

APRIL | MAY | 2022

WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



Have Your Say: High St. Parking - Page 8
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The Merry Bells AGM - Page 70



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 **12th May** 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 for further details and to download a booking form.

Meetings & Dates

Annual Parish Meeting Merry Bells 11th April 2022 19:30

Parish Council

Merry Bells, 19:30

4th April

9th May

Planning Cmte.

Merry Bells, 19:30

13th April

11th May

Finance Cmte.

Merry Bells, 19:30

25th April

District Councillor Surgery

Parish Office

10:30—11:30

9th April

14th May

Open Spaces Cmte.

Merry Bells, 19:30

16th May



Macmillan Quiz 2022—Thank You

On behalf of Macmillan, this is a big thank you to those of you who were able to join in the Zoom quiz in February. We are very grateful for your donations and also for those received from many of you who were not able to join us on the night.

We look forward to seeing you all face to face at next year's quiz on Friday 24th February 2023.

Sue Coombes

WHEATLEY NEWS

Publisher

Wheatley Parish Council
The Parish Office
The Merry Bells
89 High Street
Wheatley
OX33 1XP
01865 875615
clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Distributor

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

Chair's Column

As you know Wheatley Parish Council is 90 years young this year and we have been going through the old minute books and scanning them in so they are available for the future. What is astonishing is that the same things keep cropping up, and despite a world war, pandemic, 3 day weeks, strikes and the ups and downs of the economy, the same issues appear generation after generation.

I recently gave a talk to The Wheatley Society about the role of a parish council chair and weaved in the 90 year anniversary, the topics that were causing concern and a bit of my personal history with the village. In 1937 there was a flurry of communication between solicitors in Oxford and the owner of Farm Close Lane about 'cyclists riding their bicycles at a furious pace' down the lane and becoming troublesome to pedestrians. Could WPC put a stop to this activity please? In another letter dated Dec 1937 a letter was received from solicitors acting on instructions to say a parishioner had fallen into a manhole in Church Road and were WPC going to admit liability? In May 1938 a letter was received from the WI complaining about how the bin men left loads of rubbish in the streets on bin collection day. In March 1939 there was a flurry of correspondence about the Kings Arms junction between Church Road and London Road and how dangerous it was. That was 83 years ago

and we are still wrestling with those issues. Despite being on the brink of war and the preparations for defence of the nation in play, the issues that attracted most attention were the really local ones, things that mattered on a day to day basis.

For the first time, on 2nd March the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) got parish council chairs together via Zoom to talk about issues that parish councils were concerned with. Every parish has its own knotty problems but there was a theme throughout our group. The workload for parish councils has shot up exponentially as we step into the void that the Covid pandemic exposed. Care for our parishioners in terms of mental, emotional, physical and financial health will feature high on our priority list and we must come together as a community to support each other. Things are tough at the moment for everyone and it will get worse as we recover from the pandemic and world events outside our control. All the more reason to show kindness and tolerance towards each other, doing a kind thing means so much to the recipient and can literally change their day.

Finally, may I wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Easter.

Alison Sercombe

Clerk's Column

Welcome to our 90th birthday edition of Wheatley News, and what a month it has been. With the lifting of C-19 restrictions we officially marked the 90th anniversary of the first parish council meeting with a small gathering of current and previous councillors and clerks. Councillors provided a celebratory cake that we all shared, alongside memories and discussions over topics, which are still rumbling on 90 years later!

You will all have received your Council Tax statements for the coming year, and whilst nearly all of the other organisations listed have raised their element of the council tax, Wheatley Parish Council made the conscious

decision, back in December, not to request an increase to their precept. This decision was borne out of concerns for the increases to the cost of living, which does seem to continue to rise. We do foresee that we will have to make some tough decisions in the coming months on how this will impact our ability to deliver our projects and to maintain the open spaces.

Lastly, we are humbled to see how quickly the village has rallied around to support those who have been displaced or caught up in the war in Ukraine. We will continue to provide information on local schemes and to welcome any refugees into our community.

Michelle Legg

Parish Councillor Vacancy – are you willing to make a difference to Wheatley?

Wheatley Parish Council have one vacancy for a parish councillor. Being based in the community the parish council is best placed to support its residents and local groups, as well as trying to tackle local issues. As a councillor you will be instrumental in helping to deliver the council's strategic plan and help to make positive changes.

Officers support councillors, with development opportunities available to fully understand the role of a councillor, local councils as well as topical seminars and workshops.

You would be expected to attend at least two meetings a month, with opportunities to sit on at least one of five committees (Finance, Open Spaces, Planning, Staffing, Wellbeing) or one of the many working groups.

If you are interested in the role, please contact any of the current councillors, or the parish office.

The Parish office is open to the public each Wednesday and Saturday 09:30-11:30

A special thanks to Christine Vernede

At the end of last year, Christine Vernede stepped back from co-ordinating the deliveries of the Wheatley News, a role that has been a regular commitment and key in ensuring you all receive your copies. We would like to thank Christine for all of her dedication and commitment over the years. We will miss you. In the interim the Parish Clerk and Assistance Clerk have taken on this role and will continue to liaise with all the volunteer deliverers.

Jubilee events 2-5th June

Are you involved in a local organisation that is or is thinking about organising an event or activity for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? If you are, please get in touch with the Parish council who are hoping to collate details of all events and produce a leaflet of events.

Check out page 58 for details of events already planned.

Diary Dates

Play & Activity Day Sat 16th July 11-3pm

At the playing fields, opposite Wheatley Park School

Yes, it is back! Oxfordshire Play Association will be working with Wheatley Parish Council to bring you a free, fun packed day of activities for the whole family so make sure the date is firmly in your diary!

If you are a local organisation, voluntary group or business and would like to get involved please contact the parish office. We are hoping to be holding a meeting for anyone who wants to know more.

Annual Parish Meeting – 11th April from 7pm in the Merry Bells

Another date for your diary! This meeting is open to the whole community to raise any topics and will include a review of the past year, with reports from parish, district, and county councillors. The parish council will also be sharing updates on key projects. Do come along from 7pm, with the formal meeting starting at approximately 7.30pm.

Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Report



The Examiner Modified the W.N.P. in February 2020, due to 'circumstances beyond the control' of the WNP Committee, the Parish Council and SODC. Local elections had changed SODC politics, putting the emerging Local Plan 2034 into dispute. The Secretary of State intervened, reserving the right to decide on the validity of LP 2034. These events affected three of the of the four Enhancement sites proposed in the W.N.P.

As previous Newsletters have explained, the Enhancement sites are designated as WHE15 ('Ms Tombs' Field', from a former owner); WHE16, (the 'Bungalows Community' near ASDA petrol station); WHE17, (Mobbs' land, for commercial use only) and WHE25 (the light industrial site in Littleworth. The first three sites lie in the Green Belt, the fourth is a brownfield site. In view of the uncertain status of LP34 at the time, the Examiner was unwilling to expose the WNP to prolonged political controversy.

