

# WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



Snowy Lockup | Andy Cooper

**Poppy Appeal Update - Page 14**

**Wheatley Library Refurbishment - Page 32**

**Fairtrade Wheatley, Watch That Space! - Page 44**



## Contributions

The Wheatley Newsletter welcomes contributions and adverts from everyone in the two parishes and from businesses and organisations serving Wheatley and District. News and reports from village organisations are particularly welcome but contentious issues or articles promoting personal causes should be avoided.

Submissions should be made by **14th January** for the next issue.

The Editor reserves the right not to print items and to edit items submitted for publication.

Head to [bit.ly/wnl-info](http://bit.ly/wnl-info) for further details and to download a booking form.

## Editor's Note

Hello and welcome to the December-January issue of the Wheatley Newsletter.

It's great to see that there's still so much going on in the village in spite of the lockdowns and social-distancing measures; from village clean-ups and new playgrounds (p4 & p5), to make-overs (p32) and road signs (p44), the community has not stopped moving forward.

Please note: Although the Wheatley Support Group website is no longer updated, the service continues. If you need support but do not know your area captain, please contact [admin@wheatleysupportgroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@wheatleysupportgroup.co.uk) and they will follow up on your request.

As always, feedback, comments, and suggestions are welcome.

Happy holidays!

Pete Collinson | [newsletter@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Poppy Wall Update

Regrettably, we have taken the difficult decision to not display the Poppy Wall at the Merry Bells this year due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. We very much hope that we will be able to get back to showcasing this wonderful display next year.

Cynthia Mancey

## WHEATLEY NEWS

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### Distributor

This newsletter is kindly distributed to all addresses in Wheatley and Holton by a team of volunteers, organised by Christine Vernedé (01865) 873335.

### Disclaimer

The views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council or the Editor, and no liability can be accepted for any errors or omissions, although we will publish corrections where necessary.

# Chairman's Column

A big thank you to the many residents that got involved with the Big clean on 17th October. It doesn't matter how much or what you were able to do, it all helped to improve our local environment. The Parish Council would like to make this an annual event and we are aware that it needs to be properly publicised well in advance and will find better ways to do this in future.

One very disappointing aspect of the Big clean which both surprised and disappointed many of the volunteers was the amount of Dog Poo which is still contaminating our village. More than a dozen examples were found on the footpath from Farm Close road to Station Road alone. Those Dog owners who selfishly allow their pets to continue to create this unsightly mess cannot possibly be unaware of the serious health hazard that it creates, particularly for young Children. It is even more difficult to understand the number of bags found where owners had clearly picked up the offending poo but then just left the bag where it was, for someone

else to deal with. Dog poo bags can be put in any of the waste bins around the village so please have a thought for your fellow residents and BAG IT AND BIN IT.

On a different note, the November lock down has added to the already difficult and disrupted year that we have all experienced. Not least was the loss of the Remembrance Sunday parade and service at the War memorial. It was heartening to see that the day was still observed by many in the village and on behalf of the Parish council, it was a privilege to be able to place a wreath at the war memorial.

Finally, this will be my last Chairman's column as I will be standing down as Chair of the parish council at our December meeting. However, I hope that it is not too early to wish everyone a happy and enjoyable Christmas and a vastly improved 2021.

With very best wishes.

Doug Lamont

## Meetings & Dates

### Parish Council

Via Teams, 19:30

7th December

4th January

### Planning Cmte.

Via Teams, 19:30

9th December

13th January

### Finance Cmte.

Via Teams, 19:30

21st December

### Open Spaces Cmte.

Via Teams, 19:30

18th January

### District Councillor Surgery

Postponed until  
further notice

# Clerk's Column

The village Christmas tree is up and the festive countdown is on and I would like to welcome two new faces to the council:

**Richard Jones** (a name and face known to many of you) has joined us as a Grounds Maintenance Operative and has been busy making improvements to some popular spots in the village.

We also welcome **Cllr Richard Barrett** to the council, who has filled our last casual vacancy. Richard's contact details, along with those of his fellow councillors, are available from the parish website or from the noticeboards.

Thank you to you all for your patience whilst the improvements to Farm Close Road Rec were completed. I hope those of you that have visited have enjoyed the new equipment. Some new benches and some new planting will complete the project by Spring.

The council continues to meet virtually, and the public is welcome to join us using the

links on the agendas, published on the website, or contact us in the parish office. Over the next few months, the council will be reviewing its budget for 2021-22 and its precept (the small amount of money we receive from council tax). This will include anticipated costs in delivering our facilities and services as well as projects and initiatives the council has identified in Strategic Plan, that it would like to deliver in the coming 12-18 months

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has continued to support their community through this challenging year. Being an active and supportive village, there truly are too many of you to name, but we thank you all.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2021.

Best wishes from Michelle, Lucy, John and Richard.

**Michelle Legg**

The Parish office will be closed from Thursday 23rd December until Monday 4th January

## Big Clean Wheatley 2020

Thank you to the volunteers, young, old and everyone in between who joined in the socially distanced, Big Clean 2020. Litter was pulled from deep in roadside hedges, road signs were cleaned, nettles strimmed back, leaves swept, and hedges trimmed back. The event was supported with equipment from both Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council.

COVID-19 had postponed our usual Spring event and moved it to the Autumn. We hope to plan it again for Spring 2021 and would like to hear from you if you would like to be involved.



## Stamp appeal

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## Farm Close Road Rec



As we adapt to the second lockdown you will be glad to hear that the parish owned play areas at Church Rd, Cullum Rd and Farm Close Road Rec are able to stay open. This is even more poignant as the improvements to Farm Close Road Rec have been completed. The new train inspired multi-play and 4 seater springer have been welcomed by our younger members of the community. For anyone who is unsure where this site is, it is off the footpath between Farm Close Road and Kelham Hall Drive.

We do ask that everyone who visits the play areas follows the COVID-19 guidance notices on display, so that we can keep each other safe.

This project is being delivered by Wheatley Parish Council with financial support from South Oxfordshire District Council.

## Community Bus Update

After many meetings and some delays caused by COVID-19 we are now keen to move the project forward and the next steps are to form a Community Bus Management Committee. So, we are now looking for people, from the community to step up and join us. Whatever your experience, background, or availability we would love to hear from you. Please contact the parish office (01865 875615 or email [clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)). We will be in touch with everyone early in 2021 to arrange the first meeting (this may well need to be a virtual meeting).

## Wheatley – Littleworth – Horspath – Cowley Centre Bus service for 2021

Oxfordshire County Council have secured some funding to run an hourly bus service from Wheatley, through Littleworth and Horspath to Cowley Centre. Full details will be available soon, but the service will start early 2021 and will run until at least October 2021. Buses will operate under COVID secure guidelines and concessionary bus passes will be accepted.

# Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Report



Wheatley NP passed Government Examination, January 2020 with modification. Whitehall (and Covid) postponed NP Local Referendums to 2021, but all successfully examined NPs now have statutory authority. The Examiner highlighted two matters beyond our control.

Robert Jenrick reserved the OBU Appeal for 500 homes at Holton Park to his own decision.

He also reserved approval (on Inspection) of SODC Emerging Local Plan, 2034, the statutory setting for policies and decisions.

On 23 April, OBU was granted outline planning permission for 500 (as opposed to 300) homes at Holton Park (1). On 02 November, the Inspector ended Public Consultation on his comments on Emerging Local Plan (2).

WNP Website - Full Response to Inspector (twice recorded!) [wheatleyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://wheatleyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk):

PROCESS (top) – Recent News [RH column] - Evidence Base - Contacts SODC, No 30

PROCESS (top) – Recent News [RH column] – Oxf Brookes Site Update – 16 Oct 2020

## Summary:

**a)** WNP Committee scientists (D.Mancey/A.Parsons) collaborated with SODC Forestry Officer re Holton Park trees 2017-19. We request greater account of trees beyond TPOs. Wheatley and Holton PCs should continue our collaboration with Forestry in updating TPO list up to development.

