) or text 0770 338 8571 or message Sharon via Facebook or WhatsApp. Ticket prices: Adults £8; children under 10, £5. Includes BBQ with salad.

For those on Facebook, there is a page dedicated to the hall. Search "Whaddon Jubilee Hall", like the page, and you will be kept up-to-date with what is happening.

Thank you. We hope to see many of you at the Midsummer Barbeque. ■

*Sharon Bessell*

**POLING DAY.** Poll Clerks are needed for the European Parliamentary elections. Aylesbury Vale District Council would like to hear from those available to work as a Poll Clerk at Polling Stations on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019. The fee payable is £135. No previous experience is required. Poll Clerks are required to work from 6.30am to 10pm. The job involves marking the Register of Electors to show that electors have presented themselves to vote, and assist the Presiding Officer with other electoral tasks on the day.

If you are able to work, please contact Craig Saunders at Aylesbury Vale District Council on 01296 585043 or [csaunders@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:csaunders@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) ■

# Whaddon's D-Day commemoration

**THE 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allied Forces' landings in Normandy, better known as D-Day, will be celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

To mark this anniversary, various amateur radio stations will be 'on-air' throughout Europe on that day. As part of this, a number of members of the Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society (MKARS) will be setting up a WW2-style wireless station on 6<sup>th</sup> June on the former war-time site of MI6 (Secret Intelligence Service) at Windy Ridge in Whaddon, Buckinghamshire.

The original site served as a wireless station, which could distribute ULTRA traffic far and wide to chosen commanders in the field – ULTRA being the result of interception of enemy radio traffic collected from 'intercept stations' all over the UK. These messages were then sent to Bletchley Park to be decrypted. On D-Day (6<sup>th</sup> June 1944) there was direct traffic between the Normandy beaches and Windy Ridge. As a group, we considered this as an ideal site to set up our wireless station to remember the event.

The Windy Ridge station's special-event call sign for that day is GB1SOE and, where possible, the associated hardware will comprise genuine and replicated equipment. The station will be on-air from mid-morning through to the early evening. In this way, those who have been at work during the day can visit the station and commemorate the occasion.

If you are able, please come along and say hello. You will be able to see how wireless communication took place in those days; several people will be available to answer questions about this fascinating subject.

A link to a web page of the Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society showing the wireless stations that will be active and their locations are given here.

There are further links on the page depicting Whaddon's WW2 history together with the involvement of over 30 Dakota aircraft. <https://www.vmars.org.uk/d-day-2019-wireless-nets>

Windy Ridge is accessed by means of Church Hill, off the corner of High Street/Stock Lane. Jubilee Hall, in Stock Lane, has toilets; tea and coffee will be available late morning.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to remember and celebrate Whaddon's role during WW2 so please come along and support the event. If you are able to provide help in the hall, even for an hour or so, with preparation or serving refreshments please email Hazel Hedges [hazel.hedges@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.hedges@gmail.com) or phone 01908 501729. ■



## TODDLER CHURCH

Calling all Bumps, Babies & Toddlers, Mums, Dads, Grandparents & helpers too.

We meet at St Mary's Church Whaddon.

Every Wednesday (term time only from 1.45-2.45pm)

The hour consists of arts & crafts, songs & story time plus of course refreshments!

A warm welcome awaits you: no one is too old or young. So come along and join in the fun! We

look forward to seeing you.

Start again on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019

*Sally Green* (01908 526033)



# WHADDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**O**UR March meeting highlighted the resourcefulness of our W.I. members! Our speaker reluctantly had to cancel at short notice, so one of our members stepped in and explained how she had been experimenting with recycling candle leftovers, rather than wasting them. She had created new candles in different containers, simply by melting them together and adding a candle wick, with very impressive results! The group then had a chance to have a go!



In April, we visited Buckingham County Museum in Aylesbury. This is such an interesting place with many local artefacts, including coins found in Little Horwood. There was also a display showing Buckinghamshire wildlife and an embroidery exhibition, amongst many other things. We even came up close to a mammoth tusk and teeth, and enjoyed looking at all the fossils.



There is so much to see that we have decided to go back again soon. We didn't even spend much time drinking tea and eating cake in the café: the museum was that good!! There is also a Roald Dahl

Children's Gallery and a gift shop where one of our members bought a 'groan tube' despite the threat of a long walk home if she played with it in the car!

In May we will be honing our skills by making our own sausages. If you hear a lot of laughter you will know where it is coming from! You have been warned!

We usually meet at 2.00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Jubilee Hall, but In May we will meet on the 8<sup>th</sup> as there will be a W.I. Annual Council meeting on our usual day.

If you would like to come and join us or need any information, please call me. You can be sure of a warm welcome.



*Jill Aitken, April 2019*



## Whaddon Night Owlers WI

WE have had a great start to the year!

We began in January with a talk from the local YMCA, which no longer directs its focus on just men or just Christians. They do amazing work in Milton Keynes to support young people who may otherwise be homeless. A





large proportion of these are not counted in any statistics as they spend their lives 'sofa surfing' between friends. The YMCA is building an astounding new facility offering different levels of support for young people, as well as social enterprises to facilitate training and employment, and a real community hub.

In February we moved on to the subject of Alpacas. Don't ask about the poor young 'spit off male' which is used to determine whether a female is pregnant or not....on the other hand Sue, a local Alpaca farmer, came across as an intriguing and often hilarious speaker. She even brought along some scarves and blankets made of Alpaca hair for us to purchase; they have a very low 'prickle factor' apparently, which means the items don't cause itching. And very warm they are too! What more could you ask for: learning new phrases and a shopping opportunity too.

In March we had my favourite meeting EVER! The proprietor of the Farm Deli in Winslow (another Sue) came to talk to us and take us through a cheese-tasting session. We tried various different cheeses: goats', blue, smooth and strong. All delectable. We had some different bread to try as well. The evening passed all too quickly, as you can see from the photograph of the empty cheese slate. I wasn't quick enough to get a photograph of it groaning with cheese.

In April we are belly dancing. Nothing at all to do with having to work off some energy after March. No, definitely not.

Coming up in the next few months, we are looking forward to hearing about 'Donate a Letter', which will be followed by a guided walk in Howe Park Wood and a visit from a famed author: Jack Sheffield.

If you would like to join us for any of our sessions, please contact Daphne on 01908 502088 or come along to Jubilee Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 to see what we are up to. ■



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## WHADDON GARDENING GROUP

# Let's pool our resources of seeds and plants

I HAVE started an informal gardening group in our village with a view to swapping plants, seeds and ideas. We are hoping to meet up occasionally to compare notes!

This group was started on *Facebook* where we post questions and share photos, etc. If you are not on *Facebook* but interested in gardening and would like to be part of the group then please let me know. ■

*Jill Aitken* 01908 502781

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**Robin Starr**, who advanced St Mary's Church clock early on Sunday morning (31<sup>st</sup>March) to Daylight Saving Time, is taking a greater role in the maintenance of the clock, particularly as most of the tasks are upstairs and require a tight climb in the tower. Following a routine operation, Derek is not quite as mobile as usual. Such matters as clock and bell maintenance are usually shared between them, and this will continue but with Robin taking the greater part. ■

# WHADDON BOOK CLUB

THE books in the first quarter have been a mixed bunch. We tackled Tales of Persuasion, by Phillip Hensher: a collection of short stories which failed to attract.

*Force of Nature* by Jane Harper, set in the Australian Outback was enjoyed, but those who had read her first book *The Dry* felt that was a better story.

*Artemis* by Andy Weir stands out as the most memorable read of the quarter. The book is set at some time in the future in a settlement on the Moon. Life becomes complicated for the heroine who undertakes a series of complicated yet believable activities to reach a satisfactory conclusion. The Author achieved success with an earlier novel *The Martian* which had been made into an Oscar nominated film. *Artemis* may also be made into a film.

