

# WHADDON QUARTERLY

Summer 2025



## ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING

14<sup>th</sup> May, 7 - 8.30pm

- Latest Parish News!
- Have Your Say!
- Fun Social Event
- FREE Refreshments

See page 8 Inside for More Details....  
**All Welcome!!! Don't Miss it!!!!**

Whaddon Jubilee Hall

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.

## OPENING TIMES

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| Mon   | Closed     |
| Tue   | 10am - 4pm |
| Wed   | 10am - 4pm |
| Thurs | 10am - 5pm |
| Fri   | 10am - 5pm |
| Sat   | 10am - 5pm |
| Sun   | 11am - 3pm |

We are just 10 minutes from both Milton Keynes and Buckingham

## Visit us at:

Bump Start Baby Shop  
Coddinmoor Farm Whaddon  
Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 0LR

**0800 594 3052**

fax: 01908 505636

email: [baby@bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk](mailto:baby@bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk)

web: [www.bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk](http://www.bumpstartbabyshop.co.uk)



# **Welcome to the Whaddon Quarterly!**

## **CONTENTS**

|                                                                        |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Editor's Letter</b>                                                 | <b>Pg 4</b>     |
| <b>Chairman's report</b>                                               | <b>Pg 5</b>     |
| <b>Clerk's Corner</b>                                                  | <b>Pg 6</b>     |
| <b>WPC Welcomes 3 New Councillors</b>                                  | <b>Pg 7</b>     |
| <b>Invitation to Annual Residents Meeting</b>                          | <b>Pg 8</b>     |
| <b>Changes to the Public Comments Process on Planning Applications</b> | <b>Pg 9-11</b>  |
| <b>80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day</b>                           | <b>Pg 12</b>    |
| <b>St Mary's Church</b>                                                | <b>Pg 13-17</b> |
| <b>Whaddon Jubilee Village Hall</b>                                    | <b>Pg 18-23</b> |
| <b>Chase Choir</b>                                                     | <b>Pg 23</b>    |
| <b>2025 Children's Pyjama Appeal</b>                                   | <b>Pg 24</b>    |
| <b>News from Whaddon's W.I.</b>                                        | <b>Pg 25-26</b> |
| <b>W.I. Night Owlers</b>                                               | <b>Pg 27</b>    |
| <b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>                                             | <b>Pg 28-30</b> |
| <b>Whaddon Planning Snippets</b>                                       | <b>Pg 31-32</b> |
| <b>Shenley Park Development Update</b>                                 | <b>Pg 32-33</b> |
| <b>Did a Dragon Really Live in This Village?</b>                       | <b>Pg 34-42</b> |
| <b>WQ Advertising Rates and Policy</b>                                 | <b>Pg 43</b>    |
| <b>Local Advertisers</b>                                               | <b>Pg 44-55</b> |
| <b>Dates for your Diary – What's on Whaddon</b>                        | <b>Pg 56</b>    |

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**[wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)**

**If you would like to advertise in the Whaddon Quarterly, please send your advertisement to the Editor as above.**

The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Whaddon Parish Council. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but the Editor does not accept liability for any errors within contributed material. The Editor's decision is final.

# Editor's Letter

## Welcome to the Summer edition of The Whaddon Quarterly

As we dive into the warmth of summer, I am excited to bring you a fresh edition of our magazine. Whether you're lounging in the sun, exploring new adventures, or enjoying some well-deserved downtime, I hope this issue adds a little extra sunshine to your day.

Summer is a time for connection, relaxation, and making memories, and we're thrilled to share this edition with you. I hope it brings a smile to your face and helps you make the most of this beautiful season.

Enjoy, stay cool, and don't forget to take a moment to savour the simple joys of summer!

If you have been inspired by what you read or feel that you would perhaps like to add something yourself to the next edition of the WQ, I would love to hear from you. Feel free to email me at [wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)

Autumn edition deadline: **15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025**

**Sally**  
**Editor**



## Are you an enthusiastic photographer?

If you would like your picture to be considered for the front cover, please submit to

[\*\*wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:wqeditor@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)



## **Whaddon Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Whaddon is always at its best in the springtime with so many daffodils on our street corners together with the mass of cowslips on the village green and primroses on the banks. These flowers help to give us a sense of pride in our village and a determination to keep it that way. That is why it is important in our ongoing war to maintain our independence from Milton Keynes.

The consequence of increasing population means that the Government has earmarked other parts of Buckinghamshire for major further housing and commercial development.

These are bound to be accompanied by many acres of solar panels and battery storage because of our increased demand for electric cars and computer systems in all that we do.

All that will need the roads to connect the developments, whether housing or commercial, and intelligently designed road systems to avoid traffic jams. The Parish Council already spends a lot of its time considering options resulting from the Shenley Park development.

Following the local elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May we shall have a new Parish Council for which the seven uncontested nominations are a blend of old and new covering a wide bracket of ages.

***Cllr Billy Stanier Chairman***  
**Whaddon Parish Council**





# Clerk's Corner

**Helpful information from  
Whaddon Parish Council**

**WPC Achieves 'General Power of Competence' Status.** WPC is delighted to announce that from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 when Cllrs are confirmed in place after the 1<sup>st</sup> May election, we meet all the criteria to operate under the aegis of General Power of Competence. This means the Council moves from a regime of needing statutory permission to do anything to being able to do anything a reasonable individual might do. Going forward the Council will have more flexibility to support the community, and this will be especially important as the Parish navigates through future expansion and change.

**New Contact Information for WPC...** With expansion of the Parish in mind, WPC now has a dedicated phone number and address. Going forward, please call 07903 187417 and address any mail to P O Box 6542, Milton Keynes, MK10 1YY.

## **GET IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPDATES VIA THE WEBSITE!**

Ahead of substantial population growth in the Parish WPC is switching over to sending News and Event Alerts via the Website. The old email system will be phased out in the next few months. To continue to get important information from WPC go to [Whaddon, Bucks, Whaddon, Milton Keynes \(whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk\)](http://Whaddon, Bucks, Whaddon, Milton Keynes (whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)), and click on the blue box to sign up for Email Alerts. This will give you lots more information and you'll be able to go online to see previous posts too.

**Date of Next Parish Council Meeting(s).** The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council take place at 7.00pm on the second Thursday of the month at The Chapel, Stock Lane, MK17 0LU. Please check the Village Notice Board on the bus stop to confirm. Full details are also on the WPC website at [www.whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](http://www.whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk)

All Welcome!





# Whaddon Parish Council Welcomes Three New Councillors!



**Cllr Matt Garland:** "I have lived in Whaddon with my family for 20 years. I'm married to Clare with 3 children, all of whom have attended our wonderful local school Whaddon C of E, Cody 22, Tilly 18 and Zack 16. Clare and I love village life in Whaddon and have served as volunteers including the Friends of Whaddon School and the Village Hall committees. I'm looking forward to helping serve the community's interests and can hopefully bring those 20 years of being part of this community to good use."

**Cllr Jason Jones:** "I have lived in Whaddon for the past nine years with my wife and two young sons. I am a family man who enjoys being outdoors. I'm very keen to represent the views and needs of young families in Whaddon and am pleased to have played a leading role in securing new play equipment for smaller children in our recreation ground."



## Meet Whaddon's New Parish Councillors!

**Cllr Paul Sainthouse:** Paul has been a resident of Whaddon for over three years and is keen to offer his skills to support the village through the forthcoming changes and challenges. He has already made his mark in the village organising a fabulous Christmas Bus Excursion to London's Regents Street in his with proceeds to benefit the Church.

**Cllr Billy Stanier Chair said:** "WPC is really delighted to welcome three talented new Councillors to the Council, to support us through the forthcoming era of huge change. Many decisions and choices will need to be made for Whaddon, and we have the best people to make them.

At the same time, I'd like to express our appreciation for both existing Councillors; **Cllrs Jonathan Allard, Jane Herriman and Graham Stewart**, and those who have recently retired, **Cllrs Helen Hickman, Neeraj Nagpal and Derek White**. They worked hard to support the Council over many years, and we owe them our sincere gratitude and thanks for the selfless contribution to the success and wellbeing of our community.

Cllr White has served since 1977 – 48yrs – and is due our extra special thanks and gratitude."