**b)** WNP request absolute transparency about '500 homes', still described even in Inspection as 'at least 500' and 'approximately 500'. The original SODC figure, 'at least 300', criticised 31 May 2016 even by SODC Planning chief, generated ambiguity and serious mistrust for more than two years.

**c)** WNP welcome Inspector's Climate comments, but local evidence and growing motorway proposals contradict them. Noise pollution is not being tackled. Mill Green site (2017, 60

homes) wooden fencing is inadequate to shield from the A40(M). East of that, the A40 is embanked and exposed above Wheatley. Our Evidence Bases prove impact on village homes. Two pandemic lockdowns highlighted the noise norm. However, SRAT 14 development demands bund protection from the A40. The inconsistency is unethical and makes for an unprotected village. The A40(M) appeared in the late 1960s, before the London-bound M40 complex began its present growth.

**d)** Air Pollution. 500 homes on Holton Park allows a calculation of 1000 vehicles. The A40 passes and in part cuts through Holton Park on route to the M40 and the J8A Service Area which is open to district roads as well as to the MWay. Mr Jenrick stated in his Appeal verdict, 23/04/20, that future Holton Park homes will help commuters wishing to use the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. As yet, this is unmapped and has low public profile. The de facto result is a growing motorway complex enmeshed with a new and further-enlarged major roadside development. Wheatley has a conservation area and its local limestone buildings now show disintegration through pollution.

**e)** We address the Inspector's 'integration of communities'. WNP formally describes STRAT 14 as 'close to Wheatley but isolated by its own landscape.' It is connected by a narrow B-Road [Waterperry Road] and a flyover which is half a century old. We describe the serious concerns of the community. We are not a NIMBY Neighbourhood Plan and have supported village 'enhancement'. We welcomed formally the new residents of Mill Green. We stuck to the letter of the law that we do not pronounce on or research traffic until we pass Examination. We acknowledge the government decision for 500 homes at Holton Park. However, we demand that its impact on roads, traffic, noise, pollution, and basic connectivity, be clarified and resolved explicitly as a matter of urgency.

**John Fox**

# The History File

## *Homes Fit for Heroes—and a request*



A light plane flew from Essex this summer to photograph Wheatley's 50 'Homes for Heroes' (1927) on the elevated side of London Road and on its rising Avenue, all nearly a century old. (He photographed well). Wheatley Urban District Council (1896-1932) heard Sanitary Inspector reports every month. Polluted water, unfit homes, human and animal waste flooding together, Typhoid, Diphtheria and Malaria, meant villagers being sent to Abingdon Isolation Hospital. Housing reform was overdue, and not just for returning soldiers. Government subsidised and loaned; new homes had maximum green space and right-through daylight; real architects had to be employed for quality. Eight houses only [4 semis] could be built on rural acres, but WUDC made it 6, [3 semis] and the difference shows. Before 1914 the 'Garden Suburb' movement set housing standards.

Pioneers like Cadbury, Rowntree and Sunlight Soap built model homes for their own workers. In 1928, WUDC discussed naming its proud development, but Government warned they might have to sell off the new homes privately. A national economic slump threatened. Naming was dropped and tenants quickly recruited, including nearly 20 veterans.



*I have lived opposite the 1927 houses for nearly 50 years and learned about them from friends there. This summer, between Lockdowns, several residents have told me about themselves, their houses and family memories. Others have asked to meet after Lockdown, to chat – and show the old well, the original fireplace, the generous garden. [johnfinbarrfox@gmail.com](mailto:johnfinbarrfox@gmail.com). I can be a good listener! Should the centenary be remembered, and even marked?*

**John Fox**



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# POPPY APPEAL

## The 2020 Poppy Appeal

This is a very preliminary report on the recent Poppy Appeal which was carried out in Wheatley & District which ceased actively on the start of the current lockdown based on the amounts received to date on the day this article was submitted to the editor. Last year's total came to £14,348 by the time my usual article published in February this year, which as we now know was when current history began with the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

To date we have collected over **£10,000** with many significant amounts still to come so a huge thanks to all those who agreed to act as volunteers under very difficult circumstances, both at Asda and at

Welcome Break, and which was suddenly brought to a halt on the 4th November due to the current lockdown

The work of the Royal British Legion in caring for those who have suffered injury or bereavement in past wars and conflicts still goes on. The money collected through the Poppy Appeal is essential to enable this to happen.

Roger Bell

01865 875286

07747 344423

[rogertbell304@gmail.com](mailto:rogertbell304@gmail.com)

Roger Bell  
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser



# THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY

Parish Newsletter  
December 2020/January 2021

For reasons everyone is all too well aware of the Wheatley Society programme is on hold for the foreseeable future. However, as this is being written, the news holds out real hope that successful vaccines are emerging. We know many will miss John Duffelen's Clever Clogs Quiz and our version of Desert Island Discs. As soon as it is possible to meet in larger groups again we will let everyone know the rescheduled timetable.

Maybe Xmas activities will be on a much smaller scale than usual but already initiatives are emerging to make the village brighter over the festive season. In addition to the usual Christmas lights the Living Advent Calendar, being run by Wheatley Area Churches, will light up a window in a different home every Advent Eve until there are 24 illuminations throughout the village to pass on an evening stroll.

Walking is strongly encouraged as a way of getting exercise and fresh air and the Holton and Shotover circular walks are proving even more popular. It is unusual to go on a walk and not meet someone from the Wheatley Society. Many of you may also know about the improved pathways from Old Road down to Littleworth courtesy of the Wheatley Wanderers. For those of you lucky enough to have contact with your

grandchildren the Farm Close Road children's playground has been renovated and is now open for exploration.

Although the current lockdown feels less restrictive than the previous one, the cooler weather and darker evenings makes us all a little more housebound. It's time for the winter hobbies to take over. At least garden centres are still open, so houseplants will no doubt get more care and more indoor winter bulbs will be planted.

It also means that some of our friends and neighbours may begin to feel a little lonelier and would welcome a chat on the phone and maybe a bit more help with their shopping. The different village support organisations, such as the Maple Tree and the Wheatley Park School Food Bank, which is focusing on the breakfast club, still need our support too.

We hope that everybody finds a way to enjoy the festive season and that we can look forward to a less confined 2021.

Take care and Season's Greetings.

**Mary Hall | Chair**



Hello, my name is Laura Spencer and I am the new centre manager of The Maple Tree. Over this past month I have really enjoyed getting to know the centre, staff, trustees, families and your lovely village. It is a very special place and community; I have even mastered the narrow, wonky roads!

## Programmes

The Maple Tree just started to expand its programme when the second lockdown struck. Currently, following government guidelines, we are offering Maple Babies; a support group for parents with non-mobile babies on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 am. The sessions are bookable online and there is a suggested donation of £2.50. We will be able to add a greater variety of groups as the restrictions lift and it is safe to do so, so please get in touch with us via the contact details below.

## Appeal for new Trustees, Advisors and Volunteers

These are difficult times for charities and we are looking for more members from our local area to join our committed and friendly group of

trustees. At this time we are especially keen to recruit some volunteers who have a particular skill set in garden design. We are looking to revamp the sloping garden before the spring and need ideas and suggestions.

## Christmas Fundraisers

We are joining the Scouts to sell Christmas trees. Order forms and payment are online: [xmastree.wheatley@gmail.com](mailto:xmastree.wheatley@gmail.com) The deadline for orders is 2nd December. The pick up is at The Maple Tree on 11th December when there will be an opportunity to purchase beautiful Christmas craft boxes for the whole family to enjoy!

Please spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more.

If you need any kind of support, do contact us either through our Facebook page, by emailing Hayley, by calling 01865 236700, or through our website: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk).

Our Facebook page:

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**Laura Spencer | Centre Manager**

# Wheatley Playing Field Trust

## News from The Trust

The Holton Playing Fields are now shut again for all except the students of Wheatley Park School. This follows the latest Government restrictions that came into force on Thursday November 5th.

It is imperative that this is adhered to, in order to control the spread of Covid-19.

All the clubs that use the field are now unable to do so as before the lockdown. While group training sessions are banned, a maximum of two players (or one player and one coach) can participate in socially distanced (two metres plus), individual training sessions (Government current guidelines).

Wheatley Playing Field Trust would therefore ask everyone to keep away

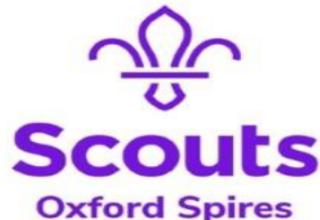
from the field until such time that restrictions are lifted which might not be until the new year at the earliest. Groups have recently used the goals without permission (these are privately owned) and a pavilion window has been broken.

The Trust welcomes views on activities that anyone or any group might like to see taking place in the future under the new floodlights on the tennis/tarmac area.

For contact and further information on all fixtures, including bookings:

[enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk)  
[www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk](http://www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk)

**Paul Willmott | Chairman**



## Christmas Tree Fundraiser 2020

Wheatley Scout Group and The Maple Tree have joined forces again to sell Christmas trees to support their activities. All of the cut trees are premium quality fir from sustainable plantations in Scotland.

**4ft+: £25, 5ft+: £35, 6ft+: £40, 7ft+: £50**

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# Church News

## Our Lady of Lourdes

### News from OLL

From mid-August, our worshipping community resumed with social distancing – and we were delighted to have the opportunity to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion again; our services regularly resulted in a full Church with its redesigned maximum capacity of 30. We were delighted to welcome two new families in the area and even to celebrate the Baptism of our newest parishioner, young Arvin. Renewed lockdown came as a great disappointment.

However, the Parish is active in other ways: a film crew visited the Church for a piece about our work with Recycling for Good Causes ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIGtyjl7sxw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIGtyjl7sxw)). As part of our Live Simply award from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), we collected old mobile phones, cameras, jewellery, unwanted foreign currency etc, and sent items to be processed

to recover precious metals, the proceeds going to CAFOD for its important work overseas.

The usual CAFOD Harvest Fast Day was held but donations were made by contactless payments and by text, with the Parish Live Simply Book of Recipes and Tips, published last year, featuring in a nation-wide CAFOD zoom meeting over a simple lunch.

Close links with the newly established Laudato Si' Research Institute at Campion Hall ([LSRI.campion.ox.ac.uk](http://LSRI.campion.ox.ac.uk)), enabled us to join four Down to Earth seminars on the changes we should make in our post-Covid world. Through dialogue between academic thinking and those on the ground in the midst of the trouble, the institute focuses on care for creation, our common home, and the poorest and hardest to reach communities in our unequal world.

John Guy

## Wheatley Area Churches

### What does Christmas Feel Like?

Everyone is saying that Christmas will look very different this year and in many respects this may sadly be true. I'm sure we can all make a list of the things we probably won't be able to do this time around, but I do wonder whether it might be wiser instead to make a list of the things we can do? I suspect the homeowners of Wheatley will rise to the occasion yet again and light up our streets with festive illuminations – perhaps more than ever this year!

But, of course, what we think of as Christmas has always looked very different to the first Christmas as described in the Bible. Those of you who may have been fortunate enough to travel to Israel to visit Bethlehem won't have found many reindeers, Robins or indeed any snow!

However, I think for most of us it's not what Christmas looks like that really matters, it's what it feels like. The feeling of being together with loved ones, family, friends and community. A Season to be jolly!?

However, Christmas has a

## Wheatley United Reformed Church

### News from URC

We continue to have Sunday Worship at 10.00am using Zoom online or by telephone. For further details contact [www.wheatleyurc.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.wheatleyurc.org.uk/contact-us).

The church is open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons between 4.00 and 5.00pm for quiet time to pray or meditate. Numbers admitted at any one time are limited, depending on restrictions in force at the time.

Ride and Stride in September found several of our church members and friends walking to neighbouring villages and raising almost £630, which will be divided equally between OHCT and Wheatley URC.

Unable to offer our usual hospitality this year, we were still able to welcome visitors from as far afield as Bledlow, Oxford and Great Milton to a total of 24 people. We try to keep connected with members and friends but meanwhile stay safe and keep well.

**Zena Knight**

## Wheatley Community Church

### News From WCC

Hopefully, many of you will have been able to join in our COVID-secure Christmas Crafts evening on December 4th – we're currently running two plans, depending on whether lockdown lifts and allows small groups to meet in homes!

Whether or not the regulations relax, we'd like to warmly invite you to join us for one of our online advent services – and especially for our carol service on December 6th, which will be suitable for all ages and will feature traditional carols and readings. More details are available at [wheatleycommunitychurch.org/advent](http://wheatleycommunitychurch.org/advent).

I read this morning an account of the Christmas truces that occurred during the First World War, and was struck again by the power of Christmastime to change hopeless situations: "When the Christmas bells sounded in the villages of the Vosges behind the lines... something fantastically unmilitary occurred. German and French troops spontaneously made peace and ceased hostilities." The season is imbued with hope because the event it remembers is one of incredible hope. Join us in celebrating that hope this Christmas!

**Al McNicoll | Pastor**

deeper meaning for many of us of course - it's a celebration of new life in the form of the infant Jesus and a Season of Hope as we reflect on all that he has done and continues to do for us today. It's that message of hope that is so precious at this time and we can all play our part. How could you reflect this season of hope to those we speak to or meet around the village?

Obviously, many of the traditional Christmas celebrations organised by Wheatley Area Churches, such as the special service of readings and carols at St. Marys, are simply not possible this year. However, that loss has sparked some real creativity amongst our members and new initiatives such as the Advent Windows project, small group carol singing around the village and community doorstep carol evenings are being planned. Watch out for more details.

Whatever it looks or feels like for you and your loved ones, we do wish you a hopeful Christmas as we remember the birth of the Christ-child and the hope that Jesus continues to bring even today.

**Gordon Ewbank | Chair**

# Church News

## Services and Contact

### St. Mary the Virgin Church

01865 872224 |

[vicar.wheatley@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.wheatley@gmail.com)

Holy Communion | Sun | 08:00

Holy Communion | Wed |

12:00

Parish Praise | 1st Sun in month | 10:00

Sung Eucharist | 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sun in month | 10:00

Food Bank Sunday | 4th Sun in month | 10:00 | Please bring a donation for the Food Bank

### Wheatley United Reformed Church

01844 215513 |

[secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk)

Holy Communion | 1st & 3rd Sun in month | 10:00

Food Bank Sunday | 1st Sun in month | 10:00

Afternoon tea | 1st Sun in month | 14:30-16:30

### Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church

01865 672433 |

[catholicheadington@gmail.com](mailto:catholicheadington@gmail.com)

Vigil Mass | OLL, Crown Rd. | Sat | 18:00

### Wheatley Community Church

[office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org)

Wheatley Primary School | Sun | 10:30

Due to lockdown regulations, our local churches may have restrictions on the number of people that can attend any given service.

Please contact the church in advance to get the latest advice on how to commune safely.

## St Mary's Church

### From the Vicar

All the usual things that make for a good celebration of Jesus' birth are just not going to be possible. Parties and gatherings of family are out; hundreds of people crammed into church to sing carols is out; travelling across the country to meet up with Grannies and Grampas is out. So what are we going to do? The Bishop of Oxford has suggested that we shift our focus beyond Christmas and look forward to Easter. This might sound a little crazy, but it may help us see Christmas as a 'stepping stone' along the way, rather than the culmination of the year. Having shifted our focus we can enjoy whatever we can do at Christmas without the burden of expectations of a 'normal' Christmas.

In all of this we will all need patience and a good measure of hope. There is encouraging news that various vaccines are showing positive results in their trials, but they may still be months away from being delivered to you and me. In these last few months I have often thought of the folk who lived through the second world war and who had to endure years of uncertainty and wondering about the future. They endured with patience and the 'Dunkirk spirit' and ultimately all was

well, but the end of the ordeal was not clear cut – even once the war was won rationing and austerity continued as the cost of war became apparent. At St Mary's we are making plans for Christmas services, but we are mindful that our plans may have to change at short notice. As I write we are planning a Christmas Carol service on Zoom only on Sunday 20th December at 6pm. Then on Christmas Eve at 4pm, again on Zoom, there will be a family Christmas service at 4pm, followed at 10pm by our first Communion of Christmas on Zoom AND in church (but you will need to book your place. Christmas Day will have two Communion services at 8am and 10am, both on Zoom and with a congregation in church (again you will have to book your place).

Please look out for the Wheatley Area Churches Christmas Card for details, and keep up to date with our plans on our Facebook page. Whatever you do this Christmas, may you know the joy of the shepherds, the exhilaration of the wise men, the contentment of Mary and Joseph and the peace of the Christ-child, and may God bless us all at the end of this extraordinary year.

**Revd Nigel Hawkes**

## Wheatley Advent Windows 2020

This year Wheatley turns into a living advent calendar to celebrate Christmas! Each day in December a house or business in the village will 'open' their window, lighting it up between 6pm and 8pm and then every night thereafter until 3rd January. Why not follow our Advent Windows trail by visiting the website: [adventwindows.wixsite.com/wheatleyadventwindow](http://adventwindows.wixsite.com/wheatleyadventwindow) and downloading a map which gives the location of each new window by date?

Thanks to all who have volunteered to decorate their window – we hope you enjoy finding the lights this Christmas!



Liz Wickens, on behalf of Wheatley Area Churches

Wheatley Area Churches

presents

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Enjoy some pre-Christmas fun with the Snowman Trail\* in the gardens from the 3rd Dec through to the 23rd Dec, family fun and Christmas excitement!

The spectacular British grown Christmas trees will be on sale from the beginning of December (or bring your wellies and choose your own Waterperry Grown Christmas Tree!), along with fantastic Waterperry hand-finished Christmas wreaths.

#### **Pre-Order your hand-made Christmas Goodies!**

Let the Teashop at Waterperry take the strain out of cooking and pre-order festive treats like Christmas Cake, Mince Pies and more, email [teashop@waterperrygardens.co.uk](mailto:teashop@waterperrygardens.co.uk) or call 01844 338087 for more information.

**Enjoy your Christmas shopping this year and visit a truly unique and festive Waterperry Gardens – Your One Stop Christmas Shopping Trip!**

**Waterperry Gardens will be closed from 25th Dec till 1st Jan 2021 inclusive**

**\*Please keep an eye on our website for any changes to our planned events**

For more information please visit [www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)

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## Is debt keeping you awake at night?

*A local face-to-face charity affected by lockdown has adapted to new ways of working...*

In “normal” times we at Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provide a completely free, face-to-face service to help people tackle problem debt, meeting them in their homes and supporting them right through the process. CAP is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and has to follow clear guidelines around how it carries out its service. The lockdown in March proved to be a challenge as we needed to change our way of working.

Since May, following liaison between CAP’s Bradford based Head Office and the FCA, we have had systems in place that allow us to link up with clients by phone or via online meeting apps, taking each person through from the initial enquiry to providing tailored debt advice and beyond.

Wheatley resident and CAP Debt Coach Jill Ewbank says ‘I have found that remote “visits” work surprisingly well – along with the rest of the team we are delighted to be able to be back working and helping people sort out their debts despite ongoing restrictions.’

National figures suggest that the financial impact of Coronavirus has been severe and that the number of households facing unmanageable debt or severe financial difficulty has increased by an extraordinary 65% since March.

If you are trapped in debt and can’t find a way out, we’re here to help. Our specialist debt help services are free and local to you.

Please call our free helpline - 0800 328 0006.

For more information go to [www.capdebthelp.org](http://www.capdebthelp.org)

**christians  
against  
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**CAP**

# Light up December for Helen & Douglas House

Light up your window for every day of Advent and bring some festive fun to your community this Christmas



'Tis the season to be jolly! Decorate your own festive window and 'Light up December' for each day of Advent. You can take part on your own, ask a few friends to join in too or even invite your whole community to create a socially distanced Advent calendar for everyone to enjoy and raise vital funds to help local terminally ill children.

For festive Advent inspiration and ideas visit our website at [bit.ly/HDHLightUpDecember](https://bit.ly/HDHLightUpDecember) email [community@helenanddouglas.org.uk](mailto:community@helenanddouglas.org.uk) or call 01865 799150



[www.hdh.org.uk](http://www.hdh.org.uk)



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Helen & Douglas House  
your local children's hospice

## Library Refurbishment

Wheatley Library has had a make-over!



After delays due to the pandemic we have completed the work and are back on track to an improved layout and décor in the library.

The new layout provides a more open and accessible space. The old metal shelving has been replaced with nearly new wooden shelving (previously used in a temporary Oxfordshire Library whilst the Westgate development was underway) including a dedicated wooden display unit to showcase books in a more attractive way to customers.

Moveable shelving means that the southern end of the library will be better suited to host community events, including those run by the Friends of Wheatley Library. Some other items of furniture have been replaced, including a more compact desk for staff which increases floor space, and new seating, including soft seating for the children's area. The library has been given a fresh coat of paint and a new carpet to complete the look.

We want the library to be welcoming and open to all; a place for connections and communication, pleasure and practicalities. The library should be somewhere that everyone can come with confidence to spend time in a safe and comfortable environment.

The library refurbishment has been funded by money allocated to the library from various housing developments in the area and a contribution towards the costs of the decoration made by the Friends of Wheatley Library.

We hoped to have a re-opening date to include in this article by time of going to print but due to national restrictions during November, we are not in a position to give an unequivocal date. Keep an eye out online or at the library itself for notices about an opening date.

Website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

Facebook: Oxfordshire Libraries

Facebook: Friends of Wheatley Library

Twitter: @oxonlibraries

**The Staff and Volunteers of Wheatley Library**

Our September meeting was "Show and Tell". Members had roughly five minutes each to talk about and show their favourite item. This made a very interesting and entertaining evening as we found out more about our members and what is important to them. Eleven members took part and it was lovely hearing the stories behind these items and understanding why they are so important to that person.

In October local author Christine Trueman spoke about writing her two novels

"The Devil You Don't" and "See You Again, One Time in Saint Helena" and the trials and tribulations of getting them published. Christine visited Saint Helena whilst accompanying her husband on business trips. She fell in love with the island and its people and decided it would be an ideal location in which to set her second novel. Saint Helena is an extremely remote British island lying in the South Atlantic Ocean. Both books are available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle. There will also be copies in Wheatley Library once it reopens.

This month's quiz on Cheese and Wine was a bit more serious, designed I expect to try and keep our minds sharp!

Despite the ongoing restrictions the walking group had their first walk of the year in September. As the students were still on vacation we decided to walk through the lovely grounds of Wheatley Campus. It was a beautiful sunny autumn morning and, despite having to split into groups of no more than six, socially distancing and wearing masks when

appropriate, it was a lovely walk and enjoyed by all who participated. Unfortunately the October walk around Littleworth and Windmill Lane was a rather damp occasion. Nevertheless it was enjoyed by all who took part as it was so nice to be able to socialise, albeit at a distance.