In February 2020, he advised the WNP Committee to accept his Modification: to remove the three Enhancement sites involving the Green Belt and to proceed with a reduced WNP. In the event of a successful Referendum, it would then be appropriate to reinstate the

three Enhancement sites as part of an official Review.

The modified WNP was submitted in October 2020, but due to Covid outbreak and precautions, the Referendum could not be held until May 2021. The modified WNP was then passed ['Made']. Meanwhile, by December 2020 (10 months after the Examiner's judgement, advice, and modifications) SODC and the Secretary of State reached agreement: Local Plan 2035 came into force. This meant that by now, after the successful Referendum, WNP Committee could follow the Examiner's remaining advice with a Review WNP.

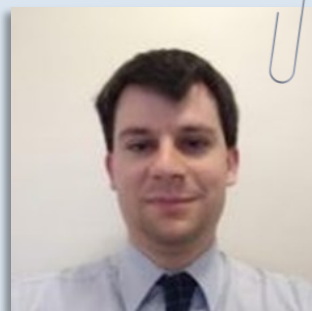
The first draft of the Review was completed by December 2021. It included reinstatement of the three Enhancement sites and a new section on Design Guidance and Codes, to help improve the criteria for development within the village. Currently the 'Strategic Site Assessment' [S.E.A.] section is being updated. On completion the Review will be ready to be presented for pre-Submission Consultation. Details will be circulated in due course by the Parish Council.

Parish Council Profiles

Meet our team of Parish Councillors through a series of profiles over the next few issues.

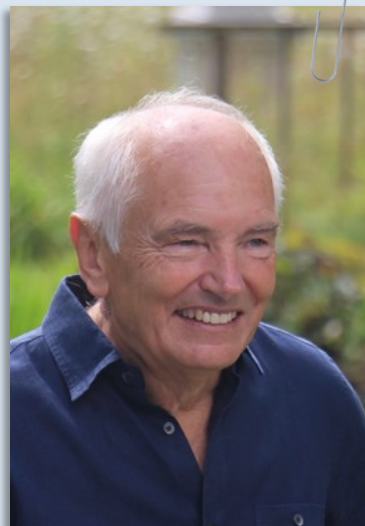
Daniel Lawrence

My name is Daniel Lawrence and I have been on the Parish Council since June 2020. I am originally from Coventry but have lived in Wheatley since 2012 and my wife, son and I really enjoy living here. In my role as a parish councillor I am particularly interested in developing and promoting facilities for young families across the village and so I currently sit on the Open Spaces Committee and am the Parish Council link for the Maple Tree Children's Centre. My day job is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator at the Oxfordshire Hospital School, teaching pupils who are inpatients at the local hospitals or in their homes if they are too unwell to go to their usual schools. You will probably see me out and about in the village - I am the one who is always catching Pokemon or leading round a little boy in a bright rainbow coat so do stop and say hello and let me know if there's anything I can help with!



Richard Harding

I moved to Wheatley in 2012, having previously lived in Oxford for 9 years and prior to that in Stanton Harcourt. I am a retired patent attorney, and became a parish councillor shortly after I moved here to try to support the local community. I have served on a number of parish council committees and working groups, including the finance, planning and staffing committees, and believe strongly in local democracy independently of any political allegiance. I have been particularly interested in the developing plans for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.



Parish Survey on use of High Street including parking

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) introduced Civil Parking Wardens late last year which means that the High Street will be subject to the enforcement of parking restrictions as stated on the signage by the parking spaces.

Wheatley Parish Council have been given 6 months to review the existing restrictions and decide whether the parking provisions on the High Street should remain as they are or should be changed.

The total number of car parking spaces in the High Street is about 46 including the spaces outside the shops. Of these, 38 spaces currently have the parking restriction:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, 2 hrs free parking (no return within 1 hr)

An additional 8 spaces in front of shops currently have the parking restriction:

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, 1 hr free parking (no return within 1hr)

Please help us by answering some questions.

If possible, please respond online using the QR code supplied, or by using the link www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M6HCS82 (also available from wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We need **one response per household**. It is important that, as parishioners, you tell us what you think to ensure your voices are heard.



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Wheatley Singers

Spring is back - and so are the Wheatley Singers

After two-and-a-half long, fallow years, we're delighted to invite you to join the Wheatley Singers for their revival Spring Concert: at 4.30pm on Saturday May 14th in St Mary's Church.

As the outside temperatures rise, we've been warming up our voices, to make sure we are ready to raise the roof and lift the spirit.

As well as some of our favourite choruses from Rossini's glorious "Petite Messe Solenne", we'll be performing George Shearing's wonderful "Songs & Sonnets". These lovely little pieces, settings of some of Shakespeare's best known and most Spring-like verses, combine wonderful melodies with delightful jazz undertones, guaranteed to challenge the singers whilst enthralling and astounding the audience.

We're performing early in order to have time to share some drinks in (what we hope will be) the late afternoon sun in the churchyard.

Entrance will be by donation. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Our rehearsals are relaxed and informal, but effective. And great fun. Do come and join us.

Contact Matthew, our Secretary

(07885 059633; email matthew.maier@mmaier.co.uk) or

Kate, our Musical Director

(07729 887244; email topcopykate@btinternet.com), or any choir member for more information or encouragement.

Wheatley Village Produce Association

Words from The VPA

The equinox is now past, and days are getting longer (thank goodness!). Whilst this means there are jobs to do, take time to enjoy your garden, too.

April

Now it is getting warmer, it is a good time to spring clean ponds and divide waterlilies. We still need to watch out for frost though. Roses you pruned last month will need feeding if you didn't do it then and any climbers and ramblers may need tidying up. Starting lawn-mowing may have highlighted bare patches and these can be resown. Keep on top of the weeds!

May

As before, be on frost alert. The weeds too will be energised by more daylight. Spring bulbs can be lifted and divided and feed added to the soil. Earth up your potatoes to protect from late frosts and increase yields. Hardy plants can be started as seed, which is both exciting and



cost-effective! It is worth repeating, enjoy the fresh air.... This month, we can get out and about at RHS Wisley. Wildlife photography enthusiasts will be keen to hear Peter Preece talking about Every Picture Tells a Story on 12 April. On 10 May, the British Cacti & Succulent Society will be visiting in the form of Bill Darbon, a national judge and secretary of his local branch.

Send any queries about the VPA or questions about gardening to wheatleyVPA@gmail.com and we will do our best to help.

Geraldine Surman

ASDA Wheatley Community Update

Our recent Digital Green Token vote ended with Wheatley Pre School being the winning group receiving £500. Runners up for this voting period were Wheatley Oakes FC, and St Mary's Church Community Gardening group. There has been a major change, in that the scheme will now run 3 times yearly instead of quarterly. There are also changes to the runner up monies awarded. The runner up (2nd place) will now receive £400 and in 3rd place £300. Our current digital green token giving vote will be live until 31st May.

