

WHEATLEY NEWS

Published by Wheatley Parish Council



Wheatley WI Centenary Banner - Created in multi-media by WI Craft Club

Civility and Respect - Page 18
Celebrating Volunteers - Page 29
Wheatley Warm Spaces - Page 63

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 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 for further details and to download a booking form.

Meetings & Dates

Oxford Brookes Public Planning Meeting

Merry Bells, 5th December, 18:30-19:30

Parish Council

Merry Bells, 19:30

5th December

9th January

Planning Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30

14th December

11th January

Finance Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30

19th December

Open Spaces Cmte.

Parish Office, 19:30

16th January

Parish Surgery

Parish Office

09:30 - 11:30

Every Wed & Sat

District Cllr Surgery

Parish Office 10:30

2nd Saturday in each month

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

5th January 2023 9.30am-3.30pm

Church Road will be closed in both directions for pole replacement work.

Friday Lane to London Road will be **access only**.

WHEATLEY NEWS

Publisher

Wheatley Parish Council
The Parish Office
The Merry Bells
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Distributor

This newsletter is kindly distributed to all addresses in Wheatley and Holton by a team of volunteers, organised by the Parish Office.

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 I sat and wrote this on Remembrance Day morning, paused to reflect the selfless acts of bravery in two global conflicts, subsequent wars, and the fight for freedom by the Ukrainians, which sadly is having global consequences. Our digital age makes the photographic evidence of brutality an everyday occurrence and the danger is that we all become desensitized to suffering and the troubles of others. As we approach the Christmas holidays, we must all make an effort to be kinder towards and our friends and neighbours. Being nice costs nothing but is tremendously valuable.

I would like to thank Gareth Morris for organising the British Legion collections this year, it is incredibly important to those who are in receipt of their support.

During the last period, your Parish Council have continued to address parking issues in the village through Cllr Ramsdale's chairmanship of the Traffic Working Group. I understand that OCC are not going to address our High Street parking issues for another 18 months, which is disappointing as we have given them our data, but we will continue to work on it and try to improve things.

All of us on WPC have undertaken to complete training in Civility and Respect this autumn. As a councillor, we adhere to the 'Nolan Principles' which are the basis of ethical standards of Public Life, but your council have gone a step further and signed up to the Civility & Respect Pledge which is a project overseen by the National Association of Local Councils to call out bullying, harassment and intimidation in local government.

We hosted the Village Volunteer Awards in October to acknowledge the contributions made by people in their own time to improve the lives of others in our community. It was a really good event, one which we will continue to do annually, and we look to our community members to nominate deserving recipients when we launch next year's event in May 23. I do make a plea – we have a Young Persons Award, for which we had no nominations last year. Please can local organisations take a look at their young people and recognise their inputs into our community. It means a lot to the recipients.

Finally, I invited some members of an organisation called Summix down to talk to a group of councillors about the proposed 'Harrington' New Market Town. The proposal is for a new development on land near Milton Common, the Haseleys and Tetsworth and is seeking to provide 6500 homes with green spaces, shops, schools, medical facilities, and transport links. It is early days but both myself and the Vice Chair Toby Newman thought it important to be briefed by the Project Team to understand the impact on our village. It also gives us the opportunity to influence on behalf of rural communities. The meeting went well, and we will stay in touch to ensure Wheatley and the surrounding area is part of the developers thinking.

I hope you all have a merry and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alison Sercombe

Clerk's Column

I start this month by saying thank you to...

Lucy Collinson for delivering another fabulous Christmas Fair. The event would not be what it is without your time and effort in organising the event that is supported by so many of the community, who in turn support local businesses and organisations and enjoy the company of friends, family, and neighbours.

I would also like to thank all our volunteer newsletter deliverers, who kindly hand deliver copies of the newsletter to each property in Wheatley and Holton. We really appreciate your commitment in helping to share local news.

My final thank you is to Ricky Cherry, who recently left the employment of the parish council. Thank you for being an integral part of our small team and for keeping Wheatley clean and tidy. We all wish you luck for the future.

We are currently seeking a new Grounds Maintenance Operative. If you are interested in the part time role (16 hours a week), please contact us to discuss the opportunity and to grab an application pack. In September the majority of your councillors met at their bi-annual development day, to discuss current village issues and new opportunities in the village, as well as developing their collaboration skills. This time together has helped the council review its Strategic Plan and Action

Plan for 2023 and beyond. This will be finalised and shared in the New Year.

At our November meeting we accepted and approved the documentation for the Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Review and have submitted these to SODC. We await to hear more about any future consultation or referendums that may follow in the coming months.

At the same meeting the council reviewed the draft budget for 2023-24, looking at its own increased costs and proposed projects for the coming years, whilst aware of increasing financial pressures for many residents. It acknowledged that it would have difficult decisions to make in December, when it agrees its final budget and the precept (the small element of the council tax that goes to the parish council.) This discussion will take place at our monthly meeting on Monday 5th December. These meetings are held in public, and you are welcome to attend to hear what is discussed and agreed.

Please note that the parish office will be closed over the festive period (see below). If you need to contact us, please email, or leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Finally, all the staff at the parish council wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Michelle Legg

Parish Council Office Festive Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from
Friday 23rd December until Tuesday 3rd January
2023

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
OPERATIVE JOB VACANCY (16HRS)

VACANCY FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE

from £10.77 p/h,* working in the village of Wheatley, Oxfordshire.
16hrs a week, working 5 days in 7 including weekends. Flexible working is available. The role includes:

- Grounds Maintenance of open spaces including play areas
- Maintenance of council property
- Seasonal tasks

Candidates should have relevant experience and qualifications /training in horticulture and/or grounds maintenance or be in a position to complete appropriate training. A valid driving licence and own car is essential.

*pay award pending Apr 2023

Application packs are available from:

www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk, calling 01865 875615 or emailing clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Deadline for applications is 4pm on Friday 16th December.

Interviews will take place between 4th and 5th of January.

Traffic Hints #2 - Parking on Pavements

In the last newsletter we provided some information about parking on pavements, when it is illegal and the risks thoughtless parking presents to pedestrians and other road users. In this newsletter we use some examples of parking around the village to highlight the risks.



Here a car and a van have parked in the High Street on double yellow lines, completely obstructing the footpaths for pedestrians, buggies and mobility scooters. The only way past is to step into the road. However the van is obscuring the view for other drivers and therefore doing so is dangerous.

PLEASE, if you are parking in the high street use the designated spaces or the Merry Bells or King & Queen carparks. (Please be aware that the Merry Bells has a 2 hour limit and the King & Queen car park 4 hours during the day).

Here a car is parked by the sharp corner in Ambrose Rise. It is obstructing the pavement so buggies and mobility scooters can only get past by going into the road. However, this is very dangerous because of the blind bend. The car is also parked within 10 meters a junction which could obstruct the vision of drivers coming out of the side road.



Meanwhile, on the other side of the road, a car is parked completely blocking the pavement on a blind bend.