Christmas this year is going to be so different and difficult for a great many of us this year.

Back in 1920 the situation seemed to be very similar, at least for Wheatley W.I. members.

There is no mention of Christmas preparations in the minutes of the meeting held in December 1920. After the tumultuous effect of the First World War and the subsequent flu pandemic Christmas that year must have taken a back seat. Very similar to the situation we are all in at the moment. Apparently members were offered the chance to attend an

upholstery course the following January. Thankfully our meetings are much more interesting these days, even on Zoom.

For further information regarding our Zoom meetings please visit  
[www.wheatleywi.com](http://www.wheatleywi.com)

Stephanie Brooklyn

# Day by Day

## MONDAY

**Wheatley Oaks FC** | Holton Playing Fields | 19:00-20:00 | Women 30+ | [hello@coachemma.co.uk](mailto:hello@coachemma.co.uk)

**Dementia Active** | Holton Village Hall | 11:00-13:00 | 01869 713913 | Text 07711 891028

**Mindfulness Sitting Group** | URC | via Zoom | 08:50-09:40 | 01865 876288 | [tomgooss09@gmail.com](mailto:tomgooss09@gmail.com)

**Friends of Wheatley Library Craft Group** | 10:00-12:00 & 19:00-21:00 | Exc. bank holidays

**Beaver Scouts** | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | Term time 18:00-19:00 | 01865 874997

**Wheatley Bridge Club** | Holton Village Hall | 19:00 | 01865 874017

**Badminton Club** | Park Sports Centre | 20:00-22:00 | 07769 827335

**Studio25 Dance Academy** | Merry Bells | [studio25danceoxford@gmail.com](mailto:studio25danceoxford@gmail.com) | 07808 209243

- Junior Beginners | 16:00-17:00 | Age 7-9
- Senior Beginners | 17:00-18:00 | Age 10+

## TUESDAY

**Wheatley Library** | Open 14:00-19:00

**Rugby Club Seniors Training** | Wheatley Playing Field | 19:00 | To book 07768 300314

**Wheatley Women's Institute** | Merry Bells | 3rd in month | 19:15 | 01865 558167

**Wheatley Singers** | URC Hall | 19:15-21:00 | 01865 872250 | All welcome

**Wheatley Village Produce Association** | Merry Bells | 2nd in month | 19:30

**Flow Fitness Pilates** | Merry Bells | 10:00-11:00 | [info@flowfitness.org.uk](mailto:info@flowfitness.org.uk)

**Baby Ballerinas** (pre-schoolers) | Merry Bells | 14:00-14:30 | Danni Evenhuis 07757 323553

**Jumping Jellybeans** (pre-schoolers) | Merry Bells | 14:30-15:00 | Danni Evenhuis 07757 323553

**Dance4Fun Contemporary Dance** | Merry Bells | Danni Evenhuis 07757 323553

- Reception to Year 2 | 16:00-16:30
- Year 3+ | 16:30-17:15

**Merry Bells Coffee Room** | 10:00-12:00 | To book 01865 873996 | All welcome

## WEDNESDAY

**Maple Babies** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:30 & 12:30, one hour each | [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk)

**Wheatley Library** | Open 09:30-13:00 & 14:00-17:00

**Pop-up Pilates** | Merry Bells | 18:30 & 19:30, 1 hour | [info@pop-up-pilates.com](mailto:info@pop-up-pilates.com) | 07731 321991

**Cub Scouts** | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | 18:45-20:15 | 01865 874284 | Boys & Girls Age 8-10½

**Guides & Rangers** | URC | Via Zoom | Term time 19:00-20:30 | Age 10+ | [wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk)

**Merry Bells Coffee Room** | 10:00-12:00 | To book 01865 873996 | All welcome

**Baby Music Group** | URC | Via Zoom | 10:00 | Term time only | Rachel 07505 131124

**St Mary's Church** | Holy Communion | 12:00 | Must pre-book | [vicar.wheatley@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.wheatley@gmail.com)

**Sweaty Mama (Mum & baby fitness)** | Merry Bells | 10:00-10:45 | Alex 07814 417991

**Gathering & Short Prayers** | URC | Via Zoom | 10:30/18:00 alternating | [minister@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:minister@wheatleyurc.org.uk)

**Football Fitness** | Tiger's Retreat, Garsington | 19:00-20:00 | [yohannadam@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:yohannadam@yahoo.co.uk) | Age 30+

## THURSDAY

**Mindfulness Sitting Group** | URC | via Zoom | 08:50-09:40 | 01865 876288 | [tomgoss09@gmail.com](mailto:tomgoss09@gmail.com)

**Wheatley Walks** | Car park behind 6th Form Centre | 10:00-11:00 | 01865 873430

**Wheatley Library** | Open 14:00-17:00

**Wheatley Village Archive** | Merry Bells | 14:00-17:00 | Appt only, to book 01865 425909

**Rugby Club Seniors** | Wheatley Playing Field | 19:00 | To book 07768 300314

**Explorer Scouts** | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | 19:00-21:00 | 07745 285938 | Age 14½-18

**Army Cadets** | Army Cadet Hut Littleworth Rd. | 19:30-21:30 | Age 12-17

**Merry Bells Coffee Room** | 10:00-12:00 | To book 01865 873996 | All welcome

# Day by Day

## FRIDAY

**Wheatley Library** | Open 09:30-13:00 & 14:00-18:00

**Horspath Hub Coffee Morning** | 10:00-12:00 | 07591 933964

**Scouts** | Scout Hut Holloway Rd. | 19:00-21:00 | 07745 285938 | Boys & girls age 10½-14

**St. Mary's Bell Tower Practice** | St. Mary's Church | 19:30-21:00 | 01865 872250

**Merry Bells Coffee Room** | 10:00-12:00 | To book 01865 873996 | All welcome

**Martial Arts** | Primary School Hall | 07731 512682 | [mrsfox@mattfiddes.com](mailto:mrsfox@mattfiddes.com)

- Mighty Matts | 16:30-17:15 | Age 3-6
- Junior/Family | 18:30-19:30 | Age 7+

## SATURDAY

**Wheatley Library** | Open 09:30-13:00

**Wheatley Village Archive** | Merry Bells | Last in month | 10:00-12:00 | Appt only 01865 425909

**Scrabble Club** | Location varies | 1st in month | 19:30 | 01865 872628

## SUNDAY

**Church services** | See page 24

**Wheatley Windmill Open** | 2nd in month | May to October

**Wheatley Minis Football** | Holton Rugby Club | 09:00-10:00 | Ages 4-7 | 07756 608744

# YOUR Wheatley Village Archive

As we, hopefully, come to the end of another lockdown (will it be the last?) and you're 'stir-crazy' here's a mystery photo from the Wheatley Archives for you. Can you spot this distinctive gate somewhere in the village while out for a walk?

The Archive History Group sadly decided to cancel the last talk for the year by Liz Woolley but talks are planned for the new year and depending on government restrictions will be via Zoom.

Your Wheatley Village Archive have been busy in this very strange year adding to and fine-tuning its website. [www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk](http://www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk)

Researching life in Wheatley in 1911 will transport you back over 100 years through a Zoom (likely) talk to learn of the trades, occupations and names of people in the (largely) self-sufficient village of Wheatley.

If you've attended a talk before you will receive notification of 'what and when' by email or contact [michael@wheatleyarchive.org.uk](mailto:michael@wheatleyarchive.org.uk).

Hopefully sometime in 2021 we will be able to meet face to face in the Merry Bells for our talks and the Archive room can re-open on Thursdays and Saturdays (monthly).