This year's grants for 2022 are in two strands, U18 Better Starts Grants and Empowering Communities Grant. There are 3 application periods throughout the year and we do have a maximum grant value per store. Please get in touch for criteria initially to discuss plans of projects to see if this would fit with our current grants and your activities.

During March, we will once again be supporting Tickled Pink, the week known Breast Cancer charity. Our collection buckets remain on the shop floor for donations, plus we will run a fundraiser

and awareness event. You may have noticed one of our delivery vans has had a "Tickled Pink makeover" to help our mission to impact on rates of early diagnosis. In the last year our store has raised an incredible £909.13 split between Breast Cancer Now and CoppaFeel!

As the summer months approach, I'm sure there will be plenty of outreach opportunities for us to get back to meet community groups which you are involved. With COVID restrictions easing in the last month and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, we have plenty to look forward to this coming year.

Finally, on a serious note ASDA have announced that they will be donating £1 million to help support Ukrainian families across Europe. In addition, ASDA have removed all Russian manufactured products from our stores (including online).

If you wish to get in contact with me, please use email in first instance: community_wheatley@asda.co.uk.

Linda Blackmore

LitterCrew WhatsApp Group

Sustainable Wheatley has recently formed a 'Litter Crew' sub-group to tackle the perennial blight of litter around Wheatley. The intention is to support our parish council outside workers who are sometimes overwhelmed with the amount of litter that ends up on the streets and verges within the boundaries of parish.

We also cover the immediate approaches to Wheatley where they have a common boundary with neighbouring parishes and we have appealed to residents of Holton, Great Milton, Cuddesdon, and Horspath to see if we can clear these troublesome spots in a joint effort.

We currently have 18 members who communicate largely by means of a WhatsApp

Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society

In the squall on 31st October 2021, one of the windmill's sail whips snapped, causing half of it to fall down. We think the wood from which the whips were constructed has proved to be insufficiently durable. Our insurance will pay for the damaged sail, but the society needs to raise the money to renew the two sails that retain the original whip material. Both these sails are now showing signs of rot. The quotation for removing the damaged sail, constructing a replacement and re-installing it amounts to £21,629 + VAT. We have now received this sum from the insurers. The work will be done by Owlsworth IJP from Reading.

The quotation for constructing two more new sails comes to £19,235.90 + VAT,

assuming that the removal, construction and replacement takes place at the same time. There is an option to use either a laminated wood construction (Glulam) or Douglas fir for the new whips. Glulam has a good track record in the Netherlands. Douglas fir would have to be seasoned for a year before the firm could use it so we have decided to ask for Glulam repairs. Owlsworth IJP also plan to paint all four sails on the ground this season.

The parish council has given £1,000 and we can add £2,000 of our funds. We already have £15,000 promised by grant-giving trusts. We now only have a funding gap of £5,083.00. **Can you help us please?**

Caroline Dalton

Chat on mobile phones. Members alert each other about areas that need a clean-up and people can then organise themselves in groups of two or three as necessary. It's a lonely task tackling this issue as an individual so it is hoped that a community of people willing to support each other in beating the litter blight can improve our local environment. Equipment such as litter-pickers, bags, and hi-viz vests can be made available for members to use.

If you would like to join the LitterCrew WhatsApp group please email Wendy Stanton, Chair, Sustainable Wheatley at sustainablewheatley@gmail.com.

Jane Cotton

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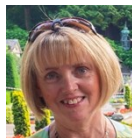
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Janet.lewis@travelcounsellors.com

United Kingdom COVID-19 Entry Restrictions

All remaining COVID travel measures, including the Passenger Locator Form and tests for arrivals, will end at 4am Friday 18th March 2022

Anyone arriving in the UK from this time, will not need to comply with any of the previous rules. This will mean that you will now be able to enter the UK without any restrictions for the first time since the start of the pandemic in spring 2020.

At the moment, only fully vaccinated arrivals can enter the UK without the need for tests. Heathrow Airport have also said that wearing face masks will no longer be a requirement from Wednesday 16th March 2022 to come in line with the government changes.

(All information correct at time of going to press). ALWAYS CHECK THE FCDO BEFORE TRAVELLING.

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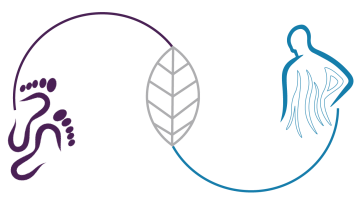
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visit www.horspath.co.uk for details on how to book, costs, events etc.



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Wheatley Parish Council, marked 90 years since the first parish council meeting with a small scale celebration.



Current councillors invited a selection of previous councillors and clerks to share a celebratory cake, memories and to discuss topics that are still on agendas 90 years later.

The parish council was formed on 3rd March 1932 and has been supporting the community ever since.



This was one of many events and activities planned during 2022 to mark the 90th anniversary



HOLTON & WHEATLEY
CRICKET CLUB

Holton & Wheatley Cricket Club

Holton and Wheatley Cricket returns to action in April, with a season of Sunday fixtures booked to the end of September against teams in and around Oxfordshire. The village's only active cricket club has been going since the 1970s but has not had a local ground to play on since the Brookes field closed in 2019. However, last year's arrangement to stage home games at Great Haseley CC was a great success and we look forward to being back there this year, sharing the ground with the local Sunday side. Cherwell League club Tiddington CC also use GHCC as their second ground on Saturdays. This ensures that it is a well-maintained venue as well as a very scenic one just ten minutes' drive from Wheatley. Last year's visitors certainly seemed to enjoy it, with one commenting on their website that they couldn't have asked for a more picturesque setting. Many thanks again in

particular to Chris Groves from Great Haseley and to the hard work of Tiddington groundsman Ray Manning.

As a Sunday friendly team, we welcome new players of all abilities. Our usual format is 35 overs per side or sometimes a timed game, which pleases the traditionalists. We start away at Letcombe Regis on April 24th with the first home game against Haddenham on May 8th. Other highlights included the local derby with Great Milton on July 10th and a planned tour to the Isle of Wight at the start of September.

You can find more information or contact us via our website, www.hawcc.co.uk, or contact Hugh Kitchen on 07788 672864.

Hugh Kitchen

SAVE THE DATE – 16 July 2022

for

Wheatley & Holton Play & Activity Day

Celebrating play and our community!





Delivered by Oxfordshire Play Association and supported by Wheatley Parish Council

Wheatley Parish Council

The Swapshop Returns...

...but with a difference!

After 2 years enforced hibernation the Swapshop is back and planned for Saturday 23rd April.

However, the pandemic means we have to make changes to the way it operates to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Bringing Stuff

We will be in the Merry Bells from 9.00am - 10.15am on the day for you to bring anything you no longer want but think others may be able to use.