Having looked to the future we have gone back in time to read a PG Wodehouse. *Aunts aren't Gentlemen* speaks of times past in a way which is as unbelievable as a story set on the moon, in a town with a sizeable population.

In the coming months, we will read Michelle Obama's Biography, *Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee, and many more. If you wish to join us, we will be pleased to see you at a meeting. We meet at a member's home on the last Tuesday of the month. Contact Jane Porter on telephone No. 01908 501 709. ■

*Jane Porter*

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## Thunderbolt on a wet afternoon

**O**N a wet Sunday afternoon on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, I found myself at the Milton Keynes Theatre attending a 'Classical Inspiration' concert by the City Orchestra under the baton of Damian Iorio. The first part was Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* Vorspiel and the orchestra was supplemented by the MK Youth Orchestra, consisting largely of strings. The children were wonderfully exuberant as they entered the Vorspiel, or overture, picking out the songs and dances in the opera, including the witch's spell and the final scene 'The Witch is Dead'.

The second part of the concert was a performance of Greig's Piano Concerto in A minor. The soloist was Frederico Colli, a young Italian, who first came to prominence after winning the Salzburg Mozart Competition in 2011 and the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2012. He came on stage, sat at the piano and that opening chord went through me like a thunderbolt! After that, it was pretty much a virtuoso performance. I was distracted a little by Frederico's playing style. He brought his hands up to the keyboard cupped as if they contained water that could not be spilled. I wondered also whether the conductor had been attending line dancing classes in Newton Longville, as he was leaping up and down like a dervish throughout.

The final part consisted of Brahms' Symphony No: 2. This apparently took over a year to write; it was not my favourite, but my insouciance was relieved by a very fine strawberry ice cream! All in all, it was a pleasant way to spend a wet Sunday afternoon. ■

*Roger Porter*

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### Anniversary of Guards' Chapel bombing

TWO WEEKS after D-Day, London felt the impact of retaliation. At 11.20 am, 18<sup>th</sup> June 1944, a V1 flying bomb hit Guards' Chapel, Birdcage Walk, not far from Buckingham Palace. The blast demolished most of the building and caused huge loss of life. The Chapel, built in 1838 and known as the Royal Military Chapel, St James's Park, formed part of Wellington Barracks, home to the Brigade of Guards. The Guards' Chapel incident proved to be the most serious V1 attack of the war on London. The flying bomb left only the apse of the Chapel intact. ■



# Bygone days: The Kings of Whaddon

**IT IS worth taking time to look at [whaddonquarterly.blogspot.com](http://whaddonquarterly.blogspot.com): you'll find a collection of photographs of yesteryear's Whaddon, including members of a King family.**

ONE photograph (also in Bygone days – 2) highlights Mrs Caroline King in her horse and trap; St Mary's Church hovers in the background.

Another **(right)** shows her husband's father, George William King, outside the family home, Church Hill Farm; a farmhouse built in the early eighteenth century and extended in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

George King died on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1892; according to Probate returns; he left an estate of £6,636 0s 4d. In today's money, that's £836,136: that made George a wealthy farmer.

George's death preceded, by 12 years to the day, the marriage, on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1904, of his youngest son William James King, then 35, to Caroline Cowley, 15 years his junior: a schoolteacher from nearby Nash.

Caroline grew up near The Cross with stonemason father, Richard Cowley, aged 62 on Caroline's wedding, mother Ann Jane, then 58, and her brother, Albert E Cowley, aged 17.

Reflecting their combined wealth, William and Charlotte chose to marry not in St Mary's Whaddon, but in a stunning, newly-constructed and consecrated (17<sup>th</sup> July 1845) church in London's Kensington, St James's Norlands, built using gleaming, virgin-white Suffolk brick **(below)**.

The couple added meaning to their choice; besides the church's beauty the couple took pleasure from the greeting at the altar rail by a familiar, smiling face: Rev E A Selby-Lowndes,

vicar of nearby St Mary's, Notting Hill, and a former Whaddon resident well known to the Kings at Church Hill Farm. When her banns were read, Caroline gave her address as 35 Portland Road, a smart 1850s-built road built by speculators running perpendicular to Holland Park Avenue, close to Kensington Palace.

Three years before his wedding, William lived with mother Maria King, 66, at Laburnum Cottage, Whaddon. At that time, in 1901, another George King lived in the village: aged 51 and a baker,



he occupied the Bakehouse in Principal Street with his family. Fast forward to 1911 and William James King had returned 'home' to Church Hill Farm, to live with wife Caroline and daughter Sylvia June, 6.

Some 40 years previously, in 1871, William James King, aged two, was Church Hill Farm's youngest inhabitant. The household comprised father George, mother Maria and siblings: brother James, 27, a butcher and farmer of 47 acres, sister Emma, 24, and brothers George, 21, and Edwin, 14. The Kings employed Sarah Jones, 20, as its domestic servant. William's father, George, farmed 210 acres of land; for these he employed 12 men and three boys.

### **Kings of Coddimore and Barn Hill**

In 1871, another King family member lived in Whaddon: James King. He farmed 30 acres at Coddimore but, as a widower of 81, it is most likely that most work was undertaken by his son, George, 33, who shared the farm with his wife, Adelaide, 39, and their children Harry, 9, Mary, 7, James, 6 and John, 4. James King's daughter Mildred, 42, also shared the house. All were born in Whaddon with the exception of Adelaide who hailed from Silverstone, Northants.

However, 10 years later (in 1881) following James King's death, the family had to uproot to Calverton Road. It included Frederick, 12 and Arthur, 10. Way back, in 1841, the King's farm had the name Coddymore Farm. There were Kings too in nearby Nash: Matthew King, 51, and his children John, 25, George, 21 and Elizabeth, 20.

As well as those two King families in 1871 (at Church Hill and Coddimore), there was a third: John King, 88, farmed 186 acres at Barn Hill Farm with six men and a boy. Widower John lived two daughters and son: Sarah, 53, Charlotte, 51, and John M, 47.

More recently, in 1911, there were other Kings: Richard and Maria King, 61 and 58 respectively, lived in Nash. Two of their three 'boys', William York King and George Charles King, served in the Great War and thankfully returned. The Kings had two other children: Sarah Janet, 19, and John Edward, 15.

On census day, all four children worked 'at home' on the farm, Holywell Farm. All the Kings were born in Nash, except William; he came from Great Horwood. William's and George's names are on Nash War Memorial's Roll of Honour.

Kings lived also in Fenny Stratford, Newport Pagnell, Poundon and Stewkley.

**THE WORD CODDY** (as in Coddymore, see above, it seems is a variant form of the English and Celtic Cody. Coddy, an uncommon boy's name, it means son of the helpful one. According to Wordnik.com it appears 10 times in *The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists* (1914), a semi-biographical novel by Irish writer Robert Tressell. It was published following his death from tuberculosis in 1911. It concerns a house painter's efforts to find work in the fictional English town of Mugsborough (based on the coastal town of Hastings) to stave off the workhouse for himself and his daughter. An explicitly political work, it is widely regarded as a classic of working-class literature. Wordnik.com also describes it as meaning husky, small, very little. So there you are. ■

**EASTER** Bank Holiday proved to be one of the hottest on record as temperatures in Whaddon on Easter Sunday soared to 25.5C or 78F. Ideal for ballooning as some folks enjoyed an early morning flight from Willen Lake to, er...Oxley Mead, close to Swans Way. The balloon landed in an ancient hay field owned by Parks Trust and signposted as Private Land – No Public Access. It is designated as an area of Special Scientific Interest. One week later storm Hannah blew across the county, ruling out ballooning for a while.