# Your Invitation to Whaddon's Annual Resident's Meeting and Social Evening

**20mph  
Speed Limit  
in  
Whaddon??**

**Your Chance to  
Tell Your  
Council Your  
Views!**

**FREE**

**Drinks  
&  
Snacks!**

**14<sup>th</sup> May  
7.00-8.30pm  
Jubilee Hall**

**FREE  
30mph  
Wheelie  
Bin  
Stickers**

**Do We Need a  
Neighbourhood  
Plan?!?!?**

**Meet Your  
Councillors**

**Village  
Safety &  
Security?!  
~**

**Don't Miss It!  
All Welcome!!!**

**Updates on  
Housing  
Development  
and Traffic**

Clerk@WhaddonBucks-pc.gov.uk – Tel: 07903 187417





# Changes to the Public Comments Process on Planning Applications

Whaddon Parish Council, along with many other Parishes, was extremely shocked and disappointed when on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, at very short notice, and without any consultation whatsoever, Buckinghamshire Council (BC) suddenly not only stopped publishing consultation responses from the general public but also deleted all comments from non-statutory consultees on every application that had already been published. This action was the result of a serious breach of GDPR regulations at BC. However, the public is still able to submit its comments as normal, and they will be reviewed and considered by BC, but they will not be accessible on Public Access.

The result is that your Parish Councillors are now unable to review any comments that residents may make on planning applications on the planning portal, making it a lot harder to gauge residents' feelings and opinions and take note of important details, especially those that may have a direct impact on neighbours, the conservation area, etc. Not knowing your views, Councillors will not have the option to include them in the Council's response as a statutory consultee and lend its support.

As an example, WPC has no access to the public's views on the Shenley Park Planning Application, in particular the future of Shenley Road and the proposed Coddimoor Lane traffic calming, other than a note there were some 267 public responses comprising 265 objections, one support and one other. So far there have been 24 Statutory consultee responses, and these will continue to be published on the BC planning portal in the normal way.

On receipt of the news from BC, WPC immediately wrote asking various questions, and the full response is copied below. This is clearly a decision that will not be reversed. Going forward, if you have any comments about planning applications you wish to share with the Council, then please;

- Come along to a Parish Council Meeting Public Forum and have your say, or
- Contact the Clerk via the website, email [clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk) or by mail to P O Box 6542, Milton Keynes, MK10 1YY.

Please note, the data and communications you share with the Council will be covered by the Council's Data Protection Policies and Procedures, full details of which are available on the Council's Website.

Response from BC to WPC's letter:

Thank you for your letter and my apologies for the delay in responding.

Buckinghamshire Council is committed to upholding its data responsibilities with the utmost seriousness. It is essential that everyone has confidence in our lawful and appropriate handling of their information, not solely due to legal obligations, but also because this information is integral to the provision of our services.

I appreciate your concerns regarding our decision; however, I assure you that all options have been thoroughly considered, including the possibility of redacting this data. Such an approach would however necessitate a significant investment in additional staff, and even then, redaction is not an entirely foolproof process. We appreciate that there is concern that this step has been taken, however that is not a valid reason to continue acting unlawfully.

I fully understand your point about the valuable role Parish and Town Councils play in bringing to our attention any local issues and constraints that might not be immediately obvious to the planning case officer.

The purpose of public consultation and notification is therefore to allow all the relevant issues to be highlighted. Then, irrespective of the number of representations in support or against a development, planning decisions must be made in accordance with:

- current legislation,
- development plan policy, and,
- all material considerations identified.

Parish and Town Councillors are not expected to be planning experts, your value is in your considerable local knowledge of potential issues. It is for the planning officer to then decide if the issues raised are “material considerations” or not. They will then list the material considerations and test them against the relevant policies in a report, concluding in a recommendation.

The “Public Access” software has also been amended such that it now under “comments” provides a total number of representations received and this is broken down into the number who support and those who object. This will allow the Council to gauge public feeling, even if the individual representations are not available.

While I appreciate that the Parish Council is disappointed with the decision the Planning Authority has taken, this should not prevent it continuing to play an active role in planning applications. We will continue to provide support to parishes through the training and regular updates and we will also explore further with BMKALC how we can provide more targeted support in the future in recognition of the levels of growth that are expected to take place across the County.

Kind regards

**Steve Bambrick**

Corporate Director, Planning, Growth & Sustainability  
Buckinghamshire Council

# May the 8th Will Mark the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day!



**Celebrate Victory in Europe Day and mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Allies' Formal Acceptance of Germany's Unconditional Surrender to end WWII on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945.**

**Join Radio Station GB1SOE throughout the day on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for a fascinating insight into the events that took place on that momentous day.**

**Everyone is welcome to stop by on Windy Ridge (the field behind St Mary 's Church, Whaddon).**

**ALL WELCOME!!!**

To remember this crucial day, the amateur radio station call sign GB1SOE will be operating on the amateur bands, from the old radio station site of "Windy Ridge" in the village of Whaddon (behind the Church). The station is run by amateur members of the Milton Keynes amateur radio club. We will be using either period, or reconstructed equipment from that period back in 1945. Other items will also be on display.

Whaddon village played an important part in WWII. SIS/MI6 section VIII was based in Whaddon Hall. Various other existing buildings were used. Behind the hall was the wireless station called "Mainline" (no trace remains). At the "Windy Ridge" site there remains a concrete base of one of the buildings. This is the site where the information gathered by Bletchley Park was transmitted around the world to field commanders that were allowed to see what was known as "Ultra".

So, once again, the sound of Morse signals will ring out around the village of Whaddon.

Please come along and say "hello" and have a chat.

Kind Regards

The GB1SOE Radio Station Team

# **News from St Mary's Church**

Hello everyone in Whaddon, or further afield,



Warm springtime greetings to you all. I am writing this on Easter Sunday, having walked home from church in beautiful sunshine, after a service that was buzzing with joy - and chocolate! It was great to see so many in church, to sing well-loved Easter hymns and to hear Sally tell the Easter story, with the help of children from the congregation. I think the children were even more enthusiastic at the end of the service as they enjoyed a traditional egg hunt ...

The church looked beautiful, thanks to Lesley, Alice and Ruth who made lovely floral arrangements, and Hazel who made the Easter Garden. This year we had something extra and quite unusual standing next to the pulpit: Jarrod, whose mum often comes to St Mary's, made a cross from our 2024 Christmas tree. It looked very bare on Good Friday, clad with a simple wreath they had made from locally gathered blackthorn, and then celebratory decorated with white flowers on Sunday. Thank you, Jarrod and Nikki - I think maybe we have a new tradition!

The fundraising committee has been finalising the plans for the Rock Concert on 21<sup>st</sup> June, and planning events for the rest of the year. Concert details will be published in the Quarterly and on Facebook and there will certainly be flyers, all with information about booking your tickets and the availability of refreshments. The concert was such a hit last year - keep your eyes open for the information and be sure not to miss it this year! As ever, the committee has some great ideas for future events and will reveal them later in the year.

Thanks, as ever, to all of you who keep St Mary's alive and looking good - we couldn't do without your generous contributions, whether they be financial ones, or of your precious time, energy, ideas or delicious bakery.

I wish you a joyful springtime ..... and look forward to seeing you at the concert!

Daphne Willis  
Churchwarden. St Mary's, Whaddon

# **St. Mary's Church Whaddon Services**

## **May – August 2025**

***Everyone is most welcome to all our services.***

|                                |         |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May    | 10.30am | Family Communion in Whaddon Church                                                  |
|                                | 4.00pm  | WILD (wonder, imagine, love, discover) in Nash Village Hall                         |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May    | 10.30am | Table Talk in Whaddon Chapel                                                        |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May    | 8.30am  | Traditional Service of Holy Communion at Whaddon Church                             |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> June    | 6.00pm  | Compline in Whaddon Church                                                          |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June    | 10.30am | Family Communion in Whaddon Church                                                  |
|                                | 4.00pm  | WILD (wonder, imagine, love, discover) in Nash Village Hall                         |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June   | 10.30am | Table Talk at the Whaddon Chapel                                                    |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June   | 8.30am  | Traditional Service of Holy Communion in Whaddon Church                             |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June   | 6.00pm  | Benefice Songs of Praise to celebrate the beauty of creation at Thornborough Church |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July    | 6.00pm  | Compline in Whaddon Church                                                          |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July   | 10.30am | Family Communion in Whaddon Church                                                  |
|                                | 4.00pm  | WILD (wonder, imagine, love, discover) in Nash Village Hall                         |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July   | 10.30am | Table Talk in Whaddon Chapel                                                        |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July   | 8.30am  | Traditional Service of Holy Communion at Whaddon Church                             |
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August  | 6.00pm  | Compline in Whaddon Church                                                          |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August | 10.30am | Family Communion in Whaddon Church                                                  |
|                                | 4.00pm  | WILD (wonder, imagine, love, discover) in Nash Village Hall                         |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> August | 10.30am | Table Talk in Whaddon Chapel                                                        |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> August | 8.30am  | Traditional Service of Holy Communion at Whaddon Church                             |
| Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> August | 6.00pm  | Benefice Songs of Praise to celebrate community spirit                              |