Although there has been no calendar



published for 2021 the Heritage Walk has continued to be popular with villagers and visitors and is a candidate for an award from the Oxford Preservation Trust. Have you done it yet, judges from OPT have!

The two recent publications – "Bygone Wheatley" by Michael Heaton and "On Parallel Lines" by Christine Jackson (nee Tombs) have been very successful. Copies are still available and make ideal Christmas presents at £12 and £6 respectively either at 48, High Street (425909) or Wheatley Estates.

We would like to thank all the villagers for your support and wish you a very Happy Christmas and an improved year in 2021. Stay safe!

**Steph Cox**

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### Newly acquired – Wildlife area

Forest school will be running from January 2020 for all children between the ages 2.5-11 years.

**All Stars Club Hours 8.00-9.00am and Monday-Thursday 3.15-6.00pm**

**and Friday 3.15-5.00pm**

The aim of the club is to provide a wide and varied programme of After School entertainment for children, extracurricular activities as well as offering childcare. Everyday we aim to provide a choice of two activities between 3.15pm and 5.00pm in an attempt to cater for the differing wants and needs of children at the Nursery and neighbouring primary School.

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**Visit our website for more information [www.horspathnursery.org.uk](http://www.horspathnursery.org.uk)**

**Ofsted June 2017 Rating: Good**

"Staff focus successfully on seeking the views of individual children to plan ongoing activities. Staff support children's play and have a consistent approach and use good quality teaching strategies to extend children's learning."



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# Fairtrade Wheatley

## Watch That Space!

Whilst lockdown has halted plans to hold more Fairtrade events in the Village, the necessity for Fairtrade awareness has been heightened by the Covid pandemic. However devastated we have been as a nation, we have the support of a National Health Service and some government financial support; the poorer nations of the world do not have those benefits and purchasing fairly-traded goods is one way in which we can make a difference. As we come up to Christmas, Fairtrade Wheatley hopes that everyone will be able to look out for the FAIRTRADE mark on items of food and other goods which we buy. It has been a delight to notice more Fairtrade goods in Costcutters, and the Co-op Foodstore continues to stock a great selection of Fairtrade food and wine.



Just before Lockdown, the village received notification from the Fairtrade Foundation that our application for Fairtrade Status had been successful. The assessors commented: "Congratulations on achieving Fairtrade Village status for Wheatley. Doing so is a fantastic achievement, and it is not often that a Village's initial application is already as strong and comprehensive as yours".

We have been delighted that the Editor, with the support of the Parish Council, now includes the Fairtrade Village logo on the cover of the Wheatley News but our hope, again with the support of the Council, is that we can erect "A FAIRTRADE VILLAGE" on the road signs at the four main road entrances to the Village.

With a fair wind and wonderful support from Cllr Tim Bearder and Oxfordshire CC, we hope to achieve this before Christmas as a reminder to our community, and to visitors, of the importance of the movement - so please do watch that space.

John Guy | Chair



Another lockdown is upon us, and the allotments are once again proving their value in such a time, not only for the gardeners amongst us but also the walkers. It's been good to be able to welcome so many users.

We are taking steps to make the allotments area of greater use to the community generally. Next to the new raised beds we have constructed a barbecue, but please note it isn't ready for use just yet, and quite near to that is an orchard area. We hope that in the future these will be used by the community generally as well as the allotment holders.

The allotments have been mostly well looked after this year, although October being one of the wettest months on record didn't help. Now of course we are moving into a period when things look a little bedraggled and in need of clearing up.

As usual there are many things to do,

and while the lockdown restrictions prevent much happening at the moment, if you wish to help in future please let Malcolm Benson or Allan Hicks know.

The waiting list for allotments has reduced to zero at last count, but if you wish to have and enjoy an allotment please contact Taff Morgan Jones.

Take care, stay safe.

For further information regarding the Howe Trust or the allotment association please contact one of the following.

**Chair, Howe Trust:**

Malcolm Benson | 01865 873843

**Chair, Allotment Association:**

Allan Hicks | 01865 803910

**Secretary, Allotment Association:**

Taff Morgan Jones | 01865 874413

**Allan Hicks | Chair**

## Oxbridge Success

Five Wheatley Park students gained places at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge this summer - the highest number in recent years and significantly above the national average for a sixth form of our size.

## EdTech Demonstrator status

Wheatley Park has been selected by the Department for Education as one of fifty EdTech Demonstrator schools nationally. We will receive funding to support other schools to make the most of educational technology during the pandemic.

## World Mental Health Day and Black History Month

Both these important occasions were marked with assemblies and follow up activities during tutor time.

## PTA fundraising success

Our parents and carers have been generously supporting our PTA, raising £12.5K for a new (used) school minibus last year.

## Online events

We are pleased to have continued with most of our scheduled school events this year using pre-recorded or live-streamed video. Most of these events are available to replay on our WPS Videos YouTube channel, which also features our new Welcome to Wheatley Park School video.

This is the YouTube link for WPS videos:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCahhPIA2kJD10KCaKUioDA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCahhPIA2kJD10KCaKUioDA)

Tim Martin | Headteacher



We are pleased to report that our school has enjoyed a successful first half term, with our children settling in well to their new classes/bubbles and routines. So far the school has remained a Covid-free environment, for which we are very thankful, and the hard work all are doing to ensure this was recognised recently when we passed a Public Health England health & safety inspection with flying colours.

Our vision of a school where all are enabled to thrive means that we have a particular focus on wellbeing and mental health, especially with the challenges of Covid-19. We are involved in several community initiatives, including working with the parish council on a traffic action plan for Littleworth Rd, and our recent harvest celebration resulted in a big collection of food for donation to the Community Emergency Foodbank as well as a wonderful collaborative song recorded by the children:

[wheatley-ce-primary-school.primarysite.media/media/harvest-music-video-2020](https://wheatley-ce-primary-school.primarysite.media/media/harvest-music-video-2020)

Our governing board has recently welcomed two new governors, Caroline Showell-Rogers and Cyd Waters, and they are already making a difference. We are still desperate to fill one final vacancy, with a particular need for someone from a business background with financial/marketing/premises management experience and the time to commit to school governance – please contact our Chair of Governors [liz.wickens@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:liz.wickens@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk) for an info pack if interested.





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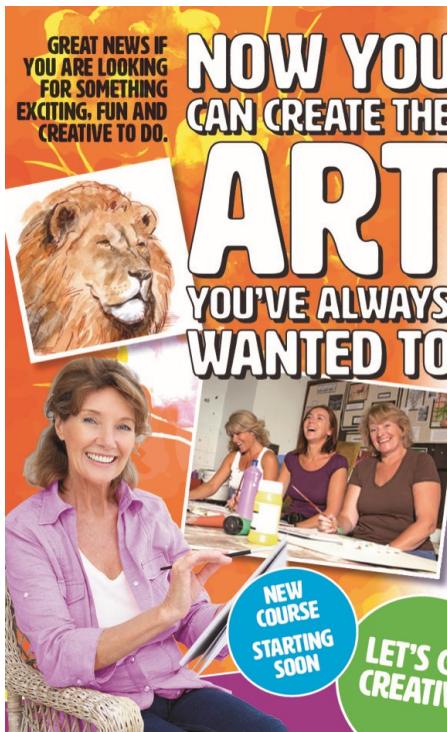
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# Wheatley Village Produce Association

## Words from The VPA

The days are getting shorter but there still seems to be plenty to do in the garden. I have recently taken on half an allotment, so that is keeping me very busy! At least my back garden should be kept free from quite so many pots next year.