**IS IT JUST AN ILLUSION?** Or is traffic leaving Whaddon along Stock Lane in the direction of the newly-surfaced Coddimore Lane at a much faster rate than hitherto; and likewise in the opposite direction through the speed restriction? Will Whaddon's MVAS figures prove this to be so? Meanwhile, next stop for the road surfacing team after Whaddon turned out to be Mursley no less where work was handled in two phases spread over two weeks. ■

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# D-Day and Whaddon's extended role



**Whaddon's D-Day commemoration next month serves to open up one man's past. D-Day passed in a blur for Sapper Jack Pullin of the Royal Engineers. Here, 75 years on, Jack Pullin's son, John, draws from his father's notebooks to recount that day and Whaddon's far-ranging involvement in the whole proceedings.**

AROUND four o'clock on the afternoon of Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 1944, small, rectangular boats started to be towed in long strings from the sheltered waters around the Isle of Wight, where they had been waiting for 48 hours, out in the English Channel.

Once these tank landing craft were at sea, my father, a sapper in the Royal Engineers, and other men in the craft were commanded to open sealed envelopes containing their individual orders for the next day: D-Day, the Allied landings in occupied France.

The orders explained, for the first time, code words used constantly throughout the men's training across preceding months. "Poland", always a distant goal, was the French city of Caen; "cod" and "sole" were shoreline features on Sword beach at Ouistreham in Normandy, "Morris" and "Hillman" were inland features.

"Rugger" and "cricket" were my father's specific targets: two strategic bridges over the river Orne and the Caen Canal, to be secured and, if possible, augmented with the sappers' speciality: Bailey bridges.

The Second World War was a battle of codes, from the use of codewords such as Overlord for major operations right down to the individual soldier. The centre for Allied activity on codes was Bletchley Park, the UK Government Code and Cypher School, under the control of MI5. It was at Bletchley that code-breakers, including the computing pioneer Alan Turing, succeeded in deciphering German military messages, to the benefit of the war effort.

Bletchley's work is now well-known, though it remained secret for 30 years after war ended. But less well-known is the crucial role played by the village of Whaddon, where the secret services set up their communications operations at Whaddon Hall, initially both for propaganda and for sending encrypted messages by radio to front-line units and by teleprinter to ministries, though the propaganda units were soon relocated to Wavendon Tower.

The Special Communications Unit known as Station X at Whaddon then remained as the centre for the communication of the highest grade of top-secret information, known as ULTRA and derived from intercepted German messages, to troops. Decoded messages were received by radio directly from codebreakers at Bletchley, re-encrypted and then transmitted onwards to field units. Most of these informed troops of the enemy's activities, and what the enemy knew. It was vital information.

The volume of messaging and staff soon outgrew Whaddon Hall itself. Nissen huts were built in the field next to the village church known as Windy Ridge; the concrete bases of them remain visible.

Windy Ridge served also the site of the transmission aerials, though as traffic increased and for security, some were routed through a second signals intelligence (sigint) station at Creslow, towards Aylesbury.

Whaddon achieved global reach. Field units operating in Italian-held Abyssinia had difficulty communicating directly with command units in Egypt, so messages went through Whaddon, which could reach both.

### **Early examples of organisation**

"This was a global network of secure intelligence distribution of a sort which had never existed before," says one historian who has studied Bletchley and Whaddon as early examples of modern informed business organisation.

The build-up to D-Day proved to be Whaddon's finest hour. In addition to increasing numbers of people and messages, Whaddon Hall and Windy Ridge took on building radio communications modules for the assault forces to take with them.

On the night before the landings, as my father in the flotilla of landing craft made his way across the Channel, a constant stream of coded messages travelled from Whaddon to troop and naval commanders advising what the Germans knew and what kind of reception awaited them at dawn on D-Day.

My father said that, for him, D-Day passed in a blur of adrenaline; he could remember few individual incidents. A dead Frenchman propped against a wall; a German sniper in a church tower; the bridges, secured, but stuck on the front line under constant bombardment for weeks: these were his memories.

The eventual success of D-Day, 75 years ago, owed much to individuals such as Jack, then aged 24, but much also to the hidden work that took place in quiet and thoughtful places like Whaddon.



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## David Nicholson

7<sup>th</sup> September 1946 – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### A keen lover of nature

**D**AVID and his wife, Monica, lived in Whaddon for around 20 years and were our neighbours for about seven, until they moved to Newton Longville. One of my abiding memories of him is his singing, and the folk songs that wafted over the fence as he tended his garden. Being born in South Wales, it came as no surprise really that he had a most beautiful voice. He loved singing, and again, it was not surprising to learn that he participated in *Eisteddfods* and won on many occasions.

David enjoyed a rural upbringing and had an abiding interest in nature. He knew a lot about plants and animals and loved sharing his knowledge: he grew plants specifically to sell at the school May Fayre and the Church Summer Fete. Also, he would share gardening tips with those who bought them, and he taught many a local child about the lives and habitats of interesting garden creatures.

Before taking up his job in the Civil Service, David went to what was then called Malaya to teach in a small village called Petong. He was interested in educating young people, and made a big impression on his students. He and Monica went back a few years ago and were able to meet some of his old students again.

David was a very kind, gentle man who did much for the benefit of others. He set up, and ran the local oil syndicate, making sure villagers always got the best deal possible, and he wholeheartedly 'looked out' for his neighbours.

Friends and neighbours will miss David's quiet presence. We in Whaddon extend loving thoughts and condolences to Monica and the family, who will miss him more. ■

*Daphne Willis*



## Ian Robertson Wood

14<sup>th</sup> June 1946 – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

IAN'S funeral took place at St Mary's Church, Whaddon on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019; afterwards mourners gathered at No. 2 Vicarage Road, Whaddon. ■

**Caption to photograph on centre spread: Personnel of Special Communications Unit No. 1 at "Windy Ridge", the Special Operations Group Wireless Station, Whaddon, Buckinghamshire.**



## Whaddon Chapel

AT this time of year, with the coming of summer, the growth and life that is all around brings resonance to the following poem:

*The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.  
It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.  
It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth....  
May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

King David wrote these timeless lines, almost three thousand years ago, in what we know as Psalm 19. The Psalms were poems, or songs of praise to God.

The poetry can still be admired today. But the Psalms – and indeed the Bible – are not just a collection of poetry, but a source of timeless wisdom: God’s wisdom.

Read more closely, and you see that the truth David states brings a challenge. The logic (and challenge) is simple: creation proves God’s presence; this is visible to all the earth; everyone needs to consider their place before God.

Why not join us to find out more?

### **Regular meetings:**

- Every Sunday, 4pm-5pm in Whaddon Chapel.
- Bible Study & Prayer meeting 7:30-9pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month at 3 Briary View.

# Whaddon and the fiery suffragettes

**Tucked away in sleepy rural Whaddon a century ago, local police constable Henry Sibbald, primed like a fire extinguisher, received orders to be 'alert' for suffragette ringleader Christabel Pankhurst. John Mortimer unearths some background to North Buckinghamshire's suffrage experiences.**

EMMELINE Pankhurst's great-granddaughter, Dr Helen Pankhurst, received a CBE from the Queen at Windsor Castle on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March; recognition for campaigning on gender equality. Descended from the famous suffragette, she commented afterwards "there remains so much that needs to be done"; she labelled companies slow to publish gender gap details as a "disgrace".

Suffrage did not escape the attention of Whaddon's women 100 years ago; village PC Sibbald certainly knew the difference between a suffragette and a suffragist. But as a topic of conversation it stretched back further.

It blossomed first in Buckinghamshire through Dr John Lee of Hartwell House, near Aylesbury; a town later at the centre of women's suffrage. However, Dr Lee's convincing defeat at the 1852 elections subsequently obscured suffrage from local politics for some time.

It took 20 years (1874) before leading suffragists met with dignity in Aylesbury to raise a petition; as in High Wycombe and Buckingham that same year.



Then, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire were classed as 'poor' counties: men worked on the land (the exception being industrial 'hot spots' like Wolverton where, by comparison, railway workers were the new 'aristocracy of labour'). For women there was no diaspora, they were bound to their homes, making bonnets, straw hats and lace.