# **Reflections From the Rectory**

**By Reverend Jacqueline Dove**

My husband and I lived in Mozambique for around 11 years. When we first moved to live in the remote rural village of Gurue in 1998, we would visit the provincial capital of Quelimane, roughly once a month, where there were quite a number of young children living on the streets. A group of these children befriended me as I walked about the town hunting down produce to buy. They would carry my grocery bags and look after Godot, our dog, when I entered the shops. Back at the home of a friend where we stayed when in Quelimane, the children would use the outside tap to wash themselves and I would send them on their way with food supplies. What they most wanted however, was to be part of the general exodus to the beach each Sunday. I loved seeing their joy, as they would clamber into the back of our Toyota Hilux, as we drove the extremely bumpy 40min drive through coconut plantations, whenever we were in Quelimane on a Sunday.

By the time we eventually moved to Quelimane in 2005, there were no longer any street children largely because of the work done by Life Church which was started by Annmarie (an Australian missionary) who married Esvaldo, a Mozambican pastor. With international help from Life Child, they started a 'Peace School' which enabled children who had missed out on schooling to attend school. The school was linked to a 'Peace Farm', so that the children could also support their families with food. In addition to fostering a lot of children, Annmarie and Esvaldo also helped the children to trace their extended families so that they were no longer homeless.

When Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique I was relieved it hadn't occurred in Zambezia, the province where we had lived. Lots of tears were still shed at the incomprehensible destruction and suffering caused by the cyclone. Such horrendous natural disasters also leave my faith feeling battered. However, very soon my Facebook feed started filling with stories of great courage and compassion, full of hope. There were mobile phone video clips of people worshipping God in the ruins of their churches. There were pictures of truckloads full of supplies sent by Church groups in South Africa, willing to drive days to reach the affected areas. And Esvaldo, from Life Church in Quelimane, travelled to Beira via bus and train, with a Church group. On their first day there they had already put the roof back on a school and got the electricity restored. These responses to the cyclone reminded me in a small way of the Dunkirk spirit.

When I see great suffering, I'm inclined to shout to the heavens, "Where are you God?" God answers by opening my eyes to the countless acts of great love which are everywhere beating back despair with hope. May we too all play our small part.



# **St Mary's Church – Fundraising Events**

## **Loving it and Listing it!!**

### **St Mary's hits the silver screen?**

Whaddon does have at least one Kirsty and Phil but perhaps not the TV ones involved in finding locations!

Registering as a film/TV location can be very lucrative and, although we are now thankfully covering more day-to-day church costs (except perhaps heating!), major funds are desperately sought for substantial organ overhaul, path/outside lighting, roof repairs - not to mention toilets!

***But we need some really good photographs*** of (and from) our beautiful church in order to feature it on a potential film location website.....we have lots of lovely inside and close-up shots, but scenic views and aerial perspectives are required – so please show us your best!

We are also seeking help to stage an “Open Gardens” event in Summer 2026 and know we have many keen gardeners in Whaddon either to participate or organise – do get in touch if you'd like to volunteer for this or have any other ideas about fund-raising: new contributors always welcome (indeed, needed!).

By popular request, another Christmas double-decker bus trip is in the offing, potentially to Warwick Castle on the afternoon of 23 November (choice of Christmas Market, Light Trail, even ice skating!) - let us know if you are interested and/or wish to be on the priority booking list!

So many thanks for all your support.

**Ruth Scott** (*on behalf of the St Mary's fund-raising group*)

[rs@scott-travel.co.uk](mailto:rs@scott-travel.co.uk)

07436 812800

## **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June – St Mary's Rocks**

After last year's very successful concert, premium covers band V2 are back and will be performing covers of well-known songs from the 1960s to the present day and St Mary's Church will rock again!

Email [stmarysrocks2025@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrocks2025@gmail.com) to book your tickets - £15 for the concert and £5 for BBQ. Tickets on sale from **15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**.

**ST. MARY'S  
ROCKS**

**V2**

**LIVE MUSIC WITH THE INCREDIBLE V2!**

**21ST  
JUNE**

**BBQ & BAR  
LIVE MUSIC**

**Tickets £15**

**email: [stmarysrocks2025@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrocks2025@gmail.com)**

**NCH**  
NCH Software  
Software



# **Jubilee Hall – Whaddon's Village Hall**



You can hire the hall for private events at competitive rates. And did you know that chairs & tables can be hired if you need extra furniture for private events? We have speakers to enable music to be played in the hall if required. And mood lighting that can be used upon request.

Hall hire is £12 per hour for Whaddon residents; £18 per hour for non-residents, plus an additional cleaning charge for one-off bookings.

**Please e-mail: [whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com) for details.**

## **Since the last Whaddon Quarterly:**

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February: Annual Hall Tidy up and Spring Clean**

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who gave up their free time to help tidy & spring clean the hall.

These amazing individuals rolled up their sleeves and got to work — tidying, cleaning, weeding, repairing, painting, and other much needed maintenance jobs, including tackling some of those not-so-glamorous jobs we often overlook. Their cheerful energy and commitment were infectious, and their efforts have made a real difference.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to every one of you who came along to lend a hand. Your generosity, spirit of community, and pride in our village are exactly what makes this place so special.

This year's clean-up was particularly important as it was in preparation for the main hall floor being replaced at the end of February.



Thanks to their hard work, the space looked fresh, bright, and ready for all the community events and gatherings the year has in store.



And the volunteers enjoyed their cuppas and sausages, egg, and bacon sandwich breakfasts, expertly cooked by Alice.

## **New flooring in main hall**

We are thrilled to share that, thanks to the incredible support of our community, we have successfully raised the funds needed to lay a brand-new floor in the main hall. And it looks amazing!

This would not have been possible without the generosity, time, and effort of so many wonderful people. Whether you attended one of our fundraising events, bought a raffle ticket, helped organise a function, baked a cake, donated a prize, spread the word, or supported us in any other way — *thank you*.

Every single contribution, big or small, has helped us reach this exciting milestone. The new floor has not only improved the look and feel of the hall but will also make it safer and more comfortable for all the activities and events that take place here — from table tennis and yoga classes to community events and family celebrations.

Our village is lucky to have such a caring and committed community. This achievement is a shining example of what we can do when we all pull together, and we could not be more grateful.

Thank you again for being part of this journey. We cannot wait to welcome you to the hall to enjoy the results of your hard work and support if you have not seen it already.





Left and below: Before the transformation - A dull, wooden sprung floor, surrounded by very



old-fashioned, grey vinyl tiles. And copious amounts of tape covering cracks and breaks.

Below: The arduous work begins. The workmen said they had never known tiles so well glued!



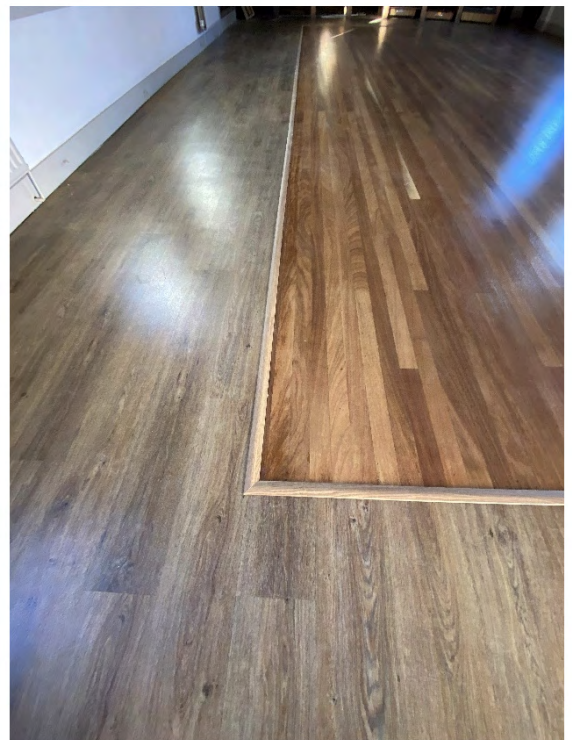
Right: The New Floor!