Please do NOT bring clothes, shoes, liquids, toiletries, sharp objects or anything broken. Only bring items that can still be used.

Please bring everything to the fire door exit in the alley between the Merry Bells and the Post Office. We will be there to take your stuff.

We will not accept anything after 10.15 in order to limit the numbers in the Hall

Taking Stuff

This time we will not be opening the doors for you to enter until 10.30am so that everything that has been brought in will have been put out on the tables and available to take before the first person enters.

Entry at this time will only be through the front door of The Merry Bells and we will not allow more than 30 people in

the Hall at any time, so once the first 30 are in, it will be a case of one-out-one-in. As usual, exit and weighing (of items taken, not people!) will be through the fire doors.

At no time will entry to the hall be via the fire door – if you wish to re-enter it must be by the front door.

Unlike at previous swapshops we have reluctantly taken the decision not to offer refreshments. This is so that if necessary, we can spread out available items into the annex to make it a little less crowded.

As the sale of refreshments helps our funding, we would appreciate even more than usual any cash donations as you leave.

We are really looking forward to starting up again and we know many of you are too. Please help us to make it run as smoothly and safely as possible.

If you have any questions, please get in touch:

Contact us:

email admin@wheatleycag.org

website www.sustainablewheatley.org

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Merry Bells
19:30
Mon 11th
April 2022**

SAVE THE DATE

Wheatley Park
School is 50
**WPS 50th
Festival Day**
on Saturday July 9th
12 noon 'til 10.00pm.
More info in May

THE SWAPSHOP IS BACK

MERRY BELLS
SATURDAY 23RD APRIL
Bring stuff 09:00-10:15
Take stuff 10:30-12:00

See article on page 29
for full details.

Wheatley Society

**Age UK and Good
Neighbour
Scheme**

Merry Bells
Tuesday 5th April
14:30

Wheatley Society

**Alyn Shipton's
Jazz Evening**

Merry Bells
Friday 22nd April
19:45 for 20:00

Wheatley Society

**Palestine through
10 Photos**

Merry Bells
Thursday 12th May
19:45 for 20:00

Wheatley Productions
presents:

The Pied Piper

Sat 28th May 2.30pm
Sat 28th May 7.30pm
Sun 29th May 2.30pm
Wheatley Primary Hall

Tickets:
01865 872006 or email
wheatleyprods@gmail.com

Jazz at the Manor 2
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Fri 24th June 8pm

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**Wheatley
Wine Circle**
URC Hall
1st Thursday
in Month
19:30

**Royal British
Legion**
Open Meeting
New Club
Thu 21st April
12:00

**The Merry Bells
AGM**

Merry Bells
Thu 5th May 19:00

All Wheatley residents
eligible to attend, stand
for election, and vote

**New committee
members wanted**

Wheatley Village
Produce Association

**Every Picture
Tells a Story**

Peter Preece
Merry Bells

Tue 12th April 19:30
wheatleyvpa@gmail.com

Wheatley Village
Produce Association
**The British Cacti
& Succulent
Society**

Bill Darbon
Merry Bells
Tue 10th May 19:30
wheatleyvpa@gmail.com

Wheatley Village
Produce Association

**Coach Trip to
RHS Wisley**

Saturday 21st May

More information:
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**WHEATLEY VILLAGE
ARCHIVE**

Thursdays 2pm-5pm
Room 1 (upstairs)
Merry Bells
Last Saturday of each
month
10am-12 noon
Have you been to find
out about your village.
Do come soon!

Wheatley Singers
Meeting every Tuesday
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We'd love you to join
us as we prepare for a
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November.
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WHEATLEY CRICKET
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Day by Day

MONDAY

Wheatley Oaks FC | Holton Playing Fields | 19:00-20:00 | Women 30+ | hello@coachemma.co.uk

Mindfulness Sitting Group | URC | via Zoom | 08:50-09:40 | 01865 876288 | tomgoss09@gmail.com

Not So Young Club | URC Hall | Fortnightly exc. B/H | 14:00-16:00 | albarjoiner@btinternet.com

Friends of Wheatley Library Fibre Group | 1st & 3rd in month | 14:00-16:00

Friends of Wheatley Library Knit & Natter Group | 2nd & 4th in month | 14:00-16:00

Friends of Wheatley Library Art Group | 16:30-18:30

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

Sweaty Mama (Mum & baby fitness) | Merry Bells | 09:45-11:00 | courtney.leonard@hotmail.co.uk

Messy Mondays | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30 | bit.ly/mapletreeeb

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 | 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

Story and Rhyme Time | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30 | bit.ly/mapletreeeb

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

WEDNESDAY

Maple Babies | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00 & 13:00, one hour each | bit.ly/maplefreeeb

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 | 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

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

Gathering & Short Prayers | URC | Via Zoom | 10:30/18:00 alternating | minister@wheatleyurc.org.uk

Football Fitness | Tiger's Retreat, Garsington | 19:00-20:00 | yohannadam@yahoo.co.uk | Age 30+

St Mary's Church | 01865 872224 | vicar.wheatley@gmail.com

- Holy Communion | 12:00 | Must pre-book

THURSDAY

Mindfulness Sitting Group | URC | via Zoom | 08:50-09:40 | 01865 876288 | 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 Wine Circle | New Club | 1st Thursday in month | 19:30

Little Explorers | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30 | bit.ly/maplefreeeb

Twinnies! | Stay & Play for twins | Maple Tree Centre | 14:00-15:30 | bit.ly/maplefreeeb

Maple Tree at Forest Hill | Forest Hill Village Hall | 11:00-12:00 | laura@mapletree.org.uk

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

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

Pilates | Merry Bells | 09:45-10:45

Yoga | Merry Bells | 19:30-20:30

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

Coffee Morning w/ Wheatley Primary Sch. | Maple Tree Centre | 08:45-09:45 | Drop-in

Social Butterflies | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30 | Drop-in

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

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

SATURDAY

Wheatley Library | Open 09:30-13:00

Ballet Class | Merry Bells | 10:00-11:00

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

Family Fun | Maple Tree Centre | 3rd Saturday in month | 10:00-11:30 | bit.ly/mapletreeeb

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

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church | 01865 762433 | corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

- Vigil Mass | Our Lady of Lourdes, Crown Rd. | 18:00

SUNDAY

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

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

St Mary's Church | 01865 872224 | vicar.wheatley@gmail.com

- Holy Communion | 08:00
- Parish Praise | 1st Sunday in month | 10:00
- Sung Eucharist | 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday in month | 10:00
- Food Bank Sunday | 4th Sunday in month | 10:00 | Please bring a donation for the Food Bank

United Reformed Church | 01865 876288 | secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk

- Holy Communion | 1st & 3rd Sunday in month | 10:00
- Food Bank Sunday | 1st Sunday in month | 10:00
- Afternoon tea | 1st Sunday in month | 14:30-16:30

Wheatley Community Church | office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

- Wheatley Primary School | 10:30



THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY

Parish Newsletter
April / May 2022

Our AGM on March 17th saw the effective “relaunching” of the Wheatley Society. Between looking at an exhibition of some previously unseen photographs of Wheatley collected in the 1950’s, which have made their way back to Wheatley Archives, and hearing about the plans of the Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society to ensure the maintenance and operation of this local landmark the Programme for the year 2022-2023 was presented.