The women scrimped and scraped to feed and clothe their families. They rarely travelled far; distanced from their worldly, educated, wealthy and passionate 'sisters' with time and money to engage in women's emancipation. In contrast, the residents of Whaddon Hall with its sturdy opulence, the Selby Lowndes, could easily sketch the world outside Whaddon; they knew full well of London's suffrage activities and the pain later to be endured.

Only years later, in the 1890s and 1900s, did Aylesbury encounter serious action; the movement's focus in High Wycombe suddenly over-spilled further north.

In March 1907, Labour party leader Ramsay MacDonald, addressed a 'fairly large audience' on women's suffrage at Aylesbury Cooperative Hall; this lifted the town's profile. Wife Margaret spoke too about women's equality.

## **Sitting on the fence**

MacDonald distanced himself from the 'awkward squad', the Pankhursts in London, content to hover on the fence.

He was 'not in sympathy with a certain section of women who were carrying out a campaign in the country', but at the same time he thought 'justice should be done.'

Not much deterred, determined suffragettes reached Aylesbury and places closer to Whaddon to elevate their campaign.

Deanshanger, for example, north-west of Whaddon, knew of suffrage. On 10<sup>th</sup> December 1908 a concert in the Primitive Methodist Chapel had so many attendees: it was 'crowded to the utmost', that no one could ignore suffrage. The *Buckinghamshire Advertiser and North Bucks Free Press* of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1908, reported the choir's 'very successful and miscellaneous concert'.

Five lady choir members performed the opening sketch, *The Suffragettes*. With 'suitable banner and mottoes', they acted their parts 'admirably in setting forth the failings and shortcomings of man; and a determination to get votes for women and eventually into Parliament. This received a grand reception, it being very amusing and instructive.' Did the Whaddon Entertainers of the day perform similarly? Who knows?

Nearby, suffragettes penetrated Bletchley Park on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1909, challenging Liberal prime minister, Herbert Asquith, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Oxford, at a Liberal Party meeting.

Earlier that week, the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) held meetings in Fenny Stratford, Bletchley and elsewhere nearby. Some from Whaddon may have attended just to get a flavour of events. How they made their outward and return journeys is another matter.

The first of many open meetings in Aylesbury occurred that summer (1909). At one, with Lady Balfour about begin her speech, a man loudly demanded to ask a question; more of a statement: "It's a woman's place at home to cook a man's dinner or breakfast. We don't want women in parliament. We want men who can speak and do justice for the working man."

Lady Balfour had met his like before. She retorted "If every woman in the country refused for three weeks to cook any dinner, they would get the vote immediately."

Next year, a caravan arrived in Aylesbury for an open meeting. Organised by the Women's Freedom League, it spent August and September travelling from Bedfordshire to Hertfordshire, terminating in Berkhamsted. The caravan called at Buckingham and Aylesbury en route. Did it halt in Whaddon, overnighing at *The Lowndes Arms*?

Some '500-1,000' in Buckingham's Market Square listened with 'rapt interest to Miss Marguerite Sidley's stirring address'. Many proclaimed it 'the Square's best meeting' ever held.

### **Burning with more than passion**

Whether the *North Bucks Free Press* or the *Bucks Herald* enjoyed readers in Whaddon is a moot point, but some would be aware of 'goings on' in London for many years. Local newspapers in 1911 certainly ran 'votes for women' items.



When some anonymous non-militant women held a meeting in Market Square, one newspaper reported a 'fairly large audience'.

One prominent speaker, Australian suffragette, Muriel Masters, travelled with the Women's Tax Relief League caravan. Starting her fortnight's tour on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1911 at Great Missenden, she held two meetings in Aylesbury.

But the crux of the movement's efforts burst forth in 1912. Reacting to police brutality towards them and frustrated by government stalling and broken promises, suffragettes changed tactics.

Whaddon's police constable, Henry Sibbald, received official notification of London's events, a portent of things to come. In March 1912, a note from his chief constable alerted PC Sibbald (**left**) to 'watch out' for Christabel Pankhurst, daughter of activist Emmeline Pankhurst. Sibbald had wind too of Christabel's similarly-active sisters, Sylvia and Adela and their own cradle of emancipation.

Even before then, suffrage much occupied the mind of Henry Augustus Sibbald. He lived in Whaddon's The Common and, at night, probably shared his thoughts in pillow talk with wife Mary, 38. Daughter, Violet, just four and born in Wolverton, remained blissfully unaware of the implications though in later she would benefit from London's conflicts.

Following arrest and release on bail pending trial, Christabel 'recuperated with friends' in Stewkley; a precursor to her summer orchestration of vigorous arson campaigns against various targets.

In March 1913 suffragettes fire-gutted Saunderton railway station. Situated between West Wycombe and Princes Risborough, activists left a chilling message: Burning to get the vote.

### **Force feeding brings pain**

A key suffragette arsonist, Lillian Lenten, claimed, when not in prison, to burn down two buildings a week.

And, instead of attacking the Houses of Parliament as before, suffragettes targeted London's West End shops. Many were arrested and tried; Holloway Prison soon overflowed.

Accordingly, 28 window-smashing suffragettes arrived at Aylesbury Prison. Opened in 1847, it became a women's jail in 1890; it could hold 200 inmates serving three years to life.



Following their transfer, on Good Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, the suffragettes began secret hunger strikes; these lasted three or four days until discovery. Force-feeding them then began.

On the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> April, nine were force fed by cup, 12 by nasal tube and two by tube down the throat. The first force-feeding activity lasted four hours.

Dr Smalley, Medical Inspector of Prisons, visited Aylesbury Prison (**left**) declaring four suffragettes in 'no fit state' for force feeding.

Feelings against hunger strikers escalated, however. A letter by Mrs Frances Anne Collins, 66, of No. 18 Roberts Road, High Wycombe, declared: 'I think the only way to stop these

outrages would be to have these fiends privately flogged in prison by the officials, before they have time to begin their "hunger strikes"'.

Mrs Collins, from Madras, India, lived with son Claude Hugh, 33, (born in Ceylon), a music professor.

### **Hunger strikers endured pain**

Suffragettes were by no means young 'teenage tearaways'; they included 60-year-old Dr Ede, a prisoner herself. Writing in *The Times* on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1912, she exposed attempts to break the hunger strike. Prison staff removed water from cells, replacing it with milk. Staff abandoned this when women threw milk away.

Harrowingly, Dr Ede added '...by far more terrible experience than my own suffering was to hear agonizing cries from cells as prisoners in turn were subjected to terrible treatment.'

The Duchess of Bedford, a devout churchwoman and temperance supporter, visited suffragettes in Aylesbury; she prison became a suffrage tax resister.

Next year, prison disturbances prompted the National Union of Women's Suffragette Societies to avoid Aylesbury on their march from Oxford to High Wycombe, suggesting Aylesbury Prison's involvement boosted 'votes for women'.

Later, in 1914, a caravan tour by the Kingshill sub-committee of the Mid-Bucks NUWSS (National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) branch demonstrated the increasing reach and ambition of the Buckinghamshire suffragettes; their aim: to win over agricultural villages around Aylesbury, previously largely untouched by the campaigners.

The caravan started at Weston Turville, then visited Wing, Oving, Quainton, Waddesdon and Cuddington. Aston Clinton, Little and Great Kimble had to be omitted, but the caravan visited Stoke Mandeville on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 1914. This tour suggests just how close it came to Whaddon.

The First World War ended all politics, including the militant suffragettes' campaigns, though lobbying continued quietly. On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1918, a coalition government passed the Representation of the People Act 1918; it enfranchised men over 21 and women over 30

who met minimum property qualifications. A further Act, on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1918, allowed election of women into Parliament.

In 1928, the Conservative government passed the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act. It gave all women over 21 the vote on equal terms with men.

Today, women head up Government, the fire service and the police (to name but a few); past suffering to secure such status is largely forgotten. So, when next voting, it's worth casting the mind back to PC Sibbald's days and events in Aylesbury jail.