Wow, I am sure you will agree what a difference.

Brand new wooden flooring replaced the ugly vinyl tiles – the flooring matches the small hall.

And who knew that the sprung

floor would look so beautiful when stripped and re-polished?





## **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March: Bollywood came to Buckinghamshire! Food & music evening**

Wow! What an incredible night!

A huge thank you to all the attendees and organisers for making our Bollywood evening such a memorable success. Your generosity and support truly make these events special.

We were treated to a vibrant Bollywood dance performance that was full of colour, energy, and fantastic moves. The interactive session was such a fun way for the audience to get involved, and we loved seeing everyone join in the celebration!



The food was absolutely amazing, offering a mouth-watering array of flavours that showcased the rich culinary diversity of India. Every bite was a delightful experience!

Thanks again to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and spirit.

## **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Karaoke Social evening**



A huge thank you to everyone who came out to our karaoke evening. Your energy and enthusiasm made the night unforgettable. A special shoutout to the amazing organisers who made it all happen, from the incredible lights to the impressive sound setup – everything was on point!



The atmosphere was electric, and we could not have asked for a better time. We plan to do it again soon! (see upcoming events below)

## **Coming Next – Dates for your diaries:**

### **Friday 23rd May: Quiz Night**



At the time of writing, there are still spaces for a couple of teams so please book now if you want to see if you can knock Les Quizerables off the podium. Teams of up to six people. £4 per person entry fee payable in advance. Please e-mail [whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:whaddonvillagehall@gmail.com) to book your table.

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July: Annual Family Summer party**

It is time for our annual summer friends and family get-together. This year, we are giving the barbecue chefs a night off from their culinary wizardry to enjoy the fun with their friends and family.



Instead, we will have a food van for which your entry ticket of £5 each will be redeemable for food purchases. As usual, there will be a licenced bar and lots of good music and good company.

If the weather is kind to us, there will be plenty of mingle room in the garden.

Please keep an eye on the Hall noticeboard and/or the hall Facebook page for details of when tickets are on sale.

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August: Social night with karaoke**



Get ready to belt out your favourite tunes!

Join us for another fun-filled Karaoke Night at the Whaddon Jubilee Hall! Whether you are a seasoned singer or just looking for a laugh, it is your time to shine!

Bring your friends, family, and plenty of energy! From classics to chart-toppers, there is something for everyone. Do not miss out on a night of laughter, music, and community spirit.

So, warm up those vocal cords and come show us what you have got!

Licensed bar. Free Entry.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September: Save the date for our Annual Beer Pong Tournament – more details to come.**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Quiz Night – more details to come.**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: Food & Entertainment Evening – more details to come.**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Tree Lighting and social evening – more details to come.**

**Please keep an eye on the Jubilee Hall noticeboard for more details and updates.**

**If you are on Facebook, please like our page “Whaddon Jubilee Hall” as this page is updated regularly.**

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We'd love you all to come along to our Summer Concert, entitled Around the World in Song, so please mark your diaries for **Monday 7 July**! We promise that even if you're not jetting off somewhere exotic or semi-exotic this summer, we will take you there musically! Around the World in Song is a celebration of some lovely places, so you'll enjoy the usual convivial atmosphere (that means there's a bar!), along with songs you'll know, some you won't know and a few surprises along the way too. With some special guest solos, as well as the entire choir singing for you, you'll feel as good as if you'd had a break away by the end! It's at the usual venue: our lovely Jubilee Hall, and money raised will be going to both the choir and to a charity. Look out for posters nearer the time for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!

The choir is always looking for new members to join our friendly group, and now is the perfect time to come along and make your Monday evenings a bit more fun! We meet at the Jubilee Hall at 7.30 – 9pm every Monday. For more details, contact Marianna on 07763 102994.

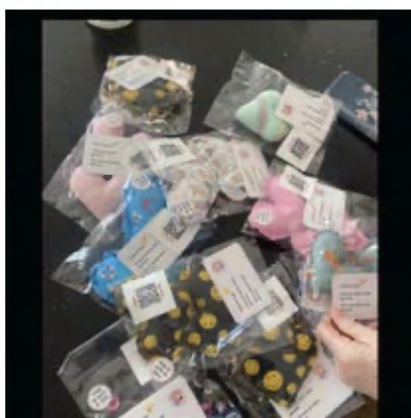
# **2025 Children's Pyjama Appeal**

Peaches Goyen will be collecting pyjamas and donations again for MK Hospital until mid-September and The New Lowndes Arms is once again the collection point.

Peaches is hoping to beat last year's total of 92 pairs and really looking for everyone to support such a worthy cause.

For those of you who may have missed this, pairs of brand-new pyjamas are collected and given to infants/children/teenagers who are poorly or disadvantaged and are in hospital, hospices etc particularly over the Christmas period. With each pair, there are handmade material hearts and messages of support included to help both parents and children through some worrying times. More information about the work done by this registered charity can be found at [www.childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk](http://www.childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk)

Thank you so much for your continued support 💙





# **Whaddon Women's Institute**



Since I last wrote, the Whaddon daytime WI group has yet again kept itself busy. Our open meeting in March on the history of Zumba was a resounding success. The speaker, Cas, was not only able to demonstrate Zumba to several types of music but many other forms of exercise including chair exercises. We also had the opportunity to ask about personal recommendations for exercises to help our various aches and pains. By the end of the session everyone had joined in and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

- 7<sup>th</sup> May - our next meeting in the Chapel Schoolroom) will be a celebration of VE day. I will be baking a ginger and orange cake for the occasion so if you are brave, come along and see how it turns out.
- June - we will be holding our traditional annual Garden Party. This year, we have a change of venue and will be travelling all the way to Tattenhoe.
- July - we are all playing croquet in Ostlers Lane Stony Stratford. This should be a great afternoon, being a group of mixed experience (ranging from "what's croquet?" to "oh I've played at least 4 rounds") We all aim to have lots of laughs and enjoy the afternoon.
- 6<sup>th</sup> August - we will be meeting in the Jubilee Hall to hear a talk from a spinal injuries' specialist.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September - a guided walk with the Parks Trust through Great Linford Manor Park.
- 5<sup>th</sup> November - our AGM and social in the Chapel Schoolroom.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December - in the Chapel Schoolroom we will be making wreaths for Christmas.

Our next fully open meeting will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> October in the Jubilee Hall, so save the date. We will be having a talk from a community police officer so please bring along your questions. Don't forget your cash as we will have a raffle, mystery book sale and potentially wildflower candle jars and bottle lights for sale. Admission will be £4 and includes the cost of refreshments. To make sure we have sufficient cake and biscuits, please let our secretary know to expect you.

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2pm for about 2 hours either in the Jubilee Hall or the Chapel Schoolroom unless we are out and about visiting. Please come along to any meeting to see if it is for you (it's only £4 for refreshments).



Membership of our WI also gives you access to all the WI has to offer: lots of online classes and activities all over the country and occasional access to other local WI groups' meetings and events.

You can always contact our secretary Jill Aitken on 01908 502781 to find out more.

Jane Wycherley (committee member)

The WNOWI meets every third Wednesday in the village hall at 7pm. We are a small and friendly group which has taken part in a huge range of activities and learning.



Examples from the past few months include:

- Making paper gift bags out of recycled wrapping and calendar pages.
- Learning about kinesiology and the positive impact some simple things can have on your life.
- A practical Indian cooking (and eating!) session.
- Playing croquet.
- A local author who entertained us hilariously with tales of a life well lived.
- Pilates - including how to carry a (foam) brick round on your head...

Coming up this year we are looking forward to a talk from a gardener about successfully growing vegetables, a visit to a local church to try out some bellringing and a shared summer afternoon tea. As a smaller group we can tailor meetings to our needs and interests and make sure that there is something for everyone, so why don't you come along and find out more? We welcome any ladies, any age, any interests!

### What is the WI?

As part of an international organisation:

- The WI Vision - to create a world where women come together to learn, share skills and work together to become active citizens, influencing change to improve lives in their local, national and global communities.
- We Connect Women - our movement offers women of all ages and backgrounds a unique chance to come together and share experiences, tackling social isolation and building community cohesion.
- We Support Women – to learn, develop new skills and achieve their goals throughout their lives, building confidence and improving physical and mental wellbeing.
- We Empower Women - to use their voice individually and collectively to achieve real changes on the issues that matter to them.