The Windmill Preservation Society is raising funds for the repair of three of the sails of this landmark (built in the mid 1700’s) after last year’s tornado. If you wish to contribute you can do so via app.investmycommunity.com/fundraise/wheatley-windmill-preservation-society-2836



For our programme we have organised a series of events ranging from talks by local experts on a wide range of issues and visits to places of interest not usually visited to very popular social evenings. In addition, Wheatley Society has always been keenly interested in local civic affairs and our programme continue this theme. We will continue to combine efforts with other entities including the Maple Tree Nursery, Sustainable Wheatley, Wheatley Village Produce Association and Wheatley Village Archive and History Group.

More specifically in April and May events include a joint presentation by Age UK and Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme on Tuesday 5th April, at 2.30 in the Merry Bells. Come and find out about all the support and services these two entities can assist you with.

Then on Friday April 22nd, 7.45 for 8.00 in the Merry Bells, Alyn Shipton’s Jazz Evening will provide insights into the world of jazz musicians and their music. On Thursday 12th 7.45 for 8.00 in the Merry Bells Roger Hardy will take us on a journey through the complex history of Palestine 1850-1948 by means of “10 Photographs”.

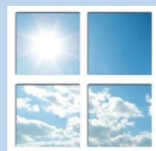
Two other dates for your diary are Saturday 2nd April and 7th May when the So Sustainable Pop-Up shop supported by Sustainable Wheatley will be held between 9.30 and 12.30.

Watch out for posters giving more information on all these events.

The Wheatley Society Committee

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Wheatley Productions: The Pied Piper

The Pied Piper is coming to Wheatley!

Wheatley Productions presents **The Pied Piper**, a play by David Wood based on the well-known traditional tale. Come and meet the people of Hamelin town as they tackle a plague of rats and the arrival of a mysterious stranger... Performances are Saturday 28th May at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and Sunday 29th May at 2.30pm.

For tickets call 01865 872006 or email wheatleyprods@gmail.com

Despite the cold weather and Covid restrictions 26 members and two visitors attended our January meeting. The talk entitled "Women of Oxford" was given by Jane Dickinson who is a teacher and part-time tour guide in Oxford.

We all know that many famous women have studied at Oxford University. Scientists like Ethel Florey who supervised the clinical trials of penicillin and Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, the only woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize. Many politicians and literary genius's all attended Oxford University. One of the most interesting for our members was Olive Gibbs who died in 1995. She was a Labour politician and peace campaigner who was deeply committed to Oxford and the local area throughout her life. Another lady of interest to us was Grace Hadow who, when the National Federation of Women's Institutes was formed, was elected as vice-chairman to Lady Denman when she became the first chairman from 1917-1946

Unfortunately there was a change of programme in February but we were pleased to welcome Russell Cherry who, at the last moment, came to our rescue. Russell gave an account of a walk he and his wife undertook in the spring of 1997 when they walked the Thames Path (in stages) from its source to the Thames Barrier in Greenwich, 184 miles in total.

The source of the River Thames is at Trewsbury Mead, sometimes known as Thames Head, and is a group of seasonal springs that arise near the village of Coates about three miles from Cirencester. It used to be marked with a statue of Old Father Thames but he had to be moved to a safer

location and now resides at St John's lock near Lechlade. He has been replaced by an engraved stone marker. Russell's talk was illustrated with excellent slides of the beautiful villages and countryside they passed through.. He spoke of the history of the places as well as ancient bridges, locks and ferries. He ended the talk at Iffley but hopefully we will be able to invite him back to visit the Thames again as it continues from Oxford to the Thames Barrier.

W.I. History Snippets 1922

The talk at the April meeting 1922 was on books and the lives and styles of various authors. This was most fitting as during March the resolution put forward by the 55 villages in the Oxfordshire Federation was: "To respectfully urge the County Council to adopt the Public Libraries Act and to put into operation, without delay, a scheme for the provision of Rural Libraries." Fortunately we still have our library in Wheatley. The talk in May was another on the work carried out by the British Women's Temperance Association. I wonder how popular that was! At the close of the meeting members packed and labelled the exhibits for the Oxford exhibition being held later in the month. This proved to be a very successful venture as we gained five first prizes, five second prizes and two "Highly Commended".

Our April talk will be on Hearing Dogs and in May we are hoping to celebrate the jubilee.

Visitors are always welcome. A suggested donation of £2 is requested.

Stephanie Brooklyn

YOUR Wheatley Village Archive

Since the last issue the Village Archive has been given many photos of Wheatley and its residents taken in 1950s which are displayed on several boards and acquired at an auction in Swindon by a family in Holton! They have now been scanned and over 50 new images of the village and its residents added to our constantly growing website. Any photos and information of the village that you may have would also be most welcome. There must yet be more information out there in lofts, auctions or even in cases under a bed! Contact michael@wheatleyarchive.org.uk if you have anything to add. Do remember to keep investigating our website for new additions www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk.

Work has also been finalised on another publication entitled "Wheatley 1890-1910" which has brought together reminiscences that were collected on cassette tapes (remember those?) and transcribed, also in the 1950s. The fully illustrated book, in A5 format, will be on sale for £7.00 in the Archive, outside the Merry Bells on Saturday mornings and elsewhere in the village. We are amazed at the activity that seems to have taken place in the 50s on the local history front and we wonder who the driving force behind these endeavours was, as there appears to have been an active archive decades before the launch of the current Wheatley Village Archive in 2003.



One photo shows the village cricket team, with an intriguing background, from 1907 with several familiar village names – Shepherd, Tombs, Munt, Gould and Sheldon. Another photo shows haymaking in the orchard of Rectory Farm from 1916 (now part of Beech Road).



An advance date for your diary is the next talk (in conjunction with the Wheatley Society) to which all are invited at the Merry Bells on 19th September at 8pm entitled "Scandal in High Society Oxfordshire: selected Tales of Toffs in Trouble" a talk by Julie Ann Godson.

Steph Cox

Wheatley Library | 01865 875267



It is free to join and use the library!

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Tuesday: 2-7pm

Wednesday 9.30-1pm and 2-5pm

Thursday 2-5pm

Friday 9.30-1pm and 2-6pm

Saturday 9.30-1pm

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- email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.”

Andrew Carnegie

Best wishes,

Wendy Stanton

The library is located on the upper level of the Merry Bells Village Hall in Wheatley High Street.