## Things to do in December and January

This is the best time to carry out essential maintenance in the shed or greenhouse (cleaning pots, making repairs) and to plants and trees in the form of pruning. Pruning can also lead on to taking hardwood cuttings which can be inserted straight into spare space in the garden. Keep picking winter crops and check any stored overwintering plants such as dahlias. In January, rhubarb could be covered for an early crop. Think about wildlife, making areas for insects such as log piles or bug hotels, keep feeding birds and ensuring a supply of water. Best of all, this is a great time to plan what to do for the upcoming year. Even Covid 19 can't stop us dreaming!

## Answers to last issue's quiz

Course linen = Common Flax, Sugary Bill = Sweet William, Very sedate lady = Primrose, Bouquet for Richard's wife = Hyacinth, Heated card game = Red Hot Poker, Bovine trip = Cowslip, Foppish



king of the jungle = Dandelion, In the eye of the beholder = Iris, Frugality = Thrift, Reynard's hand warmers = Foxgloves.

All plans for VPA meetings and events are on hold at present. If you have any queries, do contact [wheatleyVPA@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleyVPA@gmail.com).

Keep safe

All talks are held at 7.30pm at the Merry Bells, open to anyone, free to members, £2.50 for non-members. £7 will buy membership for the whole year for all your immediate family.

Contact [wheatleyVPA@gmail.com](mailto:wheatleyVPA@gmail.com).

Geraldine Surman

# Nature is Calling Us

In early November 2020, we headed into the second English national lockdown, and once again, nature came to our aid. Offering an escape, either on our socially distanced walks, in our gardens, or just that which we see out of the window. We realised it during the first lockdown, and we're appreciating it again this time too, but during the period of relative freedom between the lockdowns, I saw people easily forgetting the lessons we'd learnt from nature.

Until we truly learn something, lessons will often repeat, and keep knocking on our door. Will we remember to keep allowing nature into our lives when this second lockdown is over? Which it will be at some point, I assure you!

Many of us are now working from home more, and maybe more able to take regular breaks out in nature to recharge, which maybe wasn't so easy when office based? One homeworker said to me the other day that they are doing ridiculously long hours now they are based at home, with no breaks! Even longer hours than when they were working in the office it seems. I suggested they take a walk in nature now and then, ensuring they get the break they so craved. They shrugged this off saying they didn't have time to go for walks and have breaks. There is always time though! Now, their employer wouldn't be expecting

them to forgo their breaks, and reduce their productivity, would they?

It's our own responsibility to take breaks and look after ourselves when working from home, and factoring them in. There is always time for breaks, and for allowing nature into those periods of time. The fact this person who was now working from home was working, working, working, working, was largely down to their misaligned self-discipline, and obsessive tendencies, not their employers slave driving culture.

The nature in our parks, our streets, our gardens, out of our windows, it's calling us, we just need to allow ourselves to take a break, and hear it.

Mind how you go, and be sure to look after your wellbeing during these strange times. Maybe stop, ask yourself how you actually feel. If we know how we actually feel, we stand a chance of being able to do something about it and enjoy the good moments more.

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**Stuart Mabbutt**

# The Oxfordshire Museum

## December News

As I write this, we are again closed for a second lockdown, all being well we hope to re-open on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – fingers crossed! We want to take this opportunity to thank all our visitors for continuing to support us during these testing times.



You can keep up to date with our social media channels and remember to keep a look out for our Christmas children's activity videos.

Our Distance exhibition remains on display when we re-open. Distance is now ingrained in our day to day existence. Inspired by the new normal, Oxfordshire Museums Service searched the collections for art that conveys distance.

The selected works portray a variety of geographical locations across the county, are a mix of ages and styles, and are executed by Oxfordshire artists, including nationally significant painters such as William Turner of Oxford. They are unified by the concept of distance.

The Garden Café will re-open with the Museum for take-aways, including delicious hot mince pies to warm you from the inside, and the museum gift shop has lots of lovely gift ideas for all the family. The galleries will all be open, except for the dinosaur gallery, and don't forget we have free admission!

Given the current situation with so much uncertainty, please check our website for Christmas opening hours.

We would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy Christmas.

You can keep up to date with what's happening at the Museum by following @OxonMuseum on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Telephone: 01993 184106

**Lorraine Horne**

Please note that the **Wheatley Care Scheme** is currently operating with a reduced number of drivers, but the service remains available. Call **07505 543750** for assistance.

## **WHEATLEY CARE VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBER**

Wheatley Care is looking for a third co-ordinator to join their team of volunteers to help manage booking requests and driver allocations (on average 30 per month)

If you like speaking to people and are good at scheduling/ planning we'd love to hear from you.

Please call

**Kath Lamont—01865 876609**

## **Calling all residents of HOLTON | LITTLEWORTH | WHEATLEY DRIVERS DESPERATELY NEEDED**

**WHEATLEY VOLUNTEER CARE SCHEME NEEDS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

Do you have any spare time to transport local residents to  
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You will be reimbursed for your petrol cost.

So if you feel you can help us:

Please contact **Kath Lamont—01865 876609**

## **Thame Foodbank**

Operated by Sharing Life Trust

If you are unable to buy enough basic food for your household, because you don't have the cash or because you are unable to go out, then we may be able to help. We can deliver within an area bounded by Chinnor, Watlington, Chalgrove, Stadhampton, The Miltons, Wheatley, Long Crendon and Haddenham. If you need help, please phone us on our confidential helpline 0300 201 0212 or 07541 299010.

We don't want anyone to go hungry. Registered Charity No. 1100176

# Our Village Library Needs You!



The newly refurbished Wheatley Library is hoping to re-open in the very near future. However, to do this we urgently need some volunteers! Due to the ongoing Covid situation, we require volunteers who are NOT categorised as high or moderate risk by the NHS to help staff the library.

Please use this link:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/)

to check whether you are categorised as at risk, and contact us via our website:

[www.wheatleylibrary.org/](https://www.wheatleylibrary.org/) if you have any questions.

A shift of volunteering at the library is typically up to 3 hours long, once every week or fortnight. It involves meeting and greeting readers and helping to maintain social distancing guidelines, in addition to helping with shelving, sorting deliveries and aiding with use of the self-service machine.

We'd be hugely grateful for any help, even on a short term basis!

If you are interested, please fill in the "Interested in Volunteering" form:

[www.wheatleylibrary.org/interested-in-volunteering/](https://www.wheatleylibrary.org/interested-in-volunteering/)

and we will contact you with more information.

**Friends of Wheatley Library**

## MACMILLAN MAMMOTH QUIZ

In these strange times it will come as no surprise to anyone that our annual quiz in February is unlikely to take place in its usual form. We are looking into using Zoom in some way. However, I realise that some of our loyal supporters may not be comfortable with this arrangement.

I would like to find a way to enable our usual quizzers and also new supporters to enjoy a quiz whilst making their vital contributions to this very important charity. We are expecting the date of the quiz to be Friday 26th February 2021. The details of the arrangements will be published in the February/March 2021 Newsletter. If you would like to make comments or suggestions re: arrangements, please send me a message or give me a call on 07870 742139.

**Sue Coombes**

## **Wheatley Park School Breakfast Club and Food Bank**

Since the first Covid lockdown Wheatley Park School have continued to work hard to support families and ran a Food Bank until the summer supported partly by donations from the community. Since September we have been giving donations to the breakfast club and are expanding to support with some craft materials and any other needs identified by support staff for the young people and their families.

If you would like to get involved do contact me and I can tell you how you can donate either goods or a financial donation. At this time when we are all challenged by the current pandemic it is good that we can make a difference to support our local school.

**Lucy Betts | [lucy@kbetts.com](mailto:lucy@kbetts.com)**

### **The Emma Wilson Memorial Fund**

Do we have any young coronavirus heroes?

Do you know any young 'COVID heroes' who have helped others affected by the virus or the lockdown? They could be recognised with an award.

The Emma Wilson Awards commemorate the life of a young Wheatley woman, very involved in school and village life, who lost her life in a road accident. The fund recognises young people under 21 years from Wheatley and Littleworth who have contributed to our community life.

To nominate a young person for supporting the community voluntarily during the lockdown or at any other time, please send us the age and contact details of your nominee(s) and your reasons for nominating them. Please ask another local person to endorse your nomination. We can't accept nominations from close relations.

Please write to: EWT, 15 Kelly's Road, OX33 1NT

or email: [sewellfam@ntlworld.com](mailto:sewellfam@ntlworld.com)

**Chris Sewell**



## Popular Weekend Takeaways

South African cuisine has its roots in Indian, Dutch, Malay & African heritage- It is fragrant, full of flavour with a touch of spice. Each weekend we offer 4 main courses, a dessert and a variety of samosa's, pickles and chutneys.

All food is homemade to order, ready to heat and eat at home or freeze for future. Currently able to deliver to Wheatley, Holton, Cuddesdon & Garsington for orders over £25, otherwise collection only. New menu out every Monday

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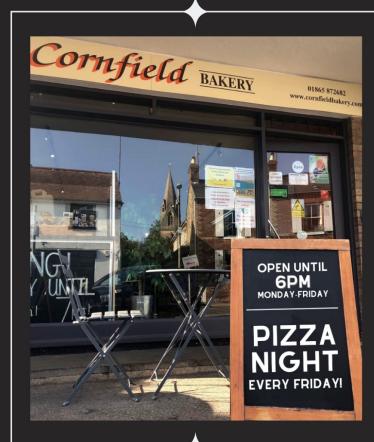


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**travel counsellors**



Janet Lewis 01865 989770

[www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/Janet.Lewis](http://www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/Janet.Lewis)

[Janet.lewis@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:Janet.lewis@travelcounsellors.com)



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## THE HORSPATH HUB

As COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted the **Hub Post Office is now open every Friday from 09:30 to 12:30**. Some classes have resumed and some are on Zoom. Because of the need for small numbers **booking is required**.

Eventually the following activities will be available again:

Yoga, Pilates, Table Tennis, Line Dancing, Art, Film Club, Wine Club, and a Craft afternoon.

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Visit [www.horspath.org.uk/communityhub](http://www.horspath.org.uk/communityhub) for details on how to book, costs, events etc.



# ASDA Wheatley Community Update

October has been one of my busiest months with a number of fundraising activities planned and delivered, before we entered our second national lockdown at the start of November.

A store tombola was run on Friday 16th October with all pink prizes raising over £150 from customers and colleagues for one of our National Charities, Tickled Pink, which raises money for two charities: Breast Cancer Now and Coppafeel. This has been our first in-store manned fundraiser for a number of months, so I was keen to get back into doing what I love.

Additional measures were put in place such as selecting tickets for those taking part to reduce others touching the kit and tickets, and to maintain social distancing. Masks were worn at all times, as well as kit and hands being sanitised on a regular basis. It was also my first chance to use our newly delivered card machine, which means for any activity we hold, we can now offer a cashless transaction with contactless payments. It is set up to donate to specified causes each month period. Coin collections are still used.

We also welcomed the Royal British Legion to our store to collect for the Poppy Appeal.

Roger Bell and his team were in store for 1.5-hour intervals from 9am to 7pm daily in the foyer. I wish to thank all those that have generously donated to all our in-store causes, as supporting our community at ASDA is something we are incredibly proud of.

I was delighted that the ASDA Foundation and ASDA jointly funded an additional £250 in-store monthly budget to support free school meals

over half term, in response to the Marcus Rashford campaign.

Food banks is one of the ways many families can receive support in times of need for food to feed themselves. In total, we donated 4 trolleys of food to three Oxfordshire food banks which were distributed over the half term through the community emergency food bank, Oxford Mutual Aid and Sharing Life Trust, who have all seen an increase in demand.

Other donations in the last two months include supporting Wheatley Primary School with their main fundraiser for a school sponsored walk. We provided 250 pieces of fresh fruit for their mid-way snack. The school are also running a Breakfast Nurture club for which we have donated cereals, bakery items and fresh fruit in the recent months.

We have seen a number of schools and other groups looking to fundraise for Christmas planning to run socially distanced online raffles, so we have provided donations and wish them every success with their fundraising. Rest assured we will continue to do our best during these uncertain times to serve our community.

Please do continue to get in touch on [community\\_wheatley@asda.co.uk](mailto:community_wheatley@asda.co.uk) to see if we may be able to help any charities or causes which you may help with and as always thanks for your support and custom at the store.

**Linda Blackmore**

## SODC Waste Collections — December 2020 & January 2021

Collection day is Monday unless * (B. Hol)	Which bins and other items?
Dec 14th & 30th   Jan 12th & 25th	Green, brown, food & oil waste, textiles
Dec 7th & 21st   Jan 6th & 18th	Grey, food & oil waste, small electricals

# Key Contacts

## Local Governance:

Oxfordshire County Council | 01865 792422 | [oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk)

County Councillor Tim Bearder | 07789 754727 | [tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

District Councillor Alexandrine Kantor | 07581 745221 | [alexandrine.kantor@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:alexandrine.kantor@southoxon.gov.uk)

South Oxfordshire DC | 01235 422422 | [southoxon.gov.uk](http://southoxon.gov.uk)

Planning Applications | 01235 422600 | [planning@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:planning@southoxon.gov.uk)

Wheatley Parish Council | 01865 875615 | [clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Local information:

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire | 03444 111 444 | [caox.org.uk](http://caox.org.uk)

Wheatley Post Office | 0845 722 3344 | Open Mon-Fri 09:00-17:30, Sat 09:00-13:00

The Maple Tree (Children's Centre) | 01865 236700 | [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk)

The Merry Bells Village Hall | 01865 872073 | [merrybells.org.uk](http://merrybells.org.uk)

Wheatley Library | 01865 875267 | [wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Wheatley Park Sports Centre | 01865 872128 | [better.org.uk/venues/park](http://better.org.uk/venues/park)

Wheatley Park School | 01865 872441 | [wheatleypark.org](http://wheatleypark.org)

Wheatley Primary School | 01865 872366 | [wheatley.oxon.sch.uk](http://wheatley.oxon.sch.uk)

## Services:

Police non-emergency | 101 | [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

To report potholes, fly-tipping, broken paving, vandalism, etc. | [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com)

OCC Family Information Service | 08452 262636 | [fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

OCC Highways | 0845 310 1111 | [highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Missed Bin Collection | 03000 610610 | [admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk](mailto:admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk)

Bulky Household Waste Collection | 01235 422406 | [waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk)

Housing | 01235 422422 | [housing@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:housing@southandvale.gov.uk)

GP Surgery, Morland House | 01865 872448 | [morland-house.co.uk](http://morland-house.co.uk)

NHS Out of Hours Service | 111 | [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk)

Gas Emergency | 0800 111 999 | [nationalgrid.com/group/safety-and-emergencies](http://nationalgrid.com/group/safety-and-emergencies)

National Power Cut Helpline | 105 | [ssen.co.uk](http://ssen.co.uk)

Burst pipe or leak | 0800 714 614 | [thameswater.co.uk](http://thameswater.co.uk)

Floodline | 0345 988 1188 | [gov.uk/check-flood-risk](http://gov.uk/check-flood-risk)

## Transport:

Oxfordshire Comet | 01865 323201 | [oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet)

Wheatley Care Scheme (transport to hospital or GP surgery) | 07505 543750

Arriva (280) Bus | 0344 800 4411 | [arrivabus.co.uk](http://arrivabus.co.uk)

Oxford Bus Co. (U1 & London) | 01865 785400 | [brookesbus.oxfordbus.co.uk](http://brookesbus.oxfordbus.co.uk)

National Rail Enquiries | 03457 484950 | [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

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