If you'd like to find out more, telephone Daphne on 01908 502088



## Neighbourhood Watch Whaddon

| 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 MacIntyre          | 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  |

Sadly, recent village reports suggest that car theft, and car/van content theft is on the increase. Nationally, and very alarmingly, **one car is stolen every 10 minutes!**

Car thieves are opportunists. Leaving an iPad on a car seat or forgetting to lock your car can act as an invitation for crime. Neighbourhood Watch wants to instil the habit of double-checking where and how you've parked with three simple steps. As a local charity with a trusted voice in the community, N.W. are asking everyone to proactively support their neighbours and friends by sharing the four steps below, with three others. By spreading the word, they are confident residents can crackdown on car crime which can be deeply distressing and debilitating for its victims.

It is essential you leave your car in the safest place and state possible. There are 4 simple steps everyone can take to protect their car and their belongings inside it.

1. Leave your car locked : A simple mistake that can prove calamitous: 44% of cars were broken into via an unlocked door.

2. Leave your car well-lit: 80% of car crime occurs during the evening or at night. Parking near streetlamps or in a busy area can deter thieves.

3. Leave your car empty or with no items on show: Owners often forget that personal belongings within the car are at as much risk of being stolen as the car itself.

4. Secure your keys safely; Some high value vehicles and makes are stolen 'to order' and thieves have some very sophisticated ways of gaining car entry and starting them ... especially 'keyless' cars. Protect

your keys in a Faraday box (or pouch), which can be bought on Ebay/Amazon or any good car accessory shop. (see b. below).

### TOP TIPS TO AVOID KEYLESS THEFT

To avoid keyless car theft remember DISTANCE, SIGNAL, STEERING WHEEL.

a). KEEP KEYS A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE CAR: Keeping keys far away from doors and windows. This will minimise the chances a thief will be able to find and amplify the key's signal and is general good practice.

b). BLOCK OR TURN OFF THE SIGNAL: Consider purchasing a Faraday pouch to keep your car key in. These pouches contain signal-blocking materials that stop your key transmitting its code, preventing crooks from being able to detect and amplify the signal. Check your manual or speak to your dealer to find out if your key can be switched off

c). STEERING WHEEL LOCK: Consider using a steering wheel lock, a driveway parking post, or even a wheel clamp

Thank you - Safe and happy driving.

### **For more information on protecting your home visit:**

[Protecting your home from crime | Crime prevention | Thames Valley Police](#)

### **Ticket Fraud**

Stay vigilant for ticket fraud ahead of top events and concerts this summer by following Action Fraud's new campaign advice.

According to new data, £9.7 million was lost to ticket fraud in 2024 in the UK alone. Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a new ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events. Follow 'Action Fraud's' top tips to avoid falling victim to ticket fraud:

1. Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known ticketing website.
2. Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give



you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.

3. The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password and enable 2-step verification (2SV).

4. Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.

5. Is the vendor a member of STAR? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit [star.org.uk/buy safe](http://star.org.uk/buy-safe).

6. If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040 or call the Police on 101.



## Whaddon Welcomes some Fabulous New Playground Equipment!

WPC is delighted to announce the arrival of some fabulous new play equipment for the enjoyment of youngest members of our Community.

Sincere thanks and lots of gratitude go to our **Community Board** for their generous grant funding, and to Elmer's Charity for the grant they provided for the new park benches (with backs!) for the comfort of the spectators.

Thanks too, to our Trusty Mowing and Maintenance team, Dave & Dan for their excellent work! It all looks FABULOUS!!!



## **Whaddon Planning Snippets**

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition, Buckinghamshire Council's (BC) decision to remove and no longer publish public consultation responses to planning applications (apart from statutory consultees), means that no-one, including your Parish Council are unable to see what responses have been submitted by Whaddon residents and other non-statutory consultees, which is very unfortunate as we cannot access what residents have said - whether they support or object - and their reasons for so doing. This may make it difficult going forward to understand the views of residents in respect of particular applications, especially ones that may promote more interest than normal.

Interestingly, other local parishes are suggesting to their residents that if they make comments on any planning application to BC, then they may care to copy those to the parish clerk, and this may be necessary in Whaddon, especially on important and possibly controversial applications such as Shenley Park, in order that councillors can gauge levels of local opinion.

Watch this space, as this is a subject that will be discussed at the next parish meeting on Thursday 15th May (7.00pm at the Chapel in Stock Lane)

**25/00743/APP & 25/00742/ALB** - Householder application for proposed garage conversion to habitable space, new front porch and fenestration alterations. Construction of detached carport/outbuilding. - 3 High Street, Whaddon.

Identical applications for the same property, although one (ALB) is for listed building consent for alterations within the listed building, whilst the other (APP) is for a new garage /carport within the garden. This application, formally registered by BC on 13th March 2025 follows the previous application that was refused following comments from the Historic Building Officer at BC. This new application seeks to address and overcome the previous HBO concerns.

In the meantime, the previous refusals are to be appealed, on the basis of written representations under appeal references; - **25/00020/REF & 25/00021/REF**

**25/00872/APP** - Householder application for single storey front extension -

1 Fernfield Farm Cottages, Mursley Road, Whaddon.

No decision has been made as yet.

**25/00138/ADP** - Submission of Reserved Matters, Land rear of 'Fresh Fields', Stock Lane, Whaddon - including (access, landscaping, appearance, scale and layout), pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 16/01298/AOP, granted in 2016, and renewed with amended boundaries 19/03666/AOP in 2022.

No decision has been made yet.

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## **Shenley Park Development - Update**

The WPC response to the latest Crest Nicholson (CN) planning application was submitted to both Buckinghamshire Council (BC) and MKCC on 4<sup>th</sup> April, ahead of the 5<sup>th</sup> April deadline. The response concentrated on issues that remain contentious or in need of clarification, including the Shenley Road closure; the Crest/Ardent Traffic Assessment; the integrity of the Swan's/North Bucks Bridleway; the Hayton Way public transport connection; the Outer Link Road; the A421 dualling concerns; the development site name; the importance of a Construction Environment Management Plan; landscape and advance planting; the long term defensible edge; the use of the south-west parcel, and not least, Section 106 matters, if the two communities are expected to integrate, as BC expect.

The closure of the initial formal response period does not preclude WPC, or indeed anyone, from making additional comments right up to the date of the Strategic Development Committee, when it will be discussed by elected members, and WPC have reserved the right to do just that, should further matters determine that a further response is required. This important public meeting could be much later this year, but such are the issues still to be resolved, especially on traffic and highway issues, it is very difficult to determine when that might be!

There remains a considerable lack of confidence and growing concern, - not just by WPC, - but also from four other local parishes (1 in Buckinghamshire and 3 in the Milton Keynes area) about the accuracy/reliability of the Crest/Ardent Transport Assessment (TA). Meetings of these 5 parishes has resulted in the possibility of those parishes undertaking their own independent traffic assessment to possibly challenge the applicants submission, but whilst there is general agreement, it appears that MKCC may share similar concerns and it

seems, at least for the moment, appropriate to wait for their full response to the CN - TA (and indeed Bucks' own assessment) before taking a final decision on whether or not further traffic surveys are necessary and should be undertaken..

Depending on the outcome of these highway reports for both BC and MKCC, Ardent (Crest's traffic consultants) may have to revisit their data analysis and how it was produced, which could lead to further delays and possible highway improvements, possibly - but unlikely due to cost - the part-dualling of the A421 and even perhaps a rethinking of the Shenley Road closure.

Although a further update Meeting is planned between local parishes and Crest Nicholson/Cavendish (their planning consultants) to answer outstanding questions and advise us of the latest position, it is unlikely that much more will be learned until both BC and MKCC publish their responses to the application and decide how to proceed.

For those readers wishing to learn more about the development then the responses of all Statutory Consultees - including that from WPC - can be found on the Buckinghamshire planning portal by visiting:- <https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/> and typing in 23/02180/AOP - click **search**, scroll down, click on the third application in blue, showing this reference number at the bottom.

Amongst recent responses, and depending on your interests, there are interesting responses from Archaeology, Parks Trust, Landscape, and Historic England, including the full response from WPC.