Wendy Stanton | Library Manager

The Shotover School 1950-1972

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Do come for an afternoon of memories, reminiscences and friendships in the
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Saturday, 23rd April

2.00pm - 4.30pm

Talk on the history of the school and Fred Anson’s logbook by Kevin Heritage
@ 15:30

Supported by The Wheatley Society and Wheatley Village Archive

Kevin Heritage

WHEATLEY REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

Events in Ukraine have dominated the news since the end of February. Now the refugee crisis is spreading across Europe. So, what can we do as individuals and as a community to help?

Money: Many organisations including Oxfam, UNICEF, Christian Aid, CAFOD, the Red Cross and others have said that money is the most useful donation. Details are on their websites.

Essential Goods: A number of groups have been collecting certain goods such as first aid supplies, toiletries, and nappies, to ship to Europe where the need is desperate. The easiest way to find local collection points and current priorities is by searching online.

Accommodation: WRSg is working with the Parish Council and Wheatley Good Neighbours so as to support local hosts and Ukrainian guests with information and with signposting to expert advice.

On 19th February, Global Aid International Network (GAIN) once again supported us by taking 70 boxes of essential goods for refugees in Greece, Bosnia, and Serbia. We were also able to support Asylum Welcome (www.asylum-welcome.org) in Oxford with 12 boxes of food.

We are working with Sanctuary Hosting (sanctuaryhosting.org) a hosting scheme providing temporary accommodation for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants at risk of homelessness in Oxfordshire by matching them with volunteer hosts who offer a free bed and a warm welcome.

For the latest information please register for regular email updates at wheatleyrefugeegroup@gmail.com or go to WRSg Facebook page.

Peter Bayliss

Do you have a spare single or twin room?

Thinking of hosting international students?

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WHEATLEY CARE SCHEME

Wheatley Care have a number of positions that we need help filling:

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- Take and distribute minutes for 1-2 hour meetings four times per year.
- Communicate updates/requests to drivers and deal with all other correspondence.

VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBER

- Help manage booking requests and driver allocations (c. 30 per month)
- Requires good communication and scheduling skills

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

- Transport local residents to medical appointments
- You will be reimbursed for your petrol costs

If you feel you can help us with any of these positions, please contact:

Kath Lamont—01865 876609

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Fritillary Season throughout April

See the county flower of Oxfordshire in all its native splendour as it flowers throughout April in our wildflower meadow and riverside walk. Normal garden entrance fee applies.

Gnometastic 28th May – 5th June

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Hello from The Maple Tree!

Spring is in the air finally! The daffodils are in full bloom and it was lovely to see everyone at Daffodil Day at Shotover House – thank you for supporting us!

We have something for young children and their families to do every weekday and once a month on a Saturday! Check out our website or Facebook page as it changes slightly from term to term. And did you know that we are now on Instagram too? Follow us [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

Monday: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am (drop in) and Bonding with Baby run by Babies First

Tuesday: Story and Rhyme Time at 10:00-11:30am, Baby Massage at 10:30-12:00 and Cruisers and Crawlers at 1:00-2:00pm

Wednesday: Cruisers and Crawlers at 10:30-11:30am and Maple Babies at 1:00-2:00pm

Thursday: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-3:30pm

Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am (drop in)

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am 3rd Saturday in month

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm (drop in)

Our sessions are bookable through Eventbrite; bit.ly/mapletreeeb. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 per family per session.

Have you thought about becoming a trustee?

Do you have extra time and experience in grant-writing, accountancy, maintenance, fundraising, teaching or early years? We would love some extra help and have something for people with all sorts of life experience.

Save the Date: The Maple Tree Magic Show on Saturday 2nd July!

Check out our Website and Facebook pages for our special events, our popular First Aid classes and helpful information!

We are here to help young families , if you need help, advice or support:

01865 236700 or 07849 466249

info@mapletree.org.uk

www.mapletree.org.uk

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Session Bookings: bit.ly/mapletreeeb

Laura Spencer | Centre Manager



Morland House Surgery

COVID-19 Spring Booster Vaccine - Update

People aged 75 years and older, residents of care homes for older people, and those with weakened immune systems will be offered a spring booster of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. The surgery will be in touch with how and when to book an appointment just as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

Until then, anyone aged 12 and over should ensure that they have the full course of vaccines available to them. For more information, please visit

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination

NHS App

If you own a smartphone, we strongly recommend you download the NHS App. To use it you must be aged 13 or over and registered with a GP Surgery in England. To find out more please visit

www.nhs.uk/nhs-app. Use the NHS App to:

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- Get advice about coronavirus
- Order repeat prescriptions
- Book appointments
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Collecting Repeat Prescriptions from Wheatley Pharmacy

Several of our patients are now collecting their repeat medication from Wheatley Pharmacy. You too can do the same. Order your repeat medication as you would normally and just let one of the dispensing team know that you wish to collect from the Pharmacy. Turnaround time for medication dispensing at the Pharmacy is currently three days from submission of your repeat medication request. You do not need to wait for a text message to confirm your medication is ready before going to collect.

Visit Morland House Website:

For up-to-date information about our services, the COVID-19 vaccine, and opening hours, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk.

Community Larder Update

We have been working hard to prepare for the opening of the Wheatley Community larder which we hope will be held in St Mary's church on a Thursday afternoon.

A community larder is a membership programme that provides surplus food from wholesalers and supermarkets. Anyone who wants to prevent food waste and save money can join.

There is an annual joining fee of £10 a year and then a small charge of £3.50 a week for an individual membership and £7 a week for a family. This provides up to 10 items of non-perishables (pasta, tins, biscuits etc) plus free fruit and vegetables. A family membership can take 20 items of non-perishables plus free fruit and vegetables.

We had hoped to launch in April, but we have experienced some delays in the supply chain. While we wait for this to be resolved we are keen to hear from anyone who would like to help on a Thursday afternoon.

For more details about volunteering please contact one of the following:

Penny Willmott: 01865 452057 | penny.willmott1@ntlworld.com

Val Farmer: 01865 872284 | valfarmer40@hotmail.com

Jane Fanning: 01865 874844 | jipfanning@gmail.com

Michelle Legg Parish Clerk: 01865 875615 | clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Penny Willmott



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Council

We are delighted to announce that the summer term heralds a very significant and exciting change for our school – we will formally be merging with Wheatley Pre-school (the pre-school at the back of our site, and not the Wheatley Nursery at the front by John Watson). This means that the school will be offering provision and support to families right from the start of their entry into education, looking after and nurturing their children from as young as 2 years old through to preparing children to move on from us at 11 years old. We are looking forward to welcoming new families and the members of staff who will be joining us as a result of the merger.

School life is gradually returning to normal after the disruptions of the past 2 years. For example, our year 6 children have had the opportunity to go on their residential trip to an outdoor activities centre in Shropshire, which is an important opportunity to enrich their development and develop some

confidence and independence. We have relaxed most of the provisions we had in place for the pandemic whilst remaining vigilant.