N.B. Some details are drawn from the meticulously researched *Burning to get the vote* by Rev Colin Cartwright and published by The University of Buckingham Press. It's worth reading if Buckinghamshire's involvement with suffrage is of interest. ■

## The re-shaping of suffrage secretaries

**Women as head of police and the fire service, FTSE 100 companies, and UK and Scottish parliaments; these are just a handful of examples of life-changes for women in work where once they were employed mostly in secretarial roles. Roger Porter looks back.**

BY 1919, Britain had lost over 908,000 young men in the Great War. This brought about a great change in working life.

The move started a little earlier, when about 700,000 women entered office work following Christabel Pankhurst's 1915 "We want to serve" demonstration down Whitehall. They found themselves in a totally masculine domain, with few concessions made to their sex.

Women aged over 30 were given the vote, and qualified women were granted the legal right to enter most of the professions.

**Learning New Skills:** Many girls entering an office straight from school in 1919 had no qualifications beyond a sound knowledge of the three Rs. Employers required them to "Speak the King's English well" and to "write clearly and neatly."

'Shorthand' was a new work discipline with the typewriter as an innovative piece of technology. Touch-typing was taught in one secretarial college by blindfolding the students with black silk handkerchiefs.

The description 'secretary' was used very rarely. Most staff were appointed as "lady typewriters", shorthand typists or clerks.

**Dressing for the Part:** A female office worker would attempt to merge into the masculine environment by judicious use of colour and style.

The chances are she would set off for work in a sombre tailored wool suit, with a clean white silk blouse beneath: one of three or four she owned. She would be wearing a hat of silk or felt, under which her long hair would be dressed into a bun. She would also wear gloves, heavy lisle stockings and "sensible shoes". Wearing makeup was considered 'fast' and not allowed.

Money was short. There were "guinea shops" where everything cost £1.05p. Girls formed pools where one bought a dress, a second a cloak, and a third some accessories. The outfit was borrowed in turn for their 'dates'. Men wore suits and "billycocks", or bowlers.

**A Question of Reward:** Wages for female office staff varied between 5/- (25p) and 25/- (£1.25p) a week in 1919. A pound in 1919 bought the equivalent of £42 today. This would give a salary range of £546 to £2,730 a year at 2019 prices.

This contrasts with an actual average secretarial salary of £9.24p per hour today x 40 hours x say 48 weeks = £17,740 per annum. Small wonder then that female office staff in 1919 handed over all their wages to their parents: a contribution to feeding the family and running the home.

In return, the practice was for the parents to hand over personal 'pocket money' of 2s 6d.

**Commuting in 1919:** Long journeys to the office were frequently made on foot. It was not unusual for staff to walk five or six miles to the office or nearest railway station. In large cities in 1919, trains, one-horse broughams and trams formed the principal means of transport. In 2019, the high cost and unreliability of public transport is forcing people to think of working closer to home.



A secretary's world of office work in 1900

**The Working Day:** In 1919, almost everyone worked a five-and-a-half day week, with Saturday morning being the normal part of the working week. Tea breaks were virtually unknown; tea was taken in one hand while typing with the other.

Often, tea was brought in from the ABC and J Lyons shops. Overtime had become a regular event, but it went unpaid. Some employers provided food for overtime workers, for example "bread, jam and tea for the first hour", and "scrambled eggs, scones and tea for the next two hours". It was not uncommon to hear: "We were always hungry and welcomed the extra food that came with working late."

**A Disciplined Approach:** The ladies had to do well, or they were out! Staff were addressed by their surnames. The least formal mode of address would be to add "-ie" to the end of surnames, for example, Brownie, Smithie or Jonesie. The boss was always "Sir".

**Break for Lunch:** Lunchtime entertainment could be found from Speakers on Tower Hill, or the troops arriving back from the Great War at Fenchurch Street station.

An office worker could have lunch at the ABC or J Lyons café, receiving a "boiled egg, ginger pudding with treacle and a cup of tea" for 1s 3d (6p), or a steak and kidney pie in Hatton Garden for 9d (4p).

With such meagre pay packets, it was hardly surprising most staff took sandwiches into work. With food in short supply, it was not unknown for girls to faint at their desks.

**The Marrying Kind:** With work scarce it became a privilege to work and unacceptable for a married woman to work and take a job that could be filled by one of the unemployed.

Many girls regretted marrying and giving up work; they felt they had become restricted at home. In later years, the social stigma of remaining single served as the driving force behind marriage.

**The Communications Game:** There were three postal deliveries each day; it cost 1d (0.4p) to post a letter. Use of the telephone was severely restricted.

**Standards:** Errors were not allowed and typists worked with a dictionary alongside their typewriters. They conducted work with pride. There was no moaning and neuroses had not been invented then.

**An Attitude of Mind:** Comparisons are difficult and odious, but there are some differences in attitude between 1919 and 2019. One hundred years ago there seemed to be a higher level of enthusiasm for hard work; a general belief that "small is beautiful" pervaded when applying to employers.

In 1919, the boss had to be "strict but fair". Young women today want a boss who is easy-going and tolerant.

**Having a Say:** Office democracy has moved far in 100 years. Staff are now allowed/encouraged to introduce ideas and make suggestions, and voice opinions regarding working together. They are informed of outcomes of meetings, decisions and so on.

In addition, delegation by representing the boss at meetings has become increasingly significant.

**Money Matters:** Attitudes to money have changed dramatically. For the majority of today's secretaries, starting salary is the most important, compared with only 13% of the 1919 group.

The present-day work force also looks for index-linked salaries to reflect the speed with which the cost of living is escalating.

And so it is; the world of work for women has changed much in 100 years. The glass ceiling has emerged as something to penetrate; accordingly, there are now many women chief executives of FTSE 100 companies, prime ministers and leaders in other fields. Would the Pankhursts recognise women's world today were they to return? ■



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - WHADDON

### Time to spring clean your home security

AT this time of year, when many are looking forward to their holidays, please consider some of these simple, but effective steps that can be taken to secure home and valuables:

If you have a domestic alarm, always ensure this is set and that you give details of the key holder to your monitoring station.

Most burglars are opportunists, so make sure all windows and doors are closed and locked securely before you leave.

Remember to cancel milk and papers before you depart.

Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your home. Ask them to collect your mail or push it through the letter box. Ask them to open and close curtains, put your bin out and return after collection. It is as well ideal to have a timer to switch lights on and off to make the house look occupied. A radio set on a timer can also give the impression of an occupied house. Another idea is to ask a friend or neighbour to park their car on your drive if you have taken your car.

Always make sure that ladders and garden tools, which could help burglars to break in, are not within view or easy to reach.

Lastly, enjoy your holiday in the knowledge your house is not looking attractive to opportunist criminals.

For further information, simply download your **FREE Home Security Guide** from the Thames Valley Police website here: <https://www.thamesvalley>. The guide contains lots of hints and tips including:

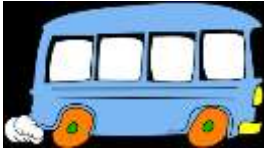
- A range of physical and digital security measures to protect your home
- How to avoid invalidating your home insurance through poor security
- A handy check-list for when you go away.

Being burgled is a traumatic experience. It's not just the financial cost of replacing stolen items, but also the emotional impact of feeling violated after a stranger has been in your home. ■

#### YOUR LOCAL CO-ORDINATORS

Graham Stewart	2, High Street. Tel. 01908 501973
Peter Beckwith	6, Old Manor Close. Tel: 01908 503194
Sally Green	Bellsbrook, Church Lane. Tel: Ex-directory
David McIntyre	2a, Vicarage Road. Tel: 01908 867836
Howard Jones	8, Ladymead. Tel: 01908 501871
Sally Telford	4a, Stock Lane. Tel:01908 336960
Pauline Winward	1, Whaddon Hall. Tel: 01908 502559





# Winslow Community Bus

wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com

www.winslowbus.com

01296 715786



**Everyone is eligible to come on the bus. We pick up near to your house.**

**Please ring Sue for more information. \*Denotes bus pass accepted.**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May - Buckingham Bus** - 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service, bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May – The Yurt at Nicholson’s, North Ashton (near Bicester)** – tree nursery with lunch under canvas, £6.00 travel.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May – MKT – Les Miserables** - £62.00 ticket and travel

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Cotswolds Tour** – with pub lunch, £7.00 travel.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Asda Shopping MK1** - option to go to M&S, Primark, etc., £4.00.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Visit Chartwell** – beloved home and gardens in Kent where Sir Winston Churchill lived for 40 years. See his collection of paintings in his studio and enjoy the scenic rose and water gardens that he commissioned. Travel and entry £24.00 – NT members travel only £10.00.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June - Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June – Visit Waterperry Gardens.** Travel £5.00, garden entrance £8.50

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Lunch at The Inn on the Lake Bletchley** – great food, lovely setting! Travel £4.00

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June - - Asda Shopping MK1** - option to go to M&S, Primark, etc., £4.00.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June - - Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book.

**Milton Keynes Theatre** - please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

All prices are for tickets in Band A price range (circle or stalls) and travel.

Performances start 2.30pm unless otherwise stated. Door to door service.

Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> - **Les Misérables** - £62.00

Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Annie** - £29.00

Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup> - **Dr Dolittle** - £34.50

**EVERY Wednesday morning** the bus travels into surrounding villages to bring people into Winslow on market day, returning at lunch time. We go to Swanbourne, Mursley, the Horwoods, Whaddon, Nash, and the Claydons. Please ring Sue for more details and a timetable. Only £3.00 return or FREE with a bus pass!

**Shopping made easy!** - No parking – no hassle AND help on and off with your shopping if needed! **ALL WELCOME, young and old alike.**

Every Friday and Saturday morning the bus travels into Aylesbury from Winslow, through the Horwoods, Mursley and Swanbourne arriving just after 10am and departing 12.15pm. It's FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £4.50 return.

We can pick up near to your home.

Ring Sue for more info or a timetable! **01296 715786**

**The Winslow Community Bus**

Would love to have more volunteer drivers!!

If you are aged between 30 and 70 years of age, have a D1 on your licence, and have some spare time, please consider becoming a driver for your local Community Bus. You can do as much or as little as you like, from shorter local runs to some of our longer day trips. We visit all kinds of places, garden centres,

stately homes, shopping centres, countryside drives as well as our regular bus services, and the people who use the bus are a very friendly crowd!

**We offer certificated training to MIDAS standard, and pay out-of-pocket expenses. Please ring or email for more info: 01296 715786 or [wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com](mailto:wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com)**

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## *Creative Coach:* *Thoughts from my comfy chair* **Look on the bright side**

Ever heard of endorphins? Or come to that dopamine, serotonin or oxytocin? No, don't sigh and turn the page! Please keep reading! I'm not about to give you a science lesson: my old science teacher would be amazed I'm even using these words, let alone understanding what they mean!

All you need to know, if you don't already, is that these four chemicals are produced in the brain and released into the body in response to mostly pleasurable stuff, and they cause us to feel relaxed and happy.

So the question is: how to get more of them? Well, stop reading the papers, listening to the news and following current affairs on Twitter would be a good start. It seems that there's an Easter-and-beyond-basketful of tragedy, outrage, controversy and spitefulness out there just waiting to ambush us and make us feel bad.

But the truth is we can't run and hide from those curve balls that life lobs our way. That's just what life does. What we *can* do is to make sure all our happy hormones are regularly topped up to make us more resilient. And the good news is that lots of you out there are doing plenty to make that happen.

This year, and all over the Easter weekend with its glorious weather, I've noticed an increase in posts and conversations about getting out and about in nature, and being active and creative. Whaddon has its own bird-watching Facebook page now, as well as a gardening page, thanks to a proactive villager.

We have several keen photographers, eager to share lovely views of our village on the village page. On Bank Holiday Monday, we enjoyed a delightful musical concert, with the pupils of Alex Aitken and Karen Logan who performed to a packed Jubilee Hall, and gave us all a massive dose of feel-good factor.

And we have our own little Springwatch here in the village: hosts of golden daffodils, lambs, calves, bluebells, nesting birds; even the ice-cream van has reappeared! We have a raft of short and longer walks right on our doorstep and you only have to read through this issue of the *Whaddon Quarterly* to see all the creative and interesting groups we have in our village; they all help to keep those happy hormones flying round.

We're so lucky in Whaddon; there really is something for everyone here. It's all right there on your doorstep to watch, notice and do, if you choose to look for it.

So next time the gloom-and-doom merchants come knocking, or sending their negative messages into your head, take a look around and see what you can do to raise the level of those happiness hormones. We generally do a good job of it in Whaddon; let's keep on doing what we do so well.

All together now...Always look on the bright side... ■

*Marianna Beckwith*

# Building up our repertoire of melodies

I think we can safely say that the membership of Chase Choir is a (mostly!) tuneful medley of folk, all blending together to sing weekly in Whaddon's Jubilee Hall. And medleys are what we're working on at the moment: collections of favourite songs and sections of songs from a variety of sources as diverse as the choir members themselves!

We know you're all desperate to know what these medleys might be, but you'll have to wait! We want to polish them up a bit before we let you hear them. What you do need to know is that we'll be performing them with great enthusiasm, on Monday 22 July in the evening, at the Jubilee Hall, and it's set to be an evening of great entertainment. So please save the date now, and look out for more information nearer the time.

We will be donating the proceeds of this concert, and our other events this year towards our two local charities for 2019: Harry's Rainbow, which provides bereavement help and support to children who have lost a parent or sibling, and MK Hospital's Cancer Centre Charity, which is raising funds to equip the new cancer centre at the Hospital. Both charities are great causes and we hope you'll all be as supportive as you always are in Whaddon and surrounds, of our efforts.

And if the arrival of Spring, with Summer just around the corner has made you want to burst into song, why not channel your talent and join us? We meet every Monday from 7-9pm and we'd love to welcome you as part of our "medley"! No audition or previous experience of singing in a choir is necessary: we're that open-minded!

Contact Karen Logan on 01908 501922 or Marianna Beckwith on 01908 503194 for more information, or visit our website: [www.chasechoir.com](http://www.chasechoir.com) ■

*Marianna Beckwith*



## WHADDON PLANNING BRIEFS

Planning applications that have been decided, or are currently being considered, since the last *Whaddon Quarterly*, include those listed below:

### **CM/0068/18: Park Hill Farm, Bletchley Road, Little Horwood. (location A421, opposite turning to Little Horwood.)**

Recontouring of agricultural land using tipped inert waste. (A full application submitted by Churchill Waste Ltd. to Bucks CC)

Although in Great Horwood Parish, Whaddon PC has been consulted as the site adjoins Whaddon Parish boundary. The standard consultation date expired on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018, with a decision originally due on 21<sup>st</sup> December; it followed extensive statutory consultation on landscape issues and the need for temporary inert waste tip, etc.

This application remains undetermined by Bucks CC; this is despite two further time extensions having been granted to the applicants (31<sup>st</sup> January and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019) to allow more time to prepare a transport assessment and to supply additional (unspecified) details about the proposal. As this report is being compiled, no further information has been received, but it is understood from a Bucks CC planning officer that should Bucks CC hear nothing further before 24<sup>th</sup> April, (the latest extension period) then a decision will be made at their Development Control Committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Full details of this application can be found on Google: 'Bucks County Council Simple Search'; then follow the links using reference number CM/0068/19.

**18/01333/APP: Land off Stratford Road, Whaddon. (almost opposite entrance to Whaddon Hall)**

Change of use from agricultural land to animal training (dogs)

Unfortunately, a decision on this application for a three-year temporary change-of-use is still awaited. It appears a combination of changes in planning officers and difficulties in clarifying outstanding issues in order to make a proper, considered judgement, have yet again delayed a final decision. Your Parish Council has requested that AVDC should seek highway advice from Bucks CC with regards to the appropriateness and safety of the access, and their full response by letter can be found on line.

In summary, it states "...the development would lead to an intensification in use of the existing access, which would not accommodate simultaneous two way vehicle flow, therefore I must recommend this application for refusal for the following reason :- The existing means of access to the site is inadequate by reasons of its width to serve the proposed development with safety and convenience. The development is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, the aims of Buckinghamshire's Local Transport Plan 4 and the Bucks CC Highways Development Guidance Document (adopted July 2018)."

As we go to press, little further additional information has been posted on the AVDC planning web site, so it remains unknown as to what the final decision will be, when it will be made, or whether the applicants will withdraw the current application and re-apply.

**18/02929/APP: Land off Stratford Road, Whaddon. (almost opposite entrance to Whaddon Hall)**

Retention of reconstructed barns, and installed Klargester bio treatment plant.

A decision on this retrospective planning application (following an enforcement notice served by AVDC for carrying out unauthorised works without planning consent) should have been made some time ago, but Whaddon PC has been informed that the officer dealing with the matter is on annual leave. It is thought officers are delaying a decision until application 18/01333/APP on the same site (see above) is finally determined.

**19/00074/ALB: The Gatehouse, 28 High Street, Whaddon.**

Provision of two skylight 'lanterns' to the existing flat roof through to kitchen area.

This application was discussed at the 10<sup>th</sup> January meeting of WPC, and 'no objection' was raised. As the building is Grade 2 listed, it was agreed that AVDC Historic Building Officer's (HBO) experience in such matters should be taken into account in the Council's final decision-making process. A decision is still awaited, but it is understood HBO requires redesigned lanterns to be incorporated, thus making them less visible. ■

**Please remember** that you can view these, or any other planning applications on the AVDC Planning web-site, by simply Googling: Planning >> Simple Search – Aylesbury Vale District Council - then open this link and type in the application number in the box provided, then click 'Search'. Open the documents and inspect the papers of interest to you. As with all planning applications, residents are able to inspect all plans and certain correspondence, together with statutory consultation responses, by following this procedure.

**The next meeting of Whaddon PC where any new planning applications will be discussed, is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Village Chapel. All are welcome.**

## Whaddon Refuse Collection Dates

**Food waste:** Every Tuesday

**Recycling:** Tuesdays: 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May; 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June; 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July; 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Waste refuse:** Tuesdays: 8<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May; 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July; 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**Garden waste:** If you are subscribed to the garden waste service, all collections will be the same day as the waste bin collection, viz: 8<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May; 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July; 13<sup>th</sup> August.

If AVDC misses a collection; report within 48 hours by phone to AVDC (01296 585858) or via the website. [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/find-your-bin-day](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/find-your-bin-day)

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## From Mother's Ruin to Mother's Day

THIS year's March gin sales figures could be another record, with Mother's Day partly responsible for the resurgence of a spirit which has enjoyed a chequered history and was once known as Mother's Ruin. Previously unpublished figures show gin sales in the first quarter of the last two years peaked in March, in the run up to Mothering Sunday.

Last year, from January to March period, 9 million bottles of gin were sold of which 4.7 million: 52%, flew off the shelves in March again. In 2018, over 73 million bottles of gin were sold in the UK, with sales worth £2.1 billion, breaking all records. Add this to the latest value of British gin exports, and the spirit was worth over £2.7 billion for the whole of 2018. Not surprisingly, spirit makers now expect figures will show more bottles than ever were sold in March in 2019. A total of 361 distilleries now produce the spirit in the UK, with 54 opening in 2018 – the equivalent of one a week. It is estimated there are several hundred different gin brands. Post Script: Our own *The Lowndes Arms* boasts over 100 different gins! ■

# The role of a personal representative

**There are so many matters to consider when appointed, or being required to deal with a loved-one's estate. But what does it mean and what are the duties?**

**E**XECUTORS and administrators are referred to as personal representatives (PRs). An executor is appointed by a valid Will or codicil to administer the testator's property; they carry out the provisions of the Will and apply for a Grant of Probate. A Grant of Administration is required where the deceased has died intestate.

PRs have specific duties in relation to the deceased's estate; their authority to deal with the estate does, in the case of an intestacy, depend on a grant to that estate being made. However, a grant is not always issued as there are some excluded categories of persons: for example, those without capacity, minors and bankrupts. Equally, a court may override a person entitled to act as a PR in certain circumstances.

## ***What are the PR's duties and powers when dealing with a deceased's estate?***

The PRs must:

- collect and get in the deceased's estate.
- administer it according to the law and with due diligence.
- administer it using the powers given to them in the deceased's Will (if there is one).
- take into account all relevant statutory powers.

Here are some of the statutory powers which PRs have when dealing with a deceased's estate:

- To sell, mortgage, lease or charge the deceased's property vesting in them;
- To insure personal and real property;
- To distribute. However, PR's are not bound to distribute the deceased's estate within one year of the date of death;
- As a general rule, PRs have no authority to carry on the deceased's business; however, there are exceptions: they may do so where there is an express power in the Will or they do so for the purpose of winding it up. However, PRs have a duty to preserve the business as an asset and therefore may carry on the business for a period of time if they act in good faith.

## ***When do the duties and powers of the Personal Representatives and Executors take affect?***

This can depend on whether the deceased died with or without a Will. When dealing with an intestate, the deceased's property does not vest in the administrator until the grant. This is distinct from the office of executor, which derives from the testator's Will; the Grant of Probate merely confirms the executor's authority to act.

Therefore, the testator's property vests in the executor from the date of death; in the case of an intestacy, a deceased's property is not vested in the administrator until the grant is issued. ■

MacIntyre Law provides legal services for your business and for you personally:

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Contact **Rachael MacIntyre**: tel: 01908 410844  
or email: rachael@macintyrelaw.co.uk

**MacIntyre Law is situated at 82-84 High Street, Stony  
Stratford, Milton Keynes, MK11 1AH**

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



# Financial help for Whaddon's needy

**Do you know of someone in Whaddon who has been going through tough times in the last year? Or someone seeking educational help? If so, two charities could help, as Graham Stewart explains.**

THIS hardship could be through bereavement, an illness or unemployment. Maybe the individual concerned needs a quick 'cheer up'; or recognition that others care about them. Possibly they are in need of longer term help with, for example, cost of transport, upkeep of garden or home.

The Elmer's Charity (Registered Charity No. 233663) was set up specifically for 'poor persons: in order to provide them with clothes, boots, blankets, fuel, medical or other aid in sickness'. Times have changed, but personal requirements have not. They still remain, and need to be addressed. Thankfully, today the endowment has been increased following sale of an area of land.

In view of this increased income, Trustees have been working with the Charities' Commission, and it has been agreed that the original, very restrictive, terms of the Charities' donor, can be 'tweaked' slightly to benefit those 'in need in the community'; meanwhile, the original terms continue unchanged for those other genuine cases offered for Trustees' consideration.

## **Educational support**

In addition to the general grant, there is an educational charity. For many years, Elmer's School Charity has been supporting the further education of individuals who have left school, are under 25 and continue to live in the village. This grant can be used to fund books for those taking a degree; specialised tools or clothing for someone in an apprenticeship; funding for off-site activities, such as field work; travel expenses; or other purposes approved by the Trustees.

There are simple application processes for these grants. And, of course, applications are treated in confidence.

For further information, please contact Miss K. Phillips, Secretary, 78 London Road, Stony Stratford, MK11 1JH. By email: [elmerscharity@gmail.com](mailto:elmerscharity@gmail.com); or telephone 01908 563350.

Whaddon village Trustees are *Derek White* and *Graham Stewart*. ■

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# Whaddon Hall's wartime role revealed

**The extent to which Whaddon Hall played its part in WW2 can be judged from an aerial view (over), according to local historian John Taylor.**

REPUTED to be the finest clandestine communications system in the world, the Secret Intelligence Service (S.I.S.) transmitting station at Whaddon Hall – in fact a general term for a multitude of huted operations in that vicinity – provided the base from which the Bletchley Park decodes could be transmitted to field headquarters abroad.

Known as Whaddon Main Line, the centre handled all Prime Minister Winston Churchill's correspondence, transmissions of British diplomatic and secret agents throughout the world, and all the Ultra communications at home and overseas.

An administration section was accommodated in huts behind Whaddon Hall (**right**) and the three huts seen in the top right were respectively a teleprinter hut, a radio hut (linked to the transmitting station at Tattenhoe Bare, a mile or so away), and a rest room for the operators who worked shifts.



Nissen hut accommodation was arranged for the operators, and brick huts in local fields provided the site for staff working Morse code communication with agents in Occupied Europe.

Technical staff in outbuildings at Whaddon Hall were engaged on advanced clandestine communication devices, while behind St Mary's Church early in the war, 'Windy Ridge', more correctly known as Church Hill, became the site for the construction of two brick huts.

One received information using a landline from Hut 3 at Bletchley Park. The other sent this coded information to overseas military commanders through the nearby radio transmitting station at Tattenhoe Bare. Only the concrete bases of the huts now remain. ■

## Nash Events

May 2019 to June 2019

### May

- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm to 10.30pm  
Pop Up Micro Pub PUMP
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 10am to 5pm  
Community Café

### June

- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 10.30am to noon  
Coffee morning to support the work of Dr Shirley Heywood, who works with INF as a gynaecologist in Nepal
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 6.30pm to 10.30pm  
Pop Up Micro Pub PUMP
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 10am to 5pm  
Community Cafe
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2pm to 5pm  
Fete
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm to 5pm Open Gardens, with cream teas, starting at the village hall For information on the Coffee Morning, Fete and Open Gardens please contact Pam King 01908 501860  
or [pamking199@gmail.com](mailto:pamking199@gmail.com)  
For all other events please contact [infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:infoatnashvillagehall@gmail.com)





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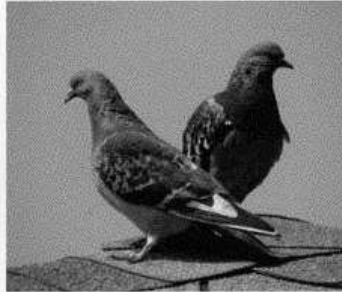
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## Continued from p. 58

To give Derek's bell wheel perspective, the tenor bell wheel at St Paul's Cathedral is 2.74m in diameter, according to John White, steeplekeeper, St Paul's Cathedral in a note to the *Whaddon Quarterly*; twice the size of the All Saints wheel, and one of the largest made by John Taylor & Co in Loughborough which handled St Paul's refurbishment. Similar sized wheels were made there for Exeter Cathedral and York Minster. The smallest bell wheel made by Taylor is 2ft 6in.

In old money, St Paul's tenor bell wheel is 108ins or 9ft; the St Paul's treble bell wheel is 1.67m or 66in (5ft 6in) – slightly greater in diameter to the All Saints wheel (**on p. 57**) which is 56in (4ft 8in). A progression links the largest wheel to the smallest.

Last year, after a New Year's Day peal, the bells of St Paul's were removed and taken to Taylor's foundry in Loughborough; the company cast them in 1878. A thick layer of grime was removed and new moving parts fitted to improve performance. During the bells' restoration, the timber bell frame received strengthening to lengthen its working life. The ringing room, where ringers gather, likewise received an upgrade, including improved lighting.

The tenor bell (its ring is in B flat) is St Paul's largest change-ringing bell; it weighs 61cwt, or over 3 tons, and has a maximum diameter of 31ins. Taylor returned the finished bells to St Paul's on 3<sup>rd</sup> September last year. Later, they were lifted into their bell frame and were re-dedicated on All Saints Day to mark their 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The south west tower houses Great Paul, the largest bell cast in the British Isles. It weighs 16.5 tons. Great Paul has not sounded for several years; its chiming mechanism is broken, however it is hoped to correct this later this year. ■

---

## The global joys of bell ringing

**"Like all things, the younger you learn the easier it is and therefore the quicker you can become more involved," John White, steeplekeeper at St Paul's Cathedral, London, observed to John Mortimer.**

"ANYONE can learn the art. I have taught many people over the years; it's a hobby that offers mental and some physical challenges but it is an extremely sociable pastime and you certainly get to places you would never think of," he added.

He noted that bell ringing takes place "around the globe with rings of bells popping up all over the place, the latest 'big' job being a ring of bells for Singapore Cathedral, due for installation during July."

On the subject of women bell ringers, White informed: "There are numerous lady ringers around the country and very good they are too. We have six ladies who are members of the band who ring at St Paul's."

For those with a particular interest in bell wheels, White revealed that the 'old' bell wheels at St Paul's of the pre-Taylor installation were 'half soled & heeled' in 2000, but were of no use to the current installation.

It seems this was due in no small part to all the bells being rehung on different-sized cast iron headstocks. The discarded wheels were given to the Turners' Livery Company, along with other elements of timber from the installation, which had become, in effect, redundant and these were presented to them to turn out various wooden items that could be sold, such as fobs, bowls, pen casings and so on.

White, a 30-year-plus ringer at St Paul's Cathedral, explained: "It is customary that one of its own ringers is elected into office as 'Master', 'Secretary' or 'Steeplekeeper'. In my case, as Steeplekeeper, it's a position that I have held for the past 15 years. I was naturally very much involved with the refurbishment of the installation of the bells at St Paul's."

White spends "one or two days a week" at Taylor's Bell foundry working on management issues. "A bit of a continuation of my hobby in effect," he confided. ■

## She brought tears to my eyes

**I was watching a programme in the middle of April; a wonderful documentary of the life of the late mezzo soprano Dame Janet Baker. I found it quite inspiring. It brought tears to my eyes.**

**I** worked in mid-Wales in the 1950s/60s when I had my own male voice choir. Janet Baker, **right**, came to sing for us on the stage of the Odeon cinema at Newtown.

Of course, she was stunning. She confided in me at the interval that she could not sing wearing knickers, as they tended to fall down. Heady information for me at the time as it later transpired the wonderful mezzo soprano, famous for her interpretation of Liede, Berlioz and Handel, noted she was unable to find elastic that could cope with her diaphragm movements.

Dame Janet's remarkable career came to an end at her instigation, without warning and without ceremony just 30 years ago this year. She decided that she could not cope with learning and memorising repertoire any more. In other words, END OF! How many of us would welcome that? ■

*Roger Porter.*



## A bell wheel laid bare

**EVER seen a bell wheel? Probably not; bell wheels seldom see light of day. Yet their simple, utilitarian elegance reflects function and construction.**

**T**HESE wheels, around which bell ropes are hung, provide the means by which church bells can be rung. Most of their lives are spent in cold darkness; perhaps once or twice in their lives they emerge into daylight, either when in need of repair, or for replacement, when their lives are nearly fully spent. And so it is at All Saints Church, Calverton, as reported in *Whaddon Quarterly* of February 2019, where new bell wheels are installed.

Here **right** is Derek White with Number 5 bell wheel from All Saints. Notice a craftsman's workmanship. This is not just a cheap, wooden blash up, something 'mashed up' on a cold winter's afternoon when there was nothing better to do, but a wheel almost lovingly created. Even the spokes have been chamfered, most likely made with a spokeshave by an artisan in wood who would likely caress the surface of his handiwork to check for smoothness. Likewise, he fashioned mortis and tenon joints to achieve strength; he could have made something far simpler in half the time.



The craftsman of the 1800s left behind his mark. To avoid confusion during assembly, just like Japanese designers today who use poka-yoke (a Japanese term meaning 'mistake-proofing' or 'inadvertent error prevention', the man crafted an H to denote which halves fitted together (**left**). He had to make the wheels in halves to ease their passage through the trap door in the belfry.

**Concluded on p. 57**

**Outside back cover. Calf in field off Kennel Lane. John Mortimer**

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