If you are parking your car on a pavement, PLEASE ensure that you leave plenty of room for pedestrians, buggies and scooters to pass

and that you don't obstruct other road users or park within 10 meters of a junction.

Finally, if you are parking outside the Primary School please don't park on the double yellow or zig zag lines. They are there to protect pedestrians, including children going to school.

Thank you.

Wheatley Parish Council Traffic Working Group

Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Report



Pre-Submission Documents following PLAN REVIEW: Nov. 2022.

The Draft WNP Review (0.3) was formally presented to Wheatley Parish Council by its WNP sub-Committee Chair and vice-Chair [JF / RG], 14 November 2022, to be forwarded to SODC. Eight [8] pre-Submission documents from experts and community members accompanied it:

1. First Review Version, WNP-R (0.3)

2. Wheatley Character: 1918 population now quadrupled; how to protect village character.
3. Site Selection: - Home ownership possibilities; Local 'Enhancement'; WHE 14,15,16 & 22 are 4 out of 32 sites assessed by WNP 'Land Use Workshops', 2016-17. They are the heart of the WNP.
4. Housing Need:- [acknowledged with LP 2035, Dec. 2020; the LP allowing a rate of 22 homes p.a. is validated by this current Local Plan. No OBU building has yet begun.
5. Viability Appraisal Refresh Study:- Housing & Commercial sites now independent (WHE 15 from WHE 17); most recent legislation now clear - Biodiversity; Future Homes Standards; Benchmark Land Value; CIL and Building Cost rises, etc.
6. Strategic / Environmental Assessment:- Air Quality – Climate Change – Noise (growing issue) – Heritage – Community Well-Being – Land Soil & Water.
7. Basic Conditions Statement:- all WNP Policies to match local and national policies (e.g. LP 2035 & NPPF) – biodiversity gain due to be required soon from new building. Reducing legal conflict smoothes way for 'sustainable development'.
8. WNP Consultation Statement:- 7 weeks – outcome from consulting WPC / HPC, Statutory Bodies, Community individuals and Community Interest Reps.
9. Design Codes / Guidance:- sourced from WNP/SODC/Chilterns/Homes England/Extensions & Modifications. Overdue, but broadly sourced.

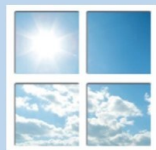
Draft WNP was **minimised** Feb. 2020 on Examiner advice. Green Belt proposals were removed to avoid a political block beyond our control. December 2020 the block was removed when the new SODC LP 2035 was allowed. It allowed a necessary Green Belt policy specific to the WNP for required and affordable housing. The **minimised** WNP could then be '**Made**' in 2021 and then '**Reviewed**' this year (2022). The draft version of this 'Review' here proposes to **restore most of the pre-February 2020 detail, and to amend and update that original version of WNP submitted to the Examiner in late 2019**. With updates, expert advice, and community Consultation, it is now being forwarded for 6-8 weeks SODC Consultation. Afterwards, it will be returned to WPC with comment and criticism for the final WNP Review. It is thought likely that a final Referendum will have to be held.

We know our SODC planning advisers well after so many years, and we believe the trust and respect is mutual.

John Fox | WNP Committee

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WHEATLEY COMMUNITY LARDER

The larder will be open the week before Christmas on Thursday 22nd December but closed on 29th December. We will reopen on Thursday January 5th.

As times become harder for many, the amount of food that we collect from the Oxford Food Hub is extremely variable so a reminder for people to come early to the larder as food goes very quickly.

We are happy to receive any donations of non-perishable food that is within its use by date. Thanks to anyone who has already donated food to the larder.

People have also been very generous with fruit and vegetables from their gardens and allotments. Please contact me if you would like to donate food at penny.willmott1@ntlworld.com.

We have been asked by Thame Food bank if there are any volunteers who would be willing to deliver food (supplied by the Food bank) in an emergency or when delivery has not been possible. Please contact val_farmer40@hotmail.com if you think you might be able to help with this.

Thank you to all those who continue to support the larder and a big thank you to all our volunteers. Thanks also to Cornfields for any bread unsold by Wednesday evening.

Since we first started in May generous donations have raised over £2,300 for the following local charities:

Maple Tree Nursery; The Wheatley/Ukraine Refugee Group; Wheatley Primary School for dual language books to support the Ukrainian pupils; Wheatley Park School to support vulnerable children; Pulse a local youth group; Wheatley Girl Guides; Wheatley Windmill; Wheatley Community Church for a Harvest Festival Day; Revival at St Mary's for refurbishment; John Watson School and the Oxford Food Hub.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Penny Willmott

WHEATLEY CARE SCHEME IS IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

If you can spare any time to transport Wheatley Holton & Littleworth residents to medical appointments.

You will be reimbursed for your petrol cost.

So, if you feel you can HELP us:

Please contact **Kath Lamont 01865 876609**



The Merry Bells Village Hall

When moving from their office in The Merry Bells to their new home in the Library, Wheatley Archives found a picture of Dorothy Miller, the original driving force behind The Merry Bells.

'It is one of the finest buildings of the kind to be found in any country village in England and was a gift to the Parish of Wheatley by Mrs (Dorothy) Miller of Shotover House.' So wrote the Oxford Chronicle & Berks and Bucks Gazette on February 18th 1893 when describing village societies' meetings and activities taking place at the Merry Bells following its formal opening in 1888, when described as 'a large and commodious building known as the Merry Bells Coffee House.'

Further described as a 'generous gift of a lady who is an ardent worker in the cause of temperance, who has borne the entire expense and commendable motives which prompted her action has been the improvement of the social condition of the labourers of the village and the spread of temperance principles.'

Times have changed but the Merry Bells remains as a facility and meeting place for Wheatley and the wider community today following its sale to the village on 3rd August 1970 for £10,000. The first meeting of the Trustees as the Management Committee took place on the 25th August, with the final instalment of the purchase price being paid six years later and the Trustees immediately set about a programme of 'modernisation and repair.'

Today, the principles of providing a modern and equipped facility for the village remain

with the Trustees under the Trust Deed, and it is their duty to use any surplus income on maintaining the building. One of Dorothy Miller's principles was that she was 'very anxious that the building should be so organised and so patronised that it would become self-supporting,' which it remains today. Back in 1888 there were rooms to be leased and rented, as there are today with the Main Hall and offices upstairs, while there was originally a lending library with 400 volumes situated in what is now the Coffee Room (also available for hire), with books being able to be borrowed for six pence (5p) per week. Of course, today our modern library remains upstairs in the Merry Bells having been taken over by OCC.

Finally in 1888 Jackson's Oxford Journal wrote: 'to inaugurate the opening of the premises (Merry Bells) the labourers and their wives of Wheatley and Littleworth and those working on the Shotover Estate were invited to partake of a free tea provided at the Merry Bells., it is the intention of the current Trustees to offer the same hospitality and much more in 2023 to celebrate more than 50 years of the village owning the Merry Bells. More details in the next Newsletter issue.