Sadly, and most annoyingly, BC no longer uploads public comments onto their portal - due to a serious GDPR breach on their part. It is therefore impossible for your Parish Council to see what residents have said in their responses, and therefore extremely difficult to understand what concerns have been raised during this important consultation period. This said, BC assures WPC that all responses will be considered by the final decision makers, including officers and members of the Strategic Planning Committee. The planning portal only tells us that apparently there were some 267 public comments, and 23 consultee comments, submitted during the 6-week period, although WPC has no way of clarifying this figure - nor what or how BC will deal with the Shenley Road Closure Petition, instigated by a local business.



## **Did a Dragon Really Live in This Village?**

Was there ever a dragon of Whaddon? No, not one of the BBC's Dragons' Den investors, but a dragon living in Whaddon Hall. John Mortimer explores the possibility.

The title "Dragon of Whaddon" was ascribed to Browne Willis, the squire of Whaddon and owner of sprawling Whaddon Hall, by Helen Waddell writing in the Bletchley Digest. Helen Waddell was what we might today call an 'influencer': a writer, poet, scholar, theological novelist, translator, publisher's reader and a playwright. As she lived between 1889 and 1965 there was no chance that Waddell ever met the 18th century Buckinghamshire squire. J G Jenkins's 1953 book, *The Dragon of Whaddon* - an intriguing insight into the life and times of Whaddon Hall's most outrageous residents - notes: "Miss Waddell is a little inclined to over-emphasise Willis's ferocity of manner and uncouthness." He suggests that far from being the "great voice gusty in the wings," Browne Willis "exhibits an in-draconian timidity both in regard to himself and his antiquarian acquaintances." A colleague of Browne Willis, writing in 1781 (21 years following his death) said Browne Willis had more the appearance of a "mumping beggar" than that of a gentleman. He added that he was "dressed in an old, slouched hat, more brown than black, a weather-beaten large wig, three or four old fashioned coats, all tied round by a leather belt, and over all an old blue cloak, lined with black fustian which he had new" before he became a member of Parliament, aged 23.

So, who was the squire of Whaddon, a symbol of everything then associated with Whaddon Hall in the reigns of Anne, George I and George II? Born in Blandford St Mary, Dorset and educated at Beachampton School (founded by William Elmer) Browne Willis attended Westminster School. At the age of 18, he went up to Christ Church College, Oxford and, in 1705, became the MP for Buckingham. During his life, Browne Willis became Buckingham's possibly best antiquary; a great student of ecclesiastical history, he was an author and a voluminous letter writer. He loved the county so much that he yearned for Buckingham as its county town, not Aylesbury. And his love of the Church prompted him to embark on several church restoration projects close to home. He did what he wanted, when he wanted.

But it was Whaddon Hall that served as his starting point where he cut his teeth. It was baptism of fire, for, while still a minor, Browne Willis

inherited Whaddon Hall on the death of his father, Thomas Willis, a famous physician and the most famous physician of his time. Even then, Whaddon Hall had history, stretching back beyond Lord Grey of Wilton's ownership. And was it that Browne Willis, aged 16 and while still at Westminster School, first became bitten by antiquarianism, and when he received a real-life baptism of fire? The first inklings emerged on a visit to the Abbey where he read inscriptions of great men's monument, even pointing out particular tombs to passing visitors. He explained to complete strangers their history, even in the presence of official Abbey guides. His baptism of fire occurred when a blaze engulfed Whitehall Palace on the afternoon of 4 January 1698. A Dutch maidservant initiated the blaze while drying linen sheets against a charcoal brazier. The palace, the home of royalty since Henry VIII in 1539, boasted 1,500 rooms, making it Europe's largest palace. With such a large and imposing building ablaze, inevitably it attracted nearby attention; Browne Willis and others rushed to the scene as moths to a candle flame. The teenager, no idle spectator, actively tried to extinguish the flames, managing to leave the property only "three or four minutes before the building fell down".



OLD WHADDON HALL.  
*Formerly the Residence of Browne Willis Esq. "L.L.D."*

Only the notable Inigo Jones Banqueting House of 1622 remained unscathed. After Browne Willis came of age in 1703, he renovated

Whaddon Hall (pictured) by adding many rooms and in 1710, he bought out that part of the Hall owned by James Selby. Aside from that, the young squire devoted time and effort building a new Water Hall just south of Water Eaton. Completing this in 1710, Browne Willis however never lived there. Aged just 23, he became the MP for Buckingham, a task that required him to travel to London. Already familiar with Oxford, he began to cast a striking figure in both cities. For him, London offered a meeting point of men of wit and fashion; Oxford he viewed as the home of learning.

Inevitably there were those who poked fun at the unusually dressed man from Whaddon. A great traveller, there were few parts of the country Browne Willis did not visit. The sight he cast was that of his ancient chariot and its strange occupant. Through his travels he gathered information about people of all walks of life, enjoying the company of intellectuals. Today he might be hailed 'a great networker'. His chariot, called The Old Chariot, later served as his wedding chariot. Carrying his arms, one wit wrote: "It is not unlike a coffin". Thoughts turn to matters of love, but it was when, as an MP, that his mind turned to the prospect of settling down to family life. Did fellow MPs spark this idea? Whatever, his first venture did not run smoothly. The young MP seemingly made an error of judgement. He was, as a squire, well used to getting his own way. But he met an obstacle in his quest for a wife. Had his research failed him perhaps? For he made an unsuccessful offer of marriage to one young lady.

In 1705 he set his sights on Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of Nichols Hackett, Lord of the manor of North Crawley; a stone's throw from Whaddon. Instead, Elizabeth (or her father) thought otherwise. She married Sir Nicholas Carew in 1708. And the reasons for Browne Willis's rejection? Her father considered Browne Willis had an "insufficiency of fortune", and there was the "susceptibility of him to fits." Whatever Elizabeth's real feelings towards the young man from Whaddon Hall, Browne Willis took the rejection to heart. A long letter to Elizabeth's father extolling the writer's virtues failed to turn the tide in his favour. Browne Willis experienced a mental breakdown. However, he picked himself up and turned his attention to Catherine Eliot, the eldest child of Daniel Eliot of Port Eliot in Cornwall. Today, it is hard to visualise how Browne Willis could even know the existence of the Eliots of Port Eliot, some 235 distant. Had he met the young lady's father, Daniel Eliot, in the House of Commons perhaps? In London per chance, at a club? Had Browne Willis conducted some personal research on his travels to the Bodleian Library in Oxford? Or the Commons' library?

Clearly, Browne Willis was in the hunt for feminine company. And well-heeled feminine company at that. The Elliots were indeed a wealthy family with a long and distinguished family line: a British aristocratic family dating from 1375. The thought of Browne Willis enjoying a loving relationship with a young woman from far-off Cornwall might seem to offer a thousand-to-one chance of success; let alone that the young lady might have something in common with the 'strange' young man from Buckinghamshire. And vice-versa. But seemingly it worked. Without social media, several questions spring to mind: Did the couple meet before the appointed wedding day? Was the wedding prearranged? And Catherine's age. Jenkins claims she was 17. An Eliot family tree shows gives her birth as 1687. In 1707 she would be 20. A wealthy young lady of standing Whatever the background to the nuptials, when Catherine became Browne Willis' wife, he received £7,000 as her marriage portion. This was a considerable fortune at the time of Queen Anne. Today it would be worth £2 million. Catherine was not an empty vessel by any means. A contemporary described her in his diary: "a lady of great beauty and excellent good sense." As a staunch High Church supporter, Catherine Willis would write to prominent men in the Church on particular points of Divinity, suggesting she was indeed "a gentlewoman of excellent sense, sound judgement, and well versed in theological studies." Her love of the Church points to some common ground with Browne Willis.

Aside from that, she gave birth to 10 children, eight of whom lived. Twins Gertrude and Catherine arrived on 16 January 1709. They remained single and both died in 1772, aged 63; Gertrude in January and Catherine in December. How unusual is that? Next came Jane; she lived just 10 months whereas Catherine's next, Thomas. was 46 when he died. Then came John: he died of smallpox at 30. Unmarried, he was for a time rector of Bletchley. Henry, born in 1713, went to Westminster School like his father, then to Christ Church College Oxford, where he received his MB. A doctor, Henry lived to be just 33. Then came Mary. She married the Rev Harvey, MA; they had five children. Alice arrived two years later (27 January 1714/1715); she too married a rector: the non-resident vicar of Whaddon, Rev Dr Richard Eyre, Rector of Brightwalton in Berkshire. Francis followed Alice in 1717, but did not reach one year old. Catherine's last child, Eliot, remained single and, like Henry, died aged 33 a scholar at Trinity College, Oxford.