We are looking forward to what will hopefully be the first school summer fete for several years. It is being organised and run by the PTA and provisionally planned to take place in June. Any help would be much appreciated – do email the PTA (wheatleyceprimarypta@gmail.com) or contact the school.

Finally, we continue to work with ODST (the trust which we are part of) and the Parish Council on issues such as parking and traffic. There are no easy solutions and the safety of our children is paramount. We hope to be able to start making improvements this year, assuming that funding can be found. We will continue to use this column to keep you updated.

Sarah Marioni | Chair, Resources Cmte

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Forest school is running for children between the ages 2-11 years.

All Stars Club Hours 8.00-9.00am and Monday-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. Every day we aim to provide a choice of activities in an attempt to cater for the differing wants and needs of children at the Nursery and neighbouring primary School.

Please contact us on 01865 876750 or email us at staff@horspathnursery.org.uk

Visit our website for more information 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."



WHEATLEY NURSERY SCHOOL



Littleworth Road Wheatley Oxford OX33 1NN Tel: (01865) 452725

E-mail: wheatleynurseryschool@johnwatsonschool.org

"Strong, enthusiastic support sees pupils thrive at Wheatley Nursery School."
Ofsted Rating 2018 - Good:

Qualified Teachers and Early Years support Workers.

- Funded 15 and 30 hours FREE for eligible 2-5 year olds
- Wraparound Care for 2-5 yr olds from 8am-6pm.
- Holiday Clubs

Childcare vouchers accepted

Please visit our website for more information: www.wheatleynurseryschool.org or follow us on facebook.

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Wheatley Playing Field Trust

News from The Trust

Covid continues to affect community sport, mainly through fixture cancellations, but use of the fields for training and matches is still very high.

The recent storms caused damage to a number of trees and the 4-metre-high fencing along the north east boundary of the playing field.

The Trust will be carrying out pitch maintenance and improvement during the Easter holidays. This includes reseeding the floodlit training pitch. We would ask everyone to keep off this pitch.

As with previous years, the tennis courts will be available for use by residents of Holton and Wheatley. They will be available for community use outside school hours. We would ask that users complete the form on the Trust website to let us monitor numbers and to accept the terms of conditions for use.

Wheatley Playing Field Trust is engaging with the National Governing Bodies of sport with regards to seeking funding for the new pavilion at Holton. This project is to replace the bottom pavilion which is now near end of life.

There are some events taking place on the playing field this Spring and Summer. The dates are as follows:

- Netball holiday camp 14th April,
- Wheatley FC 5-a-side tournament 21st May,
- Wheatley Oaks women's football festival 25th June,
- Wheatley Play Day 16th July

Also, Wheatley Youth Cricket Club hope to run further All Stars sessions again this summer.

The Trust would like to remind all users of the playing field to please park in 6th form car park and not on grass verges in front of WPS. Following a number of complaints, SODC parking enforcement are monitoring this.

If there is anyone in the community who is thinking about playing netball, football or rugby or just wants to improve their fitness, please contact the clubs directly or use the Trust contact details below.

Do get in touch at:

enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk
www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk

Paul Willmott | Chairman

Our Lady of Lourdes

01865 762433 | corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Pope Francis calls on us to waste time

Our weekly newsletter at Our Lady of Lourdes often includes an insightful message from Pope Francis, never more apposite than during Lent. In his Lenten message, Pope Francis spoke of Lent as a favourable time:

- to seek out those in need, not to avoid them;
- to reach out to those who need a sympathetic ear, not to ignore them;
- to visit those who are lonely, not to abandon them.

He called on the people of God to put into practice our call to do good to all - and rarely has the need been greater in our fractured world.

Criticising the “obsession with speed” in many modern societies, a culture in which time is money, Pope Francis recommended Lent as a period for “wasting time” with children and the elderly.

“Do you know how to waste time, or are you always in a hurry?” he asked. Do you know how to waste time with grandparents, with the elderly? Do you know how to spend time playing with your children? This is not a waste of time at all but is fundamental for society and strengthens the human family”. The arrogance of the clock should be converted into the beauty of the rhythms of life, he said.

“This is the reform we must make in our hearts, in the family, and in society; think about it.”

Our weekly Mass at OLL is on Saturdays at 6pm but on Easter Sunday, Mass will be at 10am on Easter morning. Otherwise, the Church is open for private prayer throughout the week – if you have not visited before why not come along and waste some time with the Lord. All are welcome.

John Guy

St Mary's Church

01865 872224 | vicar.wheatley@

From the Vicar

Happy Easter!

As I write we are in the middle of Lent, making our preparations for Easter Day, the day on which Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. For many people – those of faith, and those with none – the whole idea of the resurrection can be unbelievable, and for all of us I am sure that it remains a mystery which we can either accept through faith or that we struggle with.

The fact that we still debate the resurrection, 2000 years on, is a strong argument for its truth. Over all that time the Christian faith has persisted and grown both despite and because of the claim for the resurrection. The first disciples, witnesses to those events, are sometimes made out to be liars or misguided, but many of them faced

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persecution and death for their beliefs and I find it hard to believe that anyone would willingly go to their death for a lie.

Through the resurrection Jesus shows that the power of God's love is greater than any power over us, so that in life and in death we can know the awesome scope of God's love. The resurrection, which seems impossible, makes possible our liberation from all that holds us back from being truly ourselves – human beings made in the image of God.

Whatever you are doing this Easter, may you be richly blessed and may you know God's love in your hearts.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Rev'd Nigel Hawkes

Wheatley United Reformed Church

01865 876288 | secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk

News from URC

Memory Cafe

March saw the return of the monthly Memory Café. This is a group for people living with dementia, their carers, and some volunteers. It was wonderful to be able to restart the group and enjoy activities including, singing, puzzles, painting, and a great deal of conversation. Also the all-important coffee and biscuits.

The group meets on the second Thursday of the month from 10.00am until 12.30pm and is free to attend. If you know anyone who could benefit from such a gathering, then please contact Laurence Devlin on 07713 158813.

Sunday Teas

Also restarting in March was the monthly Sunday Tea. This lovely social event is held on the first Sunday of the month from 2.30pm until 4.00pm so do try and join us for the next one on 1st April.

Christian Aid Week

This year it will be 15th – 21st May with a focus on Climate Change and Care for the Planet.

Sunday Services

It's great to report that there is no longer a booking system for attendance to our weekly 10.00am Sunday church services. In line with Government guidance there is also no need to wear a mask. Some people may wish to still take extra precautions and that is, of course, fine. Coffee and biscuits are served after the service. Services can still be joined via Zoom.

If you wish to join in this way, please contact Phyllis Williams secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk.

Debi Kidd

St Mary's Churchyard – Plans for its Upkeep

The churchyard around St Mary's church has provided burial space for the parish for nearly 200 years. It is a place of tranquility for the village where many folks come to reflect or to honour their dead. The maintenance of the churchyard has been the responsibility of St Mary's church, and for many years a faithful band of volunteers have cut the grass week by week, ensuring that the churchyard is neat and tidy, as far as they are able.