Our thanks to the Wheatley Archive for historical facts (and, by the way, the office they have vacated upstairs is now available for rent for anybody interested!).

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.

The Merry Bells Trustees

As our September meeting was held the day after the Queen's funeral a minute's silence was held and we sang "Jerusalem", the W.I. hymn, in her memory. Her Majesty had been a member of Sandringham W.I. for 79 years. We staged an exhibition of royal items and members' reminiscences of being in her company were shared. This was followed by our members' show. There were five categories, including the competition for the Val Targett Cup. Val was a long standing member of our institute and many will remember her as a much loved teacher at Wheatley Primary School. The cup was presented to our institute by her husband and each year a cake baking competition is held in her memory. This year's winner was Veronica Lancashire. Many thanks to Geoff Coleman of Cornfields Bakery who judged our culinary classes. Other categories were decided by the members' votes. A cream tea was provided by the committee. The meeting closed with the singing of the national anthem in honour of our new king (making sure we got the words right!).

We organised a collection for the Oxford Emergency Food Bank which was very well supported. At the beginning of our October meeting Elaine Parsons, a representative from the food bank, gave a short talk on the charity and how it is run. Donations collected at Wheatley Churches, Asda and the Co-op all go towards this worthwhile cause. This was followed by a "Bring and Share" harvest supper. A magnificent savoury buffet prepared by members followed by a variety of delicious desserts. A lovely social evening enjoyed by everyone.

History snippets Dec/Jan 1922

In 1922 there were two W.I. meetings a month, one held in the afternoon and the other in the evening. In December of that year neither institute held a Christmas party. One meeting held a lecture entitled "where our food comes from". The other meeting wasn't much better with a demonstration on re-covering a sunshade followed by the singing of folk songs. Why not Christmas carols? However in January the afternoon group held a social evening. Every member was entitled to bring along one adult guest and 102 people attended. A charge of 6d was made to include refreshments. The evening institute had a talk on Constantinople.

One item of interest was brought up by the committee and the following letter was written to the parish council. "In view of the public danger and inconvenience caused by the dark streets the committee of the Women's Institute request the council to consider the possibility of lighting the existing street lamps during the winter months." The W.I. is still very pro-active in challenging local and national issues.

At our meeting on the 13th December we will be entertained by the Launton hand bell ringers and on 17th January we will be having "Fun and Fitness" with Michele Jacobs. Gentle chair exercises to do at home and hopefully help lose some of those Christmas pounds.

Our meetings are held in the Merry Bells beginning at 7.15 pm. A donation of £2 is suggested for visitors. Do come along and give us a try, you will be made most welcome.

Stephanie Brooklyn



We are very pleased with how students new and old have settled in to the 2022/23 academic year and the progress they are all making.

This was highlighted in October when the Government published performance information for schools. Students at Wheatley Park were shown to make excellent progress achieving, on average, half a grade higher in each subject than similar students would have done at the average school. This is testament to the hard work not only of the students but the teachers, the parents and the community throughout the disruption of the pandemic. The old adage rings true that it takes a whole village to raise a child.

It has been very welcome, with the relaxation of restrictions, to resume 'normal' events. We had a very busy Open Evening in September and, more recently, a highly entertaining Battle of the Bands. We are looking forward to our Christmas Concert and our next School Production, Footloose, in February. Tickets will be available soon.

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been a mainstay of fundraising at Wheatley Park for many years and we are pleased that this group is going from strength to strength with a new committee which will continue to support the school and raise vital funds. You can keep up to date with developments via the school's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The Governors are looking for a new Clerk. This is an important, paid role which helps the smooth running of the strategic leadership of the school. Please contact the Headteacher at head@wheatleypark.org if you would like to know more or for a confidential chat.

Thank you to the local community for your ongoing support, and do not hesitate to get in touch with us over any issues.

We wish you all the best of the season.

Tim Martin, Headteacher | Richard Cave, Chair of Governors



Coming soon!

The Clubs and Societies Fair of 2021 showed what a wealth of activities are on offer in the village. Now plans are being drawn up to provide regular information about Wheatley's many Clubs and Societies. It is hoped that **Wheatley Daily Info will be operating by Spring 2023**. A large number of clubs from a wide range of activities have already signed up to the scheme.

Any local club or society that has not already opted in, and who wishes to do so, should contact Peter Fanning (peterafanning@gmail.com).



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Open Days

Wheatley Primary School
and Acorns Nursery

It has been a busy term so far with lots of activities across the school from Nursery to Y6, including trips to Forest School! We are particularly proud of our Y5/6 mathematicians who came first in a recent maths challenge event at Oxford Spires attended by several primary schools.

This month we are pleased to share our new Acorns Nursery logo which has been designed by one of our talented parents. If you have a 2-3-year-old and are interested in Early Years provision, please come and visit. We currently have a small number of spaces available across the week – we offer a flexible arrangement and children can do full or half days. We are holding two open events to welcome prospective families to come and look around and find out more about what Acorns Nursery has to offer.

Wednesday 14th December 9.15am and Tuesday 10th January 1.15pm.

Please phone or email the school office to book in:

office.3165@wheatley.oxon.sch.uk 01865 872366

We are looking forward to returning to a range of Christmas activities including a whole school trip to the pantomime at the Playhouse in Oxford and our own nativity performances and carol services.

Mrs Gillian Standing | Headteacher



HOLTON & WHEATLEY
CRICKET CLUB

Holton & Wheatley Cricket Club

The long dry days of summer meant that Holton and Wheatley Cricket Club suffered no rain cancellations all season! We enjoyed seven games at our home venue in Great Haseley, and five away. Conditions at Great Haseley get better and better, so we are grateful to our hosts and to Tiddington CC, who maintain the venue. On field highlights in 2022 included a debut century for Omer Tariq and a derby win over Great Milton (with 90 from Lewis Sanders) before the Isle of Wight tour, which rounded off the season in September.

Unfortunately, despite the fine weather, the

fixture list was curtailed by problems fielding a team on some Sundays. So, there is lots of scope for new players to join us in 2023, whether as regulars or more occasionals. Our season starts in Late April/early May. All our games are friendlies on Sunday afternoons and feature a wide range of abilities and ages (from 16 to 81 last year!). Please get in touch on our website.

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

Hugh Kitchin



In September Wheatley Parish Council signed the Civility & Respect pledge, acknowledging now is the time to put Civility and Respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

We will:

- Treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their role.
- Put in place a training programme for councillors and staff.
- Sign up to Code of Conduct for councillors.
- Have in place good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and Dignity at Work Policy.
- Commit to seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- Commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens.
- Continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g., via Local Council Award Scheme.
- Support the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.



1st Wheatley Guides

Wheatley Brownies, Guides, and Rangers all now meet on Wednesdays at the URC, and we are enjoying making more connections between different age groups. This kicked off at the start of term with a joint campfire evening at Jubilee House where we made pitta pizzas, and we took part in the Wheatley Remembrance Day service together. This term Guides are celebrating 80 years of being in Wheatley - we so proud to be part of a longstanding movement and shared history, so we will be learning about Guiding through the years. The Guides want to thank Wheatley Fire Station who hosted us for an evening learning about fire safety and how they once rescued a horse from a

swimming pool. This year, Wheatley Brownies will be running a stall at the Wheatley Christmas Fair making Christmas tree decorations, so do come and say hello. As one of our leaders goes off on maternity leave - we are very keen for volunteers from the community - do you have a few hours to spare on Wednesday evenings? Do you want to join us on our adventures? If so, please contact wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk or search for "Volunteer GirlGuiding" online to sign up.

Unit Guiders Team



Calling all good neighbours!



Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme, is here to support the residents of Wheatley, Littleworth and Holton.

We need **YOU** to volunteer:

to help others to get out and about, collect prescriptions, emergency shopping, IT support, simple DIY, and to befriend those who are housebound.

You can do as much or as little as you want to.

Help us help other people across the whole Community!

Please email: wheatleygns@gmail.com

Do you have a spare single or twin room?

Thinking of hosting international students?

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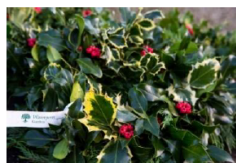
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Waterperry
Gardens



December: Get into the festive spirit at Waterperry Gardens with great gift ideas for all the family, from handmade ceramics and jewellery to Christmas decorations and linens, there is something for everyone. If you're looking for something different our Waterperry Vouchers and Season Tickets make an ideal present.

Find Santa's Reindeer Trail! – daily till 23 Dec: 10am till 5pm £2.50 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult paying garden entrance fee.

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

Don't miss out on the chance to visit our **Christmas Market on 3 & 4 Dec!**

Waterperry Gardens will be closed from 25th Dec till 1st Jan 2023 inclusive

January: Waterperry Gardens have been delighting visitors for years with 8 acres of inspirational gardens nestled in the Oxfordshire countryside. Enjoy winter walks and see the gardens turn into a spectacular vision as the frost spreads across the grasses and trees and the mist winds around the garden and the Riverside Walk. The garden is at its most dramatic state in January as it is cut back for the winter and prepares to burst into new life with Snowdrops in February.

www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

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another project from the lovely people at **mysociety**



**Wheatley
Oaks FC**

Wheatley Oaks FC Update

Wheatley Oaks kicked off its third season on Monday 12th September still on a high after a fantastic summer of women's sport.

First was the success of our Festival of Women's football which we hosted on June 25th. The tournament was attended by 15 teams from all over the country comprising of a total of 110 women aged 30+. The festival had five- and seven-a-side tournaments for experienced and beginner levels and awards were nominated by the match referees. Our festival was to celebrate the Women's Euros which leads to our second summer high – The Mighty Lionesses!

Unless you were under a rock this July, you can't have missed England women's historic success in winning the Euros! This is England's first major footballing achievement since 1966, and just to think when England's men won the World Cup in 1966, women were banned from playing, refereeing, and coaching football matches. Of course, all Wheatley Oaks players were behind the Lionesses every step of the way whether in the sold-out stadiums or watching at home!

It is hard to believe that Wheatley Oaks started only two years ago, mid-Covid, in September 2020. It has been an instant success and the club has seen over 280 women attend a training session (but not all at the same time!). We have played in matches, leagues, and tournaments but our core goal is very much about enjoyment in team sport. The aim of the club is for older women of all abilities (never played to ex player) to play football!

Training every Monday (Sept-June) 7pm-8pm, Holton Playing Field

For more information contact Emma: enquirieswofc@gmail.com.

Mary Roulston

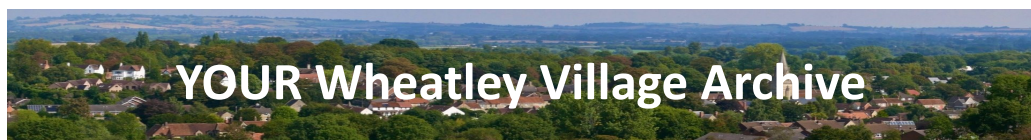
WHEATLEY CARE

Wheatley Care is in NEED of another co-ordinator to join the team of volunteers to help manage booking requests and driver allocations (average 30 per month)

If you like speaking to people, we would love to hear from You.

Wheatley Care depends on community support so please help if you can.

Please call: **Kath Lamont | 01865 876609**



Our move to Wheatley Library has been a great success. Wendy, Charlie, and the volunteers have been most welcoming and it's good to have easier access to the people of Wheatley.

There is an archive volunteer there each Thursday afternoon and at other times a volunteer can be reached by phone by the library staff. It all seems to be working well – thank you Wheatley Library.

By the way did you know that the 1921 census is now available to view for free on the computers in Oxfordshire Libraries?

The archive is forever growing, and errors corrected. www.wheatleyarchive.org.uk
It really is like the Forth Bridge! Here are some of our latest additions for you to view:

- Search “View rich”. This is a short, interesting article by the historian Bill Hassall (ex-Manor House owner) which has recently come to light and well worth reading.
- Search “The Racks”. A hundred years ago villagers would have talked about the Racks. Find out precisely where they were (and still are!)
- Search “Cornfield’s celebration”. Photographs of the business’s recent 50th anniversary with displays, talks and goodies in the Merry Bells have been added to the archive.
- Search “Royal window” For those who missed it, Turner Properties devoted their entire window to a very patriotic display of photographs of the late Queen.
- Search “WW2 records” With Remembrance Day just gone, many of you will have seen the wonderful display of poppies at the entrance to the Merry Bells. Amongst the poppies was a sparse list of names of people who took an active role in the Second World War. The village is keen to try and emulate its book from WW1 “They were a Wall” with a similar one for WW2. Details of such villagers are sparse, and we would be very pleased to hear from anyone with any information on a family member from Wheatley who was involved in WW2.

In the issue from Aug/Sept it was hoped to be able to restore Wheatley’s milestone (on the London Road). Unfortunately, having met the “milestone expert” it was found that

Wheatley’s milestone was set in concrete when it was moved to its current position from Old London Road in the 1920s and some of the details have been buried. So sadly, no hope!



Copies of books, and the 2023 calendar, for sale are now in the window of the Language School and can be bought from the staff in the adjacent building.

Steph Cox

Our Lady of Lourdes

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

How Many Days of Christmas?

Towards the end of October, 60 days before Christmas, we visited a garden centre which was festooned in Christmas glitter, rather incongruously described as Winter Wonderland, given the 21°C outside. It prompted the question: when does Christmas begin and end?

At OLL, we begin preparations on the first Sunday of Advent (27 November), this year focusing on Matthew's Gospel reminding us to stay alert and prepare the way of the Lord. But if Advent is a period of preparation for the birth of Jesus, when does the Christmas season end?

We often talk about the Octave of Christmas – the 8-day period from Christmas Day during which we continually celebrate the birth of Jesus who was to become the Christ, the anointed one (from Greek Christos). So in some traditions, Christmas lasts for 8 days which coincidentally ends on New Year's Day. More traditionally, we talk and sing about the twelve days of Christmas beginning on Christmas Day and preparing us for the Epiphany, on 6 January; Twelfth Night is the eve of the Epiphany, the feast commemorating the visit by the three Kings to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. In many countries, this is a time for great celebration and the exchange of gifts; an opportunity to prepare and eat King Cake, often prepared with a hidden plastic baby inside. Whoever gets the piece with the baby is brought luck... or in some traditions, has to prepare cakes for the next feast day, the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, held on 2 February. This is Candlemas Day, sometimes called the 40th day of Christmas.

So whenever we start to get into the Christmas spirit, October, November (the Village Christmas Fair) or December, we should add 8 days, 12 days or 40 days, to the celebration of the birth of a child born in poverty over 2000 years ago. At OLL, we will mark that birth with Mass of Christmas Day at 10am on Christmas morning.

John Guy

Wheatley United Reform

01865 873859 | secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk

Memory Cafe

In March 2022, we started a Memory Café for people living with dementia and their carers, 10.00-12.30 on the second Thursday of every month. Each session starts with coffee and conversation, an important opportunity to socialize in a relaxing and safe atmosphere. In the game part of the café, we have "brain teasers" (Easy Quizzes, Complete the Proverb, Odd Word Out etc) recommended by the Alzheimer Society as they are fun and provide mental stimulation in a non-threatening way. We also offer "active" games such as Mini Golf or Tin-can Alley like in fun fairs, gentle movement like throwing balls or dancing with scarves and "quiet" games such as dominos, jigsaw puzzles, colouring, snakes and ladders and even, from time-to-time, crafts like collage or felting. However, our guests particularly

Med Church

leyurc.org.uk

appreciate the music and singing part of the café and it is a joy to see people who are quite withdrawn suddenly coming alive and singing old favourites songs like “Michael row the boat”, “You are my sunshine”, “Coming round the mountain” etc. Music is an excellent tonic for brain function and as it reduces anxiety, it lifts a person’s mood.

From December, from 1.00 to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday, with support from all members of Wheatley Area Churches, the URC’s Mulberry Room on Crown Square will host a Warm Hub, a place where people in this community can be assured of finding a safe, warm and friendly environment. All are welcome.

Mike Matejtschuk

Wheatley Community Church

office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

Enduring Memories

One of my enduring memories of childhood Christmases is of poking cocktail sticks into an orange, tying a clumsy knot in a red ribbon, and trying to eat as many bits of the dried fruit as I could before whoever was supervising spotted me. That’s right – I’m talking about Christingles!

For those who have never encountered this tradition, it is an illustration of the Christmas story that originated in Germany in the 1700s and is still popular today. The building of the Christingle is a fun and meaningful way for children to engage with the Christmas season, and WCC will be holding a Christingle Service at Wheatley Primary School on December 11th at 10:30am. All are welcome, whether or not you are normally a churchgoer. Children, crafts, candles, and carols – what’s not to love?

I do hope you’ll be able to join us to mark Christmas at some point over the month of December – whether carol-singing at the Church Road recreation ground at 4:30 on Sunday 4th, for Christingles on the 11th, or for a short family service at 11am on Christmas morning itself.

All are welcome – why not join us? For more information, or to register interest, head to

wheatleycommunitychurch.org

office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

Al McNicoll | Pastor



REVIVAL at St Mary's

Half a million and counting....

The good news is that, thanks to the generosity of many people in Wheatley and beyond, funding for The Revival at St Mary's now stands at a little over £500,000. The bad news is that with inflation, costs have risen steeply.

Charities throughout the land are faced with this dilemma: chasing funds, while all the time inflation creeps up higher. The rising cost of materials moves every goal that little bit further away. But we shall get there. And with luck, we hope to reach our target by the Spring.

Meanwhile, more events have taken place and other ones are planned. Last month, Andrew Marsden gave a fascinating talk entitled 'Sounds From the Past,' about the birth of sound recording. Andrew played a small selection of his vast collection of early records, some of which were made on wax, and with the familiar HMV horn. More concerts follow in the spring, including one by local jazz performer Alan Shipton.



The Revival Team

Wheatley Playing Field Trust

News from The Trust

The Trust is delighted to report that two grants have been awarded to the Trust by SODC.

The first for £2,500 from the Councillor Community Grant is towards the cost of purchasing and installing a non-turf cricket wicket. The Trust had to remove the original one, alongside the cricket square, when its condition had become deteriorated.

The second grant of £1,000 is from the Everyone Active Grant Scheme. This will go towards further floodlighting of the tarmac area/tennis courts to supplement those installed previously. This will give floodlighting of, approximately, one third of the tarmac area. It is hoped that more activities will then be able to take place all year round. As mentioned previously,

walking sports (rugby, football) could be offered.

Wheatley Playing Field Trust would like to thank SODC and our SODC councillor, Alexandrine Kantor, for these grants.

Finally, a plea to all who use the field. Please remove any cans, drinks bottles, wrappers etc and dispose in the bins provided. Other users have had to pick up a good deal of rubbish recently before they can use the facilities.

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

WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NOMINEES

Unsung Hero

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Highly Commended: David Green, Kath Lamont,
Cyril Newton, Frances Simpson

Long standing association to a charity/group

Awarded to: Caroline Dalton

Highly Commended: Kath Lamont, Cyril Newton,
Frances Simpson

Supporter of village green spaces

Awarded to: Jane Cotton

Highly Commended: Malcolm Benson

Neighbour of the year

Awarded to: Michelle Qume

Highly Commended: Cyril Newton



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

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

W: www.wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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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 April 2022 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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MACMILLAN **MAMMOTH**
CANCER SUPPORT **QUIZ**

Macmillan Quiz 2023

This is a preliminary message to let you know that the date for the 2023 Macmillan Mammoth quiz will be **Friday 24th February**.

After our two years on Zoom due to the pandemic we are planning to return to the Merry bells. Full details will follow in the February/March newsletter.

We look forward to meeting again face to face.

Sue Coombes

Great Milton's Wells

Great Milton History are to re-publish 'Great Milton's Wells', (80pp, colour, £15, Ian Melton, 2022). They have donated their last copy to Wheatley Archive. 80 wells and boreholes still survive the arrival of mains water in 1957, all recorded in colour. The book explains local Geology and Hydrogeology too. **Interested?** Please drop note in letterbox, Gt Milton History Room, Car Park, The Bull, Gt Milton, or knock on the Room door, Wednesdays, mid-morning, when the group meet.

**“If I wear just
one more
jumper”**

... sound familiar?

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support to keep you
warm and well

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oxfordshire.gov.uk/living or your local advice centre or library



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Notices | Clubs | Events

Oxford Brookes Planning Meeting

**Merry Bells
5th December
18:30-19:30**

An opportunity for residents to share their comments on this planning application

Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme

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transport to events -
and more

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WGNS here to support
our community

Free Family Board Game Café

URC Hall
Sundays, 11th December
& 8th January; 2:30-5pm
Learn new board games
from game experts.
Drinks and cakes
available for a donation.
Info: kevin@kbetts.com

The Howe Trust Christmas Food Hamper Fundraising Campaign

See **page 70** for details of
how you can donate £
and volunteer to support
this worthy cause.

Wheatley Wine Circle Merry Bells 1st Thursday in Month 19:30

Wheatley URC ADVENT

Christmas Eve
6pm Carols by
Candlelight

Christmas Day
Worship 10.00 am

Art Club

Every Monday
afternoon 4-6 pm
Wheatley Library
All welcome - bring a
project
£1 donation to the
library
Contact Tina on
tina_everett@btinternet.com

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

Every other Monday
exc. Bank Holidays
URC From 2.00-4.00pm
Chat, play bingo, tea and
cake, occasional short
talks of interest
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Frances Simpson
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Wheatley Village
Produce Association

Annual General Knowledge Quiz

Tuesday 10th January
7.30pm Merry Bells
wheatleyvpa@gmail.com



**Sustainable
Wheatley**

Swap Shop

Merry Bells
Saturday 21st January
09:00-10:15 Drop off
useable goods.
10:30-12:00 Take away
as much as you like even if
you don't bring anything.

Community Larder

Thursdays
14:30 -16:00

St Mary's Church
Help reduce food
waste and support
local causes

Wheatley Village Archive is now in the library

(available during
opening hours)
A volunteer will be there
to help you
on Thursday afternoons
2-4.30
or by appointment. See
you soon!

Resurrection of Wheatley Festival Meeting

Tuesday 10th
January
Merry Bells Coffee
Room
7.30pm

Wheatley Warm
Spaces

Monday & Thursday
URC 13:00-17:00
**Tuesday, Wednesday
& Friday**
Merry Bells 10:00-
12:00
URC 13:00-17:00

St Mary's Church Village Carol Service

A Service of Carols
and Readings
Sunday 18th
December
18:00

Wheatley Community Church Carols in the Rec

Church Road Rec
Sunday 4th
December
16:30-17:30

Wheatley Community Church Wheatley Advent Windows Trail

1st-30th
December
16:00-20:00

Day by Day

MONDAY

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

Art Club | Library | 16:00-18:00 | £1 donation | tina_everett@btinternet.com

Mindfulness Sitting Group | URC | 08:50-09:40 | 01865 876288 | jmarkgwilliams@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

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

Zumba | Wheatley Primary | 19:00-20:00 | Maz: 07773 651154 mmccann36b@hotmail.com

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 | 01865 873996 | All welcome

WEDNESDAY

- Maple Babies** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00 & 13:00, one hour each | bit.ly/mapletreeeb
- Acorns Theatre Music** | Merry Bells | 09:30-10:30
- 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 | Term time 19:00-20:30 | Age 10+ | wheatley.guides@yahoo.co.uk
- Brownies** | URC | Term time 17:30-19:00 | Age 7-9 | 1stwheatleybrownies@gmail.com
- Merry Bells Coffee Room** | 10:00-12:00 | 01865 873996 | All welcome
- Baby Music Group** | URC | Via Zoom | 10:00 | Term time only | Rachel 07505 131124
- 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 | 08:50-09:40 | 01865 876288 | jmarkgwilliams@gmail.com
- Wheatley Walks** | Car park behind 6th Form Centre | 10:00-11:00 | 01865 873430
- Prayer and Reflection (+ coffee)** | URC | 10:00 | 1st in month | albarjoiner@btinternet.com
- Memory Cafe** | URC Hall | 10:00-12:30 | 2nd in month | laurencelalanne99@gmail.com
- Wheatley Library** | Open 14:00-17:00
- Community Larder** | St Mary's Church | 14:30-16:00
- Wheatley Wine Circle** | Merry Bells | 1st Thursday in month | 19:30
- Little Explorers** | Maple Tree Centre | 10:00-11:30 | bit.ly/mapletreeeb
- Twinnies!** | Stay & Play for twins | Maple Tree Centre | 14:00-15:30 | bit.ly/mapletreeeb
- Maple Tree at Forest Hill** | Forest Hill Village Hall | 11:00-12:00 | laura@mapletree.org.uk
- Wheatley Village Archive** | Wheatley Library | 14:00-16:30 | 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
- Pilates** | Merry Bells | 09:45-10:45

Day by Day

FRIDAY

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

Table Tennis | URC Hall | 10:00 | All abilities catered for | val_farmer40@hotmail.com

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 | 01865 873996 | All welcome

Martial Arts | Primary School Hall | 07731 512682 | Ages 3-7+ | mrsfox@mattfiddes.com

SATURDAY

Wheatley Library | Open 09:30-13:00

Wheatley Village Archive | Wheatley Library | Last in month | 10:00-12:00 | 01865 425909

Family Fun | Maple Tree Centre | 3rd 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 Minis Football | Holton Rugby Club | 09:00-10:00 | Ages 4-7 | 07756 608744

Family Board Games Café | URC Hall | 2nd in month | 14:30-17:00 | kevin@kbetts.com

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

United Reformed Church | 01865 873859 | secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk

- Morning Worship with Holy Communion | 1st Sunday in month | 10:00-11:00
- Pulse Wheatley Youth Group | Every week term time | 19:00-20:30
- Afternoon Tea | 1st in Month | 14:30-16:00

Wheatley Community Church | office@wheatleycommunitychurch.org

- Wheatley Primary School | 10:30



THE WHEATLEY SOCIETY

Parish Newsletter

December 2022 / January 2023

We are already heading towards the end of 2022 and far from slowing down events seem to have increased in frequency.



The tour of the frescoes at Waterperry on October 4th was greatly enjoyed by those who participated. Many recommend that if you haven't been it would be worthwhile taking part in one of their regular tours to find out more about these ambitious frescoes which depict the philosophical teachings in the Upanishads of India. www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

It was amazing to see the variety of wildlife that lives in and around Waterstock during the presentation "Wildlife at Waterstock River Reserve" on October 19th. Nick Marriner and Henry provided a range of photos and footage both of daytime and night-time wildlife activity which could be at risk if development projects go ahead. Those interested in seeing more of the work of the River Thames Conservation Trust can look up their latest survey of birds that frequent the area [Bird Atlas 2016-2020 | River Thames Trust](#)

On November 19th Gareth Morris, a life governor of the RNLI, talked about the history and current activities of the amazing RNLI in "Saving Lives at Sea". This was a well-attended event which brought to our attention the fact that the RNLI is funded entirely by donations and yet has provided a search and rescue service for over 200 years. It also focuses on preventing drowning through lifeguard provision and general water safety. www.rnli.org



An additional talk "Refugees and asylum seekers: what's really going on and how could it be improved?" on November 22nd gave Mark Goldring – Director of Asylum Welcome - the opportunity to explain who is coming to the UK, especially to Oxfordshire, what life is like for them, and what we could do to improve the system and the support that people get locally. For further info see www.asylum-welcome.org. To add a Wheatley perspective, Maggie Guy talked about the work of the Wheatley Refugee Support Group and the Wheatley Ukraine Refugee Co-ordinating Group.

As the festive season approaches look out for our Clever Clogs Quiz hosted by John Duffelen in December and a Burns Night event in January. More details to come. Season's Greetings to All.

The Wheatley Society Committee

Resurrection of Wheatley Festival

Wheatley Festival Needs You

Taken from the publicity for the Wheatley Festival in the 1970s/1980s

A further meeting to discuss the possibility of resurrecting a form of the Wheatley Festival will take place on:

TUESDAY 10th January 2023 in the coffee room of the Merry Bells at 7.30pm.

The Wheatley Festival came out of the Silver Jubilee Festivities of 1977. The Festival ran from 1978 to 1987, over the Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the Spring Bank Holiday. Up to thirty different events were programmed – from Children Sports, Tug-of-War, Rounders, Aunt Sally, Littleworth v Wheatley Football Match, Art Exhibition, Pram Race, URC Fete, Community Plays, Music Events, Societies Fair, Poems and Pints and culminating in a Street Ceilidh (Barn Dance) outside the shops on the Monday Evening. These events were usually organised by either individuals or village organisations with the Festival Committee coordinating the programme.

Since 1987 there have been numerous 'one-offs', usually to celebrate the late Queen's Jubilees or milestone birthdays.

The intention isn't to replicate the festival, but to have something more low-key over just one or two days perhaps. But even this would need organising. Therefore, if you, as an individual or as an organisation, would like to offer your services in putting on such a programme or have ideas on what might take place, please come along on the 10th January 2023.

Now the date for the King's Coronation is known a date for the festival could be set.

Gareth Morris | Past Secretary | 07713 484090 | garethmorris76@hotmail.co.uk

WHEATLEY CARE

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

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- Communicate with drivers and deal with all other correspondence.

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Hello from The Maple Tree!

Merry Christmas from The Maple Tree!

We have had a lovely full year now that life has normalized somewhat after the pandemic, so we have many varied sessions open to parents, grandparents and carers in Wheatley and the surrounding towns and villages. You no longer have to book our sessions - just drop-in and have a nice warm cuppa! I won't say a quiet cuppa, as we are rarely quiet, but it will be fun! Check out our website or social media for session times.

December highlights include Family Fun Christmas Crafts on the 10th and a Social Butterflies Christmas Disco on the 23rd. Between Christmas and New Year, we will have a Baby Café, Forest Hill and a New Year Craft session for those of you who like to go back to a regular schedule after the busyness of the holidays!

A huge thank you to all those involved in our very successful fundraising event in October – Gaz Coombes and Friends in Concert! Gaz is not only very talented, but he is also a wonderful champion of up-and-coming young artists, and an all-round lovely Wheatley man. Thank you, Gaz, for your time,



effort, and auction donations! Thank you too to Nikki Ambers, Wheatley Park Soul Band, Crash Control and Bohemian - it was a truly inspiring evening!

Thank you also to the many volunteers – car park attendants, ticket collectors, chaperones, first aiders, bar staff, auctioneers, roadies and stage managers, the Maple Tree trustees, and the Wheatley Park School staff, parents and young people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep us all entertained and safe!

We are looking forward to an equally exciting 2023!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

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Instagram: [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

Session Bookings: bit.ly/mapletreeeb

Laura Spencer | Centre Manager



Morland House Surgery

The Surgery and the Patient Participation Group (PPG) would very much like to thank the many volunteers who assisted with its vaccination programme over the past two years.

eConsult

We are pleased to introduce eConsult. eConsult is an online form which patients can complete to contact the surgery instead of making a phone call. You can use it to get help with an administrative matter (e.g., fit for work certificates, insurance forms, referral letters or requests for copies of records, have a prescription enquiry or wish to ask a GP or nurse a question). eConsult was created by GPs for GPs and will ask you questions appropriate to your query to make sure that we have all the information we need to provide the help you need. You will find the form on the home page of our website www.morland-house.co.uk.

Enhanced Access

From October 2022, Morland House has been offering additional Enhanced Access hours to patients at various times during the week. Appointments offered include GP appointments, blood test appointments, travel clinics, NHS health checks and more. Please speak to a receptionist or book your appointment online via your NHS log in.

Visit Morland House Website

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

The website also provides access to a large amount of information and advice on managing your health and wellbeing, including a large range of conditions, symptoms, treatments, and medicines.

Morland House PPG

Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society

All the outstanding work necessary to replace sails on the windmill was finished by the end of September 2022. This meant that the sails were able to be turned on 9th October, the last open afternoon of the year. A steady breeze made the exciting event possible. The next venture will hopefully be some milling early in 2023. We have sourced some wheat, which was grown about a mile from the mill in Garsington. Get ready to bake with local ingredients ground locally.

Caroline Dalton | Secretary

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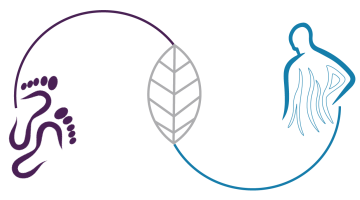


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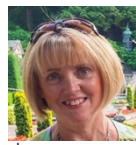
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have to self-drive as I have some special dates in 2023 where you'll be driven by an English-speaking driver/guide in a vehicle with no more than 8 people in it. It would be 14 nights in Namibia (dates below) with lots of inclusions. If you want to know more then please get in touch! If you visit my webpage, I've also written a blog about our trip!

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Storytime

Every **3rd Saturday of the month** at **10:30 a.m.** Starts **September 17th.**

Digital Helper Sessions (one-to-one support with technology)

Available by appointment on alternate **Wednesday afternoons.**

Wheatley Village Archive for Family History and Local History sessions

Every Thursday afternoon 2.00-4.30

Wheatley Village Archive meets in the library and their volunteers are available to help with queries pertaining to local and family history.



The library service also has subscriptions to Ancestry and Find my past which you can be accessed in libraries. **The 1921 Census is now available through the library subscription to Find My Past.**

ASDA Wheatley Community Update

We are happy to announce the results of our latest digital green token vote of 2022 (June - September).

The vote positions with the awarded amounts are as follows:

Winning Group - £500

Friends of Horspath

Second place - £400

Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society

Third place -£300

Thame District Girl Guides Association

The photo included is that of the Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society as runners up of the last vote.

Current voting continues until the end of the year. To vote go to:

www.asda.com/green-tokens and select Wheatley as the store.

The next vote starts on 1st January 2023 with a new set of groups. We continue to accept nominations throughout the year, so please get in contact for a nomination form.

During September and October 3 charities ran coin collections, and three other groups ran an awareness session.

In total **£764.44** was raised from these collections.

During October, we also fundraised for one of our National Charities partners, Tickled Pink (Breast Cancer charities - Breast Cancer Now and CoppaFeel!). Two volunteers, Lucy and Chrissie visited the store to support this collection on Saturday 15th October between 11-3pm, so I just wanted to thank them personally for giving up their time to support us and share their stories with our customers.

As part of Better Starts outreach activity, I have visited two local schools and 5 different classes, to deliver our Better Starts



sessions based on food positivity, wellbeing, or inclusivity as the topic choice. Sessions have been informative, examples of content covered include the eat well plate, learning about foods that are good for the body, mind, and mood, and even tasting some foods from around the world.

Our gift appeal trolley this year is supporting Donnington Doorstep who are making up festive hampers for families and the young people they support. Donations requested are sweet treats, non-perishables, household, and personal care products. If you would like to add an item into our gift trolley, they are located by checkouts close to the food bank trolley.

Better Starts and Empowering Communities local grants are now closed. I will provide an update on successful grant applications in the next newsletter in the new year once applications have been processed by the ASDA Foundation and trustees.

I'd just like to take this opportunity to wish the Wheatley community a Happy Christmas on behalf of all of us in the store.

My email address is

community_wheatley@asda.co.uk if you wish to get in touch about grants available or any other queries.

Linda Blackmore

Wheatley Village Produce Association



Our Local Garden Club

The nights are drawing in fast now and curling up on the sofa looks ever more attractive! If you are trying to save on heating, throw on some warm clothes and thick socks as there is plenty to do outside. Even in the depths of winter there will be things to see. Clematis Jingle Bells looks delicate but will flower from November to February.

December and January:

Planting new trees and moving shrubs can go on now until the beginning of March. This period is also perfect to take hardwood cuttings of your favourites. Freestanding apple and pear trees can be pruned throughout December and January but make sure you shape up acers, vines and birches before Christmas and their sap gets on the move. Continue to check any garden structures can withstand wind and weather. Greenhouses and pots will need to be cleaned in readiness for 2023's planting. Keep checking on any stored tubers such as

dahlias. Lawns do not need much attention but can benefit from wormcasts being swept off. Many of us garden indoors too so be careful not to overwater houseplants.

As we enter the new year, we can think about forcing some rhubarb for an early crop and we can also plan what vegetables we want to grow and where. Peaches trained against a wall are best protected from fungal disease by providing a temporary shelter from excessive wet weather.

Just as we need to look after ourselves during the winter, remember birds and wildlife too. With bird flu around, feeders need to be washed regularly. Finally, remember to recycle Christmas trees!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

Geraldine Surman

WHEATLEY REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

Thank you once again for your support for our 4th collection of clothes and bedding (for Greece, Bosnia, and Ukraine) and food for the Asylum Welcome Foodbank for families locally. We plan our next for March 2023 when we will also be collecting non-electrical tools.

Thank you also for contributions to food palettes for Ukraine; we've so far sent £200, which covers most of the cost of sending a palette worth £1,500-£2,000. If you'd like to contribute, please contact us.

From the AGM of Asylum Welcome (Oxford) we note:

Campsfield House (Kidlington)

Over 25 years, to 2019, local residents were involved in Campaigning to close this detention centre. Asylum Welcome grew out of this campaign. Now it's being considered for reopening. A former detainee addressed the AGM and described his experience.

The Campsfield Coalition (keepcampsfieldclosed@gmail.com)

Sanctuary Hosting

This group organises short term accommodation for asylum-seekers in peoples' homes. They described their work at a public meeting we held in May. They are looking to merge with Asylum Welcome which will give them more certainty.

The Home Office

Recent national news has highlighted the hostile climate and at the same time the utter failure to process asylum applications in a timely manner. Outstanding claims stand at 100,000 compared with 6,000 in 2010 – despite arrivals falling by almost a half (Oxford University Migration Observatory). So, it was heartening to hear that the Refugee Study Centre at Oxford University is working with others and the Home Office for a new approach.

Contact us: wheatleyrefugeegroup@gmail.com.

Nick Vernede

Wheatley Warm Spaces

A warm welcome and a warm space
await you

Mondays

URC 1pm - 5pm

Tuesdays

Merry Bells Coffee Room 10-12*

URC 1pm - 5pm

Wednesdays

Merry Bells Coffee Room 10-12*

URC 1pm - 5pm

Thursdays

URC 1pm - 5pm

Fridays

Merry Bells Coffee Room 10-12*

URC 1pm - 5pm

The Maple Tree continue to offer support to local
families. Please check their timetable for sessions.

*a small charge for refreshments may be made

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and The Merry Bells, and Wheatley Parish Council



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The Howe Trust

Christmas Food Hamper Fundraising Campaign

Christmas can be an especially tough time for families suffering from financial hardship. And this year, the cost-of-living crisis means that the poorest families in our community are experiencing even greater problems making ends meet.



Working with local schools, The Howe Trust organises the delivery of Christmas

food hampers to families of children who have free school meals. Together we support the families of over 200 children across our village schools - Wheatley C of E Primary School, Wheatley Park and John Watson School.

Now in its 3rd year, our campaign provides enough healthy food to feed a family of 6. This includes a fresh turkey crown (or vegetarian equivalent), pigs in blankets, stuffing, gravy granules, fresh potatoes, carrots, Brussels sprouts, and peas plus a Yule log with cream, and a tub of chocolates to share.

The Howe Trust organises and funds this initiative - together with the help and generous donations from local people and organisations.

Can you help us feed a family this Christmas?

Every family hamper costs £40. But any amount you can afford will make a huge difference.

If you'd like to contribute, payments can be made by bank transfer to Howe Trust (Wheatley) sort code 30-98-90 account no 16549660 or by cheque payable to Howe Trust and sent to Malcolm Benson, 82 High Street, OX33 1XP. Alternatively, you can donate via www.justgiving.com/campaign/howetrustwheatleychristmas22.

If there are any surplus monies, they will be donated to the schools for use in supporting children from lower income families over the course of next year.

We're also looking for volunteers to help deliver the Christmas Hampers on 23rd December. For more information, please email magsandmat@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you so much.

Maggie Fyffe | Chair, Howe Trust

SODC Waste Collections — December 2022 & January 2023

Collection day Monday unless *changed	Which bins and other items?
Dec 12th & *28th Jan *10th & 23rd	Green, brown, food & oil waste, textiles
Dec 5th & 19th Jan *4th, 16th, & 30th	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. | Chair | Georgina Glenney | 01865 874450
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
Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme | 01865 873737 | wheatleygns@gmail.com

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 Area Churches invites you to the

Village Carol Service 2022

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