Origin of the Whaddon ghost? Of all the Willis' children, Alice lived the longest: 71. She, or Alicia as she was known, married into a 'good'



family. For although Alicia and Richard lived in Whaddon, both were buried in the Eyre family chapel in Winchester Cathedral no less. Dr Eyre died in 1776, his wife Alicia 10 years later in 1786 according to Eliot records. The question is, was Alice the Whaddon ghost? Alice the ghost, is reputed to be the daughter of a family that owned Whaddon Hall. Her affair with a bailiff ended badly. Did the bailiff attend St Mary's Church in Whaddon? Was that where their eyes met? And was their relationship furthered when Rev Eyre took services in Berkshire? Was their affair sufficient to prompt Alice to return after death as an apparition? And who was the bailiff? Brown Willis' four daughters were the Lions and the Lambs; they were good hearted, happy women. Not the victims of parental oppression it seems. It was the Lions (the unmarried twins) who cared for their aged and ailing father; the Lambs became the wives of clergymen even though Browne Willis did not always hold clergy in high esteem. He believed in the celibacy of clergy; even so he had it in his power to make ecclesiastical appointments.

Tragedy struck the family when Catherine and Browne Willis had been married 17 years. Catherine, on her way to Bath, caught a cold and died as a result. The year was 1724. Imagine the effect on Browne Willis of the sudden and tragic loss of his wife. Aside from this, his four teenagers who required care: three girls and a boy, there were four children between the ages of five and 11. Quite a handful, although no doubt staff were on hand. Did he struggle to hold back tears for his love of their mother? Or did he save them for quiet moments of daily devotion in his closet? Did his life implode at that point, did he care less for himself, or did he throw himself deeper into his church work and antiquarianism?

Catherine died aged 37 and is buried in Bletchley church. It can be asked why would she be travelling alone to Bath? Being a lady of High Church did she plan to meet a cleric of Bath Abbey to oppose plans to redevelop a property that surrounded Bath Abbey, to scupper them? Meddling? A decade earlier, Catherine, who wrote several small books, was described in a letter of 1717 as "a lady who dared to meddle in church controversies." Browne Willis, meanwhile, had the task of consoling his children on their mother's death and supporting them. But as for his own life he seemingly carried on regardless, embarking on surveys of English and Welsh cathedrals, including York Minster, Durham and Carlisle. Just think of the torrent of work that involved. Browne Willis's children would see little of their father.

Following his marriage, Browne Willis, indulged in letter writing, especially to a Dr Arthur Charlett, Master of University College, Oxford, to whom he penned 170 between 1713-20. They reveal his hopes, fears, ailments and petty disappointments. His letters are at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. One, written in January 1716, while Catherine was alive, is telling. He wrote: "Honoured Sir, the extreme ill weather has confined me this last six weeks insomuch that I have been nowhere out of doors, except to Church....and has likewise prevented my sending to Oxford where I had business." He continued: "Besides, I am in another hurry, my Mrs is crying [?] out or expecting it this week so you must excuse this scribble." Catherine was expecting Alice at the time. Later, in his will of 1758, Browne Willis left Alice and her husband, Richard Eyre, £1,200 (£300,000 today). Of all his children, Alice received the most despite her father's misgivings about clergy.

While all this was going on, the 'dragon' remained active on so many other fronts aside from dealing with Whaddon Hall. He had much on his plate to interest him. He had his good days, and bad days when his temper could get the better of him, especially when dealing with his four boys who nevertheless received good education. Browne Willis was an intellectual, an author, a student of the Christian Church, and an eccentric. An odd person with idiosyncrasies of character, behaviour and dress. He easily incited wits to lampoon him. He travelled the length and breadth of the country seeking antiquities and records. He developed a reputation as a translator of dusty records, indulging in voluminous correspondence when the nation's postal system was in its infancy. His studies of English and Welsh cathedrals were published in three volumes alongside his other works. And he collected coins and tokens. But was something else happening? Had the loss of Catherine affected him? People were beginning to notice the 'strange' squire of Whaddon Hall. "The dirtiest creature in the world" So who was Browne Willis as an individual? They say it takes a woman to know a man. We have seen already something of his state of dress, but there was another side, as Catherine Talbot described in 1739. The granddaughter of the Bishop of Salisbury wrote pointedly: "He has one of the oddest heads that dropped from the moon....He is the dirtiest creature in the world so much that it is quite disagreeable to sit by him at table....He makes one suit serve at least two years....His tie-wig he has had these past nine years." In 1753, Rev John Kynaston observed: "He looked for all the world like an old portrait of Queen Elizabeth that had walked down out of its frame." And some years later, someone else added: "He wrote the worst hand(writing) of any man in England" and..."though a

gentleman of £1,000 (£250,000 today) a year, he has often been taken as a beggar (by his dress)" and..." His boots were 40 years old, patched and vamped up."

Notwithstanding these comments, in the local context, Browne Willis will be remembered most for his contribution to local churches: as a patron and as a constructor and a fundraiser. Bletchley, Bow Brickhill, Fenny Stratford and Stony Stratford churches benefited from his generosity. The spire of Buckingham Church collapsed on 7 February 1699. Browne Willis was 16. Later, such was his involvement with Buckingham that his energy and public spirit flowed in the direction of the church. On 3 October 1737, he wrote to Judge Denton of Hillsden enclosing a draught of his 'steeple', adding "My daughter Molly has drawn it out from my sketch." He estimated £250 would cover the cost. Some 15 years later, Browne Willis spent £200 on Buckingham's church tower. The spire was not built, but he was responsible for raising the tower's height by 30ft so that "it is the handsomest and highest tower in the county." Sadly, some 20 years later, in 1776, the tower collapsed. It was decided to demolish the church and build a new one. Not only did Browne Willis come to the aid of a dilapidated building, due for demolition in 1756-7, but, aged 74, he "eagerly seized" the opportunity to collect the necessary money "with all his customary zeal", The result? The church was restored to its proper function.

Some 30 years earlier, in 1742, his energies were directed at Stony Stratford where two large fires destroyed numerous houses. In 1736, 50 houses were destroyed by fire and then, six years later, St Mary Magdalene church was burned down following a fire which originated in the Bull Inn. A maid drying sheets in front of an open fire, on hearing her approaching mistress, panicked. She pushed the scorching sheet up the chimney, whence it caught fire. The fire spread, destroying the church and houses, many with thatched roofs. High winds fanned the flames from one building to another. Some crossed High Street, to alight thatched roofs on the other side. The fire spread relentlessly, bringing destruction in its path; 146 houses were destroyed.

Only the church tower survived; it remains today, thanks to Browne Willis. He donated £30 to have it repaired. Further funds were raised to rebuild the church but it was decided instead to rebuild and extend the dilapidated St Giles, which escaped the fire. Further indication of Browne Willis' generosity stems from his accounts. He paid £292 6s 6d to recast the bells of Bletchley Church. Tuning these bells (by Kitchener of Olney) cost £891 12s 4d bringing the total cost to £1,206 9s 4d.

How else might Browne Willis be remembered? Buckingham Gaol. A warning that offenders will lose their freedom. Designed to "promote the dignity and status of the county town", Browne Willis initiated the project in 1743. He visited Lord Fermanagh of Claydon "begging for £140 to build the gaol." Five years later, the grim castellated building was erected, paid for by Lord Cobham of Stowe. Browne Willis too, was a noted coins and tokens collector. He preserved these in a fine cabinet which contained of 230 items (including a Richard 11 farthing, bought in Dunstable for 2d, and a Charles 11 crown). He bequeathed these to the Ashmolean Museum Oxford. His eldest son expressed no interest.

In today's society, Browne Willis might have appeared a bit of an 'odd ball', yet this public-spirited soul loved the Church and Buckinghamshire. If he was a dragon, then he spread his wealth around. Jenkins held the view that God was his principal guide in everything. He never missed Holy Communion, and he was a consistent frequenter of the Church. He retired into his closet at 4 or 5 o'clock every day for private devotions. Whatever the whys and the wherefores of Browne Willis, his personal hygiene or his mode of dress, one person in particular acknowledged his virtues. Three weeks before he died, on 5 February 1760, Browne Willis received an important letter from Lambeth Palace, from the Archbishop of Canterbury no less. His long letter concluded: "Excuse me good Dr Willis, but I could not forbear giving you this testimony of my affection and esteem for you in return for the great pains you have taken to be serviceable to this church and nation, and for the many friendlinesses and kindlinesses I have experienced from you thro' a long course of years. Your affect. kinsman and faithful humble servt. Thos Cant." Did the Archbishop's letter serve as the ultimate in character references that, alas, had arrived too late for Browne Willis to gain any benefit save only to bestow a warm feeling of satisfaction for a job well done? In his generosity, Browne Willis supported three local charities yearly and "to his poor neighbours he was never backward at Christmas in dispensing wine and money whenever they were sick or in any kind of distress. He was a good landlord and scarcely ever raised his rents. And his indispensable servants likewise have no reason to complain is evident from the long time they have generally lived with him." If Browne Willis proved embarrassing to those gathered close by, he would be noticed by his serving staff who knew their master well of old.

Brown Willis passed away "with great ease and without the usual agonies of death". Throughout his life he was a singular centre of attention. He was never incognito as he strutted about in the shabbiest



of attire; yet today, a posse of Press photographers would accompany his every move. Six aldermen of Buckingham paid their tributes at his funeral as 60 of his neighbours and tenants followed the coffin on horseback. The service was at Fenny Stratford Chapel where his body is buried. Following his death, Whaddon Hall was "greatly out of repair" and "a gloomy, miserable place mounted on an "exceedingly beautiful knoll." The mansion reeked of a life well spent; and the flight of time's arrow. The time had come for it 'to move on'. As we know it did. For the Hall was a pale shadow of the lustre it would become generations later when the Selby-Lowndes family took charge, endowing the Hall with the fame and fortune from the trappings of the Whaddon Chase; when tables groaned under the weight of exquisite food, and dark cellars the vista of racks of dusty bottles of fine red wines.

♦ My grateful thanks to Joy Dietsch - JM.

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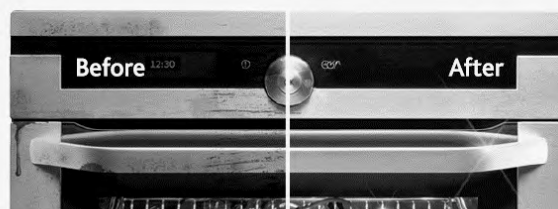
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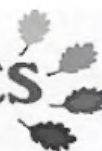
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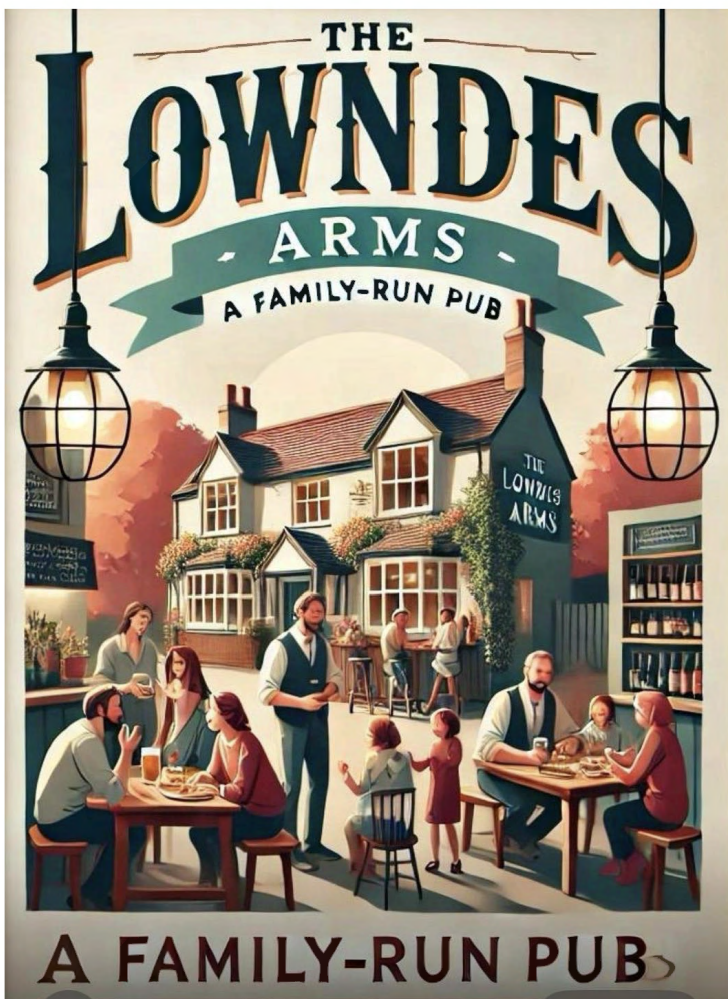


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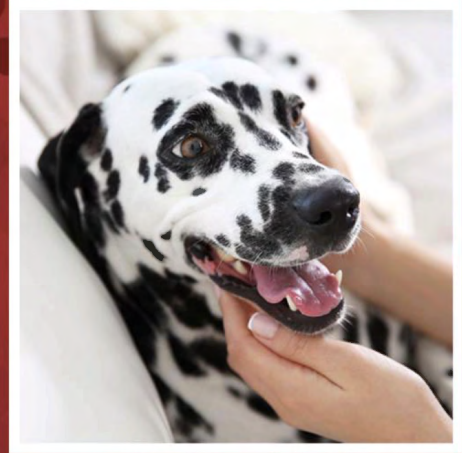
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# What's On Whaddon?

## 2025 Dates for Your Diary

**THU 8<sup>th</sup> MAY:** Radio Station GB1SOE on Windy Ridge 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day

**THU 8<sup>th</sup> MAY:** 1940s Victory Menu and Raise a Glass for VE Day at The New Lowndes Arms.

**SAT 10<sup>th</sup> MAY:** 1940s VE Day Party at The New Lowndes Arms.

**WED 14<sup>th</sup> MAY:** Annual Residents Meeting Whaddon Jubilee Hall

**THUR 15<sup>th</sup> MAY:** WPC Annual Council Meeting 7pm at the Chapel Stock Lane

**FRI 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY:** Quiz Night at Whaddon Jubilee Hall.

**THU 5<sup>th</sup> JUN:** Quiz Night at The New Lowndes Arms.

**FRI 6<sup>th</sup> JUN:** Hitmix Bingo at The New Lowndes Arms.

**THU 12<sup>th</sup> JUN:** Whaddon Parish Council Meeting 7pm at The Chapel, Stock Lane.

**SAT 21<sup>st</sup> JUN:** St Mary's Rocks, Concert at St Mary's Church.

**MON 7<sup>th</sup> JUL:** Chase Choir Concert at Whaddon Jubilee Hall.

**THUR 10<sup>th</sup> JUL:** Whaddon Parish Council Meeting 7pm at the Chapel Stock Lane

**SAT 12<sup>th</sup> JUL:** Summer Party at Whaddon Jubilee Hall.

**SAT 16<sup>th</sup> AUG:** Karaoke Night at Whaddon Jubilee Hall.

**FRI 19<sup>th</sup> SEP:** Annual Beer Pong Tournament at Whaddon Jubilee Hall.

**FRI 3<sup>rd</sup> OCT:** Quiz Night at Whaddon Jubilee Hall.

**SAT 22<sup>nd</sup> NOV:** Food and Entertainment Evening at Whaddon Jubilee Hall.

**SUN 23<sup>rd</sup> NOV:** Bus Trip to Warwick Castle.

**SAT 6<sup>th</sup> DEC:** Christmas Tree Lighting and Social Evening at Whaddon Jubilee Hall.

## Regular Events Across the Village

**MONDAY EVENINGS:** Chase Choir in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. 7.30pm-9pm. No experience necessary. Please call Marianna Beckwith on 01908 503194 for more details.

**TUESDAY EVENINGS:** Table Tennis in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Contact Mark Carter on [magcarter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:magcarter@hotmail.co.uk)

**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH:** Whaddon's Women's Institute 2pm in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. Please call Jill Aitken on 01908 502781 for more details.

**THURSDAY EVENINGS:** Mindfulness based Yoga with Lauren in the Whaddon Jubilee Hall. 7.30pm-8.30pm. Please contact Lauren Bennett on [lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk](mailto:lauren@thelollipopway.co.uk) if you are interested.

**ALTERNATE THURSDAYS:** Quiz at The New Lowndes Arms. Entry is £2 per player with teams of up to 6 people. Start time is 8pm. Check with pub for details.

**FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH:** Hitmix Bingo with Garry and Zoe Mac at The New Lowndes Arms. Start time is 8pm.