In recent years the churchyard has reached its capacity for new graves and we have closed to new full burials, though we are still able to take ashes for burial. The closure of the churchyard has brought us to consider how we can best maintain it as a quiet space in the heart of the village for generations to come, and in partnership with the Parish

Council we are working towards a Management Plan.

As a part of this process we hope to make the job of mowing the grass easier, as at present there are many obstacles to the mowers which make it necessary for them to use strimmers much of the time. This is much more difficult and time-consuming.

Over the coming months we want to work with the families of those who are buried in the churchyard to move towards a new understanding of how the churchyard should look. As we do this we will have to be mindful of the Churchyard Regulations, published by the Diocese of Oxford, which regulate all aspects of churchyard use.

Please look out for more information, and please feel free to contact me if you want to know more.

Revd Nigel Hawkes



REVIVAL at St Mary's **JUBILEE CEILIDH**

with Mouse and Trousers

Saturday 4th June 7:00pm for 7.30pm start

St Mary's, Church Road

Tickets: £12 Cash Bar & Snacks

For tickets ring 01865 873737 or see website

www.revivalatstmarys.org



REVIVAL at St Mary's

Goodbye to the Long Pews

February 2022 saw the first steps towards reordering of the Church, in line with our Revival Project. Nearly twenty of the long pews were distributed to members of the village – leaving the shorter ones ranged in the nave. General opinion about the new layout seems to have been very favourable.

Meanwhile, meetings with architects and consultants are taking place, together with grant applications. The best guess for an actual start date for building is April 2023.



SPRINGTIME EVENTS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH in aid of The Revival at St Mary's

Sunday 22nd May – 4.00 pm | A Concert of Choral Music by Angelorum

No tickets – Donations to The Revival

Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th May | An Exhibition of Paintings and Mosaics

by Michael Worthington and Becky Paton

Saturday 4th June. 7.00 for 7.30 pm | A Ceilidh for the Jubilee

With Mouse and Trousers. Cash Bar and Snacks.

Tickets: £12.00 from 01865 873737 or via the website: revivalatstmarys.org

For more information about the Revival Project and ways to support it, visit to our website:
www.revivalatstmarys.org.

The Revival Team



The Merry Bells Village Hall

The AGM of The Merry Bells Management Committee will take place on Thursday 5th May at 7.00pm in the Main Hall

The AGM is a formal opportunity for any resident to raise issues about The Merry Bells, which can also be done informally at any time by email:

info@merrybells.org.uk.

The Committee manages the building, forecourt and car park for the benefit of everyone in the village.

As there has recently been much discussion about parking in Wheatley, we thought it worthwhile explaining how The Merry Bells car park operates. It is there primarily for users of The Merry Bells (and of course any resident of Wheatley is extremely welcome to hire either of the 2 rooms in the Merry Bells) and secondarily for short-term users of the shops and facilities in the village, including the Library. We believe that the variety of shops and facilities in the village benefits all residents and we want to help make them continue to be

sustainable by restricting parking to less than 2 hours and so enabling more customers to use the spaces.

At the AGM, 5 local residents are elected on to the Committee. We will have vacancies and would very much welcome anybody new. If anyone is interested in joining us, then please either email or get in touch with any of the Committee members (whose names are displayed on the notice board outside the building) before the AGM or come along on the day.

As well as the elected members, the Committee also has representatives of various user groups and can additionally co-opt a further 2 members.

All residents of Wheatley are entitled to attend and vote at the AGM and we look forward to seeing you there.

To book The Merry Bells please either go to our website www.merrybells.org.uk and click on the booking tab, or contact info@merrybells.org.uk, or phone 01865 872073.

Tim Blightman

SODC Waste Collections — April & May 2022

| Collection day is Monday unless * (B. Hol) | Which bins and other items? |
|--|---|
| Apr 4th & *19th May *3rd, 16th & 30th | Green, brown, food & oil waste, textiles |
| Apr 11th & 25th May 9th & 23rd | Grey, food & oil waste, small electricals |

Key Contacts

Local Governance:

Oxfordshire County Council | 01865 792422 | oxfordshire.gov.uk
County Councillor Tim Bearder | 07789 754727 | tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor Alexandrine Kantor | 07581 745221 | alexandrine.kantor@southoxon.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire DC | 01235 422422 | southoxon.gov.uk
Planning Applications | 01235 422600 | planning@southoxon.gov.uk
Wheatley Parish Council | 01865 875615 | clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local information:

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 | laura@mapletree.org.uk
The Merry Bells Village Hall | 01865 872073 | merrybells.org.uk
Howe Trust Allotment Assoc. | Secretary | Taff Morgan-Jones | 01865 874413
Wheatley Library | 01865 875267 | wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Wheatley Park Sports Centre | 01865 872128 | better.org.uk/venues/park
Wheatley Park School | 01865 872441 | wheatleypark.org
Wheatley Primary School | 01865 872366 | wheatley.oxon.sch.uk

Services:

Police non-emergency | 101 | www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire | 03444 111 444 | caox.org.uk
To report potholes, fly-tipping, broken paving, vandalism, etc. | fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service | 08452 262636 | fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways | 0845 310 1111 | highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection | 03000 610610 | admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection | 01235 422406 | waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
Housing | 01235 422422 | housing@southandvale.gov.uk
GP Surgery, Morland House | 01865 872448 | morland-house.co.uk
NHS Out of Hours Service | 111 | 111.nhs.uk
Gas Emergency | 0800 111 999 | nationalgrid.com/group/safety-and-emergencies
National Power Cut Helpline | 105 | ssen.co.uk
Burst pipe or leak | 0800 714 614 | thameswater.co.uk
Floodline | 0345 988 1188 | gov.uk/check-flood-risk

Transport:

Oxfordshire Comet | 01865 323201 | oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
Wheatley Care Scheme (transport to hospital or GP surgery) | 07505 543750
Arriva (280) Bus | 0344 800 4411 | arrivabus.co.uk
Oxford Bus Co. (U1 & London) | 01865 785400 | brookesbus.oxfordbus.co.uk
National Rail Enquiries | 03457 484950 | nationalrail.co.uk

WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MONDAY 11TH APRIL FROM 7PM



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

MONDAY 11TH APRIL 2022 FROM 7PM

IN THE MAIN HALL OF THE MERRY BELLS

Open to the whole community and your opportunity to find out
about village projects and to raise questions

Displays on High St Parking Enforcement, Youth Projects,
Community Fridge, Parish Council Archives, Traffic & Parking
and Plans to Rebuild Sports Pavilion

Reviews from Parish Council, District and County Councillors
plus a residents Q&A

Wheatley Parish Council, 89 High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1XP

T: 01865 875615 E: clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

W: www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk